

NEWSLETTER

7/2020

For the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society
Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Stříbro

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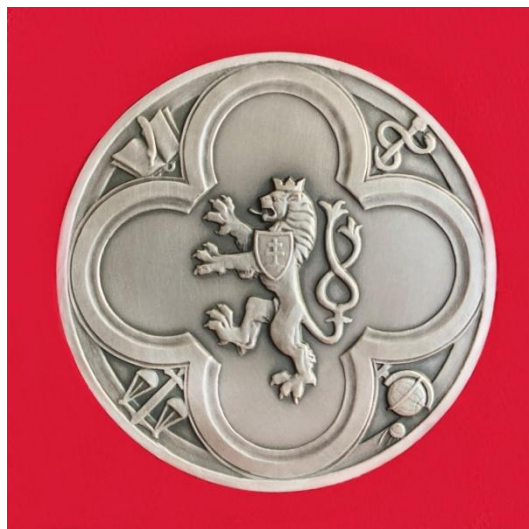
Dean of the Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague, Spectabilis Professor Jan Kuklík hands the commemorative medal to Professor Tretera in the representation hall of the faculty on 29th June 2020. Photo by Zábaj Horák

Three Medals for Professor Tretera

Chairman of the Church Law Society Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera celebrated his 80th birthday with real dignity. He successively received three commemorative medals:

1. On 8th June 2020, the medal of St. Vitus, patron saint of the Prague Cathedral of St. Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert, was presented to him by Dominik Cardinal Duka.
2. On 29th June 2020, the commemorative medal was presented to him by Dean of the Faculty of Law, Charles University, Spectabilis Professor Jan Kuklík.
3. On 1st July 2020, the silver commemorative medal of Charles University in Prague was presented to him by its Rector, His Magnificence Professor Tomáš Zima (below).

Congratulations!

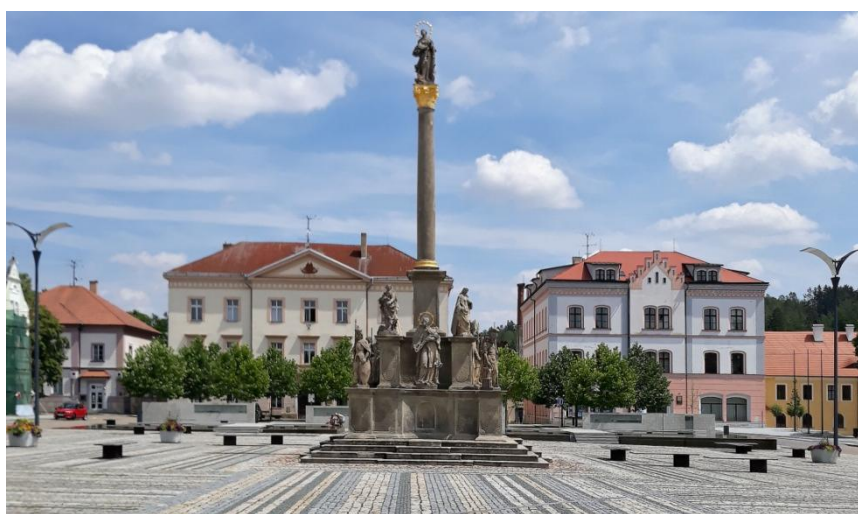


From Varied Life of Church on Czech Border

In the summer months, we go on vacation and holidays, leave home and visit new places and return to places we used to like.

In the last almost twenty years, the administration of the Church Law Society got to like places on the Czech border, especially in western and northern Bohemia. They visit the West Bohemian town of Stříbro (Mies) several times a year, located 30 kilometres west of Pilsen and 30 kilometres from the Bavarian border. Today, almost 8,000 people live in this historic city, first mentioned in the 12th century. The town was inhabited by Czechs until the Thirty Years' War, which brought a reduction in population, but from the 17th century, the German population, especially miners from Swabia, gradually moved to it. The transfer of the Germans took place in accordance with the decision of the Allies at a conference in Potsdam after the end of World War II in 1945.

