

THE LAST YEAR OF THE MILLENNIUM
Academic Year 1999/2000
at the Pontifical Academy of Theology

A tradition has been established to begin each academic year with a pilgrimage to the Marian Sanctuary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. The new academic year 1999/2000 was no exception and the pilgrimage took place on Sep. 30. Before Holy Mass Rev. Prof. Jan Machnik delivered a paper entitled „Spirituality of St. Queen Jadwiga”. Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, the rector of the Academy, offered a solemn Mass. The homily was delivered by Rev. Dr. Eligiusz Dymowski, O.F.M. Conv., the rector of the Franciscan Seminar in Cracow. The pilgrimage ended with the participants taking part in the Way of the Cross held on the calvary paths in the open. The pilgrims were students of the Academy: seminarists of the diocesan and monastic seminars of Cracow, nuns and lay Catholics.

The Institute of Canon Law at the Faculty of Theology began its activities in the academic year 1999/2000. The Institute, which was established by the Holy See on Jan. 1, 1999, has a right to confer a degree of Canon Law Licentiate, which entitles the holder to apply for all assignments at church court as well as church administration. The candidates have to complete basic theological studies and possess the degree of a Master of Arts in Theology. The course of studies lasts two years. Licentiatehip in canon law entitles the holder to continue the studies in order to achieve the degree of a Doctor of Theology.

On Oct. 20, 1999 a solemn opening of the 603rd academic year took place. Pope John Paul II sent a telegram in which he referred to the 600th anniversary of the death of St. Queen Jadwiga (Jul. 17, 1999). The Pope recalled the words he spoke in St. Anne's collegiate church during his meeting with Polish scientists on June 8, 1997, in which he expressed his appreciation for the understanding of the Queen, the nature of theology and the role it plays. The Pope included his best wishes for the Jagiellonian University, which celebrated the Sexcentenary of its revival.

The inauguration ceremony consisted of four parts: Holy Mass in St. Anne's church, the inaugural address of the rector of the Academy, students' oath and the inaugural lecture. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Dr. Józef Kowalczyk, the Apostolic Nuncio. In his homily he referred to the meeting of Pope John Paul II with Polish

scientists in St. Anne's church on June 8, 1997, stressing the deep concern the Pope shows over scientific research and discoveries. The Archbishop pointed out that the Pontifical Academy faces great challenges both in the research and didactic spheres.

After the Mass the participants went to the Cracow Philharmonic Hall, where the inauguration ceremony was continued. In his rector address Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek outlined the condition and development of the Academy, and made a mention of the fact that new theology faculties are founded in Poland. He informed the participants that on Jan. 4, 1999 the Holy See established the Institute of Canon Law at the Theology Faculty of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. On July 1, 1999 an agreement between the Polish government and the Episcopate was signed making the Academy students eligible for scientific and social scholarships. Finally, the rector mentioned the planned construction of a library building, which will be an important event in the life of the Academy.

After the rector's address the first year students of all three faculties took a solemn oath and then Professor Jerzy Wyrozumski of the Jagiellonian University had an inaugural lecture entitled: „Spiritual Heritage of St. Queen Jadwiga”. The performance of the choir of the Pontifical Academy of Theology conducted by Włodzimierz Siedlik nicely complemented the whole ceremony.

The memory of St. Jan Kanty, a professor of theology in Cracow (who died in 1473), is dear to all Academy scholars. Therefore, each year Academy professors, other employees and students as well as representatives of other universities pay a tribute to the academics' patron saint. This year the ceremony took place on Oct. 24, 1999 during the Mass celebrated by Rev. Prof. Jerzy Chmiel, at which Rev. Prof. W. Murawiec, O.F.M. Bern., delivered a homily.

The signing of a document on justification by the World Lutheran Federation and the Roman Catholic Church, which took place on Oct. 31, 1999, was an important ecumenical event. On this occasion the Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue at the Pontifical Academy of Theology organised a debate on justification, which was held on Nov. 5, 1999. The history of Catholic-Lutheran dialogue was presented by Rev. Prof. Stanisław Celestyn Napiórkowski, O.F.M. Conv., from the Catholic University of Lublin, whereas Rev. Dr. Rajmund Porada showed the main ideas of Catholic-Lutheran adjustment. In the discussion, led by Rev. Prof. Łukasz Kamykowski, participated Catholic and Lutheran theology scholars and pastors of the Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession.

