



NEWSLETTER

**FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF THE CHURCH LAW SOCIETY
*PRAGUE – BRNO – OLOMOUC***

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Volume 3

30th April 2018

Cardinal Josef Beran Returns Home

At the feast of St. Vojtěch, whose confirmation name was Adalbert, the second bishop of Prague, common Czech, Polish, Hungarian and Slovak patron, on the anniversary of his martyrdom on 23rd April, great celebration takes place every year in the Prague Cathedral. This year, on this occasion, remains of one of Vojtěch's greatest successors in history, the Archbishop of Prague and the Czech Primate Josef Cardinal Beran (1888–1969) returned to the homeland and were buried in the cathedral.

Josef Beran was professor of theology for many years at the Prague seminary. During the Nazi occupation, he was imprisoned in the concentration camp Dachau. In 1946 he was appointed Archbishop of Prague. After the Communists took power in February 1948, he did not stop to be critical of the newly established totalitarianism and bravely defended rights of the Church and the faithful in the lead of all Czechoslovak bishops. However, in June 1949, he was suddenly detained by the Communist secret police, completely isolated from the public and the family, and he was imprisoned in various secret places until 1965 without any legal proceedings. When appointed Cardinal in the same year, the government gave him permission to go to Rome, however, his return to the homeland was denied. He participated in the final session of the Second Vatican Council, in which he gave a statement of fundamental importance for the further orientation of the Catholic Church. He was not allowed to visit the homeland even during the political liberalisation in the spring of 1968. Prior to his death in May 1969, he expressed the wish that his bones would return to his homeland when it would be free.

Cardinal Josef Beran was buried alongside the popes in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Only now, in April 2018, his wish to rest in his homeland was fulfilled.

The thoroughly planned event began on 19th April 2018, when the remains of Cardinal Beran were lifted from a sarcophagus under the St. Peter's Basilica, between the tombs of Pope Pius XI. and Pius XII. The ceremony was led by Archbishop Angelo Comastri, archpriest of the Basilica of St. Peter. Overnight, the coffin was deposited in the Czech residence hall Nepomucenum in Rome, where Cardinal Beran lived during his involuntary exile in the Eternal City.

The second day, accompanied by the sound of church bells in the whole Czech Republic, at 6.16 pm, a special government plane carrying the coffin landed in the airport in Prague – Kbely. The Archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Dominik Duka OP, the Chairman of the Czech Bishops' Conference, together with the Archbishop of Olomouc and other bishops in the Czech Republic, took over the remains of Cardinal Beran with military honours with the participation of the Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic Milan Štěch. The returnee was welcomed in his homeland by his favourite song *Čechy krásné, Čechy mé*, the land anthem of Bohemia.



The coffin with the remains of Cardinal Josef Beran was taken over by soldiers of the Army of the Czech Republic at the military airport in Prague – Kbely.

The remains were then taken to the church of St. Vojtěch at the Archbishop's seminary in Prague – Dejvice, where Josef Beran was the rector before the World War II. During the following night, the remains rested in the Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady at the Strahov Monastery of the Premonstratensians, where the Cardinal spoke his last free sermon before his internment by the Communist secret police in 1949, in which he assured his listeners that he would never submit to the Communists.

The faithful listened to this sermon again on Saturday 21st April 2018, when they gathered in the courtyard of the Premonstratensian monastery to accompany the Cardinal's remains to the Cathedral of Sts. Vitus, Wenceslas and Vojtěch. Among the assembled people from the Czech lands and from abroad, priests, bishops, religious, there was also

a representative of the Hungarian Primate of Esztergom-Budapest, and personally the Metropolitan Archbishop of Gniezno Mons. Wojciech Polak.

Students of the Archbishop's seminary in Prague brought the remains of Cardinal Beran in front of the altar in the cathedral where, together with many bishops and priests, Cardinal Dominik Duka OP celebrated the Holy Mass to honour of St. Vojtěch. During his courageous sermon, interrupted several times by the applause of all the people gathered in the overcrowded cathedral, which is one of the largest churches in Europe, he followed the words of Cardinal Beran "do not be silent, Archbishop, you must not keep silent". His return, Cardinal Duka said, is even more important these days, as forces that seek to destroy and blemish the Church and everything it believes in are rising again, whether it is the Communist Party, which evidently gains power despite its electoral failure, or nationalistic passions in society, fanatical and intolerant presentation of Islam, or radical left-liberal anti-clericalism, represented by blatantly blasphemous theatre play by Oliver Frlić, part of the repertoire of a theatre in Brno, despite of all the protests of the faithful, including the protests of the Czech Bishops' Conference. At this very moment, Cardinal Beran can give us a lead by his inflexibility and unwavering fidelity to God and His Church. The whole ceremony and sermon was an unforgettable experience for all of us.