The town has a beautiful historic square, recently renovated with the help of European Union funds, in the centre of which stands the baroque Marian column. The Catholic Church, the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren and the Church of the Brethren (Congregationalists) are active in the town. There are several schools, including a grammar school, an elementary art school, a museum, a cultural centre, sports clubs and many active associations, including a mining association.



Newly renovated Masaryk Square in Stříbro with the statue of the Virgin Mary.

Photo by František Kratochvíl

Sometimes we can hear false opinions that the Czech borderland, from which the German population was transferred in 1945, is permanently affected by this, and that life there, both in the secular area and in the churches, is still marked by this event.

The Czech and Slovak population, which came to these parts from the interior of Czechoslovakia, had to eliminate the consequences of the war caused by Germans. Also, many Czechs returned home, as they were forced to flee the border areas after the so-called Munich Agreement of 30th September 1938, as a result of which Czechoslovakia was forced to surrender not only border areas inhabited mainly by the German population, but also some

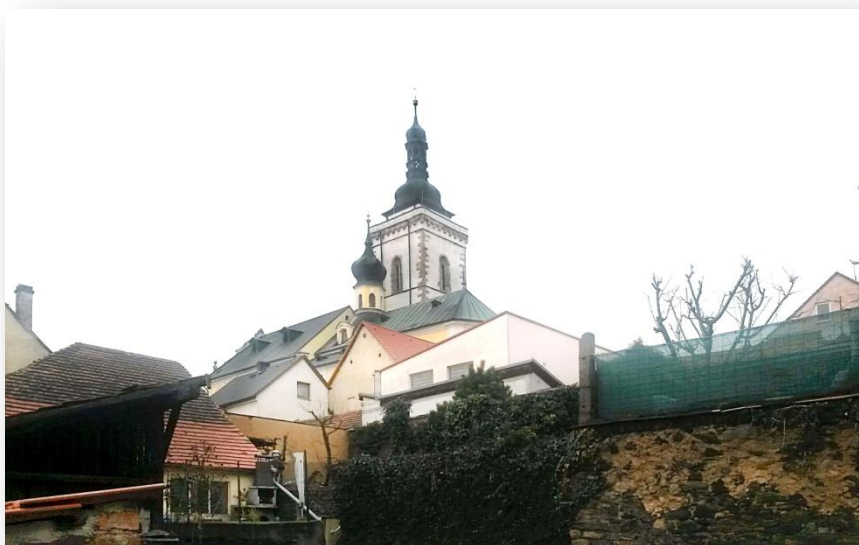
purely Czech ones. Thousands and later hundreds of thousands of inhabitants from the Czech, Moravian and Slovak interior also came to the border area, among them priests and ministers. As a result of the war, the state, citizens, but also churches suffered significant damage. A lot of people died in concentration camps, during forced work in Germany (Totaleinsatz), churches were broken down by the war.

Jewish communities suffered great damage mainly from the extermination of their members in Nazi concentration camps, but also from the fact that all synagogues throughout the Third Reich, including the Czech and Moravian border area, were burned down in November 1938 during the so-called Crystal Night. Some of them were rebuilt after 1989, such as the synagogue in Liberec (North Bohemia).

After 1989, there was a major shift in the status of border areas: towns and villages were beautifully repaired. The town of Stříbro can serve as a brilliant example. Every year we look forward to newly renovated houses and infrastructure.

The Velvet Revolution allowed freedom of religion too. Church buildings of all denominations, monasteries, small sacral monuments (wayside shrines, crosses in the fields) were largely repaired by churches with the help of municipalities, the state and European funds. Church charities and church schools began to operate freely. In Stříbro, there is a parish charity, which operates the Home for the Elderly of St. John Paul II and Diocesan Charity Pilsen, providing nursing services.

An example of how to raise money to repair the deanery church of All Saints in Stříbro was the idea of the Catholic priest Jiří Hájek to publish a Czech-German cookbook, which described recipes for dishes from this region provided by both Czech housewives and former German inhabitants. The sale of the cookbook brought in more than a million crowns (approx. 38,000 Euros), of which repairs were covered, especially of the interior of the church.



Deanery church of All Saints in Stříbro.

