

CHURCH REPORTER

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

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14th December 2022, from the ceremonial presentation of the book, Czech Memoirs, at Charles University's Faculty of Law.
From the left: Marie Michaela Hájková, Jiří Rajmund Tretera, Jan Hájek, Zábaj Horák.

Photo Antonín Krč



Local group in Prague

Church and religion law courses at Prague's Faculty of Law in the summer term

In the 2022/23 summer term, Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Associate Professor Záboj Horák will be teaching the following courses in the *Church Law module* at Charles University's Faculty of Law:

- *Legal History of Churches* (Monday 12–13.30),
- *Administrative and Property Law of the Church* (Wednesday 12–13.30),
- *Religion Law* (Thursday 12–13.30),
- *Seminar on Law and the Bible* (Thursday 10–11.30, once a fortnight),
- *Seminar on Church and Religion Law* (Thursday 10–11.30, once a fortnight).

In addition, students can enrol on the *Legal Systems of Countries in Latin America, South Asia and Oceania* course, taught on Fridays between 10 am and 11.30 am by the same teachers.

Course registration: 7 pm on Monday, 6th February 2023 in the Faculty's information system.



Pastoral Care of Lawyers in Prague

Remembering Benedict XVI

The public in the Czech Republic have received the news of the passing of Benedict XVI (1927–2022) with great sadness. Leading Czech theologians and philosophers have dedicated their recollections to his personality and work, relaying them through public and private media. Many have recalled Benedict XVI's important visit to the Czech Republic on 26 – 28 September 2009.

The funeral of Benedict XVI on 5th January 2023 was attended by a delegation from the Czech government led by Prime Minister Petr Fiala. Czech Catholic bishops flew to Rome with the delegation on a government plane.

Spiritual Testament of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2022/12/31/221231f.html>

R.I.P.



Local group in Stříbro

Joyful Christmas celebrations in West Bohemia



Members of the local group of the Church Law Society in Stříbro had a joyful Christmas. On Christmas Eve, the parish priest Miroslav Martiš, a member of the Church Law Society, celebrated two Holy Masses, at 4 pm and 11 pm, in the Dean's Church of All Saints in Stříbro, in the presence of the town's Mayor and Deputy Mayor and hundreds of citizens, including members of local associations.

It is a good custom that spiritual administrators in the Czech lands celebrate an increased number of services at Christmas because crowds of people, who do not normally attend services during the year, come to churches.

Over the Christmas holidays parish priest Martiš celebrated several dozen Masses in churches in Stříbro and the surrounding area.

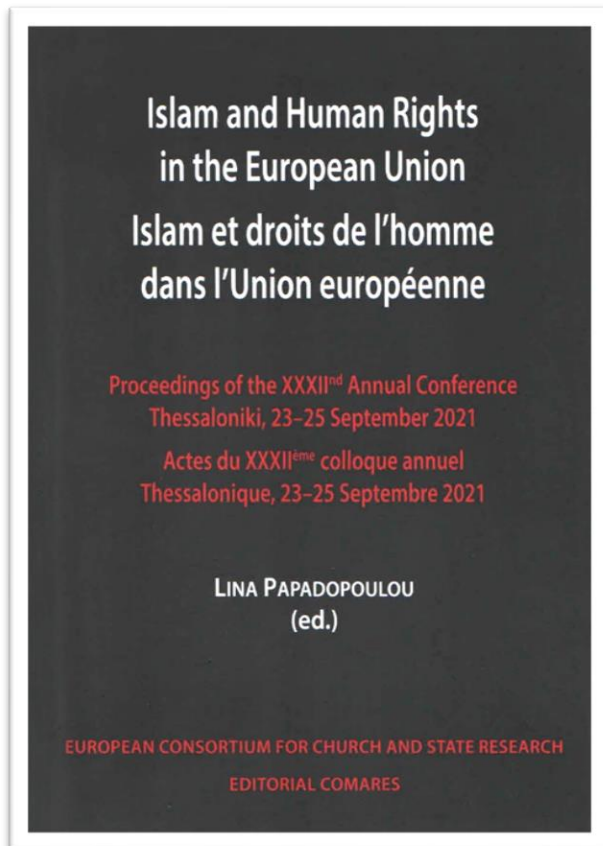
The photograph shows the Mass on 29th December 2022, the feast of Saint Thomas Becket, which was celebrated by the parish priest in the branch church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Staré Sedlo near Tachov, which is administered from Stříbro. The church with its early Gothic foundations dating from the 13th century was rebuilt in the 18th century in the Baroque style. At the beginning of the 21st century, it was completely renovated with help from the Czech Republic, the Pilsen region and the European Union, and the ruin became a beautiful place of worship testifying to the glory of God.

After the Holy Mass had ended, several dozen participants gathered for supper in the neighbouring village of Prostiboř, which was organised by the husband and wife team of Jiřina and Jaroslav Barhoň, members of the Church Law Society from Tachov.

Text Zábaj Horák, photo Stříbro parish



The European Consortium for Church and State Research has published a book on Islam



A few days ago, we received a book entitled *Islam and Human Rights in the European Union – Islam et droits de l'homme dans l'Union européenne*, which has been published by the European Consortium for Church and State Research.

The publication recounts the position of Islam in the countries of the European Union throughout history and up to the present day. It was compiled according to a uniform system, known as the grille thématique, decided on by the management of the Consortium for the reports given by the individual national spokespersons at the XXXIInd Conference of the Consortium in Thessaloniki on 23rd – 25th September 2021, which was devoted to the same topic. The book's editor is Professor Lina Papadopoulou of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and president of the Consortium until 2023.

At the start of the book there is a greeting from His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I. This is followed by an introduction written by Professor Evaggelos Venizelos, a professor at the university in Thessaloniki and a former deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Greece, and three summarising contributions written by three professors of religion law (Francis Messner, Strasbourg; Silvio Ferrari, Milan; Michał Rynkowski, Brussels). These are followed by 23 essays on Islam in the individual Member States of the European Union. The contents include:

Wolfgang Wieshaider: *Le cadre juridique de l'islam en Autriche*,

Jiří Rajmund Tretera, Záboj Horák: *History and Present of Muslims in the Territory of Today's Czech Republic*,

Merilin Kiviorg: *Islam and Human Rights in Estonia*,

Balázs Schanda: *Islam and Human Rights in Hungary: Religious freedom issues and some challenges of coexistence*,

Piotr Stanisiz: *Islam and Human Rights in Poland*,

Lars Friedner: *Islam in Sweden*.

PAPADOPOULOU, Lina (ed.), *Islam and Human Rights in the European Union – Islam et droits de l'homme dans l'Union européenne*, Comares, Granada, 2022, 423 p., ISBN 978-84-1369-465-8.

Available online at: https://www.churchstate.eu/pdf/NEW/tripa_Islam_human.pdf

Jakub Nagy



The celebration on 14th December 2022 at the Faculty of Law in Prague: J. R. Tretera signs his book, Czech Memoirs, for his classmate at the Faculty of Law in 1957–1962, Petr Pithart. To this day, they are colleagues as professors in the very same faculty. They are bound by a friendly personal relationship. Petr Pithart was Prime Minister of the Czech Republic in 1990–1992 and President of the Czech Senate in 1996–1998 and 2000–2004.

Photo Antonín Krč

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Photo on the front page: 14th December 2022, from the ceremonial presentation of the book, Czech Memoirs, at Charles University's Faculty of Law. From the left: Marie Michaela Hájková, Jiří Rajmund Tretera, Jan Hájek, Záboj Horák.

Photo Antonín Krč

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