After the Holy Mass, the coffin was exposed to public reverence and the ceremonial *Te Deum* followed. The coffin was placed in a sarcophagus in the chapel of St. Agnes of Bohemia on 23rd April 2018, on the day of the feast of St. Vojtěch. The newly created sculpture of St. Vojtěch – Adalbert and his relatives St. Radim – Gaudentius, Archbishop of Gniezno, and St. Radla – Anastasius, Archbishop of Esztergom, was placed in the chapel.

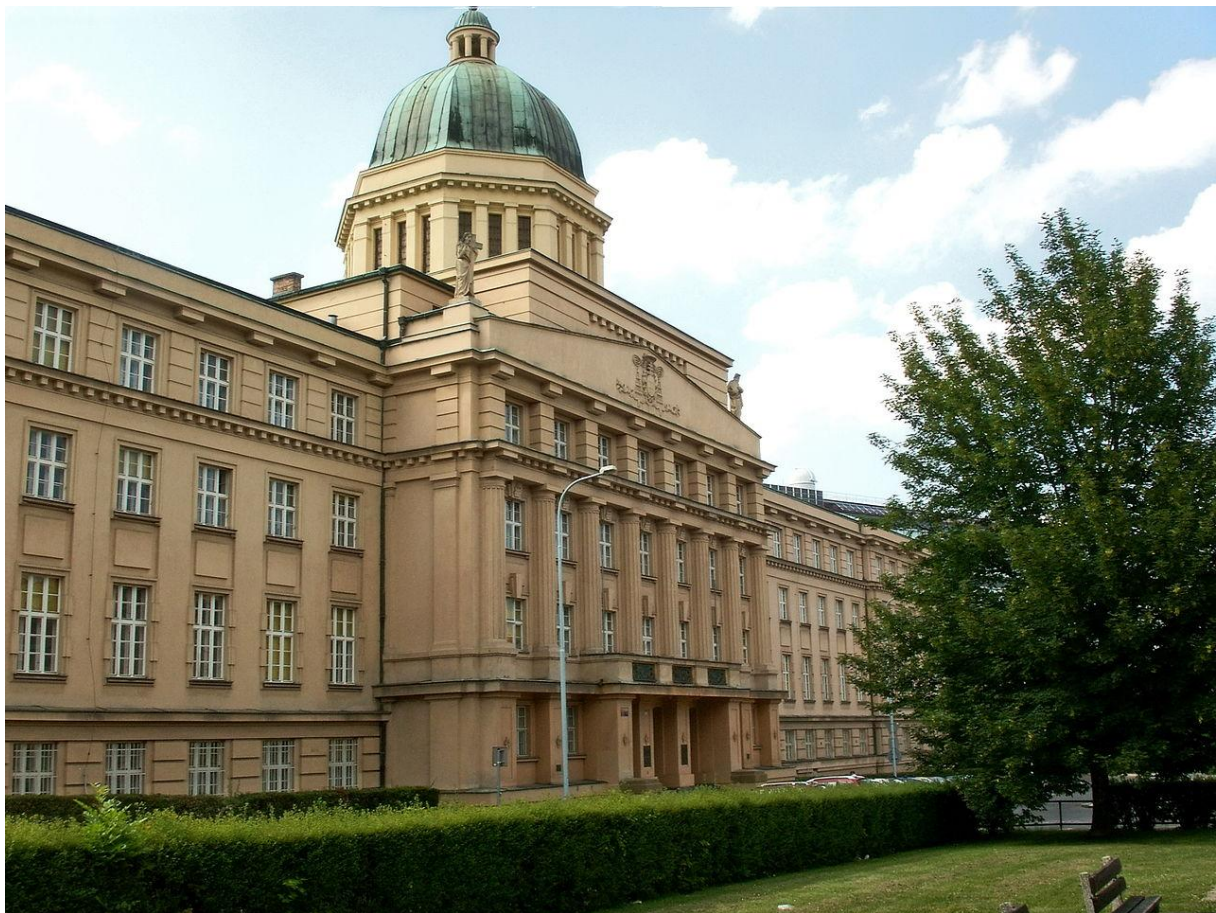
Vojtěch Círus



Students of the Archbishop's seminary in Prague carrying the coffin with remains of Cardinal Josef Beran from the Church of St. Vojtěch in Prague, where Josef Beran was a rector from 1932. Cardinal Dominik Duka OP, Archbishop of Prague, walks behind the coffin.

Chairman of the Church Law Society Appointed Member of the Scientific Council of the School of Catholic Theology of Charles University in Prague

On 1st March 2018, Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera from the School of Law of Charles University in Prague was appointed a member of the newly established Scientific Council of the School of Catholic Theology of the same university. The Scientific Council was appointed by the newly elected Dean Prof. Vojtěch Novotný, after approval by the Academic Senate. The first meeting of this Scientific Council took place on 19th April 2018.



Building of the School of Catholic Theology of Charles University in Prague. The building also houses the Archbishop's seminary in Prague and the Czech Bishops' Conference. Part of it is the seminary church of St. Vojtěch. The building was constructed in 1928 by the Archbishop of Prague, František Kordač, and the later Archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Josef Beran, was also active in the building.

The Collegial Bishop Revisited: The Classis and Presbytery at Issue

In spring 2008 an international conference on the classis/presbytery was organized by the Centre for Religion and Law at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam and the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey, USA. After ten years it is time for an update. What are its current status, developments and issues? This conference will allow you to explore