The long-lasting co-operation of scholars of Cracow and Tarnów has taken on a new form. The Senate of the Academy at its session of Nov. 8, 1999 founded the Faculty of Theology in the place of the Institute of Theology in Tarnów.

Cracow has long fostered a tradition of prayers offered for the late academics of all institutions of higher education in the city. A solemn Mass offered for the late academics was celebrated on Oct. 22, 1999 by the vice-dean of the Faculty of Theology, Rev. Prof. S. Koperrek, C.R., who also delivered a homily.

Each year the Academy solemnly celebrates the anniversary of its foundation – December 8. On this day, in 1981, John Paul II founded the Pontifical Academy of Theology, adding the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Church History to the already existing Pontifical Faculty of Theology. The celebration of this anniversary was held in St. Mark's church in Cracow, which is our academic church. A solemn Mass was its main event.

The foundation of the Faculty of Theology by St. Queen Jadwiga in 1397 has also been a solemnly celebrated anniversary. It is held on January 11. As in the previous years the ceremonies began with Holy Mass in the Wawel cathedral and finished in the Aula of *Collegium Novum* of the Jagiellonian University. The Grand Chancellor Franciszek Cardinal Macharski celebrated a solemn Mass giving thanks for the 603 years of the Faculty of Theology. After the Mass, the participants went to *Collegium Novum*, where, in the presence of the rector of the University, representatives of scientific circles and authorities of the Małopolskie voivodeship, as well as many guests and students, two academics were awarded the *bene merenti* medals: the rector of the Academy, Rev. Prof. A Kubiś and W. Póltawska, Ph.D. The achievements of the former were presented by Rev. Prof. Ł. Kamykowski and of the latter, by Rev. Prof. K. Szczygieł. Then the diplomas of habilitated doctors and nominations for professors were conferred. 5 academics were awarded the diplomas of the habilitated doctor: 4 from the Faculty of Theology, 3 from the Faculty of Philosophy and 2 from the Faculty of Church History.

An important event for the Academy as an institution of university rank was receiving of an accreditation by the Faculty of Theology. Accreditation means that the Faculty meets the requirements set by the University Accreditation Committee, i.e., its scientific and didactic activity meets the required standards. Performance evaluation experts visited the Faculty on March 20 to 22, 2000, and had talks with the Academy rector, Bishop Prof. T. Pieronek, vice-rectors: Rev. Prof. J. Chmiel and Rev. Prof. Ł. Kamykowski, with the dean Rev. Prof. W. Życiński and vice-deans: Rev. Prof. S. Koperka, C.R., and Rev. Prof. T. D. Łukaszuk, O.S.P.E. The experts also met other Faculty employees and students. As a result of the enquiry, the Committee of Rectors of Polish Universities awarded the course of studies of theology, as led by the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, a Certificate of the Quality of Education.

The 50th anniversary of priesthood of the Grand Chancellor of the Academy, Franciszek Cardinal Macharski was an occasion to thank him for all he has done concern for the Academy. The degree *honoris causa* was conferred on him as a sign of gratitude. This act had a great meaning as it paralleled an act of the Jagiellonian University. Both Senates decided to jointly confer the distinction, which took place on Apr. 14, 2000 in the Aula of *Collegium Novum* of the Jagiellonian University.

By conferring the degree *honoris causa* on its Grand Chancellor, the Pontifical Academy of Theology expressed its gratitude for his concern for the Academy. This concern was seen in achieving an official recognition of scientific titles and degrees, supporting various social and charitable causes, a considerable contribution to the development of homiletics at the time when the Chancellor was teaching it, holding the rector position at the Archdiocesan Higher Seminar for many years before assuming the duties of the Archbishop of Cracow, and last but not least, an important role in the proceedings of the canonisation process of St. Queen Jadwiga, the foundress of the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. These reasons for conferring the degree were listed in the conferment document.

