

CHURCH REPORTER

12/2020

Newsletter for the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society
Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Stříbro

17th December 2020 | Volume 5



Prague, Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Strahov, Saturday, 28th November 2020: Archbishop Dominik Cardinal Duka of Prague blesses new bells at the beginning of the celebrations of 900 years since the founding of the Premonstratensian Order. Photo by Jakub Šerých.

Worldwide Celebration of 900th Anniversary of Founding of Premonstratensians Started in Prague

At the beginning of this year's Advent, on sunset on Saturday, 28th November 2020, the Royal Canonry of the Premonstratensians in Prague Strahov launched the celebration of the 900th anniversary of the founding of the order in its monastery basilica of the Assumption with the participation of Prague Archbishop Dominik Cardinal Duka OP. The joint singing of the first Advent vespers was followed by the blessing of new bells and the display of the remains of St. Norbert (1080–1134), the founder of the order, who is buried in the basilica.



Festive vespers in the Premonstratensian basilica. The number of participants was significantly reduced due to hygienic restrictions.

Photo Jakub Šerých

On the following first Sunday of Advent, 29th November 2020, the Apostolic Nuncio in the Czech Republic Mons. Charles Daniel Balvo celebrated the Holly Mass which marked the beginning of the worldwide jubilee year of the Premonstratensian Order.

St. Norbert came from Xanten on the Lower Rhine, where he became a canon at a young age. In 1120/1121, he founded a monastery of the new canonical order following the monastic rule of St. Augustine in “the place shown in advance”, called Prémontré, in the valley near Laon in Provence (France). He later became archbishop of Magdeburg, where he died on 6th June 1134. In 1627, his body was transferred to the Strahov Monastery in Prague.

Soon after, he was included among the Czech national patrons. An important role was played by the fact that the Premonstratensian Order was already one of the most numerous religious orders in Bohemia and Moravia.

The celebrations of the anniversary of the Premonstratensian Order take place and will take place around the world through a series of other festivities, until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in 2022. In addition to celebrations at individual Premonstratensian monasteries in the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the anniversary, for example, an exhibition will be opened in Prague Strahov. Among the worldwide events prepared for 2021, the international meeting of juniors (novices and students) of the Premonstratensian Order in Mondaye (France) or the meeting of prelates of the Premonstratensian monasteries in Rome and a special audience with Pope Francis deserve special attention.

The Premonstratensian Order has around 1 300 members worldwide. In its work, it focuses on emphasizing reverence for the Blessed Sacrament and on exemplary care for the choral prayer of the Divine Office. It is engaged in exemplary administration of incorporated parishes and many pastoral activities, care of libraries, and many of its members are dedicated to science and teaching, especially at universities.

During the forcible elimination of all men's monasteries in Czechoslovakia in 1950, all Premonstratensian activities were abolished, and many members were imprisoned on the basis of kangaroo court or without trial in internment prisons or deployed to auxiliary technical battalions of the army. When, after a brief liberalization of the regime in 1968, some monks began to secretly associate in secret communities and accept first novices again, the Premonstratensians were among the first. Therefore, during the renewal of the order's life in 1990, together with the Salesians, Jesuits, Dominicans and Franciscans, they were among the most numerous renewed male orders in Czechoslovakia.¹

At present, there are four Premonstratensian abbeys (canonries) in the Czech Republic, namely in Prague in Strahov, in Teplá near Mariánské Lázně in western Bohemia, in Želiv in eastern Bohemia and in Nová Říše in western Moravia. Each canonry has its own abbot. Some of them have subsidiary monasteries in a larger number of places in the Czech lands and in Slovakia.

Already after 1990, the public activity of the sisters from the Premonstratensian religious congregation was resumed, which is now housed in the monastery at the Svatý Kopeček pilgrimage site near Olomouc.

