

IDENTITET I POSLANJE HRVATSKOG KATOLIČKOG SVEUČILIŠTA



IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF CROATIA

Identitet i poslanje
Hrvatskog katoličkog sveučilišta

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Identity and Mission
of the Catholic University of Croatia

**Identitet i poslanje Hrvatskog katoličkog sveučilišta
Identity and Mission of the Catholic University of Croatia**

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IDENTITET I POSLANJE HRVATSKOG KATOLIČKOG SVEUČILIŠTA



H R V A T S K O
K A T O L I Č K O
S V E U Ć I L I Š T E
Z A G R E B
U N I V E R S I T A S
S T U D I O R U M
C A T H O L I C A
C R O A T I C A
Z A G R A B I A

Zagreb, 2024.

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RIJEČ REKTORA

Tradicija katoličkih sveučilišta, koja osniva Katolička Crkva, nailazila je i nailazi na visoko priznanje bez obzira na duhovnu (religioznu, kulturnu, intelektualnu itd.) intonaciju društvenoga okoliša u kojem sveučilišta djeluju – od Europe i Amerike, preko Afrike i Azije pa sve do Australije; posvuda se rado ističe akademska izvrsnost, poštivanje osoobe i njezina dostojanstva, kvaliteta međusobnoga ophođenja. Imajući to u vidu Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište želi dati svoj doprinos u kontekstu visokoga obrazovanja u našoj domovini jer smatra da poruka evanđelja, koja iznutra animira našu ustanovu, predstavlja potrebnu dodanu vrijednost u općem obrazovnom procesu u Republici Hrvatskoj. Nije riječ o ideologiji koja prebrojava ljude i mjeri njihovu ideologiju podobnjost. Naprotiv, kršćansko shvaćanje čovjeka, njegova dostojanstva i uzvišenosti njegova poziva želi animirati stil rada i međusobnoga ophođenja svih zaposlenika i studenata u istraživanju, poučavanju i studiranju. Samim time biva očitom i potreba promišljanja identiteta i poslanja Sveučilišta.

U osnovi svega je naše uvjerenje da želimo imati ustavu univerzitetskoga ranga koja u svojim zaposlenicima i studentima budi ono njihovo najbolje i pomaže im da to razviju. Ovaj dokument o identitetu i poslanju Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta nastoji pokazati da se to može primjereno postići i održavati imajući na umu katoličku intelektualnu i širu duhovnu tradiciju u kojoj su davno nastali univerziteti i koja nije izgubila ništa od svoje vrijednosti usprkos svim mijenama povijesti te oblika i djelovanja visokoškolskih ustanova tijekom te iste povijesti.

Odatle se razviđa identitet našega Sveučilišta kao troplet triju dimenzija: akademske, katoličke i hrvatske. Katolištvo kao jedna od dimenzija identiteta Sveučilišta želi biti pokazano kroz stavove, držanja i stil djelovanja svih članova naše sveučilišne zajednice. Potreba osvješćenja i promišljanja te dimenzije proizlazi iz samih temeljnih dokumenata Sveučilišta; međutim, načelne postavke, koje su u njima formulirane, pokazuju poželjnim također jedan drukčiji, više narativni način predstavljanja: treba stvari opisati i obrazložiti te istaknuti perspektive koje se odatle otvaraju za djelovanje ustanove i za rad na njoj.

Poticaj u tom smjeru došao je od rektora i njegovih prorektora; na tome se počelo raditi prije nekoliko godine u skupini koju je vodila tadašnja prorektorica za nastavu izv. prof. dr. sc. Ines Sabotić. Dokument ima mnogo zahvaliti njezinu predanju, ustrajnosti i sugestijama. Ideje koje su na sastancima bile predstavljene trebalo je ne samo sustavno poredati nego ih i razraditi te proširiti u nekoliko vidika. Toga se posla i završne redakcije teksta prihvatio prof. dr. sc. Stjepan Kušar; on je napisao temeljni tekst. U ovu konačnu verziju ušle su potom također primjedbe rektora, njegovih prorektora te izv. prof. dr. sc. Zorana Turze i doc. dr. sc. Odilona Singboa. Svi-ma zahvaljujemo na radu i suradnji. Završni je tekst usvojen na 16. sjednici 4. saziva Senata Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta 10. svibnja 2022. godine.

Pobliže gledano, dokument ima tri dijela: (1) Poimanje identiteta i poslanja; (2) Katolištvo kao specifična razlika Sveučilišta; (3) Čovjek – subjekt i objekt znanosti. Te cjeline obrađene su relativno iscrpno i jasno pa nije potrebno ovdje se na njih posebice osvratiti. Bit će dovoljno upozoriti na sržne momente koji su pritom izišli na vidjelo:

- Identitet ustanove shvaćamo kao komunikativnu otvorenost koja je u upravno razmјernom odnosu s izgrađenom vrijednosnom samosvješću njezinih zaposlenika i studenata.

- Katolištvo je izraz i forma vjere svjesne svoje povijesne i društvene smještenosti te otvorene dijalogu i prijeporu, prihvaćanju drugoga i plodnoj razmjeni s njime, kritičkom prihvaćanju novoga i samokritičkom ispravljanju jednostranosti i pogrešaka.
- Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište vidi svoju svrhu u krilu hrvatske akademske zajednice i šireg društva u tome da svojom prisutnošću i djelovanjem daje svoj prilog napretku znanosti i obrazovanja te ujedno upozorava na bogomdano dostojanstvo čovjeka kao subjekta znanosti i na njegovu otvorenost prema transcendenciji (Bogu) u krilu znanstvene civilizacije našeg doba.
- Sveučilište želi biti prostor sporazumijevanja i zajedništva različitih, koji svoju različitost uzajamno poštuju i nastoje je shvatiti i živjeti kao bogatstvo cjeline; oni to razvijaju sebi na dobro i na dobrobit cjeline.

Da stvar ne bi ostala samo na načelnoj i opisnoj razini, podastire se na kraju dokumenta idejni nacrt programa cjelivotnog učenja nastavnika i djelatnika našeg Sveučilišta; to je znak u smjeru operacionalizacije onoga što dokument nudi. Na taj se način daje poželjan poticaj implementaciji njegova duha u djelovanje i postupanje naše sveučilišne zajednice.

Uvjereni smo da će sve to pridonijeti korektnom razumijevanju Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta i njegova mesta i djelovanja u našem društvu i u našoj Crkvi te posebice u krilu akademske zajednice u našoj domovini.

Rektor
prof. dr. sc. Željko Tanjić

UVOD

Kao što čovjek pojedinac od vremena do vremena ima potrebu stati i sabrati za njega važne uvide iz stečenih iskustava, promisliti vlastite stavove i način postupanja te si prizvati u pamet smisao vlastitog života, tako si i društvene ustanove povremeno trebaju osvijestiti smisao vlastitog postojanja i djelovanja, s nakanom da unaprijede svoje djelovanje i primjerene odgovore svrsi svojeg postojanja u društvu u kojem djeluju. Ta potreba tim više raste na obje spomenute strane što su društvene promjene brže, a izazovi koje one sa sobom nose nepredvidiviji i teži. Sve je to od velike važnosti za identitet ustanove, tj. za način kako ona samu sebe razumije u svojem postojanju, ciljevima i radu.

Svrha ovih izvoda koji slijede jest u tome da se skupi ono rasuto po raznim temeljnim dokumentima Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta kao i u dokumentima crkvenog učiteljstva u kojima se tumači narav crkvenih visokoobrazovnih ustanova. Sabiranje rasutog ne sastoji se u citiranju spomenutih spisa i isprava nego u promišljanju onih dijelova njihova sadržaja iz kojih bivaju razvidni identitet i poslanje dotične ustanove. To tako sabrano i promišljeno želi biti zapamćeno: ono je „za pamćenje“ – upravo: *pro memoria* – kako bi oni kojih se to tiče mogli lakše i učinkovitije imati na pameti ono što je bitno za njihovo djelovanje i vlastito samorazumijevanje kao djelatnika Sveučilišta. Pritom imamo na umu kako studente, nastavnike i njihove suradnike tako i akademske službe kojima je svrha s administrativne strane omogućiti i pratiti učenje, poučavanje i istraživanje upravo spomenutih sveučilišnih subjekata.

U središtu pozornosti ovog teksta nalaze se dvije usko povezane ‘veličine’: *identitet i poslanje* Hrvatskoga katoličkog

sveučilišta. Nastojimo si prizvati u pamet njihovo značenje u kontekstu naše ustanove te odатle razmotriti posljedice koje iz njih proizlaze za samorazumijevanje i rad studenata, nastavnika i drugih djelatnika sveučilišta. Specifičan pak vidik pod kojim se spomenuta tematika razmatra jest katolicitet ili bolje: katolištvo Sveučilišta. Idemo za odgovorom na pitanje: što ono znači za njegov identitet i za njegovo poslanje? I dalje: što katolištvo znači za one koji na njemu – u različitim svojstvima – djeluju? I na kraju: što smatramo potrebnim i poželjnim činiti kako bi upravo taj moment identiteta bio shvaćen i prihvaćen – odnosno u najmanju ruku: respektiran – od strane svih članova sveučilišne zajednice?

Odatle nam se nameće sljedeći red izlaganja: najprije kamo istaknuti bitne momente u poimanju identiteta u općenitom smislu u perspektivi osobe i ustanove te potom to raščlaniti imajući u vidu upravo naše Sveučilište (I.). U drugom dijelu detaljnije ćemo objasniti pojam katolištva polazeći od specifične kršćanske vizije čovjeka te pokazati bitne momente konkretne uobličenosti katoličkog identiteta sveučilišne ustanove (II.). Na to se nadovezuje treći dio u kojem želimo tematizirati činjenicu da je čovjek upravo u kontekstu Sveučilišta subjekt i objekt znanosti te razvidjeti neke konzervativne i izazove koji odatile slijede za razumijevanje ljudskog bića sagledanog u perspektivi znanstvenosti ali i katolištva kao distinktnog znaka našeg Sveučilišta (III.). Na kraju, u Dodatku, podastiremo idejni nacrt aktivnosti koje bi mogle i – uvjereni smo – trebale ući u cjeloživotno obrazovanje naših sveučilišnih nastavnika i djelatnika. Riječ je o momentima koji vode računa o specifičnosti Sveučilišta te ju kušaju integrirati u znanstveno-nastavni proces i općenito u život sveučilišne zajednice.

I. POIMANJE IDENTITETA I POSLANJA

Osoba – ustanova – poslanje

Identitet općenito - osoba

Identitet ne shvaćamo prvo u smislu uloge, tj. specifičnih djelovanja i ponašanja koja se od pojedinca očekuju u društvu i koja su predvidiva, niti u smislu skupa određenih značajki individualne osobnosti koje društvo očekuje da budu opažljive kod pojedinca. Identitet također ne shvaćamo ni kao sklop stabilnih i krutih svojstava i obilježja koja su imuna na izazov razlikā drugog i drugačijeg, prisutnog u društvu. Najopćenitije rečeno, identitet shvaćamo u smislu koherentno strukturirane cjelokupnosti nazora, shvaćanja i vrednovanja – koji nisu uvijek ni nužno izričito formulirani – i koji konstituiraju duhovni profil ljudskog bića kojemu se priznaje dubina (neizrecivost), složenost i vrijednosna orijentacija u njegovu djelovanju. Tako shvaćen identitet komunikativna je struktura osobe, struktura koja se očituje u odnosu osobe prema samoj sebi i prema drugima različitima od nje; riječ je o kreativnoj napetosti ego-centričnosti i alo-centričnosti. Ukratko, identitet je komunikativna uobličenost osobe, te svaki put jedinstvene ‘pojave’ koja u plodnoj napetosti duhovnog i tjelesnog momenta pokazuje specifičnost upravo ljudskog života.

U tom smislu uzet, identitet treba razmotriti prema upravo spomenute dvije strane i to pod vidikom njegova oblikovanja. Identitet kao dinamična komunikacijska datost jest nešto što se ‘događa’, oblikuje u odnosu prema drugima (alocentrična strana identiteta). Njegovo stvaranje, oblikovanje i održavanje jest intersubjektivno: pojedinac jest on sâm, ali nikad nije samo sam za sebe, puko sebstvo (*Self*), nego on jest to

samo ukoliko je u odnosu s određenim partnerima s kojima je u razgovoru i u interakciji, u smislu socijalizacije – kroz komunikaciju i kooperaciju. S te strane gledano, oblikovanje identiteta sastoji se dakle u uspostavljanju i održavanju otvorene komunikacije i kooperacije među sebesvjesnim i slobodnim osobama koje tako stvaraju svoj zajednički svijet bez kojeg osobni identitet nije zamisliv ni ostvariv.

Intersubjektivna odnosno društvena konstituiranost identiteta i strukture ličnosti ne vodi nužno k podcjenjivanju razlike među osobama: ono zajedničko u mi-odnosima uvijek je također individualno iskušano i razumljeno, a naša združenost s drugima ('mi') zahtijeva da tragamo ne samo za našim individualnim samorazumijevanjem (što ide samo po sebi) nego isto tako i za našim kolektivnim samorazumijevanjem, tj. kako razumijemo sami sebe kao skupinu, kao ustanova te u krajnjoj liniji kao narod. To se pak događa tako da se ide za 'lokacijom dobra': gdje je moje odnosno naše dobro i u čemu se ono sastoji? Koji su nam zajednički ciljevi djelovanja? Taj komunikacijski i suradnički napor traganja i nalaženja izražava se i posreduje u dijalogu i raspravi, a drugima se komunicira u naraciji ili biografskom pripovijedanju ako se za to ukaže potreba.

U korelaciji s tom tek natuknutom allocentričnom stranom identiteta stoji njegova egocentrična strana – obje su neophodne. Tu se oblikovanje identiteta događa u procesu razlučivanja načelā i vrednota koje pojedinac usvaja ili ih je usvojio. S tim ide ruku pod ruku pojedinčeva slobodno izabrana (ili baštinjena pa usvojena) društvena pripadnost koja je satkana od identifikacija s osobama, vrijednostima i obvezama te kao takva konstituirira prostor u kojem pojedinac može odlučiti za što će se ili također protiv čega će se on zauzimati odnosno što će mu biti indiferentno. Pripadnost tvori pozadini pojedinčevih vrijednosnih stavova, izbora i opredjeljenja. Odatle je razvidno da je identitet za pojedinca visoko vrednovano dobro koje od njega zahtijeva da mu bude vjeran odnosno da upravo s obzirom na to dobro opravda svoje postupke

i svoja opredjeljenja. Odatle slijedi da se identitet ne svodi na puku faktičnu datost, nego se pokazuje kao nešto što *treba* biti i ostati – pa makar i kroz promjene.

Nadalje, identitet pojedinca je odista važan ako sadrži kvalitativna razlučivanja i omogućuje razlikovanja s obzirom na ciljeve i sredstva njihova realiziranja u postupanju. Na tom temelju pojedinac može odrediti što je za nj važno, a što nije – u konačnici tko i kakav on hoće biti kao osoba. Tu je uključeno razlučivanje između onoga što je faktično željeno i onoga što je vrijedno da bude željeno upravo pod vidikom identiteta: ‘*Tko si i kakav čovjek hoćeš biti?*’ To nas vodi u samu moralnu srž identiteta, a što se može formulirati u obliku svojevrsnog imperativa: »*Djeluj tako da u tvojem postupanju bude jasno što to znači, biti-čovjek!*« ili: »*Budi uzoran za ono što ti hoćeš biti!*«

Interakcija između doživljene situacije, predrefleksnog pojedinčeva iskustva, individualne artikulacije i kulturne zaštite obrazaca tumačenja iskustava i doživljaja vodi k usvajaju vrednota i vrijednosti i oblikovanju pojedinčeva identiteta. Pritom on teži usklađenosti tih momenata. Ta usklađenost ne misli se kao kruta jednom za vazda postignuta datost, nego je dinamična, ‘događajna’ i popraćena napetostima. Odatle je također jasno ovo: da bismo osjetili i znali tko smo mi, potrebna nam je neka predstava o tome kako smo mi takvima postali i u kojem se smjeru krećemo.

U tome je uključeno sljedeće: povezanost između oblikovanja identiteta i odnosa prema vrednotama i vrijednostima neophodna je i neodreciva za identitet. To je vidljivo *e contrario*: pri slomu pojedinčeva vrijednosnog svijeta on ne može održati ili sačuvati svoj identitet (tj. samoga sebe) kao da se ništa nije dogodilo. I obrnuto: kriza njegova identiteta nužno pogarda i njegov vrijednosni svijet. To je uvjet za eventualnu izgradnju i oblikovanje novog identiteta.

Identitet dakle nije krut i stabilan splet svojstava i značajki, nedostupnih za izazov razlika; naprotiv, shvaćamo ga

u smislu komunikativnog i konstruktivnog odnošenja osobe prema samoj sebi i prema onome što njoj samoj ne pripada (diferentno, drugo, drugi čovjek/ljudi). Stoga je identitet pretpostavka za stvaralački odnos i ophođenje s drugima i za etos diferencije. Taj etos uključuje vezanost osobe nećim neodrecivo vlastitim i istodobno osjećanje drugoga-diferentnog kao izazov da iskorači preko sebe, da transcendira samu sebe prema drugome i pritom se mijenja. Identitet uključuje to da osobe razumiju smisao svojih međusobnih razlika i načelno ih nastoje shvatiti kao uzajamno obogaćenje i obogaćenje zajednice, a ne kao opasnost. Za tu vrstu komunikacije osobe sa zbiljom, s drugim ljudima i sa samom sobom od presudne je važnosti njezina moć stvaralačke imaginacije koja ne ukida diferenciju nego u njoj prepoznaje potencijal za novo. Osoba stoga imaginira novo i ide za njegovom realizacijom.

Zaključno dakle, identitet znači istovjetnost osobe sa samom sobom u zajedništvu različitih, tj. drugih osoba; povezanost s njima i odvojenost od njih bitni su momenti njezina identiteta u krilu stvarnosti u kojoj ona živi i na koju je ona trajno upućena. Istovjetnost (od lat. *idem*, isti, pa odatle ‘identitet’) je zapravo ‘istovjetovanje’, trajni proces u vremenu i u komunikaciji s drugima. Osoba ‘istovjetuje’ u društvu različitih osoba poistovjećujući se dijelom s njima i usvajajući dane vrijednosti i obrasce ponašanja ili pak odbijajući ih i tražeći druge, dakako primjereno dobi i situacijama. O svemu tome na svoj način svjedoči također stvarnost jezika: kao ono opće i zajedničko on prethodi pojedincu i omogućuje mu samorazumijevanje u komunikaciji, a pritom se ujedno svaki put pokazuje u svojoj nezamjenjivo individualnoj uobičajenosti.

Identitet ustanove

Korak dalje od toga jest onaj koji vodi k shvaćanju identiteta ustanove; u našem kontekstu imamo pred očima Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište. Ljudi utemeljuju ustanove radi postizanja nekih važnih zajedničkih ciljeva koje ne mogu re-

alizirati sami kao pojedinci. Identitet ustanove ovisi o njezinih ciljevima, on je izraz svrhe radi koje ustanova postoji. U tom je smislu identitet statutarno određen, a članovi ustanove u njemu se prepoznaju kao zajednica koja ide za realizacijom postavljenih odnosno zadanih i prihvaćenih ciljeva. Oni biraju nositelje dužnosti i određuju upravne organe koji su u službi svrhe radi koje ustanova postoji i u vidu koje ona ima djelovati. Identifikacija članova dotične ustanove sa svrhom koju ona ima od presudne je važnosti za dobro djelovanje pa i za opstanak same ustanove. Bez te identifikacije ustanova nema u društvu prepoznatljiv identitet, koliko god on inače bio jasan u njezinim temeljnim dokumentima. Puki identitet samo na papiru anticipirana je osmrtnica ustanove.

Svrha ustanove uključuje stanoviti skup načela i vrijednosti koje vode djelovanje njezinih članova. Valja međutim razlikovati vrijednosti od norme i želje – kako u osobnom životu tako i u djelovanju u okviru ustanove. Vrijednosti su zamisli ili predstave onoga što je valjano, važeće, vrijedno; one su atraktivne, tj. one privlače i pokreću na djelovanje u smjeru svoje realizacije; one daju čovjeku ideju da nešto napravi pod njihovim vidikom te tako iskorakne preko samoga sebe u svome djelu. To je onda doprinos ozbiljenju svrhe ustanove s čijim se je vrijednosnim ciljevima čovjek poistovjetio odnosno koje je on usvojio.

Dokumenti u kojima ustanova ima izrečenu svoju svrhu i u kojima je formulirano njezino samorazumijevanje, što ga trebaju dijeliti njezini članovi odnosno zaposlenici, ne izriču samo vrijednosti radi kojih ustanova postoji nego i norme ili propise kojih se zaposlenici imaju držati u svojem radu. Opcenito uzevši norme su, za razliku od vrijednosti, restriktivne, tj. one odredbeno usmjeruju i ograničuju mogućnosti djelovanja kako s obzirom na ciljeve tako i s obzirom na sredstva njihove realizacije. U tom se smislu može reći da norme pretpostavljaju vrijednosti i temelje se na njima. One su preskriptivni ili direktivni izričaji o dužnosti ili obvezi (deontološka perspektiva), dok su vrijednosti evaluativni izričaji koji kažu

što i kako nešto vrijedi kao cilj ili svrha djelovanja (teleološka perspektiva).

Ekonomski logika, koja golemim dijelom određuje društveno ponašanje pojedinaca i ustanova, protežira govor o dobrima i ide za usličnjavanjem vrijednosti i želje posredstvom pojma preferencije (onog što se 'više voli' ili čemu se daje prednost pred nečim drugim ili što ima 'veću cijenu'). U toj jezičnoj uporabi preferencija stanjuje i tendencijski briše razliku između vrijednosti i želje. Nasuprot tomu valja inzistirati na razlučivanju: vrijednost nije faktična želja (tj. kad netko nešto želi) niti dugotrajna i stabilna želja, nego je ona predstava onoga što je vrijedno da bude željeno, predstava poželjnog; odatle je razumljivo ljudsko iskustvo kolizijā između želja i vrijednosti, kolizije koje prate kako život pojedinaca tako i ustanova. Kolizije izazivaju krize – stanja u kojima valja donijeti nove obvezujuće odluke koje su važne za budućnost ustanove i njezinih djelatnika. Vrijednosti su one koje vode želje, a ne obrnuto.

Sve je to od načelne važnosti za identitet svake ustanove zato što vrijednosti, koje su uključno dane u njezinoj svrsi, trebaju podršku norme ili propisa koji jednoznačno usmjeruju i određuju postupanje. I obrnuto: one jesu poput graničnika unutar kojih 'teče' realizacija vrijednosti u praksi djelovanja ustanove. Subjektivna pak identifikacija članova ustanove s vrijednostima – identifikacija koja je neophodna – mobilizira dinamiku želje koja 'grije' volju u njezinu angažmanu. O tome u mnogome ovisi atmosfera ili 'duh' koji vlada u ustanovi i koji bitno pridonosi prevladavanju zapreka na putu ostvarivanja njezinog zadalog i usvojenog cilja odnosno svrhe.

Identitet i poslanje

Kad se sagleda povezanost identiteta i svrhe ustanove, biva bjelodanim ono što se smije nazvati njezino poslanje, ono radi čega je ona tu i čemu ona ima služiti. Pojam poslana stavlja u prvi plan prema širem društvu okrenutu stranu

svrhe ustanove. U poslanju se sabire društveno relevantan doprinos svega onoga što ustanova čini u prostoru javnosti društva. To se može podvesti pod pojmom korisnosti, dakako, pod pretpostavkom da se korist ne mjeri samo materijalnim ili finansijskim mjerilima, nego da se shvati u prvom redu kao kulturni i civilizacijski – upravo duhovni – doprinos zajedničkom dobru.

To napose vrijedi za odgojne i obrazovne ustanove, sve tamo od dječjeg vrtića pa do sveučilišta. Pritom je osoba dje-latnika tih ustanova, primjerice sveučilišnih nastavnika, od presudne važnosti ne samo zato što ona poukom i svojim stručnim djelovanjem otvara i prenosi svijet vrijednosti i moralnih vrednota koje su uključene u svrhama dotičnih ustanova, nego ništa manje također stoga što svojim načinom po-stupanja biva razvidna njezina manja ili veća identifikacija s dotičnim vrijednostima. Pouka i primjer, uz odgovarajući uži i širi društveni i kulturni okoliš, nezaobilazni su momenti u prenošenju vrijednosti.

Kad se u ovom kontekstu ima u vidu Sveučilište kao ustanova, s razlogom se govori o tri momenta njegova poslanja: nastava (poučavanje i učenje), znanost (istraživanje) i njegov društveni angažman; društvena relevantnost Sveučilišta po-kazuje se ne samo kroz angažman nastavnika i studenata u njihovu sveučilišnom radu, nego i u svim oblicima angažma-na koji nadilaze striktne okvire rada na Sveučilištu i zalaze u šire društvo. Ta tri momenta provlače se kroz sve izvode koji slijede, a da ne moraju biti svaki puta zasebno istaknuti.

Osnovna karakterizacija identiteta Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta

Prethodna općenita razmatranja potrebno je sada smjestiti u konkretnost našeg Sveučilišta i razvidjeti bitne dimenzije njegova identiteta. Pritom ćemo imati u vidu njegove temeljne dokumente kao i dokumente crkvenog učiteljstva koji se odnose na život, rad i svrhu visokoobrazovnih ustanova koje

utemeljuje Katolička Crkva; Hrvatsko je katoličko sveučilište naime jedna takva ustanova.¹

Najbolje je pritom krenuti od samog imena. U njemu se naime izriče narav ustanove (sveučilište), njezina specifična razlika (katoličko) i njezina društveno-povijesna smještenost (hrvatsko). – Notorna je činjenica da u Hrvatskoj postoji više sveučilišta i da su sva ona u skladu sa svojom smještenošću i sa svojim samorazumijevanjem hrvatska makar to izričito ne stoji u njihovu imenu. To pak da neko sveučilište ima svoju specifičnu razliku – koja nije u materiji poučavanja (materija može biti regionalno istaknuta već prema studijskim interesima i podneblju) nego u nečem drugom što se doima kao specifična duhovna orijentacija i duhovno ozračje ustanove – nije samo po sebi razumljivo. Ta duhovna orijentacija tvori specifičnu ‘dodanu vrijednost’ ovog Sveučilišta u odnosu na druga sveučilišta. Ona se izriče u katolicitetu ili katolištvu ustanove.

Ako se sve to ima u vidu, onda je jasno da je identitet Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta svojevrsni troplet triju komponenti koje tek skupa uzete tvore njegov puni identitet. Stoga je potrebno razvidjeti te tri njegove komponente zasebno i u njihovoј povezanosti, a potom se usredotočiti na njegovu ‘specifičnu razliku’. Riječ ‘sveučilište’ zahtijeva da ukratko razmotrimo akademsku komponentu njegova identiteta, riječ ‘katoličko’ njegovu katoličku komponentu, a riječ ‘hrvatsko’ nacionalnu i kulturnu komponentu njegova identiteta.

Akademski identitet Sveučilišta

Akademski identitet Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta u bitnome se ne razlikuje od akademskog identiteta drugih

¹ Ovaj tekst nastoji u perspektivi svojeg naslova razraditi i ‘ispričati’ temeljne smjernice Apostolske konstitucije o katoličkim sveučilištima *Ex corde Ecclesiae* [(cit. kao Ex); promulgirana je 1990., a na snagu stupila 1991. Usp. hrv. prijevod, *Ex corde Ecclesiae. Iz srca Crkve*, Zagreb 2006.], *Statuta Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta i Strategije razvitka Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta do 2025.*; usp. rubriku „Dokumenti“ na mrežnim stranicama Sveučilišta, <http://www.unicath.hr/dokumenti>.

istovrsnih visokoobrazovnih ustanova u nas. O njemu govore opći zakonski akti Republike Hrvatske o znanstvenoj djelatnosti i o visokom obrazovanju. Dokumenti crkvenog učiteljstva i temeljni dokumenti Sveučilišta također govore o tome, ali povrh toga ističu i sve ono što spada na katolištvo Sveučilišta kojem je osnivač Zagrebačka nadbiskupija, u suglasnosti s Hrvatskom biskupskom konferencijom. Autonomija Sveučilišta zajamčena je s obje strane, državne i crkvene.

Na bazi tih dokumenata ovaj dokument hoće ‘ispričati’ ono što je potrebno imati na umu kad je riječ o djelovanju Sveučilišta i njegovih djelatnika unutar same ustanove te u društvu i Crkvi.

Čini nam se svrshodnim u ovoj prilici istaknuti nešto što se obično ne uzima u obzir u vremenu otkako su sveučilišta postala svojevrsnim fakultetskim pogonima složenima jedan uz drugoga, uz minimum razmišljanja o onome što ih povezuje u njihovu radu i u njihovu samorazmijevanju. Sveučilište naime pokušavamo shvatiti kao univerzitet, u smislu lat. *universitas*: ono što se uči i poučava gleda se pod vidikom nečeg jednog prema kojemu je sve znano i znatljivo okrenuto i koje je u svemu na djelu. Na početcima univerziteta to je bila tzv. skolastička metoda stjecanja i predavanja znanja metodikom pitanja i prijepora, a temeljila se na opće prihvaćenim autoritetima. To je vrijedilo za sva četiri fakulteta: filozofski (*artes*), pravni, medicinski i teološki. Današnji univerziteti su zapravo doslovno sve-učilišta, gdje se uči i može učiti sve znano i znatljivo, i o njemu poučavati, a da se ne pita (i iz samog imena ‘sveučilište’ slijedi da se to pitanje samo po sebi ne nameće, kao što je slučaj s nazivom ‘univerzitet’) je li postoji neko jedno (*unum*) prema kojem (*versus*) se može sagledati sve znano i znatljivo. Materija učenja i poučavanja toliko je bogata i raznovrsna da je iluzorno uopće pomicati na nekakvo ‘jedno’ koje bi ju objedinjavalo u njezinoj raznovrsnosti u srednjovjekovnom smislu (osim same riječi ‘materija’, koja ništa ne kaže o čemu je zapravo svaki puta riječ); to pak ništa manje vrijedi i za metode koje se primjenjuju u učenju, poučavanju i istraživanju.

No ako se stvari malo pozornije promotre, može se s formalne strane uočiti nešto što je ipak zajedničko svim subjektima sveučilišnih ‘pogona’ u njihovu bavljenju određenom ‘materijom’ – usprkos razlici u metodi i izabranoj materiji. Taj zajednički moment je *studij*. Shvaćamo ga polazeći od nje-gove izvorne latinske riječi *studium*: zauzeto bavljenje izabranim predmetom animirano ljubavlju prema tom predmetu i prema znanju o njemu. Ljubav koja teži prema znanju i o kojoj je ovdje riječi jest lat. *dilectio*: izabrana ljubav. To zauzeto bavljenje izabranim predmetom znanja zajedničko je studen-tima i nastavnicima, a podržavano je akademskim službama kojima u središtu pozornosti ima biti nastojanje da sa svoje strane omogućuju i olakšavaju uredno i produktivno odvijanje učenja, poučavanja i istraživanja na svim znanstvenim područjima koja su relevantna za sveučilište i dakako na svim razinama studija, uključujući i doktorski studij kao krunu vi-sokoškolskog obrazovanja.

Studij kao ono jedno zajedničko svima koji rade na ustrojbenim jedinicama sveučilišta raščlanjuje se u tri međusobno tjesno povezana momenta koji formalno objedinjuju sav rad i svekoliko nastojanje nastavnika i studenata unutar univer-ziteta. To su: učenje, poučavanje i istraživanje – sve u skladu s prihvaćenim znanstvenim standardima, procedurama i me-todama vlastitim svakom znanstvenom području. U tom tro-pletu onog jednog – studij – nazire se središnja komponenta akademskog identiteta sveučilišta.²

Učenje karakterizira rad studenata, tj. onih koji su se upisali na sveučilišni studij radi stjecanja izabranih znanja i stručnih kompetencija, u perspektivi svojeg budućeg posla (profesija) čije obavljanje, osim osobnog probitka, bitno pri-donosi izgradnji društva te njegovu kulturnom i gospodar-skom napretku. Učenje je specifičan način kako se ostvaruje

² O pristupu studiju, napose istraživanju, usp. Ex 16-20, gdje se govori o integraciji znanja (16), dijalogu razuma i vjere (17), etičkoj odgovornosti (18), teološkoj perspektivi (19) i interdisciplinarnosti (20). Ovaj tekst vodi o tome računa, ali ima drugčiji pristup.

studium: zauzeto bavljenje predmetom učenja uz maksimalno zalaganje intelektualnih i čuvstvenih energija osobe u stjecanju znanja i kompetencija. Riječ je o naporu uma da se shvati i usvoji stvar znanja, da ono postane svojevrsni ‘intelektualni posjed’ onoga koji uči. Za razliku od materijalnih dobara koja se umanjuju kad se dijele, duhovna dobra – znanje je jedno od njih – umnožavaju se i rastu kad se dijele; to im je u naravi. Da bi tomu doista tako bilo, valja voljeti ono izabrano kao predmet učenja, bez obzira na to koliko na prvi pogled nešto od toga može izgledati nezanimljivo. Bez ljubavi prema znanju i kompetencijama koje valja steći (na to se odnosi ulaganje čuvstvenih energija) nema napretka u spoznaji ni u intelektualnoj zrelosti osobe.

