

PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY

Academic Year 1995/1996

The Academic Year 1995/96 was a year of immediate preparations to celebrate a jubilee of foundation of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow. On August 11th 1954 that Faculty was removed from the Jagiellonian University by unilateral decision of the State Authorities. However, by a determination of the Metropolitan of Cracow Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and the Holy See, it survived as an independent faculty in Cracow and since December 8th, 1981 has been the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow. The anniversary of the Faculty falls on January 11th, 1997.

The opening of 599th academic year preceded a traditional pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. The paper entitled: *Confessing the same truth about the cross. Round the encyclical "Ut unum sint"* was delivered by Fr. Zdzisław Kijas, D.D. The solemn Eucharist was presided by the Rector of the Academy, during which the homily was delivered by the Rector of the Philosophy-Theology College of Dominican Fathers in Cracow, Fr. Andrzej Kłoczowski, D.D.

On October 20th, 1995 the Solemn Inauguration of 599th academic year was held at the Pontifical Academy of Theology. It has begun with the Holy Eucharist at St. Anne's academic church in Cracow presided by Most Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Ryczan, Ordinary bishop of Kielce diocese. The homily was delivered by the main celebrant on: *St. John from Kenty – the master of wisdom*. After the Mass the point of Inauguration was continued at the Concert Hall of Cracow Philharmony during which Rev. Prof. Jan Kowalski read out the paper entitled: *Place and function of the Magisterium of the Church in moral theology*. Apart from students and professors of the Academy also a great many guests were attending that event e.g. delegates of Colleges of Theology from all over Poland, rectors and professors of the Colleges of Cracow as well as representatives of various centres of the royal city.

Scientific-didactic activities were enriched by scientific symposia and guest speaker lectures organised by various didactic institutions of the Academy. On November 9th, 1995 the Department of the Spiritual Theology of the Faculty of Theology organised Symposium on: *Christian ascetism*. The papers consisted of the following subjects: psychology of ascetism, ascetism in the Holy Scripture taking into

special consideration St. Paul's teaching, nature of christian ascetism, ascetism in the Fathers of the Church as well as ascetism and mysticism.

On January 24th, 1996 the Faculty of Theology organised symposium entitled: *The Church in dialogue with the world – 30 years after Vaticanum II*. The papers were presented by the professors of the Catholic University of Lublin and the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow as well as the Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw. Theme issues focused on such subjects as the origin of the Church opening for an ecumenical dialogue (the past, the present state and the future prospects), role and tasks of the Ecumenical Institutes promoting the ecumenical dialogue.

From among the guest lectures organised by the Faculty of Theology those presented by the foreign professors deserved a special attention. The Rabbi prof. Elliot Dorff (the Rector of the University of Judaism in Los Angeles) delivered the lecture series on March 1–5th, 1996. The subjects of these lectures were: religion and law (based on the Sabbath day), jewish prayer, the world of midrash, as well as how the Jews interpret the Holy Scripture. Prof. Guenter Lange, D.D., from the Faculty of the Catholic Theology at Ruhr University in Bochum (Germany) has delivered the lecture on catechises and sermon as a school of noticing through metaphors. Prof. Lange's lecture was held on May 14th, 1996 and it was the next lecture according to the scientific co-operation policy between the Faculty of Theology of the Academy and the Faculty of the Catholic Theology at Ruhr University in Bochum. Prof. Bernhard Koerner (professor of the dogmatic theology at the Catholic Faculty of Theology at Charles Francis University in Graz, Austria) on May 24th, 1996 has delivered the lecture on Melchior Cano's teaching about "locis theologicis" and on contemporary challenges of theology.

Didactic-scientific activity of the Faculty of Philosophy has been dominated by an international conference on: *Interplay of Scientific and Theological World Views*, which was held in Cracow on March 26–30th, 1996. It was already the Sixth European Conference on Science and Theology (ECST VI) organised by the Interdisciplinary Research Centre at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Academy together with the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology (ESSSAT). It is a serial conference which takes place every two years. Each conference is held at a different scientific centre concerning a different topic but always in a scope of more general problems, that is, a relationship between science and faith. The theme of the Cracovian conference has emerged out of conviction that relationship between science and theology is considerably moulded by hidden influences of various images of the world. The world image concept gives a great many possibilities to develop interdisciplinary discussions.

