

From the Church Law Society

Third Journal of the Church Law Society Established

Apart from the Church Law Review, the scientific journal issued three times a year, the Church Law Society began publishing another journal many years ago in order to inform its members and supporters about activities of the Society as well as changes in the area of church law and religion law.

Therefore, the *Aktuality – Internetový zpravodaj Společnosti pro církevní právo Praha – Brno – Olomouc (News – Online Bulletin of the Church Law Society Prague – Brno – Olomouc)*, published twice a month in Czech, was established. It is distributed to the members of the Society by e-mail and is available to the general public on the website spcp.prf.cuni.cz/aktuality. The seventh volume is already published this year. The most important information is partly summarized, usually shortened, in this section of the Church Law Review.

Recently, it became necessary to inform our foreign members and supporters of latest development in the Czech Republic and in the Church Law Society. It is important to present life of churches in the Czech Lands to the public abroad and to overcome various misinformations. On that account, the Church Law Society publishes online *Newsletter of the Church Law Society Prague – Brno – Olomouc* in English from the beginning of 2016 once a month.

Online journals in English and Czech are not identical, because the first one focuses on informing the foreign readers. We are glad to receive many positive reactions and comments from our foreign members and supporters. The Newsletter is available on the website spcp.prf.cuni.cz/newsletter.

Chairman of the Church Law Society Appointed an Honorary Member of the Czech Christian Academy

P. prof. JUDr. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP was appointed an honorary member of the Czech Christian Academy for “extraordinary merits in the field of church law, particularly in case of publishing the Church Law Review which became a widely respected journal”. He received a diploma from the president of the Czech

Christian Academy Mons. prof. PhDr. Tomáš Halík, Th.D., during the meeting of the Academic Committee at the Emmaus Monastery in Prague on 18th December 2015. This honour was granted in appreciation of work of anyone who has ever participated in preparation of the Review.

73rd Evening Event from the Cycle Influence of Law in Society and in Church

A meeting of members and supporters of the Church Law Society from the mentioned cycle took place at the baroque refectory of the Dominican Priory of St. Giles in the Old Town of Prague on Tuesday 5th April 2016. A lecture on the topic *Importance of Religion Law* was presented by Associate Professor JUDr. Stanislav Příbyl, Ph.D., IC.D. Mr. Štěpán Korenec, the guitar player and a student of the School of Law of the Charles University in Prague, performed couple of pieces of his wide repertoire. A new monograph *Konfesní právo* [Religion Law], written by Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Associate Professor Záboj Horák, which was issued by the publishing house Leges in Prague only few weeks before the event, was presented in the end of the meeting.

General Meeting of the Church Law Society

General meeting of members of the Church Law Society, organized once in two years, took place on 3rd May 2016 at the School of Law of the Charles University in Prague. A report on the activity of the Society in last two years was delivered, a management report and a supervisory committee report were delivered as well. The Society had 467 members at the moment of the general meeting. Fifty-two new members joined the Society, twelve members left, five members have died since the last general meeting. Deceased members were commemorated and the general meeting paid tribute to them. Last of all, members of all bodies of the Society were elected. The results of the vote are available on our website.

74th Evening Event from the Cycle Influence of Law in Society and in Church

Together with the general meeting the Church Law Society organized an evening event in order to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the birth of Charles IV, Pater Patriae, King of Bohemia and Roman Emperor. A lecture on the topic *Legacy of Charles IV: Theory and Practice of Governance of Mediaeval Monarch* delivered by PhDr. ThLic. Drahomír Suchánek, Ph.D., Th.D., from the Department of General History of the School of Arts of the Charles University in Prague, member

of the Church Law Society, followed after a musical introduction performed by Mr. Štěpán Korenec.

Congratulations to Members of the Church Law Society

R. D. Lic. iur. can. Valdas Kužulis of Vilnius received a doctorate in Canon Law (Dr. iur. can.) at the School of Catholic Theology of the Munich University on 2nd February 2016.

P. prof. Konštanc Miroslav Adam OP, the rector of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, was appointed a judge of the Roman Rota on 22nd March 2016.

Ms. Jiřina Hůlková, the long-standing Czech diplomatic service officer, celebrated her jubilee on 9th April 2016.

Colonel R. D. Mgr. Jaroslav Knichal, the Chief Chaplain of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, celebrated his 40th birthday on 7th May 2016.

R. D. Mgr. Pavel Kryl, a parish priest in Tasov, celebrated his 70th birthday on 22nd May 2016.

A. R. P. Stanislav Příbyl, Th.D., CSsR, the vicar general of the Diocese of Litomyšl, was elected a new general secretary of the Czech Bishops' Conference. He assumes office on 1st October 2016.

Mons. Ing. Mgr. Pavel Konzbul, Dr., was appointed titular bishop of Litomyšl and auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Brno on 21st May 2016. He is ordained in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, Brno, on 29th June 2016 at 2 pm.

Good Friday as Public Holiday in the Czech Republic

We informed of the Act No. 359/2015 Sb. in the last issue of the Church Law Review. It restores Good Friday as public holiday in the Czech Republic after a period of 63 years and repairs one of many injustices committed on believers of almost all Christian confessions by the Communist regime. We were glad to hear that according to the Catholic Newspaper (*Katolický týdeník*) attendance of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday increased by 20 % on average in the Catholic Church in our country. Protestant churches noticed similar increase as well, many congregations moved celebration of festive service from the evening to the morning.

First Volumes of the Church Law Review Series Prepared

In the editorial of the previous issue of the Church Law Review our readers were informed of intention of the Church Law Society administration to issue non-periodical series under the title *Church Law Review Series* in number of one or two publications a year in addition to the Review. The Series will be issued and distributed by the Society at its own expense. Each issue will be printed in number of 300 copies and will be 100–150 pp. long.

Successful student scientific papers, diploma theses and postgraduate qualification theses, which bring new findings in the scientific world, will be included in the Series by the governing body of the Society in cooperation with the editorial board of the Church Law Review.

Following papers were chosen this year:

Volume 1: Adam Csukás, *Church Subsidies and Their Legal Life in Slovakia and Subcarpathian Ruthenia*, Hard Life of the Priest, Whom from Lectical Bake the Bread...

Volume 2: Oldřich Nejd, *Legal Status of Diocesan, Vicariate and Parish Councils in Roman Catholic Dioceses in the Czech Lands*.

We ask readers who are interested in these publications to contact us by e-mail or regular mail.

22nd Conference Church and State in Brno Takes Place on 15th September 2016

Contemporary Act No. 3/2002 Sb. on Churches and Religious Societies came into effect fourteen years ago. When the act was passed, political representation of the state was not as favourable to religious communities as today. Nowadays, relationship between the state and religious communities improve gradually, certainly in connection with steps taken to property settlement with religious communities. In addition, recodification of private law has been completed – the Civil Code includes general regulation common for all juridical persons. We think time has come to consider amending the Act on Churches for all abovementioned reasons. We will be glad to discuss the topic on the following conference *Church and State*, which takes place on 15th September 2016 in Brno.

Jiří Rajmund Tretera