Photo by Záboj Horák

The Church Law Society also took part in the religious and cultural events in Stříbro. In March of this year, the fourth local group of the Society was established in Stříbro, which is the centre for several dozen members of the Society from Western Bohemia, including the world-famous spa of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), Mariánské Lázně and Františkovy Lázně. Among the members there are canon law scholars working at the diocesan court of the Diocese of Pilsen, parish priests and lay members of various churches from the ranks of lawyers and other professions. The chairman of the local group in Stříbro is *Bc. František Kratochvíl*, long-time director of the Stříbro Elementary School of Art, member of the Catholic parish and economic council in Stříbro. Members of the local group are, among others, Catholic parish priest in Stříbro *Revd Miroslav Martiš SChLJ* (originally from Slovakia) and the parish priest emeritus, Archdean *Very Revd Jiří Hájek*.

Finally, one interesting example from the life of the locals: *the consecration of the newly built chapel of St. Eustace* near Stříbro. The idea to build this chapel was presented by the director of forest management of Stříbro Vladimír Souček. For several years, he was bothered by the fact that the calamity caused by the bark beetle destroyed the local forests. It occurred to him that together with the employees of the management they would build a small chapel with their own hands, and although they were not members of any church, they would ask the parish priest Revd Miroslav Martiš SChLJ to consecrate it. Eustace the Roman was a martyr, an officer by profession, who was burned at the stake for his Christian faith in approx. 118. His conversion took place after he saw a deer on the hunt with a glowing cross between the antlers, so he became, like St. Hubert, patron saint of gamekeepers.



Revd Miroslav Martiš consecrates the chapel of St. Eustace.

Photo by the town of Stříbro

On Sunday, 12th July 2020, a procession and consecration of the chapel took place, which was attended by two hundred pilgrims. In addition to members of the parish in Stříbro, the mayor, deputy mayor and councillors of the town of Stříbro, mayors of the surrounding

municipalities, members of the Mining Association of the town of Stříbro (in black uniforms) and other important citizens took part. The musical accompaniment was provided by the brass ensemble of the Stříbro Elementary Art School under the direction of teacher Daniel Baxa.

Chapel of St. Eustace will be part of a new educational trail, and therefore we believe that St. Eustace will be an inspiration for many pilgrims on their journey through life.

Záboj Horák/František Kratochvíl



Performance of the brass ensemble of the Elementary Art School Stříbro. Photo by the town of Stříbro



Rev. Miroslav Martiš and acolyte Štefan. Photo by the town of Stříbro

Vojtech Vladár Appointed Professor

On 14th July 2020, Associate Professor JUDr. Mgr. Vojtech Vladár, PhD., lecturer of church canon law, religion law, history of church law and Roman law at the Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovakia), member of the Editorial Board of the Church Law Review, was appointed Professor. He received the diploma from the hands of the President of the Slovak Republic, Zuzana Čaputová.



Vojtech Vladár receives the diploma from the hands of the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová. Photo by Martina Vladárová

Greetings from Santiago de Chile



In the last days of June, we received a greeting from **Professor Ana María Celis Brunet**, President of the International Consortium for Law and Religious Studies (ICLARS), Director of the Law and Religion Center of the Law School at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Santiago).

She wrote us these words: „*Thank you so much for sending me your Newsletter. Congratulations on your work, your celebrations and now also the reconstruction of the Marian Column! Kind regards from Chile, Ana María Celis B.*“

Dr Buchsbaum Would Be 90 Years Old in August This Year

We remember with gratitude our friend Dr Richard Buchsbaum from Bonn, who left us for eternity on 20th March 2020. We have announced this sad news in Newsletter of the Church Law Society No. 4/2020.

Dr Buchsbaum, born in 1930 in Brno (Moravia), was head of department of the Federal Ministry of Construction in Bonn, creator of housing allowance system throughout Germany, important social system, which supported families with more children and old people with lower incomes. All his life he was a devoted Catholic. He was a passionate supporter of our Society since 1992.

In 1996, the General Assembly of the Church Law Society (Prague) elected him an honorary member.