the range of questions that are raised in the context of the classis continuing to exist and function in a central way. Does the classis/presbytery indeed function in an episcopal role? The classis/presbytery faces growing pressure both from “below” and “above.” What role does this “middle judicatory” have within the presbyterial/synodical system when faced with congregationalism on the one side and centralization of ecclesial authority on the other? Can we continue to think of classes/presbyteries as fundamentally gatherings of office-bearers when the notion of office itself is in question in some quarters? Join us in this two-day conference. Keynote speakers are Allan J. Janssen (NBTS) and Leon van den Broeke (TUK and VU). A reflection will be given by René de Reuver, the secretary-general of the Protestants Church in the Netherlands. Besides them other theologians will speak: Joseph Small, Kathy Smith, Hilbrand van Eeken, Roel Kuiper, Hans Schaeffer, Klaas-Willem de Jong, Adam Csukas and John Chalmers and others. The conference takes place at the Theological University of Kampen in the Netherlands from **22nd to 23rd May 2018**. For further details visit [the websites of the conference](#) and see the enclosed flyer.

Neue kirchenrechtliche Normen zur Übersetzung liturgischer Texte

Die jüngste Änderung des CIC durch Papst Franziskus betrifft die Übersetzung liturgischer Texte gemäß c. 838 und erfolgte durch das Motu proprio *Magnum principium* vom 3. September 2017. Es versucht, Konflikte zwischen den Bischofskonferenzen und der Römische Kurie zu lösen, rief aber schon zu Beginn Kontroversen bezüglich seiner Interpretation hervor. Das Klaus Mörsdorf-Studium für Kanonistik veranstaltet dazu ein Symposium mit Beiträgen aus allen betroffenen Disziplinen: lateinische Philologie, Liturgiewissenschaft und Kanonistik. Symposium wird am Montag, **11. Juni 2018**, von 14 bis 18 Uhr an der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Senatssaal E 106, Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1, 80539 München, stattfinden. Falls Sie an der Veranstaltung teilnehmen wollen, erbitten wir Ihre verbindliche Anmeldung bis 28. Mai 2018 an diese E-Mail-Adresse: Gertrud.Gawinski@kaththeol.uni-muenchen.de.

From New Publications

Journals

Ecclesiastical Law Journal, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, ISSN 0956-618X, Vol 20 No 1, January 2018,

including:

PETCHEY, Philip, *Hidden Treasure: The Church of England's Stewardship of Its Silver Plate*, pp. 16–50,

SCHÜLLER, Thomas, *Justice and Mercy: An Enigmatic Yet Crucial Relationship for the Application of Canon Law*, pp. 51–58.