Poučavanje ide ruku pod ruku s učenjem, ali se odnosi u prvom redu na nastavnike i njihove suradnike. I za njih vrijedi ono što je rečeno o naravi studija, ali sada u perspektivi prenošenja znanja i vještina studentima. Kao što je bilo rečeno, znanje raste i umnožava se kad se dijeli. To drugim riječima znači da je u naravi znanja da bude plodno ne samo u tom smislu da se dade upotrijebiti u širem društvu (npr. u gospodarstvu, kulturi, politici itd.) i unovčiti, nego u prvom redu da bude plodno u drugima koji ga još nemaju, ali su krenuli putem mukotrpnog stjecanja novih spoznaja, stvaranja vlastitog fundusa znanja i kompetencija pod vidikom budućeg profesionalnog djelovanja iz znanja kad za to dođe vrijeme. Ta crta u znanju od presudne je važnosti ne samo za identitet onih koji uče, nego i onih koji poučavaju. Time je ujedno istaknuto njihovo poslanje kroz koje se identitet očituje i trajno izgrađuje slijedom dinamike potvrđivanja i postavljanja u pitanje onog stečenog ili pak njegova osporavanja i otkrivanja novog. Kad se to ima u vidu, biva jasno da poučavati znači reći i pobuditi stvaralačku nadu u onome koji uči.

Stoga treba rad nastavnika promotriti pod dva vidika: kako rade i trebaju raditi sa studentima te kako utvrđuju i proširuju svoje nastavničke kompetencije. Rad sa studentima obuhvaća predavanja, seminare i vježbe te osobne konzulta-

cije u kojima svaki student osobno dobiva indikacije i upute po mjeri vlastitih individualnih potreba, što je od nemale važnosti za njegov rast u spoznavanju i usvajaju znanja. Takvo vođenje studenata na nekim katoličkim sveučilištima ima karakter mentorstva (*mentoring*), što od nastavnika zahtijeva spremnost da budu na raspolaganju kako to predviđaju odgovarajuće sveučilišne uredbe. Kroz poučavanje mladom čovjeku prosjava nada koja drži otvorenom budućnost.

Uz to ide također dužnost proširivanja nastavničkih kompetencija. Ono se sastoji u usavršavanju nastavnika na njihovu znanstvenom području, a ide također kroz uvažavanje spoznaja o didaktici koja je od presudne važnosti kad je riječ o prenošenju znanja onima koji ga još nemaju, a odlučili su krenuti putem sveučilišnog studija.

Istraživanje je usko vezano sa svime što je do sada bilo rečeno o učenju i poučavanju te posebno ističe moment znanstvenosti. Sveučiliše naime ne ide samo za tim da prenosi već postojeće znanje, nego mu je isto tako važna zadaća da omogući i provodi stjecanje novih spoznaja kroz istraživanje onog još nespoznatog, problematičnog, djelomično spoznatog – ukratko, svega onoga što pobuđuje nova pitanja i traganja za odgovorima na pojedinim znanstvenim područjima. Istraživanje zahtijeva provjeru rezultata i otkrića te njihovu komunikaciju u krilu znanstvene zajednice kao i u širem društvu zainteresiranih. Tu se više negoli drugdje očituje traganje za istinom stanja stvari, u konačnici za istinom same stvarnosti ukoliko je ona otvorena čovjekovu spoznavanju i predstavlja mu trajan izazov da iskorači iz sebe i metodički svjesno stupi u dijalog s njom. Iskustva i znanstvene spoznaje plod su tog dijaloga, a horizont u kojem se on odvija jest horizont istine – bez obzira na to govori li se još o istini ili već o ‘post-istini’. U svakom slučaju s istinom valja računati, o čemu najbolje svjedoče sva sporenja oko stanja stvari koje su sporne. Kad ne bi bilo tako, ne bi imalo smisla sporenje i rasprava; oni se uvijek odvijaju u horizontu istine koliko god pojedini rezultati bili sporni, nesigurni i djelomični. Stoga je znanstvenik,

ako to ima u vidu, svjestan da je istina uvijek veća od svega onoga što je on spoznao pa odatle dolazi stav skromnosti pred veličinom spoznajnog izazova same stvarnosti i poslanja na-stavnika kao znanstvenika i istraživača.

Zaključno, učenje, poučavanje i istraživanje tvore, kao *studium*, ono jedno što formalno iz sveučilišta čini univerzitet, obrazovnu ustanovu najvišeg znanstvenog i znanstveno-na-stavnog ranga u suvremenom društvu znanosti. Moramo si naime osvijestiti činjenicu da ne živimo tek u društvu znanja – čovjek oduvijek živi u društvu znanja otkako je bilo što i bilo kako, već tamo od starog kamenog doba, nešto spoznao, naučio i napravio – nego u društvu znanosti shvaćene kao proces istraživanja koje se odvija na svim područjima stvarnosti i čiji rezultati i njihova primjena bitno mijenjaju čovjekov odnos prema prirodi, prema društvu i prema njemu samome. Znanstvene spoznaje imaju dalekosežne posljedice za čovjekov odnos prema tradicijom posredovanoj kulturi, napose pak prema običajima i prema religiji, a ništa manje i prema etici, što je posebice bjelodano na području bioetike. Poseban su pak problem primjene znanstvenih rezultata u tehnici i tehnologiji sa svim upravo nesagledivim posljedicama za prirodu i za samog čovjeka. Tu je vidljivo da sama znanost nameće pitanja na koja ona kao takva nema odgovore nego odgovore treba tražiti u interdisciplinarnom dijalogu iz kojeg ne smiju biti isključene filozofija i teologija stoga što je njihova perspektiva obuhvatna, tj. odnosi se na cjelinu zbilje (priroda i povijest) u krilu koje opстоji i djeluje čovjek.

Hrvatski identitet Sveučilišta

Ovaj moment identiteta Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta imenuje širi društveni, povjesni i kulturni okvir unutar kojeg ono djeluje i unutar kojeg se ozbiljuje njegov akademski identitet. U globalnom svijetu kakav se nezaustavljivo i intenzivno gradi već desetjećima i koji po uzoru na uniformne gospodarske i financijske oblike povezivanja i postupanja u

poslovanju djeluje i na druga područja kulture i civilizacije ima smisla istaknuti moment nacionalne kulturne smješteneosti ustanove upravo radi očuvanja i daljnog njegovanja kulturne specifičnosti hrvatskog naroda i podneblja u kojem Sveučilište – kao i svako drugo sveučilište – djeluje. Stoga na hrvatski moment identiteta Sveučilišta bitno spada njegovo samorazumijevanje kao nositelja obrazovnih, znanstvenih i istraživačkih procesa kojima je cilj – povrh onog neposrednog akademskog – pridonijeti izgradnji i dobrobiti hrvatskog društva i očuvanju njegova identiteta te promicanju opće i nacionalne kulturne baštine.

S tim u vezi *Statut Sveučilišta* ističe kako je „vrjednovanje, čuvanje, promicanje i zaštita hrvatske tradicije i nacionalne baštine i cjelokupne kulture, sve to u interakciji sa širom društvenom zajednicom uz usklađivanje s europskim sustavom visokog obrazovanja“ (čl. 5) nezaobilazna i obvezujuća perspektiva u kojoj ono djeluje. Time je jasno istaknuta društvena relevantnost Sveučilišta i njegovih znanstvenika-nastavnika kao pojedinaca i eksperata ne samo u rješavanju pitanja i problema na raznim područjima društvenog života nego i u njihovu doprinosu nacionalnoj kulturi.

Nacionalnu kulturu shvaćamo kao organski izrasli splet „duhovnih vrijednosti te umnih postupaka i emocionalnih reakcija koje je sebi izgradila etnička skupina što se konstituira ili se već konstituirala kao nacija“. Ona si je to izgradila „kao sebi primjeren medij sudjelovanja u nadetničkoj civilizaciji i dioništva u univerzalnoj kulturi širega kruga kojemu pripada“. Riječ je o prekoračenju nacionalnih granica jer „bez nadetničke civilizacije nema nacionalne kulture“. Prema tome hrvatska je nacionalna kultura „sve ono kulturno i obrazovno blago kojim se može biti Europejac, Zapadnjak, pa i pripadnik svjetske zajednice – na hrvatski način. Na način najprimjereniji pripadniku hrvatske nacionalne zajednice“ (R. Katičić).

Za nacionalnu kulturu, dakle, jednako je bitan nacionalni identitet kao i prevladavanje etničkih i nacionalnih ograniče-

nja. Nasuprot svakom ekskluzivizmu i čistunstvu, koji vode u zatvaranje, nacionalni identitet shvaćamo kao sveukupnost povijesnog i kulturnog iskustva hrvatskog naroda; kao zrela nacija može on, kroz svoju državu, upravljati sam sobom i oствarivati svoje potencijale. U tom kontekstu djeluju njegove ustanove – dakle i naše Sveučilište. U tome se ono također povezuje i surađuje s drugim istovjetnim ustanovama u zemlji i inozemstvu, napose pak s drugim katoličkim sveučilištima diljem Europe i svijeta. Stoga ima smisla govoriti također o svojevrsnoj internacionalizaciji Sveučilištâ.

Katolički identitet Sveučilišta

Katolištvo po svojem temeljnomy značenju još više proširuje spomenuto nadilaženje etničkih ograničenja i specificira ga pod religioznim vidikom – opet ne u smislu usko shvaćene zatvorene konfesionalnosti, nego u smislu izvorno shvaćenog katolištva, tj. univerzalnosti.³ Katolički identitet intendira univerzalnost, otvorenost prema cjelini ljudskoga, u specifičnoj perspektivi kršćanske vjere i evanđelja. Valja naime znati da univerzalnost i otvorenost uvijek pretpostavljaju izabrano specifično mjesto odnosno egzistencijalnu smještenost polazeći od koje čovjek kao osoba (pa onda i njegove ustanove) intendira cjelinu zbilje i odnosi se prema njoj. Zato sveučilišna zajednica pomaže svim svojim članovima da kao osobe dosegnu puninu polazeći od vlastite egzistencijalne smještenosti te iskoračujući u otvoreni prostor cjeline onog ljudskog. Puhnina osobe pak uključuje također čovjekovu otvorenost prema transcendenciji, u konačnici prema Bogu. U toj se perspektivi na katoličkom sveučilištu gleda svaki čovjek; njemu se time nipošto ne nameće kršćansko vjerovanje, nego mu se ono pokazuje i otvara kao izvrsna mogućnost ozbiljenja ljudske egzistencije. Odatle je razvidno da se katolički identitet

³ Prema grčkom *kathólon*, opće, sasvim; odatle *tò kathólon*, ono opće, cjelovito, sveobuhvatno, univerzalno. O katoličkom identitetu sveučilišta usp. Ex 13-15 te o njegovim zadaćama 31-49.

neprestano izgrađuje u svojoj evanđeoskoj ukorijenjenosti i u svojoj univerzalnoj otvorenosti. Njegova jasnoća hoće biti putokaz onima koji ga dijele, ali i otvorena vrata i vjerodostojna informacija i ponuda onima koji imaju drugačije egzistencijalno opredjeljenje.

Stoga se u konstituciji *Ex corde Ecclesiae* s pravom inzistira na tome da su nastavnici i studenti koji nisu katolici dužni priznavati i poštivati katolički značaj sveučilišta; dosljedno, moraju ga i poznavati, tj. biti informirani o njemu (čl. 26-27). Time Sveučilište ne dira u njihovo egzistencijalno opredjeljenje, nego ga poštaje i vodi o njemu računa. Nadalje, ako ustanova jest katolička i mora ostati katolička, onda i većina nastavnika mora biti katolička. Kvaliteta nastavnika i njihovo poštivanje katoličkog naučavanja jamstvo je odgovarajućeg identiteta ustanove i njezine kvalitete. U obrazovanju studenata pak valja povezivati akademsku i stručnu zrelost s moralnim i religioznim načelima Crkve i s njezinim društvenim naukom. Studenti moraju biti upoznati s katoličkim učenjem i primiti etičko obrazovanje u skladu deontologijom izabrane struke.

Svim članovima sveučilišne zajednice potrebno je, u slobodi, ponuditi odgovor na ljudska egzistencijalna i duhovna pitanja. Ovdje važnu ulogu ima sveučilišno dušobrižništvo (Sveučilišna kapelanija) i njegov voditelj – kapelan – koji uz liturgijsku i šиру pastoralnu ponudu razvija također razne aktivnosti u kojima se stječe iskustvo kršćanske vjere koja je nadahnuće za socijalni angažman i kvalitetne međuljudske odnose. I ovdje kao i u drugim segmentima sveučilišnog djelovanja osobita se pozornost posvećuje formaciji cjelovite osobe s obzirom na njezino dostojanstvo i slojevitost. Važnu a često i nezamjenjivu ulogu pritom imaju osobni dušobrižnički kontakti.

Odatle slijedi da je katoličko sveučilište ustanova koja ujedno pripada svijetu u kojem se stječu i razvijaju spoznaje stvarnosti u cjelini i svijetu u kojem se živi, svjedoči i tumači

spasenjska poruka Kristova evanđelja. Ta dva svijeta – ‘svijet misli’ i ‘svijet vjere’ – prožimaju se na raznim mjestima ljudskog opstojanja i djelovanja, ali prije svega i nadasve u intimnosti osobne savjesti svakog pojedinog muškarca i žene. Stoga valja reći da je naše Sveučilište specifičan visokoškolski institucionalni prostor u kojem se njeguje i odvija dijalog u kojem ta dva ‘svijeta’ oplođuju jedan drugoga na dobrobit cjeline. U tom vidiku katolištvo izražava svojvrstan kršćanski humanistički program: formirati žene i muškarce koji će biti u stanju ići preko izvrsnog obavljanja svoje profesije te se odgovorno angažirati s drugima u izgradnji pravednijeg i čovječnijeg društva.

Troplet triju dimenzija ili triju momenata jednog identiteta Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta – akademskog, hrvatskog i katoličkog – bjelodano pokazuje da katoličko sveučilište, na temelju svojega kršćanskog nadahnuća, samim svojim postojanjem i djelovanjem upozorava na prisutnost duhovnog momenta u činu istraživanja, spoznavanja i stjecanja znanja; sve je to duhovan rad. Ono naime uzmaže otkrivati otiske prstiju božanskog suradnika u svakidašnjem sveučilišnom poslu: oni su evidentni u dobru znanja koje se postiže i u dobru koje se čini; oni se pokazuju u pitanjima koja se postavljaju i u problemima koji se javljaju i rješavaju te u poteškoćama koje se podnose; oni se otkrivaju u traganju za istinom, dobrotom, ljepotom i smislom same stvarnosti te čovjeka i njegova djelovanja u krilu te iste stvarnosti.

II. KATOLIŠTVO – SPECIFIČNA RAZLIKA SVEUČILIŠTA

Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište raste i djeluje iz poslanja Crkve koja hoće dati svoj doprinos također u sustavu visokog obrazovanja u Republici Hrvatskoj, u uvjerenju da evanđelje, koje ona naviješta, ima što reći i u kontekstu sveučilištā i akademskog života u cjelini. Riječ ‘katoličko’ izražava ozračje i način kako sveučiliše vrši svoju djelatnost: ukorijenjeno u svojoj duhovnoj kršćanskoj tradiciji ono pridonosi rastu spoznaje čovjeka i njegova svijeta, društva i povijesti te sveg ljudskog djelovanja, posvećujući pritom osobitu pozornost solidnom obrazovanju i formaciji cjelovite osobe studenata kao odgovornih članova društva i Crkve ukoliko su oni njezini vjernici.

Sámo katolištvo nosi u sebi dvostruku odgovornost institucije kao takve i njezinih djelatnika, već prema naravi njihova akademskog statusa i rada te njihove egzistencijalne opredijeljenosti. S jedne strane, u *svijetu misli*, Sveučilište želi zračiti svjetlošću i poticajima koji se hrane iz njegove kršćanske duhovne i napose intelektualne tradicije te odatle otvarati nove perspektive za oblikovanje i rast kako svakog svojeg člana tako i same suvremene kulture u našem podneblju. S druge pak strane, u *svijetu vjere*, Sveučilište također želi donijeti i prenijeti kršćanskim zajednicama i ustanovama (posebice njihovim odgovornicima) sadržaje, pitanja i izazove iz svijeta znanosti koje imaju nemali utjecaj na shvaćanje ljudskog života i djelovanja u društvu i u prirodi.

Ta dvostruka odgovornost prema svijetu misli i prema svijetu vjere dade se lakše odrediti u općim terminima negoli u točnijim objašnjenjima i konkretnim ostvarenjima – ova se naime odjelotvorju u promjenjivim i nepredvidivim okol-

nostima danog povijesnog časa i društvenih okolnosti. Treba imati na umu i to da vjernost jednom i drugom ‘svijetu’ također rađa napetostima pa stoga mora biti uvijek iznova promišljana, obnavljana i reaffirmirana. Rečeno u slici: „Vi ste sol zemlje“ – radi se o tome da se istodobno kultivira ‘zemlja’ Sveučilišta te da ona primi i usvoji evanđeosku ‘sol’ koja hrani kršćanski identitet u njegovoj katoličkoj inačici. Na tome se temelji kulturna i etička oblikovanost našeg Sveučilišta.

Kad se promisle ove bazične postavke, lako je uočiti kako je ‘temelj temelja’ katoličkog identiteta Sveučilišta kršćanska antropologija. Ili skromnije rečeno: kršćanska vizija ljudskog bića. Rečeno u formi pitanja: kako kršćanstvo shvaća čovjeka? Elementi odgovora na to pitanje u izravnoj su vezi s tim kako Sveučiliše shvaća samo sebe i svoje poslanje.

Kršćanska vizija čovjeka

Čovjek je biće za koje se u svakom slučaju ne samo smije nego i treba reći da je jedna (posljednja?) karika u razvitku života na našoj planeti, rezultat razvitka žive prirode. Ali za razliku od drugih živih bića on zna to i zauzima stav prema tome na više načina; jedan od njih je svakako istraživanje vlastitog prirodnog podrijetla, vlastite spolne uobičenosti i spletu međuljudskih odnosa kroz povijest. Postoji i kršćansko religiozno shvaćanje i stav prema tome što je čovjek, otkud je on i čemu živi na zemlji; u toj perspektivi on je Božji stvor, od Boga sagledavan u svojoj spolnoj uobičenosti i u spletu odnosa kako prema Stvoritelju tako i prema samome sebi i sebi sličnima te prema prirodi. O tome pričaju prva poglavљa biblijske Knjige Postanka. Potrebno je još pripomenuti da dva spomenuta niza izričaja o čovjeku ne stoje na istoj razini pa si prema tome ni ne protuslove – svaki od njih je legitiman u svojem okviru valjanosti i na svojoj razini. Ne ulazeći u raspravu problema i pitanja koji se s tim u vezi postavljaju – dovoljno je reći da Bog nije faktor u prirodi, nego ‘on čini da se stvari čine’ – ovdje se kanimo zadržati samo na nekim važnim

momentima svetopisamske poruke o čovjeku, poruke koja je u samom temelju kršćanskog poimanja čovjeka.

Biće koje Bogu ‘odgovara’

Kad se sagleda biblijski govor o Bogu i čovjeku, u prvom redu početci Knjige Postanka (Post 1-3) te početci Isusova djelovanja u evanđeljima, odmah se uviđa da je riječ o ne-prekidnom – ali i često prekidanom i onda ponovo na Božju inicijativu započimanom – posve osebujnom dijalogu odnosno savezu ta dva u svemu načelno neusporediva ‘partnera’. Iz njihova napetog i konfliktnog odnosa proizlazi ništa manje konfliktan i napet odnos među samim ljudima u njihovoј povijesti. Ono bazično međutim jest to da je čovjek biće koje Bogu ‘odgovara’: on ‘odgovara’ Bogu najprije samim time što ga je Bog stvorio njemu slična, prema svojoj slici. Time je istaknuta povlaštena i ekskluzivna sličnost između ljudskog stvora i njegova Stvoritelja. To je pratemelj za njihov dijalog, preludij savezu i željenom zajedništvu. Odатle taj stvor – čovjek – ima svoju bogomdanu zadaću u krilu stvorenja. To valja reći naprosto stoga što ga Bog hoće i što on svoje vlastito stvoriteljsko djelo ocjenjuje veoma dobrim (Post 1,26-31). Dakle čovjek Bogu ‘paše’, ‘odgovara’, a Bog voli to što je stvorio, u cjelini i svako biće napose (Mudr 11,23-12,1 i 2,23).

Čovjek Bogu odgovara također tako da on daje svoj odgovor Stvoritelju kroz svoje postupke i riječi. To znači da Bog čovjeka na neki način prethodno oslovjava i potiče u njemu svjestan odgovor. Čovjek je Bogom oslovljeno biće i pod apelom pa je zato njegova egzistencija od-govorna: Bogu (ali istodobno i čovjeku samom!) odgovarajuća ili neodgovarajuća, već prema tome poštuje li čovjek zadani poredak i red ili pak postupa drukčije ne vodeći računa o onome što mu je bilo poručeno kao jamstvo života i dobrobiti.

U tom kolopletu pozitivnog i negativnog odgovaranja na vidjelo izlazi da je čovjek oslovljen i pitan o svojem mjestu pred Bogom, o svojoj činidbi i o svojem odnosu prema

drugom čovjeku. U formi pitanja, biblijska naracija suočava čovjeka s njegovim mjestom („Gdje si?“, Post 3,9), s njegovim djelom („Što si to učinila?“, Post 3,13) i s odnosom prema drugome („Gdje ti je brat...?“, Post 4,9). To su pitanja koja zahtijevaju od čovjeka da se odredi, da vodi računa o svojem mjestu u krilu stvorenja pred Bogom, o svojim postupcima i o svojem odnosu prema sebi sličnima („brat“). Muško ili žensko, Adam ili Eva, Abel ili Kajin – to nije bitno; pitanja njima upućena tendencijski pogađaju uvijek i posvuda *svakog* čovjeka. I to su bogomdana pitanja; kao takva ona prožimaju čovjekov opstanak tako duboko i široko da ih i sam čovjek postavlja sebi i drugom čovjeku kraj sebe. U njima je izražen spoj religije (mjesto, stav) i etike (činidba); ako čovjek nije na pravome mjestu (otvoren pred Bogom i drugome/drugima), onda ni njegova djela i postupci ne mogu biti ispravni. Tako je oduvijek s čovjekom. I ako se s pravom kaže da je biblijsko kazivanje dano u mitskoj formi, onda se isto tako s pravom treba reći da ono što se tu pripovijeda nije povijesni događaj koji se dade vremenski i prostorno locirati, nego je to nešto što uvijek jest, tj. s čovjekom je oduvijek tako kako biblijska naracija vezana uz ta pitanja pripovijeda: čovjek nije na pravome mjestu, čovjek ne čini ono što je pravo i čovjek nije pastir svojeg brata nego je njegov ubojica.

Pa kako je onda čovjek biće koje Bogu ‘paše’, ‘odgovara’? Samo tako da mu Bog izlazi ususret i nudi mu put na pravo mjesto, daje primjer pravog postupanja i pokazuje ljubeću skrb za svoje stvorenje – sve to mukotrpno pripremano kroz povijest i definitivno, jednom za vazda izvršeno i pokazano u Isusu Kristu, Novom Čovjeku; o tome govori njegova dobra i radosna poruka, evanđelje. Tu se opet vidi da je čovjek pod apelom, oslovljen pozivom i ospozobljen za pravi odgovor po kojem on može uvijek iznova Bogu od-govoriti i ‘odgovarati’. Isus se predstavlja kao Put, Istina i Život – ozbiljena povijesna forma ljudskosti koja Bogu ‘odgovara’ i koja je svakom čovjeku ponuđena. Za tim idu svi pozivi koji prožimaju novoza-vjetna izvješća o Isusovim susretima s ljudima. Uz poziv ide

ponuda novog stila života, a u ponudi pak je obećanje novog života naprsto (kraljevstvo Božje). Ponuda i obećanje nikog ne sile, oni su apel slobodi i ujedno zov u novu slobodu ‘djece Božje’, napuštanje ‘starog čovjeka’ i usvajanje ‘novog čovjeka’, kako voli reći apostol Pavao.

Biće koje se skrbi za život i uređuje svijet

Bitan moment čovjekova poziva jest u tome da mu je povjerena briga za svijet u kojem živi i za predavanje života drugima. Ovo je samim činom Božjeg stvaranja upisano u temeljnu antropološku razliku muškog i ženskog ljudskog bića, razliku koja se premošćuje u specifičnoj formi ljubavi koja stvara prikladno ozračje zajedništva različitih: prema spolu, prema naraštajima i prema stupnjevima srodnosti i povezanosti različitih. Skrb oko prenošenja života – da i nakon nas bude ljudi na zemlji i da im bude dobro – nije puka biološka ili zoološka datost (koliko god te dimenzije bile bitne i uviјek na djelu) nego je ona, gledana u bogomdanoj perspektivi, produžetak Božjeg stvoriteljskog djelovanja, izvrsna forma suradnje sa Stvoriteljem, vrhunski izraz ljubavi; ukratko, na djelu je temeljna duhovna dimenzija koja se izražava kroz tijelo.

Velik je problem suvremene civilizacije upravo u tome da se zaboravlja ta vertikalna dimenzija ljudske ljubavi jer se međuljudski odnosi općenito, a ovi koji su ovdje u pitanju posebno, shvaćaju funkcionalno, tj. po uzoru na dobro funkcioniranje komponenti neke naprave. Njezine se komponente zamjenjuju drugim elementima kad više nisu u stanju obavljati svoju očekivanu funkciju. Tako se i ljudi u međuljudskim odnosima – uključujući i one obiteljske – nerijetko zamjenjuju odgovarajućim ‘funkcionalnim ekvivalentima’ kad prestaju ‘funkcionirati’ na očekivani način...

Kršćanska vizija međuljudskih odnosa u napetosti je prema funkcionalnom i hipotetičkom momentu suvremene civilizacije. Ta je napetost neukidiva jer valja držati otvorenom

perspektivu transcendencije ljudskog bića i promišljati ju kao bitnu komponentu dostojanstva osobe. Odatle se izvodi specifična kršćanska etika međuljudskih odnosa; ona kao takva ne mora nužno biti zasebnim predmetom poučavanja na Sveučilištu, ali je od presudne važnosti da nadahnjuje i vodi poglede i postupke njegovih nastavnika, djelatnika i studenata.

To pak da je čovjeku povjerena skrb za svijet u kojem živi, točnije: za prirodu čiji je on dio i u krilu koje živi, istaknuto je na prvoj stranici Biblije, a nešto kasnije je posebno dojmljivo ilustrirano naracijom o odnosu čovjeka i životinja.⁴ Važno je ovdje istaknuti samo jedan moment: Stvoriteljevo povjerenje stvorenja u ljudske ruke ističe čovjekovu autonomiju u odnosu spram prirode i spram Stvoritelja. To se pokazuje u nadjevanju imena svakom stvorenju. Bog naime pokazuje čovjeku sve životinje „da vidi kako će koju nazvati, pa kako koje stvorenje čovjek prozove, da mu tako bude ime“. Čovjek je nadjenuo „imena svoj stoci, svim pticama u zraku i životnjama u polju“ (Post 2,19). Nadjenuti nekomu ime znači poznavati narav dotičnog bića i biti u odnosu skrbljenja prema njemu. U tome je uključena stanovita korist koju skrbnik odatle ima, ali je ta korist podređena dobrobiti bića za koje se on treba skrbiti. Valja poštivati tu etičku disimetričnost između subjektivne koristi i objektivne dobrobiti – ona odgovara Božjem planu i dobra je za čovjeka i za ono što mu je povjerenovo.

Te disimetričnosti naravno nema i nije joj mjesto u odnosu muškarca i žene. To se izražava ne davanjem imena nego kliktajem čuđenja i radosti muškarca kad susreće ženu. U svojoj temeljnoj razlici oni su isti; svatko od njih ima svoj

⁴ Post 1,26-28 i 2,15.19-20. Podvrgavanje i vladanje odnosno obradivanje i čuvanje o kojima je ovdje riječ ne smiju se shvatiti u smislu novovjekog kartezijanski obilježenog odnosa čovjeka spram prirode, nego u smislu tipično staroistočnog poimanja čovjeka kao Božjeg namjesnika ili povjerenika za područje koje mu je povjerenovo; on se ima za njih skrbiti po uzoru na onoga koji mu ih je povjerio. Sve to i što iz toga slijedi jasno je za naše vrijeme istaknuto papa Franjo u svojoj enciklici *Laudato si. Enciklica o brizi za zajednički dom* (Zagreb 2015).

identitet i zna za sebe zahvaljujući drugomu. To se izražava neprevedivom igrom riječi u hebrejskom: ‘iš (čovjek-muškarac), ‘iššah (‘čovječica’-žena). Spolna razlika premošćena je i sačuvana u istosti čovještva. Njihova razlika potiče na otkrivanje duhovnog dobra uzajamnog priznavanja koje je temelj zajedništva u ljubavi. Nije dakle riječ o pomoći osamljenom muškarcu, nego je ljudsko biće kao takvo (tj. hebr. *adam*, zemljani, pozemljari, čovjek) potrebno pomoći; ona je dana u uobličenosti čovjeka kao muškarca i žene.

Relativna autonomija čovjeka spram prirode i Boga uključuje mogućnost zloporabe. Biblija od početka *izvorno* gleda čovjeka u perspektivi moguće i poželjne podudarnosti njegove autonomije sa stvoriteljskim naumom, a kad opisuje *povijesnog* čovjeka, ona ga sagledava u perspektivi zlorabljenje autonomije. Zloporaba se očituje u stvorovu neprihvaćanju stvorenjske granice i u posljedicama koje odatle proizlaze za čovjeka i za prirodu.

Čovjek osjeća urođeni nagon za puninom. No njegova je egzistencija opstojanje na raskrsnici: hoće li sebe i stvarnost shvatiti kao Stvoriteljev dar i s tim u skladu postupati ili će krenuti putem afirmacije vlastite moći u smjeru njezina bezgraničnog širenja koje u konačnici rađa ‘kompleksom Boga’: sve moći i sve imati... i u tom smislu shvatiti puninu za kojom teži. Nasuprot tomu, stvorenjska ili kreaturalna granica koju Bog čovjeku postavlja spašava ovoga od ludosti svemoći.

Autonomija uključuje mogućnost slobodnog raspolažanja sobom i prirodom, ali ona ne ukida razliku između Stvoritelja i stvora nego ju prepostavlja – kao što također prepostavlja mogućnost slobodnog čovjekova odnošenja prema toj granici. To znači: on se može s njom složiti (i pozvan je da to učini), ali on ju može također htjeti prekoračiti – pa će ljudi navodno „biti kao bogovi“ (Post 3,5). Pokazuje se paradoksija čovjeka: moći htjeti biti ono što on nije i krenuti tim putem. Tu se krije misterij njegove slobode koja je otvorena i za drugu mogućnost: odgovoriti Stvoriteljevu apelu.

Kršćanski i na Bibliji utemeljeni govor o povijesti spaseњa vodi računa o tome i pokazuje da to za Boga nije irelevantno, nego ga angažira da se pobrine za to da njegov izvorni naum ne potone u zaborav te da „u punini vremena“ zasja u jednom ljudskom liku njegova realizirana izvorna zamisao onog ljudskog (usp. Gal 4,4-7). To je pojavak Isusa Krista. On u povijesti pokazuje što znači biti i kako se može biti čovjek ‘na Božju mjeru’ i što odatle slijedi. Riječ je o novom čovjeku upravo po Božjoj mjeri – izvrsna forma ljudskosti u kojoj se očituje da čovjek nadilazi čovjeka za beskonačno, tj. dano mu je da kroz Kristov lik uoči svoje vlastito bogosinovstvo. Sinovi smo i kćeri u Sinu pa je prema sv. Ireneju „slava Božja živi čovjek, a čovjekov je život gledanje Boga“. Gledanje Boga dakako ne kao nekog predmeta, pa bio to i predmet ljubavi, nego gledanje kao u-gledavanje u Boga i u njegovo postupanje u vlastitom stvorenskom postupanju; tako se postiže *visio Dei* kao krajnji cilj pozemljarske egzistencije. Čovjekova vjera u Boga otvara spoznaju i uvježbavanje u iskustvo tog načina biti-čovjek u povijesti.

Povjesno bivovanje znači također neukidivu mogućnost promašaja pokazanog cilja i puta prema njemu. Ono također pokazuje faktičnu uvijek ponavljanu realizaciju te mogućnosti – uostalom, kao i one suprotne koja se sastoji u hodanju predloženim putem prema cilju. Ovdje je riječ o grijehu shvaćenom ne samo u smislu pukog moralnog prekršaja koji za sobom povlači krivnju, nego o grijehu kao religioznoj kategoriji koja bitno nadilazi puku moralnu razinu. Moralni prekršaj i njegova krivnja, uzeti sami za sebe, zapečaćuju ljudski život kao promašen u cjelini – nema izlaza iz krivnje. Sav moralni napor ne ukida i ne iskupljuje počinjeno nedjelo i krivicu koja ga prati; one ostaju.

