

International Conference on Marriage Processes, Katowice, May 2022

On 31st May 2022, an international conference entitled *Marriage Processes in the 21st Century* was held at the University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland). It was organized by its Faculty of Theology and Faculty of Law and Administration.

Eleven contributions by participants from several countries of the world were planned. Some were personally present in Katowice, others connected online.

About thirty participants gathered in person at the conference. In addition to lecturers – lawyers, canonists and theologians from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Romania and the USA, faculty students were also present. The conference language was English.

The conference focused on the changes in the matrimonial procedural law of the Catholic Church that occurred in 2015 and the view of matrimonial law in general.

The introductory speech was given by Professor Joseph Halevi Horowitz Weiler from New York University School of Law on the topic *Divorce and Same Sex Marriage: Some Iconoclastic Views on the Role of Church and State*.

The contributions by Romanian participants from Ovidius University of Constanța could not be delivered due to technical problems, but the texts should be published in the forthcoming conference proceedings. These were Professor Teodosie Petrescu (*Selected Biblical Testimonies Regarding Marriage*), Professor Catalina Mititelu and Professor Bogdan Moise (*The Right to Marriage According to the Provisions of the Main Legal Instruments of the UN and EU*) and Professor Nicolae V. Dură (*About Religious Marriage: From Marriage by ‘Confarreatio’ to Marriage as Sacrament*).

This was followed by a contribution by Professor Magdalena Habdas from the University of Silesia in Katowice on *Total Eclipse of the Heart – Challenges of Modern Divorce Law in Poland*. Professor Piotr Kroczek from the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow delivered an online contribution on *Diagnosis of the Condition of the Contemporary Polish Family Through the Prism of the Canonical Annulment of Marriage: A New Research Perspective*. Dr Jurij Popovič from the University of Prešov (Slovakia) delivered a paper on

The Abbreviated Process before the Bishop and Ecclesiastical Divorce in the Orthodox Churches.

Professor Damián Němec OP and Dr Monika Menke spoke on Church Tribunals during the Covid-19 Pandemic, and ICLic. Jiří Zámečník on Marriage as a Sacrament in the Predominant Cultural Understanding of Marriage. All three are from the Saints Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology of Palacký University in Olomouc (Czech Republic).

Professor Esther Andrew Mdegipala from Jordan University College in Morogoro (Tanzania) presented online her lecture on The Nature of Marriage in Tanzania: Reflection of Biblical Values.

Monika Menke