Revue de Droit Canonique, Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, ISSN 0556–7378,
Tome 67/2 (2017), Reconfigurations paroissiales – Varia,

including:

METZGER, Marcel, *Communautés locales, ministères et églises aux premiers siècles*, pp. 309–323,

RESTIF, Bruno, *L'Âge d'or des paroisses, 15^e–18^e siècles*, Analyse historique des diversités géographiques et sociologiques, et réflexions pour le présent, pp. 325–343,

KY-ZERBO, Alphonse, *L'enseignement du Pape François sur la Paroisse dans l'Exhortation apostolique Evangelii Gaudium*, pp. 345–362,

BAMBERG, Anne, *Édifices culturels face aux recompositions paroissiales*, Réflexions autour du canon 1222 § 2, pp. 363–388,

RUSSEIL, Jean-Paul, *Reconfigurer les paroisses, une œuvre de longue haleine*, L'exemple du diocèse de Poitiers, pp. 389–396,

XIBAUT, Bernard, *Les restructurations paroissiales dans le diocèse de Strasbourg*, Les «communautés de paroisses», pp. 397–401,

BESTION, Francis, *Approche diversifiée des reconfigurations paroissiales*, L'exemple du diocèse de Tulle, pp. 403–412,

ABBAL, Elisabeth, *Les reconfigurations paroissiales comme objet de recherche*, pp. 413–438,

VILLEMIN, Laurent, *L'office à la lumière des reconfigurations paroissiales*, pp. 439–445,

BORRAS, Alphonse, *La communauté des fidèles à l'épreuve des reconfigurations paroissiales*, pp. 447–464,

MALVAUX, Benoît, *Vers de nouvelles formes de vie consacrée?*, pp. 467–484,

DENKHA, Ataa, *L'impact de la réforme des procès en nullité de mariage sur le rôle du défenseur du lien*, pp. 485–517.

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**ACADEMIC
CONFERENCE**

IN ENGLISH

MAY 22 AND 23 2018

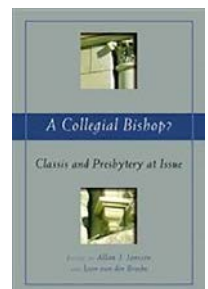
The Classis and Presbytery at Issue

'The Collegial Bishop
Revisited: The Classis and Presbytery
at Issue'. Academic conference (two days)
that allows you to explore the range of questions
that are raised in the context of the classis/presbytery
continuing to exist and function in a central way.

The classis/presbytery faces growing pressure both from "below" and "above." What role does this "middle judicatory" have within the presbyterial/synodical system when faced with congregationalism on the one side and centralization of ecclesial authority on the other? Does the classis/presbytery indeed function in an episcopal role? Can we continue to think of classes/presbyteries as fundamentally gatherings of office-bearers when the notion of office itself is in question in some quarters?

Moreover, classes find themselves faced with challenges presented by ecclesiological expressions (e.g., "missional church," "priestly community"). Classes/presbyteries have historically been formed geographically. New expressions challenge such arrangements.

In spring 2008 an international conference on the classis/presbytery was organized. After ten years it is time for an update. What are its current status, developments and issues?



MAIN SPEAKERS



Leon van den Broeke

Senior Lecturer Church Polity at the Theologische Universiteit Kampen and assistant Professor of Religion, Law, and Society at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam



Allan J. Janssen

Affiliate Professor of Theological Studies, New Brunswick Theological Seminary General Synod Professor, RCA



René de Reuver

Secretary-general of the Protestants Church in the Netherlands

ALSO: Joseph Small, Kathy Smith, Hilbrand van Eeken, Hans Schaeffer, Klaas-Willem de Jong, Adam Csukas, John Chalmers and others.

MAY 22 2018, 10.30-20:00H / MAY 23 2018, 8.30-14.30H

Theological University of Kampen Address: Broederweg 15, 8261 GS Kampen

MORE INFORMATION AND ENROLMENT

CONFERENCE, TWO DAYS (DINNER, LUNCHES, DRINKS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITY ARE INCLUDED)

www.weetwatjegeloof.nl/thelegialbishop2018 € 115

or www.pepredikanten.nl/thelegialbishop2018 € 145 (incl. certificate of 1.5 EC)

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