

## From the Church Law Society

### **The Church Law Review Listed Among Peer-Reviewed Non-Impacted Journals**

On 31 January 2014 the Research, Development, and Innovation Council of the Office of the Cabinet of the Czech Republic approved the 2014 update to the List of Peer-Reviewed Non-Impacted Journals Published in the Czech Republic. The Church Law Review (ISSN 1211-1635) continues to be included in the List.

### **A Greeting from His Eminence Zenon Cardinal Grocholewski**

At the beginning of February 2014 the Church Law Society received a greeting from His Eminence Zenon Cardinal Grocholewski, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, a long-time friend of the Society and of all diocesan courts in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. He gave a wonderful gift to the Society – a large publication published in Poznań, Poland, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination: JEĐRASZEWSKI, Marek, SŁOWIŃSKI, Jan (eds.), *Quod Iustum est et Aequum*, A Tribute to Cardinal Grocholewski, Arcidiocesi di Poznań, Poznań, 2013, 615 pp., ISBN 978-83-87487-79-9.

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

At the beginning of 2014 Mgr. Petr Jäger, Ph. D., an assistant to a Constitutional Court justice, was appointed a Vice-Minister of Justice.

On 13 March 2014 Mons. Professor PhDr. Tomáš Halík, Th.D., the President of the Czech Christian Academy and an honorary member of the Church Law Society, received the Templeton Prize. Prague Archbishop Cardinal Dominik Duka OP commented on the event: “The awarding of the Templeton Prize to Tomáš Halík is an important and joyful event for the Czech Church and our entire country. It proves that Central Europe is not only the place where religion, theology, and thinking in general were subjugated but that it is also the place with people whose deep philosophical work could speak to Czech readers and also to readers in the rest of Europe and on other continents.”

### **The 68th Evening *Law in Society and the Church***

Another evening event in the series *Law in Society and the Church* took place on Monday, 24 March 2014, in the baroque refectory of the St. Gill Dominican Priory in Prague 1, Old Town. Several dozen participants attended the evening event, which was organized by the Church Law Society. The speaker was P. Benedikt Mohelník, Th.D., Provincial of the Czech Province of the Order of Preachers – Dominicans and an assistant professor at the Catholic Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague; he gave a presentation on *The Difficult Circumstances of the Sacrament of Confirmation in Light of Current Church Laws*. He discussed thoughts about the order of sacraments of the Christian initiation – baptism, confirmation, and the Holy Communion – as the thoughts developed throughout history, and particularly since the Second Vatican Council. More than ten participants joined the discussion after the presentation; many participants asked questions and shared their personal experiences related to the topic.

### **General Assembly of the Church Law Society**

On Thursday, 24 April 2014, the General Assembly of the Church Law Society took place in Room 243 of the Law School of Charles University in Prague. The Assembly received a biennial report, an accounting report, and a comptroller report. As of the day of the Assembly, the Church Law Society had 435 members; since the last Assembly 38 new members have joined the Society, eight members have left the Society, and two members have passed away. The General Assembly honored the memory of the deceased members.

A proposal to change the Society's charter was presented; a working committee had drafted the changes in response to the new Civil Code. The Assembly approved the new charter after a discussion, and also elected bodies of the Society for the next period. The election results are available on the website of the Church Law Society.

Mr. Augustin Navrátil, a railroad signalman, a private farmer from Lutopecny at Kroměříž, and the author of the famous 31-point petition *The Suggestions of Catholics for Solving the Situation of Religious Citizens of the Czechoslovak Socialistic Republic* from 1988, was in memoriam awarded an honorary membership of the Church Law Society to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Mr. Navrátil's death.

## Brief News

### **The Fourth Agreement on Penitentiary Pastoral Service Has Been Published**

The full text of the new agreement on pastoral service that was concluded on 21 November 2013 among the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, the Czech Bishops' Conference and the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic is encompassed in the section "Documents" of the Review. The agreement is also available on the Church Law Society's website at [http://spec.prf.cuni.cz/dokument/dohoda\\_duchovni\\_sluzbavezenstvi.pdf](http://spec.prf.cuni.cz/dokument/dohoda_duchovni_sluzbavezenstvi.pdf)

### **From the General Assembly of the Czech Christian Academy**

The General Assembly of the Czech Christian Academy (CCA) met on Saturday, 25 January 2014, in the large refectory of the Emauzy Benedictin Monastery in Prague. More than 70 CCA members attended the Assembly; Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera, Associate Professor Zábaj Horák, and Mgr. Stanislav Pšenička represented the Church Law Society, which is a collective member of the CCA.

Professor PhDr. Tomáš Halík, Th.D. chaired the meeting and presented the activity report covering the past three years. As of the date of the meeting, the CCA had 1,757 members, 76 local groups had organized 439 lectures across the Czech Republic, and ten central sections had organized 70 lectures in Prague. Four times a year the CCA publishes the journal *Universum*. The Church Law Society serves as the CCA's legal section and three times a year publishes the *Church Law Review*.

The General Assembly elected two new vice-presidents – Associate Professor Mgr. Jaroslav Šebek, Ph.D., a researcher at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, and Associate Professor Pavel Hošek, Th.D., the Head of the Department of Religious Studies of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague. In their speeches the outgoing vice-presidents PhDr. Jan Stříbrný and Professor RNDr. Jan Bednář, CSc., recalled their 18 years of service in the CCA leadership, and a long ovation followed their speeches.

In the second part of the meeting the General Assembly discussed changes to its charter that the leadership proposed and that were necessitated by the new Civil Code. Mgr. Stanislav Pšenička from the Church Law Society explained the proposed changes, and the Assembly adopted the changes.