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Dossier: Pontificate of Francis: changes and perspectives

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Translated by Brasil Fernandes de Barros**

I am very pleased to present the new issue of HORIZONTE, a journal of studies in theology and religious studies. Within it, we have the dossier “Pope Francis: changes and perspectives”, with the collaboration of Prof. Dr. Rodrigo Coppe Caldeira (PUC Minas), to whom we express our gratitude.

It is now almost 9 years since the beginning of Francis’ pontificate at the helm of the Catholic Church. Having been elected on March 13, 2013, he was confirmed as the 266th Pope of this religious tradition. Born as Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on December 17, 1936, Francis was the first “pope of the end of the world”, bringing in his reflection and pastoral experience perspectives of Christian theology developed in Latin America, especially of a more contextual nature.

After Benedict XVI resigned from the papacy on February 28, 2013, Francis can be understood as a certain “turning point”, raising enormous expectations in face of the challenges placed on Catholicism at the beginning of this millennium, especially for the progressive tendencies within the Catholic Church that demand renewal. In which measure does it correspond and has it corresponded to these expectations? What marks does he leaving in Catholicism? Where are his paths pointing? These are questions that, in some way, our authors try to answer in the papers now published.

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Thus, in our **Editorial** we have Prof. Dr. Faustino Luís do Couto Teixeira (UFJF), with the text **Francis and the essential challenge of resurgence** (in English, Portuguese and Spanish).

In our **dossier**, we have 14 articles: **Pope Francis and the changes in the global governance of the Catholic Church** (in English and Portuguese) by Prof. Dr. Massimo Faggioli (Villanova University); **The grand turning point of Francis' pontificate: changes and prospects in the Church family of God in Africa** (in French), by Dr. Anne Beatrice-Faye (Groupe Africain de Recherche en Philosophie Interculturelle et Association des Théologiens Africains); **Towards a synodal ecclesiality. A new understanding of the Church as People of God?** (in Spanish), by Prof. Dr. Rafael Luciani (Boston College); **Pope Francis on the agenda of the Second Vatican Council: For a serving and humble church in service of the Gospel and the Kingdom** (in Portuguese), by the Professors Dr. Pedro Rubens Ferreira Oliveira (UNICAP) and Dr. Degislando Nóbrega de Lima (UNICAP); **The missionary discourse in Mt 10:5-16 and the missionary ecclesiology of Francis** (in Portuguese), by Professors Dr. Solange Maria do Carmo (PUC Minas) and Dr. Júnior Vasconcelos do Amaral (PUC Minas); **Whom to Obey: The Law or the Prophets?** (in English and Portuguese), by Prof. Dr. Phyllis Zagano (Hofstra University); **Pope Francis' Papacy: Pastoral Renewal, Not Doctrinal Change** (in Portuguese), by Professors Dr. Michael G. Lawler (Creighton University) and Dr. Todd A. Szalman (Creighton University); **Pope Francis and the LGBTQI+ People: Changes and Perspectives** (in Portuguese), by Prof. Dr. Maria Cristina Silva Furtado (UFRJ); **Pope Francis and interreligious encounter** (in Portuguese), by Prof. Dr. Peter C. Phan (Georgetown University); **The work of the Anglican-Roman Catholic National Commission and the practical ecumenism** (in Portuguese), by Dr. Rafael Vilaça Epifani Costa (UNICAP); **Diversity and complexity between justification and application: a democratic pedagogy of religion, a religious pedagogy of democracy—some thoughts from Pope Francis' post-Synod exhortation Amoris Laetitia** (in Portuguese), by Professors Dr. Leno Francisco Danner (Universidade Federal de Rondônia–UNIR), Dr. Fernando Danner (Universidade Federal de Rondônia)

and Dr. Agemir Bravaresco (PUC RS); **Fratelli tutti: a renewing Encyclical on new and urgent things** (in Portuguese), by Prof. Dr. João Décio Passos (PUC SP); **The reception of the Magisterium of Pope Francis by Catholic Church in Brasil: principles and urgencies for the mission** (in Portuguese), by Prof. Dr. Elias Wolff (PUC PR); **Ethical discernment in the magisterium of his holiness Pope Francis: A theological reflection for the current context**, by Professors Dr. Mário Marcelo Coelho (Faculdade Dehoniana) and Dr. André Luiz Boccato de Almeida (PUC SP).

In the **Dossier - Translation**, we bring the paper translated to Portuguese by Prof. Dr. Massimo Borghesi (Università di Perugia), **The Influence of the Dialectique des “exercices spirituels” de Saint Ignace de Loyola in the Thought of Jorge Mario Bergoglio**.

In the **Free Theme** section, we have the following paper: **Counter-spell: “we even knock down any spell, here the person is cured”** (in Portuguese), by Prof. Dr. Lucielma Lobato Silva (Secretaria de Estado de Educação – SEE – Pará).

And in the section **Free Themes - Translation**, Dr. Leonardo Gonçalves de Alvarenga (UEMS) presents his translation into Portuguese of the paper made by Prof. Dr. Daniëlle Hervieu-Léger (École des hautes études en sciences sociales–EHESS) **Le converti «évangélique», figure de description de la modernité religieuse**.

Also in this issue, we have reviews and summaries of thesis and dissertations.

We wish everyone a good reading, hoping that with this issue of HORIZONTE we are contributing in a qualified and pertinent way to our field of knowledge in Brazil and abroad!