

CHURCH REPORTER

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

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Pastoral Care of Lawyers in Prague

Wedding in Holy Saviour Church

On 26th June 2021, Adéla Felixová, employee of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Law, Charles University, and Dr Jan Šejdl, Assistant Professor of Roman Law and Secretary of the Department of Legal History of the same faculty, member of the Church Law Society, married in the Holy Saviour Church in Prague at Charles Bridge.

This large shrine is the seat of the personal academic parish of students, teachers and staff of all Prague universities who are Catholics. In the Czech Republic, church marriage is recognized as equivalent to civil marriage and has state-recognized effects.



Groom Jan Šejdl a bride Adéla Felixová.

Celebrant: Jiří Rajmund Tretera. Acolytes Petr Vaniček (left), Záboj Horák (right).

Photo Petr Neubert

Dr Marek Novák, member of the Church Law Society, attorney-at-law, doctoral student in the field of Roman law, and member of the editorial board of this periodical, acted as lector at the ceremony.

The wedding was attended by many lawyers, including vice-deans of the Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague, and teachers of legal history, Roman and church law from the faculties of law in Prague, Brno and Olomouc.

Mons. Professor Tomáš Halík, laureate of the Templeton Prize, Doctor honoris causa of the University of Oxford, prominent Czech theologian, philosopher, sociologist and psychologist, president of the Czech Christian Academy, is the parish priest of the personal academic parish.

Bible Lessons for Lawyers: Gospel of Mark Completed

Every week since January 2021, Revd Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP and Záběj Horák upload the *Bible Lessons for Lawyers* to the website of the Church Law Society <http://spcp.prf.cuni.cz/kazani-pro-pravniky/>. This month, the interpretation of the entire *Gospel according to St. Mark* will be completed. From 22nd August, gradual interpretation of the Gospel according to St. Luke is planned. The technical assistance is provided by Tomáš Grundza, Secretary of the Church Law Society.



Professor Tretera has extensive experience with similar activities. In the years 1995–2001, Sunday Masses, which he celebrated in the Dominican Church of St. Giles in Prague's Old Town, were recorded and broadcast every fortnight. The transmission was provided by the Czech broadcast of Radio Free Europe.

At the end of 2001, the broadcast, funded by the US Congress, was terminated. Democratically oriented citizens of the Czech Republic gratefully remember this radio station, which brought strength and comfort in times of totalitarianism and helped to build democratic society even after the Velvet Revolution of 1989. They just regret that it has not been continued since 2002. We would really need it even today when part of the public in our country is affected by disinformation news from centres from the very opposite end of the world.



Local group in Prague

Award for Professor Tretera

On 22nd July 2021, The European Society for History of Law based in Brno awarded Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera its prize for his *Lifelong Contribution to the Development of Legal History*.

On the same day, the representatives of the Society Professor Karel Schelle, and Professor Jaromír Tauchen, Head of the Department of Legal History, Faculty of Law, Masaryk University in Brno, handed over *glass sculpture* and *diploma* during their visit to the office of the Church Law Society in Prague.



Karel Schelle presents Jiří Rajmund Tretera with a glass sculpture and a diploma.

Photo Jaromír Tauchen



Local group in Brno

27th Church and State Conference in Brno

As we regularly inform on the pages of this periodical, the local group of the Church Law Society in Brno, together with the Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science of the Faculty of Law, Masaryk University, organizes the international conference *Church and State* every September.

The 27th Church and State conference will take place on Wednesday, 15th September 2021 in the building of the Faculty of Law, Masaryk University. The topics of the conference are following:

Spiritual care in hospitals and involvement of clergy in multidisciplinary medical teams. Spiritual care in transport networks, especially on railways. Implementation of property settlement with churches in the Czech Republic.
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Association for Support of Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life

Včelnička: Blessing of New Chapel, Bell and Unveiling of Plaque Commemorating Jan Jiří Rückl

In the small village of Včelnička (read Vchelnichka), which is located on the border of southern Bohemia and the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, a big event took place on Saturday, 24th July 2021. Bishop of České Budějovice Mons. Vlastimil Kročil blessed the newly built chapel of Saint Anne (see picture below) during the solemn service. It was built thanks to the desire of local residents and representatives of the village for a sacral building, which was missing in the village. The organization and financial side of the construction of the new chapel was provided by the municipality itself from its own resources, mainly thanks to the mayor Mrs. Milena Hronová.



The event was attended by many locals and guests from afar, including several members of the Church Law Society. A new bell for this chapel was also blessed. At the end of the celebration, a plaque commemorating local native JUDr. Jan Jiří Rückl (1900–1938) was unveiled. This zealous Catholic layman, lawyer and owner of a glass factory, played an important

role in social and political life during the First Czechoslovak Republic. He successfully sought to unite the political camps of Czech, Slovak, German and Hungarian nationality and to unite the Christian traditional Catholic principle with the values of modern civilization. He was instrumental in concluding the international agreement *modus vivendi* between Czechoslovakia and the Apostolic See in 1928 and contributed to the success of the congress of Czechoslovak Catholics in Prague in 1935, which supported the unification of the secularist and religious wing of Czech and Slovak society. At the end of 1935, he influenced the preservation of democracy in Czechoslovakia by electing Dr Edvard Beneš the President of the Republic. It was almost a miracle that at that time about 85% of the members of both houses of Parliament voted in favour, an unusual majority.



Bishop Mons. Vlastimil Kročil, parish priest Václav Šika and mayor Milena Hronová.

Due to his untimely death, this important figure of Czech public life was forgotten in the wider consciousness of the nation after the turbulent events of the next 70 years. We are glad that it was rediscovered, a scientific conference was held about Jan Jiří Rückl at the Prague

Archbishopric, with the participation of a very wide range of experts, and even commemorated in his native village by unveiling the memorial plaque on the completely newly built church.



Včelnička: D. Battaglia, J. Battagliová, T. Parma, members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, of which Jan Jiří Rückl was member in the past. To their right D. Mikluš, master of ceremonies, G. R. Mulamuhic, OCr. and Z. Mareš, Chapter Dean.

Text Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Jakub Nagy

Photo Jan Kotous

From New Publications

GHERRI, Paolo, *Diritto amministrativo canonico*, Attività codiciali, Giuffrè, Milano, 2021, 594 pp., ISBN 9788828835332.

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Photo on the front page: Village Včelnička, south-eastern Bohemia: the public present during the blessing of the newly built chapel of Saint Anne, 24th July 2021. Photo by Jan Kotous.

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