

From the Church Law Society

Presentation by the Student Societies at the School of Law of Charles University in Prague

As it does every semester, a full-day presentation by the student societies took place this autumn at the School of Law of Charles University in Prague on 24th October 2016. Students from the School of Law who are members of the Church Law Society – Tomáš Lazár, Vojtěch Círus, Jan Beránek, Ondřej Šmat, Adam Csukás, and Jan Pivoda – assisted in presenting information on the Church Law Society.

Changes in the Publishing of the Church Law Review, and Membership Fees

The Working Committee of the Church Law Society planned the activities of the Society for the 2017 calendar year during a meeting on 25th October 2016. The Committee decided to increase the number of Church Law Review issues from three to four per year, beginning in 2017. Moreover, according to Section 7, subsection 5 of the Bylaws of the Church Law Society, it was agreed that the membership fee will increase starting in 2017 to 400 Kč, or 15 €. The reduced membership fee for students, retired members, and members without income will increase to 200 Kč, or 7.50 €. Members have the options of paying a higher membership fee, discharging their existing debts to the Society, and paying the fee in advance.

Order of the White Lion Awarded to Cardinal Dominik Duka

Cardinal Dominik Duka OP, Archbishop of Prague and Primate of Bohemia, a friend and supporter of our Society since its founding in 1994, received the Country's highest order, the Order of the White Lion of the Ist Class, during a festive ceremony in Vladislav Hall at Prague Castle on the occasion of the Independent Czechoslovak State Day on 28th October 2016.

Mr. Miloš Zeman, President of the Czech Republic, awarded the order to Cardinal Duka for particularly outstanding meritorious service to the Czech Republic. As President Zeman declared, all persons receiving the award in 2016 are connected

by a common motive that is related to the roots of Czech society. Christianity and Christian values are the deepest and longest tradition, which is typical of Europe as well as the Czech nation. President Zeman said that he is continuing the tradition that was established by his predecessors who had awarded the honour to Czech cardinals.

“The Order of the White Lion is a great honour not only for me, but for the whole Church, as it has found its place in a free society after many years of totalitarianism,” Cardinal Duka commented on Twitter.

The 75th Church Law Society Evening Event

The traditional pre-Christmas meeting of the Church Law Society took place at the baroque refectory of the Dominican priory of St. Giles in the Old Town of Prague on Monday, 12th December 2016. Approximately forty persons attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting P. Savio Řičica OP, prior of the Dominican priory in Prague, welcomed all the participants on behalf of the Order. Then, R. D. Associate Professor JUDr. Stanislav Příbyl, Ph.D., Th.D., IC.D., was ceremonially awarded a silver medal of the Church Law Society in honour of his pioneering scientific activities in canon law and religion law, as well as his selfless work in the administration of the Society and the Church Law Review.

The main part of the evening was dedicated to the commemoration of the *800th Anniversary of the Affirmation of the Order of Preachers – Dominicans*. A lecture on this topic was presented by P. Augustin Prokop OP, superior of the Dominican priory in Jablonné (Northern Bohemia), former prior of the priory of St. Giles in Prague and the long-time novice master of the Czechoslovak and Czech Dominican Province.

The participants will remember his remarkable lecture, in which he guided us through the difficulties of spiritual life and the struggles for truth and faith from the beginning of the 13th century to the present. After the deeply heartfelt summary of events from the life of Saint Dominic and his followers (particularly Blessed Jordan of Saxony, Saint Albert the Great, and Saint Thomas Aquinas) he answered many questions from the audience and responded to suggestions from the participants who shared in the discussion.