The significance of the event discussed is emphasised by the fact that John Paul II sent a telegram on this occasion. In the telegram, which was addressed to Professor Franciszek Ziejka, the rector of the Jagiellonian University, Pope John Paul II expressed his happiness that a personal jubilee of the Cardinal becomes part of the celebrations of the Millennium of the Cracow Archdiocese and the Sixcentenary of the Jagiellonian University's revival. This emphasises the connection between the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the Jagiellonian University – the connection which had a „considerable influence on the pastoral work of the Cardinal as well as on the life of academics and students of both institutions”.

Responding to the honourable distinction the Cardinal expressed his gratitude for the highest academic award. He reminded his listeners that the „Faculty of Theology, excluded from the university in 1954 by the authorities, became – as the Pontifical Academy of Theology – a grown-up daughter of *Almae Matris*, which has never forgotten that the founding of this faculty by St. Queen Jadwiga helped considerably in changing it into the Jagiellonian University”. The surviving of the Faculty of Theology is a sign of God's Providence, which makes justice win. His involvement in serving this justice, the Cardinal expressed in these words: „I will make bold to say to both of my institutes; you have praised in this bishop of Cracow his unwavering devotion to justice and charity”. The Cardinal also recalled his first contacts with the University in his childhood years, and then

emphasised the great contribution that the Prince Metropolitan Stefan Adam Cardinal Sapieha had in defending justice during the Nazi occupation and after it finished. The conduct of the Prince Metropolitan, just like the Cardinal's immediate predecessor, Karol Cardinal Wojtyła, were examples of best bishop service for him. Referring to another train of his bishop service, the Cardinal mentioned the care St. Queen Jadwiga showed for the poor. Sensitivity to poverty grew in Cracow especially in the 19th century. Many orders whose aim was to serve the poor were founded and developed then with the help and assistance on the part of Albin Cardinal Dunajewski. An example of the present charitable activities in the Cracow Archdiocese is the Single Mother's Home. The Cardinal finished his address by thanking everybody for their presence at the conferment ceremony, which, in fact, is the ceremony of paying an honour to the Cracow Church.

The conferment of the Doctor's Degree and professor's nominations are the fruit of the didactic and scientific activity of the Academy. The ceremony is held every year on the feast of St. Stanisław, bishop and martyr. On May 8, 2000 in St. Anne's collegiate church, in the presence of Franciszek Cardinal Macharski the second this year ceremony of conferment was held. First, the rector of the Academy, Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek had an address. Then the act of conferment was read and the conferred academics took the doctor's oath. The Doctor's Degrees in theological sciences were conferred on 11 scholars, in humanities (philosophy) – 1, and in humanities (history) – 4. One scholar was awarded the degree of the habilitated doctor and 2 scholars got professor's nominations. The Grand Chancellor closed the ceremony by wishing all conferred academics God's blessing in their further scientific work.

The elections to the Academy government were a very important event. Vice-rectors and faculty deans were elected. The rector was not elected as his term of office has not finished. Rev. Prof. Łukasz Kamiński and Rev. Prof. Wojciech Życiński, S.D.B., were elected the vice-rectors. Rev. Prof. Stefan Koperek was elected the dean of the Faculty of Theology, whereas Rev. Prof. Józef Krzywda, C.M., and Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Panuś were elected vice-deans. Rev. Prof. Władysław Zuziak was elected the dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Prof. Alicja Michalik, vice-dean. The duties of the dean of the Faculty of Church History were entrusted to Rev. Prof. Janusz Wcisło, and of the vice-dean to Prof. Roman Zawadzki.

Everyday didactic activity at all three faculties is enriched by various symposia and conferences organised by different entities constituting the Academy. Some of them are organised together with other institutions which are not part of the Academy. And so, on Oct. 9, 1999 in Krościenko the Seventh Seminar entitled „*Sacrum* and Nature” was held. The organisers of the seminar were: the Pontifical

Academy of Theology, the Pieniny National Park, the Rev. Franciszek Blachnicki Institute, the Jagiellonian University, the Circle „Pielgrzym” (Pilgrim) of the Polish Society of Tourism No: 1, Cracow branch. The programme included lectures, discussions, a common prayer and a trip to the Pieniny National Park.

