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Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Stříbro – České Budějovice

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English version





Local group in Prague

The fifth Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations are being prepared

The Church Law Society and Charles University's Faculty of Law are preparing the next edition of the international conference of *Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations*. The conference, which is dedicated to religion law topics, will be held in the capital of the Czech Republic for the fifth time. The previous editions were held in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2019.¹ The fifth edition of Prague Dialogues is planned for *June 2024*. Further information will be given in our periodicals, Church Reporter and Church Mirror.



From the conclusion of the fourth edition of the international conference of Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations, which was held from 13th to 15th June 2019.

Photo Antonín Krč

¹ See <http://spcp.prf.cuni.cz/en/prague-dialogues-on-church-and-state/#k2021>.

Come to the display of new canon law and religion law literature

At 3.30 p.m. on 7th June 2023, in the lobby of the Faculty of Law Library at Charles University there will be a display of publications in the fields of church and religion law, similar to several times in the past, the last time on 13th April 2017, see <http://spcp.prf.cuni.cz/en/exhibitions/>.

JUDr. Jiří Rajmund Tretera will speak at the opening of the display. Guests will then be invited to room no. 38 where refreshments will be served, and they will have the opportunity to purchase selected publications on church and religion law. The display of publications will last until November 2023.



*Students from the church law scientific seminar and a member of the library staff
at the opening of the display on 13th April 2017.*

Photo Faculty of Law Library, Charles University



The President of the Czech Republic visits Ukraine

On Friday, 28th April 2023, the President of the Czech Republic, General Petr Pavel arrived in Kyiv by special train. Also travelling with him was Zuzana Čaputová, the President of Slovakia.

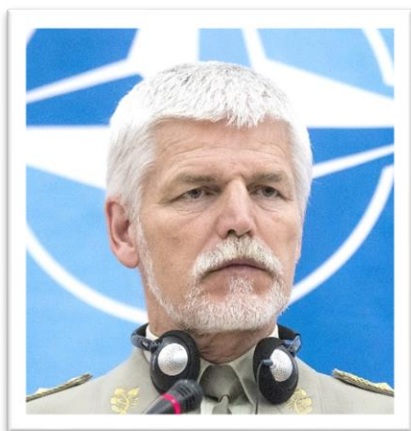


Representatives of the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the night train to Kyiv.

On the first day of their visit, together they went to Borodianka near Kyiv, which has been destroyed by Russian missiles. President Pavel then continued on to Bucha where he paid tribute to the victims of the massacre there. Zuzana Čaputová again joined him after his half-hour meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky, and all three signed a declaration of mutual partnership. The Czech and Slovak presidents then met with the Ukrainian prime minister, Denys Shmyhal. At the end of the first day they all had to move to a shelter due to an air-raid alert. There, President Pavel met leaders of the Tatar people in Crimea.



On the second day of the visit, President Pavel and President Čaputová had separate programmes. The Czech president headed to eastern Ukraine, to the Dnipropetrovsk Region. He was the first western leader to visit the east of the country since the start of the war. In the town of Dnipro he discussed with local leaders the possibilities for the Czech Republic's support to the region. "Moving from aid to cooperation is now the main goal in Ukraine. This does not end in Kyiv. Today, I have headed further to the east to show that the Czech Republic is serious about its patronage of the Dnipropetrovsk Region. I assured Governor Serhiy Lysak that they will not have to do the reconstruction alone," said President Pavel. He visited the site of an attack by Russian missiles on a residential building where 46 civilians, including many children, were killed. Afterwards, he visited a facility for internally displaced refugees and a hospital treating soldiers returning from the front. Finally, he met with Ukrainian soldiers at their training ground.



Ukrainian commanders delivered military equipment supplied by the Czech Republic to Ukraine. On a Dana self-propelled gun howitzer and a Přemysl² rocket launcher President Pavel wrote an English phrase in support of the Ukrainian defenders. "Go home, Russians. Until it's too late."

As a military expert and former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, he assessed the military situation in Ukraine and stressed that Ukraine especially needs military supplies from all its allies. Without them even the best and most technically advanced weapons are practicably unusable. Empty cannons and aircraft are incapable of doing much. At the same time, he advises that Ukrainian forces should prepare thoroughly for a counter-offensive. Do not let the foreign press and the impatience of the allied nations and their politicians force a premature attack, which in the event of failure would have catastrophic consequences and the war would drag on into next year.



President Pavel supports Ukraine's accession to NATO and the European Union. He expects that it will be a long process and therefore advises that accession talks should already start this year.

