

BETWEEN TWO JUBILEES

Academic years 1997–1999

at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow

This article discusses the period between two jubilees: for the Sixth Centenary of the foundation of the Faculty of Theology and the Sexcentenary of the death of its Foundress Saint Queen Jadwiga, which falls on 17 July 1999. The most important events held during this period were the ‘renewal’ of the doctorate of John Paul II and the election of a new rector of the Academy.

The 50th anniversary of the conferment of Doctor’s Degree is solemnly celebrated both at the Jagiellonian University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow. The anniversary of the conferment of John Paul II’s Doctor’s Degree fell on 16 December 1998. On that occasion the Senates of the Jagiellonian University and of the Pontifical Academy of Theology met in *Collegium Maius* (the oldest aula of the Jagiellonian University dating from the beginning of the 15th century). The anniversary of conferment was celebrated jointly by these two institutions of higher education as fifty years ago the Faculty of Theology was a part of the Jagiellonian University. After its removal from the Jagiellonian University by the Communist regime in 1954, the Faculty, thanks to the efforts of the Metropolitan of Cracow Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, existed as an independent institution. After Cardinal Wojtyła’s succession to the Apostolic See, two faculties were added (Philosophy and Church History) to the Faculty of Theology, thus founding the Pontifical Academy of Theology in 1981. At the beginning of the celebration the Rector of the Jagiellonian University Professor Aleksander Koj welcomed the guests, including among them the Metropolitan of Cracow, Franciszek Cardinal Macharski. The next speaker was Rev. Prof. Łukasz Kamykowski, the vice-rector and professor of fundamental theology at the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, who delivered a paper entitled ‘Karol Wojtyła – Pope John Paul II – Theologian: Threads resulting from the study of the works of St. John of the Cross’. The second paper entitled ‘The essence and message of philosophy in the light of the Holy Father’s encyclical *Fides et ratio*’ was

given by Professor Władysław Stróżewski, professor of philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University. Both speakers brought to our attention the Pope's contribution to the development of theology and his expectations in relation to philosophy. After the papers had been delivered Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, Rector of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, proposed a project of a resolution to 'renew' the Doctor's Degree of Fr. Karol Wojtyła on its 50th anniversary of conferment. The resolution was passed by acclamation. The adoption of this resolution by both Cracow institutions of higher education was an expression of recognition of the extraordinary moral authority of the Pope and his great role in the history of the Polish nation as well his contribution to the development of theology and philosophy. At the same time both schools expressed their gratitude for a unique witness to truth and faith which John Paul II bears in his teaching and life. The text of the resolution was handed to John Paul II during his meeting with the rectors of institutions of higher education in Toruń on 7 June 1999, on the occasion of the anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' birth.

The major event of the years 1997 to 1999 was also the 600th anniversary of the death of Saint Queen Jadwiga, foundress of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow. A solemn Mass to celebrate the anniversary was held in the Wawel Cathedral on 17 July 1999, presided by Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Metropolitan Bishop of Cracow. A large number of youths (scouts and members of the 'Light-Life Movement', its patroness being Saint Jadwiga) and inhabitants of Cracow gathered for the Mass. Representatives of the authorities of the Pontifical Academy of Theology as well as its faculty members and students participated in the celebration. In his homily the Cardinal mentioned the process of the Queen's canonisation, emphasizing the resulting theological conclusions important to contemporary man. The celebration closed with a prayer at the relics of the Patroness of our Academy.

Undoubtedly, the election of a rector is an important event for the academic community of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, former General Secretary of the Polish Bishops' Conference, was elected as rector on 25 May 1998. He assumed the duties of Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, who had performed the function for two terms (1992–1998).

Another important event was connected with the relationships between the Roman Catholic Church and the State. The agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Bishops' Conference, concerning the legal status of institutions of higher education founded and run by the Catholic Church, was signed on 1 July 1999. The agreement recognizes academic degrees conferred by the Pontifical Academy of Theology and other ecclesiastical insti-

tutions of higher education. Thus the question of the above-mentioned degrees has been finally solved and expired the agreement from 29 June 1989.

