



NEWSLETTER

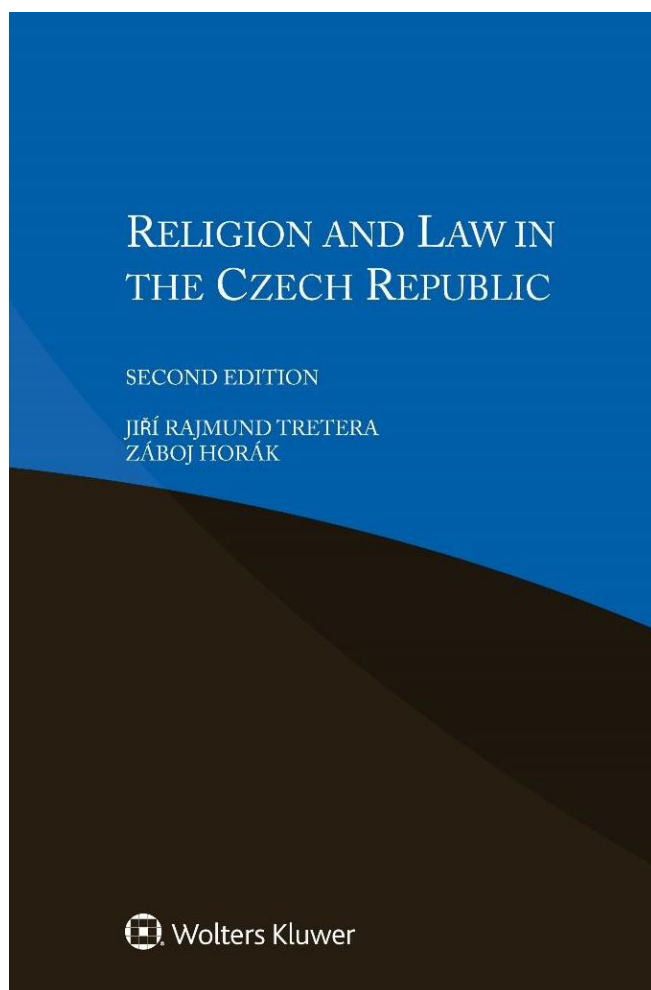
CHURCH LAW SOCIETY
PRAGUE – BRNO – OLOMOUC

No. 5/2017

Volume 2

22nd May 2017

Religion and Law in the Czech Republic 2nd Edition Just Published



Publishing house Wolters Kluwer, the Netherlands, published the first edition of this book in 2014, as a part of the International Encyclopaedia of Laws. The second edition, which describes the updated situation, is available online and as a separate paperback book printed on demand in May 2017. The book has ISBN 978-90-411-8755-0.

For more information please visit www.wklawbusiness.com or contact marketing@kluwerlaw.com.

From the 34th Synod of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren



Director of the Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren Mr. Jan Soběslavský, member of the Church Law Society, delivers a speech at the 34th Synod in Prague on 19th May 2017.

Photo Adam Csukás

Every year the Synod of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren holds its meeting in Prague, usually in spring time. The Church is the largest Protestant Church in the Czech Republic with about 100.000 members. The Church has its roots in Hussite movement and the Unity of the Brethren. Beginnings of contemporary organization of the Church come from the time of Letter of Tolerance from 1781. In 1918 Czech Lutheran and Calvinist congregations united into one church which holds the above mentioned name.

The Synod has 74 members with equal representation of preachers and lay presbyters. The Church is member of Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic, World Council of Churches, World Communion of Reformed Churches, The Lutheran World Federation, Community of Protestant Churches in Europe and Conference of European Churches.

Mons. Tomáš Halík will receive a Prize of Pontifical Council for Culture



Professor Tomáš Halík, President of the Czech Christian Academy, Professor of School of Arts at Charles University in Prague, Pastor of the Academic Parish in Prague and Honorary Member of the Church Law Society, will receive the prize *Per artem ad Deum* for 2017 for the support of dialog between cultures. The prize will be forwarded to him during the festival in Kielce (Poland).

New Bishop of Old Catholic Church in Bohemia and Moravia



Dr. Pavel Benedikt Stránský, former Old Catholic pastor in Zlín, was elected a new Old Catholic bishop by the Czech Old Catholic Synod celebrated in the hall of the Catholic Premonstratensian monastery in Želiv on 8th April 2016.