President Pavel returned to Prague in the evening of Sunday, 30th April 2023.

Kyiv, President Petr Pavel and President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Compiled by Jiří R. Tretera and Zábaj Horák taking into account the official report by the Office of the President of the Czech Republic. Photo Tomáš Fongus, Office of the President of the Czech Republic

² Přemysl is the name of the legendary founder of the first dynasty of Czech princes and kings who ruled on the Czech throne until 1306.

Meeting of the President of the Czech Republic and the President of the European Commission

On Tuesday, 2nd May 2023, Petr Pavel, the President of the Czech Republic, met with Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission.

They mainly talked about the situation in Ukraine and the need to continue giving both financial and material support to Ukraine, especially by providing ammunition. The total support from the European Union to Ukraine has so far amounted to more than 68 billion euros and will continue.



The upcoming law on ammunition production in the European Union, which should accelerate it in all Member States, should also increase the support for Ukraine. Both politicians also touched on the subject of the relationship between democratic states and Red China as well as the desired expansion of the European Union to include Ukraine.

Ursula von der Leyen thanked Czech citizens for their exemplary solidarity with Ukrainian refugees.

The Czech Republic ranks first in the number of refugees received in individual EU States in proportion to the size of its population. As of 1st April 2023, according to data from the Ministry of the Interior there were more than 325,000 refugees from Ukraine in the Czech Republic, of which 65 % were women. The number of children of both sexes is 28 %. As of 1st December 2022, the Czech Republic had a total population of 10,533,399.

Source: Czech News Agency (ČTK). Edited by Jakub Nagy. Photo ČTK

The President of the Czech Republic at the coronation of King Charles III

The President of the Czech Republic, Petr Pavel, and his wife Eva Pavlová visited the United Kingdom from 4th to 6th May 2023. There they attended the coronation of King Charles III, the monarch of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the head of fourteen realms which are part of the Commonwealth. Charles III is also the head of the Commonwealth, which brings together 56 countries (52 of which are former members of the British Empire).



*President Petr Pavel and his wife Eva Pavlová, the First Lady of the Czech Republic,
before the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.*

On Friday, 5th May, President Pavel gave a speech in the morning at the Royal College of Defence. At 12 o'clock, he visited the former headquarters of the Military Intelligence of the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile, which was based in London from 1941–1945. He then attended a reception at the Czech Embassy in London with descendants of Czechoslovak soldiers who fought in the United Kingdom during the Second World War for the freedom of Europe.

At 5 p.m., President Pavel and his wife attended the official reception for Heads of State and Government hosted by His Majesty King Charles III at Buckingham Palace. At 8 p.m., the president and his wife Eva had an informal meeting in a Czechoslovak restaurant in London with Czech students and compatriots living in the United Kingdom.



*President Petr Pavel playing table football with Czech compatriots
in a Czechoslovak restaurant in London.*

On Saturday, 6th May, at 11 o'clock, President Pavel and his wife attended the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in Westminster Abbey. At 3 p.m., President Pavel gave a press statement after the coronation of King Charles.

At 5 p.m., he laid wreaths at Brookwood Military Cemetery where 48 Czechs and Slovaks who died in British uniform in the Second World War are buried. Dozens of other veterans who died in peacetime are buried nearby.

*Compiled by Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Zábaj Horák according to information from
the Czech Embassy in London.
Photo Embassy of the Czech Republic in London and Jolly Thompson.*

Statement by the President of the Republic at the media briefing after the coronation of King Charles III

I very much appreciate that we were even invited because I see it as a positive signal in relation to the Czech Republic. As far as the organisation of the event is concerned, I made a bit of a joke and said to my British colleagues that in terms of logistics and security the organisation is similar to Operation Overlord. They said that this was just a little bit smaller, which fits, because looking after so many delegations and so perfectly in terms of timing, alternative routes and different options if by chance something does not work, it was truly remarkable.

Regarding the coronation itself I would put it this way. Everyone who was watching it on television maybe got more out of it in terms of information than those of us who were actually in the cathedral. On the other hand, to be in the cathedral is an experience in itself. To be there on this occasion, to see all the guests who were there and to take in the atmosphere, the music and all the rituals that are both historical and religious, that really was a great experience. So, we were very pleased that we could be there. Of course, for Britain and for the Commonwealth this is an occasion that has not been seen for 70 years. For us, it perhaps does not have so much significance as for them, but it is undoubtedly a historic event, and we are glad to have been there.

