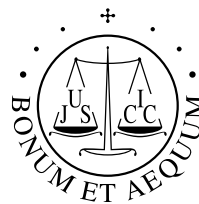


Church Law Society



CHURCH REPORTER 1/2025

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

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19th January 2025, the hall in Stříbro Primary Art School: Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera lectures on the new direction of church law.

Photo CLS Local Group in Stříbro



Local group in Stříbro

3rd plenary meeting of the Church Law Society local group in Stříbro

Sunday, 19th January 2025 was another illustrious day in the history of our young local group, founded a few years ago in the West Bohemian mining town of *Stříbro* (Mies). As always, not only members of the group from Stříbro itself, but also from the wider area, attended our meeting in Stříbro Primary Art School. We were looking forward to seeing other friends from all over West Bohemia: from Tachov, Kladruba, Pilsen, Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), Teplá, Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad) and Planá. And our wishes came true. We all met and had an enjoyable time. In addition, there was a nicely arranged display of the works on canon law and the journals that we publish.



*The first part of the display prepared by the director, Mr. Kratochvíl, and his colleagues:
Selected writings of Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Zábaj Horák.*

Our meeting was convened for 12 o'clock in the hall on the first floor of Stříbro Primary Art School and exactly at that time, without any delay, it began. The first thing we admired was how the hall had been decorated by the chairman of the local group and director of the school, Bc. František Kratochvíl, and his colleagues. On all sides, the publications of our Society and its representatives, which he had gathered into an impressive collection, smiled on us from the stands. And we promised to display more literature, particularly from our colleagues all over Bohemia and Moravia, at the next meeting.

In his introduction, Mr. Kratochvíl described all the publications on display. We had tears of joy in our eyes when he also mentioned our chronicles and essays, such as Professor Tretera's **The End of Visiting Time, The Doors are Closing, or Eighteen Ballads and Romances from Hospital Wards and Anterooms** and his remarkable work **Czech Memoirs, The Adventurous Life of a Lawyer, Law Professor and Priest**. Or Associate Professor Horák's book **Churches and Czech Education** and the collection of documents he published under the title **Churches and Education**. See the photo on the previous page.

In the second part of his speech, Mr. Kratochvíl drew attention to the four journals that our society publishes as periodicals. These are, first, the scholarly quarterly publication the **Church Law Review**, which is now in its 30th year. And three monthly journals: **Mšeno Parish News**, focusing on culture, education and news, which has been published since last year on the first day of each month. And our two popular, illustrated, scholarly journals, the **Church Mirror**, which comes out on the tenth, and the **Church Reporter**, which comes out around the twentieth day of each month, in two versions: English and Czech.



The continuation of the display: the four CLS periodicals.

If anyone is interested in these journals, all they have to do is sign up as a member of the Church Law Society. There are 540 of us in total and everyone receives the Church Law Review delivered to their home. And all the other periodicals to their e-mail address.

In the second, main part of our session, Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Assoc. Prof. Záběj Horák talked about the changes in canon church law since the publication of the 1983 Code of Canon Law. About the amendments and additions that were started by the legislator of the Code, Pope John Paul II, in 1997, and continued by his successor Benedict XVI, and which are steadily being continued by the current pope, Francis. Understanding the current legal order of the church and the current modification of its structure is only possible if one takes a good look at the changes in canon law in the last half-century and the reasons that led to them.



*The school director, Mr. Kratochvíl, introduces the second part of our session:
lectures by Prof. Tretera and Assoc. Prof. Horák.*

The presentations by both lecturers were followed with great interest and occasional input from those in attendance and the lecture ended with loud applause.

This was then followed by conversation over some delicious refreshments, which had been prepared the day before by members of the CLS local group. There was no need to hurry anywhere for lunch; we were all having a very nice time in each other's company.



A view of the auditorium during the lecture.

We have planned to hold the next, fourth meeting of the local group in Stříbro on **Sunday, 22nd June 2025**, again at 12 o'clock in Stříbro Primary Art School. Everyone will again be informed about it in the poster that we will be drawing up. After our current meeting, we came to the joint conclusion that the subject now open is so extensive and topical that we will come back to it several more times.

Text zh, photos Stříbro CLS local group

Some images from the Holy Mass that preceded the CLS meeting

On Sunday, 19th January 2025, some of the participants at the Church Law Society conference attended Mass in the Dean Church of All Saints in Stříbro. Mass was celebrated by Stříbro's parish priest, Rev. Mgr. Miroslav Martiš SChLJ, and Rev. Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP, who gave the sermon.

Right at the beginning, Rev. Martiš invited those present to attend a lecture on changes in church law, which followed the Mass, and announced that the Mass was being celebrated for

the police officer Bedřich Arnold Tausch, who had been tragically killed. He read his biography, which we found very interesting, and we asked for permission to publish his main thoughts on the pages of this journal.



*19th January 2025: Holy Mass in All Saints Church in Stříbro.
Celebrated by J. R. Tretera and M. Martiš, officiated by a large group of members of the
Marian Men's Congregation.*

Mass was celebrated in a packed church, which makes every faithful happy. However, it remains a mystery to us why inviting the faithful in the church to our lecture never has and nor did it this time have hardly any effect.

The people who come to the Church Law Society lecture are those whom we have invited in advance. One would expect others to come, among those attend the Mass in the church, but this does not happen.

Bedřich Arnold Tausch (1997–2025), a Czech police officer who died in the line of duty

Arnold Tausch was born on 8th December 1997 and was raised together with his sister Tereza, four years his junior, for whom he was always her big brother, protector and friend.