The episcopal consecration took place on 1st April 2017 in the Basilica of St. Margaret in the Catholic Benedictine Archabbey in Prague – Břevnov. He was consecrated by the Utrecht Archbishop and President of the International Old Catholic Episcopal Conference Joris Vercammen. More than a dozen foreign bishops from the Old Catholic and Anglican churches assisted in the consecration. The new bishop's intronization took place in the Old Catholic St. Laurentius cathedral in Prague–Petřín, on 2nd April 2017. The Old Catholic Church in the Czech lands takes care of both Old Catholic and Anglican parishes.

Czech Lady Elected a Member of the Council of the Lutheran World Federation



Ms. Olga Navrátilová, Ph.D., was elected a member of the Council of the Lutheran World Federation during its meeting on 17th May 2017 in Windhoek, Namibia. Ms. Navrátilová, member of the Church Law Society, Prague, is a lawyer and assistant professor at the School of Protestant Theology at Charles University in Prague, Department of Philosophy.

Interview on Church Law Society on YouTube

Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera, Chairman, and Professor Zábój Horák, Deputy Chairman of the Church Law Society, took part in the filming on 18th April 2017 in which they presented the Society to the audience of the Czech Christian Academy's YouTube channel. An interview is a part of the series *Talks in the Library*, which take place in the Emmaus Monastery of Benedictines in Prague. The talks with both representatives of the Society are hosted by Ms. Ilona Trnková, Director of the Czech Christian Academy. You can find it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM5tY87R2p0.



At the beginning of the interview on YouTube channel

Photo Czech Christian Academy

President Trump Issues Executive Order “Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty”

On May 4, 2017 U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order addressing topics including the Johnson Amendment and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate requiring coverage of contraceptives, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs and devices in health plans.

The first section of the Executive Order provides, in part, that “[i]t shall be the policy of the executive branch to vigorously enforce Federal law’s robust protections for religious freedom.” The section does not provide specific examples of policy issues but contains general exhortations.

The executive order states as follows: In particular, the Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure, to the extent permitted by law, that the Department of the Treasury does not take any adverse action against any individual, house of worship, or other religious organization on the

basis that such individual or organization speaks or has spoken about moral or political issues from a religious perspective, where speech of similar character has, consistent with law, not ordinarily been treated as participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) a candidate for public office by the Department of the Treasury. As used in this section, the term “adverse action” means the imposition of any tax or tax penalty; the delay or denial of tax-exempt status; the disallowance of tax deductions for contributions made to entities exempted from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of title 26, United States Code; or any other action that makes unavailable or denies any tax deduction, exemption, credit, or benefit.

Excerpted from the Law Briefs (May 2017) published by the Office of the General Counsel of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The New Book on Church Law (Canon Law)

Jiří Rajmund Tretera, Záboj Horák

Církevní právo



The new book *Církevní právo* [Church Law] was published recently by the Leges publishing house in Prague. The book is a small compendium of knowledge of church law of the Catholic Church (canon law). It takes into account law of eastern Catholic Churches and particular law of Bohemian and Moravian dioceses.

The last chapter concerns principles of the law of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and Ancient Churches of the East.

The book contains English summary and is available at the website <http://www.knihyleges.cz/cirkevni-pravo>.



From New Publications

TRETERA, Jiří Rajmund, HORÁK, Záboj, *Církevní právo* [Church Law], Leges, Praha, 2016, 424 pp., ISBN 978-80-7502-192-2.

TRETERA, Jiří Rajmund, HORÁK, Záboj, *Religion and Law in the Czech Republic*, 2nd Edition, Wolters Kluwer, Alphen aan den Rijn, 2017, 136 pp., ISBN 978-90-411-8755-0.

Journals

Il Diritto Ecclesiastico, Fabrizio Serra editore, Pisa/Roma, ISSN 1128-7772

Anno cxxvi, 1–4, gennaio–dicembre 2015,

including:

BERLINGÒ, Salvatore, *Una breve nota a margine*, pp. 51–56,

TOZZI, Valerio, *Le trattative per la stipulazione delle 'Intese'*, pp. 57–70,

VITALI, Enrico, *Salvatore Berlingò*, pp. 13–17.

Newsletter of the Church Law Society Prague – Brno – Olomouc in English, published by Společnost pro církevní právo, Sudoměřská 25, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic. Editor-in-Chief: P. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP. Editorial Board: Záboj Horák, Adam Csukás, Marek Novák. Photo Editor: Antonín Krč. E-mail: spcp@prf.cuni.cz. Issues appear monthly.

Available online at <http://spcp.prf.cuni.cz/newsletter>. ISSN 2464-7276