

## INTERPRETATION OF SIGNS OF TIME – A FORGOTTEN TASK OF CHURCH?

### *Summary*

Starting from the duty assigned to the Church by the Second Vatican Council that it should examine the signs of time at any time and interpret them in the light of the Gospel, the author investigates to what extent that topic is present in the post-Council theology. The most recent Council anniversary initiated a deeper study and an integral analysis of its documents, especially the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* and the key category the signs of time. Then the author presents the theological advancement regarding the role and meaning of *signa temporum* as well as the formation of criteria for their evaluation. There have been increasingly new challenges of time, and the old ones have been valued from a new perspective. The signs by themselves are unclear and ambivalent, and the task to evaluate them is exceptionally difficult and very important because in that way the novelty of the Gospel is ever being discovered. Some practical guidelines for action are also given. In the conclusion the main perceptions and thought perspectives that the author himself has arrived at are summarized.

*Key words: signa temporum – signs of time, Gaudium et Spes, reception of Pastoral Constitution, pastoral orientation of dogma, criteria for signs evaluation, guidelines for action.*