

**THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM
AT THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY
IN CRACOW
2000/2001 Academic Year**

The first academic year of the new millennium – 2000/2001 – began, according to the established tradition, with a pilgrimage to the Marian Sanctuary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska on Sep. 30, 2000. The pilgrimage began with the Way of the Cross held on Calvary Paths round the Sanctuary. Father Asst. Prof. Wiesław J. Gogola, OCD, delivered an address *Topicality of Edith Stein's Spiritual Itinerary*. The Grand Chancellor of the Academy, Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, officiated at a solemn Mass concelebrated at the Sanctuary field-altar. Academy students, seminarians of diocesan and monastic seminaries of Cracow, nuns and lay Catholics participated in the pilgrimage, which was organised jointly with the pilgrimage of priests of Cracow archdiocese to celebrate Jubilee Year 2000.

A solemn inauguration of the 604th academic year was held on Oct. 20, 2000. On behalf of Pope John Paul II Angelo Cardinal Sodano, the Holy See Secretary of State, sent a telegram in which he recalled the Pope's address to scientists emphasising the need for scientific inquisitiveness. The message ended with John Paul II's wishes for the Pontifical Academy of Theology that "the new academic year would be creative time of acquiring knowledge, deepening the secrets of wisdom and awakening sensitivity to immemorial mystery of God in the people of the new millennium"

The inaugural ceremony consisted of four parts: Holy Mass in St. Anne's Collegiate Church, the inaugural address of the Rector, students' oath and the inaugural lecture. The Mass was offered by Archbishop Prof. Józef Życiński, metropolitan of Lublin. He also delivered a homily in which he referred to John Paul II's encyclical *Fides et ratio* and reminded the academic circle that they should not close to people whose vision of the world has been dominated by marketing. It is the task of the Pontifical Academy of Theology to aim at preaching the invariable testimony of Christ in the new reality.

After the Mass the participants of the ceremony went for the second part of the inauguration to the Cracow Philharmonic Hall. In his rector address Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek outlined the condition of the Academy and its development, drew the listeners attention to the right recently achieved by the Faculty of Church History to confer the degree of Reader of humanistic sciences in history and to the Agreement of Co-operation signed with the Pazmany Peter Catholic University of Budapest. Concluding his address the rector mentioned the construction of the library, which is now beginning and the momentousness of this event for the Academy.

After the rector address first year students of all three faculties took a solemn oath followed by an inaugural lecture delivered by Prof. Andrzej Pankowicz: *Man in God's Perspective. A Look at a Thousand-Year History of Cracow Diocese*. The performance of the Academy Choir, "Psalmody", conducted by Włodzimierz Siedlik added splendour to the ceremony.

The Great Jubilee of Year 2000 offered scholars an opportunity for reflection. A jubilee meeting of Polish scholars was organised by the Pontifical Academy of Theology and took place on Nov. 18, 2000 in Cracow. The meeting consisted of two parts: the first, which was held in the Philharmonic Hall in Cracow, was a panel discussion on *John Paul II's Message for Polish Scholars*, the second was Holy Mass officiated by Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Metropolitan Archbishop of Cracow, at St. Anne's University Collegiate Church. This part was connected with paying tribute to St. John Cantius and, exceptionally, for the sake of Jubilee Year, was combined with the above mentioned meeting.

One of the most important events of this academic year was, undoubtedly, the beginning of the construction of a new Academy premise. On Nov. 20, 2000 the Grand Chancellor, Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, consecrated the site for the future Main Library building, located in such close vicinity of the Third Campus of the Jagiellonian University in Pychowice (a district of Cracow) that it constitutes its integral part. After the consecration the Cardinal and the Academy Rector stuck a spade in the ground to begin construction works with this symbolic gesture. The gesture was repeated by Rev. Prof. Adam Kubiś, former Academy Rector, who initiated the project of construction and Prof. Aleksander Koj, former Jagiellonian University Rector, who contributed to choosing the location. The Academy authorities and employees were present at the ceremony. The rector of the Jagiel-

lonian University and the representatives of other colleges of higher education in Cracow, state and local authorities also took part in it. The construction of the library constitutes the first stage of the project and will be followed by the building of didactic and administrative facilities, a student's dormitory and a chapel.