Záboj Horák describes his whole life and long-term cooperation with the Church Law Society in this English Newsletter No. 4/2020 and in his Czech article in the Church Law Review No. 79–2/2020.

We will especially remember Dr Buchsbaum on 11th August 2020, when we will remember his late 90th birthday. We remember all the members of his large family and we are looking forward to further cooperation with them.



From the visit of the Family Buchsbaum to Prague in the spring of 1996. The picture is taken in the library of the Premonstratensian Monastery in Strahov. From the left: P. Dr Ignác Antonín Hrdina OPraem., Rudolf Buchsbaum, Irmgard Buchsbaum, Richard Buchsbaum Jr., Dr Richard Buchsbaum, Ing. Jana Mindlová, vice-president of the Church Law Society (Prague), Michael Buchsbaum, Dr Hedvika Kuchařová, researcher at the Strahov Library. P. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP is sitting in front.
Photo Bernhard Buchsbaum

Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski Passed Away

We regret to receive the news that Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, formerly Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, passed away in Rome on 17th July 2020. Cardinal Grocholewski was one of the world's leading canonists for decades.

He was born on 11th October 1939 in Bródki (Poland) and was ordained in the Archdiocese of Poznań on 27th May 1963. He earned doctorate in canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. He worked at the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura as notary, chancellor, secretary and prefect from 1972 to 1999. He was preparing the 1983 Code of Canon Law in its final version and announced the publication of the Code to the Vatican Radio. He taught canon law at the Gregorian and Lateran Pontifical Universities and at the Studio Rotale. John Paul II appointed Grocholewski as a titular bishop in 1982. He was made an Archbishop in 1991 and a Cardinal in 2001. In 1999, Grocholewski was appointed Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, which he led up to 2015. At the time of last papal elections, he was considered as papabile.



Cardinal Grocholewski made a major contribution to the formation of ecclesiastical courts and thus justice in the Church after the fall of communist totalitarianism in Czechoslovakia. From 1991 to 2008 he participated almost every year in Canon Law Symposia in the Spiš Chapter (Slovakia) and delivered his speeches on various branches of canon law for Slovak and Czech judges and other workers of church courts. He closely cooperated there with Mons. Daniel Faltin (1927–2008), judge of the Rota Romana from Slovakia. His personal friends included Dr Jiří Svoboda, long-time judicial vicar of the Interdiocesan court in Prague and Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera, promotor iustitiae of this Court.

Cardinal Grocholewski maintained friendly relations with the Church Law Society (Prague) and we exchanged wishes for Christmas every year. He spoke fluent Latin. His text *Eucharistia et opus apud tribunal ecclesiasticum praestandum*, which he delivered as a homily on 30th August 1994 in the Benedictine arch-abbey in Prague-Břevnov to members of Czech ecclesiastical courts, was already published in Church Law Review No. 2/1995 (see <http://spcp.prf.cuni.cz/1-10/RCP-2-2-95.pdf>, pp. 123–125). He regularly sent us his books devoted to the teaching of theology and on Church school system, which he wrote during his office as Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education.

In 2013, the Archdiocese of Poznań published the beautiful publication *Quod Iustum est et Aequum* on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Cardinal Grocholewski's priestly ordination, which can serve as a model for the *Festschriften* awarded on the occasion of the anniversaries of important professors and thinkers. It was reviewed by Associate Professor Stanislav Přibyl from Prague in the Church Law Review No. 59–1/2014.

We will remember cardinal Grocholewski as a faithful Church official, great canonist, teacher and friend of Czech and Slovak nation. Working Committee of Church Law Society is considering his nomination as Honorary member of the Society in memoriam.

Requiescat in pace.

From New Publications

AMBROS, Matthias, *Kontrolle kirchlichen Verwaltungshandelns. Ein Beitrag zur Diskussion um die Errichtung von Verwaltungsgerichten auf Ebene der Bischofskonferenz*, WBG Academic, Darmstadt, 2020, 204 pp., ISBN 978-3-534-40357-8.

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Photo on the front page: Dean of the Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague, Spectabilis Professor Jan Kuklík hands the commemorative medal to Professor Tretera in the representation hall of the faculty on 29th June 2020. Photo by Záboj Horák

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