In 1998, the abbot of Strahov Michael Pojezdny OPraem, agreed with the administration of the monastery of Premonstratensian Nuns in Cracow – Zwierzyniec on an attempt to restore the Premonstratensian canon monastery in Doksany (northern Bohemia). First, the religious house dependent on the parent canonry in Krakow was founded. In 2007, the Apostolic See decided to promote it to an independent canonry and submit it to the abbot of Strahov as its prelate. An article with a more detailed description of the restoration of the monastery in Doksany during several centuries after its abolition during the Enlightenment is presented by Revd Professor Ignác Antonín Hrdina OPraem in his paper, which will be published in the Church Law Review No. 1/2021.

¹ According to the list drawn up by the Conference of Senior Religious Superiors, all four abbeys (canonries) of the Premonstratensian Order in Bohemia and Moravia were restored, and as of that date it had 116 members.

Readers of canon law periodicals published by the Church Law Society will certainly be interested in the fact that there are two Premonstratensians and two Dominicans among the teachers of canon law at Czech universities: Revd Ignác Antonín Hrdina OPraem and Revd Bartoloměj Marián Čačík OPraem, both from Strahov, Revd Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP from the Dominican monastery of St. Giles in Prague and Revd Damián Němec OP from the Dominican monastery of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary in Olomouc.

The monumental Premonstratensian monastery in Strahov, the seat of Premonstratensian theology students from the Czech lands who study at the Catholic Theological Faculty of Charles University, is the seat of one of the largest publicly accessible libraries in the Czech lands. The basilica and the monastery, together with Prague Castle, form a beautiful and world-famous Prague panorama.



Strahov Monastery and Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The left part of the panorama of Prague as seen from the Vltava river.



The Vltava River, Charles Bridge and Prague Castle with the Cathedral of Saints Vitus, Wenceslaus and Adalbert. The right part of the panorama of Prague.

Consecration of New Church in Prague Barrandov

On Sunday, 22nd November 2020, the new church of Christ the Saviour was consecrated in the Barrandov district of Prague, known as the centre of Czech film studios. The main celebrant was the Archbishop of Prague Dominik Cardinal Duka OP. Due to the current hygienic situation, only a few priests and ministers could attend the three-hour ceremony inside the church. Believers watched the ceremony on an outdoor screen or at home in front of televisions, as it was broadcast by the Czech Catholic channel *Noe*.

At the beginning of the solemn Mass, Cardinal Duka thanked the initiator of the project, Revd Josef Ptáček, the local spiritual administrator, and symbolically handed him the keys to the new church. The consecration of the church itself involved the insertion of the remains of the Czech saint, Princess St. Ludmila († 921) to the altar mensa, oiling the altar and the walls of the church by chrisms, lighting five incense fires on the altar and incensing the whole church.



*From the Mass in the recently consecrated church of Christ the Saviour in Barrandov (Prague).
Photo by Jakub Šerých*

The main reason for the construction of the new church is the constantly growing population of Barrandov, which has multiplied over the last decade. The new complex includes not only the church, but also community centre with a hall, club rooms, library, children's corner, and café.

From the beginning, the construction has been accompanied by great interest from the inhabitants of Barrandov. Most of the costs were covered by the parish and its supporters. The collection was accompanied by a number of moving stories. The church was supported by inheritances or lifelong savings, small children also contributed by individual coins. The local

organist decided to donate the organ to the church. This whole work was accompanied by enormous spiritual force.

Bruno Barrande, descendant of *Joachim Barrande*, French palaeontologist (1799–1883), who, during his several years in Prague, examined in detail the geological shape of the hill on which the new Prague district was built, and discovered a number of fossils of extinct creatures, also closely followed the construction of the church from the south of France. The neighbourhood Barrandov is named after Joachim Barrande.



Ceremonial Sending of New Main Prison Chaplain into Service

On 2nd December 2020, ecumenical service was held in the chapel of the Archbishopric of Prague on the occasion of sending a new main chaplain of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic into service. Permanent deacon Otto Broch from Olomouc (Moravia) took the place of the current main prison chaplain Pavel Kočnar, a preacher of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. The main chaplain and his or her deputy are appointed for a five-year term by the Director General of the Prison Service from clergy commissioned by a registered church or religious society on the basis of a joint proposal of the Ecumenical Council of Churches and the Czech Bishops' Conference.