Each year December 8th is a special day at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow as it marks an anniversary of the foundation of the Academy in 1981. On this occasion distinctions are awarded to meritorious scholars. During the Mass celebrated on this day at St. Mark's church in Cracow the Academy Rector, Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, presented seven persons with the award *Meritorious for the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow*.

Another important day which is solemnly celebrated at the Academy is an anniversary of erecting the Faculty of Theology in Cracow, which has been operating incessantly since January 11, 1397. On Jan. 11, 2001 a solemn Mass to give thanks for 604 years of the existence of the Faculty was celebrated in Wawel Cathedral. During this celebration the Academy Rector presented 18 persons with the Doctor degree diplomas and the Grand Chancellor of the Academy presented 6 persons with the Reader diplomas. The Reader degrees were conferred on: Father Wiesław S. Gogola, OCD, Rev. Stanisław Hałas, SCJ, Father Gerard F. Siwek, CSsR of the Faculty of Theology, Rev. Jan Mikrut, Rev. Grzegorz Ryś and Rev. Jan W. Szczepaniak of the Faculty of Church History.

An exceptional occasion for joy at the Pontifical Academy of Theology was Cardinal nomination for its first rector Rev. Prof. Marian Jaworski, Metropolitan Archbishop of Lviv of the Roman Rite. John Paul II declared him Cardinal on Jan. 28, 2001. Cardinal Jaworski was the Rector of the Academy in the years 1982–1988. As a scholar he published his writings on the philosophy of God and the problem of atheism. The nomination will undoubtedly contribute to stabilisation of relations between religions in Ukraine as well as between Polish and Ukrainian nations.

An important event of international character was the conferment of the *honoris causa* degree on Miloslav Cardinal Vlk, Metropolitan Archbishop of Prague. The ceremony was held on May 7, 2001 in the *Collegium Maius* of the Jagiellonian University, where a solemn sitting of the Senate of the Pontifical Academy of Theology took place. The venue had been chosen with regard to Cardinal's great merits for the Church and with a wish to emphasise the ties between the Pon-

tifical Academy of Theology and the Jagiellonian University, whose Faculty of Theology is now part of the Academy. A laudatory speech was delivered by Rev. Prof. Łukasz Kamykowski. The Laureate gave a lecture in which he developed a thought expressed in Apostle Peter's words: "Humble yourselves, then, under God's mighty hand, so that he will lift you up in his good time" (1 P 5, 6). These words have been the motto of the Laureate's life since the times of communist persecution.

The celebration of St. Stanisław, bishop and martyr, patron saint of Cracow archdiocese and the city of Cracow, held on May 8, is the day of solemn doctoral and professorial promotions at the Pontifical Academy of Theology. According to the tradition of recent years, the promotions took place at St. Anne's Collegiate Church. The Academy Rector, Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, presented 19 scholars with the Doctor degrees diplomas and the Grand Chancellor of the Academy, Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, 3 scholars with the Reader diplomas and one person with Professorial nomination. The Reader degrees were awarded to: Father Stanisław J. Kałdon, OP, Father Andrzej A. Napiórkowski, OSPPE and Rev. Jan D. Szczurek of the Faculty of Theology. The Professorial nomination was given to Rev. Stanisław L. Piech of the Faculty of Church History.