Tek oproštenje, neiznudivo i slobodno, mijenja stanje stvari. Kršćanska vjera pak gleda grijeh u perspektivi mogućeg, štoviše ponuđenog oproštenja. Svako oproštenje po Bogu je novo stvaranje, iz njega izlazi novi čovjek. On je pozvan i omogućeno mu je živjeti u toj novosti. Njemu je po oproštenju

omogućeno da svoj grijeh i njegove posljedice shvati ne kao neodloživo breme krivnje, nego kao granicu prema prostoru novog rasta, sazrijevanja i donošenja ploda nove bogom dane pravednosti – pa makar pogriješio i sedamdeset puta sedam puta. Oproštenje znači otvaranje te granice za iskorak u ono djelovanje u kojem se izražava novost novog života, onkraj krivnje i grijeha koje Bog po oproštenju „baca sebi iza leđa“ (Iz 38,17). Za njega: kao da nisu ni bili; za nas: nova sloboda.

To je dar, religioznim rječnikom rečeno: milost – ono što čovjeka čini milim u očima Božjim, ono po čemu čovjek Bogu ‘odgovara’, ‘paše’, ‘pristaje’. To nije bez posljedica za samog čovjeka-pojedinca, za njegove međuljudske odnose i za društvo ljudi... Tu se smije govoriti o obnovljenom identitetu čovjeka kao ‘Božjeg djeteta’. Tko se pak boji da ga taj naziv gura u infantilizam, slobodno se može poslužiti Pavlovim izrazom ‘novi čovjek’; to naime znači isto.

Čovjek je čovjeku – čovjek

Što odatle slijedi za shvaćanje čovjeka i njegovih međuljudskih odnosa? Povijest se na prvi pogled doima kao poprište krvavih grupnih i pojedinačnih sukoba, trajna borba za moć i vlast, carstvo zakona sile i prerijetka prisutnost i učinkovitost sile zakona – a da i ne govorimo o ljubavi za kojom svi čeznemo... Odatle se nekako sam po sebi nameće zaključak da je čovjek čovjeku vuk, zvijer. On to ostaje čak i kad je uređenjem države kanalizirao nasilje. Ratovi i revolucije to bjelodano dokumentiraju. Ne mora se imati neka posebno razvijena fantazija da se vidi kako se to ostvaruje također na polju osobnih odnosa među ljudima, sve do u srce obitelji.

S druge pak strane kritika religije, koja nastoji nebo spustiti na zemlju i propovijeda kako je čovjek čovjeku bog (L. Feuerbach i dr.), u pokušajima društvenih realizacija svojeg novog zamišljenog čovjeka i društva u povijesti, preko svake je mjere pokazala da iz boga lako postaje demon, zapravo čovjek čovjeku – zvijer. Nasilje koje se legitimira dobrim naka-

nama ostaje to što ono jest – nasilje, s dodatnom posljedicom da čovjek, što dalje to više, prestaje vjerovati u dobre nakane svojih bližnjih i još više onih koji mu se nude da će u njegovo ime vladati njemu na dobro.

Isto tako, ali na drugoj strani, onoj religioznoj, u našem slučaju onoj kršćanskoj, trebali bismo se skromno i štedljivo služiti izrazom ‘brat’ i ‘sestra’. Naime, rijetko se gdje mogu susresti takve dubine zavisti i mržnje kao među pravom braćom i pravim sestrama uzduž i poprijeko. Ta nije bez veze to kako Biblija – govoreći na prvim stranicama o odnosima dva brata – priča kako je jedan ubio drugoga. Po vjesne svađe među samim kršćanima i već u prvoj Crkvi pa sve do danas, svem ekumenizmu usprkos, bjelodano pokazuju kako su bratsko-sestrinski odnosi zapravo vrlo dvojbeni metafora za ono što bi se htjelo imati u krilu kršćanskih zajednica, među njima kao i u odnosu prema onima izvan njih – uopće u međuljudskim odnosima. Na mjestu je dakle budnost kad se isticanjem bratsko-sestrinskih odnosa hoće reći nešto o tome kako bi trebalo biti među ljudima, u Crkvi i izvan nje. Ne ulazeći u detalje smatramo potrebnim upozoriti na encikliku pape Franje *Fratelli tutti. Enciklika o bratstvu i socijalnom prijateljstvu* u kojoj papa uvjerljivo pokazuje kako bratsko-sestrinski odnosi nadilaze konfesionalne, religijske, geografske, rasne i svake druge razlike, što dakako uključuje budnost te spremnost na praštanje, pomirenje i nadilaženje sukoba (usp. br. 81 i dalje).

Bit će sasvim dovoljno da čovjek bude čovjeku – čovjek. Ni to nije lako i ne ide nam samo od sebe. Potreban je stavit napor da se to razumije, poštije, a pogotovo voli. Usprkos tomu, to je ipak najrealnije i nekako nadohvat svakomu. To se dakako može biti na mnogo načina. Način koji nas ovdje zanima jest onaj kršćanski, po mjeri ponašanja Isusa Krista, po formi njegova čovještva i njegova čovječnog postupanja kroz koje prosijava ono njegovo božansko. Više negoli govoriti o tome važno je to u intimi vlastita srca nevidljivo voljeti i usvajati, u vremenima i ritmovima koji su svakome njegovi,

posebni, intimni. Temelj tom gledanju je u tome da je Bog čovjeku/ljudima postao čovjekom u Isusu Kristu. To je temeljno; bratstvo, sestrinstvo, prijateljstvo i sve ostalo što se još dade reći kao neka specifikacija Božjeg i našeg čovještva i čovječnosti u bitnome ne nadilazi to da nam je Bog neizrecivo blizak u utjelovljenju svojeg Logosa, Riječi, u čovjeku Isusu iz Nazareta.

Duh katolištva, pa onda i katolički identitet čovjeka i njegovih ustanova, Crkve i svih ostalih, jest u tome da se tako gleda svakog čovjeka – bez obzira ima li drugi ili nema taj pogled na ljudsko biće i taj stav prema njemu. Čovjek nije čovjeku ni vuk ni bog, nego samo čovjek – i to je dovoljno, jer za svakoga vrijedi da ga je Bog stvorio “na svoju sliku, sebi slična“. To je dovoljno za skladan rad i suživot ljudi u zajednicama i ustanovama, svim kulturnim i drugim razlikama usprkos. Ne treba prezreti tu prvu i najnižu stepenicu uspona prema možda mogućim višim zonama egzistencije u zajedništvu. Ona je nezaobilazna. Tko ju pak hoće preskočiti – bilo konzervativno-apsolutistički, klerikalno-sakralizirano ili progresivno-revolucionarno – taj donosi zlo drugima pa time i samome sebi.

S obzirom pak na ‘majku zemlju’ ne treba se zanositi ne-kakvim demokratskim ili bilo kakvim drugim rajem na zemlji. Isto tako ne čini nam se da je na mjestu smatrati kako imamo pakao na zemlji, jer je nedopustivo previdati sve ono dobro koje se na njoj manje ili više skrovito ostvaruje i koje svakome od nas već prethodi i na koje se možemo osloniti. Dovoljno je da imamo zemlju na zemlji, tim više ako ju gledamo iz perspektive Božjeg stvaranja, kako je bilo istaknuto.

Kad se tako gleda, onda smatramo da je moguće i opravданo govoriti o *tri problemska* čvora koji ne samo pokazuju međusobno povezane probleme nego i predstavljaju trajan izazov za kršćansku moralno-teološku refleksiju koja se razvija iz kršćanskog shvaćanja čovjeka. Oni su trajno i neukidivo prisutni u kršćanskom identitetu pojedinca i ustanove,

ali i kršćanske zajednice kao takve. S njima se ima nositi svaka osoba i svaka ustanova za koje je mjerodavna Božja riječ predana nam u Svetom pismu. Riječ je o sljedećem: (1) Sve što postoji plod je dobrog Božjeg stvaranja; usprkos tomu u stvorenju se pokazuje neka negativnost koja s ljudskim sudjelovanjem ili bez njega neprestano proturječi izvornoj dobroti. (2) U srcu čovjekovih moralnih nastojanja te etičkih pitanja i problema s kojima se on nosi nazire se neizbjegni konflikt između dvije jednakoj absolutne i stoga neukidive potrebe: potrebe za mjerom i pravilom ('zapovijed') i potrebe za slobodom ('autonomija'). (3) Da bi etika doista imala autoritet za čovječje postupanje, tj. da bi se po njoj širili prostori pravednosti i dobra, potrebna joj je jedna transcendentna ('religiozna') odnošajna točka koja se ne može osporiti s nekim društvenih ili ideooloških razloga i koja funkcioniра kao arbitar u konfliktnim situacijama. Radi se o tome da se onom apsolutnom dade pravo mjesto koje ga ide, između idolatrije na jednoj strani i redukcije onog svetoga na puko mnijenje ili na individualni ukus na drugoj strani.

Ta tri problemska čvora ne daju rješenja – oni su naime također problematični: jer su neukidivi, oni su izvor uvijek novih problema koje valja svaki put iznova rješavati, oni su izraz neukidive konačnosti čovjeka i njegovih ustanova; u isti mah oni su trajan izazov svakoj osobi (tj. njezinoj slobodi) koja u nastojanju oko *dobra života* hoće biti odgovorna prema sebi i prema drugima (društvo) te živjeti i djelovati u pravednim institucijama. Oni tvore koordinate njezina odgovornog djelovanja. Pritom pouzdanje i razboritost idu ruku pod ruku: pouzdanje u Duha Božjeg koji govori kroz znakove vremena i otvara nove perspektive života i postupanja te razboritost koja je u stanju razlučivati u složenim situacijama suvremenog života između nemogućeg i nužnog, beskorisnog i štetnog. U svemu tomu vjernik je uvijek suočen s izazovom: vjerovati u čovjeka kao što Bog vjeruje u njega. Njegovo neopozivo „Da!“ čovjeku jednom je za vazda kazano u Isusu Kristu (2 Kor 1,19 i d.) pa stoga baca pravo svjetlo na sve međuljudske odnose te

im otvara perspektivu zajedničke dobrobiti i postizanja krajnje svrhe: biti-s-Bogom.

Konkretna uobličenost katolištva na Sveučilištu

Bilo je spomenuto da je katoličko sveučilište kao takvo ukorijenjeno u katoličkoj tradiciji. S tim u vezi korisno je upozoriti na jednu važnu distinkciju koju je potrebno poznavati i imati na umu kad je riječ o sveučilištima koja je osnovala Crkva. Razlikujemo naime katoličku intelektualnu tradiciju i katoličku doktrinarnu tradiciju – koliko god one bile neraskidivo povezane, valja ih razlikovati. Doktrinarna tradicija Katoličke Crkve jest njezino naučavanje, naviještanje i svjedočenje vjere, a njezina je mjerodavna znanstvena forma u teološkoj znanosti koja se njeguje na teološkim fakultetima. Stoga se opravdano može reći da je teologija, gledana u toj perspektivi, reflektirani i sustavni izraz samorazumijevanja crkvene zajednice (Božjeg naroda), njezina smisla i njezine svrhe, pri čemu crkveno učiteljstvo ima svoju specifičnu ulogu u služenju jedinstvu vjere i života po vjeri, kroz naučavanje i svjedočenje. Budući pak da je ta zajednica vjernika u svijetu i u povijesti, ona razvija također svoju intelektualnu i širu kulturnu ili duhovnu tradiciju koja doduše obuhvaća njezino naučavanje i svekoliko djelovanje, ali ide također preko tog doktrinarnog okvira, štoviše ona ide preko granica vidljive Crkve. Katoličko sveučilište izvrsna je forma u kojoj je uobličena ta intelektualna tradicija.

Za tu intelektualnu tradiciju od središnje je važnosti pozornost koju ona posvećuje formaciji cjelovite ljudske osobe te napose duhovnom momentu u njezinu činu spoznавanja (učenje, poučavanje, istraživanje). Taj se duhovni moment uvijek ostvaruje kao život u skladu s izabranim vrijednostima. On dakako uključuje znanje, ali ga integrira u splet triju dobara te tako oblikuje jednu duhovnu cjelinu. Tu je najprije *dobro reda* koji se odnosi na poredak moralnih vrijednosti ili vrednota što tvore zrelost osobe, dakle ono što ju kvalificira za

odgovorno postupanje na osobnom planu i na planu komunikacije i suradnje s drugima, čime se otvara prostor djelovanja u širem društvu. Time je već istaknuto *dobro znanja* odnosno onih vrijednosti koje tvore akademsku dimenziju identiteta osobe koja je krenula putem visokog obrazovanja (u prvom redu zauzetost u učenju, poučavanju i istraživanju te intelektualno poštenje u stjecanju i predavanju znanja). I treće, tu je *dobro suradnje i pomaganja* među onima koji tvore Sveučiliše: studenti, nastavnici, službenici, da u solidarnosti odgovorno obavljaju svoje dužnosti te promišljaju i u dijalogu razmjenjuju svoje uvide te provjeravaju svoje stavove, izvore i postupke. U tome se očituje njihov odnos prema svrsi katoličkog sveučilišta i daje prilog njezinoj realizaciji.

Tako se oblikuje važan duhovni moment u našem suvremenom kulturnom ozračju koje trpi od manjka refleksije sposobne da realizira ma kako skromnu ali nasušno potrebnu sintezu znanja i mudrosti. *Sapientis est ordinare*, upravljanje je zadaća mudra čovjeka, rekli su stari. To je iznova aktualno ako ne želimo da nam se naš kulturni svijet ne raspadne u hrpu nepovezanih dijelova. Koji studiraju i rade na katoličkom sveučilištu pozvani su ovdje dati svoj doprinos, dakako, u okviru vlastitih mogućnosti. Stoga je na mjestu pitanje o mudromu čovjeku danas.

Mudar čovjek danas nije onaj koji sve zna ili koji bi znao cjelinu. Taj visoki zahtjev zapravo se danas ne da ostvariti i to zbog nepreglednog mnoštva i raznovrsnosti spoznaja. Mudrost mudroga jest najviše u tome da on baš ondje gdje više nema nekog jednoznačnog i jasnog pravila, ipak umije reći i pogoditi ono pravo. U pluralizmu znanja i svjetonazora, kakav je naš, to znači da mudar čovjek na poseban način raspolaže onom moći rasuđivanja koja se pokazuje središnjim momenptom danas potrebne i tražene racionalnosti (koja je daleko od toga da bude svedena na puku instrumentalnu racionalnost). Za to je pak danas kao i uvijek napose važno jedno: *svijest o granicama*.

Tu svijest o granicama mudar čovjek ima s obzirom na po-jedinosti - tako mu polazi za rukom da ne povrijedi granice onoga što je opravdano na bilo kojem području znanja i djelovanja. On ih poštije, ali umije i gledati preko njih. Njegova ga intelektualna znatiželja otvara za novo i tuđe, a lucidnost mu pokazuje da granice razdvajaju i spajaju u isto vrijeme. Ona mu također omogućuje da bude i ostane budan s obzirom na moguće posljedice znanstvenog znanja i raznih načina njegove primjene. Nadalje, mudar čovjek ima također svijest o granicama s obzirom na cjelinu - on je otvoren za ono što je našem razumu nedohvatljivo, tj. on uviđa da postoji dubinska dimenzija tajne, misterija u svoj zbilji. Vodeći dakle računa o onome što je znanstvenom razumu nedohvatljivo, upravo tajna, misterij, on umije i može pravilno postupati i djelovati u području onoga što je razumu nadohvat, što je uhvatljivo i shvatljivo, što spada u područje našega raspolaganja i čime čovjek može i treba ovladati.

Katoličko sveučilište nastoji imati sve to u vidu i dati time svoj skroman doprinos promicanju danas potrebne humanističke (u izloženom smislu: mudrosne) sinteze znanja, razmišljanja i uopće kulturnog djelovanja. Vjerno katoličkoj intelektualnoj tradiciji, ono svojim djelovanjem, svojom otvorenosću prema drugom i različitom, u razmjeni ideja i dijaloskog provjeravanja stavova, pridonosi oblikovanju kulture u kojoj mudrost osvjetljuje put mladom čovjeku u svjetlu prvih principa i krajnjih svrha ljudskog života, kako to shvaća i iskušava kršćanska vjera.

Polazeći od tih izabranih temeljnih momenata kršćanske vizije čovjeka, koja je u središtu katolištva, potrebno je sada razvidjeti njegovu konkretnu uobličenost na našem Sveučilištu. Pritom ne idemo za fenomenologiskim opisom stanja, još manje za sociološkom snimkom tog stanja, nego za tim kako samo Sveučilište u svojim mjerodavnim aktima shvaća i očituje svoj katolički identitet. Čini se svrsishodnim tu problematiku razmotriti pod tri vidika: pod vidikom vrijednosti, pod vidikom odnosa i pod vidikom društvene smještenosti Sveučilišta.

Katolištvo pod vidikom vrijednosti

Kao što je ranije bilo istaknuto, ono što je vrijedno, to nas privlači i potiče nas da se s time identificiramo, to usvojimo tako da bude naše, utkano u dinamiku našeg života. Odatle slijedi da smo odgovorni za svoje vrijednosti; da su nam irelevantne, ne bi bile vrijednosti za nas. Prema tuđim vrijednostima, koje nisu ujedno i naše vlastite, odnosimo se s poštovanjem zato što poštujemo dostojanstvo svake pojedine osobe čije su one vrijednosti; jer poštujemo osobu, poštujemo i njezine vrijednosti. Tu je također uključen razgovor i rasprava o zajedničkim vrijednostima kao i o onima koje nam nisu zajedničke. Poštovanje osobe i interes za nju produžuju se u smjeru vrijednosti. To se događa u uzajamnosti.

Potrebno je također istaknuti da su vrijednosti predmet vjerovanja u njih; kad se vrijednosti izabiru odnosno kad se za njih opredjeljujemo, mi u njih vjerujemo. One su u nama kao naše, bitan moment našeg identiteta, i ujedno izvan nas kao horizont našeg samoostvarenja: one vode i osmišljavaju naše djelovanje i postupanje. Time one postaju stvarnilica u mreži naših komunikacija s drugim ljudima. U tom su smislu vrijednosti također sociomorfne: dolaze nam iz našeg društva, stvaraju društveno ozračje i daju mu prepoznatljiv ton i obrise. Kad se pak gledaju u kontekstu ustanove kao što je Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište, onda se mora reći da kroz njih ne samo progovara identitet institucije, tj. kako ona samu sebe razumije i hoće biti razumljena, nego i to koliko je ona odista u skladu sa svojim proklamiranim vrijednostima. Usklađenost onog isповijedanog ili očitovanog s onim ozbiljenim i faktično prevladavajućim u međuljudskim unutarinsticionalnim i međuinsticionalnim odnosima pojačava identitet i otvara ga u širinu, ili pak, ako te usklađenosti nema, slab identitet i u konačnici čini samu ustanovu nevjerodstojnom i društveno neuvjerljivom. Nije potrebno posebno obrazlagati da to ide preko subjekata koji ju tvore i u njoj djeluju. Svaki pridonosi identitetu ili ga slabi, ovisno o tome kako se odnosi prema zajedničkim vrijednostima u kojima se ustanova pre-

poznaće i hoće biti prepoznata i koje je dotična osoba prihvati također kao za nju važeće.

Pobliže gledano, vrijednosti o kojima je u našem slučaju riječ pokazuju svoje tri dimenzije: temeljnu kršćanski uobličenu ljudsku dimenziju te akademsku i nacionalnu-kulturnu dimenziju. U ovome što slijedi kanimo ih prikazati povezanih unutar nekoliko ključnih tema koje izriču vrijednosti – u nadji da se time jasnije profilira identitet ustanove.

Dostojanstvo - U temeljnim dokumentima Sveučilišta više puta se ističe dostojanstvo čovjeka i traženje istine. Dostojanstvo znači da je čovjek kao osoba iznad vrijednosti: on vrednuje i usvaja vrijednosti i živeći s njima u skladu on stvara vrijednosti kulture u najširem smislu. Zato je on više negoli najviša vrijednost; on je biće dostojanstva, moralno biće i svrha u samome sebi, a nikada samo sredstvo za postignuće nekih svrha – koliko ga se god u sklopu suvremene znanstvene hipotetičko-funkcionalne civilizacije tako gledalo i prema njemu tako postupalo. Za kršćansko je gledanje njegovo dostojanstvo istovjetno s njegovom odrednicom kao slike i prilike Božje, odnosno kao onoga kojeg Isus Krist naziva prijateljem i bratom (Lk 12,4; Iv 15,12-17; 20,17). Bitna je pak odlika dostojanstva osobe da živi i djeluje u horizontu *istine i dobra*. Štoviše, u uzdižućem sjaju ljepote u svakoj formi umjetnosti, u sudbinskoj igri slobode i nužnosti u povijesti te u otkrivačućem i istodobno prikrivajućem govorenju – znamenovanju jezika čovjeku se otvara široko polje istine koja ga nadmašuje i s kojom se mora uvijek iznova uskladjavati da bi bio istinskim, doista čovječnim čovjekom. Ta slikovito rečeno krupna banknota u konkretnom se životu usitnjava u traganju za istinom stanja stvari u prirodi, u samom čovjeku, u njegovu društvu i u povijesti.

Znanje – Odatle izvire znanje i sav znanstveni istraživački napor; ovdje se u punini ostvaruje akademski identitet ustanove i njezinih nastavnika i istraživača. U naporu istraživanja bogatstvo stvarnosti uvijek se pokazuje većim od znanstvene-

no stečenog uvida u nju i znanja o njoj – odatle znanost kao istraživanje i poučavanje nema kraja, ona ide uvijek dalje, a akademska se sloboda sastoji u tome da se znanstvenom naporom u istraživanju tajne stvarnosti i čovjeka ne postavljaju načelne granice. Tema je za diskusiju postoje li etičke granice znanstvenog istraživanja i gdje bi one bile. U svakom slučaju pokazalo se da zahvati u strukturu materije i žive stanice te primjena stečenih spoznaja s tog područja u ratu i proizvodnji energije suočavaju čovječanstvo s golemim, u prvom redu etičkim problemima. Upravo po svojoj katoličkoj specifičnosti Sveučilište je pozvano dati svoj prilog u raspravi tih pitanja. – Nadalje, *autonomija* znanosti, akademska *suradnja* u poučavanju i istraživanju, povezanost stručnog i obrazovnog rada te cjeloživotno *obrazovanje* tvore bitan set akademskih vrijednosti koje su sve popraćene stanovitim etičkim indeksom onda kad se radi o komunikaciji njihovih rezultata. Kad se ne pazi na prikladnu formu komunikacije, često ispadne tako da ona pobuđuje neslućena očekivanja koja zapravo znanost ne može zadovoljiti, npr. u području zdravstva, ali i drugdje. Ne služi istini znanosti ona komunikacija koja hrani nerealna očekivanja, a zaobilazi potrebu da upozori na neizvjesnosti i možda opasnosti od primjene novih spoznaja.

Odgovornost – Ovdje se samo po sebi nameće pitanje interakcije ustanove i njezinih djelatnika sa širom društvenom, a u našem slučaju također sa crkvenom zajednicom. Interakcija je kanal za posredovanje vrijednosti istine i suradnje oko rješavanja problema kojima je društvo bremenito i u kojima znanstvene ustanove i znanstvenici osobno imaju reći svoju riječ i dati svoj prilog – a da se ne povlače u bjelokosnu kulu svoje nedodirive znanstvenosti. Znanstvenik je naime također član šireg društva i političke zajednice, odgovoran građanin koji svojim radom, savjetom i javnom riječju pridonosi zajedničkoj kulturi i dobru zajednici. Stoga svako zatvaranje u navodno nepropusne okvire vlastite discipline bez širine pogleda u društvo ne vodi danas daleko ni u vlastitom znanstvenom području, a kamoli na polju naše zajedničke kulture.

Odatle slijedi neophodnost vrednote odgovornosti, individualne i društvene, za postupke i za javnu riječ onih koji poučavaju i istražuju. Odgovornost zadire i u prenošenje znanja i u njegovo usvajanje. Ona se pritom očituje u angažmanu i uloženu naporu na užem području stručnog rada, u odgovornoj popularizaciji znanstvenih rezultata široj zainteresiranoj javnosti te u ekspertizama koje se od znanstvenika već prema potrebama traže.

Izvrsnost – U tome da se nastavnici i studenti ne zadovoljavaju prosječnošću u znanju nego da teže svakome od njih dostupnom optimumu znanja i kompetencija znak je izvrsnosti. Važnost toga pokazuje se na dvije strane: prva se tiče same izabrane struke. Visoka specijaliziranost suvremene znanosti i s tim povezana jedva saglediva složenost suvremene znanstvene i tehničke civilizacije suočava svakog koji ide putem visokog obrazovanja sa zahtjevima izvrsnosti ako želi dati valjan doprinos izabranoj struci i društvu. To je dakako od presudne važnosti i za samu obrazovnu ustanovu. Izvrsnost njezinih nastavnika i studenata na polju prenašanja, stjecanja i istraživačkog produbljivanja i proširivanja znanja podiže njezinu konkurentnost ('rejting') s obzirom na druge visokoškolske ustanove i privlači nove kadrove koji su zainteresirani za napredak znanosti pa u to ulažu svoje najbolje sile i sposobnosti. Samo tako ustanova može opstatи и biti produktivna pod vidikom svrhe radi koje je ustanovljena. – Druga strana izvrsnosti tiče se same osobe nastavnika i studenata Sveučilišta. Naime, zalaganje osobnih sila i sposobnosti pod vidikom dobra samog znanja i stručnih kompetencija ima neprecijenljiv povratni učinak na oblikovanje cjelovite ličnosti: po tome raste njezina *svijest odgovornosti* na profesionalnom i osobnom planu; profilira se njezina *pouzdanost* u obavljanju povjerenih ili izabranih zadataka; oblikuje se njezino zdjalo i samokritičko *samopouzdanje* i sposobnost komuniciranja i razmjenjivanja spoznaja i uvida; i napokon, u poučavanju se aktualizira *plodnost* njezina znanja u duhu studenata koji, ako su iole duhovno budni, umiju osjetiti i razlučiti istinsku

izvrsnost svojih nastavnika i mentora od jeftinog pobuđivanja simpatije i divljenja. Nije potrebno posebno isticati kakav to ima blagotvoran utjecaj na njihovu ljudsku i stručnu formaciju.

Autotranscendencija - Sve to nije ništa specifično konfesionalno katoličko; to je naprsto nešto temeljno ljudsko pa stoga i kršćansko. U našem pak kontekstu treba dodati: to je temeljni deontološki element akademskog obrazovanja i samoodgoja pojedinca, ali i etičkog i stručnog profila same ustanove u okviru koje nastavnik djeluje i student stječe znanje – ako se uzme ozbiljno (kao što bi se i trebalo uzeti ozbiljno) ono radi čega ustanova postoji i djeluje. Time se ne kani tvrditi da ono što je katoličko zbog toga mora biti ili već jest najbolje; nije potrebno hraniti kompleks veće vrijednosti – on samo škodi. Dovoljno je naprsto biti izvrstan. Put izvrsnosti, kako u znanosti tako i u stjecanju i prenošenju znanja te u odgovornosti prema sebi i drugima, ujedno je primjerena forma čovjeku prirođene autotranscendencije – onog iskoračivanja preko sebe i nadilaženja samog sebe te razmicanja vlastitih ograničenosti gdje se vrednote istinoljubivosti, odgovornosti, pravednosti i solidarnosti usvajaju, utvrđuju i umnažaju. U takvom svojem stvaralaštvu čovjek plodno ozbiljuje svoje dostojanstvo kao stvor kojemu je povjerenio nastavljati Božje stvoriteljsko djelo. U tom se također očituje ona duhovna crta koju ističe Isus u prispolobi o talentima: onaj koji je voljan uzeti ozbiljno svoje talente i s njima ili na njima raditi, samim time – povrh svega onoga što je bilo rečeno – daje prikladan odgovor Bogu, darovatelju svakog dara. Tako i ne znajući čovjek raste pred Bogom u puninu svojeg čovještva i svoje čovječnosti kako ju zamišlja sam Stvoritelj. U tom smislu izvrsnost ne poznaje ograničenja na samo jedno područje; po njoj čovjek raste na svim područjima života i rada. Razvija se punina osobe.

Supsidijarnost - Uz ono rečeno o odgovornosti i izvrsnosti ide i supsidijarnost – jedan od glavnih stupova katoličkoga socijalnog naučavanja. Ona je posebno važna u funkcionira-

nju upravnih struktura ustanove kao što je Sveučilište. Ako se ona ne poštuje, upravljanje ustanovom i izvršavanje zadataka, kako onih upravnih tako i onih obrazovnih, trpi štetu i prijeti im konfuzija. Supsidijarnost znači da se poštiju razine djelovanja u ustanovi i kompetencije onih koji na dotičnim razinama djeluju, bez presizanja razinā i zaobilaženja kompetencija; to znači da se poslovi obavljaju i problemi i pitanja rješavaju na razini na kojoj se oni javljaju i postavljaju. Prema višemu se ide onda kad se pokazalo da niža razina zbog nekih razloga nije u stanju riješiti problem ili obaviti zadani posao. Uvježbavanje takvog postupanja može izgledati komplikirano i sporo, košta živaca i vremena, ali je neophodno to naučiti i usvojiti kao pravilo postupanja ako se hoće da ustanova dugo živi i dobro ispunja svoju zadaću radi koje je ustanovljena. Ukratko, supsidijarnost znači: svaki radi svoj povjereni mu posao – i očekuje se da ga obavi na vrijeme i dobro. Tako se ona pokazuje kao *ostvarena odgovornost*, što dakako opet ima svoju duhovnu kvalitetu. Dobro je na nju upozoriti i to s one strane s koje se to obično ne čini i koja nam možda ide više uz dlaku negoli niz dlaku. Da bismo to pravo razumjeli, neće biti na odmet da zavirimo u evanđelje. Kad su naime učenici došli k Isusu i pričali mu o onome što su učinili po njegovu nalogu, on im je rekao dvije stvari: da budu sretni jer su im imena zapisana na nebū, tj. Bog s njima računa i oni mu ‘odgovaraju’, ali i da si ništa ne umišljaju nego da imaju u srcu stav: „Sluge smo beskorisne, učinismo ono što smo trebali učiniti” (Lk 10,20 i 17,10). Naravno, nije riječ o beskorisnosti učinjenog, nego o osjećaju za realnost stanja stvari i o osjećaju skromnosti onoga koji je poslanje prihvatio te ga izvršio u mjeri izvrsnosti koja mu je moguća. Odgovarajući izazovu i zadaći, on je odgovorio i Bogu.

Mudrost – Napetost između sreće da Bogu čovjek doista ‘odgovara’ i da je u tom ‘odgovaranju’ beskoristan signalizira u kojem bi pravcu valjalo tražiti ono što se, možda pomalo starinski, naziva mudrost. Ona se sastoji – na to smo već upozorili – u svijesti o granicama, ali ne samo u tom smislu da

one razdvajaju i luče, nego i u tom smislu da one spajaju razlučeno. Tako je naime moguće unutar njih postići optimum i ujedno osjetiti i prihvati upućenost na ono što je onkraj njih i što se s druge strane dijaloški otvara i daje. Tek tako se biva dionikom cjeline i ucjelovljuje se ili integrira stečeno stručno znanje i vlastita osobnost. To je prostor u kojem djeluje duh slobode i ljubavi, motiviran Božjim Duhom. Bog je mudar ne samo po onome što stvara i daje nego isto tako po tome da poštuje granice stvorenoga i unutar njih pokazuje kako je u tom prostoru moguće optimum ili izvrsnost koja ih razmiče. Kršćanski gledano, u tome je otajstvo inkarnacije božanskog Logosa u Isusu iz Nazareta. - Izvrsnost, odgovornost i supsidijarnost vode mnogo dalje negoli se obično misli kad se o njima misli.

Domovina – U tom preplitanju akademskih i kršćanskih vrijednosti – iako je ovaj opis zapravo torzo, on možda ipak daje neki uvid u moguću cjelinu – nismo posebno isticali neki nacionalni vrijednosni moment. Samo je naime po sebi razumljivo da sve rečeno gledamo u kontekstu hrvatskog društva i države. Naša komunistička prošlost, Domovinski rat te problemi tranzicijskog i post-tranzicijskog razdoblja tvore bližu povijesnu pozadinu koju valja imati na umu u sveučilišnom radu. S tim je povezana i nada da će svaki koji se bude pozabavio ovim mislima na temelju iskustva življena u hrvatskom društvu brzo osjetiti važnost spominjanih vrlina i vrijednosti za naše društvo, pogotovo tamo gdje su one deficitarne. Pritom se međutim valja čuvati falsificiranja stvarnosti ako se uočavaju samo nedostatci i promašaji. Pogled što ga mudrost otvara zahvaća također ona mjesta gdje su vrijednosti afirmirane, gdje one vode djelovanje ljudi i gdje su ozbiljene; od presudne je važnosti valorizirati to i imati pred očima kada se djeluje. Stoga je važno da studenti na Sveučilištu steknu naviku takva gledanja, a nju će im posredovati nastavnici – pod pretpostavkom da je imaju i njeguju te ju hoće i umiju posredovati. Možda smo na tom području svi podosta deficitarni jer smo skloni najprije uočavati ono što ne ide – toga

uvijek ima – a ono što ide, uzimamo kao samo po sebi razumljivo, jer mora biti, pa ga pravo ni ne zapažamo. No ranije spomenuta svijest o granicama uključuje svaku granicu i bistar pogled na ono razgraničeno, bilo to ono pozitivno ili pak ono njemu protivno. Ne postoji nikakva nužnost da zona negativnog ima zadnju riječ u našem duhu i u stvarnosti. Ako je katoličkom duhu – baš zato jer je katolički, tj. gleda cjelinu – vlastit lucidan pogled na stvarnost, onda je Sveučilište pravo mjesto uvježbavanja takvog gledanja i govora u kojem se ostvareno dobro opaža, cijeni i komunicira, tj. dijeli u zajedništvu *magistrorum et scholarium*. Time će se pomalo i skromno ipak stvarati stanovita protuteža govorenju o zločestocí drugih i o nesposobnosti nas samih... – S tim u vezi od posebne je važnosti spoznaja o našoj hrvatskoj kulturi i o doprinosu naših ljudi općoj europskoj i svjetskoj kulturi i znanosti. To proširuje vidokrug i pokazuje našu kulturnu smještenost. Ujedno pokazuje njezinu kršćansku komponentu koju valja sagledavati skupa s njezinim drugim komponentama – kako u prošlosti tako i u sadašnjosti. Smijemo se nadati da dobra ima više negoli se na prvi pogled čini. Na narav pak obrazovne ustanove spada upravo ovo: otvaranje očiju za stvarnost u cjelini pa stoga i za hrvatsku stvarnost u cjelini. Time se daje važan doprinos akademskoj i svakoj drugoj komponenti hrvatske kulture.

