

From the Church Law Society

The 72nd Evening Event of the Church Law Society

On Wednesday 25th November 2015 another Evening Event took place in the Barocco Refectory of the St. Giles Dominican Priory in Prague. More than fifty participants attended this traditional event, which is organized by the Church Law Society in Prague. On this occasion the Event featured a presentation of Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera's new book *Church and Law – Miscellanea*, which was published in autumn 2015 by the Leges publishing house in Prague.

The moderator for the evening was R. D. Associate Professor Stanislav Příbyl, Ph.D., IC.D., a member of the Church Law Society's Working Committee. Speakers at the ceremony were His Eminency Dominik Cardinal Duka OP, the Archbishop of Prague and the Primate of Bohemia; JUDr. Jana Sladká Hyklová, Ph.D., the Editor-in-Chief of the Leges publishing house; and Associate Professor Zábój Horák, Ph.D. Each contributed interesting remarks about the publication and its content.

At the end of the first part of the evening Professor Tretera thanked Zábój Horák and Adam Csukás for their assistance with the preparation of the book, and JUDr. Jana Sladká Hyklová, the Editor-in-Chief, for the publication and her detailed work in editing the publication. Professor Tretera noted that the articles included in the book are excellent documentation of the struggle to re-establish religious orders under the leadership of Father Dominik Duka as the Provincial during totalitarian rule and during the reconstruction of freedom in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic.

The Event was accompanied by the musical contribution of Štěpán Korenec, a student at the Law Faculty of Charles University in Prague, who played several pieces of classical music repertoire on the guitar.

The Event concluded with a reception, during which discussions continued over wine and refreshments. A number of members of the Church Law Society from Bohemia and Moravia attended the event, as did representatives of the Archdiocese of Prague, and students and professors from universities, including representatives

of the Law Faculty of Charles University in Prague and the Hussite Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague.

Congratulations to Church Law Society Members

Dr. iur. Wolfgang Wieshaider of the Law School of University of Vienna was appointed an extraordinary professor thereat on 21st September 2015.

The Union of Czech Lawyers awarded **JUDr. Jan Kotous** the silver medal of Antonín Knight Randa. The ceremony took place in the historical Carolinum Hall of Charles University in Prague. The award is given to representatives of legal theory and practice making significant contributions to legal science. Dr. Kotous received the award for his research on the notary school of Vyšehrad and on M. Jindřich from Isernia.

R. P. ThLic. ICLic. Maximilián Vladimír Filo, OPraem, a parish priest in Bučovice, the judicial vice-vicar of the Diocesan Church Court, and the vice-president of the Canon Law Academy in Brno, celebrated his 55th birthday on 6th November 2015.

R. D. Ing. Mgr. Vladimír Slámečka, Ph.D., the Rector of the Spiritual Administration of the Academic Community of the Czech Technical University in Prague, celebrated his 50th birthday on 18th November 2015.

Mr. Pavel Landa, a journalist, an editor, an honorary member of the Church Law Society, and a senior advisor of the Church Law Review, celebrated his 80th birthday on 2nd January 2016.

Záboj Horák Elected a Regular Member of the European Consortium

We announce with pleasure that on 14th November 2015 the European Consortium for Church and State Research, at its 27th annual meeting in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, elected **Associate Professor Záboj Horák**, the vice-president of the Church Law Society, a regular member of this important scientific institution. **Professor Wolfgang Wieshaider** of the Law Faculty of Vienna University, a frequent guest of the Law Faculty of Charles University in Prague and a member of the Church Law Society, also became a member of the Consortium. The European Consortium elected **Professor Balázs Schanda** from the Péter Pázmány Catholic University in Budapest the President of the Consortium. The topic of the Conference was *Law and Religion in the Workplace*. The next conference will take place in Jūrmala, Latvia.

Good Friday Included into the List of Public Holidays

We announce with pleasure that as of 21st December 2015 the Act No. 359/2015 Sb. of 2nd December 2015, changing the Act No. 245/2000 Sb., on Public Holidays, as amended, entered into force. Thereby was Good Friday included into the list of public holidays, which are also rest days. A historical injustice committed by the Communist rule, which crossed out Good Friday from the list of public holidays as of 1st January 1952, was finally repaired.

Inclusion of Good Friday into the list of public holidays is a significant expression of return of the Czech Republic back to its cultural traditions and historical roots. Concurrently, it is an expression of realization of religious freedom for the majority of believers. Christian Churches, celebrating Good Friday as the anniversary of the Passion of Jesus Christ, will be able to renew their worships and Good Friday ceremonies in traditional hours during the day and believers will be able to spend the whole day in appropriate collected atmosphere.

Jiří Rajmund Tretera