

SIX HUNDREDTH ACADEMIC YEAR ON THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AT THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY IN CRACOW

The Academic Year 1996/1997 was the Jubilee Year of 600th anniversary of the Faculty of Theology which came into being on February 11th, 1397 by the Pope Bonifacius IX at a request of St. Hedwig, the Queen and her husband Jagiełło. Six hundred years of history of the Faculty presents a publication issued in Cracow for the Jubilee Year entitled *Wydział Teologiczny w Krakowie 1397–1997* [*Faculty of Theology in Cracow 1397–1997*]. This article makes a presentation of the most important events of the Jubilee Year, which similarly to the previous ones – was the time of a strenuous scientific-didactic work at three existing faculties of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. Therefore a summary of this year events consists of two parts: one of them speaks on jubilee celebrations and the other one presents activities resulting from the mission of the Academy.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

For 600th anniversary of the Faculty of Theology, the Academy has been preparing itself for a long time. Preparation and organization of the Jubilee were intrusted to the Jubilee Committee by the Senate of the Academy. As a chairperson of that Committee was chosen a Deputy Vice-chancellor of the Academy Rev. Prof. Józef Makselon.

In connection with the Jubilee Year of six hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow, the Vice-chancellor along with the Senate of the Academy had sent out a notification regarding a jubilee celebration to all Catholic Colleges in the world. The notification consisted of a papal *bulła*, the document issued by the Pope Bonifacius IX: *Eximiae devotionis affectus*, establishing the Faculty of Theology in Cracow, moreover, the letter made a presentation of a brief history of the Faculty and a kind request for a spiritual unity. A great many colleges responded to that notification expressing their congratulations and good wishes.

During the Jubilee Year the following events took place: a scientific symposium on St. Hedwig, the Queen, a conference of Vice-chan-

cellors of the Catholic Colleges of Europe (FUCE) and a meeting of John Paul II with scientists.

A solemn opening of the Jubilee Year preceded, as usually, a pilgrimage of the Pontifical Academy of Theology to Our Lady's Shrine in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska situated in a vicinity of Cracow (Sept. 30, 1996). Professors along with the students of the Academy prayed for God's blessing for that special academic year, furthermore, they prayed for the Church and their Homeland to be able to serve a society with their faith and wisdom.

An official celebration of the Jubilee Year has begun with the Solemn Inauguration of an academic year attended by a considerable number of professors and students of the Academy. In addition, invited guests, delegates of theological colleges from all over Poland, vice-chancellors and professors of the colleges of Cracow, clergy and laity were partaking in that event. Inauguration consisted of the following: a celebration of the Eucharist, an inaugural speech of the Vice-chancellor of the Academy, a presentation with the award *Bene merenti*.

The Solemn Inaugural Mass was presided by the Great Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski. In a place of a homily a letter written by John Paul II, the Pope was read, delivered on this occasion. Following the Mass all the participants moved from the church to the Philharmonic Hall of Cracow where the Inauguration program was continued. In the inaugural speech the Vice-chancellor of the Academy Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś resembled a history of the Faculty emphasising its contribution in development of the Church teaching and the national culture over a period of six centuries. In a course of history a special attention deserves the last fifty years signed with the mark of a battle for survival. This battle resulted in acknowledging the Faculty of Theology and the entire college by the civil authorities on June 30, 1989. Presently, the Pontifical Academy of Theology serves the Church in Poland fulfilling her mission expressed by the motto *Euntes docete (Go and teach, Matthew 28,19)*.