Vjera – Na kraju treba reći koju i o dobру kršćanske vjere i Katoličke Crkve koja je tijesno povezana s visokim školstvom kroza svu svoju povijest sve do danas. Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište naime raste i djeluje iz poslanja Crkve koja hoće dati svoj doprinos također u sustavu visokog obrazovanja u našoj domovini. Pritom je uvjerenja da evanđelje, koje ona naviješta, ima što reći također u kontekstu visokoobrazovnih ustanova. Kršćanska vjera u svojoj katoličkoj inačici nije prisutna na Sveučilištu samo po njegovu nazivu i po sakralnoj i liturgijskoj simbolici na sveučilišnom kampusu i u njegovim prostorijama, nego u prvom redu po njegovim bitnim značjkama koje izražavaju samu njegovu narav, njegov katolički

identitet. Ono u cjelini i njezini članovi kao pojedinci djeluju iz kršćanskog nadahnuća te pritom promišljaju bogatstva ljudskog znanja kojemu su i sami odlučili zauzeto pridonositi učenjem i istraživanjem. U vjernosti kršćanskoj poruci Sveučilište u svojem angažmanu ne služi samo Crkvi nego i vlastitoj nacionalnoj zajednici i svekolikoj ljudskoj obitelji tako što pridonosi njezinu kulturnom rastu i povezivanju. – Vjerske simbole i znakove ne shvaćamo kao identitetske značke kojima se kani drugima mahati pod nosom. Naprotiv, radi se o simbolima, dakle o znakovima koji su izrasli u kršćanskoj tradiciji i koji nam simbolički posreduju uvid u bitne vrijednosti i sadržaje kršćanske vjere. Kapelica, slike, križevi, kipovi i sve drugo znakovlje koje je u izravnoj vezi s vjerom ujedno je i njezin izraz i izraz identiteta onih koji sami sebe prepoznaju u toj vjeri. To znači da odatle valja pogledati dublje i suočiti se s pitanjem kako i u kojoj mjeri je kršćanska vjera bitna za rad i za način života dјelatnika i studenata Sveučilišta. Kad se o tome razmišlja, govori i piše, nije nakana da se prosuđuju ‘srca i bubrezi’ konkretnih ljudi – to je samo Božji posao – nego da se istakne kako je u naravi takve ustanove da se brine o dobru vjere tako da ju daje upoznati onima koji na njoj dјeluju, da nudi mogućnost njezina spoznajnog i egzistencijalnog usvajanja i produbljivanja kao i stanovitog uvježbavanja (S. Kierkegaard) u kršćanski način života. Sve se to može podvesti pod pojam sveučilišnog dušobrižništva, o čijim konkretnim modalitetima vodi brigu sveučilišni kapelan, u suradnji s nastavnicima Katedre za teologiju te prema mogućnostima i potrebama u suradnji s drugim studentskim dušobrižnicima u Zagrebu. Time je u stanovitoj mjeri istaknut također eklezijalni vidik katoličkog identiteta.

Sloboda opredjeljenja – Religiozna je vjera životna opcija osobe koja sa sobom raspolaže u spoznaji i slobodi. Ona se također baštini obiteljskim odgojem i socijalizacijom, ali u tom slučaju prije ili kasnije mora biti ratificirana izričitim osobnim prianjanjem uz nju. Moguća je dakako široka lepeza drugih egzistencijalnih stavova i držanja koji sežu sve do njezina

odbacivanja. Imajući to u vidu Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište smatra svojom obvezom poštivati egzistencijalno opredjeljenje svake osobe, ali i svojom dužnošću ponuditi svim svojim djelatnicima i studentima temeljnu informaciju o kršćanskoj vjeri i o Katoličkoj Crkvi kao njezinom institucionalnom liku: kako ona samu sebe shvaća i hoće biti shvaćena. U tom smjeru ide ponuda predmeta Katedre za teologiju svim studentima. Ta ponuda ima jednu svoju specifičnost prema kojoj se ona razlikuje od istovjetnih ponuda na bogoslovnim fakultetima. Teološki sadržaji koji se predaju, u svojoj su koncepciji i izvedbi zamišljeni u perspektivi studijskih smjerova koji tvore okosnicu našeg sveučilišta. To znači: nastavnici koji predaju te predmete i slušači tih predmeta moraju steći uvid u to gdje je i u čemu je veza teoloških predmeta s njihovim smjerom studija. U tome se na akademskoj razini također ostvaruje katolički identitet sveučilišta. Najopćenitije rečeno, on usmjeruje znanstveno istraživanje i obrazovanje prema širem obzoru istine te nastoji oko integracije znanstvenog znanja s drugim vrijednostima kulture.⁵

Konkretnije gledano, teološki predmeti idu za integracijom osobne vjere i profesionalnog znanstvenog znanja kod studenata putem refleksivnog uvida u to da je stvarnost jedna i bogatija od svega znanstvenog znanja o njoj (to dvoje naime nije isto), da joj je Bog transcendentni iskon te da oba reda spoznavanja – znanje i vjera – hrane ljubav prema istini i pridonose obuhvatnom razumijevanju smisla ljudskog života i svrhe Božjeg stvorenja. Studentima koji nisu katolički vjernici teološki predmeti daju osnovne uvide u sadržaje vjere pa kao takvi spadaju ne samo u opću kulturu nego i u fundus znanja koje im je potrebno da bi razumjeli i poštivali katolički identitet Sveučilišta. S tim je također povezano razvijanje *senzibiliteta* za teške probleme suvremenog doba (terorizam, ksenofobija, marginalizacija manjina s jedne strane i manjinska majorizacija većine s druge strane, zagađivanje i uništavanje prirode i njezinih resursa, glad i bolesti, smrtnost dojenčadi i

⁵ Usp. opširnije Ex 6-10 i 15-20.

djece, razni oblici manipulacija ljudske osobe itd.) i za fundamentalne *vrijednosti* koje su u njima ugrožene (dostojanstvo osobe, zaštita ljudskog života od njegova začeća do njegove prirodne smrti, zaštita prirode čiji je i sam čovjek dio, nastojanje oko mira i pravednog društvenog i političkog poretku itd.). Potrebno je da to bude promišljano i istraživano također pod etičkim i religioznim vidikom.

Sve u svemu, Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište na temelju svojega kršćanskog nadahnuća samim svojim postojanjem i djelovanjem upozorava u svijetu znanosti na prisutnost *duhovnog momenta* u činu istraživanja, poučavanja i učenja, tj. spoznavanja i stjecanja znanja. Taj duhovni moment ima svoj sadržaj u dobru znanja koje se postiže i u dobru koje se čini; on je prisutan u traganju za istinom, dobrotom, ljepotom i smislim same stvarnosti te čovjeka i njegova djelovanja u krilu te stvarnosti. Pritom je evidentno da se duhovnost shvaća kao život u skladu s izabranim vrijednostima; u ovom slučaju to su sve općeljudske vrijednosti sagledavane u kršćanskoj perspektivi. Ništa se ne isključuje, sve se nastoji provjeriti, a ono što je dobro usvojiti i po mogućnosti umnožiti, uvečati. Tako se, na kraju, katolištvo Sveučilišta pokazuje kao integrativna matrica svih komponenti cjeline same ustanove i njezina rada.

Katolištvo pod vidikom odnosa

Institucija nije ni zgrada ni kampus; nju u prvom redu tvore ljudi, njezini članovi, svaki osobno u skladu sa svojim pripadnim radnim mjestom, ovlastima i obvezama. Srž svega toga je mreža odnosa koje ljudi pritom tkaju. Odnosi tvore teksturu ili tkanje ‘teksta’ koji je sama institucija. Mrežu odnosa na tako shvaćenom Sveučilištu kao ustanovi možemo razvidjeti u tri međusobno povezana smjera: rad i obveze, osoba drugoga (studenti, nastavnici, službenici), sama ustanova. O svemu tomu bilo je i do sada govora pa će ovdje biti dovoljno istaknuti samo neke momente koji sve to sintetiziraju u tri spomenuta smjera.

Što se tiče *rada i obveza* sve je rečeno kad je bilo riječi o izvrsnosti, odgovornosti i supsidijarnosti. Tomu se nema što dodavati nego valja samo upozoriti da su to više negoli vrijednosti, to su principi koji nose međuljudske odnose, a ovi se uspostavljaju i pletu kroz rad odnosno kroz ispunjavanje prihvaćenih obveza. Tu izlazi na vidjelo trivijalna činjenica koja se ne smije smetnuti s uma: da su svi članovi sveučilišne zajednice u svojem radu upućeni jedni na druge, uzduž i poprijeko razina na kojima djeluju – što je posebice važno za akademske vlasti (rektor i prorektori) i akademske službe (administracija). Ne ulazeći u podrobnija raščlanjivanja želimo samo istaknuti kako su u odnosima u krilu ustanove na prвome mjestu stručna kompetencija i profesionalna svijest odgovornosti za povjereni posao. Očekuje se pouzdanost i efikasnost, a od akademskih vlasti umijeće postavljanja prioriteta i briga da se oni poštuju. Zauzetost, duh suradnje i svijest odgovornosti jamče dobro funkcioniranje ustanove na svim razinama njezina djelovanja.

S obzirom na studente i na odnose među njima bitna je vrednota, na kojoj valja inzistirati i pomagati im da ju ostvare, *zauzetost* i duh *suradnje* u studiju. Suradnja znači uzajamno pomaganje u studiju i eventualno zajedničko učenje i ponavljanje gradiva kad se spremaju ispit. Nastavnici im za to mogu pomoći u konzultacijama, ali i na samim predavanjima seminarima i vježbama dajući im konkretne upute kako se što čini ili može učiniti. I tu su na djelu sve ranije spomenute vrijednosti i vrline bez kojih su rezultati slabi, ispod realnih mogućnosti.

Duhovni moment u svemu tome dolazi do izražaja kroz zajedništvo koje se stvara i gradi kroz zajednički rad i pomađanje. Bitno je za duh – i ljudski i božanski – to da se manifestira kroz odnose, unutar ustanove ali i izvan nje. Primjerice, socijalni i umjetnički angažman nastavnika i studenata u širem društvu u okviru njihovih mogućnosti, uz podršku uprave Sveučilišta, proširuje vidike preko striktnih akademskih granica prema širem polju društva i opće kulture. Kroz

to kao i kroz ponude simpozija, predavanja, okruglih stolova, predstavljanja knjiga itd. Sveučilište ulazi u interakciju sa širim društvom i pojedincima u njemu koji su posebno zainteresirani za osobnu izobrazbu ili su na neki njima mogući način voljni podržati Sveučilište u njegovu radu. Tu mislimo na naše sadašnje i bivše suradnike u nastavi i u istraživanjima, na gostujuće znanstvenike i na predstavnike akademskih ustanova u domovini i inozemstvu. Važnu ulogu pritom svakako može imati udruga bivših studenata Sveučilišta i njegovih prijatelja. *Alma mater* (u duhovnom smislu ‘majka hraniteljica’) je ona koja ih povezuje, a oni su joj podrška i oslonac u širem društvu i u akademskoj zajednici.

Ne treba zaboraviti ni mrežu partnera u gospodarstvu, kulturi i u odgojno-obrazovnim ustanovama (napose u srednjim školama jer odatle dolaze studenti); uspješan prijenos znanja stečenih na Sveučilištu u ustanove na tim područjima pravi je test kvalitete rada svake akademiske ustanove. U interesu je Sveučilišta također da u svoj rad uklopi domaće i međunarodne grupe svojih prijatelja, druge visokoobrazovne ustanove i znanstvene institute, udruge nastavnika srednjih i osnovnih škola, poduzetnike i podupiratelje raznih profila itd. – Kroza sve to suradnja se pokazuje kao bitna vrednota koja na svoj način izriče katolištvo ustanove.

Katolištvo pod vidikom društvene smještenosti

Ovdje je riječ o širem kontekstu u kojem Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište treba djelovati vođeno svojim vrijednosnim opredjeljenjima i u skladu sa svojim katoličkim identitetom. Ustanova kao cjelina (tj. svi njezini zaposlenici i studenti) trebaju voditi računa o društvenoj smještenosti Sveučilišta ako im je stalo do načina kako su u društvu percipirani i kakvu sliku društvo o njemu i o njima ima. S tim u vezi možemo razložno govoriti o tri ‘svijeta’ u koje je Sveučilište istodobno smješteno: svijet šire akademske zajednice, svijet crkvene zajednice, svijet hrvatskog društva. Iz svakog od ta tri svijeta

upiru se oči u Sveučilište. Taj pogled, kao uostalom i svaki drugi pogled, može imati osebujne kvalitete; može se raditi o dobrohotnom, neutralnom, o dobrohotno-kritičkom ili zlovoljno-kritičkom pogledu. U svakom slučaju realizam i lucidnost, koje smo ranije istaknuli kao važne značajke identiteta, zahtijevaju od svih članova sveučilišne zajednice da o tome vode računa.

Ovdje naravno nije mjesto da se ulazi u neke analize stanja u ta tri spomenuta svijeta; hoće se samo upozoriti na neke njihove specifičnosti koje su uočljive i o kojima treba voditi računa. Sveučilištu ne može biti svejedno kakvu sliku drugi o njemu imaju. Ta slika ovisi o njegovim članovima (uprava, nastavnici, studenti, službenici), o njihovoј prisutnosti i odnosima u dotočnom svijetu te o tome kako obavljaju svoj posao.

Ako se kreće od šireg društva, mora se voditi računa o tome da je ono vrlo slojevito i da je podložno raznim, a pogotovo medijskim utjecajima pa i manipulacijama, da nije uviđek spremno na kritičku provjeru vijesti i mišljenja pa sliku o ustanovama i ljudima preuzima već gotovu, negdje drugdje složenu. Pogled na Sveučilište može ići od onog dobrohotnog pa sve do onog koji ga smatra 'produženom rukom Vatikana' kao nekog neproničnog centra moći... Prisutnost Sveučilišta i nastupanje njegovih djelatnika u našoj akademskoj i društvenoj javnosti bitno pridonose realnom prezentiranju i opažanju ustanove u društvu. Važnost toga ne smije se potcijeniti jer se odatile, iz šireg društva, javljaju i dolaze studenti zainteresirani za studij na našem Sveučilištu.

Crkvena javnost odnosno svijet crkvenih zajednica po naravi stvari zainteresiran je za Sveučilište, za njegovo djelovanje, za njegove kadrove i za profil završenih studenata koji odlaze na 'tržište rada', u nadi da će naći posao. Vodstvu Crkve sigurno je na srcu da u društvu i u kulturi, u gospodarstvu i u politici, u akademskom svijetu i u svijetu umjetnosti budu prisutni uvjereni vjernici koji iz svojeg vjerskog uvjerenja žive i djeluju ne skrivajući ga pod postelju privatnosti. Zato je vrlo

važno kako Sveučilište može pomoći da vjernici, koji iz njega izlaze u svijet rada i kulture, umiju također afirmirati svoje vjersko uvjerenje u prilog kršćanskom poimanju čovjeka u našem društvu.

Za nadati se da će domaća Crkva umjeti poslužiti se potencijalima ljudi obrazovanih na Sveučilištu također u svrhu svoje vlastite izgradnje. Tu je važno da oni koji djeluju u katehizaciji i pastoralu znaju za pripadnike svojih zajednica (župe i dr.) koji studiraju ili rade na Sveučilištu te o tome vode računa, održavaju kontakte s njima i pomažu im gdje je to potrebno i moguće. To isto vrijedi i za drugu stranu, naime za same studente i sve koji djeluju u krilu naše akademske zajednice. Oni su pozvani biti prisutni također u svojim vjerničkim zajednicama i dati u njima svoj doprinos zajedništvu gdje im je to moguće i u mjeri u kojoj im je to moguće.

Kršćansko poimanje uključuje i kršćansko ponašanje i postupanje. Tu je važno imati na umu da u svijetu rada, pogotovo onom akademskom, počesto vlada nesmiljena konkurenca; nije lako uvijek vidjeti kad je u pitanju objektivni znanstveni interes, a kad nešto drugo... Povezivanje, podrška i suradnja ovdje su neophodni, isto tako kao i lucidan pogled koji razlučuje tendencije i interesе što djeluju u društvu.

Kao i šira društvena javnost tako i crkvena javnost nije nešto monolitno. Ona je također mjestom različitih tendencija i orijentacija i skupina koje se već prema tome oblikuju, bilo spontano bilo smisljeno i, dakako, imaju također svoje partikularne interese. Važno je to upoznati i o tome voditi računa. Isto vrijedi i za akademski svijet. I on je slojevit s obzirom na svjetonazorska opredjeljenja, ali i s obzirom na akademske interese pa je za očekivati da se odatle prema Hrvatskom katoličkom sveučilištu upiru pogledi koji u njemu vide konkurenta. Samo po sebi to nije ni čudno ni loše; valja samo uočiti što se nalazi u pogledu.

Kad se sve to ima u vidu, je li dopušteno poslužiti se evanđeoskom metaforom da naše Sveučilište ima biti blago kao

golub i lukavo kao zmija kako bi opstalo i afirmiralo se u ta tri svijeta? Metafora je možda gruba, ali ona upozorava na to da se ne smije biti naivnima i misliti kako se u Sveučilište upiru samo dobrohotni pogledi. No ne valja se ni unaprijed bojati i posvuda samo njušiti protivnike i ooprve pretpostavljati loše namjere. Realizam i lucidnost i tu su neophodni. Računa se dakle s tim da je čovjek čovjeku samo – čovjek, u dobru ali i u zlu. I napokon, da na zemlji imamo samo – zemlju, a ne ni raj ni pakao. Prema tome, ima dovoljno razloga da se naše Sveučilište s pouzdanjem kreće u ta tri svijeta u koje je smješteno i da u njih unosi onoliko svjetla koliko to svaki puta i trenutno uzmaže. U tome si slobodno u nadi može reći da je ‘sluga’, ma koliko bio ‘beskoristan’, ipak takav da s njime Bog rado računa i da on Bogu, koliko može, ‘odgovara’. A kad ‘odgovara’ Bogu, on ‘odgovara’ i čovjeku i društvu u kojem čovjek živi i gdje je pozvan rasti u svojoj čovječnosti.

III. ČOVJEK – SUBJEKT I OBJEKT ZNANOSTI

U svemu do sada iznesenom bila je na djelu pretpostavka da čovjek prethodi znanosti, da je on njezina autor (subjekt) i da on stoji iza znanosti kao onaj koji uživa njezine blagodati, ali i podnosi njezine posljedice (kojima je on autor!) što ga sustižu kad on njezine spoznaje rabi na zlo odnosno kad ne vodi računa o posljedicama njihovih primjena. Čini nam se umjesnim pobliže promotriti to stanje stvari.

Uz rastuću diferencijaciju društva ide ukorak – posebice od početka novog vijeka – također rastuća diferencijacija znanstvenih područja i njihovih odgovarajućih tipova racionalnosti. Znanstvenici u različitim granama znanosti, političari, ekonomisti, pravnici, liječnici, predstojnici vjerskih zajednica itd. postupaju u skladu s logikama odnosno racionalnim procedurama koje su svakoj od njih vlastite. S tim su dakako povezana svaki puta različita sredstva i različite metode postupanja u rješavanju problema i izazova kojima valja odgovoriti na raznim područjima društvenog života. Riječ je o svojevrsnim ‘prisilama’ (*constraints*) unutar kojih se na svakom području istražuje, spoznaje i postupa. Racionalnost postupanja svakog od navedenih subjekata razlikuje se od racionalnosti postupanja nekog drugog na drugom području. Sviest o tome prisutna je ako ne baš u dokraja reflektiranoj formi a ono barem u pratećoj formi svjesnosti o metodi i njezinim granicama na svakom području i u svakom tipu aktivnosti. Za očekivati je da se ovdje neće djelovati – jer se ne može! – prema nekoj unaprijed uspostavljenoj harmoniji različitih; takve naime nema.

U tako diferenciranom svijetu i kulturi obilježenoj znanstvenošću potrebno je ne samo reflektirano znati o tom stanju stvari nego i priznati ga sebi i drugima i voditi o njemu računa.

To znači: *imati takta*. Takt se najprije i najviše očituje u tome da npr. shvaćam i vodim računa o tome da drugi, kolegice ili kolege aktivni na svojim znanstvenim područjima, na temelju njima raspoloživih resursa ne mogu učiniti ono što na temelju moje perspektive i na temelju mojih raspoloživih resursa meni izgleda ispravno; vrijedi dakako i ono obrnuto. To ne vodi u indiferentizam nego nas potiče da se uputimo u traganje za načinima govora i komuniciranja koji bi htjeli omogućiti da svaki iz svoje perspektive, ali u uzajamnosti, shvatimo što je zapravo moguće iz perspektive drugoga – npr. da ekonomist iz svoje ekonomske perspektive shvati što je moguće i potrebno iz političke perspektive i obratno. Taj takt treba biti operativan i na svim drugim područjima znanosti i društvenog djelovanja (medicina, pravo, financije, svjetonazorska opredjeljenost,...) ako nam je stalo do toga da nam se naša znanost prožeta kultura ne raspadne u područja koja nemaju nikakve uzajamne veze nego su tek posložena jedno uz drugo. Drugim riječima, među diferenciranim područjima znanja i postupanja valja *uzajamno* voditi računa o granicama i ‘prisilama’ svaki puta vlastite racionalnosti. To naprosto obvezuje znanstvenike kao osobe i posebice kao odgovorne građane čija prisutnost i riječ u društvu zasigurno nisu bez važnosti.

To dalje znači da svijest o granicama i smisao za granice znanstvenih područja djelovanja uključuje također specifičnu formu ‘znatiželje’, tj. pogleda preko granica vlastitog područja prema području drugoga, osjećaj za razliku racionalnosti koje su svaki put u igri kao one koje određuju i vode postupanje te spremnost na dijalog i raspravu. To je pretpostavka za svaku pravu i poželjnju interdisciplinarnost. Posebice je pak to važno u onih znanosti kojima je predmetom sam čovjek – ujedno subjekt i objekt znanosti.

Čovjek i područja znanja

Važno je razvidjeti to u znanstvenim područjima koja razvija naše Sveučilište. Neka bude odmah na početku rečeno da se time ništa ne prejudicira s obzirom na njegovo moguće

i poželjno širenje u smjeru pravnih, ekonomskih, prirodnih i tehničkih znanosti.⁶ Čini nam se da ono do sada rečeno načelno vrijedi i za njih kao što za njih vrijedi i to da pogađaju čovjeka makar im on možda nije izravnim predmetom. Pogađaju ga naime kao autora-subjekta svojim povratnim učincima, ali i posljedicama svoje tehničke i tehnologische primjene, u dobrom i u onom manje dobrom.

To je vidljivo već i na liku sveučilišne ustanove kao takve: ima se dojam da se tradicionalna ustanova sveučilišta nezau stavljivo mijenja u svojevrsni konglomerat visokih škola čija je glavna svrha brzo i učinkovito pripremiti studente za sudjelovanje u procesu opće materijalne i duhovne proizvodnje – i za njihov što bolji plasman na tzv. tržištu rada... S obzirom na svoje metode, načine poučavanja i vrednovanja rezultata, moderna je znanost u osnovi prevladala naslijedenu diobu znanosti u prirodne i humanističke i to na taj način da su se društvene i humanističke znanosti iz temelja izmijenile i posve prilagodile bitnim značajkama prirodnih, tehničkih i biotehničkih znanosti u kojima – kako se čini – temeljna istraživanja u rastućoj mjeri ustupaju mjesto zajamčeno primjenjivoj znanosti. Čini se da je to nesmiljeni diktat tržišta rada.

Time se ovdje kani samo upozoriti na problem čija obrađa zahtijeva posebne napore i adekvatno mjesto promišljanja i dijaloga. Ovo što slijedi želi biti samo jedan mali pripremni korak u promišljanju odnosa čovjeka i znanosti, kako se taj odnos konfigurira ili bi se mogao ili možda čak trebao konfigurirati na Hrvatskom katoličkom sveučilištu – odnos gledan kroz prizmu njegovih odjela i fakulteta.

Kad se naime pogledaju sadašnji studijski odjeli našeg Sveučilišta – povijest, psihologija, sociologija, komunikologija, sestrinstvo i medicinski fakultet – lako je uočiti kako je u središtu njihove znanstvene pozornosti i bavljenja onaj isti koji se dotičnim područjima bavi: *čovjek*, subjekt i objekt znanosti.

⁶ S tim u vezi upućujemo na Strategiju razvitka Hrvatskoga katoličkog Sveučilišta do 2025; usp. nap. 1.

Povijest

Naše Sveučilište započelo je svoj rad na odjelu za povijest. Čovjek je subjekt i objekt te znanosti ukoliko je on povijesno biće. On nije puko biće kojeg najprije nema pa ga onda neko vrijeme ima i nakon nekog vremena ga više nema – biće razapeto između dvije ništice. On je biće koje to zna o sebi i o svim drugim bićima i koje je u stanju o tome voditi računa i tragati za smislom takve egzistencije. On također zna da to njegovo trajanje i bivanje nije isto kao u drugih bića, nego je ono oblikovano njegovim individualnim i kolektivnim djelovanjem u vremenu i prostoru – ono je povijesno. Samo čovjek ima povijest, samo je on u strogom smislu povijesno biće i zna za sebe da je takvo biće bez obzira kada je on uspio razviti metodičku svijest o tome i metodički zaronio u traganje za samim sobom u smjeru prošlosti. I obrnuto: iz svoje sadašnjosti i u odnosu s onim prošlim on imaginira i planira ono čega još nema i kuša to ostvariti, ispraviti ono postignuto ili pak započeti nešto posve novo, ono buduće. U tome je njegova sloboda: moći započeti iz samoga sebe. Ni toga nema u drugih bića. Povijest pak nastaje iz slobode, pretpostavlja slobodu i ima povratne učinke na forme njezina svaki puta jedinstvenog – upravo povijesnog – ozbiljenja. Ta uvjetno rečeno povijesno-filozofska perspektiva smješta povijesna istraživanja u širi duhovni kontekst kulture i društva, uključujući i religiju, što je od neprocijenjive važnosti za sagledavanje značenja i uloge historijskih disciplina u razumijevanju kulturnih postignuća čovječanstva i svaki puta vlastite nacionalne zajednice. Budućnost si pretpostavlja prošlost. To vrijedi za društvo u cjelini kao i za sve znanosti; uvid naime u njihovu prošlost pokazuje mjeru njihova napretka te ujedno posreduje stav skromnosti pred stvarnošću koja se pokazuje većom i bogatijom od našeg znanja o njoj.

Psihologija i sociologija

Tu su potom druga dva odjela koji se bave čovjekom ukoliko je on individualno i ujedno društveno biće – psihologija

i sociologija. Koliko god te dvije discipline bile s pravom metodički odvojene i svaka išla svojim putem, one na specifičan način utječu jedna na drugu jer je njihov predmet jedan te isti, ali pod dva upravo spomenuta i dakako različita vidika: čovjek. Njihove spoznaje i rezultati kao i smjerovi istraživanja ne daju se uzajamno pomnožiti tako da bi se dobio neki jedinstveni umnožak. Naprotiv, onom abisalnom, ponornom uranjanju u dubinu čovjekove psihe odgovara isto tako neograničena širina formi njegove društvenosti i načina kako ih on realizira u vremenu i prostoru. A ipak i svemu tomu usprkos, on je jedan te isti, i individualan i društven. Svim kvantifikacijama i kvalifikacijama usprkos, kojima je čovjek kao objekt istraživanja metodički podvrgnut, on kao subjekt i osoba jest i ostaje više od svega znanja koje sam o sebi stječe pa se stoga s pravom govori također o misteriju ljudskog bića. Odатле intrigantno pitanje: kako se to ‘čuje’ u kontekstu psihologije i sociologije? Postoji li neki pristup tomu upravo s tih strana? Što on daje vidjeti? I dalje: kako стоји ствар s navodno mogućim ‘poboljšanjem’ čovjeka u perspektivi bio-, psihologije i socio-inženjeringa i onog što se voli zvati transhumanizmom? Kad se uz bok tomu stave perspektive koje otvara umjetna inteligencija, onda se čini kako se s pravom može govoriti o promjeni epohe u povijesti čovječanstva. U svemu tome javljaju se nezaobilazna pitanja koja će po svoj prilici u golemoj mjeri odrediti buduća istraživanja na tim ali i na drugim područjima, kao i primjenu njihovih rezultata u odgoju, obrazovanju te uopće u društvenoj interakciji. To nas upućuje na jedan drugi sveučilišni odjel:

Komunikologija

Na jedinstven se način čovjekom bavi također komunikologija. Njoj je predmetom čovjek kao biće dijaloga i općenito komunikacije u društvu ljudi, ali i s ostalim živim bićima. U proučavanju njegova komuniciranja sa sebi sličnima nalazi se u područje društvenosti pa valja dati za pravo starim Grcima koji su ga odredili kao društveno i logično (= ima *logos*, riječ,

govor, razum) živo biće. Perspektive koje se odatle otvaraju kako prema povijesti tako i prema psihologiji i sociologiji jasno upućuju na nasušnu potrebu suradnje i buđenja svijesti o razlikama racionalnosti u svakom od tih područja znanja. To je od goleme važnosti kad se uzme u obzir kooperacija ljudi i njihovih ustanova bez koje nije moguće zamisliti društveni život, svem individualizmu usprkos. Čini nam se uputnim istaknuti kako u kolopletu tema i izazova komunikologije posebnu pozornost u naše vrijeme zavrjeđuje pitanje prenošenja vrijednosti odnosno vrednota, što je od nemale važnosti za formaciju identiteta osoba i ustanova; identitet pak shvaćamo upravo kao komunikativnu veličinu jer se on izgrađuje dijaloški. Pritom je od primarne važnosti, u našoj suvremenosti, ne samo njegovanje onog vlastitog osobe i ustanove nego ništa manje također njegovanje stava otvorenosti za suradnju i raspravu s onim drugim i različitim; u tome je uloga sredstava društvenih komunikacija nezaobilazna te ju valja dobro poznavati. Mjesto je naime komunikacije društvo; u širokom ga smislu shvaćamo kao ukupnost odnosa ljudi u organiziranoj zajednici koja u našoj suvremenosti obiluje vrijednosnim pluralizmom na svima područjima ljudskog života. Odatle onda i nasušna potreba dijaloga i zajedničkog sagledavanja jednog ljudskog bića u različitim perspektivama svih spomenutih znanosti. U svemu tome nas sredstva društvenih komunikacija, kako ona 'klasična' tako pogotovo ona najnovija, suočavaju s bitnim pitanjima njihova povratna učinka na samog čovjeka koji se njima služi i na društvo u kojem se on kreće. Primjerice, razvitak na području društvenih mreža bjelodano pokazuje sve bogatstvo blagodati, izazova, problema i opasnosti s kojima smo suočeni, a čije buduće forme zasigurno nadilaze sve naše sadašnje slutnje.

Biomedicina i zdravstvo

Krhkost i konačnost ljudskog bića sagledavanog kroz njegove psihosomatske dimenzije do posebnog izražaja dolaze u biomedicini i zdravstvu; to oboje sagledava čovjeka ukoli-

ko jest i može biti zdrav i bolestan te ukoliko je smrtan. Na našem Sveučilištu za sada je riječ o studiju medicine i sestrinstva; oboje se ne ograničava samo na skrb za bolesnog i umirućeg čovjeka, već podrazumijevaju ništa manje također rad sa zdravima – radi promicanja zdravlja i prevencije bolesti. U našem pak kontekstu valja posebno istaknuti da su sestrinstvo i medicina suočeni s graničnim situacijama ljudske egzistencije u kojima je, u konačnici, pitanje o biti ili nebiti te o tome kako biti kad se više nije onako kako se prije bilo i kako se htjelo biti, ali nam je sada to privremeno ili možda čak definitivno uskraćeno. Koliko nam se god bolest činila banalnom stvari – izgleda kao da je ona, slično starenju, nekako ‘ugrađena’ u sam temeljni ustroj svih prirodnih bića pa stoga i čovjeka – ona nipošto nije banalna kad nekog ozbiljno snađe. Kako se u tim trenutcima držati, što poduzeti, kako tu stvar istrpjeti ili pak ju prihvati kao ono definitivno, te s tim povezano, kako se postaviti prema smrti koja sve šutke odnosi – sve je to najčešće u prvom planu sestrinstva i medicine općenito kad ih promatramo u egzistencijalnom vidiku. Bolesnik naime nije običan objekt bavljenja nego je u pitanju osoba koja trpi.

