

CHURCH REPORTER

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

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28th April 2025: Prague seminarians chanting the Akathist at the tomb of St. Cyril in Rome.

Photo from Matouš Marek's archive

Czech national pilgrimage in Rome

28th – 30th March 2025



Theology students from Czech and Moravian dioceses in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Photo Man and Faith

The Litoměřice diocese and the Prague Seminary in Rome

Late in the evening on Wednesday, 26th March 2025, the fraternity of the Archbishop's Seminary in Prague board a plane to join two thousand pilgrims from atheist Bohemia a few hours later in Rome. The weary seminarians find themselves in Rome Airport in the early hours of the morning and, thanks to the welcoming ministrations of Czech priests studying there, soon arrive at the threshold of the Nepomucenum Pontifical College. This is the usual accommodation for Czech seminarians and priests while studying in Rome and it now becomes the accommodation for the clerical pilgrims from Prague and Olomouc.

Two days earlier, so on Monday 23rd March, a full bus of diocesan pilgrims from Litoměřice Cathedral had set off for the same destination, the famous ancient city of Rome. Petr Křížek, their guide from the Křížek travel agency, is delighted that they are really from all over the diocese, as is the accompanying cleric, H. M. Canon Martin Davídek. These two theologians are also joined as part of the pilgrim group in Rome by Mons. Stanislav Přibyl, the twenty-first Bishop of Litoměřice, who accompanied the pilgrims with his thoughts.

At the heart of the national pilgrimage were the celebrations of services in all four papal basilicas – Masses at St. John Lateran's, at St. Peter's in the Vatican and at St. Mary Major's, including the Stations of the Cross at St. Paul Outside the Walls. These celebrations were attended by both the above-mentioned groups, allowing the theology students from Litoměřice to meet the pilgrims from their diocese. In addition to these encounters, I also had the opportunity to spend one afternoon with the North Bohemian pilgrimage group.

Rome is wonderful. So many churches, monuments and people and so much history. One finds oneself in sacred places associated with the spilling of the blood of the first martyrs and one is not alone. The whole world is here. People from all nations, packed in like sardines. To contemplate in silence on the heroic witness of their ancestors in their faith, or at least to take photographs and buy souvenirs at these sacred places.

The theology students discovered eternal Rome however they wished. I, for example, went to most of the services on foot, and so at least did a small pilgrimage. The pilgrims from our diocese all had a schedule together and each day was devoted to places of thought. On the first day (i.e. Wednesday) they got to know Rome. On the second day they wandered in the Czech footsteps of Saints Cyril, Metoděj and Vojtěch. On Friday, they renewed their baptismal vows in the Lateran Baptistery and after the first joint national Mass they were able to go to the Capitoline Hill. They spent Saturday in the Vatican and Sunday outside the walls of Rome (at St. Paul's and in the Quo Vadis Church). And like a proper pilgrimage, there were difficulties and crosses in Rome.

Mons. Pavel Dokládál gave the whole occasion a proper pilgrimage character by leading a rosary before each service interspersed with various thoughts, chanting and valuable information. The services that then followed were truly wonderful. Our seminary was tasked with assisting at St. Peter's, which was an incredible experience. Cardinal Duka filled the basilica with the Czech language as he conducted the service. It was celebrated at the Altar of the Confessio, i.e. the main altar under the baldachin, even though many of us had thought that this place was reserved only for papal ceremonies. Under the bravura leadership of the local

officiants in purple cassocks, the celebration went off without any major embarrassments, confusion, mistakes or even faux pas. The preacher, Bishop Kročil, preached on the importance of Catholicism, which was more than appropriate just a few steps from the tomb of the Prince of the Apostles.

At the conclusion of the national pilgrimage, vespers were celebrated in the Nepomucenum, presided over by Bishop Antonín Basler. After the service, there was a toast to celebrate the upcoming birthday of the General Secretary of the Czech Bishops' Conference, Roman Czudek. The evening had begun in great style, and so it continued. To encourage you in your own personal spiritual life as well and to show how you can celebrate the joy of God's great gifts and graces, we present a pictorial supplement.