Problems connected with the life of the elderly in families and in the society were the subject of a symposium organised by the Institute of Family Theology at the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the Catholic Family Association of the Cracow Archdiocese. The Symposium was held on Oct. 16, 1999 at the Cracow City Hall. Papers presenting the issue in the light of medical, psychological, sociological and theological sciences were presented by professors of the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the Jagiellonian University.

For a few years now the Week of Prayers for the Unity of Christians has been preceded by the Day of Judaism in Poland. This year the Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue of the Pontifical Academy of Theology together with the Council of the Episcopate on Religious Dialogue, the Jewish Religious Community in Cracow and Franciscan Friars organised the Third Day of Judaism in the Catholic Church in Poland (Jan. 16, 2000). Conferences, a church service of God's word and concerts filled the programme.

The International Theological Committee issued a document: *Remembering and Reconciliation. The Church and faults of the past*, which was a stimulus to organise a symposium on its theological and moral interpretation. The organisers of the symposium were the General Moral Theology Department and the Particular Moral Theology Department of the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the Moral Department of the Polish Theological Society in Cracow. It was held on May 25, 2000 at the John Paul II Institute at 18 Kanonicza Street in Cracow. Rev. Prof. Stanisław Nagy, S.C.J., and Rev. Prof. Jan Kowalski delivered lectures. The symposium was presided over by Rev. Prof. Wojciech Życiński, S.D.B., the dean of the Faculty of Theology.

Social and political changes in Poland are a good occasion to ponder upon the notion of the system of state. The Faculty of Philosophy together with the Centre of Political Thought with the assistance on the part of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation organised a series of lectures entitled: *Rudiments of the Knowledge of State*. The lectures were held in the summer semester of the academic year 1999/2000.

The turn of the centuries was an occasion to sum up the 20th century. One of the scientific sessions of the Faculty of Philosophy Council was devoted to the issue: *A Century of Philosophy and Physics*. The session took place on Mar. 22, 2000.

The end of the century and the millennium brought about a reflection on the calendar. *Time and Calendar* – was the title of a symposium.

sium organised by the Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue of the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the Cracow Branch of the Polish Ecumenical Council. The symposium was held in Cracow on March 15 to 16, 2000. The first day of the symposium was devoted to the understanding of time and calendar in Christian churches, the second, on the other hand, to the understanding of them in non-Christian religions. The lectures were delivered by professors of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, the Jagiellonian University, the Catholic University of Lublin, the University of Warsaw, the University of Łódź and the University of California. Apart from discussions, an ecumenical service was held.

The Department of Psychology of Religion of the Faculty of Philosophy published a book *Man of the Turn of Millennia. Psychological problems*. It includes the materials from a symposium of Catholic psychologists held in Częstochowa on September 12 to 14, 1999.

Two lectures organised by the Interdisciplinary Research Centre at the Faculty of Philosophy are worth mentioning. They were part of an open cosmological seminar. The lecture of March 23, 2000 dealt with the subject: *Can the Shape of the Universe be Heard?*, and the one of Apr. 6, 2000 was devoted to the *Philosophical Aspects of Reciprocal Mathematics*. On the days May 11 to 12, 2000 the Interdisciplinary Research Centre organised the Sixth Cracow Methodology Conference on the subject of time.

The Institute of Theology in Tarnów organised an international symposium on the subject *Future in Unity*, which was held in Tarnów on Apr. 12–13, 2000. Academics of various centres: Lviv, Hildesheim, Nitra, Spiska Kapitula, Kraków, Tarnów, Rzeszów presented their papers. The debates were summed up by Rev. Prof. Michał Heller, the rector of the Institute of Theology in Tarnów.

The Faculty of Church History at the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the Archbishop Metropolitan of Cracow organised a scientific symposium entitled: *At the Beginnings of the Cracow Diocese*, which was connected with the millennium of the Cracow Archdiocese. The symposium was held in the aula of the Higher Archdiocesan Seminar in Cracow on May 12, 2000. Professors of the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the Jagiellonian University delivered papers.

