EDITOR'S PREFACE

The Church is not exempt from crisis. What has enabled the Church to grow and move forward is the way she faces and responds wisely to the mixture of difficulties and opportunities that arise now and then in the life of the community of believers. At present, the Church is grappling with the crisis of sexual misconduct involving the clergy. Tagle tackles this painful and confusing reality and, with great intelligence and compassion, shares his views on the need to understand the crisis in relation to cultural practices and boundaries, the call to be more sensitive to those affected by acts of misconduct—victims, perpetrators, families of both, the greater community—and the urgency of forming seminarians in accountability.

In the field of moral theology, Bretzke clarifies the broader meaning of the notion of “burden,” which is key to a proper moral valuation and application of the principle of ordinary and extraordinary means in medical care. He differentiates between a physicalist and a personalist interpretation of the principle, and explains how a difference in interpretation leads to divergent responses, one erroneous and the other appropriate.
Meynard shares his experience and reflections on evangelization in China. He indicates possible directions that may be taken by efforts to integrate Christianity and civil society in China. Lamug-Nañawa evaluates the official document of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines that addresses the issue of the environment. He examines the ideas presented in the document from a theological perspective that consciously relates Jesus, evolutionary theory, and care for the environment.

In the Philippine context, Mendoza, Gabriel and Kroeger evaluate the Basic Ecclesial Communities movement, and discuss, respectively, sustainable formation guided by the Lonerganian notion of “self-appropriation,” some missiological challenges, and the BEC’s potential for mission.

May the articles in this volume provide a deeper understanding of questions and concerns that confront the community of believers and demand effective responses.

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Editor