

# CHURCH REPORTER

## 12/2022

Newsletter for the English-speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society  
Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Stříbro – České Budějovice

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The blessing of the book *Czech Memoirs*: from the left Ilona Trnková, Director of the Czech Christian Academy, Jiří Rajmund Tretera and the sailor Jan Hájek.

Photo Antonín Krč



## Local group in Prague

### Official presentation of a book written by Jiří Rajmund Tretera, the President of the Church Law Society, *Czech Memoirs*

At 5 pm on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the gala 85<sup>th</sup> evening of the Church Law Society was held at the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague, in auditorium no. 38, at the head of which is a relief of the Czech national martyr, JUDr. Milada Horáková, a member of parliament executed by the Communists in 1950. It culminated with the presentation of a newly published book and the sacramental blessing of the book, whose full title is *Czech Memoirs. The Adventurous Life of a Lawyer, Law Professor and Priest and His Parents in the Last 120 Years*.

Already before 4 pm, not only members of the organising staff arrived, but also the first guests, who were welcomed warmly. Each of them could sign the congratulatory list in the foyer and view and purchase the latest books on church and religion law at the table of the Leges law publishing house and enjoy some convivial conversation.

At the stroke of 5 pm, *Congratulations* by Cliff Richard was played by Associate Professor Zábój Horák, singing and playing the ukulele. After that, the author of the book being presented, Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera, took the floor, gave his thanks for the congratulatory song, welcomed the guests and thanked all those who had played a significant part in the creation of his *Czech Memoirs*.



*Jiří Rajmund Tretera welcomes guests to the gala 85<sup>th</sup> evening.*

He pointed out that he had written his memoirs on the instructions of his Dominican Provincial Dominik Duka (now cardinal), with whom he had worked closely in the underground Church since 1977.

He warmly thanked the editor-in-chief at Leges publishing house, JUDr. Jana Sladká Hyklová, Ph.D., his student from the Faculty of Law, for her support and care in publishing now more than ten of his specialist books. And most of all for Czech Memoirs, to the editorial and graphic design of which, including a wealth of photographs, she devoted so much care and many hours of her valuable time.

He thanked another of his students and his successor, the Ordinary of Church and Religion Law at the Faculty of Law, Associate Professor Zábaj Horák. He helped to compile the book and typed much of it into the computer based on the author's dictation and often reminded the author to clarify his individual accounts, which he has been telling him for 29 years, according to the original version of the narrative.

The author thanked the two expert reviewers from the field of librarianship and his long-time friends. The first was PhDr. Olga Bezděková-Rejtharová, the daughter of the legendary RAF pilot, Colonel Stanislav Rejthar, and our leading English and French scholar, Vlasta Rejtharová-Horníčková, M. A. (Oxon). They have known each other and have been friends since the early days of their participation in the Evangelical Youth. The other was PhDr. Helga Turková, Director Emeritus of the National Museum Library, who introduced him to the great society of the Club for Old Prague 45 years ago.



*From the left Olga Bezděková-Rejtharová and Jana Sladká Hyklová,  
in the background the author's godson Jan Peroutka.*



Finally, the author thanked the readers of the work, who are JUDr. Adam Csukás, Ph.D., a lawyer at the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, Bc. František Kratochvíl, director of Stříbro Primary Art School and chairman of the local group of the Church Law Society in Stříbro, and Mgr. Jakub Nagy, internal doctoral student of Church Law at Charles University's Faculty of Law. He also thanked the technical advisor, Tomáš Grundza, a 5<sup>th</sup>-year student at the Faculty of Law of Charles University and secretary of the Church Law Society, who compiled the book's index.

The author called for the celebration to bring joy, to which Zábój Horák responded by singing *Roll Out the Barrel* (Great Britain's fighting anthem in the Second World War).

The author then read the first excerpt from his book, describing his journey to faith, his confessional stance in the Evangelical Church, his acceptance into the fold of the Catholic Church and finally his ordination as a deacon and priest. For this, Mr Horák sang the romantic song *Deep in the Heart of Texas* (USA).

This was followed by the blessing of the book. The priests and deacons present, led by Cardinal Dominik Duka, proceeded to the table that had been prepared and on which one copy of the blessed book was placed, and the cardinal read a prayer.



