

TOMASZ STWORA*

**ATTEMPTS OF INTERPRETING THE DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN
IN THE LIGHT OF THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION IN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY**

SUMMARY

Attempts of explaining the Catholic doctrine of original sin in the light of the theory of evolution are important in the interdisciplinary dialogue between theology and natural sciences. Solutions, proposed by theologians, can be divided into three main groups. Initially the dominating concepts justified monogenism (Adam as the only origin of humanity), while taking the neutral position towards natural sciences, and basing on conclusions drawn from the doctrinal teaching of the Church and biblical exegesis (e.g. young K. Rahner, L. Scheffczyk). In the 60s of the twentieth century, there were studies which were open to natural sciences and the evolutionary vision of the world. There were attempts of reconciling polygenism (a primary community instead of an individual Adam) with the dogma of original sin, while respecting the indivisible source of the original sin (late K. Rahner, Z. Alszeghy, M. Flick, R. Schwager). Concurrently, there were theological suggestions which under the influence of interdisciplinary dialogue gave up on monogenism, individual sinner, and any first sinful community (P. Teilhard de Chardin).

KEYWORDS: original sin, evolution, monogenism, polygenism.

*Tomasz Stwora, M.A. – a Doctoral Candidate at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (Poland); e-mail: tstwora@wp.pl