The academic year 1997/98 began with the traditional pilgrimage to the Marian sanctuary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska on 30 September. Before the Eucharist Rev. Prof. Jan Dudziak delivered a paper entitled 'Searching for the truth in academic studies'. The solemn Eucharist was presided by Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś. The homily was delivered by Rev. Dr. Jacek Ryłko. Among the participants of the pilgrimage there were students of the Academy: seminarians, nuns and laymen. The academic year 1998/99 began in a similar way. Rev. Dr. Stanisław Budzik gave a speech on 'Mary and the trinitarian aspect of the Jubilee of redemption'. A solemn Mass was presided by Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, Rector of the Academy. The homily was delivered by Rev. Jacek Waligóra, Rector of the Theological Seminary of the Capuchin Fathers.

The solemn close of the Jubilee Year and beginning of the 601st academic year took place on 20 October 1997. On this occasion Pope John Paul II sent a telegram in which he gave thanks to God for the Jubilee of Sixcentenary of the foundation of the Faculty of Theology and the canonisation of the Blessed Queen Jadwiga. He also expressed his joy at meeting representatives of Polish science and culture on the occasion of the Jubilee. Referring to the motto of the Academy 'Euntes docete' John Paul II mentioned the new evangelization on the threshold of the Great Jubilee of Year 2000. The Pontifical Academy of Theology has also been carried out the work of new evangelization. The inauguration ceremony consisted of four parts: Holy Mass in St. Anne's collegiate church, the inaugural speech of the Rector, the conferment of the *bene merenti* medals and solemn students' oath. The inaugural Mass was presided by the Grand Chancellor Franciszek Cardinal Macharski. He also delivered a homily in which he stressed that the Pontifical Academy of Theology wanted to carry the burden of the ethos of science with the Jagiellonian University. After the Mass the participants went for the remaining parts of the celebration to the Cracow Philharmonic Hall. In the rector's speech Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś expressed *Deo gratias* for the gift of the Jubilee and canonisation of Blessed Queen Jadwiga, which occurred in the Jubilee Year of the Faculty of Theology. He also thanked God for other important events of the Jubilee Year, especially the meeting with John Paul II in St. Anne's collegiate church. Referring to the name of the Academy the Rector said that the adjective 'pontifical' meant fidelity to the Magisterium and the adjective 'theological' – the duty to search solutions of political, social and cultural problems in the light of God's Revelation. In the last part of the celebration the medals *bene merenti* were conferred on Professor Jerzy Wyrozumski,

from the Jagiellonian University, and two professors from the Pontifical Academy of Theology: Rev. Prof. Aleksander Usowicz and Rev. Prof. Stanisław Grzybek. In the last part, representatives of students took the oath and they were given logbooks (*indeks*).

As an expression of gratitude for the various forms of help offered to Polish Bible scholars, the Senate of the Pontifical Academy of Theology awarded a medal *bene merenti* to Rev. Prof. Heinz Schürmann from Erfurt, Germany. The celebration was held in Erfurt on 4 December 1998 on the occasion of 85th birthday and 60th anniversary of his ordination. The medal was conferred by Rev. Prof. Jerzy Chmiel, vice-rector of the Academy. The other participants of the celebration were: Most. Rev. Joachim Wanke, Bishop of Erfurt (a Bible scholar and former student of the Professor), students and friends from various academic centres in Germany.

The programme of the inauguration of the academic year 1998/99 was similar to the previous one. The inauguration was conducted on 20 October 1998 with Most Rev. Wiktor Skworc, Bishop of Tarnów, presiding the solemn Eucharist in St. Anne's collegiate church. He also delivered a homily. The Rector of the Academy Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek began the second part of the inauguration in the Philharmonic Hall. Then he awarded the medals *bene merenti* to Rev. Prof. Bolesław Przybyszewski and Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Wojciechowski. After the immatriculation of students Professor Franciszek Ziejka of the Jagiellonian University delivered an inaugural lecture on the longest struggle of the Polish nation. The ceremony closed with an organ recital by Krzysztof Lebiest.