Upravo taj vidik zaslužuje da u našem kontekstu bude konkretnije promotren. Duhovno-tjelesno jedinstvo ljudskog bića pod medicinskim se vidikom uočava kroz tri temeljne antropološke kategorije koje su i religiozno posebno zanimljive: zdravlje, bolest, ozdravljenje. To troje sagledava se kao stanje i kao proces. Ono što se u smislu medicine naziva zdravlje, u perspektivi kršćanskog shvaćanja čovjeka može se nazvati idealnom, od Boga htijenom ‘konstitucijom’ čovjeka. Bolest znači njegovu ‘destituciju’ ili opadanje i dezintegraciju cjelovitosti ljudskog bića; u perspektivi kršćanskog shvaćanja čovjeka to je izraz njegove stvorenjske krhkosti i prolaznosti koja pogađa tjelesnu i duhovnu dimenziju njegova bića na polju svih njegovih relacija kao i njegov moralni integritet; čovjek je u svakom pogledu *ranjiv*. Ta integralno shvaćena ranjivost čovjekov je ‘egzistencijal’, tj. ono što ga bitno određuje

u njegovoј egzistenciji, uz bok svjetovnosti, društvenosti i povijesnosti. Ozdravljenje je ‘restitucija’ čovjekove duhovno-tjelesne cjelovitosti, obrat iz bolesti u zdravlje; u perspektivi kršćanskog shvaćanja čovjeka to odgovara ponovnoј uspostavi njegove duhovne i moralne cjelovitosti kroz obraćenje i pomirenje s Bogom i bližnjim. U te tri spomenute antropološke kategorije – konstitucija/zdravlje, destitucija/bolest, restitucija/ozdravljenje – zrcale se tri egzistencijalna stanja u smjeru kojih djeluje medicinsko osoblje: prevencija, terapija, rehabilitacija. Religiozni pogled pak u tome ‘čita’ dionice čovjekova puta prema njegovu definitivnom zajedništvu s Bogom. Sve je to od presudne važnosti ako se doista hoće inzistirati na cjelovitom shvaćanju ljudske osobe. Upravo je to smjer (na to smo ranije upozorili) u kojem se kreće svekoliko djelovanje katoličkog sveučilišta kao takvog.

Interdisciplinarnost

Tako se *čovjek* u ustroju našeg Sveučilišta pokazuje kao njegova ‘specijalnost’, poseban predmet bavljenja svih njegovih sadašnjih ali i budućih studijskih smjerova. S tim u vezi umjesno je opet istaknuti potrebu cjelovita pogleda na čovjeka u kršćanskoј perspektivi i kroz dimenzije njegove povijesnosti, individualnosti, društvenosti, komunikabilnosti te zdravlja, bolesti i smrtnosti. Tu se dodiruje misterij ljudskog bića. Da bi i ta dimenzija došla u vidokrug znanstvenog bavljenja čovjekom, potrebno je spomenute (i druge moguće) discipline promišljati ne samo polazeći od njihova središta, tj. od njihovih središnjih tema – što je samo po sebi razumljivo – nego i polazeći od njihovih granica prema drugim disciplinama. Za to se pak traži dobra doza intelektualne znatlje koja gleda preko granica vlastite struke i daje se pogoditi drukčijim perspektivama spoznavanja, znanja i razmišljanja. To je presudna prepostavka za interdisciplinarnost koja uz interes za granična pitanja prepostavlja dobru dozu strpljivosti i spremnosti na učenje, gipkost duha koji je spreman mijenjati perspektive u kojima sagledava stvarnost te vještina

komuniciranja i prevodenja raznih formi jezika i pripadne racionalnosti u drukcije forme u kojima se također izražava znanje o onom jednom te istom, u našem slučaju – o čovjeku.

Kad se Sveučilište bude proširilo u smjeru prirodnih i drugih znanosti, čovjek time neće biti istisnut iz središnjeg vidokruga univerzitetskog istraživanja i znanja jer u katolički identitet takve ustanove bitno spada uvid da je čovjek transcendentalan s obzirom na svu i svaku znanost. Transcendentalan znači: on je uvjet mogućnosti sve i svake znanosti, on im svima prethodi, u svima je djelatan kao njihov subjekt, a dijelom i kao njihov objekt, aktivan i pasivan u tom smislu da uživa njihove blagodati i trpi njihove izravne i neizravne, bliže i daljnje posljedice. Čovjek je prije svake znanosti, on je u svakoj znanosti i on ostaje poslije svake znanosti – bilo da se prestane njome baviti, bilo da dođe onaj posljednji i ‘najnoviji’ trenutak kada svako znanje bude uminulo...

Time smo neopazice došli do one zone znanja u kojoj se samo po sebi nameće pitanje o cjelini znanog i znatljivog, u što je uključen i sam subjekt znanja – čovjek. Tu se smještaju *filozofija* i *teologija* kao eminentne forme znanja i promišljanja cjeline zbilje – ukoliko je ona ‘samonikla’ (gr. *physis*) odnosno ukoliko je ‘stvorenje’ (gr. *ktisis*). Bez obzira kako se to dvoje povezivalo i razlikovalo u prošlosti i danas, tu je također u središtu pozornosti čovjek – u teologiji s naglaskom na tome da je on (kako je ranije pokazano) Božji stvor, Bogu sličan, koji Bogu ‘odgovara’; u filozofiji pak s naglaskom na tome da on po svojoj animalnosti pripada materijalnoj živoj prirodi, ali je istodobno kao duh (duhovnost, transcendentalnost) iznad nje. I dakako, sam Bog ukoliko on sve to kao ‘temelj’ omogućuje i drži te se ljudima otkriva ili objavljuje u njihovoј povijesti, u Isusu Kristu u kojem on ne daje u prvom redu neko znanje o sebi, nego samoga sebe – „da život imaju i da ga u punini imaju“.

Filozofija i teologija, svaka na svoj način, u dijalogu i prijeporu, bude i budnom održavaju strast uvijek novog određi-

vanja onoga što u nekom dobu i u duhovnom obzoru neke kulture treba vrijediti kao istinito, dobro i lijepo. Za to je neophodan također dijalog sa znanostima i među njima. Odatle se izvodi posebna funkcija Katedre za teologiju u krilu katoličkog sveučilišta. Za naše je naime Sveučilište od primarne važnosti uočavanje veze koja postoji i koju valja osjećivati i njegovati između njegovih odjela i Katedre za teologiju. To može biti od nemale važnosti u pogledu cjelovitog shvaćanja ljudske osobe, shvaćanja koje je uključeno u moment katolištva našeg Sveučilišta.

Katedra za teologiju

Svrha Katedre za teologiju na Hrvatskom katoličkom sveučilištu može se sagledati u nekoliko vidika. Tu je najprije teologija kao predmet poučavanja na Sveučilištu. Ne ulazeći u sadržaj predmeta koje ona već nudi, htjeli bismo istaknuti tri vidika u kojima se teološki predmeti obrađuju i nude studentima. Na prвome mjestu je veza kršćanske vjere i njezine teologije kao znanja o vjeri u Boga – vjera uzeta kao temeljno čovjekovo egzistencijalno opredjeljenje i odgovor na Božju poruku života i spasa čovjeku, ukratko: kršćanska vjera kao način života ili način kako se odvija ono ‘biti-čovjek’ (*the way of life*). S tim u vezi teologija izražava reflektirano samorazumijevanje kršćanske zajednice, tj. Crkve, i vjernika u njoj. Ona je istodobno intelektualnoj i široj kulturnoj javnosti okrenuto lice vjere koja ide za komunikacijom svoje jedinstvene poruke. S tim ide zajedno, kao drugo, razvijanje kršćanskog pogleda na ljudsko biće: tko je čovjek u optici kršćanske vjere, bez obzira bio on vjernik ili ne? Koji mu je smisao? I na kraju, ono što se odatle dade izvesti kao specifičan teološki prinos shvaćanju spoznaja i znanja što se posreduju i uče na sveučilišnim odjelima - riječ je o nekim graničnim temama koje se samoj teologiji nameću polazeći od svakog od studijskih smjerova. Važno je da studenti dobe o tome solidnu informaciju jer se kroz to očituje središnja crta identiteta ustanove na kojoj stu-

diraju. Time se ne zadire u njihova egzistencijalna opredjeljenja, nego im se nudi spoznaja nečega u čemu se prepoznaje većina naših sugrađana i što je kroz povijest bitno suoblikovalo naš nacionalni i kulturni identitet i što je ugrađeno u sam temelj naše sveučilišne ustanove.

Katedra za teologiju može na tom području, u uskoj suradnji sa sveučilišnim odjelima i fakultetima, odrediti granična područja koja će se interdisciplinarno obrađivati na kolegijima, seminarima, radionicama, simpozijima ili u bilo kojoj drugoj prikladnoj formi. To u načelu može biti ponuđeno nastavnicima, studentima i svima koji i inače imaju interesa za tu problematiku, unutar Sveučilišta i izvan njega. Ukratko, riječ je o *graničnim pitanjima teologije, filozofije, znanosti i umjetnosti*. Konkretni organizacijski oblici rada ovdje mogu ostati otvoreni, važno je da se potreba promišljanja graničnih pitanja ne izgubi iz vida i da se u okviru mogućnosti počne na tome raditi. Katolička su sveučilišta ne samo primjereno nego i nasušno potrebno mjesto za rad na tom graničnom području.

Filozofiju ovdje shvaćamo kao neizbjježni *interface* između teologije, znanosti i umjetnosti i to stoga jer znanstvene spoznaje ne mogu biti izravno prenašane u teološki kontekst, ni obratno, nego ih treba prirediti posredstvom filozofske refleksije o znanstvenom jeziku i pojmovima koji su svaki puta u igri. Drugim riječima, filozofija je trajno prisutna ne kao zasebno disciplinarno vrlo razvedeno područje, nego kao posredovateljska refleksivna instancija koja omogućuje komunikaciju spoznaja među područjima znanja i prevođenje različitih jezika i pojmove u druge. To je takoreći ‘filozofija usput’; treba naime filozofiski misliti ako se spoznaje (različite po svojem postanku i u svojim formama te poštujući razlike racionalnosti) žele povezivati i povezane komunicirati.

Ovdje valja upozoriti tek na neke distinkcije i formalne elemente koji su od temeljne važnosti kad se pristupa tako shvaćenim graničnim pitanjima. Moraju naime biti jasni poj-

movi koji se ovdje obično rabe, ali se možda ne vodi dovoljno računa o njihovu opsegu i relacijama. – Govori se naime o odnosu znanosti i vjere, o odnosu znanosti i religije te o onom znanosti i teologije. Čini se da je riječ uglavnom o istom, ali tomu nije tako. Upravo zato što se misli da je sve to manje više isto i da je odnos manje više isti, nastaju konfuzije i nesporazumi. U smislu jedne prethodne orijentacije mogu se predložiti sljedeća razlikovanja o kojima je dobro povesti računa u raspravljanju graničnih pitanja:

(1) Kad se govori o odnosu *znanosti i vjere*, umjesno je shvatiti to prvenstveno u odnosu prema osobi znanstvenika: kako on osobno stavlja skupa i povezuje svoj racionalni i objektivirajući pristup svijetu, pristup koji se zasniva na metodičkoj sumnji i kritici, i stav i držanje vjere koja je u svojoj srži čin pouzdanja. Pitanje se dakle tiče znanstvenikova duhovnog života: kako on povezuje svoju znanost i svoju vjeru ili bilo koju drugu formu egzistencijalnog opredjeljenja u cjelinu svog osobnog duhovnog života? Duhovni život shvaćamo najopćenitije kao život u skladu s izabranim vrednotama koje vode čovjekov način života, njegovo postupanje i njegove društvene transakcije. Znanost je jedna od onih vrednota koje u naše doba utječu na sva područja života i zasigurno nije bez veze s egzistencijalnim opredjeljenjima znanstvenika. Stoga je umjesno razmišljati i raspravljati o odnosu kritike kao osnovne crte svake spoznajne aktivnosti i osobnog uvjerenja; egzistenciju naime znanstvenika prožima dijalektika kritike i uvjerenja.

(2) Kad je riječ o *znanosti i religiji*, onda su u prvom planu načini kako su se i oblici u kojima su se religiozne zajednice (razne Crkve, druge religije) i njihove ustanove pozicionirale ili kako se pozicioniraju prema sveprisutnoj činjenici znanosti - prirodnih i drugih – i prema primjeni njihovih rezultata u tehnici i tehnologiji te u njihovim povratnim učincima na čovjeka i na društvo. To valja promotriti kroz povijest i u sadašnjosti te i dalje pratiti peripetije tog odnosa. Na primjer, kako se rana Crkva pozicionirala prema grčkoj filozofiji i zna-

nostima koje je ona u sebi sabirala i prenosila; kako je bilo s tim na početku novog vijeka i dalje; kako su se pozicionirale islamske zajednice s obzirom na istu zbilju; kako se sada pozicioniraju Crkve odnosno religijske zajednice s obzirom na izazove tehnike i tehnologije i njihovih posljedica za čovjeka i za prirodu; itd. Riječ je dakle o institucionalnom vidiku odnosa na obje strane. S tim u vezi u naše su vrijeme posebno virulentna pitanja početka i kraja ljudskog života te odnosa prema prirodi. Religije i njihove mudrosne tradicije nose u sebi svjetlo koje nam može biti od koristi u *obuhvatnom* sagleđivanju problema s kojima smo suočeni u našoj znanstvenoj civilizaciji.

(3) Kad se pak govori o *znanosti i teologiji*, onda valja znati da nije riječ o osobnoj ni o institucionalnoj razini njihova odnosa, nego je riječ o spoznajnoj razini: kako se ta dva diskursa, znanstveni i teološki, mogu – ili ne mogu – susresti i eventualno povezati? Koje su im specifičnosti? Gdje bi mogla biti njihova dodirna točka? Kako jedan te isti pojam različito funkcionira u dva različita jezika (npr. pojam prirode ili naravi u teologiji i u znanostima; znanje – religiozno i znanstveno; pojam života, itd.)? Ovdje valja izbjegći i konkordizam i diskordizam te tragati za mogućim mjestima i formama povezivanja odnosno artikulacije dvaju različitih diskursa uz pomoć jednog diskursa – onog filozofijskog – koji objašnjava datosti, znanstvene pojmove i njihovo značenje, koji artikulira pitanja o svrhama i o smislu te etička pitanja koja znanost pobuđuje, ali ne daje na njih odgovor. Tu su i pitanja o granicama znanosti. Filozofska se refleksija stoga odvija na razini objašnjavanja, preciziranja i produbljivanja pitanja o smislu; to su po naravi metafizička pitanja koja su otvorena za ono što teologija umije reći iz svojih vlastitih izvora i iz iskustva vjere. Na tom se putu možda mogu zajedno ‘susresti’ sva tri svjetla: ono znanosti, ono filozofije i ono teologije, ali tako da se u svojoj interferenciji ne poništavaju nego pojačavaju. Svjetlo umjetnosti pak može biti u stanju pokazati dubinske odjeke iskustava i slutnja koje se rađaju u spomenutom susretu.

Na svim tim razinama Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište ima što ponuditi i nema prava povlačiti se iz tih područja gdje uglavnom vlada 'pristojno' primirje, bez mnogo dubljih kontakata, dok negdje iznenada i neočekivano ne buknu prijepori i sporenja u kojima su prekoračivanje granica i ideologiziranje spoznaja gotovo redovito na dnevnom redu. Rad na graničnim područjima dugotrajan je i osjetljiv, ne daje brzo rezultate i zahtijeva veliku dozu strpljivosti, uvježbanu moć pažljiva slušanja drugoga, umijeće uvijek rizičnog prevodeњa iz jednog jezika u drugi te iskrenu spremnost učenja, korigiranja i proširivanja vlastitih spoznaja u svjetlu spoznaja druge strane. Razlika racionalnosti koje su ovdje u pitanju premošćuje se pod uvjetom da postoji i da se strpljivo njeguje *takt* koji vodi računa o različitim 'prisilama' koje vladaju na svakom području znanja i iskustva te koji je otvoren za sagedavanje vlastite pozicije iz perspektive drugoga.

ZAKLJUČAK

Pokušali smo pokazati u čemu vidimo bitne momente katoličkog identiteta našeg Sveučilišta i u kojem smjeru ide njegovo poslanje. Nije rečeno sve što bi se moglo i trebalo reći, ali ipak dovoljno da se shvati kako identitet za pojedinca i ustanovu znači komunikativnu otvorenost koja je u upravno razmjernom odnosu s izgrađenom samosviješću ustanove, njezinih nastavnika i studenata kao onih koji tvore ustanovu. Katolištvo nije konfesionalna zatvorenost nego je izraz i forma vjere svjesne svoje povijesti i kulturne smještenosti, otvorene dijalogu i prijeporu gdje je on neizbjježan, prihvaćanju drugoga i plodnoj razmjeni s njime, kritičkom prihvaćanju novoga i samokritičkom ispravljanju jednostranosti i pogrešaka. To se ostvaruje u suradnji s drugim visokoobrazovnim ustanovama u domovini i u inozemstvu. Poslanje i svrhu Sveučilišta u krilu akademске zajednice i šireg društva vidimo u tome da svojom prisutnošću i zauzetim znanstveno-nastavnim radom upozorava na bogomdano dostojanstvo čovjeka – subjekta znanosti – i na otvorenost prema transcendentiji tog istog subjekta u krilu znanstvene civilizacije našeg doba. U tu perspektivu Sveučilište nastoji integrirati sve relevantne spoznaje znanosti i kulture te pokazati da naš svijet i naše doba nije ‘zabijeno daskama’ i bez perspektive, nego je prostor sporazumijevanja i zajedništva različitih koji svoju različitost poštuju i ujedno ju nastoje shvatiti i živjeti kao bogatstvo cjeline. Životu mjesne Crkve ono daje bitan doprinos time što obrazuje žene i muškarce koji na zreo i odgovoran način žive svoj kršćanski poziv u akademskom miljeu i u cjeлини društva te prema svojim mogućnostima aktivno sudjeluju u životu svojih vjerničkih zajednica. A svojom povezanošću s istovrsnim katoličkim ustanovama diljem Europe i svijeta te

svojim djelovanjem na međunarodnoj razini Hrvatsko katočko sveučilište također daje svoj skroman doprinos izgradnji sveopće Crkve, povezivanju ljudi te produbljivanju znanstvenog znanja na globalnoj razini.

DODATAK

CJELOŽIVOTNO OBRAZOVANJE SVEUČILIŠNIH NASTAVNIKA I DJELATNIKA

Idejni nacrt

Hrvatsko katoličko sveučilište zajednica je profesora i studenata koji su u trajnoj interakciji. Istraživanje, poučavanje i učenje kompleksni su procesi koji se uzajamno uvjetuju i mogu samo zajedno rasti prema izvrsnosti. Zato se na svim područjima znanstveno-nastavnog djelovanja osjeća potreba za kontinuiranom izobrazbom svih koji sudjeluju u nastavi i u istraživanju. Visoka specijaliziranost i rast spoznaja o stvarnosti svijeta, života i ljudi zahtijevaju da akademsko osoblje bude upoznato ne samo sa stanjem stvari u vlastitoj struci – što je samo po sebi razumljivo – nego i da usavrši svoje nastavničke i istraživačke kompetencije koje su od presudne važnosti za razvoj znanosti i za plodno prenošenje znanja studentima. Stoga Sveučilište smatra svojom dužnošću poraditi na stručnom i znanstvenom usavršavanju, ali i na dubljem upoznavanju kršćanske slike čovjeka i njegova smisla te naravi same sveučilišne ustanove. Naime, uz samu po sebi razumljivu akademsku i širu nacionalno-kulturnu dimenziju njegova identiteta, u kontekstu suvremenog globaliziranog svijeta ide i njegova katolička dimenzija koju valja poznavati i o njoj voditi računa.

U skladu s idejama ovoga teksta bit će korisno podastrijeti mali idejni nacrt o tome kako bi se one mogle konkretnije primijeniti u životu Sveučilišta i to u formi cjeloživotnog obrazovanja njegovih nastavnika, ali i djelatnika koji doduše ne sudjeluju u znanstveno-nastavnom procesu, ali su od presudne važnosti za njegovo korektno provođenje; njihova stručna kompetentnost i djelovanje trebaju također naći svoju odgovarajuću formu koja je u skladu s katolištвom sveučilišne ustanove.

Ovaj idejni nacrt tematizira četiri smjera u kojima se mogu razraditi četiri uzajamno povezane teme: osnovni elementi kršćanskog poimanja čovjeka (I.), narav i poslanje katoličkog sveučilišta (II.) te nastavna (III.) i znanstvena (IV.) djelatnost njegova nastavnog osoblja. Prve dvije važne su kako za nastavnike tako i za sve druge djelatnike Sveučilišta, dok se druge dvije specifično odnose na nastavnike.

I. Čovjek - elementi kršćanske antropologije - Ovom temom želi se dati uvid u kršćansko shvaćanje čovjeka polazeći od njegove biblijske vizije s produžetkom u naučavanju Crkve. Čovjek - stvoren na sliku i priliku Božju kao muško i žensko te obnovljen u Isusu Kristu – biće je nepovredivog osobnog dostojanstva, usprkos svojoj tjelesnoj, moralnoj i duhovnoj krhkosti. Budući da je čovjekova narav društvena, rast osobe i društva ovise jedno o drugome; jedno i drugo svoju puninu nalaze u Isusu Kristu koji je posvetio sve ljudske veze. U njemu se očituje da je konačni čovjekov poziv biti u zajedništvu s Bogom, prema čemu upućuju osnovne forme ljudskog zajedništva. Za Sveučilište je važno da svi članovi sveučilišne zajednice budu primjereno upoznati s kršćanskim shvaćanjem čovjeka i upoznati s njegovim razlozima i konzekvenscijama.

II. Katoličko sveučilište - identitet i poslanje - Ova tema želi prezentirati promišljanje identiteta, svrhe i poslanja katoličkog sveučilišta općenito i Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta posebno. S tim u vezi upućuje se na narav sveučilišta kao ustanove u našem društvu te se obrađuju razlozi i svrha osnivanja crkvenih visokoobrazovnih ustanova. Posebna se pozornost posvećuje mjestu našeg Sveučilišta u kontekstu visokoobrazovnih ustanova u Republici Hrvatskoj i u životu naše Crkve. Etika rada, profesionalnost te važnost svjetonazorskog momenta obrađuju se u duhu otvorenosti prema drugom i različitom. U tom istom duhu Sveučilište ide za tim da postigne izvrsnost u stjecanju i prenošenju znanja i znanstvenih spoznaja kao i u formaciji osoba, formaciji koja je nadahnuta i motivirana kršćanskom vizijom čovjeka, u služenju društvu i Crkvi.

III. Nastavnik i nastavničke kompetencije - Sve nastavničke aktivnosti usmjereni su na prenošenje znanja i vještina u kojima su nastavnici stručnjaci, a studenti motivirani da ta znanja i vještine steknu u tijeku obrazovanja koje im pruža Sveučilište. Radi toga je potrebno poraditi na učvršćivanju i porastu nastavničkih kompetencija. Time se poboljšavaju nužni uvjeti za postizanje izvrsnosti u nastavi. Nastavničke kompetencije sveučilišnih nastavnika shvaćamo kao skup znanja, vještina, sposobnosti i ponašanja koje nastavnik posjeduje; taj skup povezan je sa sveučilišnim okruženjem, a nastavnik ga stječe i usavršuje odgojem, obrazovanjem i radnim iskustvom u sveučilišnim odgojno-obrazovnim procesima. Trajna formacija nastavnika zasniva se na poštivanju sljedeća dva načela: (a) nastavnik je osoba koja je priznata u svojoj znanstvenoj disciplini, promišlja svoj rad, dobro ga organizira i predano izvodi, promiče vrijednosti Sveučilišta i primjer je svojim studentima; (b) nastavnik planira svoju pouku sa studentima tako da se vidi sklad svih njegovih momenata; pritom se služi odgovarajućim metodičkim i didaktičkim sredstvima i postupcima koji pridonose stjecanju predviđenih ishoda učenja.

IV. Znanstvenik i znanstveničke kompetencije - Nastavnik na Sveučilištu u načelu je znanstvenik jer je to uvjet za izbor u znanstveno-nastavno zvanje. Odatle potreba da se ocrtava pojam znanosti, znanstvenika i njegovih kompetencija. S tim u vezi mogu se prezentirati osnovne i najopćenitije konture logike znanstvenog istraživanja, što zahtijeva daljnja kompletiranja prema znanstvenim područjima. Imajući u vidu materiju istraživanja i mogućnosti primjene znanstvenih spoznaja nameće se također potreba promišljanje etike u kontekstu znanosti. Novovjeka povijest znanosti i naša suvremenost pokazuju ideološku upotrebu znanosti, napose u odnosu spram svjetonazorskih pitanja i egzistencijalnih opredjeljenja ljudi općenito i znanstvenika napose (pitanja na granicama znanosti, filozofije, religije i umjetnosti). S druge pak strane povijest znanosti, posebice u 20. st. i danas, sve više pokazuje njezinu

ovisnost o političkim i ekonomsko-financijskim faktorima, što postavlja u pitanje autonomiju znanosti: ne samo čemu, nego još više komu služi znanost? Postoji li neka specifičnost znanstvenika na katoličkom sveučilištu? Ovdje se otvara pogled preko granica disciplina i nastoji se istaknuti ono što je bitno za znanstveni rad kao takav i za znanstvenike koji se njime bave. Time se daje osnovni doprinos interdisciplinarnosti na polju znanosti i potiče se dijalog znanstvenika koji djeluju na različitim područjima istraživanja.

Pozornost spram četiriju spomenutih tema ili mogućih smjerova cjeloživotne formacije naših nastavnika i djelatnika zasigurno će pridonijeti porastu kvalitete rada pa time i realizaciji svrhe radi koje je Sveučilište utemeljeno. Stoga je ne samo poželjno nego je i potrebno na tome konkretnije poraditi.

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IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF CROATIA



CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF CROATIA
ZAGREB
UNIVERSITAS
STUDIORUM
CATHOLICA
CROATICA
ZAGRABIA

Zagreb, 2024

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

The tradition of Catholic universities founded by the Roman Catholic Church has received and receives high recognition, notwithstanding the spiritual (religious, cultural, intellectual, etc.) tone of the social environment in which these universities operate, from Europe and America, through Africa and Asia, and as far as Australia; emphasis is everywhere on academic excellence, respect for the person and the person's dignity, and the quality of interpersonal relations. With this in mind, the Catholic University of Croatia wants to give its contribution in the context of the higher education system in our homeland since it believes that the message of the Gospel, which animates our institution from within, is an added value that Croatia's general educational system needs. It is not about ideology that counts people and measures their ideological suitability. On the contrary, the Christian understanding of the human being, his dignity and the sublimity of his mission wishes to invigorate the mode of operation and interpersonal communication among the entire staff and students in research, education and studies. Therefore, there is an obvious need to reflect on the identity and mission of the University.

The essence of all this is our conviction that we wish to have a university that brings out the very best in its staff and students and helps them to develop it. This document on the identity and mission of the Catholic University of Croatia strives to demonstrate that this can be properly achieved and maintained bearing in mind the *Catholic intellectual and broader spiritual tradition*, which gave rise to the first universities long ago and has preserved its values, in spite of all the historical changes or forms and activities of institutions of higher learning throughout history.

Therefrom emerges the identity of our University, as a trefoil of three dimensions - academic, Catholic and Croatian. Catholicism as one of the dimensions of the University's identity wants to be manifested through viewpoints, positions and conduct of all the members of our university community. The need to be aware of and reflect on this dimension arises from the University's founding documents; however, the postulates articulated in these documents show that it is desirable to present them in a different, more narrative manner: things should be described and expounded and perspectives arising therefrom for the institution's activity and work within it should be highlighted.

The incentive to work in this direction came from the Rector and his Vice-Rectors; the work commenced several years ago within the framework of a group led by then Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Assoc. Prof. Ines Sabotić, Ph.D. This document owes much to her dedication, perseverance and suggestions. The ideas presented at group meetings needed not only systematic structuring but also further elaboration and expansion in several aspects. This task as well as the final editing of the material was performed by Prof. Stjepan Kušar, Ph.D.; he is the author of the basic text. The final version was drafted based on remarks from the Rector, his Vice-Rectors and Assoc. Prof. Zoran Turza, Ph.D. as well as Asst. Prof. Odilon Singbo. Our sincere thanks to all of them for their work and cooperation. The final draft was adopted at the 16th session of the 4th Senate of the Catholic University of Croatia on 10 May 2022.

Taking a closer look, the document reveals three parts: (1) Understanding Identity and Mission; (2) Catholicism - the University's Specific Difference; (3) Human Being – Subject and Object of Science. These three parts were extensively and clearly elaborated, therefore no need to make special reference to them here. It suffices to draw attention to some key moments emerging therefrom:

- The *identity* of the institution, as we understand it, is its communicational openness that is in direct proportion to

the self-awareness of its values held by its employees and students.

- *Catholicism* is an expression and form of faith that is aware of its historical and cultural positioning, open to dialogue and disputation, to the acceptance of the other and a fruitful exchange with the other, critical acceptance of the new and self-critical correction of unilaterality and mistakes.
- In the fold of Croatia's academic community and society at large, the Catholic University of Croatia sees its *purpose* in giving its contribution to advancement of science and education through its presence and activity. The University draws attention to the God-given dignity of a human being as a subject of science and his openness to transcendence (God) in the fold of the scientific civilisation of our time.
- The University wishes to be a *space of understanding and community of different people* who respect each other's differences and strive to understand and live them as a richness of the whole community; they develop this to their benefit and the benefit of the whole community.

For this matter not to be left on a descriptive and principled level, the document includes in its final part a draft programme of life-long learning for the faculty and staff of our University; it is a sign of operationalisation of the contents this document offers. It gives a desirable incentive to the implementation of its spirit in the activities and behaviour of our university community.

We are confident it will be a contribution to the proper understanding of the Catholic University of Croatia, its place and activity in our society and our Church, and in particular in the academic community of our homeland.

Rector

Prof. Željko Tanjić, Ph.D.

INTRODUCTION

From time to time, individuals feel the need to pause and summarise important insights from their experience, reflect on their own views and conduct, and recall the meaning of their lives. Similarly, social institutions occasionally need to raise awareness of the purpose of their own existence and activity in order to improve their activity and respond more adequately to the purpose of their existence in their respective societies. The need for this becomes greater on both sides mentioned as the speed of social changes they are faced with increases, and as the challenges these changes entail become more unpredictable and difficult. All of this is of major importance for the identity of an institution, the way it understands its existence, objectives and activities.

The purpose of the following text is to collect what is scattered in various basic documents of the Catholic University of Croatia, and documents of the Church's Magisterium expounding the nature of ecclesiastical higher education institutions. This collection does not consist of quotations from the aforementioned pieces of writing and documents, but rather reflections on parts of their content that make the identity and mission of the institution clear and visible. The material collected and reflected upon in this way wants to be remembered: it is "for memory" - *pro memoria* – so that those whom this concerns may more easily and efficiently recall what is essential for their activity and self-understanding as the University's employees. We have in mind students, teachers and their associates, academic services that enable and accompany the process of learning, teaching and research providing administrative support.

Two closely connected ‘dimensions’ are in the focus of attention of this text - the *identity* and *mission* of the Catholic University of Croatia. We strive to call to mind their meaning in the context of our institution and reflect on their ensuing consequences for the self-understanding and work of the students, the University academic and non-academic staff. A specific aspect under which the topic is considered is the University’s Catholicity. Our intention is to answer the question: What does it mean for the University’s identity and mission? And further: What does Catholicity mean for those who work at different posts at the University? Finally: What do we believe is necessary and desirable to do for this moment of identity to be understood and accepted - or, to say the least, respected - by all members of the University’s community?

This way of dealing with the topic imposes the following sequence of contributions: first, we want to emphasise essential elements in understanding identity in general from the perspective of a person and an institution and then analyse it, bearing in mind our University (I). In Part II, we shall explain the concept of Catholicity in greater detail using the specific Christian vision of the human being as a starting point, and demonstrate essential elements of the concrete shape of the Catholic identity of our University (II). In Part III, we want to deal with the fact that in the context of the University the human being is a subject and an object of science. We shall reflect on some consequences and challenges resulting from it for the understanding of the human being in the perspective of both the scientific and the Catholic character of our University as its distinct features (III). Finally, in the Appendix, we present a conceptual activity plan that could and – we are confident – should become part of the life-long education of our University teachers and employees. These are elements that take into consideration the University’s specifics and try to integrate them into the scientific and teaching process and the life of the University’s community in general.