To be able to celebrate such a splendid Jubilee, the Pontifical Academy of Theology owes its survival to a dedication of a great many people. The Academy expresses its appreciation by the award *Bene merenti*. During the solemn Inauguration of an academic year the following individuals were awarded the prize *Bene merenti*: a former Vice-chancellor of the Academy, presently the archbishop of Latin Rite, Lvov, Ukraine, His Excellency Prof. Marian Jaworski and a personal secretary of the Pope John Paul II, Rev. Msgr Stanisław Dziwisz. In a laudatory speech introducing a personage of the first awarded, this is to say namely the archbishop of Lvov, His Excellency Prof. Józef Życiński put emphasis on a great horiesty and a depth in

his philosophical thinking developing in a context of a constant experience of pain, whereas a laudatory speech describing a personage of Rev. Msgr Dziwisz was delivered by Rev. Prof. Jan Dyduch. He recollected Rev. Dziwisz contribution in saving life of John Paul II, his merits for the Church in Poland and the Academy and his unusual discretion.

At this point of Inauguration, opened to the invited guests, the Vice-chancellor of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow Mr Prof. Aleksander Koj read out the message expressing joy of a commonly celebrated Jubilee both the Jagiellonian University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology. Both colleges are linked not only by a personage of St. Hedwig, the Queen, but also by academic staff (a considerable number of professors and students co-operate with both colleges), by common goal (a teaching matter) and by moral community (setting high standards of teaching).

On the occasion of the solemn Inauguration of the Jubilee Academic Year the Academy has received a number of congratulation letters and telegrams. This is to say namely: a letter from the Apostolic Nuncio, His Eminence Cardinal Pio Laghi, a telegram from the Apostolic Nuncio in Poland His Excellency Archbishop Józef Kowalczyk a letter from Mr Speaker of Poland Adam Struzik and from a chairperson of the Committee of the Scientific Research.

An important event of the Jubilee Year was a symposium on St. Hedwig, the Queen entitled: *Hedwig, the Queen and the beginning of the Faculty of Theology of the Jagiellonian University*. The Symposium has been organised together with the Jagiellonian University exactly on an anniversary of foundation of the Faculty of Theology (January 10–11, 1997) and it was held in *Collegium Novum* University Hall. The Symposium was opened by His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski who in his speech emphasised lasting organisational forms and then spiritual ties between the Jagiellonian University and the Cracovian Faculty of Theology from which finally emerged the Pontifical Academy of Theology. These ties between the two colleges, although never broken despite the fact of removal of the Faculty from the University; were emphasised by the Vice-chancellor of the Jagiellonian University Prof. Aleksander Koj, in three dimensions: community of teaching, community of goals and moral community. Among the invited guests was His Excellency Archbishop José Saraiva Martins, the Secretary of the Congregation of the Catholic Education. In his welcome speech Archbishop Martins referred to the teaching of John Paul II regarding university goals, this is to say namely, a support provided to an individual in a process to reach full maturity.

The papers were read by the professors of both colleges on the following topics: Queen Hedwig, the Faculty of Theology and the begin-

ning of theology in Poland. At the closing of the Session a solemn Eucharist was celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski at Wawel Cathedral, preceded by a recitation of *Soliloquium* by Stanislaus from Skarbimierz. All speeches and lectures presented at the session (including discussion voices) could be found in the 10th volume of the *Studies to the history of the Faculty of Theology of the Jagiellonian University*.

A historical importance of the Jubilee was emphasised also at the European Forum. An annual conference of the Federation of European Catholic Universities was held in Cracow this time on April 16–19th, 1997. In this meeting participated also the Vice-chancellors and the Deans of catholic colleges from Poland and the middle-east European countries which are not members of the Federation; although, they are able to come after a downfall of the communism in central Europe. The conference was linked to the international symposium on: *The Church and society in the face of challenge of an intellectual formation. A role of catholic universities and faculties of theology*. Participation of the representatives from the former socialist block countries one may understand as giving voice to an aim of scientists, from both coasts of Europe, at dialogue to overcome divisions.