On 8 December 1997, the anniversary of the foundation of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, a ceremony was held to award the medal 'Meritorious for the Academy' to eleven illustrious academics, in St. Mark's church in Cracow. The Eucharist was presided by Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, Rector of the Academy, and the homily was delivered by Rev. Prof. Wojciech Życiński, S.D.B., Dean of the Faculty of Theology.

The anniversary of foundation of the Faculty of Theology was in accordance with tradition celebrated at the Wawel Cathedral on 10 January 1998. After Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, Rector of the Academy, had welcomed the congregation (cathedral chapter, guests, academics and students), Rev. Prof. Augustyn Jankowski, O.S.B., delivered a lecture on the idea of two temples of the Holy Spirit in the teaching of St. Paul. After the lecture a solemn Mass was presided by Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Grand Chancellor of the Academy. Afterwards there were prayers at the Wawel Crucifix and the relics of Saint Queen Jadwiga, foundress of the Faculty of Theology. On 11 January 1999, the next anniversary of the foundation, was a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the conferment of doc-

tors' degrees on Bishop Stanisław Smoleński, bishop emeritus of the Cracow Archdiocese, and on Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Wojciechowski. The ceremony resembled the already mentioned jubilee of John Paul II. The Rector of the Academy welcomed Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, guests and students. Bishop Smoleński was not able to attend the ceremony. Rev. Prof. Wojciechowski expressed his gratitude for the celebration and in a short lecture he presented a synthesis of his ideas on the evolution of mankind. Then all the participants went to the Wawel Cathedral where Franciszek Cardinal Macharski presided a solemn Eucharist commemorating Saint Queen Jadwiga.

The fruit of the didactic and scientific activities of the Academy is the conferment of the Doctor's Degree and professors' nominations. The ceremony for the conferment is held annually on the feast of bishop and martyr, St. Stanisław. Franciszek Cardinal Macharski participated, as usual, in the ceremony for conferment of doctors' degrees on 8 May 1998 in St. Anne's collegiate church in Cracow. Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, Rector of the Academy, began the ceremony with a speech. After his introductory remarks the act of conferment was read and then the conferred academics took the doctor's oath. The Doctors' Degrees (in theological sciences) were conferred on 13 people and the Doctors' Degrees in humanities (philosophy) were conferred on four people. The titles of the habilitated doctor (senior research fellows of pre-professorial rank) in theological sciences were conferred on eight people and in humanities (philosophy) – on two people. Three academics were nominated for docents at the Faculty of Theology, and at the Faculty of Church History – one person. One person got the nomination for professor at the Faculty of Theology. The Grand Chancellor closed the ceremony for the conferment by giving thanks to God's Providence for the gift of academic conferments.

The ceremony for the conferment on 8 May 1999 was conducted in a similar way, with the participation of Franciszek Cardinal Macharski. In his speech Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, Rector of the Academy, stressed the fact that this year's scientific research yielded abundant fruits as evidenced by the number of doctor's degrees. After the Rector's speech the act of conferment was read and the conferred academics took the doctor's oath. Doctor's degrees were conferred on 23 scholars (including four from Slovakia). The titles of *doctor habilitatus* were conferred on three academics and the title of professor – one scholar. On this occasion it is worth mentioning that within the last two years masters' degrees have been awarded to about 1,400 graduates at the three faculties of the Academy.

The Pontifical Academy of Theology is not a state institution of higher education. Therefore, the already conferred degrees and scientific titles need to be accepted by state authorities. An appropriate procedure was defined in "The Agreement Between the Government of

the Republic of Poland and Polish Bishops' Conference concerning the regulation of the status of pontifical higher education institutions and the order and scope of recognition, by the State, of degrees and scientific titles conferred by these institutions', signed on 29 June 1989 (see above the agreement from 1 July 1999). Unfortunately, the agreement was not carried out, the result being that degrees and titles conferred by the Pontifical Academy of Theology were not formally recognised by the Ministry of National Education and by other state schools. The fact was unknown to the rectorial authorities of the pontifical institutions of higher education in Poland. When this was revealed, Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, Rector of the Academy, spared no efforts to fill the existing gap. He managed to work out some course of action to recognise the degrees of habilitated doctors and titles of professors, which had already been conferred. Consequently, these degrees and scientific titles at the faculties of the Academy could be published in the official register of degrees and titles, conferred in state institutions of higher education.