The first anniversary of death of a well-known Cracow philosopher and priest Prof. Józef Tischner marked an opportunity to reflect on his thought and his philosophical and theological output. On the initiative of the rectors of three colleges of higher education of Cracow, i.e. the Rector of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, the Rector of the Jagiellonian University, Prof. Franciszek Ziejka and the Rector of the State College of Theatrical Arts, Prof. Jacek Popiela so called «Tischner's Days» were organised in Cracow from May 30 to June 2, 2001. The Grand Chancellor of the Academy, Franciszek Cardinal Macharski patronised the celebrations. An exhibition devoted to the late philosopher, who was Professor at the three above mentioned colleges, was opened in the Jagiellonian University building. Another event of the «Tischner's Days» was a symposium: *Asking about Man – Philosophical Thought of Józef Tischner*. The participants were distinguished professors from Poland (W. Stróżewski, R. Panasiuk, Rev. M. Heller, A. Węgrzecki, Barbara Skarga, Father J. A. Kłoczowski, OP, K. Tarnowski) and from abroad (Ch. Millon-Delsol, B. Casper, M. Malaguti). The State College of Theatrical Arts joined the celebrations staging a per-

formance: *The Lord Be with You*. Prof. K. Michalski, a member of the Institute for Science on Man in Vienna, founded by Józef Tischner, inaugurated debates entitled *Colloquia Tischneriana*. The Józef Tischner Prize was established. Prof. Stefan Swieżawski, an outstanding philosopher and historian, was the first person to receive it. A competition entitled *Wielki Mędroł* [The Great Brains] promoting mountaineers' dialect complemented the «Tischner's Days». Mountaineers' dialect was Tischner's favourite simple expression of difficult philosophical matters. In his book *Filozofia po góralsku* (Cracow 1997) he translated the history of philosophy into it. The «Tischner's Days» and *Colloquia Tischneriana* will be organised on annual basis.

European integration is an important subject for the political circle in Poland. The issue is not strange for the Catholic Church, either. Joining the discussion the Pontifical Academy of Theology organised an international symposium entitled *Awareness of European Identity. The Role of the Catholic Church in the Process of European Integration*, which took place on Sep. 14–15, 2001 in Cracow. Besides the Academy the organisers of the symposium were: the Publishing House «Wokół nas», the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Robert Schuman Foundation and the Commission of European Community Episcopates (COMECE). In the symposium participated the representatives of the Holy See (Abp A. Nicora, Msgr C. Migliore, Abp J. Kowalczyk), the Commission of European Episcopates at Brussels (Msgr N. Treanor), the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (Card. F. Macharski of Cracow, Card. J. Glemp of Warsaw, Card. A. J. Bačkis of Vilnius, Abp J. Życiński of Lublin, Abp H. Muszyński of Gniezno, Bp P. P. Erdo of Budapest, Bp Fr. V. Lobkovicz of Ostrava), high representatives of the European Union (H. Langes from Germany, S. Biller from Great Britain, U. Stenzel from Austria). The representatives of Polish government, voivodship and local government were also present. The symposium materials were published in a book *Rola Kościoła katolickiego w procesie integracji europejskiej* [The Role of the Catholic Church in the Process of European Integration] (Cracow 2001). A similar symposium is planned for the next academic year.

In the process of European integration the Pontifical Academy of Theology participates also through its commitment to projects sponsored by the European Union within a programme «Tempus». The Academy participated in the following projects EXPAND (i. e. External Partnership's New Dimensions – JEP 14234–1999), whose aim is to set up a network of specialised units like Development Offices, Ca-

reers Services and Alumni Associations at Polish universities to develop co-operation with external stakeholders; UNIQUE (i. e. University Quality Evaluation – JEP 14320–1999), pursuing the development of quality assurance tools and pilot evaluation of selected study fields; SQUADS (i. e. System of Quality Administrative Services – JEP 14324–1999), which strives for the design and implementation of staff training and quality control system at Polish universities; NET (i. e. New Educational Tools – JEP 14461–1999), whose aim is to design and introduce an integral management information system for academic structures and student affairs.

