

**A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE PONTIFICAL
ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY IN KRAKOW
THE 612TH ACADEMIC YEAR**

The most important event of this academic year was undoubtedly upgrading the status of our Institution from the Pontifical Academy to the Pontifical University by Pope Benedict XVI. We learned about Pope's decision from a decree of the Congregation for Catholic Education of June 19, 2009. The decree says that in order to honor the memory of his distinguished predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI decided to upgrade the status of the Pontifical Academy of Theology to the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow whose aim is to develop ecclesiastical sciences. This long awaited decision is a breakthrough in the history of Catholic higher education institutions in Poland. It is an expression of appreciation of the effort that Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, later Pope John Paul II, put into preserving and developing an autonomous theological institution in Cracow. As a result of the decision made by the communist government in 1954, the Jagiellonian University was deprived of its Theological Faculty. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła did not accept the decision and organized an autonomous Theological Faculty for which, in 1959, he managed to get acceptance of the Holy See, and which in 1974 was awarded the status of a Pontifical Faculty. In 1981, already as a pope, John Paul II transformed the Pontifical Faculty of Theology into the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow with three faculties: Theological, Philosophical, and Church History. Presently, the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow has five faculties: Theological, Philosophical, History and Cultural Heritage, Social Sciences, and Theological Faculty in Tarnów.

On the ecclesiastical forum the decision of the Holy See has legal consequences. However, on the state (lay) forum a decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland is required to change the name "The Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow," which appears in the Act of May 17, 1989 on the relation of the State towards the Catholic Church in Poland, into "The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow" in accordance with the Concordat (signed on July 28, 1993 and ratified on February 23, 1998). Simultaneously, efforts have been made to receive

the right to apply for grants and subsidies from the state budget in the same way as public institutions of higher education do. We hope that in the near future both matters will be successfully resolved.

According to a tradition established at the Pontifical Academy of Theology, this exceptional academic year 2008/2009 began with a pilgrimage to a Marian Sanctuary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska on Tuesday, September 30, 2008. The program of the pilgrimage included a lecture "Let's return to St. Paul," which was delivered by Rev. Prof. Roman Pindel. Rev. Prof. Jan M. Dyduch, rector of the Academy, presided over a concelebrated High Mass, during which Rev. Dr Jacek Nowak, rector of the Higher Theological Seminary of the Tarnów Diocese delivered a homily. In the afternoon, the Way of the Cross service, prepared by theology students, was held on the Calvary Paths. The participants in the pilgrimage were professors, administrative employees, Academy students: seminarians of diocesan and monastic seminaries, nuns and lay students. During the pilgrimage special prayers were said in the intention of prompt beatification of the Servant of God John Paul II, founder of the Academy.

A solemn inauguration of the 2008/2009 academic year was held on Monday, October 20, 2008. The inaugural ceremony consisted of two parts: a liturgical part held in St. Anne's Collegiate Church and an academic part held at the Philharmonic Hall in Cracow. Rev. Prof. Marek Jędraszewski, Auxiliary Bishop of Poznań, officiated at a solemn inaugural Mass and delivered a homily.

After the Mass, the participants of the ceremony proceeded to the Philharmonic Hall, where – having sung *Gaude Mater Polonia* – they listened to the rector's address. After greeting the distinguished guests, the rector, Rev. Prof. Jan M. Dyduch, informed the audience about the most important events which had taken place in the previous academic year. They included the second Days of John Paul II, the prestigious Templeton Award for Rev. Prof. Michał Heller, the Erasmus Card granted to the Academy, support of the Conference of the Polish Episcopate for opening a new Faculty of Social Sciences and transforming the Academy into the University of John Paul II. The rector also mentioned the "Tischner Days" and a conference in a series "The Role of the Catholic Church in the Process of European Integration", and finally, thanked the employees who retired this year: Ms. Izabela Gaik-Zgala, and Mr. and Mrs. Maria and Stanisław Klasa.

The rector also mentioned symposia and conferences organized at our Academy and after that matriculated first-year students of all four faculties (Theological, Philosophical, History and Cultural Heritage, and

Social Sciences) to membership of the Academy and handed out rector's awards to 24 persons. State honorary distinctions awarded by the Minister of Education, Katarzyna Hall, were handed out by Ms. Agata Szuta, curator of education for the Małopolska region. Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan D. Szczurek, Professor at the Pontifical Academy, Rev. Dr. Hab. Antoni Żurek, Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Machniak, Professor at the Pontifical Academy, Rev. Dr. Hab. Władysław Zuziak, Professor at the Pontifical Academy, and Dr. Włodzimierz Siedlik received medals.

The inaugural lecture entitled "Challenges that theology faces today" was delivered by Rev. Prof. Michał Heller, laureate of the Templeton Award. The speaker drew the attention of the audience to a very important task of theology, which is care for rationality in contemporary culture, and expressed a postulate to "skillfully incorporate traditional content into the requirements of the present" The point is to make Christianity more understandable in the present cultural context which is based on a dynamic (evolutionary) picture of the world.