Honorary doctors' degrees serve to underline the relationships between universities and strengthen contacts between various academic circles. An expression of such a relationship is the honorary doctor's degree which was conferred on Rev. Prof. Herman Józef Pottmeyer, professor of fundamental theology at the Faculty of Theology of the Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany. The honorary degree was conferred by the Faculty of Theology of our Academy. The ceremony was held on 23 June 1998 in the House of Długosz (the Rector's office) in the presence of Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Grand Chancellor of the Academy. The laudatory speech for Rev. Prof. Pottmeyer was delivered by Archbishop Prof. Marian Jaworski who presented Rev. Prof. Pottmeyer's scholarly achievements and merits for the Church. He also emphasised his contribution to the co-operation between the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the Ruhr University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow. In his lecture Rev. Prof. Pottmeyer concentrated on the tasks of theology and its message in the context of postmodernism and globalization as well the significance of co-operation between academic institutions in order to overcome the effects of Europe's division.

An important question for contemporary science and culture is the relationship between natural sciences, especially astronomy, on the one hand and theological sciences on the other. In this field the achievements of Professor George Coyne, S.J., director of the Vatican Astronomical Observatory (*Specola Vaticana*), are unparalleled. The Pontifical Academy of Theology conferred the honorary degree on Professor Coyne in acknowledgement of his achievements. The ceremony was conducted in the *Collegium Maius* building of the Jagiellonian University, in the hall dating back to the times of Nicolaus Coperni-

cus, on 21 October 1998. Among the guests there were Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Grand Chancellor of the Academy, Professor Aleksander Koj, Rector of the Jagiellonian University and representatives of local authorities. Rev. Prof. Michał Heller, director of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Academy, gave a laudatory speech. He focused on the problem of the nature of human person and evolution in the light of the Catholic doctrine, paying special attention to the history of dialogue between science and faith.

The honorary doctor's degree was conferred on Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, Rector of the Academy, by the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, as an expression of international recognition of achievements of the Pontifical Academy of Theology and its faculty members. The decision (11 February 1998) of the Council of the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the Ruhr University expressed its appreciation of the diversified contribution of Rev. Prof. Kubiś to the development of scholarly links between the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the Ruhr University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology, as well as his scientific achievements in the field of theology. The ceremony for the conferment was held in Bochum on 20 January 1999. Further details concerning the ceremony are presented in the theological part of the present volume.

The latest academic problems are discussed during various symposia organised at the faculties of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. A symposium on theology in Poland, its past and future, was held on 16–17 October 1997 in the *Collegium Novum* building of the Jagiellonian University. The symposium was to celebrate the close of the Sixcentenary of foundation of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow. The opening speech at the symposium was delivered by Franciszek Cardinal Macharski and the introduction – Professor Aleksander Koj, Rector of the Jagiellonian University. Papers were delivered by academics from the Pontifical Academy of Theology, the Jagiellonian University and other academic institutions. The symposium closed with Mass in the Cathedral presided by Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, Rector of the Academy.

The question of the plurality of religion and the attitude of Christianity towards this fact becomes more and more a subject of research. It was the focus of another symposium on the universality of Christianity and the plurality of religion. The symposium was organised jointly by the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow and the Theological Institute in Tarnów on 14–15 April 1999. The sessions on the first day were held in Tarnów and sessions on the second day in Cracow. Academics of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, the Jagiellonian University and other academic institutions presented various papers. Among the speakers there was

also Rev. Prof. Józef Niewiadomski from the Faculty of Theology of the University in Innsbruck, Austria. The subjects of the papers were chosen to present the central truth that "outside the Church there is no salvation" (*extra Ecclesiam nulla salus*) from many different aspects: biblical, historical and theological. The universalistic aims of Judaism and Islam were also presented.