I. UNDERSTANDING IDENTITY AND MISSION

Person – Institution – Mission

Identity in General - Person

We do not understand identity primarily as a role, i.e. specific activities and a conduct expected from an individual in society and predictable, or as a group of explicit features of an individual personality that society expects to observe in an individual. Furthermore, we do not understand identity as a set of stable and rigid features and characteristics that are immune to the challenge of differences coming from other and different in society.

Speaking in most general terms, we understand identity as a coherently structured totality of views, understandings and evaluations - which are not always necessarily explicitly formulated - and which constitute the spiritual profile of a human being, who is recognised in his depth (inexpressibility), complexity and orientation to values that govern his activities. Identity understood in this way is a person's communicative structure, the structure that manifests itself in that person's relation to himself and to those who are different from him; it is a creative tension between ego-centrism and allo-centrism. In brief, identity is the communicative form of a person, this every time unique 'appearance' that demonstrates the specific quality of human life in a fruitful tension between spiritual and physical moment.

Understood in that sense, identity should be considered vis-à-vis these two sides mentioned and under the aspect of its formation. As a dynamic communicative givenness, identity is something that 'happens' and is formed in its relation

to others (the allocentric side of identity). Its creation, formation and maintenance are intersubjective; the individual is himself, but he is never only for himself, mere Self, but he is that only if he is in relation to certain partners with whom he talks and interacts in the sense of his socialisation - through communication and cooperation. Viewed from this side, identity formation consists of establishing and keeping open communication and cooperation among persons who are self-aware and free, and who thus create their common world, without which their personal identity cannot be imagined or realised.

This intersubjective or social constitution of identity and personality structure does not necessarily result in underestimating the differences among persons: that which is common in the we-relations is at the same time always individually tried and understood, and our association with others ('we') requires us to seek not only our individual self-understanding (which goes by itself) but also our collective self-understanding, i.e. how we understand ourselves as a group, an institution and ultimately a nation. This takes place through the 'localisation of good': Where is my good or our good and what does it consist of? What are our common goals of action? This communicational and cooperative effort of seeking and finding is expressed and communicated in dialogue and discussion, and is communicated to others in narration or biographical narrative, if necessary.

The egocentric side of identity stands in correlation with the allocentric side we have only touched upon. Both are indispensable. Identity formation takes place in the process of distinguishing principles and values that an individual is adopting or has adopted. Hand in hand with this goes an individual's social belonging, which is freely chosen (or inherited and then adopted) and consists of his identification with persons, values and duties. As such, it constitutes an area in which an individual can decide what he will advocate and work for or reject and work against on

the one hand, and to what he will be indifferent. The sense of belonging constitutes the background for an individual's value judgements, choices and commitments. It is obvious that identity is a highly valued good for an individual requiring him to be faithful to it, or to well justify his actions and commitments with respect to it. It follows therefrom that identity cannot be reduced to a mere factual givenness, but manifests itself as something that *should* be and stay - even if through changes.

Moreover, the identity of an individual is truly important if it contains quality distinguishing and enables differentiating with regard to the objectives, ends and means for their realisation through actions. It is on this basis that an individual can determine what is important to him and what is not - ultimately, who he wants to be as a person and what he wants to be like. This includes the process of distinguishing between what is factually desired and what is worthy of being desired under the very aspect of identity: 'What kind of person are you and what kind of person do you want to be?' This leads us to the very ethical core of identity, which can be formulated as some sort of imperative:

"Act in such a way that your actions demonstrate clearly what it means to be-a human being!" or: "Be exemplary for what you want to be!"

The interaction between a situation that has been experienced, an individual's pre-reflex experience, individual articulation and cultural patterns for interpretation of experiences results in the adoption of values and the formation of an individual's identity. In this process, he aspires to harmonise these moments. This harmonisation is not imagined as a rigid givenness that is achieved once and for all, but rather as dynamic, 'happeningly' and accompanied by tensions. Another point clearly arises from it: in order to feel and know who we are, we need to have some idea of how we have come to be what we are and in what direction we are heading.

This includes the following: a link between identity formation and relation to values is necessary and undeniable for identity. This is visible *e contrario*: when an individual's world of values breaks down, he cannot keep or retain his identity (i.e. himself) as if nothing happened. And *vice versa*: the crisis of his identity necessarily affects his world of values. This is a condition for the possible development and formation of a new identity.

Consequently, identity is not a rigid and stable combination of features and characteristics, inaccessible to the challenge of differences; on the contrary, we understand it in the sense of the communicative and constructive relation of a person to himself and to what does not belong to him (different, other, other human being/people). Therefore, identity is a prerequisite for a creative relation and communication with others and for the ethos of difference. This ethos includes a person being tied by something that is undeniably his own and at the same time the feeling of other-different as a challenge to step out of himself, to transcend himself towards the other, and to change in the process of doing so. Identity includes persons understanding the meaning of their mutual differences and principally trying to understand them as their mutual enrichment and enrichment of the community, and not as a threat. A person's power of creative imagination that does not eliminate the difference, but rather sees it as a potential for something new, is of crucial importance for this kind of communication of the person with reality, other people and himself. Therefore, a person imagines new and pursues its realisation.

In conclusion, identity means the person's identifying with himself in a community of different, other persons; his connection to them and separation from them are essential moments of his identity in the reality in which this person lives and of which he is lastingly dependent. Identity (from Lat. *idem*, the same, therefrom 'identity') is actually 'becoming the same', a lasting process in time and in communica-

tion with others. A person ‘identifies’ in a society of different persons, partly identifying himself with them and adopting values and behaviour patterns, or rejecting them and seeking other, naturally suitable by age and situations. The reality of language testifies to all of this in its own way: as universal and common, it precedes an individual and enables his self-understanding in communication. Every time, it shows itself in its irreplaceably individual formation.

Identity of an Institution

A step further is understanding the identity of an institution: in this context, we consider the Catholic University of Croatia. People found institutions in order to achieve important common goals that cannot be achieved by individuals alone. The identity of an institution depends on its objectives and is the expression of the institution’s *raison d'être*. In that sense, the identity of an institution is determined by its statute. Its members recognise themselves as a community aiming at the realisation of set and accepted objectives. They elect office holders and determine administrative bodies that serve the purpose of the institution and the aspect under which it needs to function. Identification of members of the institution concerned with its purpose is of crucial importance for its good functioning and its very survival. Without this identification, the institution does not have a recognisable identity in society, however clear it may be defined in its fundamental documents. Mere identity on paper alone is the institution’s anticipated death certificate.

The institution’s purpose is a set of principles and values guiding the actions of its members. However, one needs to distinguish values from norms and desires - both in personal life and in the activities of an institution. Values are ideas or notions about what is valid, valuable; they are attractive, i.e. they attract and motivate to act in the direction of their realisation; values give a human being an idea of what to do

under their horizon, and thus how to step out of oneself in one's actions. This is therefore a contribution to the materialisation of the institution's purpose, with whose value goals an individual has identified himself or has adopted.

Documents stipulating an institution's purpose and formulating its self-understanding, which should be shared by its members or employees, express not only values for the sake of which an institution exists, but also norms or regulations its employees need to abide by in their work. Generally speaking, norms, unlike values, are restrictive, i.e. they determine direction and restrict the possibility of action both with respect to the goals and the means for their realisation. In that sense, one could say that norms presuppose values underlying them. They are a prescriptive or directive expression of duty (deontologic perspective), whereas values are an evaluative expression saying what is worth and how something is worth as a goal or purpose of some action (teleologic perspective).

Economic logic, which, to a large extent, determines the social behaviour of individuals and institutions, prefers a language of goods, and aims at the convergence of values and desires by means of the concept of preference (that which is 'preferred,' which is given advantage over something else, or which has a 'higher price'). In this linguistic use, preference thins down and tends to eliminate the difference between value and desire. In contrast to this, one needs to insist on differentiation: a value is not a factual desire (i.e. when somebody wants something) or a long-lasting and stable desire, but the perception of what is worthy to be desired, the perception of the desirable; against that background, one can understand the human experience of collisions between desires and values, collisions that accompany the life of individuals and institutions. Collisions cause crises - those conditions that require the making of new binding decisions important for the future of the institution and its employees. Values are the ones that guide desires, not *vice versa*.

All of this is of major importance for the identity of any institution since values that are included in an institution's purpose, need the support of norms or regulations that unambiguously direct and determine actions. And *vice versa*: they resemble limiters within which the materialisation of values 'flows' through the institution's activities. Subjective identification of the institution's members with its values - identification that is necessary - mobilises the dynamics of desire that 'heats' the will in its engagement. This is something on which the atmosphere or 'spirit' prevailing in the institution largely depends and which essentially contributes to overcoming obstacles on the path of achieving its set and adopted goal or purpose.

Identity and Mission

When one views the connection between an institution's identity and purpose, then it becomes clear what may be called its mission, its *raison d'être*, the purpose it should serve. The concept of mission emphasises that side of the institution's purpose turned to society at large. The mission collects socially relevant contributions of everything that the institution does in the society's public area. This can be subsumed under the term usefulness, provided that, of course, this usefulness is not measured only by physical or financial measures, but that it is primarily understood as a cultural and civilisation - spiritual - contribution to the common good.

This is particularly true of institutions that raise and educate, from nursery schools to universities. An employee of such institutions, e.g. a university teacher, is of crucial importance, because he opens up and communicates the world of values and moral values included in the purpose of the institution concerned. He does so through his teaching and professional activities and, not less important, through his conduct that, more or less, reflects his identification with the values concerned. Instruction and example including

the corresponding broader and narrower social and cultural environment are indispensable moments in this process of communicating and transferring values.

When the University is considered in this context, then three elements of its mission are discussed and with good reason: teaching (instruction and learning), science (research) and social engagement. The University's social relevance is demonstrated not only through the teachers' and students' work at the University, but in all the forms of their engagement that go beyond the strict framework of the University's work and enter society at large. These three elements permeate everything that follows, without the need to be separately emphasised each time.

Basic Characterisation of the Identity of the Catholic University of Croatia

Now, it is necessary to put previous general deliberations in the concrete context of our University, and consider the essential dimensions of its identity. By doing so, we shall bear in mind its basic documents and the documents of the Church's Magisterium relating to the life, work and purpose of institutions of higher education founded by the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic University of Croatia is one such institution.¹

The best way to proceed is to start with its name. Its name expresses the nature of the institution (university), its specific distinction (Catholic), and its social and historical location (Croatian). – It is a well known fact that there are several universities in Croatia and that all of them are Croatian, in line

¹ This text attempts to elaborate and 'narrate' the basic guidelines of the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities *Ex corde Ecclesiae* [(quoted as Ex), promulgated in 1990 and came into force in 1991. Cf. Croatian translation, *Ex corde Ecclesiae. Iz srca Crkve*, Zagreb 2006)], *Statut Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta* and *Strategija razvitka Hrvatskoga katoličkog sveučilišta do 2025.*; cf. heading "Documents" on the University website, <http://www.unicath.hr/dokumenti>.

with their location and their self-understanding, even though it is not explicit in their names. However, it is not self-explanatory that a university has its specific difference - not arising from the matter of teaching (which can be regionally coloured depending on the interests of the studies and the climate), but from something else that appears to be a specific spiritual orientation and the institution's spiritual ambiance. This spiritual orientation gives a specific 'added value' of this University in relation to other universities. It is expressed in the institution's Catholicity.

Bearing all this on mind, it is clear that the identity of the Catholic University of Croatia is a specific trefoil of three components that only together constitute its full identity. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate these three components separately and in their mutual connection, and then focus on its 'specific difference.' The word 'university' requires that we briefly consider the academic component of its identity, the word 'Catholic' its Catholic component, and the word 'Croatia' its national and cultural component.

The University's Academic Identity

The academic identity of the Catholic University of Croatia does not essentially differ from the academic identity of other Croatian institutions of higher learning of the same type. It is referred to in Croatia's general legislative acts dealing with scientific activity and higher education. It is also discussed in documents of the Church's Magisterium and the University's basic documents. In addition, the latter emphasise everything that relates to Catholicity of the University, which was founded by the Archdiocese of Zagreb, in agreement with the Croatian Bishops' Conference. Autonomy of the University is guaranteed by both sides, the Church and the state.

Based on these documents, this text wants to 'relate' what should be borne in mind when it comes to the University's ac-

tivity, and that of its employees, within the institution itself, in society and the Church.

At this point, it seems appropriate for us to highlight something that is usually disregarded ever since universities have become a type of faculty workshops lined up next to each other, and ever since the minimal thought has been given to what links them in their work and self-understanding. We attempt to understand the University in the sense of the Latin *universitas*: what is learnt and taught is viewed under the aspect of ‘one,’ towards which everything known and knowable is turned, and ‘one’ that is at work in everything. At the university’s beginnings, this was the so-called scholastic method of knowledge acquisition and transfer using question and disputation, based on universally accepted authorities. This applied to all four faculties: philosophy (*artes*), law, medicine and theology. Present-day universities are literally places where everything known and knowable is learnt and can be learnt and taught, without asking questions (it follows from the name ‘university’ that this question is not imposed by itself) whether there is one (*unum*) towards which (*versus*) everything known and knowable can be examined. The matter of learning and teaching is so rich and varied that it is illusory to think of some ‘one’ that would merge it in all its diversity in the medieval sense of the word (apart from the word ‘matter’, which does not say anything about what the matter is about every time). This is equally true of the methods applied in learning, instruction and research.

However, if things are observed more carefully, then from the formal side it is possible to notice something that is common to all the subjects of the universities’ ‘workshops’ when dealing with a certain ‘matter’—in spite of the difference in method and matter chosen. This common moment is a *course of studies*. We understand it in the meaning of its Latin origin *studium*: eager pursuit of a chosen object driven by love for the object and for the knowledge about it. Love aspiring to knowledge we talk about here is in Latin *dilectio*: chosen

love. This eager pursuit of a chosen object of knowledge is what students and teachers have in common. Moreover, this is supported by the academic services. They focus their attention on enabling and facilitating an orderly and productive learning, teaching and research process in all scientific areas relevant for the University and, of course, at all levels of studies, including doctoral studies as the crown of higher education.

A course of studies as that ‘one,’ common to all working in the University’s organisational units, can be broken down into three mutually closely connected moments. They formally merge all the work and strivings of the University’s teachers and students. They are: learning, teaching and research – all in accordance with accepted scientific standards, procedures and methods proper to each academic field. In this trefoil of that ‘one’ - a course of studies - one can discern the central component of the University’s academic identity.²

Learning characterises the work of students, those who have enrolled in an academic course of studies in order to acquire selected knowledge and professional competences, as a preparation for their future work (profession). In addition to one’s personal gain, this work essentially contributes to society building and its cultural and economic progress. Learning is a specific way of implementing *studium*: eager pursuit of the object of learning with the maximum engagement of a person’s intellectual and emotional energy while acquiring knowledge and competences. This is an effort by the brain to understand and acquire the object of knowledge and for it to become a kind of ‘intellectual possession’ of the learning person. Unlike material goods that become smaller by sharing, spiritual goods – knowledge being one of them – multiply and grow through sharing; this is their nature. For this to truly be

² For the approach to studies, especially research, cf. Ex 16-20, where the following is discussed: integration of knowledge (16), dialogue between reason and faith (17), ethical responsibility (18), theological perspective (19) and interdisciplinarity (20). This piece of writing takes this into account, but pursues a different approach.

so, one should love the selected learning matter, regardless of the fact that part of it may seem uninteresting at first sight. Without love for the knowledge and competences that one needs to acquire (investment of emotional energy refers to this), there is no progress in a person's knowledge and intellectual maturity.

Teaching goes hand in hand with learning, but refers primarily to teachers and their associates. What has been said of the nature of studies is also true for them, but now in the perspective of a transfer of knowledge and skills to students. As previously stated, when shared, knowledge grows and multiplies. In other words, this means that it is in the nature of knowledge to be fruitful not just in the sense that it can be utilised in broader society (e.g. in the economy, culture, politics, etc.) and cashed in, but it can primarily be fruitful in others who do not possess it yet, but have set out on the painstaking path of acquiring new knowledge, creating their own set of knowledge and competences under the aspect of their prospective professional practice based on knowledge. This trait of knowledge is of crucial importance both for the identity of those who learn, and of those who teach. At the same time, this emphasises their mission through which their identity is manifested and lastingly built, as a result of the dynamics of confirming and questioning what has been acquired, or refuting it and discovering the new. Bearing this in mind, it becomes clear that teaching means telling and awakening creative hope in the one who learns.

Therefore, the work of teachers should be observed under two aspects: first, how they work and should work with students; and second, how they reinforce and expand their competences as teachers. Work with students comprises lectures, seminars, training and personal tutorials, during which every student receives indications and instructions tailored to their individual needs. This is of great importance for their growth in knowledge and acquisition of it. At some Catholic universities, the process of student guidance has the

character of mentoring. This requires the teacher's readiness to be available, as provided for by corresponding university provisions. Through teaching, a young person is given hope that keeps his future open.

The duty to expand one's teaching competences goes with it. This refers to teachers' continuing education and training in their respective academic field and respect for the knowledge about didactics. This is of crucial importance when it comes to the transfer of knowledge to those who lack it, but have decided to embark upon the path of academic studies.

Research is closely connected to everything stated thus far about learning and teaching. It places particular emphasis on the moment of scientificity. The university does not only aim at transferring already existing knowledge. It also has the important task of making possible and implementing the acquisition of new knowledge through research on what is still unknown, problematic, partially known – in brief, on everything that gives rise to new questions, and searches for answers in individual academic fields. Research requires that its results and discoveries be checked and communicated in the scientific community and a broader circle of those interested. Here more than anywhere else, a quest for the truth about the state of affairs is manifested, ultimately for the truth about reality itself, if the truth is open to human knowledge and a lasting challenge to humanity to take a step out of themselves and begin dialogue with it, in a methodically conscious manner. The fruit of this dialogue are experiences and scientific knowledge. The horizon under which the dialogue takes place is the horizon of truth – regardless of whether there is still talk of truth, or already of 'post-truth'. One needs to rely on truth in any case. The best testimony to this are all the disputes about the state of affairs that are contentious. If it was otherwise, then disputes and discussions would be pointless; they always take place in the horizon of truth, no matter how contentious, insecure and partial individual results may be. Therefore, if the scientist has this in mind, he

is aware that the truth is always greater than anything he has learnt and found out. This is then the fount of modesty before the magnitude of the knowledge challenge posed by reality itself and the mission of the teacher as a scientist and researcher.

In conclusion, learning, teaching and researching, as parts of *studium*, make that ‘one’ that formally constitutes what the university is, an educational institution of the highest scientific and scientific-teaching rank in modern society of science. We need to realise that we do not just live in a society of knowledge – man has for ever lived in a society of knowledge since he has learnt and done something and in some way, since the Palaeolithic – but rather in a society of science. Science is understood as a research process that takes place in all the areas of reality, and its results and application essentially change man’s attitude towards nature, society and himself. Scientific knowledge has far-reaching consequences for man’s attitude towards culture communicated by tradition, especially towards customs and religion, no less towards ethics, which is especially evident in the field of bioethics. The application of scientific results in engineering and technology with all their immeasurable consequences for nature and man himself constitutes a special problem. Here, it is visible that science itself raises issues to which it cannot provide answers, but these answers should be sought in an interdisciplinary dialogue. Philosophy and theology must not be excluded, because their perspective is comprehensive, i.e. it refers to the totality of reality (nature and history) within which man exists and acts.

The University’s Croatian Identity

This element of the identity of the Catholic University of Croatia provides a broader social, historical and cultural framework within which it functions and realises its academic identity. In a global world that has been unstoppably and

intensely built for decades and that, modelled on uniform economic and financial forms of connecting and acting in business, influences other fields of culture and civilisation, it makes sense to emphasise the institution's location within the national culture. This is sensible for the very reason of preserving and further nurturing the cultural specifics of the Croatian people and of the environment in which the University - as any other university - operates. Therefore, an essential element of the University's Croatian identity is its self-understanding as a venue of educational, scientific and research processes. In addition to their direct academic objective, these processes aim at contributing to the development and welfare of Croatian society, preserving its national identity and promoting universal and national cultural heritage.

In connection with this, the University's Statute emphasises that an indispensable and binding perspective under which it operates is "the evaluation, preservation, promotion and protection of Croatian tradition, national heritage and culture as a whole, in interaction with society at large, and in alignment with the European system of higher education" (Art. 5). This clearly shows that the University and its researchers-teachers as individuals and experts are socially relevant, both in resolving issues and problems in various fields of social life, and in their contribution to the national culture.

We understand national culture as an organically developed set of "spiritual values, cognitive procedures and emotional reactions that an ethnic group that has already constituted itself as a nation has developed or is in the process of doing so." The group has developed it "as a suitable medium of participation in supra-ethnical civilisation and in the universal culture of the broader circle it belongs to." This is about crossing national borders, for "there is no national culture without supra-ethnic civilisation." Consequently, the Croatian national culture is constituted of "all the cultural and educational treasures enabling one to be a European, a Westerner, and a member of the global community - in the

Croatian way, in a way that is most suitable to a member of the Croatian national community” (R. Katičić).

Consequently, two elements are equally important for the national culture: national identity and overcoming of ethnic and national restrictions. Contrary to any exclusivism and purism that lead to closing oneself, we understand national identity as the totality of the historical and cultural experience of the Croatian people who, as a mature nation, can govern themselves and realise their potentials by means of their state. Their institutions - our University being one of them - function in this context. And it is in this context that the University connects and cooperates with other identical institutions at home and abroad, particularly with other Catholic universities throughout Europe and the world. Therefore, it makes sense to speak of some sort of internationalisation of the University.

The University's Catholic Identity

Taken in its basic meaning, Catholicity expands the already mentioned dimension of going even further beyond ethnic restrictions and specifies it under a religious aspect – once again, not in the sense of a narrowly understood closed religious affiliation, but in the sense of genuinely understood Catholicity, i.e. universality.³ What is meant under Catholic identity is universality, openness towards all that is human, from the specific perspective of Christian faith and the Gospel. One should know that universality and openness always presuppose a selected specific place, an existential location, starting from which a human being (and then his institutions as well) thinks the totality of reality and relates to it. Therefore, the academic community helps all its members to reach fullness as human beings, starting from its own existential

³ According to Greek *kathólou*, general, total; therefrom *tò kathólon*, that general, integral, comprehensive, universal. For the Catholic identity of a university, cf. Ex 13-15 and for its tasks 31-49.

location and making a step forward into the open space of the totality of what is human. A person's fullness also includes human openness towards transcendence, ultimately towards God. At a Catholic university, every human being is seen from this perspective; Christian belief is not imposed in any way, but is demonstrated and offered to him as an excellent possibility for achieving human existence. It is thereby evident that Catholic identity continuously develops in its rootedness in the Gospel and its universal openness. Its clarity wants to be a signpost to those that share it, and an open door, credible information and offer to those who have a different existential choice.

Therefore, the Constitution *Ex corde Ecclesiae* rightly insists that teachers and students who are not Catholic are obliged to recognise and respect the University's Catholic significance; consequently, they must know it, ie. be informed about it (Art. 26-27). Thereby, the University does not intervene into their existential choice, but respects it and takes it into account. Moreover, if an institution is Catholic and must stay Catholic, then the majority of teachers must be Catholic as well. The teachers' quality and their respect for Catholic instruction is a guarantee of the corresponding identity of an institution and its quality. The education of students needs to link academic and professional maturity with the Church's moral and religious principles and her social teaching. Students must be acquainted with Catholic teaching and receive ethical education in accordance with the deontology of their selected profession.

It is necessary to offer, in freedom, answers to human existential and spiritual issues to all members of the University community. The University pastoral ministry (University Chaplaincy) and University chaplain play an important role in this regard. In addition to the liturgical and broader pastoral offer, he also designs different activities offering the experience of Catholic faith, which is an inspiration for social engagement and quality interpersonal relations. As in other

segments of the University's activities, special attention is paid to the formation of the whole personality, taking into account their dignity and complexity. Personal pastoral contacts play an important, often irreplaceable role.

It follows that a Catholic university is an institution that belongs to the world, where knowledge about the world as a whole is acquired and developed and where the salvific message of the Gospel of Christ is lived, witnessed and interpreted. These two worlds - 'the world of thought' and 'the world of faith' - permeate each other in many areas of human existence and activity, but first and foremost in the intimacy of the personal conscience of each individual man and woman. Therefore, one should say that our University is a specific institutional place of higher learning nurturing and providing a forum for dialogue, in which these two 'worlds' mutually fructify each other to the benefit of the whole. In that aspect, Catholicity expresses a Christian humanistic programme of its own kind: to form men and women who will be capable of going beyond the excellent practice of their respective professions and engaging responsibly with others on the development of a more just and humane society.

The trefoil of these three dimensions of one identity of the Catholic University of Croatia - namely academic, Croatian and Catholic - clearly shows that a Catholic university, based on its Christian inspiration and by its very existence and activity, draws attention to the spiritual moment in the act of research, cognition and acquisition of knowledge; all of this is spiritual work. It can namely reveal the fingerprints of the divine associate in everyday university work: they are evident in the good of knowledge that is obtained and in the good that is done; they are manifested in the issues that are raised and in the issues that arise and are resolved, as well as in difficulties that are endured; they are revealed in the quest for truth, good, beauty and the meaning of reality itself, and man and his actions in this same reality.

II. CATHOLICITY - THE UNIVERSITY'S SPECIFIC DIFFERENCE

The Catholic University of Croatia grows and works from the mission of the Church. She wants to give her contribution to Croatia's system of higher education confident that the Gospel she preaches also has something to say in the context of universities and academic life as a whole. The word 'Catholic' expresses an environment and manner in which the University pursues its activity: rooted in its spiritual Christian tradition, it contributes to the growth of knowledge about man and his world, society and history and all human activity; in the process of doing so, it pays special attention to solid education and formation of the whole person of students, as responsible members of society and the Church if they are her believers.

Catholicity implies a dual responsibility of the institution and its employees, depending on the nature of their academic status and work and their existential choices. On the one hand, in the *world of thought*, the University wants to radiate light and incentives that feed on its Christian spiritual and especially intellectual tradition. From there, it wants to open new prospects for the formation and growth of each of its members and modern culture in our part of the world. On the other hand, in the *world of faith*, the University also wants to raise and transmit contents, issues and challenges from the world of science that have a sizeable influence on the understanding of human life and actions in society and nature, to Christian communities and institutions (especially persons responsible for them).

This dual responsibility towards the world of thought and the world of faith can be more easily determined using general terminology, rather than precise explanations and concrete realisations – namely they are implemented under

changeable and unpredictable circumstances of a given historical moment and social circumstances. One should also bear in mind that the fidelity to one and the other ‘world’ also causes tensions, and therefore it needs to be pondered upon, renewed and reaffirmed always anew. To express it through an image: “You are the salt of the earth” - this refers to the simultaneous cultivation of ‘the earth’ of the University, and for it to receive and adopt the evangelical ‘salt’ that feeds Christian identity in its Catholic version. The cultural and ethical form of our University is based on this.

When these basic tenets are pondered upon, it is easy to discern that ‘the foundation of the foundation’ of the Catholic identity of the University is Christian anthropology. Or, to put it in more modest terms: the Christian vision of a human being. Expressed in a question: How does Christianity understand man? The elements of an answer to this question are in direct connection with how the University understands itself and its mission.

The Christian Vision of a Human Being

Man is a being of whom it is not only permitted, but should be said that he is one (last?) link in the development of life on our planet, a result of the development of living nature. Unlike other living beings, he is aware of it and takes a stand on it in several ways: one of them is to research one’s own natural origin, one’s own sexual formation and the set of interpersonal relations through history. There is also a Christian religious understanding and position on what man is, where he comes from and what the purpose of his life on earth is; from that perspective, he is a God’s creation, whom God sees in his sexual formation and in a set of relations to the Creator, to himself, those similar to him, and nature. The first chapters of the biblical Book of Genesis speak of this. It is necessary to note that these two series of expressions mentioned about man are not on the same level and consequently do not contradict each other – each of them is legitimate in its framework of validi-

ty and on its level. Without sparking a debate about ensuing problems and issues – it suffices to say that God is not a factor in nature, but rather ‘He does so that things are done’ – it is our intention here to dwell on some important moments of the biblical message about man, the message that is in the very foundation of the Christian understanding of man.

A Being that ‘Answers’ God⁴

When the biblical speech about God and man is considered, in the first place the beginnings of the Book of Genesis (Gen. 1-3) and the beginnings of Jesus’ activity in the Gospels, one can immediately see that this is a continuous – and often interrupted and then, at God’s initiative, restarted – distinctive dialogue or covenant between these two, in all respects principally incomparable ‘partners.’ Their tense and conflict-ridden relationship gives rise to a no less conflict-ridden and strained relationship among people in their history. The basic thing, however, is that man is a being who ‘answers’ God: he ‘answers’ God first by the very thing that God created him to His likeness, in His own image. This emphasises the privileged and exclusive similarity between a human being and his Creator. This is a pre-foundation for their dialogue, a prelude to their covenant and desired community. From there this creature – a human being – has his God-given task in the Creation. This should be said for the simple reason that God wants him and that He evaluates His own work of creation as very good (Gen. 1:26-31). Thus, humans ‘answers’ God, and God loves what He has created, both as a whole and each being individually (Wis. 11:23-12:1 and 2:23).

⁴ The author uses a pun. In Croatian, the verb “odgovarati” has several meanings of which the following two are important: 1. To answer a question, answer a call or respond to a call; to answer to God who is revealed in Jesus Christ through faith. 2. To suit, to be suitable, to be to somebody’s liking, to be to God’s liking, pleasing God. In this text, the author plays with these two meanings – with both at the same time. Therefore, the English translation occasionally uses the verb “answer” emphasising man’s answer to God with faith, and occasionally “suits” whereby the author stresses that man suits God, is suitable to Him. (translator’s note).

Man answers God in the way that he gives answers to his Creator through his deeds and words. This means that God previously addresses man in a way and motivates him to give conscious replies. A man is a being addressed by God and appealed to by God and therefore his existence is responsible: suitable or not suitable to God (and at the same time a man himself!), depending on whether he respects the given order or acts differently, not taking into account what has been sent to him as a message and guarantee of life and welfare.

In this set of positive and negative responses, it becomes clear that man is addressed and asked about his place before God, about his actions and his relationship to other humans. In the form of questions, the biblical narrative confronts man with this place: (“Where are you?”, Gen. 3:9), his actions (“What is this that you have done?”, Gen. 3:13) and with his relationship to others (“Where is your brother...?”, Gen. 4:9). These questions require man to determine himself, to take account of his place within the Creation before God, his actions and his relationship to those similar to himself (“brother”). Male or female, Adam or Eve, Cain and Abel – this is unimportant; the questions addressed to them concern *each and every* human being, always and everywhere. And these are God-given questions; as such, they permeate human existence so profoundly and broadly that humans themselves pose these questions to themselves and their neighbours. They express the link of religion (place, position) and ethics (deed); if a human is not at the right place (open to God and other/others), then his deeds and behaviour cannot be right. It has always been this way with humans. If it is rightly stated that the biblical narrative is given in a mythical form, then it is equally right to say that what is narrated there is not a historical event that can be located temporally and spatially, but rather something that always is, i.e. the situation with humans has always been as the biblical narrative on these issues says: man is not at the right place, he does not do the right thing, he is not his brother’s shepherd but his murderer.

So, how is it that man is a being that ‘suits’, ‘answers’ God? Only in the sense that God comes forward and proposes to him the path to the right place, gives him the example of right actions and demonstrates His loving care for all His creation – all of this has been painstakingly prepared through history and definitely executed and demonstrated in Jesus Christ, the New Man, once and for all; this is what His Good and joyful News, the Gospel, is about. This again shows that a human being is appealed to, invited, and enabled to provide the right answer and answers to God always anew. Jesus says that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life – the materialised historical form of humanity ‘suiting’ God and offered to each human person. All the calls that permeate New Testament reports on Jesus’ encounters with people head in this direction. With this call a new lifestyle is offered, and the offer contains a promise of simply a new life (the Kingdom of God). The offer and the promise do not pressure anyone, they are an appeal to freedom and a call to the new freedom of the ‘children of God’, abandoning the ‘old man’ and adopting the ‘new man,’ as Apostle Paul likes to say.

A Being that Cares for Life and Organises the World

A crucial moment in the call to man is that he is entrusted with the care for the world he lives in and giving life to others. By the very act of God’s creation, this is written in the fundamental anthropological difference between man and woman, the difference that is bridged over in a specific form of love that creates a suitable environment for the community of those who are different: by sex, by generation and by degree of kinship and connection of the different. Care for transferring life – that there may be people on earth and that they may prosper even after us – is not a mere biological or zoological givenness (regardless of how essential and always in action these dimensions are) but it is, viewed from a God-given perspective, an extension of God’s creation, a splendid form of cooperation with the Creator, a supreme expression of love;

briefly, what is in action here is the fundamental spiritual dimension expressed through the body.

A major problem of modern civilisation is that this vertical dimension of human love is forgotten, since interpersonal relations in general, and those concerned here in particular are understood functionally, i.e. on the model of the good functioning of a device's different components. Its components are replaced by other parts when they are no longer capable of performing their expected function. Similarly, people in their interpersonal relations – including family relations – are often replaced by corresponding 'functional equivalents' when they cease to 'function' as expected...

