

**Church Law  
Society**



# NEWSLETTER

## 5/2020

For the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society  
Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Stříbro

24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 | Volume 5



# Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera Celebrates His Life Anniversary

Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP, Chairman of the Church Law Society, editor-in-chief of this Newsletter, celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Professor Tretera was born in Prague and graduated from the Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague, in 1957–1962. As a professing Christian, he could not work as a teacher or researcher under the communist regime. From 1962 to 1990, he worked as a business lawyer in several companies. At the same time, he became involved in the Evangelical Church as a presbyter and Sunday school teacher, and after joining the Catholic Church in the 1970s he became involved in the underground Dominican Order led by P. Dominik Duka OP, then drafter in the factory and active priest without the state permission, today the Archbishop of Prague and Cardinal. J. R. Tretera was accepted into the secret novitiate of the Dominicans in 1987 and in 1991, already after the coup, he was ordained a priest.

Jiří Rajmund Tretera restored teaching church law and religion law at the Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague, in 1990, after a break of more than forty years. Since then, he has been teaching at this faculty and has expanded the number of subjects to seven: Church Law, Legal History of Churches, Church Matrimonial and Procedural Law, Church Administrative and Property Law, Religion Law, Research Seminar in Church Law and Religion Law and Research Seminar Law and Bible. He also lectures several historical and legal courses. During his tenure, he educated thousands of future lawyers, including the author of these lines. In the master's study, it is estimated twenty thousand.

He founded and leads a scientific school of church law. He focuses both on Catholic canon law, to which most of his lectures are devoted, and on legal systems of other religious communities, especially Protestant and Jewish. His school is characterized by a wide scope and ecumenical focus. His most recent monographs are *Konfesní právo (Religion Law)* of 2015, *Církevní právo (Canon Law)* of 2016 and *Právní dějiny církví, Synagoga a cirkve v průběhu dějin (Legal History of Churches, Synagogue and Churches Yesterday and Today)* of 2020.

In 1994, he founded the Church Law Society, which today has more than 500 members, mainly in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, but also in Poland, the United Kingdom, the USA, Austria, Italy, Lithuania, Ukraine and Russia.

In 1995, he founded the Church Law Revue, since then he has been the editor-in-chief. The reviewed journal is published four times a year, 1,000 copies per issue. It is part of the international citation database Web of Science and ERIH Plus. It publishes articles in Czech, Slovak and English.

His detailed biography in English is available at <http://spcp.prf.cuni.cz/pdf/Tretera-biography.pdf>

*On behalf of friends and students, I wish Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera good health,  
happiness and God's blessing.*

*Záboj Horák*

# Congratulations to Prof. J. R. Tretera from Dominik Cardinal Duka

Prague, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Dear Mr University Professor,  
Dear friend and brother,  
Father Rajmund,

I have read the third issue of the Church Law Review with interest. It is dedicated to a tireless workaholic, Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP for his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday!

I don't know why you are always in a hurry, there is still a lot of work to do, but first of all it is my noble duty to thank you. We have known each other for almost half of your life and maybe you ask why such a long and solemn introduction to these congratulations.

Firstly, I want to thank you for your bravery and willingness to participate in the life of the Dominican community at the time of totalitarianism.

Secondly, I would like to thank you for your work commitment during the restoration of the order Province and for the endless and exhausting negotiations on the return and revitalization of buildings.

Thirdly, for your excellent participation in the implementation of restitution acts that brought male and female religious orders in the former Czechoslovakia back to life and returned them the roof over their heads.

Fourth, for conducting the negotiations on the drafting of many acts concerning the restoration of life and work of not only the Roman Catholic Church. We have always acted in the spirit of oecumene. It required frequent visits to the Parliament, the Office of the Government, the ministries. Many agreements signed by the Czech Bishops' Conference, or its then chairman Cardinal Miloslav Vlk, were the fruit of your exhausting and often unrewarding work as a negotiator.

Fifth, I thank you for taking on the task at the Law Faculty of Charles University, which grew into a department, inspiring a number of departments at universities in the Czech Republic.

Thank you for founding the Church Law Society. It has helped the Church not only as an institution, but also its members and graduates from religion law studies working in various positions in civil service, self-government and judiciary.

Thanks for the Church Law Review, which is not only an encouragement but also an aid for the Czech Bishops' Conference, individual dioceses and other church workers, and for those who need to understand this topic.

Finally, thanks for being friends. I will never forget.

