

Growing Interest in Zubiri's Philosophy as a Tool to Understand Mathematics and Science

Editorial

With this issue the second decade of *The Xavier Zubiri Review* commences. The issue features three papers that deal with mathematics and science as related to Zubiri's thought. These papers, which cover mathematics, artificial intelligence, and the philosophy of science, show that Zubiri's philosophy is increasingly being used as a tool to understand modern mathematics and science, and to clarify the limits of certain ideas and avenues of thought. Hopefully this trend will continue and expand in the future. Zubiri's philosophy is able to fill this role for several reasons. First, Zubiri spent a significant part of his life in pursuit of knowledge in these areas. As a result, he gained great insight into modern mathematics and science. Secondly, his in-depth knowledge of the history of philosophy allowed him to see how science, mathematics, and philosophy have interacted in the past, and enabled him to avoid the mistakes of past philosophers, including Descartes, Hume, and Kant. Thirdly, the great depth and penetration of Zubiri's philosophy itself gives us new insights into both mathematics and science. For example, Zubiri's new understanding of reality—reality by postulation in particular—allowed him to understand Gödel's Theorem in a much broader way than usual. Specifically, Zubiri realized that this theorem is ultimately about reality, and the fact that mathematical objects, as real, have a reality that is not exhausted by their postulation. This kind of insight cannot come from mathematics alone; it is the product of profound new way of understanding reality and human knowledge of it.

With this issue we also complete Jesús Sáez-Cruz' masterful study of Zubiri's notion of causality and personal causality. This study is especially important because of the pivotal role that causality has played in Western philosophy. The issue is rounded out by Juan José García's paper on non-theistic choices as perceived by Zubiri, and Juan A. Nicolás' study of Ellacuría and his view of liberation theology.

We trust that readers will find some or all of these articles to be of interest in their particular fields.

*Thomas B. Fowler
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112th birthday of Xavier Zubiri*