
The Catholic University of Croatia: Twenty Years of Academic Mission

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The Catholic University of Croatia marks the twentieth anniversary of its founding this year. Guided by the Apostolic Constitution *Ex corde Ecclesiae*, which affirms that Catholic universities are “born from the heart of the Church” (1), the University was founded by decision of Cardinal Josip Bozanić, Archbishop of Zagreb and Metropolitan. Over the past two decades, it has grown into a recognised institution within the Croatian academic and social community. This growth has been built on the dedicated work of our faculty, researchers, and staff, as well as on the continued confidence that students have placed in this institution. It has been sustained through ongoing cooperation with the Church, the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, and the wider academic community. Rooted in Christian values and guided by its institutional mission and vision (2), the University continues to foster an academic environment that integrates scientific excellence with ethical responsibility. In line with *Ex corde Ecclesiae*, it affirms its role as a place of research where scholars, through the methods proper to their disciplines, seek to understand reality and contribute to the advancement of human knowledge, while fostering dialogue among different fields for their mutual enrichment (1).

In this context, special mention should be made of the University’s scientific journal, *Unicath Journal of Biomedicine and Bioethics*, which, in this jubilee year, publishes its fifth issue. As an important component of the University’s academic identity, the journal contributes to the advancement of scientific and professional excellence, enhances the visibility of research achievements across different fields and countries, and upholds high standards of ethical and scientific responsibility.

The journal has grown alongside the University – quietly, steadily, and with purpose. Under the leadership of the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Marta Čivljak, PhD, and with the sustained engagement of the Editorial Board, reviewers, and contributors, it has established itself as a credible and valued voice in biomedical and bioethical scholarship. Much of that credibility rests on the work of our reviewers, whose rigorous and largely unrecognised efforts ensure that what appears in these pages meets the standards of the field.

The celebration of the University's twentieth anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on past achievements while renewing our commitment to future challenges and opportunities. This issue of the journal reflects both: a record of what has been achieved and a sign of our continued commitment. In this spirit, this issue further enriches the commemoration of this significant milestone.

Aware of the demanding nature of publishing scientific journals, particularly in attaining and maintaining high standards of quality, on behalf of the University leadership and the wider academic community, we extend our best wishes for the continued success of the journal, its editors, and all who contribute

to it. We also wish it many future issues and years of meaningful scholarly work that will contribute to both the academic and the wider social community.

References

1. John Paul II. *Ex corde Ecclesiae*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana; 1990 [cited 2026 Apr 22]. Available from: https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_constitutions/documents/hf_jp-ii_apc_15081990_ex-corde-ecclesiae.html
2. Catholic University of Croatia. Mission and Vision [Internet]. Zagreb: Catholic University of Croatia; [cited 2026 Apr 22]. Available from: <https://www.unicath.hr/en/about-us/mission-and-vision>