Central and the most important event of the Jubilee Year was, undoubtedly, a meeting with the Holy Father John Paul II. One of the goals of His already fifth visit to Poland was to celebrate that Jubilee as he clearly remarked in his speech at the airport in Wrocław. The meeting of the Academy staff with John Paul II consisted of two parts: the one took place during the ceremony of canonisation of the Blessed Hedwig, the Queen, the founder of the Faculty of Theology and the other one took place on the same day, during the celebration of 600th anniversary of the Faculty of Theology. The canonisation was a special event for a number of reasons. It is worthwhile to notice that the canonisation took place only six centuries after a Queen's death. Moreover, she is the first canonised ruler of Poland and, furthermore, her canonisation coincides with the Jubilee of the Faculty of Theology which she is the founder of during a canonisation Mass, the Pope in his homily emphasised the meaning of the Queen for the spiritual wealth of the Nation: "She knew, by a clarity which enlightens all of Poland until the present, that both the power of the State and the power of the Church have their source in a careful education of the nation; she knew, on the other hand, that the path to a well-being of the State, its sovereignty and its recognition in the world leads through resilient universities. Queen Hedwig realised well that faith requires understanding and culture; needless to say, that the faith forms that culture living in a space of culture" This very city of Cracow – continued the Pope – it is because of the Lady of

Wawel has become "the significant centre of thoughts, the cradle of the Polish culture and the bridge between the two: Christian West and East, making an inalienable contribution to the shape of European spirit".

The 600th Jubilee of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow with the presence of John Paul II was held at St. Anne's Academic Church in Cracow. Participants of the meeting were the Vice-chancellors of the following Polish universities and colleges: technical, medical, agricultural, pedagogic, colleges of economics, arts and colleges of this nature. Furthermore, scientists and representatives of the Polish culture countrywide were present at the meeting; in addition the delegates of the Polish Government and the members of the Parliament took part in it as well. The Senates of the Jagiellonian University and of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, both were the participants in that event. The Honourable Guest was greeted by the Vice-chancellor of the Jagiellonian University Mr Prof. Aleksander Koj. In his speech he emphasised the fact that the answer to the question regarding moral responsibility of scientists towards an awareness of society, condition of the environment and the answer to the question regarding boundaries of a biological experiment ought to be found in 600th tradition of the Faculty of Theology which characterises by clarity of moral behaviour, tolerance and willingness of service.

Following the speech delivered by the Vice-chancellor of the Jagiellonian University a presentation was made by the Vice-chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś. He recalled difficult times of the Faculty of Theology after it was expelled from the Jagiellonian University emphasising a great deal of contribution made by John Paul II, while an archbishop of Cracow at that time, who rescued its existence. He expressed, subsequently, his gratitude to John Paul II for a range of doings on account of the Pontifical Academy of Theology during recent years of its history. In appreciation the Vice-chancellor has presented the Pope with a gold medal of 600 anniversary of the Faculty of Theology. In addition, the Vice-chancellor of the Jagiellonian University has presented the Honourable Guest with the medal of the University.

John Paul II began his speech from a remark of the *motto* written on a portal of the medieval house of Jan Długosz, where the chancery of the Academy is presently located: *Nil est in homine bona mente melius*. Six hundred years of the Faculty has been traced by the care about *mens bona*, which gives a reason for joy and gratefulness to God. The presence of Vice-chancellors and Deputy Vicechancellors of the Polish Colleges at this meeting – remarked the Pope – it is a sign of being rooted in the entire Polish science which took its beginning out of foundation six centuries ago; furthermore, it is will expression in transmitting such a great spiritual heritage.

In addition, the Pope reminded that every single university is called to be a servant of the truth which has to be discovered and proclaimed among all. Man, therefore, does not create the truth; he does, however, discover it, it is because the truth is outside of him and over him. John Paul II emphasised also a social dimension of searching for the truth; it is a ministry of thinking. This ought to be the ministry of a critical thinking. Every intellectual is called to fulfil his function of a critical conscience against everything which endangers or diminishes society.

