

EDITORIAL

In a very exciting television series – *Le Bureau des légendes* (in Italian with the title *Le Bureau: sotto copertura*) – which features a number of French intelligence agents acting as infiltrators in distant countries, there is a very interesting dialogue at one point. In the final episode of the fifth season, Guillaume, the protagonist of the series, the most skilled undercover agent, and Marie-Jeanne, who is taking over the bureau, are seen conversing. In the dialogue between the two, which does not actually take place but is imagined or dreamed, Guillaume, who has literally destroyed many people's lives during his missions, states at one point that he not only feels "all-powerful", but actually is: "When we destroy the lives of others by snapping our fingers we are all-powerful". "But that is not the power", replies Marie-Jeanne then. True power, she asserts, is "being able to rebuild".

I was thinking about this dialogue when giving shape to this issue of *Dehoniana*, in which most of the contributions reflect on the theme of "reparation". Reparation, so dear to the Dehonian heritage – n. 23 of the *Constitutions* deals with it explicitly – is in fact the ability to rebuild where there are broken bonds, failures that seem irretrievable, hatreds that divide and destroy. The European Theological Commission has been reflecting on the theme from a comparison with the theses of a philosophical work dedicated to the ethics of repairing. It has done so from an interdisciplinary perspective, offering insights into thinking about reparation from various points of view: from the logic of evil to the ecumenical perspective, from sacramental theology to ecology, and even to the analysis of the topic within the Dehonian heritage. The contributions of the European Theological Commission constitute the "central dossier" of this issue. Two other articles, which complement each other also reflect on the topic. First, is an article by Eduardo Emilio Agüero that is an exegetical study with an academic nature on 1Thess 4:3-8 that serves as the biblical background for the definition, which we find in the *Constitutions*, on reparation as "a welcome to the Spirit"; second, is another article by Daniel Kouobou which starts from a very concrete and dramatic situation and goes further to ask how the events of history – in this case the ongoing war in some regions of Cameroon – can provoke a real "*aggiornamento*" of our charismatic tradition.

Other contributions are as follows: an exegetical study by Delio Ruiz on the theme of the oblation of Jesus starting from 1Pet 2:18-25; a clarification by Aimone Gelardi on the

relationship between the Priests of the Sacred Heart and the Servants of the Sacred Heart; the second part of Angelo Arrighini's analysis of the circular letters of Fr. Bourgeois whose centenary of birth was commemorated last year; and the seventh part of Msgr. Joseph Philippe's recollections on the origin and development of the Congregation. This edition ends with a remembrance of two confreres who died this year and who made significant contributions to the study of Father Dehon and the Dehonian charismatic heritage. These are, Fr. André Perroux (1931-2022) and Fr. Yves Ledure (1934-2022). They are remembered with a brief profile respectively by Aimone Gelardi and Stefan Tertünte who are both former directors of the *Dehonian Studies Centre*.

True power is not to destroy, but to be able to rebuild. The statement I mentioned above has a major theological significance. God acts in history to rebuild what the "sin of the world", in the Johannine sense of the term, undermines and destroys. The divine work of reconstruction reaches its culmination in the Paschal mystery, when the only-begotten Son reveals the infinite power of a love that – by sinking into the mire of the most destructive evil – renews, restores, rebuilds. Here we find the deepest root of reparation. A central element of our charismatic heritage, it always needs to be rethought and deepened afresh. The hope is that this issue of *Dehoniana* can contribute to that.

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