

From the Church Law Society

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

The following two *public lectures* took place in the spring of 2005 in the reading hall of the Prague Dominican monastery:

Mgr. Ing. Miloš Kačírek, teaching assistant of the School of Humanities of the Charles University in Prague and a Ph.D. candidate in the field of church law at the Law School of the Charles University in Prague, lectured on 16 March 2005 on *Law and Justice in Ancient Hebrew Tradition*.

JUDr. Zdeněk Kühn, Ph.D., LL.M., teaching assistant of the Department of Theory of Law and Legal Science of the Law School of the Charles University in Prague, lectured on 20 April 2005 on *Islam and Islamic Law in History and in the Present*.

Visit from Thurgau

On Sunday, 1 May 2005, our Society was visited by **August Biedermann**, the actuary of the Catholic Canton Council from Bischofzell, capital city of the Canton of Thurgau, who was accompanied by his wife and other Swiss guests. Each year since 1996 the Catholic Council of the Canton of Thurgau provides our Society with a sponsorship that covers most of the expenses for one issue of our Review (in recent years the third issue of each year). The distinguished guests expressed their appreciation for the contents of the Review and congratulated our last year's success in the "Karlsbader Juristentage" competition.

Visit from Bonn

Honorary member of the Church Law Society, **Dr. jur. Richard Buchsbaum**, former ministerial counsel of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing, one of the creators of the social housing contribution in the Federal Republic of Germany and author of many publications on this topic, and his wife visited our Society during the week of 28 May–3 June 2005. It was an occasion to remember his previous visits and our stays in his family home in Bonn. The last time we were there was during the 35th German Days of Legal Historians, which took place in September 2004 in Bonn.

"Karlsbader Juristentage 2005"

The Chairman and Secretary of our Society took part in the announcement of this year's awards in the competition of the Society of German, Czech, Slovak and Austrian Lawyers "Karlsbader Juristentage". The celebration took place on the evening of Friday, 10 June 2005, in the complex of the Hotel Poštovní dvůr in Karlovy Vary. First place for 2004 in the category of legal journals was awarded to *Právní rozhledy* from the Czech Republic and *Právny obzor* from Slovakia.

Congratulations

Brothers **Jiří Šouša** and **Ladislav Šouša** from Prague successfully completed their law studies at the Charles University and received their magister diplomas in the old Karolinum building on 9 March 2005. Both participated in the editorial board of this Review for several years.

P. Jiří Hájek from Prague-Michle, a Catholic pastor in Stříbro and founding member of our Society, celebrated his 70th birthday on 22 April 2005. We remembered on 27 June 2005 the 40th anniversary of his sacred ordination.

Mgr. Miloš Holub from Kolín, a member of the leadership of our Society and the author of the Italian translations of this Review, successfully completed his doctoral examinations and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws.

The scheduled 11th Church and State Conference in Brno

The Conference on Church and State, which has been organized each year by the local chapter of the Church Law Society in Brno and by the Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science of the Law School of Masaryk University, takes place in the building of the Law School in Brno, Veveří 70, on Wednesday, 21 September 2005, beginning at 9:30a.m. Members and friends of the Society and the general public are cordially invited.

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Brief News

Vienna

Our sister organization, the **Austrian Church Law Society**, has recently focused in its lectures, which take place every month during an academic year, on the study of the law regulating churches and religious societies in distant countries. Distinguished specialists from such countries have been invited to the lecture hall in Vienna Juridicum at Schottenbastei No. 10 – 16.

Prof. Dr. Hiroaki Kobayashi from Nihon University in Tokyo lectured in December 2004 on *Religious Law in Japan*. The Chairman of our Society had the opportunity to meet with his Japanese colleague during the dinner following the lecture. This contact will hopefully lead to future cooperation.

The Chairman and Secretary of our Society took part in an evening devoted to the subject of *The Supreme Court of India and Religious Cases*. The evening lecturer was **Prof. Dr. Tahir Mahmood** from New Delhi. He was introduced by Prof. Dr. Ludger Müller of the Faculty of the Catholic Theology of the University of Vienna, who also chaired the discussion.

The Austrian Church Law Society launched its internet pages at <http://www.univie.ac.at/recht-religion/ogk/>.

Mülheim an der Ruhr

The 40th annual conference *Essen Talks on Relation of State and Church* took place on 28 February–1 March 2005 in Mülheim an der Ruhr. The theme this year was the *Separation of State and Church – Models and Facts in Europe*. On the first day of the conference **Prof. Dr. Jean-Paul Durand OP** from Paris lectured on the *French Separation Law of 1905 and Its Impact*, **Prof. Dr. David McClean** of Sheffield lectured on *Current State-Church Relations in the United Kingdom* and **Doc. Dr. Stefan Mückl** from Freiburg im Breisgau lectured on *Separation or Cooperation – Current State-Church Relations in the Federal Republic of Germany*. On the second day of the Conference **Prof. Dr. Helmut Juros** from Warsaw and **Prof. Dr. Maria J. Roca** from Ordense presented *Reports on Current State-Church Relations in Poland and Spain*.

The Holy See

On 2 April 2005 Pope **John Paul II** (1978–2005) passed away in Rome.