*With a little humour and exaggeration,
Matouš Marek, theology student
Photos from the author's archive*



Rev. Josef Jaroš (pictured left), priest of the Litoměřice diocese, is staying in the Nepomucenum this year.



Rev. Roman Czudek with the Prague rector H. M. Canon Radek Tichý.



Seminarians in the Vatican.



20th April 2025: Oxford tulips in the garden in Mšeno.



**Local group
Mšeno Skalička**

We are looking for a housekeeper for our house in Mšeno

We are looking for a man/woman to help two occupants with the care of a well-appointed, two-storey house in Mšeno u Mělníka. This would involve the regular cleaning of five rooms, a kitchen, bathrooms and corridors and help with cooking and washing up. A total of about 20 hours a week, or at least 10 hours a week. Fair treatment and remuneration. Please call on mobile no. 737 478 444.

We are looking for a gardener for the permanent maintenance of a garden in Mšeno with an area of 11 ares

We are looking for a gardener to take permanent care of fruit trees and shrubs, lawns, fences, a composter, rainwater tanks, a large number of flower beds and one vegetable patch, the purchase of seedlings and seeds, and the planting of flowers in window boxes. At least once a week, except for winter months. Good remuneration. Please call on mobile no. **737 478 444**.

From new literature

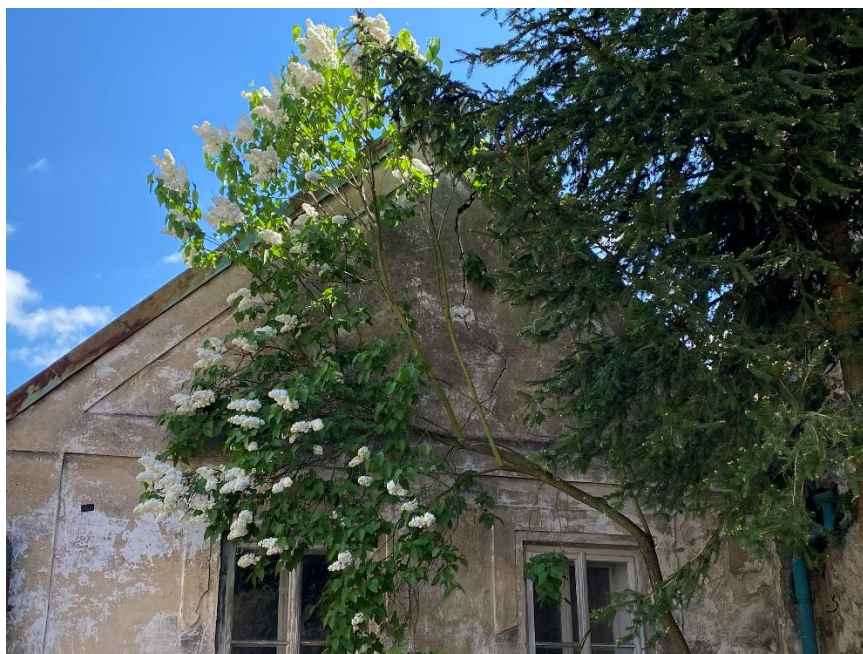
GRAULICH, Markus, HALLERMANN, Heribert, *Das neue kirchliche Strafrecht*, Einführung und Kommentar, Kirchen- und Religionsrecht, Aschendorff Verlag, Münster, 2021, 278 s., ISBN 978-3-402-23748-9.

Ius Canonicum, Edificio Biblioteca de Humanidades, Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, 10. 2. 2025, ISSN 0021-325X, ISSN-e 2254-6219, Vol. 63 Núm. 125,

from the contents:

TARENTINO, Daniela, *La Iglesia «al lado de las heridas». La función del abogado en el acompañamiento procesal de las partes en la era digital entre pastoral y derecho*

[The Church “at the side of the wounded”. The role of the lawyer in the procedural accompaniment of parties in the digital era between pastoral care and the law]



White lilac in front of farm buildings in Mšeno.



20th April 2025: “Dow Jones” tulips in the garden in Mšeno.

Photos of flowers: Záboj Horák

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Photo on the front page: 28th April 2025, Prague seminarians chanting the Akathist at the tomb of St. Cyril in Rome.

Photo from Matouš Marek’s archive

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