



FONDAZIONE VATICANA  
JOSEPH RATZINGER  
BENEDETTO XVI



*Il Presidente*

**Message on the occasion of the Award Ceremony  
of the Third Edition of the “Ratio et Spes” Award**

Magnificent Rector, Prof. Andrzej Sokala,  
Distinguished Academic Authorities,

I am very pleased that today, for the third time, there is proclaimed an illustrious and highly qualified winner of the *Ratio et Spes* Prize.

Although the situation of the pandemic again prevents the award ceremony from being held in person as we all would have hoped for, the event is taking place also this year in the context of the University of Toruń’s Feast Day and National Science Day, on the anniversary of the birth of Nicholas Copernicus.

This means, then, that the initiative of the Prize continues despite the difficulties. We hone and consolidate the aims and procedures, and confirm the good path on which our work with the prestigious University of Toruń for the promotion of interdisciplinary research on topics of great currency and interest to humanity has been set.

The topics proposed so far – artificial intelligence, its opportunities and its questions; human development and the global ecosystem; the dignity of human life and health care – are themes that see scientific and technological competence combined with reflection on the great responsibilities for the good of humanity and its future. Biological and health sciences, information technology, philosophy and theology contribute together to seek not only the theoretical truth, but

also the concrete truth of the good for the human person and for the realization of human hopes. This is precisely what the title of the Award says: *Ratio et Spes*.

Inspired by Joseph Ratzinger's thought on "open reason", the aims of our Foundation coincide with those of the university world. In the Nicholas Copernicus University, we have found an ideal partner. We are truly grateful of the opportunity to walk together in this direction. We move within an international perspective and at a high level of intellectual formation, in continuity with the attention the Catholic Church has always given and continues to dedicate – to the fostering of culture and the development of the sciences.

Human health care is a field to which the Nicolaus Copernicus University is particularly committed, as are several other universities in Poland. That the Scientific Committee of the Award has chosen an author capable of investigating ethical questions on the basis of deep scientific knowledge, is something your whole university community will appreciate.

I conclude by expressing my congratulations to the Prize Winner, Prof. Matthew Hanley, greeting and thanking the University of Torun – in particular the Magnificent Rector, Prof. Andrzej Sokala – the members of the Scientific Committee and experts of the *Ratio et Spes* Award, and all the distinguished academic authorities taking part. I hope that we shall be able to meet in person next year, to confer the Award in its fourth edition, the theme of which is announced today.

Federico Lombardi SJ

Fr. Federico Lombardi S.J.

15.2.2022

Vatican City