

From the Church Law Society

“Karlsbader Juristentage 2005”

On page 171 of the previous issue of the Church Law Review we reported to our readers about the winners of the 2004 legal journal competition. Our representatives obtained this information on 10 June 2005 at the announcement of winners in the Center Poštovní dvůr in Karlovy Vary. The award for the best court decision has not been presented this year. The complete overall rankings of the legal journals in their competition was not announced at the Karlovy Vary event and as of the closing day of this issue of the Church Law Review they had not been published on the internet site of “Karlsbader Juristentage.”

The Church and State Conference in Brno

The 11th Church and Law Conference took place on 21 September 2005 at the Law School of the Masaryk University in Brno. It was organized by the Brno local chapter of the Church Law Society under the leadership of JUDr. Michal Lamparter PhD.

Congratulations

Mgr. **Adam Furek** from Prague, a member of the operational committee of the Church Law Society and the webmaster of our internet pages at <http://spcp.pf.cuni.cz>, on 28 June 2005 successfully completed his exams and was awarded the academic degree JUDr. – Doctor of Laws.

Prof. JUDr. Dr. h. c. **Karel Malý**, DrSc., Rector Emeritus of the Charles University, the director of the Institute of History of Law of the Charles University Law School, for many years the head of the History of Law Department of the Charles University Law School, and a member of the Church Law Society, celebrated an important jubilee on 26 October 2005. In a letter addressed to him we thanked him on behalf of the Church Law Society for everything that he has achieved in legal science and education and assured him that we appreciate all his support.

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Brief News

The Pilgrimage of the Czech Dominican Family to Rome

The Czech Province of the Order of Preachers – Dominicans, celebrating this year the 100th anniversary of the reestablishment of the Province, organized a pilgrimage to Rome. The pilgrimage took place on 12–17 September 2005 with 82 representatives of Dominican activities groups from Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia participating. The pilgrims represented six different Dominican male monasteries in the Czech Republic, as well as the Czech Congregation of Dominican Sisters, the Dominican Third Order of Laity, and different social activities groups that cooperate with the Dominican Order, including the Church Law Society.

The Czech Province (Provincia Bohemiae) is one of the oldest provinces of the Dominican Order. It has existed continuously since the division of the original Czech-Polish Province in 1300. In 1855 it was included into the Austrian „imperial“ Province. The consequent suppression lasted 50 years. In 1905 the Czech Province was reestablished by Master General Blessed Hyacinth Maria Cormier OP of the French Province. The reestablishment of the Czech Province offered a great opportunity to expand Czech spiritual life towards Dominican spirituality and opened the way to Dominican operations in Slovakia, which have contributed to the rich growth in the recently established Slovak Province (1998).

Titular Archbishop Giovanni Coppa, Nuncio Emeritus of the Holy See in the Czech Republic, and all attending Dominican priests celebrated a solemn holy mass for the Czech pilgrims from the Cathedra Petri in St. Peter’s Basilica. The next day the pilgrims participated in a General Audience of the Holy Father, Benedictus XVI. They visited the Basilica and the General Curia at St. Sabina, the Papal University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore, where the Papal confessors from the Dominican Order work, and the Lateran Basilica, the original seat of the Pope.

In the General Curia at St. Sabina, the entire group of pilgrims was received by Vicar P. Dominique Renouard OP on behalf of the Master General of the Order. The representatives of the Church Law Society met with a member of the General Curia, Procurator General of the Order P. Robert Ombres OP, former Novice Master of the English Province. (We reported about a visit that

three representatives of the Society paid to him in Oxford five years ago. See Church Law Review No. 17 – 3/00, pp. 280–281.)

The Rome pilgrimage culminated on 14 September 2005, the day of the 100th anniversary of the reestablishment of the Czech Province (Provincia Bohemiae) by Master General Blessed Hyacinth Cormier (1832–1916).

The Jewish Studies Institute Established at the Hussite Theological School of the Charles University

On Monday 24 October 2005 representatives of the Church Law Society participated in an important event at the great hall of the Hussite Theological School in Prague 4-Krč, Pacovského Street No. 350, when the Jewish Studies Institute of the School was at that time established. The Institute was opened by a speech from the School's Dean, Professor ThDr. Ján Liguš. The welcome speech was delivered by a Vice-Dean of the School, Docent ThDr. Jan Blahoslav Lášek. School Vice-Dean Docent PhDr. Bedřich Nosek CSc. in his lecture provided an overview of the history of Czech studies of Judaism and Hebrew. Nosek, the first Director of the newly established Institute, presented the planned activities of the Institute and its goals. His lecture was interpreted into Hebrew by Mgr. David Biernot, ThD. and into German by Professor PhDr. Blahoslav Hruška, DrSc. After a part in the program consisting of Jewish songs accompanied by musical instruments, the event continued with speeches by local and foreign guests. The attendance was significant – the entire great hall was full. We provide detailed information about the Institute in the column "Presented To You Today."

The Dispute over the Ownership of the Prague Archdiocese Cathedral Continues

On Tuesday 25 October 2005 the Prague 1 District Court decided again a dispute that has been returned to the proceedings of first instance. The Court's judgment is in favor of the plaintiff, which means that the Cathedral and nearby buildings, which were property of the Church until 1954 based on the land book records from the 19th century, are the property of the relevant Church legal entities. According to a daily newspaper (Hospodářské noviny of 26 October 2005) the attorney of the Office for Representation of the State appealed against the decision immediately.