



NEWSLETTER

FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF THE CHURCH LAW SOCIETY
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**Church and Religion Law Department of Faculty of Law in Prague
Is Busy with Preparations for Conference in June**



Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague

In the past few days, the preparation of the international Fourth Season conference of Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations, which will be held at the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague (see photo) from 12th to 16th June 2019, reached the final intensive phase. The topic of the conference is *Spiritual Care in Public Institutions*.

The conference will be attended by the following experts in the field of religion law:

Prof. Gerhard Robbers (Trier), Prof. Mark Hill QC (London), Prof. Francis Messner (Strasbourg), Prof. Adrian Loretan (Lucerne), Prof. Balázs Schanda (Budapest), Prof. Piotr Stanisz (Lublin), Prof. Wolfgang Wieshaider (Vienna), Dr Martin Šabo (Trnava), Prof. Damián Němec (Olomouc), Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera (Prague), Prof. Záboj Horák (Prague).

An English monograph on *Spiritual Care in Public Institutions in Europe* will be published summarizing the conference topic.

New Church Law Review Issue Published

We are happy to announce that the new issue of the Church Law Review has just been published and we received it from the printers. The editorial entitled *Rich Harvest of Articles by Various*



Authors includes following text: This issue is opened by an article by our leading, respected canon law and religion law scholar, lawyer and Bible researcher, Associate Professor Stanislav Příbyl, which is a continuation of a series of author's studies on the law of the Early Church. This time it deals with the analysis of the Church's practice, as depicted by an anonymous author of the New Testament Letter to the Jews, enclosing the collection of epistles called *Corpus Paulinum*.

A deep analysis of the concept of the *good of the spouses* (*bonum coniugum*) in the Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia* follows, written by Dr Libor Botek, judicial vicar of the Interdiocesan Ecclesiastical Court in Olomouc and Assistant Professor at the Church Law Department of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, Palacký University Olomouc.

The following article on *extraordinary authorizations* is particularly exiting. These authorizations the Church granted to some

superiors at a time of high religious oppression, such as the Communist Party's dictatorship in Czechoslovakia in 1948–1989. Some of them were called Mexican faculties. Its author is a well-known theologian, religious studies expert and historian Dr Eva Vybíralová. She is an employee of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague and defender of the marriage bond of ecclesiastical courts in Prague and Berlin.

Doctoral student at the Department of Legal History, Faculty of Law, Charles University, and articulated clerk to an attorney-at-law Mgr. Marek Novák deals with actions to declare proprietary right of the state under *Act on Property Settlement with Churches* in his specialized article, which is based on his personal experience gained at the law firm of Dr Jakub Kříž, external religion law teacher at the Faculty of Law, Charles University.

Lecturer at the Anglo-American University in Prague, Associate Professor Jiří Kašný, presents *canon law science outlooks*, especially at Czech universities.

A note by Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera follows. He describes the long-term promising development of teaching both canon and religion law at the Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague. At present, the faculty may proudly declare that more than ten thousand of graduates have passed at least one of four canon law subjects or three religion law subjects since 1990. After all, several hundreds of students enrol in these subjects and pass the exams every year.

The Documents section contains a Czech translation of the still current anti-Nazi encyclical *Mit brennender Sorge* issued by Pope Pius XI. in March 1937. The new translation by Professor Antonín Ignác Hrdina from the Catholic Theological Faculty of Charles University and the Faculty of Law of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, was supplemented by explanatory headings.

Online issue of the Church Law Review, which contains summaries in English, German and Italian as well report on the Church Law Society in English, is available on the website of the [Church Law Society](#).

Lawyers Graduation at Charles University in Prague



Great Hall of Carolinum, Prague, 13th March 2019. Promotor Professor JUDr. Jiří Rajmund Tretera recites the academic oath of new masters of law in the traditional Latin form.

Foto Real

Night of Churches in Czech Republic for 11th Time

1,603 churches and chapels in the Czech lands are prepared to participate in the Night of Churches

on Friday 24th May 2019.

Each Catholic parish or Protestant congregation that decided to participate in the event prepared a programme including many concerts, guided tours, readings of poetry and the Holy Scripture, theatre scenes and garden festivities associated with romantic meals eaten in nature. Not only the common liturgical premises of churches, but also the normally inaccessible parts of ecclesiastical buildings (sacristies, galleries, crypts, monasteries) were accessible to the public, as in previous years.

For this year, 7,193 programmes are prepared.

Fourth Year of Night of Churches in Příbram-Bytíz Prison

The prison chapel and adjacent premises of the Příbram-Bytíz prison in central Bohemia will come alive for the fourth time with the upcoming annual Night of Churches programme. What



are prisoners and invited visitors looking forward to this year?

As the volunteer spiritual care was enriched this year with a new Roman Catholic colleague and priest Piotr Józef Nowicki CSsR from Svatá Hora (Holy Mountain), a prayer of a rosary in a chapel with a commentary will be organized.

A performance by a Seventh-day Adventist Church band will then take place consisting in reading the Gospel (preacher Pavel Smolka) and performing original gospel music composed specifically for the prison.

Visitors as well as prisoners are also looking forward to the grand concert by *FREEDOM music band* of the Specialized detention department under the artistic auspices of legendary frontman of the Olympic rock band Petr Janda who will be present.

For the Night of Churches 2019 preparatory team Ms Vendula Glancová, chaplain, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

Photo: Chapel in Příbram-Bytíz Prison (Central Bohemia)

Workshop on Juridical Ecumenism – Thursday 20th June 2019

Members of Law and Religion Scholars Network are warmly invited to a Workshop on Juridical Ecumenism to be hosted on 20th June 2019 by Paul Goodliff, General Secretary of Churches Together in England.

The main purpose is to ‘stress test’ the Principles of Christian Law. These Principles were published in the Ecclesiastical Law Journal and are the work of a Panel of Experts from a range of Christian denominations, of which I was honoured to be convenor. They represent shared principles derived from the canon law, order or polity of various churches of the Christian tradition and the extent to which canon law is declaratory of ecclesiology. Further, the project represents a new dynamic in the ecumenical endeavour, and has the support of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

It will take place on Thursday 20th June 2019, 11.30 am to 3.00 pm at the office of Churches Together in England, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HH. The cost is £25.00, to include refreshments and lunch. [Click here to book your place.](#)

I hope that Law and Religion Scholars Network will be well represented at this meeting, and I ask you please to forward this invitation to friends and colleagues in other Christian churches who may be interested in the study of comparative canon law as a vehicle for ecumenism.

Mark Hill QC