The Academy choir *Psalmodia* conducted by Włodzimierz Siedlik sang during the inauguration. Among the participants of the inaugural ceremony there were: the Grand Chancellor of the Academy, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, Metropolitan of Cracow, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, former Metropolitan of Cracow, bishops from several dioceses, rectors of Catholic institutions of higher education from all regions in Poland, deans of theological faculties, representatives of senates of higher education institutions in Cracow as well as representatives of the city and regional authorities, and the diplomatic service in Cracow.

A very important event in the life of the Academy and the city of Cracow were undoubtedly the second "Days of John Paul II" (November 4–7, 2008), whose main message was beauty in the life and teaching of the Polish Pope. The Days are a joint initiative of the institutions of higher education which are represented in the College of Rectors of Institutions of Higher Education in Cracow. The aim of the Days is to inspire academic research and popularize the heritage of the Pontiff. They are held annually at the beginning of November as this is the month of the feast day of St. Charles Borromeo, John Paul II's patron saint, and an anniversary of taking priest's vows by Karol Wojtyła. Each year a different institution of higher education in Cracow takes responsibility for organizing the Days. The second "Days of John Paul II" were organized jointly by three artistic institutions: the Music Academy, the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts, and the Ludwik Solski State Theater School. The program of the Days included: a two-day academic session, workshops for students from different higher education institutions in Cracow and

Małopolska, an all-Polish contest for students for works inspired by the thought and writings of Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II. Apart from essays, the contest included other categories such as music, fine arts, and theatre.

Each anniversary of the foundation of the Pontifical Academy of Theology by Pope John Paul II (December 8, 1981) is an important event of the academic life. The main event of the celebrations was a solemn concelebrated Mass in the Church of St. Mark the Evangelist which was presided over by the Academy Rector, Rev. Prof. Jan M. Dyduch. Rev. Prof. Stefan Koperek CR delivered a homily. This was an occasion not only to remember the important decision of the Pope to establish our Academy, but also to mention the achievements and merits of the Academy employees. At the closing of the ceremony the rector handed out “Meritorious for the Pontifical Academy of Theology” awards to 13 persons.

Each anniversary of the foundation of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow (January 11, 1397) is celebrated with great solemnity. Conferment of academic degrees constitutes the focal point of the ceremony. The event was held on Monday, January 12, 2009. In a solemn Mass officiated in Wawel Cathedral by the Grand Chancellor, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, the Academy expressed its gratitude to God for the 612 years of His care over the Faculty. Rev. Prof. Janusz Mastalski delivered a homily. The Mass was followed by academic promotions. Doctor’s diplomas were handed to 22 persons (15 from the Faculty of Theology, 5 from the Faculty of Philosophy, and 2 from the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage,) while diplomas of habilitated doctor were awarded to 3 academics: Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Bednarczyk, Dr. Hab. Dariusz Kasprzak, OFM Cap., Rev. Dr. Hab. Tadeusz Kałużny SCJ, all from the Faculty of Theology. Two professors from the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage: Rev. Prof. Jan Kracik and Rev. Prof. Janusz Wycisło received the title of full professor.

Promotions are held for the second time each academic year on the Day of St. Stanislaus, bishop and martyr, which is held in Poland on May 8. They take place in St. Anne’s Collegiate Church. This year’s promotions, held on Friday, May 8, 2009, were presided over by the Grand Chancellor of the Academy, who expressed his joy and wished the Academy further prosperous development. Doctor diplomas were conferred on 16 persons (9 from the Faculty of Theology, 2 from the Faculty of Philosophy, and 5 from the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage.) Rev. Dr. Hab. Henryk Sławiński received a diploma of habili-

tated doctor. Prof. Dr. Hab. Aleksander Bobko received a diploma of professor of philosophy. Professor Bobko delivered a speech on behalf of the promoted persons. Then, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz delivered a speech and concluded the ceremony with a prayer to St. John Cantius, patron saint of professors.

Continuous development of the Academy is a matter of utmost importance for its authorities, employees, and students, which was particularly visible in the efforts to upgrade the status of the Academy to a Pontifical University, as was already mentioned at the beginning of this year book. The Grand Chancellor and Cracow Metropolitan Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz whole-heartedly supported this initiative wishing to bring into effect the will of the Servant of God John Paul II, who wanted Cracow to have such a university. Upgrading the status of the Academy to a University is also connected with preparing a new statute, which will be presented to the Congregation for acceptance.

An important measurable indicator of the development of the Academy was opening the Faculty of Social Sciences on September 1, 2008. Rev. Prof. Janusz Mastalski was appointed its first dean for the period of one year. At the end of the appointment and when the Faculty will have consolidated, the elections of a new dean will be held. The Faculty of Social Sciences was formed partly from the Faculty of Theology. The Chairs of Catholic Social Science, Pedagogy, and Sociology of Religion were transferred to the new Faculty and became its core. Later, other Chairs that carry on the two courses of studies which existed earlier at the Faculty of Theology: "Family Studies" and "Journalism and Social Communication" were created.

