

## Summary

*Zuzana Svobodová*

The publication entitled *Josef Zvěřina and Theology of Agape* involves texts of the foremost disciples of the greatest of Czech theologians of the 20th century and those who have been dealing with the theology of agape in subsequent generations of Czech theology. The three main thematic units of the publication gradually bring insight into the life and work of Josef Zvěřina (1913–1990). They introduce the reader in a detailed manner to the individual stages of his life, including his activities during a long period of communist imprisonment (he spent almost 14 years in the prisons of the totalitarian regime). The activities of Josef Zvěřina, a Roman Catholic priest, after his state approval for clerical activity had been revoked, are also described. As a priest of the living God, he naturally perceived a higher responsibility towards Christ than towards a totalitarian regime. Therefore, he continued to develop the apostolate based on his possibilities and experiences from an environment in which believers were persecuted for their faith. His theology, born not only from the suffering of concentration camps, prisons, and persecution, but also from joy, cooperation and friendship, is a theology of agape, a theology born through love, in love and for love. It is not so much a theology of love, but a theology that lives from love. In the second thematic unit, the theology of agape is contemplated through its roots, methods, direction, and consequences. The third part brings personal memories of how Josef Zvěřina used to live and work, a man who, at a mature age, was forced to act as a priest strictly unofficially. Even so, he raised faithful Christians who transformed the theology of agape into their personal vocations and have served in various ways according to the legacy of Josef Zvěřina as their spiritual teacher. For the first time, this publication also publishes a text that Josef Zvěřina prepared under the title *Good and Evil in Art (Dobro a zlo v umění)* and submitted in 1969 as part of his habilitation procedure as one of the appendices (Josef Zvěřina did not obtain his habilitation). The text was part of the inheritance of Alena Falerská and František Falerski.

Together with Josef Zvěřina, a total of 24 authors from the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic have contributed to the publication. The book contains

*A Blessing to the Readers* (Požehnání čtenářům) from Bishop Václav Malý. Senator of the Czech Republic and former candidate for president of the Czech Republic, Pavel Fischer, asks *Three Questions for Josef Zvěřina* (*Tři otázky pro Josefa Zvěřinu*). Zuzana Svobodová introduces the text entitled *Josef Zvěřina – Priest and Brother* (*Josef Zvěřina – kněz a bratr*) to the publication. Tomáš Halík gives a testimony about his teacher in the chapter entitled *The One Who Sacrificed Himself for Us* (*Ten, který se za nás vydával*). Mireia Ryšková, one of the women whom Josef Zvěřina accompanied in their questions and hopes, entrusted the text *Josef Zvěřina – Man, Teacher, Theologian and Priest* (*Josef Zvěřina – člověk, učitel, teolog a kněz*) for this publication. Historian Jan Stříbrný elaborated the events of Zvěřina's life in the chapter *Josef Zvěřina – A Courageous Witness of the Faith and a Brave Citizen* (*Josef Zvěřina – odvážný svědek víry a statečný občan*). Alois Křišťan remembers his former teacher in the text *Josef Zvěřina – Theologian and Teacher* (*Josef Zvěřina – teolog a učitel*). Historian Jan Synek elaborated the period of Josef Zvěřina's imprisonment in a chapter entitled *The Prison Experience of Josef Zvěřina* (*Vězeňská zkušenost Josefa Zvěřiny*). Historian Barbora Čiháková offers *A Few Notes on a Friendship* (*Mutual Inspiration between Růžena Vacková and Josef Zvěřina*) – *Několik poznámek k jednomu přátelství* (*vzájemná inspirace mezi Růženou Vackovou a Josefem Zvěřinou*).

The second part of the publication, entitled *Theology of agape, living theology*, opens with the chapter *Living Theology. The Theology of Josef Zvěřina from the Point of View of a Pastoral Theologian* (*Živá teologie. Teologie Josefa Zvěřiny z pohledu pastorálního teologa*), the author is Michal Kaplánek. The following text is the *Tradition as the Memory of the Church* (*Tradice jako paměť církve*), prepared by Petr Jandejsek. František Štěch analyses *Revelation in Theology of Agape* (*Zjevení v Teologii agapé*). Gabriela Genčúrová described *The Contribution of Josef Zvěřina's Anthropology to Contemporary Theology in Slovakia* (*Prínos antropológie Josefa Zvěřinu pre súčasnú teológiu na Slovensku*). *Zvěřina's Pilgrimage of Understanding the Messages of Works of Visual Art* (*Zvěřinova pouť porozumění výtvarnému sdělení*) was processed thanks to Michal Filip. René Milfait offered the text *The Meeting of Two Freedoms in an Environment of Unfreedom: The Discipleship in Persecution in the Light*

*of the Clausula Petri (Setkání dvou svobod v prostředí nesvobody: následování v pronásledování ve světle clausuly Petri). Activities of Josef Zvěřina in Working with Youth and Children (Aktivity Josefa Zvěřiny v oblasti práce s mládeží a s dětmi)* were considered by Anna Dudová. In her text, Miriam Prokešová showed the *Visions of the Responsibility of the Church in Society according to Josef Zvěřina (Vize zodpovědnosti církve ve společnosti u Josefa Zvěřiny)*. Jana Jičínská described *Impulses for the 21st Century or Inspirations by Josef Zvěřina (Impulsy pro 21. století aneb inspirace Josefem Zvěřinou)*.

The third part of the publication brings memories of Josef Zvěřina by Kateřina Safková, Pavol Šutovský and Marie Jílková.

The publication concludes with *A Few Glosses to the Publication Josef Zvěřina and Theology of Agape (Několik glos k publikaci Josefa Zvěřina a teologie agapé)*, written by the former spokesperson of Charter 77, Martin Palouš. Zuzana Svobodová showed Zvěřina's various *Paths to Joy (Cesty k radosti)*. In the annex to the publication, historian Lucie Šmídová provides *An Explanation of the Text Good and Evil in Art (Dobro a zlo v umění. Slovo na vysvětlenou)*, followed by the actual text *Good and Evil in Art (Dobro a zlo v umění)*, authored by Josef Zvěřina. At the very end of the publication, we present short selections from the texts of Josef Zvěřina under the title: *I am with you, we are for you (Jsem s Vámi, jsme pro Vás)* and a selection from the text *Who is the Church (Kdo je církev)*.