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POPE JOHN PAUL II AND ARTISTS: ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POPE'S *LETTER TO ARTISTS*

Abstract

This paper will try to give an overview of the basic topics, inspiration and perspectives of the *Letter to Artists* by Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of this document. The article examines theological and cultural perspectives by which John Paul II opened the space to restored understanding of the role of art for Christianity, but also deeper understanding of Christianity for the art both in its history and presence. The letter is analyzed through three segments: special artist vocation, history of relations between art and liturgy and mutual knowingness of the Church and artists. Dialog, historical-hermeneutical and philosophy elements that John Paul II used for elaborating creative role of art in the church culture, stand out especially. Along the lines of the Second Vatican Council and *Letter to Artists* the conclusion answers the question how the Church sees contemporary art and points the elements of the new paradigm which develops dialogue and cooperative relationship of the Church and world of artists.

Keywords: *Letter to Artists*; John Paul II; Church and art; liturgy art; Second Vatican Council