Opening the Copernicus Center for Interdisciplinary Studies on October 2, 2008 in the *Collegium Maius* of the Jagiellonian University marks a very special event in the academic year 2008/2009. The Center is a joint venture of the Jagiellonian University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow. The opening ceremony was presided over by Prof. Karol Musioł, rector of the Jagiellonian University, and Rev. Prof. Jan Maciej Dyduch, rector of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow. Rev. Prof. Michał Heller, director of the Center and initiator of the enterprise, and Dr. Charles L. Harper, Jr., vice-president of the Templeton Foundation, were also present at the ceremony. Rev. Prof. Heller donated all the money from the Templeton Foundation Award which he had received for the Copernicus Center. The Center is supposed to conduct research on scientific issues which are related to faith ("science and faith") and it encompasses the following fields of knowl-

edge: mathematics, physics, astronomy, cosmology, biology, philosophy, theology, and the history of science¹

The first conference organized by the Center was devoted to a question: "Will science replace religion?" The conference was held on October 3-4, 2008 and its organizers, besides the Center, were the Faculty of Philosophy at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow and the Faculty of Physics, the Faculty of Astronomy, and the Faculty of Applied Computer Sciences at the Jagiellonian University. The conference topics touched on broad issues: from mathematical character of the world to genetics, to theology of science. Professor M. Różycka tried to find an answer to the conference main question by drawing the attention of the audience to the fact that the notion of a scientific experiment refers only to a thing (referred to as "it",) while the focus of our experiment is a person/persons (referred to as "I", "you", "we", and "you".) Therefore, the notion of experiment has a wider range than in natural sciences and that is why there is place for religion – science is not capable of replacing religion.

Founding the Intercollegiate Institute of Church Music is an indication of the Academy development as well as developing cooperation between colleges. The foundation of the Institute was the result of an agreement between the Music Academy and the Pontifical Academy of Theology which was signed in the Archbishops Palace in Cracow in the presence of Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz by Prof. Stanisław Krawczyński, rector of the Music Academy in Cracow, and Rev. Prof. Jan Dyduch, rector of the Pontifical Academy of Theology on November 19, 2008. The main task of the Institute is to conduct a course of studies at the newly opened specialization of "Church Music" This specialization is the only such course that educates church musicians at M.A. level in Poland.

Another example of development of the internal structures of the Academy is creating the Institute of Theology of Spirituality at the Faculty of Theology. The Institute was founded on September 22, 2009 by the Academy Senate, which approved the statute of the Institute. The already existing Chair of Theology of Spirituality and the Chair of the History of Spirituality went to the making of the Institute. The Institute cooperates closely with the Carmelite Institute of Spirituality and the Institute of Franciscan Studies in Cracow. The Institute has its own academic board which elects the director of the Institute. Rev. Prof. Jan

¹ For more information about the Copernicus Center for Interdisciplinary Studies see: <http://www.copernicuscenter.edu.pl/>.

Machniak, Professor at the Pontifical Academy, was elected the first director. The Institute conducts didactic work at all levels of education (the first, the second and the third cycle of theological studies) conducts and coordinates academic research in the field of spirituality, develops and coordinates academic cooperation on the national and international level with similar institutes, and popularizes the results of research through conferences and academic publications.

The Pontifical Academy of Theology develops international cooperation with higher educational institutions abroad. Academic contacts with the centers in Bochum, Ružomberok, Prešov, Kiev, and Lvov are very lively. A new form of international cooperation is participation in the program run by the European Union “Lifelong Learning Programme Erasmus”, which began when the Academy was awarded the Erasmus University Charter on May 20, 2008. Since that time the Faculty of Theology has been in touch with the following centers: Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany, Université Catholique de Lille, France, and Universität Freiburg, Switzerland. The Faculty of Philosophy started cooperation with the University in Freiburg, Switzerland, too.

In addition to the existing agreements, new contracts for cooperation are signed. Last year an agreement between the Faculty of Theology at our Academy and the Emilia-Romania Faculty of Theology in Bologna, Italy, was signed. The Faculty is the continuator of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Bologna, founded in 1360. The Faculty resumed its activity in 2004. The agreement was carried into effect on March 12, 2009 and it focuses on the academic and formative cooperation. Within the framework of this cooperation, even before the signing the agreement, Rev. Prof. Marcello Neri visited Cracow on May 20–21, 2008 and delivered a lecture “Theology and Phenomenology,” while Rev. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Misztal, Professor at the Pontifical Academy, went to Bologna on March 11–15 with a lecture “Understanding Christian spirituality according to St. Paul. Prospects for Christianity in the future” Rev. Wojciech Misztal conducted a seminar for doctoral studies participants “Body and corporeality. Message of St. Paul’s Spirituality (*Corpo e corporeità. Contributo della spiritualità paolina*).

Our Academy has been maintaining regular academic cooperation with the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Ruhr in Bochum, Germany. The cooperation consists in an exchange, which is organized in such a way that professors (usually two) go to Bochum in the autumn, and in the spring professors from Bochum come to Cracow. Since 1997 students of both Institutions have participated in the exchange. Lectures, discussions, and meetings are organized during visits.

