

ABSTRACTS

GIOVANNI FILORAMO, *Religion/s and Ecology: a Historic-religious Reflection*

After recalling several reasons for interest in the study of the relations between religion and ecology, the contribution goes on to recount how a new field of studies, 'Religion and Ecology', has been built up over the last fifty years and is now flourishing in the English-speaking world. The first thing that needs to be done is to define the two concepts involved and clarify the chosen method for studying their relations.

The second part proposes an approximate classification centred, on the one hand, on the theological and exegetic responses that the various religious traditions provide for addressing the current ecological crisis and, on the other hand, on the religion of nature, one of the chief features of which is an essentialist and sacred vision of Nature.

IRENE GADDO, *An 'Intricate Maze' of Contrasts. The Jesuit Apostolate in Late Seventeenth-Century China*

Through the exchange of correspondence between Italian Jesuits engaged in the Chinese mission, this essay retraces certain fault lines that profoundly marked the Jesuit community at a crucial time in the history of the Society and its projection at global level. In the decades around the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth century, the arrival of new actors on the missionary scene, and the escalation of the controversies about Chinese rites, rekindled and intensified the tensions and rivalries within the missionary body in China. This played out against the more general background of the remapping of the geopolitical structures and the imperial ambitions of the European powers.

PIERLUIGI GIOVANNUCCI, *Holiness According to Pope Francis: Towards a New Catholic Hagiographic Paradigm?*

The article examines the apostolic exhortation of March 2018, *Gaudete et exsultate*, devoted to 'the call to holiness in today's world', which presents import-

ant innovations concerning the Catholic concept of holiness. In the first place, the reference to the idea that holiness is a reality open to all, or rather that it is realised precisely in everyday life. In the second place, the concept of Christian life as a 'mission', so that holiness does not consist of a series of more or less virtuous actions, but of the response to a precise divine call, entirely original and personal. Finally, in GE the pope presents holiness as a reality 'of a people': a perspective that opens up to modes of holiness that are typologically differentiated by geographical area and in relation to different cultural dimensions.

VINCENZO PACE, *Hebrew Messianic Movements and Sacralisation of the Land*

The article analyses the elective affinities of certain Hebrew movements and the strategy of colonisation of the occupied territories of the State of Israel during the Six Days' War of 1967. After reconstructing the policies of Israeli governments favouring the installation of new residential centres in these territories, the author addresses the groups of colonists who interpreted this territorial expansion as a visible sign of the Messianic Era. More specifically, the religious and political action of Chabad is compared with that of Gush Emunim. For the pious Hebrews in these groups of Hasidic matrix, or the expression of a political theology that yoked religion and nationalism, the biblical confines of *Eretz Israel*, of the Promised Land, could now be recreated. However, the Messianic mysticism had to come to terms with social and political reality in a land disputed by Israelis and Palestinians, with different outcomes for Chabad and Gush Emunim.