Deacon Otto Broch, who has almost thirty years of experience working in the Olomouc detention centre, and his deputy Pavel Zvolánek, preacher of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, made the prescribed pledge. The service was led by the chairman of the Ecumenical Council of Churches and the Synod Senior of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren Daniel Ženatý and Mons. Zdenek Wasserbauer, auxiliary bishop and vicar general of the Archbishop of Prague, who is in charge of spiritual care in public institutions as part of his official duties. The service was also attended by the main chaplain of the army of the Czech Republic, Catholic priest Colonel Jaroslav Knichal and police chaplain Major Jiří Ignác Laňka and by several other chaplains working in public institutions.

About fifty prison chaplains from several churches work full-time or part-time as employees of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic and work in all prisons and detention facilities. They are appointed on behalf of their own church. In addition to them, prisoners are also visited by members of the 200-member Prison Spiritual Care organization, whose members can be members of any church who carry out their activities without the right to remuneration.



Chapel of the Archbishop's Palace in Prague: from left Pavel Zvolánek, Otto Broch, Mons. Zdenek Wasserbauer, Synod Senior Daniel Ženatý and standing Major Jiří Ignác Laňka, police chaplain.

Photo Roman Albrecht, Člověk a Víra

Academic Committee of Czech Christian Academy Met

On Saturday, 12th December 2020, a regular half-yearly meeting of the Academic Committee of the Czech Christian Academy took place online due to hygienic restrictions.

Professor Tomáš Halík, President of the Academy, laureate of the Templeton Prize and Honorary Doctor of the Oxford University, and Mrs. Ilona Trnková, Director of the Academy, presided the meeting.

Mons. Tomáš Halík read a report on activities for the last half of the year and the publication of the magazine *Universum*, which is published four times a year with a circulation of 1 400 copies. As of the date of the committee meeting, the Czech Christian Academy had 1 115 individual members, 5 collective members and 67 local groups from all over Bohemia and Moravia.

Afterwards, 15 representatives of the administration of local groups, professional sections and members of the Presidium of the Academy reported on the activities for the past six months. Due to the pandemic, they had to cancel many lectures and other activities in the past period. It was said several times among the participants that technology cannot replace personal contact. On the other hand, it is necessary to improve the technical possibilities of long-distance communication, so that in these extraordinary times, at least in this form, it is possible for the audience to participate in lectures organized by local groups.

Director of legal section of the Czech Christian Academy Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Vice-Director Associate Professor Zábaj Horák presented a report concerning the section and the Church Law Society as a collective member.

Mons. Halík expressed pride in the extensive publishing activities of the legal section and the Church Law Society, which publishes the professional journal *Church Law Review* four times a year, as well as the Czech online fortnightly *Zrcadlo církve (Church Mirror)* and the English online monthly *Church Reporter*.

Jubilee Year of Dominicans Begins

Provincial of the Czech Dominican Province Revd MUDr. Lukáš Jan Fošum OP opened the jubilee year of the Dominicans on 1st December 2020 on the occasion of the anniversary of St. Dominic, the founder of the order, from whose departure for eternity will be 800 years next year.

In his letter to the brethren, he reminded the importance of following the example of St. Dominic and the application of the motto *Contemplare et contemplata aliis tradere*. The brothers received the book *Dominik. Zvěstování Božího slova [Dominic. Annunciation of God's Word]*, new Czech translation of the book by Revd Dr Vladimír Koudelka OP (1919–2003), Czech church historian who worked in Rome and Switzerland, an expert on the work of the founder of the order.

