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*jrt/zh*

**From the Church Law Society****Lectures from the Lecture Series *The Effects of Law on Society and the Church***

The following *public lectures* took place at the end of 2004 in the reading hall of the Prague Dominican priory:

**Doc. J. R. Tretera** lectured on 3 November 2004 on *The Legal System of Ancient Israel*.

The originally scheduled lecture, which also dealt with Old Testament matters, was canceled due to illness of the lecturer. Approximately 30 participants attended the rescheduled lecture.

**Prof. V. Urfus** lectured on 8 December 2004 on *Pragmatic Sanction and the Czech Lands*. The second lecturer, JUDr. Cyril Svoboda, Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic, who is traditionally invited to the December session, did not arrive and excused himself due to his absence from the Czech Republic.

**General Meeting of the Church Law Society**

The Operating Committee of the Church Law Society met on 15 December 2004 and decided to convene the 2005 General Meeting on 11 January 2005 instead of on its regular spring date. The meeting on 11 January 2005 was the

10th anniversary of the founding General Meeting, which approved the current Charter of our Society. The Operating Committee decided to change the date of the General Meeting for two reasons: First, the decision complied with the repeatedly expressed wishes of the Society's members to connect the General Meeting with a commemorative celebration to honor the beginnings of the Society, and second, the decision respected practical reasons: the annual accounting and the activity report thus cover the calendar year, which significantly simplifies auditing and record keeping. The General Meeting was attended by 34 members, more than that of the previous years.

*From the Annual Report by the President of the Church Law Society:*

On 11 January 2005 the Church Law Society had 379 members, out of which 41 are members from abroad. Since the last General Meeting nine new members joined the Society, and four members left the Society.

**Internet pages of the Church Law Society** show 24,334 accesses since December 1999. We would like to cordially thank the creator and administrator of the pages, Mgr. Adam Furek.

**The Church Law Review** was very successful in 2004: it was awarded first place in the "Karlsbader Juristentage" competition. This award belongs to all who participated in the preparation of the Review in the past 10 years and is an honor to all members of the Society. It confirms that our goal of providing the public with a high-quality journal dealing with the full scale of church and religious society legal issues was and is correct.

The editor of the Review in recent years has been JUDr. Štěpán Hůlka. We thank him for his diligent work. Our thanks also go to the members of the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board of the Review is not only a body furnishing advice to the Editor-in-Chief but principally functions as an operating body. The members of the Editorial Board take part in detailed editing of texts and graphic design of all articles. Since publication No. 27 – 1/04 our editorial team has included Pavel Landa, who contributes to the Review with his lengthy professional experience.

We also thank our translators. In addition to abstracts, author resumes, contents, and theses lists being translated into English, German, and Italian, the regular columns *From the Church Law Society* and *Brief News* are translated into English. The translation of the article by Latvian author Kudrjavcevoová from English, which was provided by Mgr. Stanislav Pšenička, and the translation of the Portuguese Concordat from Portuguese, which was provided by Mgr. Miloš Holub, were extraordinary tasks.

We also thank the authors of articles, contributions and recensions, who so often contributed to our Review without charge.

Many thanks go also to the members of the Operating Committee, which meets regularly every month, and in 2004, even during the holidays. The members have met and prepared the program of the Society. Unfortunately, due to absences by some members, certain resolutions requiring a majority vote had to be postponed. The outgoing Committee therefore proposed to the General Meeting that the number of Committee members be reduced, within the letter of the Charter, to seven. Next year, based on the experience in 2005, it will be possible to increase the number of members if deemed appropriate. The Committee also concluded that after ten years of existence some Charter provisions might be reviewed. It recommended that the future Committee set up a commission for a draft amendment to the Charter. The draft should be submitted to the next General Meeting.

#### *The elections of the new Operating Committee*

Following the presentation of the activity and economic reports, the General Meeting decided to set the number of members of the Committee to seven and by secret ballot elected the new Committee members. Doc. J. R. Tretera was elected President of the Society, Mrs. Ing. Jana Mindlová, CSc., was elected Vice President, and JUDr. Záboj Horák was elected Secretary.

#### **JUDr. Josef Plocek Becomes an Honorary Member of the Church Law Society**

Longtime fighter for justice and the rights of churches, prisoner of conscience in the 1950s, and founding member of the Church Law Society, JUDr. Josef Plocek, from Prague, was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Society at its General Meeting on 11 January 2005. In his speech he thanked those at the Meeting. He stressed the importance of natural law in the search for justice.