Popularisation of topical issues was not done solely by the Academy authorities but also through various symposia and sessions organised by the faculties. Some of them were organised jointly with institutions from outside the Academy. The Faculty of Theology organised the following symposia and sessions: an academic studio session organised jointly with the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer, *On the Threshold of Auschwitz* (Oświęcim, Sep. 3–9, 2000), the 38th symposium of Polish Biblicists (Cracow, Sep. 12–14, 2000), a scientific session of the Department of Moral Theology devoted to the *Concern for Human Life* (Cracow, Oct. 26, 2000), a national symposium: *To Be an Apostle of the Divine Mercy* (Cracow–Łagiewniki, Oct. 26, 2000) – the materials were published under the same title (*Być apostołem Bożego miłosierdzia*) (Cracow 2001), an intercollegiate symposium *Big Monastic Centres and their Influence on the Culture of Slavonic Countries* (Cracow, Apr. 24–25, 2001) organised in co-operation with the Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue of the Pontifical Academy and the Slavists Circle of the Jagiellonian University, a scientific session organised by the Institute of Canon Law of the Pontifical Academy on the *Protection of Personal Details and the Right to Privacy in the Church* (Cracow, May 15, 2001) – the materials were published in a book under the same title (*Ochrona danych osobowych i prawo do prywatności w Kościele*) (Cracow 2001), a panel discussion organised by the Interdisciplinary Institute of Ecumenism and Dialogue at the Academy entitled *Christians in Ukraine* (Cracow, June 11, 2001 – just before John Paul II's pilgrimage to Ukraine.)

The Theological Institute in Tarnów, which constitutes a branch Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, hosted a Polish-Slovakian symposium devoted to the issues connected with the development of the Faculty (Tarnów, April 5, 2001).

Also the Faculty of Philosophy organised symposia and sessions. The most important ones include: *The Idea of Solidarity Today*"

(Cracow, Nov. 14–15, 2000) – organised on the initiative of «Cracow 2000» Bureau, which co-ordinated the celebrations of Year 2000 in Cracow, two courses entitled *European Integration and Democracy – Idea, Dilemas, Practice* organised in the 2000/2001 academic year in co-operation with the Centre for Political Thought and with financial support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, training in ethical code for about one thousand employees of the Cracow Town Office (Cracow, Oct. 10 – Nov. 22, 2000 and Apr. 23–27, 2001), an open academic programme of John Templeton entitled *Science – Faith* (for about 50 students of various colleges of higher education in Cracow), which was conducted by the Pontifical Academy and the Jagiellonian University professors along with professors from abroad (Prof. G. Colsonmango – Specola Vaticana, Prof. J. Brook – Oxford, Prof. D. Lambert – Namur). The Faculty of Philosophy had a leading role in the organisation of the above mentioned «Tischner's Days». It is also worth mentioning that the Department of Psychology of Religion of the Faculty of Philosophy organised 2 symposia: *Psychological and Religious Counseling. Theory and Practice* (Radom, Sep. 17–19, 2000), (the materials were published under the same title: *Poradnictwo psychologiczno-religijne. Teoria i praktyka*, Kraków 2001) and *The Development of Man* (Ołtarzew, Sep. 16–18, 2001).

It is worth noting that the Faculty of Philosophy has applied for accreditation procedure to be started to confirm that the level of teaching at this Faculty meets the required standards. From May 23 to 25, 2001 four representatives of the University Accreditation Committee examined the conditions and quality of teaching at the Faculty of Philosophy. The members of the Committee were: Prof. Z. Czarnecki, Prof. Cz. Głębik, Rev. Prof. Z. Hajduk, Prof. W. Suchoń. The Committee's decision will be known in the next academic year.