Within the framework of this cooperation, on November 13–15, 2008 Rev. Dr. Hab. Stanisław Hałas SCJ, Professor at the Pontifical Academy, and Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Machniak, Professor at the Pontifical Academy, visited Bochum. Rev. J. Machniak delivered a lecture “Service to the mercy of God according to St. Faustina Kowalska in the context of teaching of John Paul II and Benedict XVI (*Barmherzigkeit-Gottes-Frömmigkeit nach der Heiligen Faustina Kowalska im Kontext der Lehre von Johannes Paul II und Benedict XVI*)” The lecture was held on November 14, 2008. Spring meeting took place on May 12–17, 2009 with Rev. Prof. Christof Breitsameter, Prof. Josef Rist, historian, and 15 students of the Faculty of Catholic Theology in Bochum visiting Cracow. Prof. Josef Rist delivered a lecture “Man as a historical being or three examples of practical benefits that arise from studying the history of the Church (*Der Mensch als geschichtliches Wesen. Oder: Drei Beispiele über den praktischen Nutzen des Studiums der Kirchengeschichte*)” The lecture was given on May 14, 2009.

The Academy maintains regular contacts with all universities in Poland through participation in the Conference of Rectors of Universities in Poland – CRUP,) while the Academy rector regularly participates in the Conference meetings. Since the Academy became a University the rector has been a member of the Conference.

The 9th International Conference in the series “The Role of the Catholic Church in the Process of European Integration” was an important international event. The venue of the Conference, which is organized by the Academy on annual basis, was the Conference Center in Tomaszowice, near Cracow, and the conference took place on September 11–12, 2009. The focal issue was: “Christian responsibility in the face of crisis. Challenges in politics, social and economic order, culture, and communication”

Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz opened the conference. In his speech he made a reference to the teaching of John Paul II who said that concern for social and economic matters means concern for man. The next speaker, Rev. Prof. Jan Dyduch, rector of our Academy (University), stressed the fact that the ultimate source of the present crisis is the ethical crisis. Among many distinguished guests who made their speeches were: Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament, who noticed with regret that part of the Catholic Church in Ireland was against the Lisbon Treaty, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Dean of the Cardinal College and former Vatican Secretary of State, who warned against moral relativism among other things, and Bronisław Komorowski, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland, who said that

there is nothing that Christians should fear on the part of the European Union.

The conference was a joint venture of our Academy (University), the Robert Schuman Foundation in Luxemburg, the Conrad Adenauer Foundation, and a fraction of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats.) The Commission of the Bishops' Conference of the European Union COMECE is the patron of the event².

Each year on the anniversary of John Paul II's death, conferences devoted to his teaching are organized in order to preserve and pass on his heritage to young generations. They are organized by a research center that studies John Paul II's thought. The year 2008 marked the 30th anniversary of the first pilgrimage of John Paul II to Poland. Taking both anniversaries into consideration, the center organized an academic conference entitled "The confirmation of history – the 30th anniversary of the first pilgrimage of John Paul II to his Homeland". The conference was held on April 2, 2008 at the John Paul II Center «Be Not Afraid». In order to discuss an issue of *in vitro* insemination, which has evoked a lot of interest recently, the Center together with the Institute of History at the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage organized a workshop: "*In vitro*: hope or trouble? How to talk publically about *in vitro*, procreation, and love between man and woman?" The workshop was held on May 16, 2009.

Cracow is proud not only of John Paul II, but also of Rev. Prof. Józef Tischner, philosopher well-known in Poland and Europe. The "Tischner's Days" help popularize his philosophical, political, and social thought. The Pontifical Academy of Theology, the Jagiellonian University, the State Higher Theatrical School, and the Social Publishing House "Znak" are the organizers of the Days. Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz was the official patron of the event. The 9th "Tischner's Days" were held on April 22–25, 2008 and focused on subjects related to fear and hope. The participants of the session "Fear and hope" were: Prof. Jean Delumeau, (Collège de France,) Father Prof. Jan A. Kłoczowski OP (the Pontifical Academy of Theology), Dr. Hab. Andrzej Leder (Polish Academy of Sciences,) Dr. Jacek Prokopski (Wrocław Polytechnics,) and Prof. Karol Tarnowski (the Pontifical Academy of Theology). Lectures and discussions following them showed how fear and hope are important issues of our everyday life.

The so called *Colloquia Tischneriana* are connected with the "Tischner's Days" They are a series of lectures that honor Rev. Prof. Józef

² For more information about the Conference see: <http://www.kosciol-europa.org.pl> (12/29/2009.) This site provides materials from all conferences held so far (in Polish.)

Tischner. Within the framework of this year's *Colloquia* Jean Delumeau delivered a lecture "Campanella, philosopher and astrologist", which was held on April 24, 2009 in the aula of the Jagiellonian University *Collegium Novum*.

One of the main tasks of the Interfaculty Institute for Ecumenism and Dialogue is concern for unity among Christians. Each year the Institute actively participates in the organization of the Week of Prayers for the Unity of Christians and the related events: the Day of Judaism and the Day of Islam in the Catholic Church. Similarly, last year the Institute was a co-organizer of the above mentioned Week of Prayers, which was held in Cracow on January 18–25, 2009, under the motto: "Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand" (Ezek 37:17,) the 12th Day of Judaism on January 15 and 17, 2009, and the 9th Day of Islam on January 27, 2009. Within the framework of the Day of Judaism a prayer meeting of Christians and Jews was held in the Tempel synagogue in Cracow, which was attended for the first time by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz. The main rabbi of Galicia, Edgar Gluck, presided over the Jewish prayer at the end of Sabbath, "hawdala". The motto of the Day of Judaism was: "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Gen 9:13). The motto of the Day of Islam was: "Together for the sake of dignity of marriage and family". A lecture on the subject was delivered by a Palestinian Imam Ali Abi Issa, president of the Imam Board at the Muslim League of Poland, a zealous supporter of dialogue between Christians, Jews, and Muslims. The lecture followed a service of God's Word in the Franciscan's Basilica presided over by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz.