*Petr Pavel, President of the Czech Republic,
London, 6th May 2023*



**Local group
in Olomouc**

The XIIth ecumenical-legal conference is held in Brenna (Poland)

On 26th – 27th April 2023, the twelfth international ecumenical-legal conference was held in the Polish part of Silesia in Brenna, this time on the subject *A Decade of Hope – Ten Years of Pope Francis' Pontificate*. The conference was organised by the Faculty of Theology at the University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland) in cooperation with the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology at Palacký University Olomouc (Czech Republic), the Faculty of Theology at the University of Constanța (Romania) and the Greek-Catholic Theological Faculty at the University of Prešov (Slovakia).

The organisational team from the Faculty of Theology at the University of Silesia, led by *Dr hab. Andrzej Pastwa*, invited experts from Poland, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic – sociologists, canonists, lawyers and theologians – to participate.

This year's conference, like last year's, was held in the retreat house of the Archdiocese of Katowice in Brenna. The conference was opened by *Professor Dr hab. Jacek Kempa*, dean of the Faculty of Theology, University of Silesia in Katowice. The two-day conference was divided into several sessions, which concluded with panel discussions.

In the church law session, the following papers were delivered:

- *Pope Francis and church criminal law. Impulses and changes to church law*, Professor Dr Wilhelm Rees (University of Innsbruck, Austria);
- *Legal aspects of Pope Francis' documents*, Associate Professor JUDr. Stanislav Přibyl, Ph.D., Th.D., JCD (University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Czech Republic);
- *Marriages of divorced eastern Christians in the Catholic Church: What has changed during Francis' pontificate?* Dr hab. Jiří Dvořáček (University of Olomouc, Czech Republic);
- *Admission of divorced persons living in a new union to Holy Communion. Between "Familiaris Consortio" and "Amoris Laetitia"*, Professor Dr hab. Elżbieta Szczot (the John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin, Poland);
- *Reform of Pope Francis' Roman Curia*, Professor Damián Němec OP (University of Olomouc, Czech Republic).

Around fifty participants attended the conference over its two days. The conference languages were Polish and German. All the papers from this meeting are to be published as English-language specialist articles in *Ecumeny and Law* magazine, published by the University of Silesia in Katowice. As usual, a large number of members of the Church Law Society, and not only speakers, attended the conference.

For more detailed information go to: <http://www.ekumenizmprawo.pl/>.

Jiří Zámečník



Association for Support of Teaching Religion at Schools

Nine-year-old Matěj brought both his parents to the faith

Among the newly baptised catechumens at St. Procopius Church in the Žižkov district of Prague at the vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord on 8th April 2023 were Doctor Petra Holečková and her husband Vladimír. They were brought to the faith by their nine-year-old son Matěj.

“It all began during covid. When we were in isolation, my then nine-year-old son Matěj read the entire children’s Bible. I wondered why it was the Bible that he was reading. He said that he watched the Simpsons and because there they talked about Catholics, Protestants and Christianity, he wanted to understand it”, remembers oncologist Petra Holečková the moment that changed her entire family’s life. “Before long, Matěj came and said that he wanted to go to Bible classes. We thought he would forget about it, but he kept asking when he was going to start going to religion, so we registered him here in Žižkov.”



Matěj eventually entered the catechumenate in Year Three and was baptised last Easter. His example also affected both his parents. They decided that they would also begin going to the catechesis and join the catechumens. “We were led in the catechumenate by Rev. Vít Uher. We would ask him lots of questions about the doctrine of the Catholic Church and he was happy to answer. I didn’t have any problems with anything,” says Petra Holečková. And she adds: “During that year of baptismal preparation we underwent a huge change. You have to rebuild your values and also your way of life. We now go to church regularly, we pray together as a family, and take part in parish life. Matěj and I even go to clean the church. Once, when he was falling asleep, he told me that he loved being in the church. I am grateful to God for all this,” concludes Petra Holečková.

*Jiří Prinz, spokesman
Archbishopric of Prague*



*Matěj with his parents (on the right with their baptismal veils).
Parish priest Dr Vít Uher is standing behind Matěj. Godparents on the left.*

Photo family archive

*Taken from Catholic Weekly No. 15, 11th–17th April 2023,
Diocesan Newsletter – Archbishopric of Prague, p. 8.*



A conference in Innsbruck

On 15th and 16th June 2023, the Catholic Theological Faculty in Innsbruck will host a scientific conference entitled *40 Years of the 1983 Code of Canon Law* and a farewell lecture by Professor Dr Wilhelm Rees. More information at:

<https://www.uibk.ac.at/praktheol/aktuell/dokumente/preogramm-tagung-40-jahre-cic-1983.pdf>

A lecture in Halle an der Saale

From 4 to 8 p.m. on 15th June 2023, there will be a lecture on *The History of Church Law in the Saxon Lands in a European Context* at the university in Halle an der Saale, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany in lecture hall XIX (Melanchtonianum), followed by a seminar in which the audience will be able to ask questions. The speaker will be Dr Frank Hartmann, a notary in Dresden, Germany.

