Editorial:
Family in the Media

The subject of the family has been discussed in media for a long time now, always prompting debates on values. At the same time, the development of communication technologies and their new channels give rise to an increase in the social impact of media, which, affecting the family life, often determines the understanding of its essence and functioning. This might prompt the critical assessment, respecting the current state of research and interdisciplinary knowledge, of both positive and negative aspects of the phenomenon. The "Horizons of Education" is the proper domain for such important and socially applicable analyses as it is a scientific journal which has reflected upon the condition of a contemporary man in the light of faith, new social, technological, and educational challenges.

The current issue focuses on trends specific for media messages and the impact they have on the family as a community and as a fundamental unit of society bearing common beliefs and values. The reflections are presented from a variety of perspectives, often taking into account the fundamental, for the Christians, views of the Pope and other representatives of the Catholic Church. The research presented here concerns the characteristics of senders, their intentions and aims, the medium of transmission, and the content transmitted as well as its function. The conditions of reception are also taken into account, particularly in terms of the influence, benefits and dangers related to the impact of media on the family.

It is worth noting that the way in which the family is presented in the media and public space is conditioned by many factors contributing to the popularization of individual family models and to the creation of schemes for the exploitation of their image. This can be observed both in informational and persuasive media broadcasts as well as in those produced for broadly understood educational purposes. Multiple contexts of the phenomenon are discussed here, however, the dilemma that accompanies them remains the same: does the construct of the family, produced for the purposes of media messages, comply with its proper definition and, in an axiological sense, does it correspond to the system of values that the family as a basic social group represents? Leaving our Readers alone with this question, we invite you to read the articles published in this issue.

Małgorzata Łosiewicz
Anna Ryłko-Kurpiewska
theme issue editors