Activities of the Interfaculty Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue are not limited to engaging in organization of the above mentioned events. Last year the Institute organized the following meetings and conferences: an inter-religious meeting "Perspectives of dialogue between Jews, Christians, and Muslims" on October 28, 2008, whose guest was Harold Kasimov, an ecumenical session: "Woman in Church" on November 18, 2008, which focused on perception of the role of woman in theology and in the life of various Christian communities, which was organized together with the Cracow Branch of the Polish Ecumenical Council, and an international conference "Ecumenism and contemporary moral challenges" on April 29, 2009, which focused on contemporary moral issues.

In addition to the above mentioned cyclic initiatives that help deepen knowledge imparted in regular classes, academic symposia, conferences, and guest lectures are organized. They are also a way of popularizing the

results of research conducted by individual academic and didactic employees of our Academy. Some of them were organized jointly with external institutions. Below are some of them.

The Interfaculty Institute of Bioethics organized a conference "Child as a patient – before and after birth." The conference was held on October 18–19, 2008, and its venue was the Sanctuary of God's Mercy in Cracow. The co-organizers of the conference were: the Gynecological and Obstetric Section of the Catholic Association of Polish Physicians, the "Life and Fertility" Foundation and the R. Czerniakowski Gynecological and Obstetric Hospital. Twenty papers which dealt with various aspects of life of a sick child before or after birth, such as attitudes to a dying child, limits of therapy inside the mother's womb, eugenic selection, doctor's civil and penal responsibility, and psychological ties between mother and child, were presented. There were two foreign professors among the speakers: Prof. Giuseppe Noia from the Sacro Cuore Catholic University in Rome and Prof. Sylvie de Kermadec, director of the Jérôme Lejeune Institute in Paris.

It is worth mentioning here that the Interfaculty Institute of Bioethics is 20 years old. It was founded in 1988 by Rev. Prof. Krzysztof Szczygieł, who acted on a suggestion made by the Servant of God John Paul II. This was the first Institute of this kind in Poland and up until the end of the 1990s, it was the only one. The aim of the Institute is to search for and deepen anthropological and ethical grounds for Church teaching on issues connected with the beginning, duration, and end of human life. Such a formulation assumes an interdisciplinary character of research conducted by the Institute, while through referring to philosophical and theological conceptions of man and his morals; it also serves humanization of biotechnology and medicine. The Institute 20th anniversary celebration took place on January 17, 2009 at the Franciscan Basilica in Cracow and it coincided with the 80th birthday of Rev. Prof. Szczygieł. The main event of the anniversary was a symposium "The past and future of bioethics", during which the following speakers presented their papers: Rev. Prof. T. Biesaga SDB (the Pontifical Academy of Theology), Rev. Prof. Jan Kowalski (retired Professor of the Pontifical Academy of Theology), Rev. Dr. Stefan Kornas from Siedlce, Sister Prof. Barbara Chyrowicz from the Catholic University in Lublin, Rev. Prof. Paweł Bortkiewicz from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Rev. Prof. Marian Machinek from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn and Rev. Prof. Piotr Morciniec from the University in Opole. The past and the future of bioethics were discussed during the conference, which helped to get to know better its place in the development of medicine and biotechnology.

The Chair of History of Culture and Upbringing at the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage organized an international session “The icon of St. Mary of Perpetual Help in the culture of the East and West,” which was held in the monastery of the Redemptorist Fathers on October 29, 2008. A paper “An icon of St. Mary of Perpetual Help as personification of God’s saving mediation” was delivered by Father Andrzej Wodka, professor of Biblical Theology at the St. Alfonso Academy in Rome.

The 2008/2009 academic year marked the 25th anniversary of ending the Cracow Province Synod. The Institute of Canon Law organized a symposium “Synod – Metropolis – Metropolitan” to commemorate the occasion. During the symposium, which was held on November 20, 2008, the following speakers presented their papers: Rev. Prof. Józef Wroceński from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, Rev. Prof. Maciej Dyduch, rector of our Academy, Rev. Prof. Tomasz Rozkrut, also from our Academy, and Rev. Prof. Ryszard Sztymiler from the University of Warmia and Mazury.

Ethics plays a very important role in public life, though it is not infrequently neglected. To find answers to contemporary ethical issues the Chair of Ethics of the Faculty of Philosophy organized the first conference in a series “Ethics and public life” Its subject was “Freedom and power and the public life” The conference was held on November 18-19, 2008. Professors from various academic centers in Poland and Slovakia delivered papers: from the Jagiellonian University, Prof. J. Miklaszewska; from the Warsaw University, Prof. I. Jakubowska-Branicka; from the Silesian University, Prof. K. Wieczorek; from the Prešov University in Prešov, Slovakia, Prof. V. Dudinský; and from the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia, Prof. C. Diatka. The papers dealt with the following questions: “What is freedom?” “What is power?” “Are we free in the public sphere?” The dangers of extremisms such as totalitarianism, where power dominates freedom, and anarchy, where freedom dominates power were shown. The speakers pointed out the problem of media, which not infrequently are “beyond power”

The growth in popularity of devotion to God’s Mercy is conducive to research not only within the scope of theology of spirituality, but also moral theology and patristics. Wishing to answer questions in the field of these disciplines, the Chair of Theology of Spirituality together with the Chair of Moral Theology and the Chair of Patrology organized a symposium “Called to mercy” on November 22, 2008.