The Faculty of Church History organised a session on *The Cult of Saints in Poland in the Middle Ages* (Cracow, May 2001) and a symposium devoted to the *History of Christianity in Poland* (on the initiative of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.) Among other interesting publications the Faculty of Church History published a book *Złota Księga Papieskiej Akademii Teologicznej* [Golden Book of the Pontifical Academy of Theology], (Cracow 2000) on the occasion of the Sixth Centenary Jubilee of renewal of the Academy of Cracow (now the Jagiellonian University). Writing entries for several new encyclopaedias (the *Encyclopaedia of Cracow*, the *Encyclopaedia of Religion* and the *Catholic Encyclopaedia*) is of great importance for Polish science.

The appearance of a new academic periodical "Vita Academica. Informational Bulletin of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow" is worth noticing. It is a bimonthly publication bringing news about the most important events in the life of the Academy, which includes feature articles and a chronicle of the Academy. The first double issue was devoted to Cardinal M. Jaworski, the first rector of the Pontifical Academy, the second to the bearer of the honoris causa doctorate Cardinal M. Vlk, the third to Prof. J. Tischner. The information included in this "Chronicle" comes from this periodical. A regularly published scientific periodical is "Analecta Cracoviensia". It includes studies in the fields of philosophy, theology, Church history and canon law. The Year 2000 edition was dedicated to Cracow Archdiocese on the thousandth anniversary of its existence. Besides, each Academy Department publishes its own periodical: "Polonia Sacra" is a periodical of the Faculty of Theology, "Logos i Ethos" of the Faculty of Philosophy and "Folia Historica Cracoviensia" of the Faculty of Church History.

The events presented do not exhaust the whole activity of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, the ordinary everyday life of which is didactic work and scholars' scientific and research work. The outcome of didactic work can be shown through the number of students and the number of degrees conferred on the graduates of particular faculties. In the 2000/2001 academic year the Academy had 1945 students, including 623 in Tarnów. There were also 155 extramural students. 44 students, 7 of whom study in Tarnów, are from abroad. There were 207 students doing postgraduate studies, 554 – doctoral studies, including 80 in Tarnów and 16 in Częstochowa (at the Ecclesiological and Mariological Institute in Częstochowa). A high number of degrees at the Faculty of Theology is a result of co-operation agreements signed by this Faculty with more than 20 higher seminaries. The next degree, after Master's degree (and before Doctor) is Licentiate. The Licentiate degrees were awarded to 37 scholars (35 of the Faculty of Theology, 2 of the Faculty of Church History). The Doctor degrees were conferred on 25 scholars (22 of the Faculty of Theology, 2 of Philosophy and 1 of Church History). The Reader degrees were conferred on 10 scholars (7 in theology, 3 in the history of Church). One person received a state Professorial nomination and 11 were given the title of College Professor.

Libraries with efficient service are relevant for research. The Library of the Pontifical Academy in Cracow is involved in creating a national system of information exchange. This system is developed

within the Federation of Church Libraries FIDES. FIDES co-operates with the organisation, which assembles European Theological Libraries (Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie). The Library of the Pontifical Academy of Theology continues the building up of its catalogues on the basis of an integrated computer system VTLS. The catalogue in the form of a data base is available on the Internet. The Library has almost 2,000 regular readers. This year an electronic system of registration of the books lent was started. In the 2000/2001 academic year the Library collection was enriched by 25,000 volumes. The lack of appropriate space is a serious restriction of the Library activities. The construction of a new facility, which has been mentioned earlier, is a much looked forward to event.

The Saint Queen Jadwiga Fund for the Pontifical Academy of Theology provides financial means for the Academy activities. Although, since Jan. 1, 1998 the Academy has been receiving a subsidy from the Polish State budget, this covers only didactic expenses and financial support for students. All other expenses, including the development of new premises must be covered from other sources. Therefore, the Fund popularises the activities of the Academy with the aid of other means it has at its disposal.

Taking this opportunity the Board of the Fund expresses sincere gratitude to all benefactors for their support, kindness and readiness to help. For all benefactors Holy Masses are said at St. Mark's church in Cracow.

by Jan Daniel Szczurek

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