

WACŁAW HRYNIEWICZ OMI
Lublin

THE ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN

I. ORIGIN

The idea of an Ecumenical Institute was first formulated by the Ecumenical Commission of the Polish Bishops' Conference, whose initiative was subsequently endorsed by the Academic Senate of the Catholic University of Lublin on May 16th, 1983. Thus the first Ecumenical Institute in Poland began its work in the academic year 1983/84.

The Institute, part of the Theological Faculty of the University, has as its head one of the professors, Bishop Alfons Nossol, who is also in charge of the Ecumenical Commission of the episcopal conference. The Institute continues, in a broader perspective, the research work carried out earlier by the Department of Comparative and Ecumenical Theology, which existed between 1970 and 1983. In various ways the Department sought to broaden the horizon of people concerned for the cause of Christian unity. Some fruitful contacts were established with ecumenical centres in this country and abroad. Four professors of the Department were appointed subsequently members of the international ecumenical commissions. Prof. Stanisław Nagy (1972-1974) and Prof. Stanisław C. Napiórkowski (1975-1984) were active in the Joint Lutheran - Roman Catholic Commission. And in 1979 Bishop A. Nossol and Prof. Wacław Hryniewicz became members of the Joint International Commission for the Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. The Department co-operated closely with the editorial board of the "International Ecumeni-

cal Bibliography" (IOB) in Fribourg in Switzerland and later in Tübingen, preparing regularly the Polish ecumenical bibliography for the years 1967-1979 (vol. VI-XVIII). In this way the ground was prepared for the Ecumenical Institute.

II. AIMS OF THE INSTITUTE

The main task of the Institute consists in promoting the ecumenical movement on scholarly and didactic as well as practical level. Through lectures, seminars, symposia, long-term research projects and publications the Institute seeks to promote mutual understanding and to contribute to the shaping of a better ecumenical future in Poland. An ecumenically orientated theology has an important role to play in the dialogue with other traditions and in the ecumenical reception of their spiritual values. Thus the spiritual life of Catholics is enriched by a fuller knowledge of Christ and of His Church, derived from dialogue with others, who share with them the true name of Christians.

III. ACADEMIC TASKS

On the academic level, the objectives of the Institute are pursued by systematic studies of ecumenical issues as well as by scientific research of professors and students. By publishing the results achieved, it seeks to stimulate academic studies and to nourish the spiritual life of Christians in Poland with the treasures of those traditions, past and present, which are alive in other Churches and communities of believers. Ecumenical symposia and consultations are also arranged regularly.

An equally important task of the Institute is to provide an ecumenical perspective for those training to be teachers of theology, as well as for clergy and laity involved in the ecumenical movement. The Institute offers advanced courses lasting two years, leading to a master's degree and licenciate in theology. It also offers opportunities for a doctor's degree. General ecumenical theology as well as Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican theology can be studied in accordance with the students' interests. Students from all Christian denominations can apply for admission to the Institute. There is close co-operation with other theological centres both in this country and abroad. Ecumenists from different Churches are invited to hold lectures at the Institute.

Since 1988 the Institute has been a member of the European Society for Ecumenical Research (Societas Oecumenica).

IV. ACADEMIC STAFF

Chair of Ecumenical Theology:

Rev. Dr. Leonard Górka SVD, assistant professor.

Chair of Orthodox Theology:

Rev. Prof. Dr. Wacław Hryniewicz OMI, deputy-director of the Institute.

Rev. Dr. Jan S. Gajek MIC, assistant professor.

Chair of Protestant Theology:

Rt. Rev. Bishop Prof. Dr. Alfons Nossol (professor of dogmatic theology), acting head of the department, director of the Institute.

Rev. Dr. Piotr Jaskóła, assistant professor (Anglican theology).

Rev. Dr. Stanisław J. Koza, assistant (Protestant theology).

Rev. Prof. Dr. Stanisław C. Napiórkowski OFMConv and others are associated with the academic programme of the Institute.

V. ADVISORY COUNCIL

In order to ensure the effective work of the Institute, an advisory council has been set up, of which about twenty specialists representing other theological institutions and confessions are members. This council helps the Institute in planning its research work and in the preparation of various ecumenical initiatives, such as symposia, academic co-operation, publications etc.

VI. LIBRARY

The Institute has its own library, which currently contains more than 1,500 volumes. New books on Protestant and ecumenical theology in general are constantly being added to the basic collection devoted to the history, theology and spirituality of the Eastern Church. Scholars and students have also an easy access to seven Faculty Libraries (25,000 vols.) and to many ecumenical books and periodicals in the main University Library, which numbers over 900,000 volumes, more than 3,500 titles of current periodicals, including over 1,900 foreign ones.

VII. PUBLICATIONS

The Institute is responsible for two series of publications: "Theology in Dialogue" and "One Lord, One Faith", edited by A. Nossol, W. Hryniewicz and S. C. Napiórkowski.

In the first series six volumes have been published (in Polish) so far:

1. S. C. N a p i ó r k o w s k i. All under One Christ. Roman Catholic - Lutheran Dialogue. Vol. 1: Years 1965-1981. Lublin 1985 [239 pp.].

2. W. H r y n i e w i c z, L. G ó r k a (ed.). Reception - A New Ecumenical Task. Lublin 1985 [178 pp.].

3. S. C. N a p i ó r k o w s k i. The Debate about the Mother of Christ. Mariology as an Ecumenical Problem. Lublin 1988 [187 pp.].

4. W. H r y n i e w i c z, S. J. K o z a (ed.). Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry. The Lima Document 1982. Text [i.e. Translation in Polish] and Commentaries. Lublin 1989 [232 pp.].

5. W. H r y n i e w i c z, P. J a s k ó ł a (ed.). The Sacred Mystery of Unity. The Decree on Ecumenism Twenty Years Later. Lublin 1988 [183 pp.].
6. J. S. G a j e k, L. G ó r k a (ed.). Cyril and Methodius. The Apostles and Teachers of the Slavs. Studies and Documents. Part 1: Studies. Part 2: Documents. Lublin 1991 [291 and 298 pp.].

In the second, more monographic series the following studies have been published (in Polish):

1. P. J a s k ó ł a. God for Us. An Ecumenical-Dogmatic Study of J. A. T. Robinson's Christology. Lublin 1986 [194 pp.].
2. S. J. K o z a. Evangelical Catholicity [= Evangelische Katholizität]. A Study of Comparative Ecclesiology of Friedrich Heiler. Lublin 1987 [399 pp.].
3. S. J a n u s z. Saved Man. The Mystery of Redemption in Anthropological Interpretation of Victor I. Nesselov. Lublin 1990 [335 pp.].

Within the research work carried out at the Institute one has to mention also some other studies already published (all in Polish except no. 2 and 16):

1. A. N o s s o l. Theology Closer to Life. The Influence of Theology on Christian Existence. Opole 1984 [351 pp.].
2. A. N o s s o l. Der Mensch braucht Theologie. Ansätze zu einer lebensnahen Glaubensreflexion. Einsiedeln 1986 [204 pp.].
3. L. G ó r k a, W. H r y n i e w i c z (ed.). Eucharist and Mission. The Lord's Supper in the Dialogue of Christians. Warsaw 1987 [192 pp.].
4. S. C. N a p i ó r k o w s k i. The Mother of My Lord. Problems, Investigations, Perspectives. Opole 1988 [260 pp.].
5. J. S. G a j e k, W. H r y n i e w i c z (ed.). Christ Has Triumphed. On the Conversion of Kievan Rus'. Warsaw 1989 [239 pp.].
6. W. H r y n i e w i c z. Christ, Our Passover. An Outline of Christian Paschal Theology – vol. 1. Lublin 1982 [492 pp.].
7. W. H r y n i e w i c z. Our Passover with Christ. An Outline of Christian Paschal Theology – vol. 2. Lublin 1987 [547 pp.].
8. W. H r y n i e w i c z. Passover of Christ in the History of Man and Cosmos. An Outline of Christian Paschal Theology – vol. 3. Lublin 1991 [532 pp.].
9. W. H r y n i e w i c z. God of Our Hope. Theological and Ecumenical Essays – vol. 1. Opole 1989 [286 pp.].
10. W. H r y n i e w i c z. Hope of Salvation for All. From an Eschatology of Fear to an Eschatology of Hope. Warsaw 1989 [178 pp.].
11. W. H r y n i e w i c z. Sister Churches. Catholic-Orthodox Dialogue 1980-1991. Warsaw 1992 [360 pp.].
12. W. H r y n i e w i c z. Old Russian Paschal Theology in the Light of Writings of St Cyrill of Turov (12th century). Warsaw 1992 [202 pp.].
13. W. H r y n i e w i c z. St Cyrill of Turov. Paschal Homilies. Translation from Church Slavonic and Commentary. Opole 1992 [106 pp.].
14. P. J a s k ó ł a, H. J. S o b e c z k o (ed.). Christian Churches in Europe of Nations. Opole 1992 [124 pp.].

15. P. J a s k ó ł a (ed.). *Veritati et caritati. In the Service of Theology and Reconciliation. Studies dedicated to Bishop A. Nossol.* Opole 1992 [515 pp.].

16. A. Nossol. *Gelebte Theologie heute. Skizzen zur postkonziliären Glaubenswissenschaft.* Opole 1992 [167 pp.].

The members of the Institute publish also their papers in different periodicals, both in Poland and abroad. All contributions coming from scholars and ecumenists of different denominations will appear in the further volumes of the two series above mentioned or in an ecumenical issue of "Annals of Theology", published by the Catholic University of Lublin.

The Ecumenical Institute will soon publish a handbook of ecumenism under the title: *Towards Christianity of Tomorrow*, to help those who are interested in ecumenical matters to deepen their knowledge both of the history of ecumenical movement and of some important theological ecumenical problems. Special attention has been focused on self-presentation of Christian Churches, made by the members of the respective denominations themselves.

VIII. WORSHIP

The Institute is responsible for preparation of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the University church, and helps with arrangements for the Week elsewhere. The Eucharist is celebrated regularly for Christian Unity on Wednesday each week; a practice initiated in 1980 by the Department of Comparative and Ecumenical Theology. In this way it seeks to extend the Week of Prayer for Unity throughout the year, in accordance with the ecumenical calendar *For All God's People. Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, published by the World Council of Churches.

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