#### **From the Activities of the Olomouc Chapter of the Church Law Society**

The chairman of the Olomouc chapter of the Church Law Society and member of its central leadership, **P. lic. Damián Němec dr OP**, lectures on the Thursdays of 10 March, 14 April, 12 May and 9 June 2005 at 7:30 pm in the building of the Dominican priory in Olomouc, Slovenská Street No. 14, on *Selected Chapters of Church Law*.

#### **Obituary**

With deep regret we announce that P. **ThDr. Miloslav Matouš Videman OP**, a member of the Church Law Society, passed away in Prague on 28 February 2005 at the age of 84. He was born in Kroměříž. After he left for exile he worked for decades as the papal confessor – penitentiary at the Rome basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. He was very interested not only in issues of moral theology but also in canon law. He translated the entire Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (1990) and significant portions of the Code of Canon Law of 1983 (in particular the portion on the order institutes, which was published by the Christian Academy in Rome) into Czech. P. Matouš spent the last year of his life in the Priory of St. Giles (sv. Jiljí) in Prague. He was laid to eternal rest on 8 March 2005 in the grave of the Dominican brothers at the Olšany Cemetery in Prague.

#### **Membership Fees of the Society and Subscription to the Review**

The Operating Committee of the Church Law Society confirmed at its meeting on 2 March 2005 that the membership fees of the Society and subscriptions to the Review will remain the same in 2005 as follows:

##### **Membership Fees**

A member may contribute any amount the member wishes, with a minimum of **300 CZK per year**,

A member who is retired or who is a student may contribute any amount with a minimum of **100 CZK per year**.

Members receive the Church Law Review for free, and there is no shipping charge (even for shipment abroad).

##### **Subscriptions (subscribers – natural persons and legal entities)**

Unless a subscriber is a Church Law Society member the subscriber pays

if Review delivered to an address in the Czech Republic: **210 CZK per year**,

if Review delivered to an address in another European country: **300 CZK per year**,

if Review delivered to an address in a country outside of Europe: **600 CZK per year**.

**Price of an individual copy of the Review in the Czech Republic: 70 CZK.**

Prezidentem *České křesťanské akademie* se stal na dalších šest let kněz a pedagog **Prof. ThDr. PhDr. Tomáš Halík**, farář nově založené akademické osobní farnosti v Praze 1, u Nejsv. Salvátora. Občanské sdružení založené bezprostředně po listopadu 1989 jej 22. ledna 2005 opětovně zvolilo do funkce, kterou zastává už od roku 1990.

*Ekumenická rada církví v ČR* zvolila 24. ledna 2005 svého nového předsedu. Stal se jím **ThDr. Pavel Černý**, předseda Církve bratrské.

### Úmrtí

Dne 26. října 2004 v Praze zemřel ve věku 82 let slavný dětský psycholog **Prof. PhDr. Zdeněk Matějček, CSc.**, přítel naší Společnosti, po desítky let presbyter Farního sboru Českobratrské církve evangelické v Praze 10-Vršovicích. S datem 17. 10. 2004, tedy krátce svým před odchodem na věčnost, nám poslal s věnováním svou poslední publikaci *Psychologické eseje (z konce kariéry)*, kterou vydalo v roce 2004 nakladatelství Karolinum v Praze.

Dne 7. prosince 2004 v Praze zemřel ve věku 89 let věhlasný církevní knihovník **P. František Verner O.Cr.**, sídelní kanovník vyšehradský, čestný komandér Křižovníckého řádu vyznamenaný papežským křížem „Pro Ecclesia et pontifice“. Vzpomínáme na to, jak při naší návštěvě se nám jako zástupcům naší Společnosti v Královské kolegiální kapitule u sv. Petra a Pavla na Vyšehradě dne 18. srpna 2003 věnoval a podal nám podrobný výklad katalogizace knihoven a zejména jím pořádaného katalogu drobných tisků vyšehradské kapitulní knihovny (viz s. 153 Revue církevního práva č. 25 – 2/03).

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## Brief News

### The European Consortium for Church and State Research Meets in Tübingen

The conference *Religion and Law in Dialogue – Covenantal Cooperation of State and Religions in the Member States and in the Candidate Members of the European Union* took place on 18–21 November 2004 at the Schwaben university seat in Tübingen and at the bishop seat in Rottenburg a. N.

On the first day **Axel von Campenhausen** presented Regional Reports on Austria and Germany, and **Alberto de la Hera** presented Regional Reports on Italy, Spain and Portugal. In the afternoon, **Rik Torfs** presented Reports on countries without formal treaties with the Holy See (Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom). The next day, **Jean Duffar** lectured on the European Union and churches, and **Balázs Schanda** presented a summary of Reports on post-Communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The conference was extremely well attended with more than 50 participants. Denmark and Austria each had three representatives. The Czech Republic was represented by **Jiří R. Tretera**, who submitted a written Report.