Another essential issue for a healthy science development, underlined by John Paul II, is an integral concept of a human being. "A great dispute over a person here in Poland – stated the Pope – had not come to an end at all along with a downfall of Marxist ideology. The dispute over a person is being continued; its intensity increased, however, to some extent. Forms of degradation of humans and a value of human life has become more subtle and, consequently, dangerous. What is required, therefore, is a great deal of vigilance" This is a great task and many other ones in defending dignity of human beings – noticed at a closing John Paul II – polish science has to overcome a good number of difficulties. They are parallel to those fought against by the entire nation. Despite these difficulties "there is no lack of the lights of hope"

Pope's speech has been received gratefully. Following veneration of the relics of St. John from Kęty, the professor of theology (†1473) and a prayer at his tomb, John Paul II moved to neighbouring *Collegium Maius* (the most ancient section of the Jagiellonian University) for the other point of meeting in which participated mainly students of the University and the Academy. Subsequently choirs presentation and a speech delivered by the Deputy Vice-chancellor of the University Mr Franciszek Ziejka; the Vice-chancellor of the University presented the Pope with a publication entitled: *Our eagles*, the Vice-chancellor of the Academy, however, gave Honourable Guest a jubilee volume entitled: *The Faculty of Theology 1397–1997*.

An official closing of the Jubilee Year which has linked with the solemn Inauguration of the academic year preceded a scientific symposium on: *Theology in Poland – fidelity to the past and the opening to the Council*. The Symposium has been organised by the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow and the Jagiellonian University on October 16–17, 1997. Lectures were delivered by the professors of the local University, Academy and the other catholic colleges in Poland, who lectured on the following: issues concerning the place of St. Hedwig, the Queen in the history of Poland, an input of the Faculty of Theology to the development of theology from XV to XX century and teaching of the Council Vatican II and its reception in Poland. The

closing point was the Eucharist celebrated at the Wawel Cathedral in honour of St. Hedwig, the Queen.

A solemn closing of 600th academic year as well as an inauguration of 601st one at the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology took place on October 20, 1997. Details of this event will be talked over in the next volume of our periodical.

A remarkable event of the Jubilee Year was an *honorary doctorate* given to Prof. George V. Coyne. Although it was organised the following day after a solemn closing of the Jubilee Year (October 21, 1997); it was held, nevertheless, on the occasion 600th anniversary of the Faculty. Prof. Coyne is a director of the Vatican Astronomical Observatory *Specola Vaticana*; he is, moreover, a great intercessor of a dialogue between theology and natural sciences, in particular astronomy and cosmology. It is because for this reason the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Academy had proceeded with an initiative regarding an award. The event was celebrated in a historic hall Collegium Maius, the oldest section of the Jagiellonian University recalling N. Copernicus' time. In a celebration participated the following: His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, Vice-chancellors and professors of the University, representatives of the other city colleges, the Local State Authorities, guests from Poland and abroad. The entire ceremony was conducted by the Vice-chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś. Laudatory phrases were delivered by a director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies Rev. Prof. Michał Heller. Following the *honorary doctorate* ceremonies Prof. Coyne in his lecture noticed that the process of evolution, which led to a form of human existence, was not accidental in its initial conditions. This evidence could constitute a bridge between theology and natural science.

CURRENT EVENTS

Usual didactic-scientific activities, interpreted by the Academy charter are enriched by symposia, guest lectures and honouring merited professors. Aside from the mentioned symposium on Hedwig, in addition, the other two were held: one on priesthood and the other on Union of Brześć. In Cracow on October 15–16, 1996 took place a Scientific Symposium on *Ministerial priesthood in life and teaching of John Paul II*. It has been organised by the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow on the occasion of 50th anniversary of ordination of the Holy Father. An opening word was spoken by His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the Apostolic Nuncio, however, His Excellency Archbishop Józef Kowalczyk conveyed a message wishing

all a successful debate. At the opening participated the following: bishops from other dioceses, representatives of local authorities and Cracow colleges. Moreover, in the symposium participated representatives of catholic colleges from all over Poland.

