

## From the Church Law Society

### **The Results of the Karlsbader Legal Days Competition**

The Church Law Review was ranked fifth best legal journal out of thirty legal journals in the Czech and Slovak Republics in 2012/2013 in this year's competition of the Society of Czech, German, Slovak, and Austrian Lawyers held by Karlsbader Legal Days (*Karlsbader Juristentage*). The results were announced during this year's XXI<sup>st</sup> congress of the Society in Karlovy Vary on 13 June 2013.

The Church Law Review would like to thank all of its supporters.

### **19th Church and State Conference in Brno**

On Tuesday, 10 September 2013, the Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science at the Law School of Masaryk University in Brno and the Church Law Society organized a national conference on the state law on churches and religious societies which, as always, attracted participants from other countries as well. The conference took place in the meeting hall of Masaryk University in Brno, at 2 Komenský Square, and included more than 50 participants.

It was an honor for the Society to welcome a special guest to the conference, Francesco Cardinal Coccopalmerio, the Chairman of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, who delivered a presentation on the status of the Pontifical Council within the Roman Curia and the role of the Council. The program that followed focused on the special rights of churches under Law No. 3/2002 Coll. and included ten presentations and question and answer sessions after each presentation. A detailed report of the conference authored by Associate Professor JUDr. Zábaj Horák is in this issue of the Church Law Review at p. 97.

### **Congratulations to Church Law Society Members**

As of 7 August 2013 the President of the Czech Republic appointed a new justice of the Constitutional Court – JUDr. Kateřina Šimáčková, Ph.D., the chairwoman of the Church Law Society chapter in Brno, an assistant professor at the Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science at the Law School of Masaryk

University, the primary instructor of church law at the Law School, and until now a justice of the Supreme Administrative Court in Brno.

Mgr. David Kučerka, O.Cr., completed his studies at the Law School of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. On 28 August 2013 he was professed in the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Prague Old Town at the end of Charles Bridge into the main Order Church of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, and at the same time was ordained a deacon.

Mgr. Jakub Kříž, Ph.D., the head of the Department of Private Law and the Director of the Center for State Law on Churches at the CEVRO Institute in Prague, passed his bar exam on 2 September 2013.

Kamila Pospíchalová and JUDr. Vít Ossendorf, Ph.D., LL.M., celebrated their marriage on 21 September 2013 in the St. Nicolas Catholic Church in Nížkov.

### **Preparations for the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Founding of the Church Law Society**

The Church Law Society is planning a celebration of the 20th anniversary of its founding; the celebration will take place in the barocco refectory of the St. Gill Monastery in Prague Old Town on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 4:00 pm. The refectory can be accessed through the entrance at 7a Jilska Street.

## Brief News

### Introduction of a New Book about Czech Monasteries

On 25 June 2013 a presentation took place in the refectory of the Strahov Monastery of Premonstratensians in Prague to celebrate a new book by writer Alena Ježková and photographer Jiří Chalupa, which Publishing House Práh (Prague 6) published under the title **Tichá srdce** (“Quiet Hearts”) and subtitle **Kláštery a jejich lidé** (“Monasteries and Their People”). The extensive book details the life of the current members of the old orders in the Czech lands – Benedictines, Cistercians, Premonstratensians, Dominicans, and Franciscans (including Minorites and Capuchins) and the female branches of the orders. At the end of the book the author discusses the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Order of Charles Borromaeus and their hospital in Prague.

The book consists of almost sixty essays about the functioning congregations of the individual orders and also about the closed monasteries, and accompanies the essays with photographic documentation. The book is based on interviews with a number of members of the orders, both senior and junior. Some essays include memories, often rich with facts, about the founding of the communities of the orders in the underground before 1989, so the essays are a valuable oral history resource. Other essays reflect the visions of monastery life that transpired in the recovery of that life since 1990, and discuss current life in the monasteries and the outlook for their future life.

Among the more than one hundred participants at the presentation were several members of the orders who are portrayed in the book. A choir concert contributed to the celebration.

The Church Law Review is looking forward to the next volume of the book, which will cover other orders and congregations that have been active in the Czech Republic since 1990.

### **A Memorial Plaque Unveiled for Colonel Stanislav Rejthar**

On Sunday, 4 August 2013, a memorial plaque was unveiled in Kuroslepy in Moravia to commemorate the birth of Colonel Ing. Stanislav Rejthar, a patriot, a pilot of the Number 313 Czechoslovak RAF Squadron in the United Kingdom, and a participant in the Slovak National Uprising, who was persecuted by the Communist Regime after February 1948.

In 2000 the Church Law Review (No. 16–2/2000, p. 161) reviewed Rejthar’s memoirs **Dobří vojáci padli ..., Ze vzpomínek válečného pilota** (“Good Soldiers Perished... From Memories of A War Pilot”), which were published posthumously by the Ostrov Publishing House in Prague in 1999. In 2012 the Church Law Review (No. 53–3/2012, p. 111) announced the third supplement, published under the same title, by the Volvox Globator Publishing House in Prague in 2011. In 2010 the Church Law Review published a story describing an interesting episode from Colonel Rejthar’s life (No. 45–1/2010, p. 15, and in English at p. 21).

### **The 3rd ICLARS World Congress in Richmond, VA**

On 21 – 24 August 2013 the Congress of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) met at universities in Richmond, Williamsburg, and Charlottesville in Virginia (USA). The topic of this year’s Congress was *Religion, Democracy and Equality*. The Congress followed the Consortium’s previous congresses in Milan in 2009 and in Santiago de Chile in 2011. A detailed report is published in this Church Law Review, Information, at p. 93.