On 19 April 2005 the Conclave elected a new supreme representative of the Catholic Church. The new Pope is the previous Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith **Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger**, the Titular Bishop of the Suburbicarian Sees of Velletri-Segni and Ostia and Dean of the College of Cardinals. He accepted the name of **Benedictus XVI**. The new Pope was born on 16 April 1927 in the town of Marktl am Inn, Bavaria. From 1977–1982 he was the Archbishop of Munich and Freising.

Graz

The meeting of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (Europe) took place on 5–8 May 2005 in the Educational Center Raiffeisenhof in Graz, Austria. This year the meeting focused on *implementation of religious freedom* in four Central European countries: *the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia*. The meeting was attended by approximately 60 representatives of the Conference from France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria and by a number of representatives from the four Central European countries. The Czech Republic was represented by seven experts from Prague, Brno and Olomouc.

The plenary session took place on the morning of the first day. **Dr. Wolfgang Wieshaider** of the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna introduced major reports on all four countries. After each report the leaders of the expert groups from the respective countries contributed with additional remarks. In the afternoon there were simultaneously organized seminars of respective „national“ groups. The Czech participants asked Doc. J. R. Tretera from Prague to chair the Czech seminar.

In the days following the representatives of the French, British-Irish and German-Austrian groups met with all of the Central European national groups. Representatives of scientific and different religious communities in Europe (including Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists) attended the discussions.

The meeting of the European chapter of the Conference was chaired by **Dr. Jehangir Sarosh** from Great Britain. The language of the meeting was English. The introductory reports were delivered in German with simultaneous interpretation in English.

Prague

The former Prime Minister of the Freestate of Thuringia, **Mr. Josef Duchac**, lectured on 16 May 2005 at a conference organized by the Adenauer Forum

Prague in the Hotel Corinthia Towers in Prague 4. The subject of the lecture was *The European Integration and the Future of Christian Democracy*.

The Czech Bishops' Conference appointed its new press spokesman as of 1 June 2005. The new spokesman, **Mgr. Martin Horálek**, graduated from the St. Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology of the Palacky University in Olomouc. From 2001 until June 2005 he worked in the press center of the Czech Bishops' Conference.

The previous spokesman of the Czech Bishops' Conference, **Mgr. Daniel Herman**, a canon from the Royal Collegiate Capitula at Vyšehrad, has a Sabbatical year from his church functions (see Acta Curiae Archiepiscopalis Pragensis 6/2005, ref. 4201/2005). He joined the Police Presidium in Prague, where he will assist via a telephone help line policemen on duty who happen to be under pressure or stress. The offer to provide such a service stemmed from an Agreement on the Participation of Persons Conducting Spiritual Services in the System of Provision of Post-traumatic Interventional Care for Officers of the Police of the Czech Republic. The Agreement was concluded on 17 October 2002 by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic and the Czech Bishops' Conference (for the text of the agreement see Documents). The service represents a full-time commitment not only to policemen but also to firemen and their family members who feel endangered or have work-related or personal problems (see Hospodářské noviny of 31 May 2005). The officials of the Ministry of the Interior have felt a need to establish such a service in the past. The service is partly parallel to the activities of military chaplains who also provide care not only to religious members of the Czech Army but to all who ask for such help.

Vienna

On Wednesday, 22 June 2005, the Chairman and Secretary of the Church Law Society met with **Prof. Dr. Richard Potz**, the Director of the Institute of Legal Philosophy, Religious and Cultural Law of the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna, and with **Dr. Wolfgang Wieshaider**, a scientist of the Institute. The Chairman and the Secretary toured the library of the Institute. On Thursday, 23 June 2005, they visited the department of churches of the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture in Vienna, where they were welcomed by the ministerial counsel **Prof. Dr. Karl Schwarz**.

They discussed issues of Czech and Austrian law on churches and religious societies.

Frankfurt am Main

On 1 and 2 June 2005 a scientific conference on *church-state relations in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in 1945–1989* took place at the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt am Main, Hausener Weg 120. The International Max Planck Research School for Comparative Legal History, a Legal History Institute of the University of Johann Wolfgang Goethe in Frankfurt, participated in the organization of the conference.

The conference was attended by 30 academics, scientists of the aforementioned institutes and invited representatives of the countries that were the focus of the conference. Participants received a syllabus of excerpts from publications related to the subject of the conference. Most publications were written by lecturers participating in the conference.

The introductory lecture *On Relation of State and Church in Europe* was delivered by **Prof. Dr. Gerhard Robbers** of the University of Trier. The lectures following dealt with the situation in the former German Democratic Republic (**Dr. Ehrhart Neubert**, Berlin), Hungary (**Dr. János Wildmann**, Pécs), Czechoslovakia (**Doc. JUDr. J. R. Tretera**, Prague), and Romania (**Dr. Ulrich Andreas Wien**, Koblenz-Landau). Overviews of the situations in Poland and Ukraine were provided by experts of the Max Planck Institute. A discussion followed each lecture.

Velehrad

From 6 July till 10 July 2005 a Second Session of the **Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Czech Lands** was celebrated in Velehrad (East Moravia). This Session followed the First one, celebrated at the same place two years ago (see Church Law Review 25 – 2/03, p. 161).

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