The lectures treated on various aspects of a priestly ministry of John Paul II also regarding the period of his ministry in Cracow. In the 7 working teams 27 announcements has been made in the field of Bible study, spirituality, philosophy, history of the Church, liturgy, moral theology, and pastoral theology. Following the lectures philosophical and historical issues were discussed concerning a cracovian period of Cardinal K. Wojtyła's ministry as the bishop. It has been taken note of theoretical and practical dimensions of ministerial priesthood and defects in fulfilment of Papal teaching in Poland. At the closing a solemn Mass was held at Wawel Cathedral for the intention of the Holy Father. His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski was both a main celebrant and a preacher. The symposium materials has been published in the fifth volume of *Studies* of the Faculty of Theology under a title *Kapłaństwo służebne w życiu i nauczaniu Jana Pawła II*, Kraków 1997 [*Ministerial priesthood in life and teaching of John Paul II*, Cracow 1997].

One of the sections of the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology is Inter-Religious Institute of Education conducted by the Sisters of St. Ursula. During the present year a following symposium concerning a catechism was held on: *The Sacraments of healing in the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, organised by the mentioned Institute. The Symposium was opened with Holy Eucharist celebrated by Cardinal Franciszek Macharski. As far as lectures were concerned they were delivered regarding children and adults preparation to the sacrament of reconciliation; also preparing the sick for the reception of the anointing of the sick. In addition, the lecturers focused on moral aspects regarding these sacraments.

In 1996 400 anniversary of the Union of Brześć was celebrated. On this occasion the Vice-chancellor of the Academy in co-operation with the Senate and the Faculty of the History of the Church has organised a scientific international symposium on *The Union of Brześć (1596–1996). The Past and the Present*, which was held on November 19–20, 1996, in the Hall of the Higher Theological Archdiocesan Seminary, 8 Podzamcze Street, Cracow. Before the main debate took place the Faculty of the History has presented Rev. Prof. Bolesław Kumor with *an honorary doctorate*. His lecture on an attitude of Latin Episcopate towards a matter has opened a series of lectures. The following lectures were delivered by didactic staff of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, the Jagiellonian University, the Catholic the University of Lublin, the University of Vienna and representatives of Ukrainian colleges. All of those were concerned to historical

issues and the present situation of the Union Church. The symposium materials could be found in the VI volume of studies of the Faculty of the Church History: *Textus et studia*.

The Jubilee Year of 600 anniversary of the Faculty of Theology has linked with 15th anniversary of a foundation of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow (Dec. 12, 1981). On this occasion a solemn session took place connected with an *honorary doctorate* given to Rev. Prof. Augustyn Jankowski OSB (Dec. 7, 1996). A reader Rev. Jerzy Chmiel introduced a scientific output of the Laureate celebrating his 80 birthday and 50 anniversary of his didactic work. He recalled Rev. Jankowski's merits consisted of three major domains: scientific publications on biblical theology, scientific edition of the Holy Scripture translation from original languages and his membership of the International Biblical Committee. Following the Prize presentation the Laureate has delivered a lecture on *Jesus' declarations about himself as the unique and ultimate teacher*. 15th anniversary of the Academy festivities concluded with the Holy Eucharist at Wawel Cathedral celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski.

On a manner of developing co-operation between colleges (also with civil ones) oriented towards a dialogue development between various scientific disciplines (interdisciplinary dialogue) the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies associated with the Faculty of Philosophy of the Academy together with the Institute for Computing of the Jagiellonian University have organised the fourth interdisciplinary conference on *Sense and nonsense in science and philosophy* at this time. The conference mentioned was held on May 8–9, 1997 within AFOS (Association for Foundation Language and Cognition) under a patronage of the Vice-chancellor of the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy (AGH). A presentation was made on the following issues: theory-cognition, meta-scientific and philosophical corresponding with natural sciences.

