

Fr. Jacek **Wojda**, Catholic Church and the virtue of tolerance.

Summary

The author underlines that before tolerance became considered virtue it had had a negative meaning. Tolerance as a virtue has its foundation in the dignity of human being and in respect deserved by man. The evolution of tolerance finds its context in the Western religious history. Tolerance is an issue, which appeared in the history of the Church especially in the modern times. Before it received a positive importance, it was seen as a need of bearing what cannot be accepted. Then, tolerance referred to differences in understanding faith and Church by the Western Christianity. The theological reflection on tolerance was based on the fragment of the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Mt 19, 16-22) telling about the meeting of Jesus and a rich young man. That is why tolerance can be recognized as an evangelical attitude. It is represented by the Church which articulates her tolerance within four dimensions of her life, as the Church is one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic.