

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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English version



1st February 2024, from the meeting of the pastoral care of lawyers in Prague, the refectory of the Monastery of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star at the foot of Charles Bridge. R. D. Stanislav Příbyl speaks on the correct way to pray the Holy Rosary.

Photo Zuzana Dorážková



Pastoral Care of Lawyers in Prague

The Pastoral Care of Lawyers has again met in St. Francis' Church

On Thursday, 1st February 2024, the regular monthly meeting of Prague lawyers with members and friends of the Church Law Society was held in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Prague's Old Town, at the foot of Charles Bridge.

The first part consisted of a Holy Mass celebrated for lawyers and the general public. The main celebrant and preacher was Rev. Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera, OP. Together with him the mass was celebrated by R. D. Associate Professor Stanislav Přibyl.



*1st February 2024: Holy Mass for lawyers, celebrated by Jiří Rajmund Tretera
and Stanislav Přibyl.*

Photo Jakub Nagy

The second part consisted of a meeting in the refectory of the Monastery of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, at which two regular participants announced that they would be having a church wedding in June this year.

After brief congratulations were given, the renowned theologian and lawyer, R. D. Stanislav Přibyl, took the floor and explained to all those present how to pray the contemplative prayer of the Holy Rosary (see the photo on the cover of this issue). After just under an hour he had to leave us to attend a meeting of the Confraternity of the Rosary on the other side of the Vltava River.



Local group in Prague

About two priests with the same name and surname Stanislav Přibyl, both distinguished contemporary Czech canonists

As Czech Catholics we can boast of one remarkable peculiarity. In the Czech lands there are two priests with the same name and surname who were ordained on the same day, 22nd June 1996, in the Cathedral of Saints Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert. Their ordainer was the Archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Miloslav Vlk. For both of them, canon law has become their destiny in life.

One of them teaches canon law at the Faculty of Theology and is a judge in the Ecclesiastical Court, the other will be consecrated bishop on 2nd March 2024 and will take charge of the ancient diocese in north Bohemia, founded in 1655. The former is a diocesan priest of the Prague Archdiocese, the latter a religious priest of the Redemptorists.

In the following lines, we would like to give you some basic information about the lives of these two prominent members of the Church Law Society. It is interesting that both of them excel as musical virtuosos on the piano and organ.

R. D. Stanislav Přibyl, priest of the Prague Archdiocese

He was born on 18th November 1966 in Prague. He completed his secondary school education in the gymnasium on Přípotoční Street in Prague-Vršovice and successfully studied at Charles University's Faculty of Law from 1985 to 1989. At the end of his studies, he recognised that he had a vocation for the priesthood. Therefore, he enrolled at the Catholic Theological Faculty,

which had just returned to Charles University. He was soon selected for further theology studies at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, which he successfully completed.

After returning in 1995, he was ordained a deacon and served in the parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Lhotka, Prague. At the same time, he joined the Church Law Society and worked with Associate Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera on a new edition of the monograph *Religion Law and Church Law*, which was published in 1997. By that time, he had already been ordained a priest of the Prague Archdiocese and served as parish vicar in St. Anthony's Church in Prague-Holešovice.

Between 1998 and 2002, he completed postgraduate doctoral studies at Charles University's Faculty of Law, specialising in church law, in the Department of Legal History. His supervisor was Jiří Rajmund Tretera. After successfully defending his dissertation on the topic *Legal Assurance of Ecumenical Relations between Churches*, he was granted a Ph.D.

In 1998–2002, he also studied at the Faculty of Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University where he received a licentiate in canon law in 2000 and a doctorate in 2002. In 2011 he took a higher doctorate at the Faculty of Law at Trnava University, Slovakia, and received the title of associate professor.

Since 2009, he has taught canon law at the Faculty of Theology at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. There he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic *The Origins of the Hierarchical System in the Early Church* and received a Th.D.



22nd November 2018: Associate Professor Stanislav Příbyl at a Church Law Society Evening at the Prague Faculty of Law.

Photo Antonín Krč

In his scholarly work he focuses on canon and religion law and as a biblical scholar he is a specialist in the legal structure of the Early Church. Since 1997 he has worked at the Prague
CHURCH REPORTER 2/2024

Ecclesiastical Court, firstly as a notary and since 2000 as a judge. This is also connected with his other scholarly specialisation and literary activity in the field of canon matrimonial law. His examples from judicial practice are an excellent aid for students of canon law at all the faculties where canon law is taught.

He performed extensive pastoral work at the churches of Saint Gabriel and Saint Wenceslas in the Smíchov district of Prague, which he has continued since 2016 as rector of the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and St. Charles the Great in Karlov in Prague's New Town, at one end of the bridge that crosses Prague's Nusle district. Here he celebrates Mass in the liturgy according to both the reform of Pope Paul VI (1970) and the 1962 Missal of John XXIII. He is one of four priests who have been authorised by the Archbishop of Prague to celebrate this preconciliar liturgy.



August 2023: the church in Karlov, Prague.

Photo Antonín Krč

Mons. Stanislav Přibyl CSsR, Bishop of the Diocese of Litoměřice

He was born on 16th November 1971 in Prague-Strašnice. While he was a student at the Secondary School of Surveying he played the organ in several churches in Prague. At that time, in the Strašnice church, he first met Jiří Rajmund Tretera, a secret member of the Dominican Order, who ministered there in a Dominican habit, which was permitted by the local parish priest, Rev. Marian Klener, a secret Benedictine, in an expression of the utmost courage. Perhaps already then Stanislav recognised God's call to the priesthood and the religious life.

Already in 1990 he entered the novitiate of the Redemptorist Congregation in the Polish town of Lubaszowa near Tarnow and a year later he took his religious vows.

In 1991–1996, he studied at the Catholic Theological Faculty at Charles University and received priestly formation at the Prague Archbishop's Seminary.

After his ordination to the priesthood (1996) he served in the Redemptorist community, which traditionally manages the most well-known pilgrimage site in Bohemia, Svatá Hora (Holy Mountain) near Příbram (south-west part of central Bohemia). He served there as parish vicar and from 1999 until 2008 as parish priest. In 2002–2011 he held the office of Provincial of the Prague Province of the Redemptorists.

In 2004, he became the President of Archdiocesan Caritas Prague and served there until the end of 2008. He was a member of the Priests' Council in the Prague Archdiocese.

In 2012, he received a licentiate in theology from the Catholic Theological Faculty at Charles University in Prague and in 2014 at the same place he received a doctorate in theology with a focus on canon law. Under the tutelage of Professor Ignác Antonín Hrdina OPraem., he defended his dissertation which was published in book form in 2015 under the title *The Legal Situation of the Litoměřice Diocese in 1989–2010*.

Between the years 2009 and 2016, he served as general vicar of the Litoměřice Diocese and since 2016 he has worked as general secretary of the Czech Bishops' Conference.

In 2011, he joined the Church Law Society and continues to be a member. He has published several times in the Church Law Review.

In the spring of 2015, for several months from Litoměřice he administered parishes in the parish district (collature) of Mšeno near Mělník (central Bohemia). In 2019, he completed his master's degree in finance and management at the Faculty of Social and Economic Studies at Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem (north Bohemia).



23rd December 2023, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Litoměřice. From the left: Mons. Giuseppe Silvestrini, the current Bishop of Litoměřice Mons. Jan Baxant (2008–2023) and Mons. Stanislav Přibyl CSsR in prayer for victims of the mass murder in Prague Faculty of Arts (see Church Reporter 1/2024).

On 23rd December 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as the 21st Bishop of the Diocese of Litoměřice. This decision was publicly announced in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Litoměřice by Mons. Giuseppe Silvestrini, chargé d'affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in Prague.

Mons. Stanislav Přibyl will receive his episcopal ordination at 11 a.m. on 2nd March 2024 in Litoměřice Cathedral and on the same day he will assume the office of Bishop of Litoměřice.



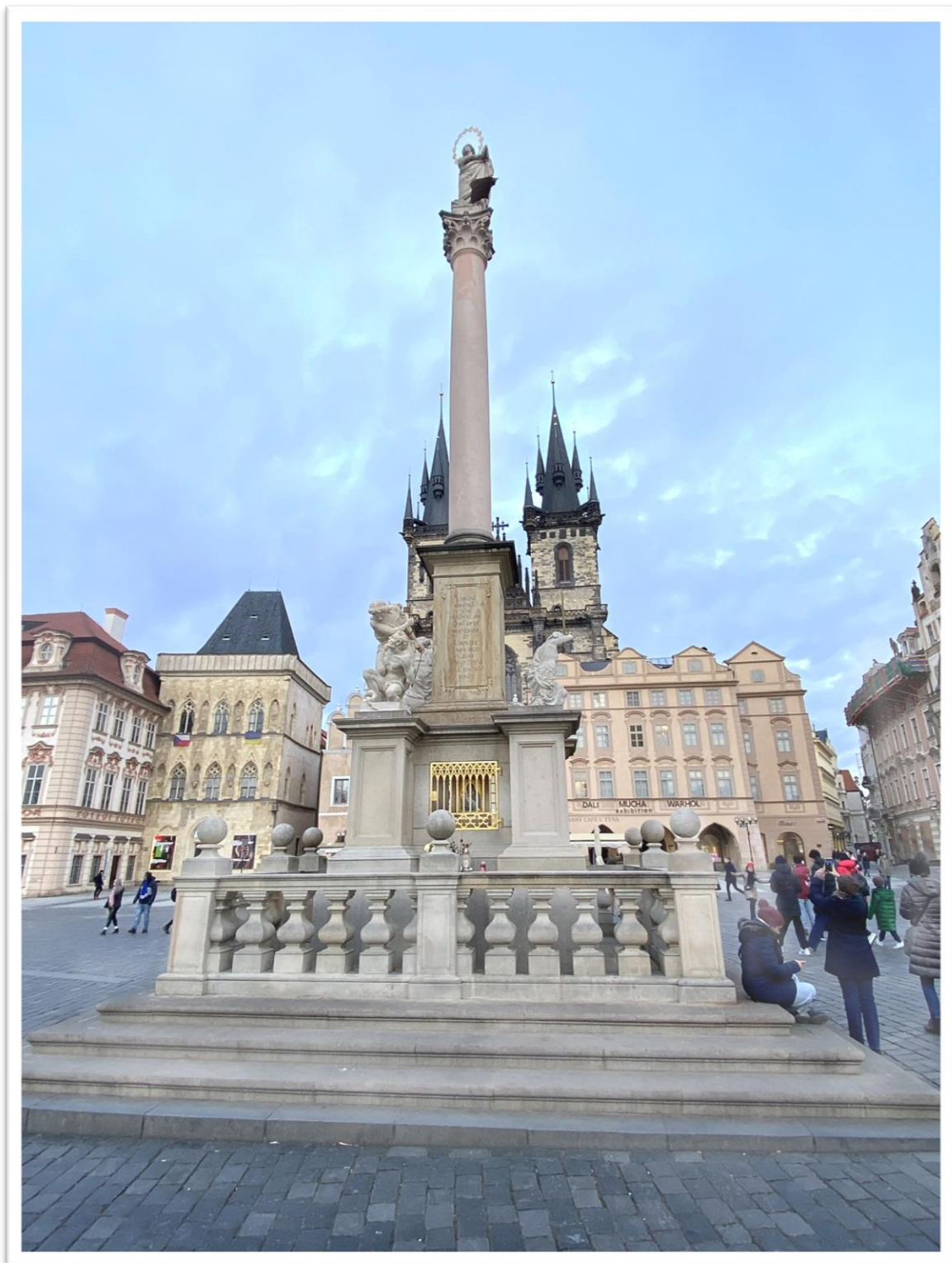
23rd December 2023, Litoměřice Cathedral: our former student and member of the Church Law Society, JUDr. Tomáš Zadražil from Litoměřice, congratulates the new bishop.

Both photos Jana Chadimová (Man and Faith)

The Column of Our Lady of the Immaculata on the Old Town Square in Prague decorated with statues of angels

The Marian Column in Prague, a new work by Czech artists, built on 4th June 2020 on the site of a column dating from 1650, which was destroyed in November 1918, and supplemented on 15th August 2020 at its consecration by the Archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Dominik Duka OP with a shrine, in which an image of the Virgin Mary of the Square was inserted, saw the completion of its plinth in January 2024.

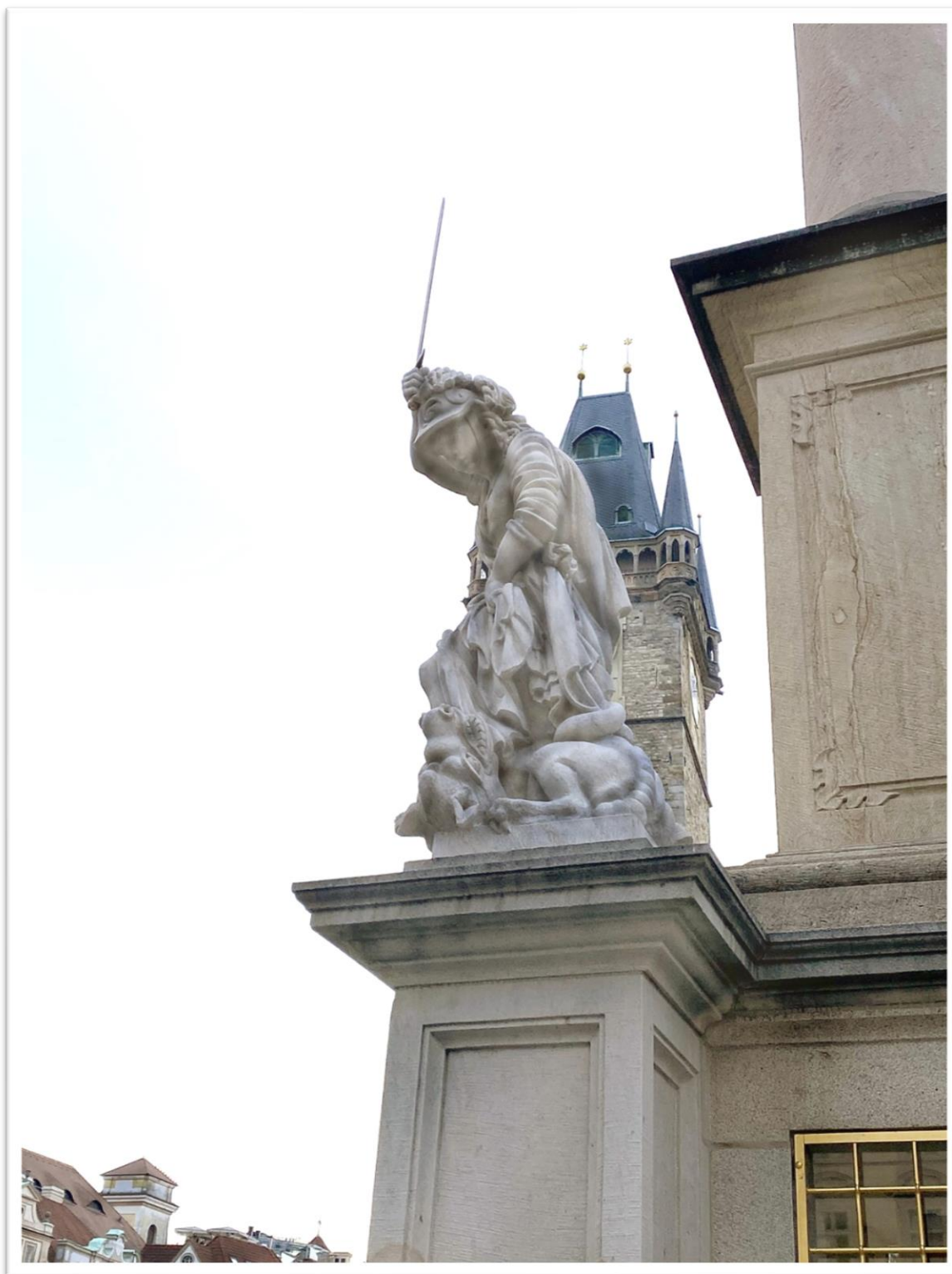
As with the original column, three sculptures have so far been placed on the plinth, dominated by angels fighting the power of evil. The sculpture of the fourth angel will be added in August 2024.