John Paul II coming up visit to Poland has become an occasion for organising a symposium entitled: *John Paul II – the Pope pilgrim*, which took place in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska (situated 36 km from Cracow) on May 5–6, 1997. The organisers were: Institute of Geography of the Jagiellonian University, Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow and St. Bernard Monastery in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. The organisers intended to honour the following events: 150 anniversary of the Department of Geography at the Jagiellonian University as the first foundation in Poland, 600 anniversary of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow and 400 anniversary of the foundation of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. Lectures were held on teaching contents of John Paul II, geography of his pilgrimages and a significance of chosen pilgrim shrines in Poland.

A worthwhile event was a scientific session organised in co-operation with the Faculty of the Church History by Historical Section of Polish Theological Association. The theme of the session was *Felix Saeculum Cracoviae. Cracovian saints in XV century*, opened by His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski putting emphasis on expected in June this year a canonisation of Blessed Hedwig, the Queen. The academic staff of the Faculty of the History of the Church, the Jagiellonian University, The Higher Pedagogical College and the Higher Theological Seminary of Minor Capuchin Brothers has presented personages of the saints who lived in Cracow in XV century: John Kanty, Simon from Lipnica, Stanislaus from Kazimierz, Isaiah Boner, Michael Giedroyć and Sventoslaus called Silentiosus (Milczęcy). It is because of their lives, activities and period of time they lived in it had deserved a historical title *Felix saeculum Cracoviae*.

An interesting form for exchanging thoughts are guests lecturers. The following lectures by international visiting professors were held during this academic year: Rev. Prof. Bernhard Casper (University of Friburg) has lectured on *Identity in no-identity of choosing responsibility for others* (Oct. 21, 1996); Prof. H. Kohlenberger (University of Salzburg, Austria) has delivered a lecture on *Tasks of theology* (May 15, 1997). D. Gruber and R Prince (USA) lectured, however, on *Theology of messianic Judaism viewed by the messianic Jews* (May 28, 1997).

In order to proceed with a scientific research there is a necessity of well operating libraries. The library of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow participates in a countrywide network projecting information exchange on the matter. This system functions as a network within the Federation of Ecclesiastical Libraries *Fides* co-operating with the International Council of the Theological Libraries Association (*Conceil International des Associations des Bibliothèques de Théologie*). A session of the Federation took place in Cracow at this time (May 13, 1997), it is because of 600th anniversary of the Faculty of Theology. Rev. Jan Bednarczyk, D.D. a director of the Library of the Pontifical Academy of Theology hosted of the meeting; the Vice-chancellor of the Academy Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, however, has delivered his address to the invited guests.

Similarly to other colleges also the Pontifical Academy of Theology ought to have an access to a wide range of information. It could be done easily through a computer communication network: *Internet*. An important event for the Academy was an installation and activation of a computer network junction. In spite of that several institutions being included in the structure of the Academy through *Cyfronet* (Computer Academic Centre in Cracow) are directly connected with *Internet*. A solemn activation of a junction took place at the Vice-chancellors's office on June 26, 1997. A chairperson of the meeting

was the Vice-chancellor of the Academy Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, who also express his gratitude. A speech, however, was delivered by an engineer Prof. Marian Noga. Furthermore, the blessing of the equipment was given by His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski. Employees of the *Cyfronet* and the Academy were the participants in that event.

A manifestation of development of the Academy are evident by coming into being new institutions. In a period of a said academic year on March 17, 1997 the Senate of the Academy has formed new departments: at the Faculty of Theology – the department of missiology within a specialisation in practical theology. In addition, at the Faculty of the Church History – the department of social history of the Church and history of Christian cult. Moreover on January 27, 1997 the Senate brought into being the Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies of Pro-Family Education.

