

THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY IN CRACOW

Annual report: the academic year 1994/95

The Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow has existed since 1981 on the basis of *motu proprio Beata Hedvigis* issued by John Paul II. The Academy comprises three faculties: The Faculty of Theology, the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Church History. The Faculty of Theology was established in 1397 and it will celebrate the 600th anniversary of its existence in 1997. The Academy functions as a private university having university rights recognized by the state. The aim of the Academy is to deepen the deposit of faith and to mould intellectual, priestly and spiritual character of seminarians, priests, the religious and the laity.

The result of activities at the Academy given in figures shows 421 graduates with the degree of a Master of Arts in Theology. It was possible owing to scholarly co-operation with 19 Higher Seminaries and 3 Theological Institutes. There were also foreign students at the Academy, mainly from Slovakia (40 priests). Moreover, 20 people received the degree of licentiate and 8 — doctor. There were also 7 professor promotions. The general number of students was 1512, out of whom 1218 studied at the Faculty of Theology, 149 at the Faculty of Philosophy and 145 at the Faculty of Church History. There were 982 lay students. There were 157 university teachers responsible for the intellectual formation of students.

The Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow does not receive any allocation from the state funds. It has been fully maintained from offerings donated by the Catholics from Cracow Archdiocese and other neighbouring dioceses and from offerings made by its friends and benefactors. Material support for the Academy is provided by „The Fund of the Blessed Queen Hedwig for the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow” and „The Society of Friends of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow” Societies of Friends of the Academy have also been established in the United States (in Elisabeth, New Jersey and Chicago, Illinois).

Despite its modest material base the Academy is a developing university. The development may be seen in creating an Interdisciplinary Postgraduate College of Journalism. The aim of the college is to train future Catholic journalists preparing them to work honestly and responsibly in their profession. In other words the aim of the college is to create a staff for Catholic editorial offices that could work as reporters and organisers of local media. By running such a college the Academy wants to meet contemporary needs of the Church and the Polish nation.

Besides the principal didactic activity the Academy organised symposiums, scientific sessions and visiting professors' lectures. Preparations to commemorating the 600th anniversary of the Faculty of Theology were an important element influencing the scientific activity in the last academic year.

In 1994 there was the 950th anniversary of the Benedictines' coming to Tyniec Abbey near Cracow. Because of that jubilee the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow and the Abbey in Tyniec organised an international symposium on „The Spirituality of Ancient Monasticism” The symposium took place between 16th and 19th November 1994. The lectures and meetings took place at Tyniec Abbey near Cracow, in the hall of the Higher Theological Seminary in Cracow and in the St. Anne's Collegiate in Cracow. The lectures embraced the following subjects: the spirituality of the early Egyptian monasticism, spirituality of Syrian monasticism, Augustine's monasticism, lives of monks according to St. Jerome, formation and monks' vows according St. Benedict's rule, spirituality of Irish-Scottish monasticism, the contribution of early monasticism to western culture, a review of monastic life from the centre of Cele until modern times, „lectio divina” and its future. The materials from the colloquium were published in English (*The Spirituality of Ancient Monasticism. Acts of the International Colloquium held in Cracow-Tyniec 16–19th November 1994. Specialised Contributions, Cracow 1995*).

Bible scholars of the Faculty of Theology at The Pontifical Academy of Theology organised a scientific session to commemorate the outstanding Bible scholars: Father Józef Archutowski, Father Jan Maziarski and Father Aleksy Klawek. The session was held on 16th November 1994 at the Academy building. The papers presented the achievements of Fr. Józef Archutowski and Fr. Jan Maziarski S.D.B. on the 50th anniversary of their death in the 1944 Warsaw uprising and the work of Fr. Aleksy Klawek on the 25th anniversary of his death.

Christian mysticism was the subject of the symposium organised by The Seat of Spiritual Life Theology. The symposium was held on 15th December 1994 in the hall of the Higher Theological Seminary in Cracow. The subjects were presented on: Christian meaning of mysticism, the problem of experiencing God, charismatic contemplation, Christian mysticism, rules of inculturation referring to Christian mysticism. The materials from the symposium were published under the title *Mistyka chrześcijańska. Materiały ze sympozjum*, Kraków 1994 (Christian Mysticism. Symposium materials, Cracow 1994).

On 22–23rd April 1995 The Religious High Catechetical Institute organised the 26th Catechetical Symposium on: Life in Christ (The Catechism of the Catholic Church, part III). The papers which were presented included the following: religious and social dimension of moral life, relationship with God as the base of all morality, love of your neighbour as the base of morality of the second table of commandments.