The Christian vision of interpersonal relations is in tension with the functional and hypothetical moment of modern civilisation. This tension cannot be abolished since it is necessary to keep open the prospect of transcending the human being and pondering on it as an essential component of a person's dignity. The specific Christian ethics of interpersonal relations is thereby derived; as such, this ethics needs not necessarily be a separate teaching subject at the University, but is of crucial importance for inspiring and guiding the views and actions of its academic and non-academic staff and students.

The first page of the Bible emphasises that man is entrusted with the care for the world he lives in, more precisely: for nature whose part he is and in whose fold he lives; subsequently, there is an especially impressive illustration of it in the narration on the relation between man and animal.⁵ It is important to emphasise one moment here: The Creator's

⁵ Gen. 1:26-28 and 2:15-20. The subjection and rule, tilling and keeping mentioned here should not be understood in the sense of modern times man's relation to nature marked by Cartesian philosophy, but rather in the sense of man as understood in the ancient East, where man is God's regent or commissioner for the area entrusted to him; his task is to care for it on the model of the one who has entrusted him with it. For our time, Pope Francis has clearly emphasised all of this and everything arising from this in his *Laudato s̄i. Encyclical Letter on Care for Our Common Home* (2015).

entrusting of the creation to human hands highlights man's autonomy in his relation to nature and the Creator. This is manifested in the naming of every creature. God shows all animals to man "to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name." The man "gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field" (Gen 2:20). To give somebody a name means to know the nature of the being and care for him. This includes a certain benefit that the carer draws from it, but this benefit is subordinated to the welfare of the being for which he is supposed to care. One should respect this ethical asymmetry between subjective benefit and objective welfare - it corresponds to God's design and is good for man and for what has been entrusted to him.

Naturally, there is no such asymmetry and it has no place in the relationship between man and woman. This is expressed not by giving a name but by a cry of wonder and joy when man meets woman. They are the same in their fundamental difference; each one of them has his/her own identity and is aware of oneself thanks to the other. This is expressed by a non-translatable pun in Hebrew: 'is (man), 'isšah (woman). Their sexual difference is bridged over and preserved in the sameness of their humanity. Their difference encourages a discovery of the spiritual good of mutual recognition, which is the basis of community in love. This is not about helping a lonely man, but a human being as such (i.e. Hebr. *adam*, a man made of earth) needs help; this help is rendered in the formation of man as male and female.

Man's relative autonomy towards nature and God includes the possibility of abuse. From the beginning, the Bible *originally* sees man from the perspective of a possible and desirable correspondence of his autonomy with the Creator's intention, and when describing *historical* man, it views him from the perspective of abused autonomy. The abuse manifests itself in the creature's non-acceptance of the limits of creation and consequences arising from it for man and nature.

A human being feels an innate drive for fullness. However, his existence is survival at a crossroads: Will he understand himself and reality as the Creator's gift and act accordingly, or will he set out on the path of affirming his own power in the direction of its limitless expansion which, ultimately, gives rise to "god complex": to be able to do everything and to have everything... and to understand the fullness he aspires to in that sense? Contrary to this, the creational limit that God imposes to man rescues him from the madness of omnipotence.

Autonomy includes the possibility of free disposal of oneself and nature, but does not eliminate the difference between the Creator and the creature; it presupposes it – as it also presupposes the possibility for man to have a free relation to this limit. This means: he can agree with it (and is invited to do so), but he can also want to cross it – and then people will allegedly "be like God" (Gen 3:5). This reveals a paradox of the human being: to be able to want to be what he is not and set out on this path. This hides the mystery of his freedom that is open to another possibility: to answer the Creator's appeal.

The Christian and Bible-based speech of the history of salvation takes this into account and demonstrates that this is not irrelevant to God, but engages Him to see to it that His original design does not fall into oblivion and that His realised genuine idea of the human shines in one human being "in the fullness of time" (cf. Gal. 4:4-7). This is the coming of Jesus Christ. In history, he shows what it means to be human and how one can be human 'on God's scale' and what follows from it. This is a new man after God's will – an excellent form of humanity in which it is revealed that man overcomes man for infinity, i.e. it is given to him to discern his own sonhood of God through the figure of Christ. We are sons and daughters in the Son. According to St. Irenaeus, "the glory of God is man fully alive, but the life of a man is the vision of God." Certainly, the vision of God not as an object, even if an object of love, but the vision that sees God and His actions as a

role model for one's own actions as creatures: this is how *visio Dei* is achieved as the ultimate objective of earthly existence. Man's faith in God opens knowledge and practice of the experience of the be-human way in history.

The historical being, historical existence also means an irreversible possibility of missing the goal shown and the path to it. It also demonstrates a factual, always repeated realisation of that possibility – and of the opposite one, consisting of walking on the proposed path towards the goal. Here, it refers to sin understood not just as a mere moral trespass entailing guilt, but sin as a religious category that essentially goes beyond the mere moral level. Taken for themselves, a moral trespass and its guilt label a human life as a complete failure - there is no way out of guilt. All the moral efforts do not abolish and redeem the wrongdoing and the accompanying guilt; they remain.

Only forgiveness, that cannot be extorted by force and that comes from a free will changes the state of affairs. Christian faith looks upon sin from the perspective of a possible, indeed offered forgiveness. Every forgiveness by God is a new creation, a new man emerges. He is called and enabled to live in this novelty. Through forgiveness, he is able to understand his sin and its consequences not as a burden of guilt that can never be laid aside, but as a borderline in the area of new growth, maturation and bearing fruits of new God-given justice - even though one has sinned seventy times seven. Forgiveness means opening this border to step out into that action that expresses the novelty of new life, beyond guilt and sin that God, after forgiveness, "cast behind your back" (Isa. 38:17). For him: as if they never existed; for us: a new freedom.

This is a gift or, expressed in religious vocabulary, grace – that makes man dear in the eyes of God, that makes man 'suit' God. This has consequences for man himself – individual, for his interpersonal relations and for human society...

There, one is allowed to talk about man's renewed identity as 'God's child'. Whoever is afraid that this name pushes him into infantilism may freely use Paul's expression 'new man'; it means the same.

Homo Homini – Homo

What ensues for the understanding of man and his interpersonal relations? At first glance, history appears to be a theatre of bloody conflicts between groups and individuals, a permanent struggle for power and authority, an empire of the law of force and of the too rare presence and efficiency of the force of law – not to mention love we all yearn for... A conclusion that imposes itself is that man is a wolf, a beast to another man. He remains so even if he has channelled his violence by organising a state. Wars and revolutions evidently document this. One need not have a specially developed fantasy to see that this also materialises in the area of personal relations among people, all the way to the heart of the family.

On the other hand, criticism of religion, which strives to bring heaven down to earth and preaches that a man is god to another man (L. Feuerbach et al.), has excessively shown that man can easily turn from god to demon, actually that a man can be a beast to another man, in attempts undertaken to realise his new imagined man and society in history. Violence justified with good intentions remains what it is – violence, with an additional consequence: man ceases to believe in the good intentions of his neighbours, and even more so of those who offer to rule on his behalf and to his benefit.

Likewise, but on the other side, on the religious side, in our case the Christian side, we should be modest and use the expressions 'brother' and 'sister' sparingly. Namely, such envy and hatred existing among true brothers and true sisters can rarely be encountered anywhere else. This is why the first pages of the Bible discuss the relationship between two brothers – and then describe how one kills the other. Historical quarrels

among Christians themselves, as early as in the first Church and up to this day, despite all ecumenism, evidently demonstrate that relations between brothers and sisters are in fact a very dubious metaphor for what is desired within Christian communities, among them and in their relations to those outside them - in interpersonal relations in general. Therefore, it is completely pertinent to be careful and vigilant when relations among brothers and sisters are used to say how relations among people in Church and out of it should be. Not delving into details, we nevertheless deem it necessary to refer to Pope Francis' *Fratelli tutti. Encyclical Letter on Fraternity and Social Friendship*, in which the Pope convincingly demonstrates that relations between brothers and sisters go beyond religious, geographic, racial and every other differences, which certainly includes vigilance and preparedness to forgive, to reconcile and overcome conflict (cf. no. 81 f.).

It will perfectly suffice for a man to be a man to another. This is not easy either and takes effort. A certain effort is needed to understand, respect and especially love it. Nevertheless, this is still most realistic and within everyone's reach. This can of course be achieved in many ways. The way we are interested here is the Christian way, on the model of the conduct of Jesus Christ, on the model of his humaneness and his human treatment through which his divine nature radiates. Much more important than to speak of it is to love it and adopt it invisibly, in the intimacy of one's own heart, at times and at a pace that are one's own, special and intimate. The foundation of this view is that God became a man to a man/people in Jesus Christ. This is fundamental; brotherhood, sisterhood, friendship and everything else that can be said as a specification of God's and our humanity and humaneness essentially does not go beyond the fact that God is inexpressibly close to us in the incarnation of His Logos, Word, in the man Jesus of Nazareth.

The spirit of Catholicity, and the Catholic identity of man and his institutions, the Church and all the others, is in see-

ing every human being in this way - whether or not this other has this view of a human being and such attitude towards him. A man is neither a wolf nor god to another man, but only a man - and this is enough; for, it is true of each and everyone that God has created him "in our image, according to our likeness." This is enough for harmonious work and the coexistence of people in communities and institutions, in spite of all cultural and other differences. One should not despise this first and lowest step of an ascent to possible higher zones of existence in community. It is unavoidable. Who wants to skip it - in a conservative and absolutist, clerical and sacralised or progressive and revolutionary manner - brings evil upon others and thereby upon oneself as well.

Considering 'mother earth', one should not be carried away with some democratic or any other paradise on earth. Moreover, it does not seem pertinent to us to consider that there is hell on earth, since it is inadmissible to overlook everything good that is more or less secretly achieved here and that precedes every one of us and that we can rely on. It is enough for us to have earth on earth, even more so if we view it from the perspective of God's creation, as emphasised.

If viewed in this way, we believe it is possible and justified to speak of three *problem knots* that not only display mutually interconnected problems, but also represent a lasting challenge to the Christian moral and theological reflection developed from the Christian understanding of the human being. They are permanently and unbreakably present in the Christian identity of an individual and institution, and the Christian community as such. Each person and each institution that consider God's word given to us in the Holy Scriptures to be relevant must cope with them. They are as follows: (1) Everything that exists is a fruit of God's good creation; in spite of this, the creation displays some negativity which, with or without human participation, incessantly contradicts original goodness. (2) One discerns an unavoidable conflict between two equally absolute and therefore unbreakable needs

in the heart of human moral strivings and ethical issues and problems he copes with: the need for measure and rule ('command'), and the need for freedom ('autonomy'). (3) If ethics should have authority in human actions, i.e. if it should expand the areas of justice and good, it needs a transcendental ('religious') point of reference that cannot be disputed for social or ideological reasons and that functions as an arbiter in conflict situations. This is about giving the absolute the right place it deserves, between idolatry on the one hand, and reduction of the sacred to a mere opinion or an individual taste on the other hand.

These three problem knots do not provide solutions - they are also problematic: because they are unbreakable, they are the source of new problems that should be resolved every time from the start, they are the expression of the unbreakable finality of man and his institutions; at the same time, they are a lasting challenge to every person (i.e. his freedom) who, concerned about a *good life*, wants to be responsible to oneself and to others (society), and live and act in just institutions. They constitute coordinates for their responsible functioning. In this process, confidence and reason go hand in hand with respect to this: confidence in the Spirit of God who speaks through the signs of the times and opens new prospects of life and actions, and reason capable of distinguishing the impossible and the necessary, the useless and the harmful in complex situations of modern life. In all of this, a believer is always faced with a challenge: to believe in man as God believes in him. His irrevocable "Yes!" to man is once and for all said in Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 1:19 f.), and therefore casts the right light on all interpersonal relations and opens prospects to them for the common good and achievement of the ultimate purpose: to be-with-God.

A Concrete Form of Catholicity at the University

It has been mentioned that a Catholic university is rooted in the Catholic tradition. In connection with this, it is useful to draw attention to an important distinction that needs to be known and born in mind when it comes to universities founded by the Church. We distinguish between the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Catholic doctrinal tradition - as much as they may be inextricably linked, they should nevertheless be distinguished. The doctrinal tradition of the Catholic Church is her teaching, preaching and witnessing of faith, and its authoritative scientific form is theology taught and nurtured at faculties of theology. Therefore, it is justified to say that theology, viewed from that perspective, is a reflected and systematic expression of the self-understanding of the congregation (God's people), its purpose and meaning. The Church's Magisterium has its own specific role in serving the unity of faith and life through faith, through her teaching and witnessing. Since this congregation of believers is in the world and in history, it develops its intellectual and broader cultural or spiritual tradition that admittedly comprises its teaching and complete activities, but also goes beyond this doctrinal framework, indeed it goes beyond the borderlines of the visible Church. A Catholic university is an excellent form of intellectual tradition.

Of central importance for this intellectual tradition is the attention it pays to the formation of a whole human being, and especially to the spiritual moment in that person's act of cognition (learning, teaching, research). This spiritual moment is always realised as life in accordance with chosen values. Of course, it comprises knowledge, but integrates it in the trefoil of three goods that thus form one spiritual whole. First, there is the *good of order*. This refers to the order of moral values that make up the maturity of a person, i.e. what qualifies this person for responsible conduct privately and in communication and cooperation with others. This makes room for action in broader society. The *good of knowledge* has

already been emphasised. These are values that make up the academic dimension of person's identity in higher education (primarily engagement in learning, teaching and research, and intellectual integrity in knowledge acquisition and transfer). And the third, the *good of cooperation and help* among those that make up the University: students, teachers, employees, who discharge their respective duties in solidarity, reflect on and exchange their insights through dialogue, and verify their views, choices and acts. Their relation to the purpose of a Catholic university is manifested there and contributes to the achievement of that purpose.

This is how an important spiritual moment in our contemporary cultural environment is formed. This is an environment that suffers from a lack of reflection that would be capable of synthesising knowledge and wisdom, no matter how modest but indispensable this synthesis may be. In antiquity, there was a saying *Sapientis est ordinare*, 'to govern is the task of a wise man.' This is topical and relevant again if we do not want our cultural world to break up in a pile of unconnected pieces. Those studying and working at a Catholic university are invited to give their contribution, within their abilities. Therefore, the question about a wise man today is pertinent.

A wise man today is not one who knows everything or would know the whole. Such a high requirement cannot be achieved today due to an inexhaustible multitude and versatility of knowledge. The wisdom of the wise consists mostly in that he still knows how to say and capture the right thing even though an unambiguous and clear rule exists no longer. In the pluralism of knowledge and *Weltanschauungen* of today, this means that a wise man in a special way has at his disposal the power of judgement that turns out to be the central moment of rationality, so necessary and sought today (that is far from being reduced to a mere instrumental rationality). One thing matters today as ever: the *awareness of limits*.

A wise man has this awareness of limits *with respect to details* - in this way, he manages not to violate the borderlines of what is justified in whatever field of knowledge and activity. He respects them, but he also knows how to look beyond them. His intellectual curiosity makes him open to the new and foreign, and lucidity demonstrates to him that borderlines bind and separate at the same time. Lucidity enables him to be and stay vigilant with regard to possible consequences of scientific knowledge and various ways of its application. Moreover, a wise man is also aware of the borderlines *with respect to the whole* - he is open to what is out of grasp to our reason, he sees that there is an in-depth dimension of the secret, mystery in all reality. Taking into account what is out of grasp to scientific reason, this secret or mystery, he knows how to act and can act properly and be active in the field that is within grasp of reason, that can be captured and understood, that belongs to the area at our disposal and what a human being can and should master.

A Catholic university strives to bear all this in mind and give its modest contribution to the promotion of humanistic (in the presented sense: wise) synthesis of knowledge, thinking and cultural activity that is so necessary today. Being faithful to its Catholic intellectual tradition, the university contributes to the formation of culture, in which wisdom lightens the path of a young man against the backdrop of first principles and ultimate purposes of human life, as understood and tested by Christian faith. This contribution is given through its activities, its openness to other and different, through the exchange of ideas and checking views and positions in dialogue.

Starting from these selected fundamental moments of the Christian vision of humanity, which lies at the very heart of Catholicity, it is now necessary to see its concrete form at our University. Our approach is not one of a phenomenological description of the state of affairs, even less of a socio-logical scanning of it, but how the University understands

and displays its Catholic identity in its relevant documents. It seems appropriate to consider this set of problems under three aspects: values, relations, and positioning of the University within society.

Catholicity under the Aspect of Values

As highlighted earlier, what is valuable attracts us and motivates us to identify with it, to adopt it as ours and integrate it into the dynamics of our life. It follows that we are responsible for our values; if they were irrelevant, they would not be values for us. Our relation to foreign values, which are not our own, is that of respect, because we respect the dignity of every individual person to whom these values belong; since we respect the person, we also respect their values. This includes talk and discussion about common values and those that we do not share. Our respect for a person and interest in him is extended towards values. This takes place in mutuality.

It is noteworthy that values are the object of belief; when values are selected and we are committed to them, we believe in them. They are in us as our own, as an essential element of our identity, but at the same time they are out of us as a horizon of our self-fulfilment: they guide and provide a rationale for our actions and conduct. Thereby, they become real in our communication network with other people. Understood in that sense, values are also sociomorphic: they come to us from our society, they create a social environment and give it a recognisable tone and outline. If looked upon in the context of an institution, such as the Catholic University of Croatia, it should be said that values not only reflect the identity of the institution, i.e. how the institution understands itself and wants to be understood by others, but also to what extent the institution is aligned with its declared values. This alignment between the preached or declared, and the realised and factually prevailing in interpersonal relations within the institution and between the institutions enforces the identity and

expands it. If such an alignment is missing, then the identity gets weaker and ultimately makes the institution noncredible and unconvincing from the social point of view. There is no need to expound that this happens through subjects who make up the institution and work in it. Each and every one of them either contributes to the identity or weakens it, depending on that person's attitude to the common values in which the institution recognises itself and wants to be recognised and which the person concerned has also accepted as valid.

Viewed in more detail, the values discussed here demonstrate three dimensions: the basic human dimension formed by Christianity, the academic one, and the national-cultural dimension. In the following text, we intend to demonstrate how they are connected to some key topics that express values - hoping that the institution's identity is therewith more clearly defined.

Dignity - The University's basic documents refer several times to the dignity of the human being and the quest for truth. Dignity means that the human being, from the moment of conception to natural death, is above values: he evaluates and adopts values; living in accordance with them, he creates cultural values in the broadest meaning of the word. For this reason, he is above the highest value; he is a being of dignity, a moral being and a purpose to himself, and never a mere means to achieve some ends - regardless of how much he is viewed and treated as such in modern scientific hypothetical-functional civilisation. For the Christian vision, his dignity is identical with his determinant as image and likeness of God, and as the one whom Jesus Christ calls friend and brother (Lk. 12:4; Jn. 15:12-17; 20:17). An essential quality of the person's dignity is life and actions under the horizon of *truth and good*. What is more, a broad field of truth is opened to man in the rising splendour of beauty in every form of art, in the fateful game of freedom and necessity in history, and in the language that expresses meaning by revealing it and hiding it at the same time (for it cannot ever say everything

and at once). This field of truth surpasses him, and man must align himself with it always anew in order to be a true and humane human being. In concrete life, figuratively speaking, this large banknote is changed into coins in the quest for the true state of affairs in nature, humanity, human society and history.

Knowledge - Knowledge and the whole effort of scientific research stem from it; the academic identity of the institution, its teachers and researchers is realised here to the fullest. In research, the wealth of reality always turns out to be greater than gained scientific insight into it and knowledge of it - therefore, science as research and teaching has no end, it always goes further, and academic freedom consists of not setting principled borderlines to the efforts of science to research the mystery of reality and man. A topic for discussion is: are there ethical borderlines of scientific research and what would these borderlines be? In any case, it has become evident that interventions in the structure of matter and a living cell and the application of knowledge acquired in this field in warfare and energy generation place humanity before huge, primarily ethical problems. Being Catholic, the University is invited to give its contribution to a debate on these issues. Moreover, *autonomy* of science, *academic cooperation* in teaching and research, link between one's professional and educational work, and life-long *education* constitute an essential set of academic values. They are all accompanied by a certain ethical index when it comes to the communication of their results. If no attention is paid to a suitable form of communication, it often turns out that this communication results in exceedingly high expectations, which science cannot meet, e.g. in healthcare and elsewhere. Communication that feeds unrealistic expectations and bypasses the need to warn of uncertainty and perhaps even danger arising from the application of new knowledge does not serve the truth of science.

Responsibility - An issue arising here is the interaction of the institution and its staff with the broader social communi-

ty, in our case the Church community. Interaction is a channel for communicating the values of truth and cooperation on resolving problems that oppress society and on which scientific institutions and scientists have their say and give their contribution - rather than withdraw to their ivory tower of untouchable scientificity. For, the scientist is also a member of society and the political community, a responsible citizen who contributes to the common culture and the community's welfare through his work, advice and public addresses. Therefore, shutting oneself up in allegedly impenetrable structures of one's own academic discipline without casting a broad view on society does not contribute to progress today, either in one's own field of science, or in the field of common culture. It follows that the value of individual and social responsibility for acts and the publicly spoken word on the part of those who teach and research is indispensable. Responsibility affects the transfer and acquisition of knowledge. It is manifested in the engagement and efforts made in one's narrow field of professional work, in a responsible popularisation of scientific results in the interested public and expert studies that scientists are called upon to deliver, as necessary.

Excellence - A sign of excellence is when teachers and students are not content with an average knowledge, but aspire to optimum knowledge and competence accessible to each and every one of them. The importance of this is shown on two sides: the first concerns the chosen profession itself. Everyone in higher education is faced with the requirement of being excellent, if they want to give a valuable contribution to their chosen profession and society. This is due to a high level of specialisation of modern science and the complexity of modern scientific and technical civilisation, over which one can hardly have an overview. Excellence is definitely of crucial importance for the education institution itself. Its teachers' and students' excellence in knowledge transfer and acquisition, in knowledge deepening and expansion through research raises its competitiveness (rating) in relation to oth-

er higher education institutions and attracts new staff interested in the progress of science. Therefore, the institution invests its best powers and abilities. This is the only way for the institution to be able to survive and be productive from the point of view of the purpose for which it has been founded. Another side of excellence concerns the personalities of the University's teachers and students. The investment of one's personal powers and abilities for the sake of the good of knowledge and professional competences has a retroactive effect on the formation of a whole personality, which cannot be overrated: this contributes to the growth of their *awareness of responsibility* on the professional and personal levels; their *reliability* in the discharge of entrusted or selected tasks clearly is developed; their healthy and self-critical *self-confidence*, ability to communicate and exchange knowledge and insights is formed; and finally, the *fruitfulness* of their knowledge becomes topical in the process of teaching - because students, who possess a minimum of spiritual vigilance, are able to feel and distinguish their teachers' and mentors' genuine excellence from cheap inclination and awe. It need not be further elaborated what a beneficial impact this has on their human and professional formation.

Self-transcendence - all of this is nothing specifically Catholic; this is simply something fundamentally human, therefore Christian. In our context, this should be added: this is the basic deontological element in academic education and self-education of an individual, and in the ethical and professional profile of the institution in which a teacher works and a student acquires knowledge – if taken seriously (as it should), this is the purpose of the institution's existence and activity. The intention is not to state that what is Catholic must be or already is the best for the sake of it; there is no need to feed a superiority complex – it can only do harm. It simply suffices to be excellent. The path of excellence, in science, knowledge acquisition and transfer, and in responsibility towards oneself and others, is at the same time a suitable form of inher-

ent human self-transcendence – stepping out of the self, overcoming the limits of the individual self, and extending one's own restraints, where the values of love of truth, responsibility, justice and solidarity are adopted, reinforced and multiplied. In such a creative effort, a human being fruitfully materialises his dignity as a creature entrusted with continuing God's work of creation. A spiritual trait highlighted by Jesus in his parable of the talents is revealed therein: whoever is willing to take his talents seriously and work with or on them, gives by this very act – on top of everything stated above – an appropriate answer to God from whom every gift stems. In this way and being unaware of it, man grows before God in the fullness of his humanness as designed and planned by the Creator Himself. Thus understood, excellence knows no restrictions to one field only; through it, man grows in all the domains of his life and work. The wholeness of a human being is developed.

Subsidiarity - Subsidiarity goes hand in hand with what has been said of responsibility and excellence - and is one of the main pillars of Catholic social teaching. Subsidiarity has special significance in the functioning of an institution's administrative structures such as the University. If subsidiarity is not respected, this harms the institution's administration and the execution of its tasks, both administrative and educational, and there is a threat of confusion. Subsidiarity means that different levels of activity in an institution and the competence of those working on these levels are respected, without encroaching on the levels and bypassing competencies; this means that tasks are accomplished and issues and questions resolved at the level at which they appear and are raised. A higher level is resorted to when it becomes clear that a lower level is for some reason incapable of solving a problem or fulfilling a set task. Practising such behaviour may seem complicated and slow, it takes a lot of patience and time, but it is necessary to learn and adopt it as a procedural rule, if the institution is to have a long life and fulfil well

the task for which it has been founded. Briefly, subsidiarity means: everyone does the job entrusted to them - and is expected to do it in a timely and proper manner. In this way, subsidiarity manifests itself as *realised responsibility*, which surely has its spiritual quality. It is good to draw attention to it from a side, from which this is not usually done, and which may turn out to do more harm to us than good. To understand it properly, it will be useful to consult the Gospel. When the disciples came to Jesus and told him what they had done at his order, he told them two things: to rejoice that their names are written in heaven, i.e. God counts on them and they 'suit' Him, and also that they should not be conceited, but should keep the following thought in their hearts: "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!" (Lk. 10:20 and 17:10). Of course, this does not relate to the uselessness of what has been done, but to the feeling for the reality of the state of affairs, and the feeling of modesty of the one who has accepted the mission and fulfils it as best as possible for him. By responding to the challenge and the task, he has responded to God.

Wisdom - The tension between the happiness that man truly 'responds' to God and that he is useless in this 'response' signalises in what direction one should seek what is in a slightly old-fashioned manner called wisdom. Wisdom is – we have already drawn attention to it – an awareness of the limits, not only in the sense of the limits that separate and distinguish, but also in the sense of the limits that connect what is divided. This is how the optimum can be achieved within them, and how it is at the same time possible to sense and accept that the human being is invited to step over the borders of the achieved and accomplished into the area of new and unknown that opens to him. Only in this way can one become part of a whole and whole, or integrate gained professional knowledge and one's own personality. This is a space where the spirit of freedom and love works, motivated by the Spirit of God. God is wise not only through what He

creates and gives, but also through His respect for the limits of creation. Within these limits, He demonstrates how the optimum is possible in this space or excellence that moves the limits. In a Christian perspective, the mystery of the incarnation of the divine Logos in Jesus of Nazareth lies in this. Excellence, responsibility and subsidiarity lead much further than it is usually thought when they are pondered upon.

Homeland – In this mutual intertwinement of academic and Christian values – although this description is actually only an outline, it still may give some insights into a possible whole - we have not placed particular emphasis on the element of national value. It is taken for granted that we reflect on all that is stated above in the context of Croatian society and state. Our communist past, the Homeland War, and problems of the period of transition and post-transition constitute our recent historical background that should be considered in the University's work. This is linked to a hope that everyone dealing with these thoughts based on the experience of life in Croatian society will soon feel the importance of the virtues and values mentioned for our society, especially where they are in short supply. One should however be careful not to falsify reality by observing only shortcomings and failures. The view opened by wisdom comprises also those places where the values are asserted, where they guide human actions and where they are realised; it is of paramount importance to evaluate it and bear it in mind in one's actions. Therefore, it is important for students at the University to develop the habit of looking in this particular way. The habit will be communicated by their teachers – provided that they have it and want and know how to transfer it. It may be that all of us have great deficits in this area since we tend to first see what does not work – and there is always something not working – while we take for granted those things that work, without noticing them properly. The previously mentioned awareness of limits includes every limit and a bright look on what is limited, whether this is positive or opposite to it. It is

not necessary that the negativity zone should have the final say in our spirit and reality.

If one's own lucid look on reality is proper to the Catholic spirit – because it is Catholic, i.e. it looks at the whole – then the University is the right place for practising this look and speech that well notes, appreciates and communicates what has been achieved, and shares it in community of *magistrorum et scholarium*. In this way, admittedly slowly and modestly, a certain counter-balance to the talk of wickedness of others and the inability of ourselves will still be created... – In this regard, the awareness of our Croatian culture and the contribution that Croats have given to European and world culture and science is of exceptional importance. This broadens the horizon and demonstrates our cultural positioning. At the same time, it shows its Christian component that should be examined in conjunction with its other components - both in the past and in the present. We are allowed to hope that there is more good than it seems at first sight. Opening the eyes to reality as a whole, including Croatian reality as a whole, is intrinsic to an education institution. This gives an important contribution to the academic and every other component of Croatian culture.

Faith – Finally, a word or two about the good of Christian faith and the Roman Catholic Church that has been closely connected to higher education throughout her history to the present day. The Catholic University of Croatia grows and works in accordance with the mission of the Church that wants to give her contribution to the higher education system in our homeland. In this process, she is convinced that the Gospel she preaches has its say in the context of institutions of higher learning. Christian faith in its Catholic version is present at the University not only in its name, in the sacral and liturgical symbols on the University campus and its premises, but primarily through its essential characteristics that express its very nature, its Catholic identity. The University as a whole and its members as individuals act out of Christian inspiration and ponder upon the richness of human knowl-

edge, to which they have decided to contribute through learning and research. Being faithful to the Christian message, the University does not only serve the Church, but its own national community, and the overall human family, contributing to its cultural growth and connections. We do not consider religious symbols and signs as identity badges that one wants to flaunt in somebody's face. On the contrary, these are symbols, signs that have grown out of Christian tradition, and that symbolically communicate insights into essential values and contents of Christian faith. The chapel, paintings, crucifixes, statues and all the other signs directly connected to faith are at the same time its expression and an expression of identity of those who identify with this faith. This means that one needs to look deeper, and face the issue of how and to what extent Christian faith is essential for the work and lifestyle of the University staff and students. When one thinks, speaks and writes about it, the intention is not to search 'hearts and minds' of concrete people - this is God's work - but rather to underline that it is in the nature of such an institution to care for the good of faith in a way as to make it known to those who work at it, to offer the possibility of its adoption, deepening and practising (S. Kierkegaard). All of this can be subsumed under the concept of university pastoral care. The university chaplain takes care of its concrete modalities, in cooperation with the academic staff of the Chair of Theology and, depending on abilities and needs, in cooperation with other university pastoral staff in Zagreb. To a certain extent, this emphasises the ecclesiastical aspect of Catholic identity.

Freedom of commitment - Religious faith is the life choice of a person who disposes of his own self with awareness and freedom. It is passed on through family upbringing and socialisation, but in that case sooner or later it must be ratified through one's explicit personal adherence to it. A broad range of other existential views and standpoints that go as far as its rejection is possible as well. Bearing this in mind, the Catholic University of Croatia considers its duty to re-

spect every person's existential choice and commitment. At the same time, it considers its duty to offer all of its staff and students basic information on Christian faith and the Catholic Church as its institutional form: how faith understands itself and how it wants to be understood. Courses at the Chair of Theology offered to all students go in this direction. This offer has a specific quality that distinguishes it from identical offers at other faculties of theology. In its concept and implementation, the theological content taught is designed from the perspective of study programmes constituting the backbone of our University. This means: teachers teaching these courses and students attending them must gain insight into where and what is the link of theological subjects with their programme of study. Through this, the University realises its Catholic identity at the academic level. In general terms, it directs scientific research and education towards a broader horizon of the truth, and makes efforts to integrate scientific knowledge with other values of culture.⁶

Taking a more concrete look, theological courses aim at integrating students personal faith and professional scientific knowledge by means of a reflective insight into the following: reality is one; it is richer than all the scientific knowledge about it (the two are not identical); God is its transcendental source; both orders of cognition - knowledge and faith - feed love for the truth and contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the meaning of human life and the purpose of God's creation. Theological courses give students who are not Catholic believers basic insights into the substance of faith. As such, they are part of general culture and the part of knowledge they need to understand and respect the University's Catholic identity. Connected to this is the development of *sensitivity* to the harrowing problems of our time (terrorism, xenophobia, marginalisation of minorities on the one hand, and outvoting of the majority by the minority on the other hand, pollution and destruction of nature and its re-

⁶ Cf. more in detail *Ex* 6-10 and 15-20.

sources, hunger and illness, infant and children mortality, various forms of manipulation of the human being, etc.) and to fundamental *values* that are jeopardised (person's dignity, protection of human life from conception to natural death, protection of nature of which man is also part, efforts dedicated to peace and a just social and political order, etc.). It is necessary to ponder upon and research these things under ethical and religious aspects.

All in all, based on its Christian inspiration and through its very existence and operation, the Catholic University of Croatia draws attention to the presence of the *spiritual moment* in research, teaching and learning, gaining and acquiring knowledge. This spiritual moment has its content in the good of knowledge that is attained and in the good that is done; it is present in the quest for the truth, goodness, beauty and the meaning of reality itself, man and his activities in that reality. It is evident that spirituality is understood as life in line with the chosen values; in this case, these are universal human values observed in a Christian perspective. Nothing is excluded, there are attempts to check and verify everything, and to acquire and possibly multiply and augment what is good. Ultimately, the University's Catholicity turns out to be an integrating matrix of all components of the institution's whole and its operations.