### Day of the Dominican Family in Hradec Králové

Representatives of various communities of the Dominican spirituality in our country met again on 27 November 2004 at a pre-advent symposium in Nové Adalbertinum in Hradec Králové. The Dominican Family in our country consists of the Czech Province of the Order of Preacher Friars (six priories), two monasteries of the Order of Preacher Nuns (Praha-Lysolaje and Znojmo), one community of Contemplative Sisters of St. Dominic (Praha-Uhřetěves), the Czech Congregation of Dominican Sisters (six convents), the Secular Institute Dílo blažené Zdislavy, the Lay Corporation of St. Dominic (28 corporations) and the Association of Priests and Deacons of St. Dominic. There were three parallel lecture series on the program. It also included a presentation on Czech law on churches and religious societies.

In the afternoon, during a general meeting, contributions were presented by representatives of organizations whose activities are connected with the Dominican Family, such as the publishing house Krystal OP, the information agency Res Catholica, the association Pro Life and the Church Law Society.

### New on the Internet

The SALVE Journal – Review for Theology and Spiritual Life, which we presented in Church Law Review No. 29 – 3/04, launched its Internet pages at <http://salve.op.cz>.

### The Center Lives A Full Life

P. Jiří Kopic, SDB, the Director of the House Velehrad in St. Martin, Italy, responded to the article by Jiří Dvořáček published in No. 27 – 1/04 under the title *Czech Religious Center Velehrad in Rome*. The author mentioned in the article that “the activity of the Center was later (after 1989 – editor’s note) limited to administration of the pilgrim House Velehrad and to care for pilgrims.” P. Jiří Kopic writes:

“I would like to point out that this is a serious mistake and I request that this information be corrected, because both The Christian Academy – Rome and The Religious Center in St. Martin – Section for Youth are still active. To the contrary, the activities of the house in St. Martin have increased after the fall of Communism. Both the pilgrim house in Rome and the house for youth in St. Martin are parts of the legal entity the Czech Religious Center with its seat in Rome.”

We are pleased to make our original information more accurate and we wish the best for the future development to the Christian Academy – Rome and to the Religious Center in St. Martin.

### Congratulations

On 25 January 2005 Archbishop **Mons. Jan Graubner**, the Olomouc Metropolitan, was again elected the Chairman of the Czech Bishops’ Conference. **Mons. František Václav Lobkowicz** OPraem, Ostrava-Opava Bishop, was elected Vice-Chairman. The other members elected to the Permanent Council of the Czech Bishops’ Conference were the Primate of Bohemia and Prague Archbishop Cardinal **Miloslav Vlk** and Hradec Králové Bishop **Mons. Dominik Duka** OP; the Greek Catholic Exarch Bishop **Mons. Ladislav Hučko** was elected Secretary General of the Conference.

On 17 January 2005 P. **František X. Blaha** SDB entered his office as the newly-elected Provincial of the Czech Province of the *Salesian Congregation* in a festive holy mass in the Parish Church in Fryšták near Zlín.

**Prof. ThDr. PhDr. Tomáš Halík**, parish-priest of the newly-founded academic personal parish in Prague 1 at St. Saviour Church, became the president of the *Czech Christian Academy* for another six-year term.

The civic corporation, which was founded immediately after November 1989, re-elected him on 22 January 2005 to the position, which he has held since 1990.

*The Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic* elected its new president on 24 January 2005. The new president is **ThDr. Pavel Černý**, the chairman of the Brethren Church.

### Obituaries

**Prof. PhDr. Zdeněk Matějček, CSc.** passed away at the age of 82 on 26 October 2004 in Prague. This famous child psychologist was a friend of the Church Law Society; for decades he was a presbyter of a local parish congregation of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Prague 10-Vršovice. On 17 October 2004, shortly before he left us forever, he sent to us his last book, *Psychological Essays (From a Career End)*, with his personal dedication. The book was published by the publishing house Karolinum in Prague in 2004.

**P. František Verner O.Cr.** passed away at the age of 89 on 7 December 2004 in Prague. He was a famous Church librarian, residential canon at Vyšehrad Chapter of Canons and an Honorary Commander of the Cross Order, and was awarded the papal Cross of Honor “Pro Ecclesia et pontifice.” We remember our visit to the Royal Collegiate Chapter of Canons of Sts Peter and Paul at Vyšehrad on 18 August 2003 during which he devoted his time to us, representatives of the Church Law Society, and provided us with a detailed explanation about the cataloging of libraries and in particular about a catalogue of small prints of Vyšehrad Capitula’s Library, which he created (see Church Law Review No. 25 – 2/03, p. 153).

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