

## Growth and Globalization of Zubiri Studies

### *Editorial*

The last issue of *The Xavier Zubiri Review* (2006) dealt with the challenge of theology and Zubirian philosophy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This issue continues that theme, which was one of the ressearch areas delineated in our list of ten major issues, published in the 2004 issue of *The Xavier Zubiri Review*. Specifically, the sixth and eighth challenges were a *comprehensive ethical theory* and a *systematic theology*. While neither of those goals has yet been achieved, the essays in this volume and last year's volume, produced in cooperation with the Fundación Xavier Zubiri in Madrid and the Metanexus Institute in Philadelphia, indicate that progress is being made. This issue includes essays on other topics as well, so it should be of interest to many Zubiri scholars.

Especially encouraging is what may be termed the "globalization of Zubiri studies". Articles in this issue come from China, Argentina, the United States, Norway, Spain, Brazil, and Italy. Translations of Zubiri's works into other languages is also proceeding apace. Translations into French, Italian, English, German, and Russian are either planned or underway. The Xavier Zubiri Foundation of North America, in cooperation with University Press of America, plans to publish an English translation of *El hombre y Dios* this year, entitled *Man and God*. Next year the Foundation expects to publish its translation of *Los problemas fundamentales de la filosofía occidental*. These translations were made possible by a generous grant by the Spanish Ministry of Culture. On page 159 of this issue are announcements of two upcoming conferences either on Zubiri or closely related to him. The annual Metanexus Institute of Philadelphia conference on Science and Religion has had papers on Zubiri for many years, and as the announcement notes, the conference is being held in Spain this year, partly in recognition of the importance of those working on Zubiri and the fine work being done in Spain on the topic of science and religion.

In this issue, there are two papers specifically devoted to theological topics. Xavier Sotil Baylos discusses the Eucharistic presence of Christ in the context of Zubiri's philosophy. This is an important step in clarifying Zubiri's theology of the sacraments. Everaldo Cescon gives a nice summary in Portuguese of Zubiri's theology as reflected in the "Theology Trilogy": *El hombre y Dios*, *El problema filosófico de la historia de las religiones*, and *El Cristianismo*. There are two articles dealing with scientific questions and Zubiri. The paper by Fowler discusses Zubiri's thought in connection with both theology and science, in the context of issues arising from the "Unholy Trinity" of reductionism, naturalism, and nominalism. The paper by F. Borrell Carrió discusses Zubiri in connection with a well-known subject in psychology, the "China Room". Specifically, he delves into the question of thinking machines. Two other papers delve into specific aspects of Zubiri's philosophy. Esteban Vargas Abarzúa discusses issues in connection with the formality of reality and of stimulation in Zubiri's noology. Theo Cope explores the role of metaphor in cognitive psychology and Zubiri's philosophy, and notes some important similarities and differences. This topic is

especially interesting and important because of the great use Zubiri makes of metaphor to explain many of his important insights. And to round out the issue, Alberto Valiente Thoresen utilizes Zubiri in his discuss of peace studies—another interesting and unique application of Zubiri’s thought.

We look forward to publishing many exciting papers in our tenth anniversary volume, and we invite readers of this journal to contribute their best work to that special issue. Many of the challenge topics from the 2004 issue remain to be addressed, and all can receive more treatment than they have to date. The call for papers is on page 159 of this issue.

*Thomas B. Fowler*