The Institute of Liturgy, which has already existed for 30 years, is a part of the Faculty of Theology. Its anniversary was celebrated at a symposium on 'Canonisations and the new evangelization', which was held on 8–9 May 1998 in the *Centrum Resurrectionis* of the Resurrectionist Fathers in Cracow. The symposium was an expression of gratitude to John Paul II for the gift of canonisation and beatification of Polish saints and the blessed, especially for the canonisation of the Blessed Queen Jadwiga. The symposium also reflected on the application of the gift of the new saints and blessed in our times. The symposium closed with a solemn Mass concelebrated by Franciszek Cardinal Macharski and two Lithuanian bishops: Most Rev. J. Tunaitis and Most Rev. Žemaitis, as well as Bishop W. Ziemia and Bishop Prof. Waław Świerzawski, director of the Institute of Liturgy. Rev. Prof. S. Czerwik gave a homily. *Te Deum laudamus* was solemnly sang during the Mass.

The Institute of Canon Law, which had been founded in the academic year 1997/98 at the Faculty of Theology, organised a symposium on the concordat between the Apostolic See and the Republic of Poland, signed on 28 July 1993 and ratified on 8 January 1998 by the *Sejm*, and on 22 January 1998 by the Senate. The symposium was held on 13 March 1998. Amongst the speakers were Professor Andrzej Mączyński, a member of the Constitutional Tribunal, and Professor Andrzej Zoll, former chairman of the Tribunal. The presented papers focused on the issues concerning civil recognition of marriages contracted in the Catholic Church and other religious communities, the relationships between the State and the Church and between Poland and the Vatican.

The exchange of scientific information, which is developing rapidly, raise questions about the unity of the world as well as the unity of science. These issues were discussed during the Fifth Cracow Methodology Conference organised by the Interdisciplinary Research Centre at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Academy and the Institute of Computer Science of the Jagiellonian University. The conference was held on 6–8 May 1998 in the Aula of *Collegium Novum*. The conference was held under the patronage of the Minister of National Education, with papers being delivered by university professors from all of Poland.

The Interdisciplinary Research Centre, together with the Vatican Astronomical Observatory, organised an international conference on

the interaction between mind and brain (the title was *Mind and Brain*). The symposium was held in Pasierbiec on 21–27 April 1998. Among the participants of the conference there were many outstanding professors and specialists in disciplines like neurology, psychiatry, philosophy and theology. The exchange of scientific information between these fields of learning facilitates the growth of the unity of science.

Full learning embraces not only the existing world and mankind but also the past. For it is the knowledge of the past that helps to understand the present and to foresee the future. The Faculty of Church History aims at enriching the knowledge of the past. The following scientific conferences were to serve this purpose. A symposium on the forms of the cult of St. Adalbert, bishop and martyr, and on the Chapel of Our Lady (*Matki Bożej Piaskowej*) in the Carmelite Church in Cracow, was held on 10 December 1997. It was organised by the Department of History of Sacred Art. The papers were delivered by academics of the Faculty of Church History and the Jagiellonian University. A session on the Polish part of Spiš (region east of Tatra) in culture, tradition and literature was held on 11 March 1998. It was organised by the Historical Circle at the Faculty of Church History. The Faculty of Philosophy of the Society of Jesus in Cracow and the Faculty of Church History organised a session on the history of the Jesuits. It was held on 13 May 1998 in the building of the Academy at 1 Franciszkańska Street.

Alongside the Catholic majority in Cracow there are communities belonging to other denominations. The Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue focuses on ecumenical dialogue. It organised, together with the Cracow branch of the Polish Ecumenical Council, a symposium on reconciliation as the gift of God and the source of new life. The symposium, held on 13 March 1998, consisted of three parts. The liturgical part was held in the chapel of the Orthodox Church. The second part, which focused on the reconciliation between the nations of Poland, Germany and Ukraine, was held in the parish house of the Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession. The main theme of the third part was reconciliation between Churches.