*From the left parish priest Miroslav Martiš, David Kučerka OCr, Jan Hájek, Cardinal Dominik Duka OP, Jan Rajlich OP.*

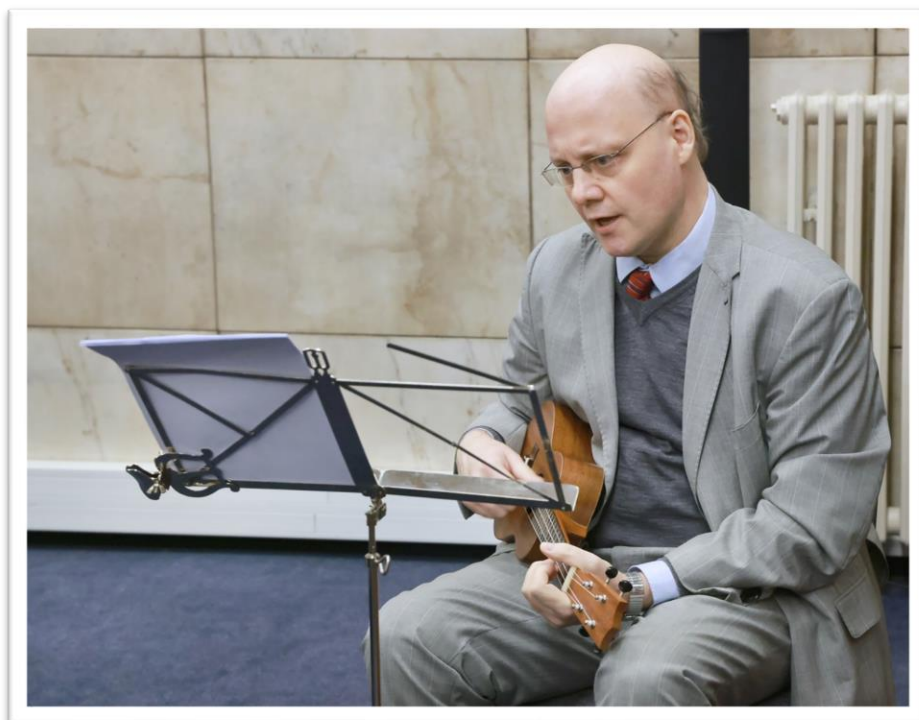
The author's reading then continued with a further four prepared excerpts and Zábój Horák sang these songs after each of them:

*Jólala týrýjá, jólala kuku* (Tyrol),

*I Walk Up and Down Broadway Hungry* (USA),

*Hej, Slované* (Bohemia),

*Ach synku, synku* (Moravia), a favourite song of President T. G. Masaryk (1850–1937).



*Záboj Horák singing and playing the ukulele.*

During the final reading, our lovely hostesses distributed glasses of red or white wine to all the participants. Everyone stood up and Captain Mgr. Jan Hájek, a deacon of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church and a sailor from Karlovy Vary, at one time the director for the supply of ships in the Czechoslovak flotilla, gave a ceremonial sailor's toast and recited a poem, after which everyone toasted to the health of the author, his colleagues and everyone present.



*Jan Hájek (on the right side in a sailor's uniform) gives a ceremonial sailor's toast.*

Free entertainment followed in an informal spirit. In the foyer, guests could enjoy sandwiches on plates, wine and a wide selection of non-alcoholic drinks. Guests spread out into the two rooms and freely passed from group to group to talk to each other. The author also gave out a few new autographs, particularly to those who had already bought his book or who bought it now at the Leges table.

Some of the guests said goodbye to the author and the other participants soon after the entertainment part of the gala evening started but some of them stayed longer to enjoy the fun. On this occasion, the evening continued exceptionally until 9 pm. According to the entries in the congratulatory list, 65 guests attended the gala evening.

Photographs from the whole evening can be found by going to this link: <http://spcp.prf.cuni.cz/cyklus-prednasek-v-praze/>.

*Text Jakub Nagy and Záboj Horák  
Photos Antonín Krč*



The leadership of the Church Law Society wish all its members and supporters a joyous Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year for 2023.

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Photo on the title page: The blessing of the book *Czech Memoirs*, from the left Ilona Trnková, Director of the Czech Christian Academy, Jiří Rajmund Tretera and the sailor Jan Hájek.

Photo Antonín Krč

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