In the sixth Conference took part over 170 participants from 27 countries world-wide, among whom were 25 people from Eastern Europe. During the event 5 plenary lectures (so called Templeton Lectures) have been presented: *Evolutionary contingency and cosmic purpose* (prof. Ernan McMullin, Notre Dame, USA), *The role of philosophy in the science-theology dialogue* (prof. Jean Ladriere, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), *Scientific and theological discourse – from dialogue to integration* (prof. Michael Parsons, Derby, Great Britain), *Do new insights in physics bring a new light on creation* (prof. Xavier Sallantin, Béna, France), *The laws of nature and the immanence of God in the evolving universe* (Most Rev. prof. Józef Życiński, Kraków).

Principal works were conducted in 12 working teams within which over 100 papers were presented. Their issues concerned the following topics: (1) Interaction between science and theology; (2) Methodological issues in relating science and theology; (3) The role of philosophy in the science-theology dialogue; (4) An impact of science on contemporary theology; (5) Theology of nature; (6) World views of modern science and their implications; (7–8) The Bible, theological world views and their significance; (9) Science and religion in public life; (10) Ethics and science; (11) Relationship between physics and theology; (12) Relationship between biology and theology. The mentioned lectures and papers delivered at that conference will be published in the following issues (1997 and 1998): *Studies in Science and Theology* (a year's issue ESSSAT).

The Interdisciplinary Research Centre (OBI) at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Academy together with the Information Institute at the Jagiellonian University has organised the next, that is, the third interdisciplinary conference on limits of science this time. Apart from college employees present at the conference other participants were also professors of the following colleges: University of Warsaw, University of Silesia, University of Wrocław, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin.

The subject matter of lectures and discussions included the following: limits of genetic engineering, biology and technology toward human nature and evolution, limits of time and space, logical and sociological restrictions of physics abilities, universal and local interpretation of scientific theories, reasoning in science, determinism as well as indeterminism and mathematics, mathematics in a tension field, mathematics – proof – computer: chaos theorem in Lorenz's equations, Hilbert's programme and so called reverse mathematics, two antithetical Leibniz's views concerning artificial intelligence, rationality of diverse science – irrationality of philosophy science. Conference materials will be published by OBI as well as by prof. Jadacki in the next issue of the Philosophy of Science.

At the Faculty of Church History scientific sessions and conferences were also held. A special attention deserved doctor Witalij Zadworny's lecture, who teaches not only at St. Thomas College of Catholic Theology but at St. Andrew's Biblical-Theological Orthodox College, in Moscow as well. The lecture on *Fundamental moments of the Catholic Church history in Russia* was held on May 15th, 1996. Another undertaking deserving noticing was a scientific camp which 19 students of the II year of the Faculty participated in. The camp was held in Austria and Italy on September 2–16th, 1995.

The Interdisciplinary Institute of Bioethics together with the Polish Academy of Science and the Higher Silesian Theological Seminary organised a scientific symposium on *Essence of life*. Apart from that in a field of didactic activities of the Institute the following monographic lectures were carried out: *Anthropology in Karol Wojtyła's writing* as well as "Polish Medical Code and a Medical Employee Card" (similarities and differences).

The Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue as well as a cracovian branch of the Polish Ecumenical Council (PRE) organised a symposium on *The saints and reconciliation of Churches*, which was held on January 25th, 1996. The lectures were delivered by the professors of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, the Jagiellonian University as well as the Christian Academy of Theology. All of these lectures were devoted to the following subjects: holiness as a phenomenon not only christian, evolution as a criterion of holiness in the Western and Eastern Church, do saints unite or divide. The last issue was presented from the catholic, orthodox, protestant and old-catholic point of view.

The employees of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow also participated in congress symposia and conferences organised by other colleges. To them belong e.g. symposia organised by the Jagiellonian University as well as by the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław or by other institutions of science in Poland. The Academy attaches a big weight to meetings within the coffins of the Federation of European Catholic Universities (Fédération des Universités Européennes – FUCE). In 1997, which is a jubilee year of the 600th anniversary of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow, a meeting of the Federation will be held at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow. The Rector of the Academy Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, D.D., has participated at the FUCE meeting in Paris on June 21th, 1996 during which a decision was made to celebrate the mentioned jubilee by organising not only a meeting of the Federation in Cracow but by a symposium devoted to the challenges faced by the contemporary world toward catholic universities as well. Rectors of catholic colleges of Eastern Europe will be invited to this meeting and symposium. A date for the meeting was set for April 16–19th, 1997.