Greetings from Professor Hammer from Rottenburg am Neckar

Professor Felix Hammer, justice officer and chancellor of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, Professor of Religion Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Tübingen, sent his greetings to the Church Reporter editorial board. In his letter, he states, inter alia:

„Bei uns besteht allenthalben die Meinung, die Tschechische Republik sei völlig säkularisiert, wenn ich aber die Berichte von der neu-alten Mariensäule vor der Teynkirche und dem Fest des Heiligen Wenzeslaus als Nationalfeiertag lese, sehe ich hier doch eine sehr aktive christliche Prägung selbst in der Groß- und Weltstadt Prag auch noch in der Gegenwart, was mich natürlich sehr freut.“

Online Meeting of European Consortium for Church and State Research

The online *Webinar on Coronavirus, Church and State* took place on Wednesday, 9th December 2020 from 3 pm to 4:30 pm Central European time. The webinar was led by Professor Mark Hill QC from London. Emanuel Tăvală (Romania), Stephen Farrell (Ireland) and Merilin Kiviorg (Estonia) made brief contributions on worship and restrictions on religious freedom in their countries from spring 2020 to the present. This was followed by a discussion during which more than ten participants spoke. Záboj Horák and Jiří Rajmund Tretera participated on behalf of the Czech Republic.

Almost all members of the Consortium took part in the broadcast and decided on regular webinars next year, every month. The webinars will monitor the further development of restrictions on the possibility of religious gatherings in individual European countries, and its relationship to restrictions on gatherings in shops and other for-profit organizations.

From New Publications

DECKEN, Kerstin von der, GÜNZEL, Angelika (eds.), *Festschrift für Gerhard Robbers zum 70. Geburtstag*, Baden-Baden, 2020, 1175 pp., ISBN 978-3-8487-6892-9.

FABRIS, Costantino-Matteo, *Foro interno*, Genesi ed evoluzione dell'istituto canonistico, Modena, 2020, 327 pp., ISBN 978-88-7000-868-5.

SABBARESE, Luigi (eds.), *Opus Humilitatis Iustitia*, Studi in memoria del Cardinale Velasio De Paolis, Volume 3, Rome, 2020, 368 pp., ISBN 978-88-401-6041-2.

Journals, periodicals

Ius Canonicum, revista general de Derecho canónico y de Derecho eclesiástico, Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, ISSN 0021-325X, ISSN-e 2254-6219,

Vol. 60, 120 (2020),

including:

FANTAPPIÈ, Carlo, *Derecho canónico interdisciplinar*, Ideas para una renovación epistemológica,

MICHOWICZ, Przemysław, OFMConv, *Razonamiento por principios*, Aproximación canonística.

L'année Canonique, Tome LIX – 2018, La Société Internationale de Droit Canonique et de Législations religieuses comparées, publié avec la collaboration de la Faculté de Droit Canonique de Paris, Letouzey et Ané, Paris, 2019, ISSN 0570-1953, including:

DURAND, Jean-Paul, *Concordats avortés de Louis XI, concordat de François 1^{er}*, pp. 13–33,

BERGIN, Joseph, *After 1682 – The real crisis begins*, pp. 35–53,

GUENIFFEY, Patrice, *Le Concordat de 1801: les enjeux d'une négociation*, pp. 75–84,

LALOUETTE, Jacqueline, *Les vains débats de la Seconde République en matière de religion*, pp. 109–118,

DOUANLA TANKEU, Clovis, *Fonction, prérogatives et importance processuelle du défenseur du lien dans la procédure en nullité de mariage depuis le motu proprio Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus*, pp. 165–182,

PETIT, Emmanuel, *La prescription en droit pénal canonique, entre tradition et questions actuelles*, pp. 257–270.

**We wish all readers of Church Reporter a Blessed
Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021.**

Church Reporter – Newsletter for the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society, Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Stříbro, published by Church Law Society, Sudoměřská 25, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic.

Photo on the front page: Prague, Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Strahov, Saturday, 28th November 2020: Archbishop Dominik Cardinal Duka of Prague blesses new bells at the beginning of the celebrations of 900 years since the founding of the Premonstratensian Order. Photo by Jakub Šerých.

Editor-in-Chief: Revd Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP

Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Záboj Horák

Editorial Board: Jan Beránek, Vojtěch Círus, Tomáš Grundza, Jakub Nagy, Marek Novák

Photo editor: Antonín Krč

Available online at: spcp.prf.cuni.cz/newsletter. Issues appear monthly.

E-mail: spcp@prf.cuni.cz

ISSN 2695-012X