

From the Church Law Society

*Aus der Gesellschaft für Kirchenrecht
Dalla Società per il diritto canonico*

Plenary Session of the Council of Scientific Societies of the Czech Republic

The annual plenary session of the Council of Scientific Societies of the Czech Republic was held at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague on 21st September 2017.

The first speech was presented by the new President of the Academy of Sciences, Professor RNDr. Eva Zažímalová, CSc., who expressed her appreciation of the cooperation between the Academy and the Council of Scientific Societies.

The President of the Council Associate Professor RNDr. Lubomír Hrouda, CSc., presented a detailed report on the activities of the Council in his speech, with a brief mention about the richness of member societies' activities.

Societies applying for membership to the Council were introduced in the next part of the session. Among the five societies that applied, the Society for the Economic and Social History of the Czech Republic, the Czech Genealogical and Heraldic Society in Prague and the Czech Cartographic Society were successful.

The date of the annual plenary session of the Council has been permanently moved to the spring months. The Council currently brings together 81 scientific societies. The Church Law Society has been a member of the Council since 14th November 2014.

Series of Law Students Meetings in Church Continues

After two successful years of this cycle, our first meeting after the holidays – even before the beginning of the academic year – took place in form of the Holy Mass, celebrated by P. Professor JUDr. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP in St. Wenceslas Church in Prague-Vršovice on Sunday, 17th September 2017. The meeting of our group continued in the small hall of the church after the Mass.

Congratulations to Members of the Church Law Society

PhDr. Ing. Jiří Novák celebrated his 90th birthday on 23rd March 2017. His long-standing and excellent work as a parliamentary stenographer was recognized by the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic at its meeting in April 2017. The fact that he is the grandson of the Agrarian Party Member of Parliament František Staňek, who was the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic and a minister in its government in the 1930s, is one of points of interest on his curriculum vitae.

Mgr. Eva Zavadilová defended her licentiate thesis, entitled *Teaching of Canon and Religion Law at Czech Schools of Theology and Diocesan Schools between 1918 and 1950*, and passed the state doctoral examination in practical theology, focusing on church law, at the Saints Cyril and Methodius School of Theology of Palacký University in Olomouc on 12th June 2017.

Tomáš Lazár successfully completed his master's degree at the School of Law of Charles University in Prague on 8th September 2017.

Adam Csukás, Secretary of the Church Law Society and Editor of the Church Law Review, successfully defended his master's thesis, entitled *The Principles of Synodical-Presbyterial Church Government*, on 18th September 2017 at the School of Law of Charles University in Prague, as well as passed the final state examination in order to achieve the master's degree. At the same time, he was admitted as a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Legal History in the same school.

Jan Beránek successfully completed his master's degree at the School of Law of Charles University in Prague on 20th September 2017. At the same time, he was admitted as a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Legal History in the same school.

Mrs. Věra Kateřina Dospělová, a founding and permanently active member of the Church Law Society, reached her significant life jubilee year on 27th September 2017. She spent many years of her life as a junior member of the religious congregation of the School Sisters of St. Francis (OSF), caring for mentally disabled children at the institute in Budeničky. She worked in Prague-Podolí as a pharmacist and in the local church of St. Michael as an organist after being released from the monastery. She attended lectures on church law at the School of Law of Charles University in Prague in the late 1990s, after which she worked for several years as a notary of the Interdiocesan Tribunal in Prague. She continues to be active as an organist in several churches in Prague.

Ing. Jan Gottwald Has Passed Away

Ing. Jan Gottwald, from the Congregation of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Prague-Vršovice and a long-time reader of the Church Law Review, passed away on 1st April 2017. Together with his wife and daughter Hana, he dedicated his life to the ecumenical movement, especially the Protestant-Catholic dialogue. The general public said farewell to him during a church funeral at the St. Salvator Evangelical Church in Prague in the Old Town. Requiescat in pace!

Jan Sembdner Has Passed Away

Jan Sembdner from Lovosice, employee of the Employment Office of the Czech Republic, regional branch in Ústí nad Labem, passed away on 8th September 2017 at the age of 30.

He was born on 16th March 1987 in Rumburk. He joined the Church Law Society during his studies at the School of Law of Charles University in Prague. His hobbies included theatre, where he worked during his studies. He entered the world of the history of film art by taking on several parts in student films. We wish to express our sincere condolences on behalf of the entire Church Law Society to Jan's widow and family.

In remembrance of Jan we would like to quote his two mottoes: "Do not contact me, I invite myself in the worst case. If I were delayed, I would remind myself!" "I do not like anger and subterfuge. I believe that law and honour will prevail!"

Jiří Rajmund Tretera