Though it is still topical, metaphysics does not belong to the most popular philosophical branches. A series of conferences “Metaphysics and its peripheries” was meant to popularize it. The last conference in the series took place on December 1, 2008 and was devoted to the Russian religious metaphysics.

Concern for family is one of the main aims of education at the Faculty of Social Sciences. An expression of this concern was a conference on the subject of the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), which is a disease in the International Classification of Diseases ICD-10. The motto of the conference was “I do not drink to him” The main message of the conference was a call to teetotalism during pregnancy as even a small amount of alcohol drunk by the mother is pernicious to the child in her womb. The conference was held on January 27, 2009 in the Town Hall (the Wielopolskis Palace) in Cracow.

Research on the influence of the Bible on culture and popularization of Biblical knowledge is one of the valuable activities of the Chair of Biblical Theology and Information Technology at the Faculty of Theology. The Chair organized the 6th international and interdisciplinary symposium “Bible in world’s culture,” which was held under the patronage of the Association of Polish Biblicists at the Higher Seminary of the Capuchin Fathers in Cracow on February 19, 2009. The Chair organized a similar symposium in Gródek in Podolia, Ukraine on June 16, 2009 at the Higher Seminary of the Kamieniec Podolski Diocese.

The Pontifical Academy of Theology cooperates with various academic circles in Poland. Cooperation with an academic circle “Hosianum” in Olsztyn deserves a special mention. Hosianum’s main representative is Bishop Prof. Julian Wojtkowski. The beginnings of the cooperation go back to the times when in Cracow there was only a Faculty of Theology, which was not recognized by the lay authorities. Bishop Wojtkowski endeavored after the academic cooperation, and as soon as a possibility of founding a theological faculty at a state university appeared, he took great pains to put it into effect. Thanks to his endeavors the Faculty of Theology now exists at the University of Warmia and Mazury. In recognition of his merits in the development of the cooperation between the two academic centers and his special contribution to the development of theological sciences, the Academy Senate, having obtained the *nihil obstat* from the Holy See, conferred the honorary doctorate *honoris causa* on Bishop Wojtkowski. The ceremony of handing out the doctorate took place in the Rector’s Office at our Academy on March 3, 2009 in the presence of Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz.

The Year of St. Paul was an occasion to deepen a reflection on the life and the work of St. Paul of Tarsus. To commemorate it, the Higher Institute of Catechesis at the Faculty of Theology organized the 29th catechetical symposium on March 7, 2009. The motto of the symposium was: “The mission of St. Paul continues” Lectures focused not only on the subject of catechesis, but also on Biblical, theological, and formation aspects. Professors from our Academy as well as other institutions of higher education delivered lectures: Sister Prof. E. J. Jeziarska OSU from the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław, Rev. Prof. Roman Pindel from our Academy, Rev. Prof. Henryk Witczyk from the Catholic University in Lublin, Rev. Dr. Roman Mazur SDB from our Academy, Rev. Dr. Hab. Marian Zając from the Catholic University in Lublin, and Father Dr. Emilian Gołabek OFM from the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław. After the lectures, a few persons, including a couple, shared their experiences in catechetical and educational work. The materials from the symposium are published in a series “Duc in altum,” which already has 9 volumes.

Celebrating holy days is as timely as ever. The attitude of the Christians of the past can contribute to the proper experience of holy days in the present times. Taking this fact into consideration, the Chair of the History of the Church in Antiquity at the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage organized a session “Sunday – a holy day in Antiquity”, which took place on April 30, 2009.

We realize a great role mass media play in today’s world. It is especially important to respect the fundamental values, one of which is doubtlessly the truth. Analyzing this aspect of media activity the Faculty of Social Sciences organized an all-Polish conference on media ethics “The truth in mass media – between an ideal and illusion” The conference took place in Cracow on May 14–15, 2009.

In everyday life of the Church musical education and popularizing church music is very important. To meet this goal the Intercollegiate Institute of Church Music organized the 4th Choir Festival “Cantate Domino” The festival was organized in Cracow on May 16–17, 2009, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Joseph Hayden’s death. The co-organizers of the festival were: the Music Academy in Cracow, Polish Federation “Pueri Cantores”, and the Association of Church Choirs “Caecilianum.”

In addition to symposia and conferences, some guest lectures are worth mentioning, too. A guest lecture by Rev. Prof. Józef Woliński (a retired professor of the Catholic Institute in Paris), organized by the Faculty of Theology, deserves a mention. The subject of the lecture was

the “Renewal of patristics in France in the middle of the 20th century (1938–1962) and its influence on today’s theology” The lecture took place on October 26, 2008. Another event of this kind, one that aroused a lot of interest also on the part of the media, was a series of lectures by Rev. Dr. Sławomir Oder about the canonization process in the context of canonization of John Paul II. Rev. Oder is a postulator in the beatification proceedings of John Paul II. The lecture was delivered on June 3–4, 2009, and was organized by the Institute of Canon Law.