From a young age, he loved uniforms. He wanted to be a police officer, a firefighter or a soldier. Maybe that is why he had been interested in firefighting since childhood, and he became a member of the volunteer fire brigade in Kladruby. At the Secondary Industrial School in Pilsen, he studied to be a mechanic-operator of computer-controlled machines (Computer Numerical Control). He had no problems with his studies, and since he wanted to be useful to others, and maintained his love for uniform even in adulthood, he was determined to join the security forces. He began to work on his physical prowess and to play sports diligently. His passion was combat sports.

After secondary school, he initially worked in the private sector, as a computer-controlled machine operator, later as a technologist, then as a professional lorry driver.

But because he did not want to give up on his dream, he applied to join the Czech Police and on 1st May 2022 he was recruited. He was duly proud of his profession and his family supported him in fulfilling his dream because they wanted Arnold to do what he enjoyed and what made him happy. In the police force, he served all the time in the Ostrov near Stržbro Highways Department, i.e. in the traffic police service, and he simply lived for his work, just as he did for sport. He served with the Czech Police for just under three years until the last moment when he lost his life in the line of duty.

He was popular with his team and managed to endear himself to everyone. His colleagues talk about him being an incredibly honest, polite and charming man. He respected the orders he was given by his superiors, but at the same time he was able to do things his own way. He always preferred field duty and in the future, he wanted to go into freight control.

According to his superiors and his colleagues, Arnold was, above all, a person that you couldn't help but like. Modest, kind, with a smile on his face and a sense of fair play. He was a man of pure character, full of empathy and humility. A man who was a team player, who was always fun to be with, who gave everyone more than he took. The hardships and blows that he had to face here and there, like all of us, just like the injuries he was dealt with in training, he accepted with ease. He took things as they were and never complained about anything. A fighter not only in the ring, but also in life...

He didn't want and didn't live anyone else's life; he didn't try to copy anyone else. He lived his life. His unique life, unique as he was.

Honour to his memory!

We were informed that the deceased died on a road while he was investigating a traffic accident. He was struck by a female driver who was driving at an excessive speed and fatally injured several other persons.



Jaroslav Barhoň from Tachov, a member of the Marian Men's Congregation, with an incense burner.



J. R. Tretera fills the altar table with incense.



Local group in Prague

Mass for lawyers on 6th February 2025

The regular Mass for lawyers in the monastery of the Knights of the Cross at the foot of Charles Bridge will be celebrated at 5 o'clock in the afternoon on 6th February 2025. The celebrant will be Rev. Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP. It will be followed by a club meeting.

Leadership of the Church Law Society



Local group Mšeno Skalička

A joyful visit to the old people's home in Mšeno Or: "And I'm glad I'm old!"

These words were used by Jiří Rajmund Tretera several times when he visited Mšeno's old people's home on Tuesday, 21st January 2025.

They come from his thank-you speech in Karolinum's Blue Auditorium on 1st July 2020. On that occasion, to mark his 80th birthday and before the scientific council of Charles University, its rector His Magnificence Tomáš Zima awarded him a silver medal and a commemorative certificate for the resumption of the teaching of church law.

It was Prof. Tretera's response to the preceding somewhat mournful and slightly ironic speeches given by several doctors who were being honoured alongside him. These mostly octogenarians trumped each other about which of them had first been an assistant to a distinguished professor some 60 years earlier and what interesting operations they had performed before 1989.

In those days, JUDr. Jiří Tretera had not been allowed to teach at university because the "comrades" (member of the communist party) knew that on Sundays he went to a Protestant church and later, after he had expanded his faith to become a Catholic, to a Catholic church. And Christians then were second and third category people.

Aren't they considering to be so by some journalists and other "thinkers" even today?

“I’ve only been alive since 1990. Before that it wasn’t a life”. This is J. R. Tretera’s second fundamental idea from the celebration in Karolinum. It was only in 1990 that he was able to enter Prague’s Faculty of Law and renew the teaching of church law after a gap of 40 years.

And one other thought that was expressed in the conversations with the elderly residents: **Old age can be the happiest time of life.**

And how did we come to be in the old people’s home? This was arranged for us by the Protestant parish priest in Mšeno, Mgr. Michal Šimek, who is based in the rectory just a few steps from the old people’s home. For years he has been holding Protestant services once a fortnight in the home. And so, we agreed that this time he would also take along Rev. Jiří Rajmund Tretera and the writer of these lines.

Before the start of the service, we had a chat with some ladies who were waiting for the parish priest to arrive. One of them comes from Vrátno, another from Mělnické Vtelno.

And Mr. Šimek immediately praised his Catholic colleague: “You have a gift for getting close to people”, to which he replied: “It is part of the vocation. I am also a teacher.”

The service began promptly at 10 a.m. It is composed in the same way as the Protestant Sunday services, including a sermon, prayers and the singing of hymns from the Protestant hymnbook, backed up by music from the loudspeakers that the pastor controlled remotely.

After the Protestant service, we arranged with the sole Catholic participant, who had been an active ministrant in the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Bezno in his youth, that he would prepare some photographs of the church and a remembrance of the local catholic pastor, F. Urban (1888–1968) for us and our magazines.



Singing from the Protestant hymnbook during the service. Pastor Šimek in the middle of the table, in the grey jumper.



A photograph from the other side of the room, again while singing.

We arranged with the management of the home that Father Rajmund would celebrate Mass at 2 pm. on Saturdays, at regular intervals. We will be starting on 8th February.

And a word of praise for the town of Mšeno. The old people's home is one of its contributory organisations. And it really is a beautiful, modern, clean and cosy home.

Text and photos Záboj Horák

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