Ecumenism is not only a problem for theologians but very often a problem existing in families. The question of mixed marriages was discussed at the session organised by the Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue and the Cracow branch of the Polish Ecumenical Council on 10 March 1999. The question of mixed marriages was presented from points of view of various Churches: Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Reformed, Lutheran, Methodist and Polish Catholic. The discussions were theoretical. Therefore, it was decided

to organise a future meeting which would aim at sharing experiences of people in mixed relationships.

The Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue together with the Austrian General Consulate in Cracow and several other institutions organised a symposium entitled *Spirit and Bread*. It was held on 13–14 June 1998. The theme of the sessions on the first day was the spirit of unity, love and truth and on the second day – reconciliation between Churches. There were also participants from Holland and Austria. Workshops, with around 30 participants, were organised during the symposium.

The Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue was also a co-organiser of the Final Conference of the Mobility Joint European Project: *Student Mobility for the Study of Religious Interaction: Christianity – Judaism – Islam*. There were five universities involved in the project, namely the Jagiellonian University, the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, the University of Heidelberg, Germany, the University of Turin and the University of Udine, Italy. The conference was held in the Interdisciplinary Department of the History and Culture of the Jews in Poland on 19 July 1998. The aim of the conference was to sum up the experiences of the student exchange between the universities in question, the evaluation of the student exchange and final conclusions. The highlight of the conference was the lecture of Professor J. Zwi Werblowski from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, entitled 'How does the study of the Bible affect the mutual relationships of Jews, Christians and Muslims'. The students who participated in the *Tempus* project were also present at the conference.

Dialogue with Judaism is one of the main research topics in the Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue. The day of Judaism, which was celebrated in the Catholic Church in Cracow on 25 January 1999, was a significant event in the development of the dialogue. It was organised by the Institute and the Jesuits in Cracow. The theme was the value of prayer as seen by followers of the Mosaic religion and by Catholics. The meeting was enhanced by singing of Hebrew psalms. On 23 April 1999, within the framework of the dialogue with Judaism, there was also a lecture of a visiting rabbi Dow Marmur, professor of St. Michael's College in Toronto, on Jews' knowledge on the land of Israel.

The development of interdenominational dialogue depends on a considerable extent on education of the young generation. Ecumenical retreat for the youth is a form of education. The retreat was worked out by the Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue and the Ecumenical Centre 'Joannicum' in Warsaw and held in the Retreat House in Laski near Warsaw on 4–8 February 1999.

The widely discussed question of euthanasia was the subject of the symposium organised by the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the Society of Friends of 'Hospice' in Cracow on 6–7 May 1999. The participants included representatives of numerous hospices and palliative medical centres. The symposium focused on psychological, sociological, medical and theological problems concerning terminal diseases.

Within the framework of international co-operation the Pontifical Academy of Theology participated in organising an international symposium on the cult of Saint James, which was held in the monastery of the Resurrectionist Fathers on 1 April 1998. The Pontifical Academy of Theology was the host of this symposium whereas the main organiser was the Community of St. James in Aachen, Germany (*Sant-Jakobus Gesellschaft – Aachen*). The Catholic University of Lublin also had a share in this event. On the occasion of the symposium there was also a meeting in the Rector's office between Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Professor Aleksander Koj, Rector of the Jagiellonian University and representatives of the Cracow authorities.

The international conference of the Society of Biblical Literature was held in Cracow on 18–22 July 1998. (It was organised by the Society.) Rev. Prof. Jerzy Chmiel greeted the participants on behalf of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. He also awarded Prof. K. H. Richards, chairman of the conference, a medal commemorating 600 years of existence of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow.