According to information from Professor Dr Frank Hartmann

Something from the Church Law Society's mail to make you laugh

Dear all,

Sometimes students can amuse you with their wonderful ideas. Here is one reply I gave in my examiner's report on a bachelor's thesis at the Law Faculty in Trnava to this statement:

The Roman Curia comprises:

g) institutions connected with the Holy See (church law society).

In my report:

p. 30 – among the institutions connected with the Holy See, nowhere is there any mention of the church law society (and certainly not the Church Law Society based in Prague)

Professor Damián Němec OP

From New Publications

CATOZZELLA, Francesco, ERLEBACH, Grzegorz (eds.), *Le allocuzioni dei sommi pontefici alla rota romana (1939–2023)*, Libreria editrice vaticana, Città del Vaticano, 2023, 454 p., ISBN 978-88-266-0799-3.

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Communicationes, Rivista semestrale edita dal Dicastero per i Testi Legislativi, Roma, Vol. LIV N. 2/2022.

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LESZCZYŃSKI, Paweł A., *Interdyscyplinarny bilans polskiego dorobku dyscyplin badawczych zajmujących się Czechami i relacjami polsko-czeskimi w zakresie prawa i ustroju*, pp. 5–24.

Folia Theologica et Canonica, Faculty of Theology of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University/Institute of Canon Law “Ad instar facultatis” of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Szent István Társulat, Budapest, ISSN 2063-9635, X (32/24), 2021.

L’année Canonique, Tome LXII – 2022, 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, 2023, ISSN 0570-1953,

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DUCROS, François-Régis, *Une réforme parmi les réformes de la Curie romaine dans l’histoire: approches historiques*, pp. 91–106,

D’ONORIO, Joël-Benoît, *Une cinquième réforme générale pour la Curie romaine*, pp. 107–142.

Revue de Droit Canonique, Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, 2022, ISSN 0556–7378
Les Dominicains, la modernité et le droit

Tome 72/1–2,

from the contents:

MONNET, Marie, O.P., *Du « ius communicationis » à la libre circulation. La réception des théologiens-juristes dominicains de Salamanque*, pp. 217–242.

Roczniki Nauk Prawnych, Tom XXIX, Towarzystwo Naukowe Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego, Lublin, 2019, ISSN 1507-7896.

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KOVÁŘOVÁ KOCHOVÁ, Ingrid, *Zadania obrońcy węzła w procesie o nieważność małżeństwa*, pp. 131–150,

number 2/2019

from the contents:

SŁOWIKOWSKA, Anna, *Krzysztof BURCZAK, Wacław URUSZCZAK, Wojciech GÓRALSKI, Józef KRUKOWSKI, Konkordaty Polskie. Historia i teraźniejszość [Polish Concordats. History and Present]*, ed. Józef Krukowski, Lublin: Towarzystwo Naukowe KUL 2019, pp. 177–180,

number 3/2019

from the contents:

RÓŻAŃSKI, Mieczysław, *Archiwum Kapituły Katedralnej i Kolegiackiej*, pp. 187–199.

Stato, Chiese e pluralismo confessionale, Rivista telematica, n. 6/2023, (<https://www.statoechiese.it>), ISSN 1971-8543,

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RODRÍGUEZ-OCANÑA, Rafael, *Los organismos de justicia en “Prædicate Evangelium”*, pp. 115–163.

The Jurist, Studies in Church Law and Ministry, The Catholic University of America, The School of Canon Law, Washington, D. C., ISSN 0022-6858, 78 (2022): 2,

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REILLEY, Patrick R., *The Principle of Proportionality Regarding Non-Penal Singular Administrative Acts in the Recent Jurisprudence of the Apostolic Signatura*, pp. 413–444,

PAOLIS, Velasio de, D’AURIA, Andrea, *The Dispensation (Canons 85–93)*, pp. 551–574.

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Photo on the front page: Kyiv, 28th April 2023, Presidents Petr Pavel and Volodymyr Zelensky in conversation.

Photo Tomáš Fongus

Editor-in-Chief:	Rev. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP
Deputy Editor-in-Chief:	Záboj Horák
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Technical Editor:	Tomáš Grundza
English translation:	Gareth Davies
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