Apart from the events of scientific character, the facts of great importance for the activities of the Academy and favourably developing her structures deserve to be written down. Undoubtedly of great significance for a relationship of the Academy with the state authorities and other civil colleges has the latest minister's regulation of the Ministry of Education (MEN). However, a voice of development of the Academy structures comes into being within her new institutions as well as to entering into contracts of employment.

In conformity with a decision of the agreement between Polish Government and Polish Bishop's Conference dated June 30th, 1989 regulating mode and extent of the recognition by Polish State university degrees and titles conferred by pontifical colleges, on January 30th 1996 Ministry of Education (MEN) issued a regulation stating the fact to be entitled to confer university degrees and titles by individual faculties of the Academy. Above regulation states that the Faculty of Theology has a right to confer doctor's and reader's degrees in science theology. The Faculty of Philosophy has a right to confer doctor's and reader's degrees of the humanities in philosophy; the Faculty of Church History – a right to confer doctor's degrees of the humanities in history.

In an ecclesiastical higher education system in Poland there are licentiate courses which are an intermediate series between the first ones (master in theology) and a doctorate. Last academic year those series reform took place. Beginning of the academic year 1996/1997 regular licentiate courses last for two years. However duration of courses being done so far (one day per week) last four years. The system of other courses remains unchanged.

For the sake of development of the catholic mass media and in accordance with the Academy Senate resolution on July 19th, 1995 Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies of Journalism has been brought into being. On December 19th, 1995 the Senate also approved studies regulations for a term until September 30th, 1997.

Manifestation of structures development of the Academy is also a rise of a choir "Psalmody" of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow which made so far only the students of the Music Section of the Liturgical Institute at the Faculty of Theology. The choir has been brought to existence under a special decree by the Great Chancellor of the Academy cardinal Franciszek Macharski.

Agreements concerning scientific co-operation with the faculties of the Academy allow students from contracting institutions to obtain master's degrees and titles. Last year the Congregation for Catholic Education approved one of such agreements concerning the cooperation reached this time between the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology (PAT) and the Higher Theological Seminary in Przemyśl. An official handing over a written text of the

agreement to the Rector of the Seminary in Przemyśl took place at the Academy Senate sitting on November 20th, 1995. Similar agreement concerning the co-operation between the Theological College in Bielsko-Biała and the Academy has been approved by the Academy Senate on January 29th, 1996.

Didactic activities at the Academy last year resulted in number of titles and degrees. 411 people obtained Master in Theology, 6 of them received Master in Philosophy and 11 Master in Church History. Moreover, 51 people received the degree of licentiate and 12 – doctor. A great number of master's degrees in theology in comparison with other faculties results in science-didactic co-operation with 20 higher theological seminaries and 3 theological institutes. There were also foreign students at the Academy, mainly from Slovakia. A general number of students (seminarians and laity) was 2234, out of whom 112 people were enrolled at postgraduate studies, and 39 at doctorate. There were 217 the Academy teachers responsible for an intellectual formation of students.

The Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow does not receive any allocation from the state funds. Needs of the Academy are great. It is sufficient to mention an urgent need for a new library building. The Academy has been fully maintained from offerings donated by the people of a good will. Material support for the Academy is provided by The Fund of the Blessed Queen Hedwig for the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow. During the academic year of 1995/1996 the Fund continued its activities which resulted in promoting the Academy and keeping in touch with a great number of benefactors by mail. Similarly as previous years the Academy popularised its activities by visiting parishes and passing on some pieces of information at Sunday Masses. It is an important field of activity, because this way many people for the first time are able to learn about an existence of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. Using this opportunity the Fund extends a sincere gratitude to all benefactors and to all who in any way show their kindness toward theological college in Cracow. For all the benefactors and kind people the Holy Masses are celebrated at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Cracow.

Rev. Jan D. Szczurek

Translated by *Rev. Joseph Matuszyński*