Catholicity under the Aspect of Relations

A building or a campus does not make an institution, but first and foremost its people, members, everyone personally, in line with their pertaining workplaces and jobs, authorities and obligations. The heart of it is a network of relations developed by people. Relations make up the fabric of an institution. The network of relations at the University understood as an institution in such a way can be analysed in three mutually connected directions: work and obligations, the personality of other (students, teachers, employees), and the institu-

tion itself. We have already discussed this and therefore it will suffice to highlight just some moments synthesising all of it in the three directions mentioned.

With regard to *work and obligations*, everything has been said when discussing excellence, responsibility and subsidiarity. There is nothing to be added but just to stress that these are more than values, these are principles underlying interpersonal relations. They are established and developed through work and the fulfilment of accepted duties. A trivial fact that comes to light here should not be forgotten: all members of the university community are interdependent in their work across the levels they are active at - this is especially important for the academic authorities (Rector and Vice-Rectors) and academic services (Administration). Without going into a detailed analysis here, we would like to highlight that professional competence and professional awareness of the responsibility for entrusted work take priority in relations within the institution. Reliability and efficiency are expected, and academic authorities are expected to be able to set priorities and see that they are respected. Engagement, a spirit of cooperation and awareness of responsibility guarantee the institution's good functioning at all activity levels.

Engagement and a spirit of *cooperation* during studies are an essential value for students and their interpersonal relations, a value that should be insisted on and students should be helped to achieve it. Cooperation means mutual help during studies and possibly common studying and repetition of the teaching material when preparing for exams. Teachers can be of assistance during consultations, as well as at lectures, seminars and trainings, by giving concrete instructions as to how to do something and how something can be done. All the previously mentioned values and virtues are also relevant here. Without them, results would be poor, below real possibilities.

A spiritual moment in all of this becomes prominent through community that is created and built through joint

work and help. For the spirit – both human and divine – it is essential that it is felt in relations, within the institution and out of it. To give an example: social and artistic engagement of the University's teachers and students in society, as much as they can, and with the support of the University's administration, expands horizons beyond strict academic borderlines to broader society and general culture. Through this and the offer of symposia, lectures, round tables, book presentations, etc., the University interacts with society and the individuals in it who are particularly interested in personal training or are willing to support the University's activities in this way of another. Here we have in mind our current and former associates in teaching and research, visiting researchers and representatives of academic institutions at home and abroad. An association of the University's alumni and the University's friends can also play an important role. *Alma mater* (in the spiritual sense 'feeding mother') is the one that connects, and they are her support and prop in society and the academic community.

One should not forget a network of partners in business, culture and educational institutions (especially secondary schools, since this is where students come from); a successful transfer of the knowledge acquired at the University to institutions in these areas is a true quality test for the work of every academic institution. It is in the University's interest to integrate in its work domestic and international groups of friends, other higher education institutions and scientific institutes, associations of primary and secondary school teachers, businesspeople and supporters of different profiles. – Through all of this, cooperation turns out to be an essential value which, in its own way, expresses the institution's Catholicity.

Catholicity under the Aspect of Social Positioning

Here, focus is on a broader context in which the Catholic University of Croatia should operate, guided by its value commitments and in line with its Catholic identity. The in-

stitution as a whole (i.e. its entire staff and students) should take into account the University's positioning in society if they care about the way they are perceived in society and the image society has about the University and them. In this connection, we can reasonably talk of three 'worlds' in which the University is located at the same time: a world of a broader academic community, a world of the Church community, and a world of Croatian society. Eyes of all three worlds are on the University. This look, as any other, may have special qualities; it may be benevolent, neutral, benevolent-critical or malevolent-critical look. In any case, realism and lucidity, which we have earlier emphasised as important traits of identity, require all members of the university community to take them into account.

This is surely no place to embark on a situation analysis of the three worlds mentioned; the intention is just to draw attention to some of their specific qualities that are visible and should be taken into account. The University cannot be indifferent to the image that others have of it. This image depends on its members (administration, teachers, students, employees), their presence and relations in the world, and on how well they do their jobs.

If one starts from society, it needs to be considered that society is multi-layered and subject to various, in particular media influences and manipulations, and that it is not always prepared to critically verify news and opinions. Therefore, sometimes it takes over a ready-made image of institutions and people, sometimes a complex one. The look on the University may range from a benevolent one, to one that holds the University to be 'an extended hand of the Vatican' as an impenetrable centre of power... The presence of the University and public appearances of its employees in our academic and social public essentially contribute to its realistic presentation and perception in society. The importance of this should not be underestimated because students interested in studying at our University arrive from there, from society.

The church public, i.e. the world of church communities, by the nature of things, is interested in the University, its operations, its staff and the profile of graduated students who enter the labour market hoping to find a job. The leadership of the Church certainly considers important that convinced believers, who live and act out of religious conviction not hiding it under the label of privacy, be present in culture, business and politics, in the academic world and the world of art. For this reason, it is very important that the University can help those believers who leave it to enter the world of labour and culture to assert their religious conviction in support of Christian understanding of man in our society.

We can hope that the local Church will know how to use the potential of persons educated at the University to build and develop herself. In this regard, it is important that those providing catechesis and pastoral care are aware of the members of their respective communities (parishes) who study or work at the University, have them in mind, maintain contact with them and assist them wherever necessary and possible. The same goes for the other side, for students and all those employed in our academic community. They are invited to be present in their respective communities of believers and give their contribution to the development of communion in them, wherever and as much as possible.

Christian understanding includes Christian conduct and actions as well. One thing should not be forgotten; in the world of labour, especially in the academic context, there is often relentless competence; it is not always easy to distinguish between objective scientific interest and something else... Networking, support and cooperation are necessary here, just as a lucid look distinguishing tendencies and interests is in society.

Just as the broader public so too the Church public is not monolithic. They are places of encounters with different tendencies, orientations, groups that are formed either sponta-

neously or in a planned manner, and that pursue their own particular interests. It is important to learn and take this into account. The same is true of the academic world. This world too has various layers with respect to *Weltanschauungen* and academic interests. Therefore, it can be expected that the looks that are directed to the Catholic University of Croatia from there see it as a competitor. This is nothing strange or bad in itself; one should just be aware of what is found in this look.

Bearing all of this in mind, are we allowed to use a metaphor from the Gospel that our University has to be innocent as a dove and wise as a serpent in order to survive and assert itself in these three worlds? The metaphor may be tough, but it warns of being naive and thinking that the University is looked upon only with benevolent eyes. It is no good to be afraid in advance, see adversaries everywhere, and immediately assume someone's bad intentions either. Realism and lucidity are necessary here as well. Consequently, one expects that a man is just - a man to another man, in sickness as in health. And finally, that there is only earth on earth, instead of heaven or hell. This is reason enough for our University to set out with confidence on its way to these three worlds, in which it is positioned, and to bring as much light as it can into them. There, it can hopefully say that it is only a 'servant,' however 'useless' it may be, but still such that God gladly counts on it and that it 'suits' God, as much as it can. And when it 'answers' God, then it 'answers' man and society in which man lives and in which he is invited to grow in his humanity.

III. HUMAN BEING – SUBJECT AND OBJECT OF SCIENCE

In all of the above, the assumption has been that the human being precedes science, that the human being is its author (subject), and that he stands behind science as someone enjoying its blessings, and at the same time endures its consequences (which he authored!) that catch up with him when he uses its knowledge for evil things, disregarding the consequences of its applications. It seems appropriate to consider this state of affairs in detail.

The increasing differentiation of society – especially since the beginning of modern age – has been accompanied by an increasing differentiation of academic fields and their corresponding types of rationality. Scientists in different academic disciplines, politicians, economists, lawyers, physicians, heads of religious communities, etc. act in accordance with logic and rational procedures proper to every one of them. This is connected to different means and different methods of solving problems and addressing challenges that have to be responded to in various fields of social life. These are constraints of sorts that determine the scope of research, knowledge and procedure in every field. Rational behaviour of each of the subjects mentioned differs from the rational behaviour of some other subject in some other field. Awareness of this is present, if not in a form fully reflected upon, then at least in an accompanying form of awareness of the method and its limits in every field and type of activity. It is to be expected that here there will be no action - because it cannot be! – towards a harmony of the different that is established in advance; there is no such harmony.

In such a differentiated world and culture marked by scientificality, it is necessary not only to know of such a state

of affairs, but also to recognise it with respect to oneself and others, and take it into account. This means: *to be tactful*. Tactfulness first and foremost comes to the fore when I can understand and take into consideration that others, my colleagues, active in their respective academic fields using their available resources cannot do what seems right to me from my perspective and based on my available resources; of course, the opposite is true as well. This does not lead to indifference, but encourages us to seek modes of speech and communication that would enable every one of us to understand, from our individual perspectives and in mutuality, what is actually possible from the perspective of others - e.g. that an economist using his economic perspective can understand what is possible and necessary from a political perspective and vice versa. This tactfulness needs to be used in all the other fields of science and social activity (medicine, law, finances, *Weltanschauungen*,...), if we consider important that our culture, imbued by science, should not break up into fields not interconnected in any way, but placed next to each other. In other words, it is necessary to *mutually* take account of the limits and constraints of one's own rationality among the differentiated fields of knowledge and action. This simply obliges scientists as persons, and especially as responsible citizens whose presence and spoken word certainly carry weight in society.

Furthermore, this means that the awareness of the limits of academic fields includes a specific form of 'curiosity,' a look beyond one's own domain towards another's, the feeling for the difference of rationalities, which are in the game every time as those guiding and determining action and preparedness for dialogue and discussion. This is a prerequisite for proper and desirable interdisciplinarity. This is all the more important in sciences where the object of research is the human being – being both the subject and the object of science.

The Human Being and Spheres of Knowledge

It is important to analyse it in the academic disciplines developed by our University. Let us state at the very beginning that this is without prejudice to the University's possible and desirable expansion in the direction of legal, economic, natural and technical sciences.⁷ It seems to us that what we have stated thus far holds, in principle, for them as well, and the fact that they affect man even though he may not be their direct object. They affect him as the author-subject through their retroactive effects, as well as the consequences of their technical and technological application, in what is good, and in what is not so good.

This is visible in the image of the university as such: one gets the impression that the traditional university has been unstoppably transforming into a type of conglomerate of higher schools, whose main purpose is a quick and efficient preparation of students to take part in a process of general material and spiritual production - and to possibly obtain successful placement on the labour market... Considering its methods, ways of teaching and evaluating results, modern science has basically overcome the inherited division of science in natural sciences and humanities in such a way that social sciences and humanities have radically changed and completely adapted to the essential characteristics of natural, technical and biotechnical sciences. It seems that in these sciences basic research increasingly yields to applied research. This seems to be a relentless dictation of the labour market.

The intention here is to warn of a problem that, if addressed, requires special efforts and an adequate place for deliberation and dialogue. The following text is just a small step in preparation for a reflection on the relation between man

⁷ With respect to it, we refer to the 2025 *Catholic University of Croatia's Development Strategy*; cf. fn. 1.

and science, how this relation is, could or perhaps should be configured at the Catholic University of Croatia - the relation looked upon through the prism of its departments and faculties.

If one takes a look at our University's current Departments – History, Psychology, Sociology, Communication Science, Nursing and School of Medicine – it is easy to see that the focus of their attention is on the one who deals with these respective academic fields: the *human being*, subject and object of science.

History

The history of our University began with its Department of History. If man is a historical being, he is a subject and an object of this science. He is not a mere being who first does not exist, then exists for a while to be then, after some time, gone – a being crucified between two nils. He is a being who is aware of this with respect to himself and all the other beings, and who is capable of searching for the meaning of such existence. He is also aware that his existence and being is not the same as in other beings, but is formed by his individual and collective actions in space and time - it is historical. Only man has history, only man is a historical being *stricto sensu* and is aware that he is such a being regardless of when he managed to develop a methodical awareness about it, and methodically dive into the quest for himself in direction of the past. And vice versa: he imagines and plans what is not yet there from his present and in relation to the past, and attempts to achieve it, rectify what has been achieved or begin something completely new, something future. There lies his freedom: to be able to start from within himself. This cannot be found in other beings. History arises from freedom, has freedom as its prerequisite, and has retroactive effects on the forms of its materialisation that is every time unique - historical. This perspective, which conditionally could be called historical-philosophical, places

historical research in a broader spiritual context of culture and society, including religion. This is essential to understand the meaning and the role of historical disciplines for understanding cultural achievements of humanity and national community. The future presupposes the past. This is true of society as a whole and of all sciences; an insight into their past shows the measure of their progress and communicates the attitude of modesty before reality, which turns out to be bigger and richer than our knowledge of it.

Psychology and Sociology

There are two other Departments dealing with the human being from the aspect of him as an individual and a social being - Psychology and Sociology. As much as these two disciplines are with good reason configured methodically separated and each goes its own way, they influence each other in a specific manner since their object is one and the same, the human being, but considered under two mentioned and different aspects. Their knowledge and results, the directions of their research cannot be mutually multiplied in order to obtain a unique product of multiplication. On the contrary, plunging into the depths of the human psyche is matched by an equally unrestricted diversity of forms of his sociability and ways how he realises them in time and space. In spite of all this, man is one and the same, both individual and social. Despite all the quantifications and qualifications to which he, as the object of research, is methodically subjected, he as a subject and a person is and remains more than all the knowledge that he gains about himself. Therefore, it is right to speak of the mystery of the human being. An intriguing question arising from this is: how is this heard in the context of psychology and sociology? Is there a specific approach to this from these two sides? What does it reveal? And more: What about the allegedly possible 'improvement' of the human being from the perspective of bio-, psycho- and socio-engineer-

ing and of that which likes to be called transhumanism? If one adds to this prospects opened by artificial intelligence, then it seems with good reason there can be talk of epoch change in the history of humanity. A number of inevitable questions emerge from there. In all likelihood, they will substantially determine future research in these and other fields, and the application of their results in upbringing, education and social interaction in general. This brings us to another university Department:

Communication Science

Communication science deals with the human being in a unique way. It focuses on the human being as a being of dialogue and communication in society with other people, and other living beings. Researching his communication with beings similar to him, one enters the area of sociability. One should agree with ancient Greeks and their definition of a human being as a social and logoical (= he has *logos*, word, speech, reason) living being. The prospects opened from there, both towards history and towards psychology and sociology, clearly indicate the need for cooperation and raising awareness of the differences of rationalities in each of these fields of knowledge. This is of huge significance when considering cooperation of people and their institutions, since without it social life cannot be imagined, despite all individualism. It seems appropriate to emphasise that in a set of topics and challenges of communication science the question of value transfer deserves special attention in our time, since it has a great impact on the formation of identity in persons and institutions; we understand identity as a communicative dimension since it is developed through dialogue. Of primary importance in our time is not only to nurture the identity of one's own person and institution, but also to nurture openness towards cooperation and discussion with other and different; in this regard, the role of means of social communication is indispensable

and should be well known. Society is the place where communication takes place; understood broadly, society is the totality of relations among people who live in an organised community, which in our time abounds in pluralism of values in all fields of human life. It is from there that the need for dialogue and joint consideration of one human being from the perspectives of all the sciences mentioned comes from. The means of social communication, both 'classical' and especially the latest ones, confront us with the essential questions of their retroactive effect on man who uses them, and on society in which he lives. To give one example: the development of social networks clearly shows all the richness of blessings, challenges, problems and dangers we are facing. Their future forms certainly surpass all of our current inklings.

Biomedicine and Healthcare

The fragility and finality of the human being viewed from his psychosomatic dimension become prominent in biomedicine and healthcare; both consider the human being as healthy or ill, and mortal. For the time being, our University offers study programmes of medicine and nursing; both are not limited to the care for an ill and dying human being, but also imply work with the healthy - to promote health and prevent diseases. In our context, it should be emphasised that nursing and medicine are very much concerned with the borderline situations of human existence, those where it is ultimately to be or not to be, and how to be when one is no longer as one used to be before and how one wanted to be, but this is now temporarily and maybe even definitely denied. As much as an illness can appear to be trivial – it seems that, similar to ageing, it is 'built-in' the basic structure of each natural being and therefore of the human being as well – it is by no means trivial when one is seriously stricken with it. How to behave in these moments, what to do, how to put up with it or accept it as something definite, and in connection to this, what atti-

tude to take towards death that silently takes everyone – all of this is of primary interest to nursing and medicine in general, when observed under an existential aspect. A patient is not a mere object of treatment but a person who is suffering.

This very aspect deserves to be more concretely observed in our context. The unity of spirit and body in the human being under the aspect of medicine is considered through three basic anthropological categories – health, illness, recovery – that are particularly interesting in the religious aspect. The three are viewed as a status and a process. What in medicine is called health, can from the perspective of the Christian understanding of the human being be called an ideal ‘constitution’ of the human being whom God wished to be so. Illness means its ‘destitution’ or falling, disintegration of the integrity of the human being; in the Christian understanding of the human being, this is an expression of his fragility and transience from the creation that concerns the physical and spiritual dimension of his being in all his relations as well as his moral integrity; the human being is *fragile* in every respect. The fragility understood in such an integral manner is man’s ‘existential’, i.e. that which essentially determines him in his existence, in addition to his worldliness, sociability and historicity. Recovery is the ‘restitution’ of man’s spiritual and bodily integrity, the reversal from illness to health; in Christian understanding of man this corresponds to the restitution of his spiritual and moral integrity through repentance and reconciliation with God and his neighbour. These three anthropological categories - constitution/health, destitution/illness, restitution/recovery - mirror three existential situations in which medical staff work: prevention, therapy, rehabilitation. In this, the religious view ‘reads’ sections of man’s path towards his definite communion with God. All of this is essential if one truly wants to insist on an integral understanding of the human being. This is the very direction (as mentioned earlier) of the overall activities of a Catholic university as such.

Interdisciplinarity

In our University's structure, man is shown to be its 'speciality,' a special object that is dealt with in all its current and future programmes of study. In connection with this, it is appropriate to emphasise the need for a complete view of man in the Christian perspective and through the dimensions of his historicity, individuality, sociability, communicability and health, illness and mortality. One touches there the mystery of the human being. For this dimension to become the focus of interest of a scientific study of the human being, it is necessary to ponder upon the mentioned (and some other possible) disciplines, not just starting from their centres, their central topics – which is understandable by itself – but starting from their borderlines with other disciplines. For this, one needs a fair share of intellectual curiosity that casts a look beyond its own profession and can be achieved through different perspectives of cognition, knowledge and reflection. This is a crucial prerequisite for interdisciplinarity. In addition to its interest in borderline issues, interdisciplinarity presupposes a fair share of patience and willingness to learn; flexibility of spirit that is prepared to change the perspective from which it contemplates reality; and skills of communication and translation of various language forms and corresponding rationality in other forms. They express knowledge about one and the same, in our case – the human being.

Once the University will have expanded in the direction of natural and other sciences, the human being will not be ousted from his central position in University research and knowledge, because the Catholic identity of such an institution possesses an awareness that man is transcendental with regard to every and all sciences. Transcendental means that the human being is the condition for the existence of every and all sciences, he precedes all of them, he is active in all of them as their subject, partly also as their object, he is active and passive in the sense that he enjoys the blessings and suffers from their direct and indirect, immediate and more

remote consequences. The human being is before every science, he is in every science, and he stays after every science - either by ceasing to pursue it, or by that final and 'latest' moment when all knowledge ceases...

Unnoticed we have reached that area of knowledge where the question of the wholeness of what is known and knowable arises by itself, and this includes the subject of knowledge - the human being. *Philosophy* and *theology* are situated there as eminent forms of knowledge and reflection upon the totality of reality - to the extent that it is 'becoming' (Greek *physis*) and it is 'creation' (Greek *ktisis*). Regardless of the way in which the two are or were connected and differ today and in the past, the human being is in the centre of attention - in theology with its emphasis that he (as demonstrated earlier) is God's creature, similar to God, the one who 'suits' God; in philosophy, with its emphasis on the fact that by his animal nature he belongs to the material living nature, but at the same time by his spirit (spirituality, transcendence) he is above it. And certainly, God Himself is in the centre of attention, as the 'foundation,' who makes all of it possible, holds it and reveals Himself in Jesus Christ to the people in their history. In Christ, God does not primarily give knowledge about Himself, but He gives Himself - "that they may have life and have it abundantly" (Jn. 10:10).

Philosophy and theology, each in its own way, in dialogue and disputation, awaken and keep awake the passion of an always new determination of what should be worth as truthful, good and beautiful in an era or in a spiritual horizon of a culture. Dialogue with and among the sciences is necessary. The function of the Chair of Theology as part of the Catholic University derives from there. It is of primary importance for our University to observe the connection that exists and needs to be realised and nurtured between its Departments, and the Chair of Theology. This can have great significance for understanding the wholeness of the human being, which is included in our University's Catholicity.

Chair of Theology

The purpose of the Chair of Theology at the Catholic University of Croatia can be considered from several aspects. First, there is theology as a teaching subject at the University. Not going into the content of the subjects already offered, we would like to emphasise three aspects under which theological subjects are treated and offered to students. First, there is the connection of Christian faith and its theology as knowledge about faith in God - faith taken as a fundamental human existential choice and response to God's message about man's life and salvation, briefly: Christian faith as a lifestyle or a way of life. In this connection, theology expresses reflected self-understanding of the Christian community, i.e. of the Church and her believers. At the same time, it is a face of faith that is turned to the intellectual and broader cultural public, which strives to communicate its unique message. Second related to it is the development of the Christian view of the human being: Who is man in the optics of Christian faith, whether a believer or not? What is his purpose? And finally, borderline topics should be mentioned as a specific theological contribution to the understanding of the knowledge transferred and learnt in university departments. For theology, these borderline topics arise from each programme of study. It is important for students to gain solid information about it, because this manifests the central identity trait of the institution they study at. This does not encroach upon their existential choices, but they are offered a knowledge with which the majority of our citizens can identify themselves. Throughout history, this knowledge has essentially contributed to the formation of our national and cultural identity, and has been built in the foundations of our University.

In close cooperation with University Departments and Faculties, the Chair of Theology can determine the borderline areas to be dealt with in an interdisciplinary manner in courses, seminars, workshops, symposia or any other suitable

ble form. In principle, this can be offered to teachers, students and any other interested persons within the University and out of it. Briefly, we refer here to *borderline issues of theology, philosophy, science and art*. Concrete forms of work organisation can remain open, it is important not to lose sight of the need to deliberate upon borderline issues, and to start working on them, as much as possible. Catholic universities are not only adequate, but also indispensable places for work on this borderline area.

Here, we understand philosophy as an unavoidable *interface* between theology of science and art because scientific knowledge cannot be directly transferred to the theological context or vice versa, but should be prepared by means of philosophical reflection on scientific language and concepts that are in the game each time. In other words, philosophy is permanently present, not as a separate discipline, a very ramified field, but rather as an intermediate reflective instance that enables communication of knowledge between fields of knowledge and translation of different languages and concepts in others. This is, so to say, ‘philosophy in passing’; one should think philosophically if knowledge (which is different in terms of its emergence and forms, and respecting the differences of rationalities) is to be connected and thus connected communicated.

At this point, we should only draw attention to some distinctions and formal elements that are of fundamental importance when one approaches borderline issues understood as such. Terms that are usually used here must be clear, but perhaps their scope and relations are not sufficiently taken into account. – Discussion is about the relation between science and faith, science and religion, and science and theology. It seems that this is mainly one and the same thing, but it is not so. Precisely because it is believed that all of this is more or less one and the same thing, and that the relation is more or less the same, confusions and misunderstandings arise. As some kind of preliminary orientation, the following

distinctions can be suggested; it is good to bear them in mind when discussing borderline issues:

(1) When discussing the relation between *science and faith*, it is appropriate to understand it primarily in relation to the personality of the scientist: how does he personally combine and connect his rational and objectivising approach to the world, the approach based on methodical suspicion and criticism, with the view and position of faith that is in its essence an act of confidence? The question thus concerns the scientist's spiritual life: how does he connect his science and his faith or any other form of existential choice in the wholeness of his personal spiritual life? In general terms, we understand spiritual life as life in line with the chosen values guiding man's way of life, his behaviour and his social transactions. Science is one of those values that in our time has an impact on all domains of life and is certainly connected to the scientist's existential choices. Therefore, it is appropriate to think and discuss the relation between criticism, as the basic trait of every activity aimed at gaining knowledge, and personal conviction; the scientist's existence is imbued with the dialectics of criticism and conviction.

(2) When it comes to *science and religion*, the primary issue is the way and the forms in which religious communities (different Churches, other religions) have positioned themselves or are positioning themselves towards the omnipresent fact of science - natural and other - and towards the application of their results in engineering and technology, and its retroactive effects on man and society. This relation should be observed through history and at the present time, and its monitoring should continue. To give one example: how did the early Church position herself towards Greek philosophy and the sciences that it had collected in itself and transferred? What was the situation with regard to this at the beginning of the modern age and later? What was the position of Islamic communities with respect to the same reality? How are the Church and religious communities positioning themselves

now vis-à-vis the challenges of engineering and technology, and their ramifications for man and nature? This is an institutional aspect on both sides. In our time, the issues that are of special relevance are the beginning and the end of human life, and man's relation to nature. Religions and their philosophical traditions carry in themselves a light that can be of use to us when *comprehensively* deliberating on the problems we are facing in our scientific civilisation.

(3) When discussing *science and theology*, one should know that this is not about a personal or institutional level of their relation, but rather about the level of knowledge: how can - or cannot - these two discourses, scientific and theological, meet and possibly be connected? What are their specific qualities? Where could their point of contact be? How does one and the same concept function in two different languages (e.g. the concept of nature or nature in theology and in sciences; knowledge – religious and scientific; the concept of life, etc.)? Concordism and discordism should be avoided, and one should seek possible places and forms of connection and articulation of two different discourses by means of one discourse – that of philosophy. Philosophical discourse explains givennesses, scientific concepts and their meaning, articulates the issues of purpose and meaning, and the ethical issues that science raises, but does not provide an answer. There are also issues of the limits of science. Therefore, philosophical reflection takes place where questions on meaning are explained, precisely determined and deepened. By their nature, these are metaphysical questions that are open to what theology can say from its own sources and from the experience of faith. It is possible that on this way all three lights, namely science, philosophy and theology, can 'meet' in a way that in their interference they are not annulled but reinforced. The light of art can demonstrate the repercussions of experiences and inklings that are born in this meeting in one's deeper self. The Catholic University of Croatia has something to offer at all these levels. It has no right to withdraw

from these areas ruled by a ‘decent’ armistice and without many deep contacts, until disputes and disputations flare up somewhere suddenly and unexpectedly. When this happens, crossing the borderlines and ideologisation of knowledge are almost regularly the order of the day. The work on borderline areas is long-lasting and sensitive, it does not bear fruit quickly and requires much patience, a practiced power of attentive listening to other, the art of always risky translation from one language to another, and sincere readiness to learn, correct and expand one’s own knowledge in the light of knowledge of the other side. Differences of rationalities, which are at stake here, can be overcome, provided there is patiently nurtured *tactfulness*, which takes into account ‘constraints’ that exist in every field of knowledge and experience, and which is open to view one’s own position from the perspective of other.

CONCLUSION

We have attempted to demonstrate what we consider essential moments of our University's Catholic identity and the direction of its mission. Not everything that could and should be said has been presented here, but nevertheless is sufficient to understand that, both for an individual and an institution, identity means communicative openness, which is proportionate to the self-awareness that the institution, its teachers and students have developed. Catholicity is not self-containment of a religion, but is an expression and form of faith. The faith is aware of its history and cultural positioning, open to dialogue and disputation where they are indispensable, open to the acceptance of other and a fruitful exchange with other, to a critical acceptance of the new, and self-critical correction of unilaterality and mistakes. This is achieved in cooperation with other higher education institutions at home and abroad. We see the mission and purpose of the University as part of the academic community and society at large in drawing attention to the God-given dignity of the human being – subject of science – and to openness towards transcendence of this subject in scientific civilisation of our time. The University serves this purpose through its presence and engaged scientific work and teaching. In that perspective, the University strives to integrate all the relevant knowledge of science and culture and demonstrate that our world and our time are not 'boarded up' and without prospects, but an area of communication and community of different, who respect their differences and also try to understand them and live in the richness of one whole. The University gives an essential contribution to the life of the local Church thereby educating women and men who maturely and responsibly live their Christian voca-

tion in the academic setting and society as a whole, and take an active part in their communities of believers. The Catholic University of Croatia also gives its modest contribution to the building of the universal Church, to connecting people and deepening scientific knowledge on the global level through its connections with Catholic institutions of the same type in Europe and the world and through its international activities.

APPENDIX

LIFE-LONG EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S TEACHERS AND EMPLOYEES

Conceptual Plan

The Catholic University of Croatia is a community of teachers and students in permanent interaction. Research, teaching and learning are complex processes, which mutually condition one another and only together can grow towards excellence. Therefore, in all the fields of scientific and teaching activity, one feels the need for the continuous training of all participants of the teaching and research process. A high level of specialisation and increasing knowledge on the reality of the world, life and people require that the academic staff be acquainted not only with the state of affairs in their own profession – which is understandable – but also further develop their teaching and research competences. They are essential for the development of science and the fruitful transfer of knowledge to students. Therefore, the University considers its duty to work on professional and scientific advancement, and a deeper learning of the Christian image of man and his purpose, and the nature of the University. In addition to its understandable academic and a broader dimension of national culture in its identity, there is the University's Catholic dimension in the context of modern globalised world, which needs to be learnt and taken into account.

In line with the ideas of this *pro memoria*, it will be useful to present a brief conceptual plan on how they could be implemented more concretely in the University's life, as life-long education of its teachers and non-academic staff. Non-academic staff does not take part in teaching or research, but is decisive for their proper implementation. Their professional competences and activities should also find their corresponding form in line with the University's Catholicity.

This conceptual plan comprises four directions in which four mutually connected topics can be elaborated: basic elements of Christian understanding of the human being (I), nature and mission of a Catholic university (II), teaching (III) and research (IV) conducted by its academic staff. The former two are equally important for the University's academic and non-academic staff, whereas the latter two specifically refer to teachers.

I. The Human Being – Elements of Christian Anthropology - This topic provides insight into the Christian understanding of man, proceeding from its biblical vision with its extension in the Church's Magisterium. The human being – created in the image and likeness of God as male and female and renewed in Jesus Christ – a being of inviolable personal dignity, in spite of his physical, moral and spiritual vulnerability. Since man's nature is social, the growth of a person and society depends on each other; both find their fullness in Jesus Christ who sanctified all human relations. It was demonstrated through Christ that man's final call is to be in union with God, and this is what basic forms of human community refer to. It is important for the University that all the members of the university community are adequately familiar with the Christian understanding of man and learn its reasons and consequences.

II. Catholic University – Identity and Mission - This topic presents thoughts on identity, purpose and mission of a Catholic university in general, and the Catholic University of Croatia in particular. In this connection, reference is made to the nature of the University as an institution in Croatian society, and discussion is on reasons for and purpose of the foundation of ecclesiastical higher education institutions. Special attention is paid to our University's position in the context of other institutions of higher learning in the Republic of Croatia, and in the life of our Church. Work ethics, professionalism and the significance of world view are dealt with in the spirit of openness to other and different. In this same spirit

the University strives to achieve excellence in knowledge acquisition and transfer, as well as in the formation of persons. This formation is inspired and motivated by the Christian vision of the human being, in the service of society and the Church.

III. Teacher and Teaching Competences - All teaching activities are focused on the transfer of knowledge and skills, where teachers are experts, and students are motivated to gain knowledge and skills during their education at the University. For this reason, it is necessary to work on the consolidation and development of teaching competences. This improves the necessary conditions for achieving excellence in teaching. We understand university teachers' teaching competences as a set of knowledge, skills, abilities and conducts; this set is linked to a university environment, and the teacher gains it and perfects it through his upbringing, education and working experience in university education processes. Continuing education of teachers is based on the respect for the following two principles: (a) the teacher is a person recognised in his academic discipline, he ponders upon his work, organises it well and implements it with devotion, promotes the University's values and is role model to his students; (b) the teacher plans students' lessons so that there is harmony in all of their elements; in this process he uses corresponding methodical and didactic means and procedures that contribute to the acquisition of envisaged learning outcomes.

IV. Scientist and Scientific Competences - The university teacher in principle is a scientist as this is a condition required to be elected to research and teaching positions. It is from there that derives the need to outline the concept of science, scientist and his competences. In connection with this, it is possible to present basic and general outlines of the logic of scientific research, which requires further completing in research areas. Having in mind the matter of research and possibility for the application of scientific knowledge, the

need arises to reflect on ethics in the context of science. The modern age history of science and our current time show an ideological use of science, especially in relation to the issues of world view and existential choices of people in general, and scientists in particular (questions on the borderline of science, philosophy, religion and art). On the other hand, history of science, especially in the 20th century and today increasingly shows its dependence on political and socio-economic factors, which calls into question the autonomy of science: what, and even more so whom does science serve? Are there any specific features of scientists at a Catholic university? A view opens here beyond the borderlines of discipline and attempts are made to highlight what is essential for scientific work and for scientists. This gives a basic contribution to interdisciplinarity in science and encourages dialogue among scientists active in different areas of research.

Attention paid to the four topics mentioned or possible directions of life-long education of our teachers and staff will certainly contribute to higher quality of work and the achievement of the purpose the University has been founded for. Therefore, it is not only desirable but also necessary to work more concretely on it.

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