The First Issue of Church and Religion Law Series is Published

The first issue of the Church and Religion Law Series (Knižnice církevního a konfesního práva), which has been introduced by the Church Law Society as publisher, arrived from the printing house on 16th December 2016. Adam Csukás, secretary of the Church Law Society and editor of the Church Law Review, wrote the book *Church Subsidies and Their Legal Development in Slovakia and Subcarpathian Ruthenia, Hard Is the Life of the Priest Whose Daily Bread Depends on Leticale... (Církevné dávky a ich právny život na Slovensku a Podkarpatskej Rusi, Trpký život kňaza, ktorému z ložného chlieb napečú...)*. The book has 168 pages. Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Associate Professor Záboj Horák reviewed the monograph and wrote the preface. The book deals with *lecticale (koblyna and rokovyna)*, i.e. an aggregate of church subsidies and manual labour performed by Slovak and Subcarpathian parishioners for their priests. The book brings a new perspective on the economic and legal life of Slovak and Subcarpathian Catholic parishes from the 1880s to 1949.

In the following weeks the book will be distributed to dozens of persons and organizations who have already placed an order. We ask other members and supporters of the Church Law Society who are interested in the book to register via e-mail at spcp@prf.cuni.cz and include their postal address. Individual issues of the Series are distributed for free with a request for a donation corresponding to the costs of printing and postage. In the case of this issue the costs amount to 200 Kč (7 €). Payment details will be inserted into the book. The second issue of the Series is being prepared and will be published in the following months. An order for the first issue does not obligate you to order future issues.

Congratulations to Members of the Church Law Society

Mgr. Petr Nohel successfully defended his dissertation on the *Teaching of Canon Law at the Schools of Theology and Schools of Law in the Czech Lands from 1918 to 1989* at the School of Catholic Theology of Charles University in Prague and was awarded a Ph.D. degree.

Bc. František Kratochvíl, the director of the Elementary Art School in Stříbro, and a member of the administration of the Church Law Society, celebrated his 55th birthday on 25th October 2016.

D. Prof. JUDr. Antonín Ignác Hrdina, DrSc., OPraem., received a Memorial Medal of the School of Law of University of West Bohemia in Pilsen for outstanding scientific work in the fields of religion and church laws on 9th November 2016.

R. D. Associate Professor JUDr. Stanislav Příbyl, Ph.D., Th.D., IC.D., a lecturer of canon and secular laws at the School of Theology of University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, rector of the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and St. Charles the Great, and a member of the administration of the Church Law Society and member of the editorial board of the Church Law Review, celebrated his 50th birthday on 18th November 2016.

ThDr. Petr Jan Vinš, the administrator of the Old Catholic Library and Archive of Josef König, was elected the general secretary of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic on 24th November 2016.

JUDr. Václav Král, a leading Czech attorney and publicist, celebrated his 90th birthday on 29th November 2016.

Mr. Pavel Landa, a leading Czech editor and publicist, honorary member of the Church Law Society, and senior adviser to the editorial board of the Church Law Review, celebrated his 81st birthday on 2 January 2017.

Obituaries

P. Ing. Jiří Sedláček CRV, a parish vicar in Brno – Tuřany, passed away on 24th September 2016 at the age of 74. He was ordained on 29th June 1991 in the Church of Saint Michael in Olomouc. He spent his life as a priest in Brno, initially for a year as a co-operator in Tuřany, then as an administrator in Komín and in 1998 in Lískovec. He returned to Tuřany in 2005 as a parish vicar. He was a judge of the Diocesan Tribunal in Brno in the years 1996–2009. R. I. P.

Ing. Eduard Hladký, Ph.D., from Piešťany (Slovakia), who helped to build the Jaslovské Bohunice Nuclear Power Plant, passed away on 21st December 2016 at the age of 76. He was born in Moravia and graduated from the School of Technical and Nuclear Physics of the Czech Technical University in Prague. For many years he was a member of the Church Law Society, a participant in the Academic Weeks (the Christian Summer School organized by the Czech Christian Academy and the Dominican Order) in Nové Město nad Metují (North-Eastern Bohemia), and our close collaborator. R. I. P.

Jiří Rajmund Tretera