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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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14th October 2021: Conference on chaplain's service in prisons, hospitals, and the army in the Czech Republic, organized by the Czech Christian Academy at the Benedictine Abbey in Prague-Emmaus. From left, Catholic bishop and Vicar General in Prague Mons. Zdenek Wasserbauer, Secretary General of the Ecumenical Council of Churches and Old Catholic priest Petr Jan Vinš, President of the Academy Mons. Tomáš Halík and the Synodal Senior of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren Pavel Pokorný. Photo by the Czech Christian Academy.

Conference on Categorical Pastoral Care in Prague

On Thursday, 14th October 2021, a conference entitled **Together, Chaplain's Service in Categorical Pastoral Care** took place in the historic refectory of the Emmaus Benedictine Abbey (Prague). The conference was organized by the Czech Christian Academy in cooperation with the Czech Bishops' Conference, the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic, the Association of Hospital Chaplains, the Catholic Association of Hospital Chaplains in the Czech Republic, the Prison Spiritual Service, the Spiritual Service of the Czech Army and the Czech Police Spiritual Service.



There is Mgr. et Mgr. František Zakopal, national coordinator of spiritual care in healthcare, on the right. Bishops Mons. Josef Nuzik from Olomouc and Mons. Zdenek Wasserbauer from Prague are sitting in the front.

Photo by the Czech Christian Academy

The morning section of the conference focused on the challenges of pastoral care *in the field of police, prison, army and hospital chaplaincy*. The police chaplain Colonel Jiří Ignác Laňka, Th.D., Catholic deacon, and the main prison chaplain Mgr. Otto Broch, Catholic deacon, presented their papers. This was followed by the chief military chaplain Colonel of the General Staff Jaroslav Knichal, and Catholic priest and Lieutenant Colonel in reserve Pavel Ruml, protestant minister, chaplain of the Central Military Hospital in Prague, who gave a lecture entitled *Memento mori*.

After lunch, *the meaning of the chaplain's service* was discussed. Bishop Mons. Tomáš Holub, founder of the spiritual service in the Army of the Czech Republic, then evangelical theologian Professor Pavel Hošek, preacher of the Church of the Brethren and first vice-president of the Czech Christian Academy, presented their papers. The conference culminated in a panel discussion attended by Mons. Zdenek Wasserbauer, bishop and vicar general of

Prague, Mons. Tomáš Halík, president of the Czech Christian Academy and laureate of the Templeton Prize, Mgr. Pavel Pokorný, newly elected synodal senior, i.e., the highest representative of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, and Petr Jan Vinš, Old Catholic priest and general secretary of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic.



From left Mons. Tomáš Halík, Mons. Tomáš Holub, Professor Pavel Hošek.

Photo by the Czech Christian Academy

The Church Law Society, a collective member of the Czech Christian Academy, is happy to participate in promoting the external categorical pastoral care of churches in public institutions and its legal provision. It regularly organizes lectures and conferences that support this activity parallelly with the central administration of the Czech Christian Academy. We are glad that the conference held in the Benedictine Abbey in Prague-Emmaus followed up on our regular conferences organized at the university in Brno every September, including this year's conference on 15th September 2021.

The international conference *Fourth Season of Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations* was one of the first steps we took together in the matter. We organized it in June 2019 at the Faculty of Law in Prague on the topic *Spiritual Care in Public Institutions*. The vice-president of the Czech Christian Academy, Professor Pavel Hošek, also took part. The papers of several Czech and ten foreign participants are published in the book TRETERA, Jiří Rajmund, HORÁK, Zábaj (eds.), *Spiritual Care in Public Institutions in Europe*, published by the Berliner Wissenschaftsverlag in Berlin in 2019. See <https://www.bwv-verlag.de/spiritual-care-public-institutions-europe>

Jakub Nagy

General Superior of Dominicans Visited Prague



On 4th October 2021, Gerard Francisco Parco Timoner III, OP, from the Philippines (see photo), elected to the head of the order at the General Chapter of 2019, the 88th superior of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans, Black Friars), visited the Priory of Saint Giles in Prague's Old Town.

He spoke with brothers from all the Dominican priories in Bohemia and Moravia in the large historic Baroque refectory about their spiritual plan for the coming years. Each of the 40 brothers present was personally introduced to him and briefed on his activities.

Father Timoner also visited both monasteries of strictly cloistered nuns of the Order of Preachers in Uherský Brod (Moravia) and in Prague-Lysolaje.

These days, all priories of the Dominican order held elections of delegates to the provincial chapter, which will meet under the leadership of the provincial again after four years in January 2022. The current provincial Revd MUDr. Lukáš Fošum OP, originally from České Budějovice in southern Bohemia, teaches moral theology at the Catholic Theological Faculty, Charles University in Prague.

Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP

Professor Feliciani Received Order of St. Gregory the Great

Professor Giorgio Feliciani, canon law scholar, former dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Pavia, was appointed knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Francis. The medal was presented to him by His Excellency Mario Delpini, Archbishop of Milan, on 7th October 2021.

In addition to members of Professor's family, some of his former students were present at the ceremony as shown in the attached photo. Among them Professor Chiara Minelli from the University of Brescia, Professor Antonio Giuseppe Chizzoniti from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Professor Michele Madonna from the University of Pavia and Professor Vincenzo Pacillo from the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

We have many memories of Professor Feliciani, since Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Giorgio Feliciani met first time in 1999 at the scientific conference in Sandomierz (Poland). Already in January 2001, Jiří Rajmund Tretera lectured at the University of the Sacred Heart in Milan at the invitation of Professor Feliciani, and soon Professor Feliciani and his wife and children visited Prague. Professor Feliciani currently teaches a number of Czech students in Venice.



The Order of St. Gregory the Great was founded by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 and is still one of the five orders of knighthood of the Holy See. It is reserved for Catholics who contributed to the good of the Holy See and the Catholic Church.

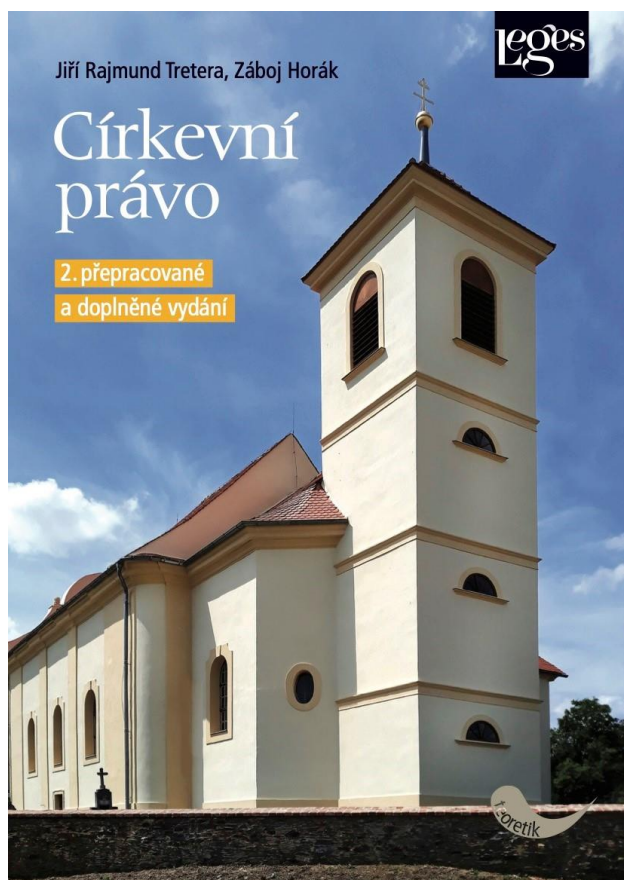


Záboj Horák

Book on Religious Minorities in EU

A new book has been published these days: VENTURA, Marco (ed.), *The Legal Status of Old and New Religious Minorities in the European Union*, Proceedings of the XXXth Annual Conference of the European Consortium for Church and State Research, Siena, 15–17 November 2018. The book was published by the publishing house Editorial Comares, Granada, Spain. We will bring a more detailed report next time.

Czech Monograph on Church Law Published



On 20th October 2021, the second revised and supplemented edition of the book *Církevní právo* (*Church Law*) was published in Prague. Its authors are Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Zábój Horák. It was published by the prestigious legal publishing house Leges.

The book was reviewed by Professor Antonín Ignác Hrdina, OPraem., teacher of canon law at the Catholic Theological Faculty, Charles University in Prague, Revd Associate Professor Stanislav Příbyl, teacher of canon law at the Faculty of Theology in České Budějovice and JUDr. Adam Csukás, lawyer of the Central Church Office of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Prague.

The first, introductory part on the basic concepts of church law is followed by the extensive second part entitled *Canon Law of the Catholic Church*. The third part deals

with the organization and law of other churches, especially Orthodox, Oriental and Reformation. The book is bound and has 440 pages.

There is a photo of the church of Saint Lawrence in Slavice, Tachov district, western Bohemia, on the cover of the book. The church, until recently in a state of near collapse, has recently been restored to its current form and is a symbol of the restoration of Christian values in our country.

Bc. František Kratochvíl, born in 1961, director of the Stříbro Elementary Art School, trombonist, poet, long-time conductor of the children's brass orchestra, chairman of the Local Group of the Church Law Society in Stříbro and chairman of the Marian Lay Men's Congregation of the Pilsen Diocese is the author of the photo.

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Photo on the front page: 14th October 2021, conference on chaplain's service at the Benedictine Abbey in Prague-Emmaus.

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