January 2024, the Old Town Square in Prague: the Marian Column.



The first angel to fight evil. A love grace image of the Virgin Mary of Rynek is inserted in the sanctuary (Rynek is an archaic name for Old Town Square). In the background, the Church of the Virgin Mary before the Týn with the emblem of the Virgin Mary and a recently installed chalice with a sacramental host in a shield.



The second angel struggling with evil. In the background, the tower of the Old Town Hall, which survived the fire started by the Nazis at the end of World War II. On the left, the tower of St. Michael's Church.

All photos Zábaj Horák



Local group in Olomouc

Moravia has a new Archbishop of Olomouc and Metropolitan of Moravia

Catholics throughout the Czech Republic are joyfully receiving the news that the ancient Bishop's See in Olomouc has been occupied. At midday on Friday, 9th February 2024, in Saint Wenceslas Cathedral the Apostolic Nuncio to the Czech Republic, Mons. Jude Thaddeus Okolo, announced the name of the new Archbishop of Olomouc. Pope Francis has appointed Mons. Josef Nuzík, the current administrator of the archdiocese and auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Olomouc. He will take office in the middle of April 2024.



*9th February 2024, Saint Wenceslas Cathedral, Olomouc: Mons. Josef Nuzík
and the Nuncio to the Czech Republic, Mons. Jude Thaddeus Okolo.*



Mons. Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Apostolic Nuncio to the Czech Republic.



Moravian-Nigerian smiles. Next to the nuncio sits Mons. Antonín Basler, auxiliary bishop in Olomouc.

Photos Pavel Langer (Man and Faith)



A conference on criminal law to be held in Rome

The Faculty of Canon Law at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome invites you to a two-day conference entitled *Criminal Justice in the Church: protection of the victim and guarantees for the accused* (La giustizia penale nella chiesa: tutela della vittima e garanzie dell'imputato), which will be held on 10th and 11th April 2024.

The conference will be addressed by the world's leading canonists, whom we know well from the international symposium on canon law in Vranov u Brno, organised last September by the Brno Academy of Canon Law. Among them are *Mons. Paolo Bianchi*, professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and judicial vicar of the Archdiocese of Milan, *Professor Mons. Matteo Visioli*, under-secretary of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, and also *Professor Mons. Gian Paolo Montini*, professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. The first day of the conference will be devoted to the topic of *Protection of the Victim*, the second day to the topic of *Guarantees for the Accused*.

The provisional programme and the link to register can be found here: <https://www.pusc.it/can/conv2024>.

From New Literature

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ERRÁZURIZ, Carlos-José, *La fecundidad teológica de la visión realista del derecho eclesial como bien jurídico: reflexiones a partir de las doctrinas de Jiménez Urresti, Rouco Varela y Hervada*, pp. 739–800.

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PRICHODKO, Gregor, *Des normes orientales prélevant en terre latine : le motu proprio De Concordia inter codices*, pp. 61–74.

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Photo Zuzana Dorážková

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