Visiting lectures are a traditional form of academic contacts. In the years 1997 to 1999 the following visiting professors delivered lectures at the Faculty of Theology. Rev. Prof. A. Wolanin S.J., Dean of the Faculty of Missiology of the Gregorian University in Rome, spoke on evangelising other cultures (4 December 1997). Rev. Prof. M. Knapp from the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the Ruhr University of Bochum delivered a lecture on reincarnation and resurrection (30 June 1998). Another professor of the same Faculty, Irmgard Pahl, spoke about the Passover vigil as mother of all vigils (30 April 1999). The Auxiliary Bishop of Vienna, Helmut Krätzel, gave a talk on the Church in changing social conditions and needs of her constant *aggiornamento* (14 May 1999). The Austrian Consulate in Cracow was a co-organiser of the last lecture.

The following professors visited the Faculty of Philosophy. Professor H. Kohlenberger from Salzburg, Austria, spoke on the "Babylonian exile of university" (*Von der babilonischen Gefangenschaft der Universität*) (11 May 1998). Professor P. Ricoeur focused on the reflection of the religious aspect of man. His lecture was held on 17 June 1998 in the John Paul II Institute at 18 Kanonicza Street. Professor E.-W. Böckenförde delivered two lectures on law and freedom

(*Rechtschafft Freiheit, indem es Grenzen setzt*) and on directions of Europe's development (*Welchen Weg geht Europa?*). The lectures were held on 15 May 1998 and were organised by the Faculty of Philosophy, the Goethe Institute in Cracow and the Publishing House 'Znak'.

The lecture delivered by Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, attracted special attention. Cardinal Ratzinger was invited by Cardinal Macharski and rectors of the Jagiellonian University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology. The lecture was held in the Aula of the Collegium Medicum, building of the Jagiellonian University, on 19 April 1999. The subject of the lecture in German was faith as help in searching the truth in the light of John Paul's encyclical *Fides et ratio* (*Die Einheit des Glaubens und die Vielfalt der Kulturen. Reflexionen im Anschluss an die Enzyklika 'Fides et ratio'*). The Cardinal stressed, amongst other things, the dangers resulting from relativization of truth and Christianity. He reminded us that the encyclical warned philosophers against self-destruction occurring when one rejects questions about truth, essence of man, sense of life and existence of God. The audience included not only students and academics of the Jagiellonian University and of the Academy but also journalists, representatives of the local authorities, and of the world of culture.

Libraries with efficient service are necessary for research. The Library of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow is involved in creating a national system of information exchange. This system is being developed within the Federation of Church Libraries *Fides*, which co-operates with the International Council of the Association of Theological Libraries (*Conceil International des Associations des Bibliothèques de Théologie*). On 12–18 September 1998 the General Assembly of the International Council of the Associations of Theological Libraries (*Assemblée Générale du Conceil International des Associations des Bibliothèques de Théologie*) was held in Cracow. The meeting was held in Cracow because of the Sixth Centenary Jubilee of the foundation of the Faculty of Theology. The participants of the conference had a meeting with the Rector of the Academy, Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek and other representatives of the Academy's authorities. The Library of the Pontifical Academy of Theology continues the development of its catalogues on the basis of the VTLS system. The catalogue as a data base is available on the Internet. In February 1998 the Library gained access to the Centre for Formats and Authority Files in Warsaw, to which one can add his own authority files. Almost 2,000 regular readers make use of the collections in the Library. However, activities of the Library are limited due to the lack of appropriate space. Therefore, a new building on the new Jagiellonian University Campus is projected.

The Saint Queen Jadwiga Fund for the Pontifical Academy of Theology provides financial means for the Academy's activities. Although since 1 January 1998 the Academy has received allocations from the Polish State budget, these do not cover all expenses but only didactic expenses and material support for students. All other expenses including the development of new premises need to be covered from other sources. Therefore, the Fund popularises the activities of the Academy by visiting parishes and presenting the history and scholarly achievements of the Academy at Sunday Masses. Thus many people learn for the first time about the existence of the Academy and ways to help it. Taking this opportunity the Board of the Fund extends sincere gratitude to all benefactors for their support, kindness and readiness to help. For all benefactors Holy Masses are celebrated at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Cracow.

Fr. Jan Daniel Szczurek

Translated by Maria Kantor