Libraries with efficient service are essential for scientific and didactic work. The Library of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow is involved in the project of creating a national system of information exchange. This system is being developed within the Federation of Church Libraries *Fides*. *Fides* co-operates with an organisation which assembles European theological libraries (Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie). 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. The Library has almost 2,000 regular readers. The lack of appropriate space, however, poses a considerable problem for the functioning of the Library. Obtaining a new library building became, therefore, a must. The new library building will be built within the Jagiellonian University Campus grounds. Preliminary works are well under way and the construction itself is planned for the autumn of the year 2000.

Financial means for the activities of the Academy are provided by the St. Queen Jadwiga Foundation for the Pontifical Academy of Theology. The allocations which the Academy has been receiving from the Polish State budget since Jan. 1, 1998 suffice to cover just didactic expenses and students' grants. All other expenses including the development of new premises need to be covered from other sources. Therefore, the Foundation popularises the activities of the Academy through various means it has at its disposal. Taking this opportunity, the Board of the Foundation extends sincere gratitude to all benefactors for their support, kindness and readiness to help. For all benefactors Holy Masses are offered at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Cracow.

The following statistics should make the picture of the Academy in the academic year 1999/2000 complete. The number of students doing their Master of Arts course of studies was 2,040; licentiate and doctor studies, 359 and post-graduate, 203 respectively. 845 students of all faculties were awarded the degree of Master of Arts, 44, the degree of Licentiate, and 33 the degree of Doctor. 81 candidates for priests and 71 lay people became 1st year students of the Faculty of Theology, 47 began their studies at the Faculty of Philosophy, 40 at the Faculty of Church History, 26 at the Liturgical Institute, 30 at the Higher Inter-Religious Institute of Catechesis, and 10 at the Interdisciplinary Institute of Bioethics. The total number of first year students was 310. 72 people were admitted to the Faculty of Theology to start their licentiate – doctor studies, 9 to the Faculty of Philosophy and 16 to the Faculty of Church History.

There were also some sad events marking the last year of the millennium. On March 7, 2000 in Cracow, Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Wojciechowski, a retired professor of philosophy and psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy, died. He was a priest of the Lviv Archdiocese, and as a scholar of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, he was also a vice-rector, and formerly a dean, of the Faculty of Philosophy. He was a holder of the *bene merenti* medal. He lectured at the Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw, at the Catholic University of Lublin and at higher ecclesiastical seminars in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Nysa and Sandomierz. He was well-known for his research on human evolution and the issue of time. He was a member of the editorial staff

of „*Analecta Cracoviensia*”, where he held responsibility for philosophy columns. He was buried in Cracow.

A great loss, and not only to the Academy but to Polish science and culture as a whole, was the death of Rev. Prof. Józef Tischner, who died in Cracow on June 28, 2000 after a long and painful illness. He was a professor of philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and a dean of this faculty. He also lectured at the Jagiellonian University and at the State Theatrical College. He co-founded and was a director of the Institute of Sciences on Man in Vienna, a member of the Polish Academy of Science. The University of Łódź and the Pedagogical Academy in Cracow conferred the degree *honoris causa* on him. The President awarded him the Order of the White Eagle. He was a great admirer of the Tatra Highlands region and his was a great contribution towards popularisation of its culture. He was mostly remembered as the author of the *Solidarity Ethics*. He was buried in Łopuszna, his home village in the Highlands.

The Liturgical Institute at the Faculty of Theology lost its devoted academic in the person of Rev. Dr. Marian Zielniok. He died on March 22, 2000 in Cracow. He was a priest of the Katowice diocese and a lecturer at the Liturgical Institute at the Faculty of Theology, where he conducted religious art classes. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Sciences on the basis of a dissertation dealing with architecture and religious art. He was granted an award: „Meritorious for the Pontifical Academy of Theology”. He was a member of the Episcopate Committee on Church Founding and the Church Art Committee. He was also a consultant of the Polish Episcopate Council on Culture and Protection of Cultural Heritage and co-founder and commander of Knighthood of the Order of the Black Madonna. Rev. Zielniok was buried in Brzezinka.

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Translated by Bożena Grzebień