

## Central European Canonists Meet in Kraków

From 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the *Association of Polish Canonists* (SKP) held a conference and general assembly in Kraków (Poland). Three topics were discussed: the new criminal law of the Catholic Church, synodality and collegiality, and current issues of marriage law. The venue was the seminary of the Lazarist Institute in the centre of Kraków.

The opening remarks were given by *Mons. Marek Jędraszewski*, Archbishop and Metropolitan of Kraków, *Associate Professor Artur Miziński*, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Lublin and Secretary General of the Polish Bishops' Conference, *Professor Józef Krukowski* from Lublin, long-time President of the SKP, and *Mons. Dr Ryszard Kasyna*, Bishop of Pelplin, Chairman of the Legal Counsel of the Polish Bishops' Conference.

The meeting was held in five sections. In the *first section*, focused on the reform of church criminal law, the speakers were *Professor Józef Krukowski* (Introduction to Book VI of CIC/1983, reformed by Pope Francis); *Professor Marek Saj CSsR* (Preliminary investigation into cases of an offence by a cleric against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue); *Bishop Ryszard Kasyna* (New offences in Book VI of CIC/1983); *Professor Piotr Majer* (The offence of failure to execute a judgment or criminal order); *Professor Paweł Kaleta* (The offence of abandonment of the sacred ministry) and *Professor Lucjan Świto* (Economic offences in the Church).

The *next section* was focused on issues of synodality in the Church. Contributions were presented by *Professor Józef Krzywdą* (Classical concepts of synodality and collegiality in the Church) and *Dr Krzysztof Patejuk* (Pope Francis's concept of synodality and collegiality in the Church). In particular at the end of this part, there was a very lively discussion reflecting the differences in the understanding of synodality by canonists and pastoralists as well as the shortcomings of the current changes.

In the evening, a solemn Mass was celebrated in the Wawel Cathedral in Kraków. It was presided over by the Archbishop of Kraków and concelebrated by all the bishops and priests present. This was followed by the General Assembly of the Association of Polish Canonists and afterwards there was a social evening.

On the second day, lectures were given by *Professor Leszek Stanisław Stadniczeńko* (Declarations of intention to live together, cohabitation in marriage in the post-modern era); *Professor Leszek Adamowicz* (Marriage in the culture of temporariness – new challenges for the Catholic understanding of marriage); *Professor Wojciech Góralski* (The exclusion of *bonum prolis* in the latest jurisprudence of the Roman Rota); *Professor Grzegorz Leszczyński* (The exclusion of faithfulness and unity in marriage); *Professor Ginter Dzierżon* (The judicial dispute over the meaning of the term noogenic immaturity/*immuturitas noogena*), and *Associate Professor Anna Słowikowska* (The influence of the narcissistic personality of the contracting party in the nullity of marriage in the jurisprudence of the Roman Rota).

Among the more than 150 participants were professors of theology and law faculties, doctoral students in canon law and religion law and members of ecclesiastical courts in Poland, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The Czech Republic was represented by *ICLic. Jiří Zámečník* and *Dr Piotr Grzybek*, judges at the Olomouc Interdiocesan Court, *Professor Damián Němec OP*, Head of the Department of Church History and Church Law at the Faculty of Theology in Olomouc, and *Dr Monika Menke*, from the same department.

*Monika Menke*