A beautiful tradition of celebrating the 70th birthdays of our Professors is kept by our Academy. In the 2008/2009 academic year Rev. Prof. Stefan Koperek CR had his 70th birthday. The Liturgical Institute prepared a commemorative book entitled *Introibo ad altare Dei* not only on the occasion of his 70th birthday, but also the 45th anniversary of his taking priest vows (Cracow 2008, pp. 1047). The book was handed to the jubilarian on June 14, 2008 in the *Collegium Resurrectianum* in Cracow (the Higher Seminary of the Polish Province of the Holy Resurrection Congregation).

Another commemorative book was prepared to celebrate His Eminence, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz’ 70th birthday. The book is entitled: “*Testi Iovannis Pauli II. A commemorative book on the occasion of the 70th birthday of His Eminence, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, Metropolitan of Cracow, and the Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Theology*” (Cracow 2009, pp. 647). The ceremony during which the book was handed took place on April 27, 2009 in the Archbishops’ Palace in Cracow. The ceremony began with a speech delivered by Rev. Prof. Jan Dyduch, rector of our Academy. After the lecture the book was presented by its editor Rev. Prof. Stefan Koperek CR. At the end, the jubilarian made a speech in which he thanked the Academy of which he is not only the Grand Chancellor but also a graduate.

To end the chronological listing of the events, we must mention the results of the elections, which were held at the end of the academic year. Rev. Prof. Maciej Ostrowski, and Rev. Dr. Hab. Władysław Zuziak, Professor at our Academy, were elected new deputy rectors. Rector elections will be held in the next academic year. Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan D. Szczurek, Professor at our Academy, was re-elected dean of the Department of Theology and Rev. Dr. Hab. Arkadiusz Baron and Father Dr. Hab. Dariusz Kasprzak OFMCap became vice deans. Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Mączka SDB was elected dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, while Father Dr. Marek Urban CSsR and Rev. Dr. Wojciech Grygiel FSSP (acting vice deans) were elected vice-deans. Rev. Dr. Hab. Józef Wołczański was elected dean of the Faculty of History and Cultural

Heritage, and Dr. Marek Hałaburda and Dr. Elena Wróbel (acting vice deans) were elected vice deans. Rev. Prof. Janusz Mastalski was elected dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Rev. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Baczyński, professor at our Academy, and Rev. Dr. Antoni Świerczek (acting vice deans) became vice deans.

The following statistical data makes the picture of our Institution more complete. There were 3,242 students, 191 academic employees (habilitated doctors and professors,) and 113 other employees in the 2008/2009 academic year. 956 new students were admitted to the first year of studies, the title of Master of Arts was conferred on 406 students (the Faculty of Theology – 307, the Faculty of Philosophy – 24, the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage – 22, the Faculty of Theology – Branch in Tarnów – 53), and the title of Licentiate on 45 persons (ecclesiastical, on the Faculty of Theology – 37, in Tarnów – 8). The doctor degree was conferred on 34 persons, habilitated doctor – 5 persons, and professor's title – 1.

A high number of graduates who receive the title of the Master of Arts results from the fact that the Faculty of Theology confers the title on the students of the Higher Seminaries which have signed agreements on academic and didactic cooperation with the Faculty. Graduates of these Seminaries are not official students of the Faculty of Theology, but their education process is supervised by the Faculty on the basis of the above mentioned agreements, and their master theses are assessed by the Faculty Professors and the defense of the theses is held before an Examination Board appointed by the Faculty.

In order to avoid misunderstanding, we must note that the given figures are not always the same as the numbers given in connection with solemn promotions, which results from the fact that usually between habilitation and professor proceedings and the solemn promotions several months elapse, so often the proceedings end in one academic year and the promotions are held in the next.

Besides staff promotion, the Academy promotes its own activities. This is the task of the Bureau of Information and Promotion established in the 2004/2005 academic year. Through the activities of the Bureau the Academy joins promotional events organized for all institutions of higher education in Krakow and Poland. This includes first of all the Festival of Science, which took place on May 1–16, 2009 in Cracow. Its motto was “Man-Space-Energy”

The Pontifical Academy of Theology carries out publishing activity, which is the responsibility of the Academic Press. It publishes dissertations and academic periodicals. A regularly edited academic periodical

are in the first place “*Analecta Cracoviensia*” They include research in philosophy, theology, Church history and canon law. There have been 37 volumes (40 annual publications) of this periodical. Besides “*Analecta Cracoviensia*” each faculty publishes its own periodical: “*Polonia Sacra*” is the periodical of the Faculty of Theology, “*Logos and Ethos*,” of the Faculty of Philosophy, and “*Folia Historica Cracoviensia*,” of the Faculty of History of the Church. The Institute of Canon Law edits “*Anales Canonici*”. This is an annual legal publication addressed to the academic environment, practicing lawyers and all interested in Church law. The Center for Interdisciplinary Research at the Faculty of Philosophy publishes “*Zagadnienia Filozoficzne w Nauce*” (Philosophical Issues in Science.) This is a six-monthly publication, whose aim is to discover and analyze philosophical problems in natural sciences. “*Zagadnienia*” have its own supplement entitled “*Semina Scientiarum. Supplement do Zagadnień Filozoficznych w Nauce*” (Supplement to Philosophical Issues in Science). It is edited by the participants of the Scientific Seminar in Natural Philosophy and is devoted to issues from the border of philosophy and natural sciences. In the academic year 2008/2009 the Academic Press published 25 books (8,810 total copies) and 8 periodicals (2,090 copies).

