

PROF. ROMAN DAROWSKI, S.J.

On the Occasion of his Seventieth Year

Roman Darowski was born on August 12, 1935, in Szczepanowice, near Tarnów. He entered the Jesuit Order on July 31, 1951, and underwent a two year novitiate in Stara Wieś, near Krosno. He was ordained priest on July 31, 1961, in Warsaw.

He studied philosophy at the Jesuit College (Faculty of Philosophy) in Cracow (1955-1958). He obtained a Master's Degree (MA) after presenting his thesis, *Basic Foundations of Marxist Ethics* [Podstawowe założenia etyki marksistowskiej], written under the direction of Tadeusz Ślipko, S. J. He studied theology at the Jesuit College (Faculty of Theology: *Bobolanum*) in Warsaw (1958-1962). After presenting his thesis *Church History of Szczepanowice* [Dzieje kościelne Szczepanowic], directed by Włodzimierz Kamiński, S. J., he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Theology (at that time equal to an MA). In the following year (1962/1963), he completed the so-called „third probation” in Paray-le-Monial, France, (a one year study of the Constitutions of the order and of Ignatian spirituality).

He then continued his philosophical studies at the Gregorian University in Rome (1963-1966), where he obtained a PhD. after defending his dissertation *La théorie marxiste de la vérité* (director: prof. Gustav A. Wetter, S. J.). After that, he did post-doctoral work in philosophy at Munich University (1966/1967) for a year. In 1967, he returned to Poland and settled at the Jesuit College in Cracow, at 26 Copernicus Street.

In 1969, he became an associate professor, and in 1990 he obtained his *habilitation*, a post-doctoral academic qualification, at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow after discussing his second dissertation: *Filozofia w szkołach jezuickich w Polsce w XVI wieku* [Philosophy in Jesuit Schools in Poland in the 16th Century]. In the same year, 1990, he became a full professor.

Since 1967, Darowski has lectured in philosophy, mainly in philosophical anthropology at the Jesuit College (Faculty of Philosophy S. J., and since 1999, the Faculty of Philosophy at the University School of Philosophy and Education, *The Ignatianum*) in Cracow. Since 1995, he has been the chairman both of the Department of Philosophical Anthropology and of the Department of the History of Philosophy in Poland. He also was a professor in the Philosophical Section of the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Cracow (now the Faculty of Philosophy at the Pontifical Academy of Theology), in 1973-1978 and again from 1993 until 2003, where he was chairman of the Modern and Contemporary Philosophy Department. He has also lectured at the Silesian Major Seminary in Cracow (1970-1976).

At the Jesuit College (Faculty of Philosophy S. J.) in Cracow, he was a prefect of studies (1968-1973) and then a dean (1973-1982, 1994-1997 and again since the 30th of March 2001). From 1973-1982, 1994-1997, and since 2002, he has been a member of the Academic Council of the Polish Episcopal Conference. From 1978 until 1984, he was the rector of the Jesuit College in Cracow. He was president of the Philosophical Section of the Polish Theological Society in Cracow (1970-1974) and of the Learned Jesuit Society in Cracow (1976-1982). He was also a member of the Polish Episcopal Commission for Dialogue with Non-believers (1989-1994).

In May 2003, he was elected to the Committee for the History of Science and Technology of the Polish Academy of Sciences for the 2003-2006 term.

Darowski has been connected with the Jesuit Faculty of Philosophy in Cracow for nearly forty years, taking an active part in its organization and management. In many different ways, he informed broad circles of society about the activity of the Faculty.

Under his direction, thirty five students obtained MAs and two obtained PhDs. As a formal reviewer and reader, he helped direct and examine seven successful PhD. candidates. He also evaluated the performance of ten professors.

At the Publishing House of the Faculty of Philosophy SJ, of which he was a co-founder in 1972 and manager until 2001, eighty books were published. In 1988-1994 and again in 2002-2003, he was editor of the journal *Rocznik Wydziału Filozoficznego 'Ignatianum' w Krakowie* [Yearbook of the Faculty of Philosophy *Ignatianum* in Cracow]. He was founder and is still the editor of a multilingual yearbook entitled *Forum Philosophicum*, which has been published since 1996. Since 1999, he has been a member of the Counselling Committee for the journal *Principia* (Institute of Philosophy, Jagiellonian University in Cracow).

The driving principle of Darowski's academic and literary activities is to be open to the international and especially the European context.

Therefore, he puts a great deal of effort into publishing not only in Polish, but also in major foreign languages. In relation to this, he attaches great importance to disseminating Polish philosophical thought abroad, especially that of the Jesuits – mainly by publishing texts in Western Europe. Darowski took part in the 32nd Jesuit General Congregation in Rome (1974/75), as well as in many academic meetings and conferences both at home and abroad.

He publishes mainly in the field of philosophical anthropology and in the field of the history of philosophy in Poland, especially that of the Jesuits. He has consistently studied and systematized the philosophy of the Jesuits, especially in Poland – from the 16th to the 20th century (in the 18th century Jesuits ran forty centres for teaching philosophy).

For many years, he attached great importance to the most outstanding Jesuit philosopher of the 20th century – Paweł Siwek. Recently, he concerns himself consistently with Jesuit philosophy in 19th and 20th century Poland.

Prof. Darowski has published fifteen books and over 200 articles. His more significant books are: *Człowiek i świat* [Man and the World], Kraków 1972; *La théorie marxiste de la vérité*, Rome 1973; *Człowiek: istnienie i działanie* [Man: his Existence and his Activity], Kraków 1974; *Filozofia w szkołach jezuickich w Polsce w XVI wieku*, Kraków 1994 [Philosophy in the Jesuit Schools in Poland in the 16th Century], Kraków 1994; *Filozofia człowieka* [Philosophy of human being], Kraków 1995, 3rd ed.: 2002; *Studia z filozofii jezuitów w Polsce w XVII i XVIII wieku* [Studies in the Philosophy of the Jesuits in Poland in the 17th and 18th Centuries], Kraków 1998; *Studies in the Philosophy of the Jesuits in Poland in the 16th to 18th Centuries*, Cracow 1999; *Filozofia jezuitów w Polsce w XX wieku* [Philosophy of the Jesuits in Poland in the 20th Century], Kraków 2001.

His philosophical views are presented most clearly in his book: *Filozofia człowieka* [Philosophy of human being]. In Darowski's philosophy, there is noticeable inspiration derived from Aristotelian and Thomistic tradition. He makes many conscious references to both their essential and existential trends. He also tries to take into consideration new philosophical thought, especially the personalistic and axiological trends, and also – in some way – the dialogical trend (e.g. chapter: *Man as a Dialogical Being*, from p.123). He does not avoid some new life-science achievements; he attempts to integrate them with philosophy (e.g. chapters: *Cielesność człowieka* [Human body], p. 57-62, and *Pochodzenie człowieka* [Genesis of human being], p. 102-105). In the application of his method, especially in its initial stages, there are many elements that resemble a phenomenological description.