Your grateful friend

+ Dominik Cardinal Duka OP  
Archbishop of Prague, Primate of Bohemia  
and Chairman of the Czech Bishops' Conference

## Our Newsletter Mentioned in Prestigious International Periodical

A friend of the Church Law Society, Mrs. Donlu Thayer, JD (Provo, Utah), informed us that the Newsletter for the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Střibro No. 4/2020 is mentioned in the prestigious religion law information periodical [Law and Religion Headlines](#), United States – Europe – International – Events from 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020, in the Europe Headlines section. This periodical is published by the International Centre for Law and Religion Studies, which is a part of the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, one of the largest private universities in the United States. The Centre’s mission is to “help secure the blessings of religious liberty for all,” through scholarship, networking, educational activities, and law reform efforts.



**Mrs. Donlu Thayer, JD**, who works at this centre, is one of the world’s leading editors of religion law literature.

The five-volume *Encyclopaedia of Law and Religion*, published by Brill/Nijhoff in Leiden/Boston in 2016, which contains treatise on religion law in all countries of the world and international organizations, is well known in the Czech Republic. It was edited by Prof. Gerhard Robbers (Trier), Prof. W. Cole Durham, Jr. (Provo, Utah) and Donlu Thayer, JD.

Dr. Thayer has organized a number of international conferences in the field of religion law, such as the conference of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) in Richmond, Virginia (2013) and Oxford (2016). The photo

on the next page of this Newsletter also comes from the Oxford conference.



*Donlu Thayer, JD (in the middle) together with representatives of the Church Law Society – Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera (to her left) and Associate Professor Zábaj Horák (to her right) in September 2016 at the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies conference in Oxford.*

*Photo Merilin Kiviorg*

## **Greetings from Honorary Member Mark E. Chopko**

Honorary member of the Church Law Society Mark E. Chopko, from Washington D. C., former general counsel of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, today Chair for the Nonprofit & Religious Organizations practise group of the law firm Stradley & Ronon in Washington, D. C. sent us cordial greetings and expressed his gratitude for “continuing to send this excellent newsletter”.

Mark lectured at the third season of the Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations held in 2000 on the financing of religious communities in the USA. In his greeting, he expressed the hope of today’s health restrictions “will stop soon and we will be able to find time to visit with each other in person”.



*XV International Congress of Canon Law at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. in September 2014. Mark E. Chopko on the left.*

*Photo Catholic University of America*

## From New Publications

HILL, Mark QC, DOE, Norman, HELMHOLZ, Richard H., WITTE, John (eds.), *Christianity and Criminal Law*, Law and Religion, ISBN 978-0-367-85825-4, ISBN e-book 978-1-003-01526-0.

including:

HILL, Mark QC, *Introduction – Historical Contributions of Christianity to Criminal Law*,

HELMHOLZ, Richard H., *Crime and the Canon Law*,

DOE, Norman, *The Nature of Sin and Crime: Spiritual and Civil Jurisdictions Compared*.

## Journals, periodicals

**L'année Canonique**, Tome LVIII – 2017, La Société Internationale de Droit Canonique et de Législations religieuses comparées, publié avec la collaboration de la Faculté de Droit Canonique de Paris, Letouzey et Ané, Paris, 2019, ISSN 0570–1953.

**Oxford Journal of Law and Religion**, No. 8/2019, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2019, ISSN 2047-0789 (Online),

including:

SANDBERG, Russell, *A Systems Theory Re-Construction of Law and Religion*, pp. 447–472.

**Revue de Droit Canonique**, Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, 2018, ISSN 0556–7378. Tome 68/2,

Varia

including:

BAMBERG, Anne, *La révocation, sanction de la négligence de l'autorité. Réflexions autour du motu proprio*, pp. 203–222,

DE SAINT CHAMAS, Christine, *La formation permanente des prêtres après Pastores dabo vobis. Approfondissements et prolongements du canon 279 du Code de droit canonique*, pp. 223–254,

PAPERON, Bernard, *Tu aimeras ton prochain comme toi-même (Lév.19, 18): les limites du principe dans le Talmud et les commentaires rabbiniques. Implications juridiques et éthiques*, pp. 351–382.

**Stato, Chiesa e pluralismo confessionale**, Rivista telematica, n. 8/2020, (<https://www.statoechiese.it>), ISSN 1971-8543,

including:

FELICIANI, Giorgio, *Le conferenze episcopali dalle origini al Concilio Vaticano II*, pp. 1–17.

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Photo on the front page: Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP (Antonín Krč)

Editor-in-Chief: P. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP

Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Záboj Horák

Editorial Board: Vojtěch Círus, Tomáš Grundza, Jakub Nagy, Marek Novák, Jan Svatoš

Photo editor: Antonín Krč

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[spcp@prf.cuni.cz](mailto:spcp@prf.cuni.cz)

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