The official bulletin of the Academy is “*Vita Academica*,” a bi-monthly which includes information about the most important events at the Academy. The students have their own periodical “*Patos. Czasopismo społeczno-kulturalne młodych*” (Pathos. Students’ Social and Cultural Periodical), which is issued by the students’ government. The periodical has been published for many years. It was a quarterly in the past, and now it is a bi-monthly. “*Patos*” is the lay students’ periodical, while the students who prepare for priesthood edit “*Novum Tempus Liberum*” (NTL.) which is edited by seminarians of the Archbishop Seminary in Cracow. It is now an annual publication and contains information about the seminary and seminarians’ life.

The majority of the above mentioned periodicals are published by the Pontifical Academy of Theology Academic Press. It also publishes series such as “*Studia do dziejów Wydziału Teologicznego*” (Studies for History of the Faculty of Theology). Other series include: “*Rozprawy habilitacyjne*” (Habilitation Theses), “*Rozprawy doktorskie*” (Doctor Theses), “*Podręczniki Wydziału Teologicznego*” (Course books of the Faculty of Theology), and a series “*Mysterium Christi*,” which is a liturgics course book), “*Studia*” (Studies – edited by the Faculty of Theology), “*Textus et studia*,” and “*Studia nad myślą Jana Pawła II*” (Studies of the Thought of John Paul II), edited by the Center of Research on the Thought of John Paul II.

Alongside its academic and didactic activity, the Academy tries to promote, among other things, sacred music, as it is an extension of research on the Church liturgy. The Academy has its choir *Psalmodia* conducted by Dr. Włodzimierz Siedlik. *Psalmodia* is invited to sing during various academic celebrations such as solemn inaugurations of the academic year or celebrations of the Academy's anniversaries.

The Pontifical Academy of Theology does not forget about spiritual formation of its students and employees. Lay students of each year have their own priest, who officiates at a Holy Mass, delivers homilies and has individual pastoral talks with them. The Holy Mass is held at least once a month, while formation meetings with homilies are held most often in Advent and Lent. They constitute an integral part of retreat held in these liturgical periods. All pastoral activities are coordinated by Rev. Dr. Andrzej Muszala. Students who prepare for priesthood receive spiritual and pastoral formation in their seminaries.

The Library of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow is involved in creating a national system of information exchange. This system is developed within the Federation of Church Libraries *Fides*. The Library of the Academy continues to build up its catalogue on the basis of an integrated computer system VTLS (146,193 records including periodical publications – 3,725 records). The catalogue in the form of a data base is available on the Internet. In 2009 the Library had 7,591 regular patrons. In 2009 the collection of the Library was enriched by about 44,240 titles (including about 39,240 books and 4,500 periodicals.) In 2009 the Library had the total of 550,510 publications in stock. The Library subscribed to 337 periodicals (including 118 foreign ones) and had 1,100 titles of current periodicals in 2009. The majority of periodicals are received in exchange for “*Analecta Cracoviensia*” The Academy Library is a specialized one.

The lack of appropriate space is a serious restriction on the Library activities. The construction of a new library building is approximating its final stage. On April 15, 2009 a contract was signed between the Pontifical Academy of Theology and an industrial construction company “Chemobudowa Kraków”, Co. for completing the construction of the Library in the University Campus at 10 Bobrzyńskiego Street. This is a big and extremely important enterprise, which requires huge financial means.

Financial means for the activities of the Academy are provided by the St. Queen Hedwig Foundation for the Pontifical Academy of Theology. Although since January 1, 1998 the Academy has been receiving state subsidies, these do not cover all expenses mainly because they are

intended for salaries of didactic employees and students' grants. All other expenses including the building of the new library need to be covered from other sources. Therefore, the Foundation popularizes the activities of the Academy through various means it has at its disposal.

Taking this opportunity, the Board of the Foundation extends sincere gratitude to all benefactors for their support, kindness and readiness to help. Holy Mass is offered for all benefactors in St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Cracow.

The Academy prays for all its deceased employees and all deceased Cracow academics in a solemn Mass officiated in St. Anne's Collegiate Church in Cracow. Last year the Mass was said on November 17, 2008.

Finally, sad events that also happen in the life of the Academy must be mentioned. On January 25, 2009 after a long and painful illness died Rev. Prof. Zdzisław Antoni Kliś, who was a priest of the Cracow archdiocese, Professor of the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage, head of the Chair of Ancient and Medieval Church Art, a highly esteemed lecturer, author of many publications about the history of Church art. The funeral took place on January 28, 2009 in Łodygowice, near Bielsko-Biała, his family parish.

Rev. Jan D. Szczurek

Translation: *Bożena Piłat*