Scientific Publishing House of Pontifical Academy of Theology has issued 3 publications this year, a series on *Studies to the history of the Faculty of Theology of the Jagiellonian University*, 5 post doctorate dissertations, 9 doctorate deeds and 11 books, to which belongs mentioned earlier *Jubilee Book*. Furthermore, a pre-war periodical of the Faculty of Theology entitled *Polonia Sacra* has been reissued (the first issue is now available). Moreover, the third volume of a periodical of the Faculty of the History of the Church *Folia Historica Cracoviensia* has been published. Commemorating 600th anniversary of the Faculty of Theology, however, editorial staff of *Analecta Cracoviensia* dedicates the following 29th volume to its Faculty.

Didactic activities of the Academy last year resulted in number of titles and degrees. 514 students has obtained Master in Theology, 4 of them received Master in Philosophy and 10 Master in Church History. Moreover, 62 received the degree of licentiate and 21– doctor. In addition, 9 post doctorate dissertations has been completed and 4 academic teachers was appointed professors. A great number of master's degrees in theology in comparison with other faculties results in scientificdidactic co-operation with 20 Higher Theological Seminaries and 3 Theological Institutes. There were also foreign students at the Academy, among which the majority from the former Easter block countries, particularly the priests from Slovakia. A general number of students (seminarians, laity, postgraduate and licentiate-doctorate) was 1974, out of whom 118 students were enrolled at postgraduate studies. There were 141 Academy employees, professors and academic teachers, responsible for an intellectual formation of students.

Apart from an intellectual formation Academy offers a spiritual formation to the laity students which is a responsibility of Academic Pastoral Ministry for Laity. Students of all the Faculties have possibilities to participate in an organised Lenten retreat, frequent confe-

rences and prayer group meetings. Moreover, students of every year and Faculty have their own spiritual directors and a possibility meeting with them on a regular basis. The spiritual directors are on duties in a confessional at St. Mark the Evangelist's Church designed as an academic church of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. Furthermore, a pastoral ministry for graduates continued its activities in two groups which meet regularly 2–4 times a year.

In 1997 three-year term of college authorities has drawn to a close. In June took place an election for deputies vice-chancellor, deans, deputies dean and delegates to the Senate. As deputies vice-chancellor the following readers were elected: Rev. Jerzy Chmiel and Rev. Łukasz Kamykowski. The following, however, were elected deans for the appropriate Faculties: a reader Rev. Wojciech Życiński SDB – Faculty of Theology, Rev. Prof. Józef Tischner – Faculty of Philosophy and a reader Rev. Janusz Wycisło – Faculty of Church History.

An important event for the Academy is undoubtedly the fact that during the Jubilee Year was passed a bill accepted by the Sejm of the Republic of Poland by the resolution on June 26, 1997 concerning a financial project for the Pontifical Academy of Theology to be financed from the national budget. The bill will come to an effect on January 1, 1998 improving significantly its financial status. From the beginning of its foundation the Academy did not received any allocation from the public funds; moreover, it was several times persecuted by civil authorities. The only means allowing to maintain college operation were offerings donated by the people of a good will. The mentioned bill is unable to solve all of the financial problems of the Academy, it is because the provided subsidies do not include capital expenditures. Meanwhile, there is an urgent need for a new library building and some other structures. Donations are still necessary for extending Academy facilities.

Financial support for the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow is provided by the Foundation of St. Hedwig, the Queen which results in activities promoting the Academy operation based on making visits to parishes by its representatives, making presentations on college history and its didactic-scientific achievements at Sunday Masses. This way a considerable number of people for the first time are able to learn about an existence of the Academy and ways of support. Using this opportunity the board of Foundation extends its gratitude to all benefactors for their support, kindness and willingness of helping. For all benefactors the Holy Eucharist is celebrated at St. Mark the Evangelist's Church in Cracow.

Rev. Jan D. Szczurek

Translated by: Rev. Joseph Matuszyński