

THE CANONIZATION OF THE PROFESSOR 606th Year at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow

The present academic year marks the 21st year of activity of the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the 606th year of its Faculty of Theology. Like all previous years, it was a year of didactic work and extensive research conducted by the Academy scholars. However, this was the last academic year before our entering the EU structures and in this way it differed from the previous years. The Pontifical Academy of Theology joined – as best it could – in the preparations through organising a course of studies on integration.

According to an established tradition, the subsequent 606th academic year (2002/2003) of the Pontifical Academy of Theology began with a pilgrimage to a Marian Sanctuary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska on September 30, 2002. Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, Rector of the Academy, presided over a solemn, concelebrated Mass, which was the most momentous event of the pilgrimage. The homily was delivered by Father Hab. Dr Andrzej Napiórkowski OSPPE. An address given before the Mass by Rev. Prof. Jan Orzeszyna was devoted to an issue: *The Sacrament of Penance – Hope of the Church*. The Way of the Cross was held on the Calvary Paths in the afternoon. The pilgrims were professors, administrative employees, students, seminarians of diocesan and monastic seminaries, nuns and lay Catholics.

A solemn inauguration of the academic year was held on Friday October 18, 2002. The inaugural ceremony consisted of two parts: liturgical, held in St. Anne's Collegiate Church, and academic, in Cracow Philharmonic Hall. Bishop Wacław Świerzawski officiated at a solemn inaugural Mass and delivered a homily, which was a reflection on a thought: *To Live in the Dynamics of the Mystery of Christ*. After the Mass the participants of the ceremony proceeded to Cracow Philharmonic Hall, where – having sung *Gaude Mater Polonia* – they listened to rector's address. Bp Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek outlined the major events of the previous academic year and then matriculated first-year students of all three faculties to membership of the Academy and handed out rector's awards. Inaugural

address: *Hermeneutical Model of Philosophy and Its Significance* was delivered by Father Prof. Jan Andrzej Kłoczowski OP. Interspersed between the events in the programme was the performance of the Academy choir *Psalmodia* conducted by Włodzimierz Siedlik. The Grand Chancellor of the Academy, Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Metropolitan of Cracow, rectors of Polish Catholic universities, deans of theology faculties, representatives of senates of higher educational institutions in Cracow as well as representatives of the town and voivodship lay authorities and diplomatic service in Cracow participated in the inaugural ceremony.

Each anniversary of the erection of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow is celebrated very solemnly. Its central point has always been the conferment of academic degrees. Anniversary celebrations took place on Saturday January 11, 2003. In a solemn Mass officiated at the Wawel Cathedral by the Grand Chancellor the Academy expressed its gratitude to God for the 606 years of His care of the Faculty. After the Mass academic diplomas were conferred on the nominees. Professorship of theological sciences was awarded to Rev. Prof. Jan Dyduch and Father Prof. Tadeusz Dionizy Łukaszuk. The title of professor of theological sciences was conferred on Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Borutka and Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Panuś. Rev. Hab. Dr Józef Boguniowski SDS, Rev. Hab. Dr Tadeusz Dzidek, Rev. Hab. Dr Tadeusz Narecki and Rev. Hab. Dr Tadeusz Panuś were awarded diplomas of habilitated doctor. Diplomas of doctor degree were conferred on 12 persons. Medals *Meritorious for the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow* were presented to Sister Hab. Dr Czesława Sondej OSU, Sister Genowefa Boguchwała Kuras OSU, Sister Antonina Scholastyka OSU, M.A., Rev. Dr Tomasz Chmura, Prof. Kazimierz Zając, Krystyna Czarniecka, M.A. and Krystyna Szczyrek.

For the second time this year the conferment ceremony was held by tradition on the feast day of St. Stanislaus, bishop and martyr. The venue for the ceremony was St. Anne's University Collegiate in Cracow. The Grand Chancellor of the Academy presiding at the ceremony conferred the diploma of professorship on Rev. Prof. Andrzej Zwoliński, of habilitated doctor, on Rev. Hab. Dr Janusz Mączka SDB and of doctor, on 10 academics. Rev. Prof. Andrzej Zwoliński delivered a speech on behalf of all promoted academics.

An international event of great significance was a conference devoted to the role of the Church in uniting Europe. On September 12–13, 2003 under the patronate of Cardinal Franciszek Macharski a conference was held on the role of the Church in integrating Europe: "One or two Europes? The Role of the Catholic Church." Many personages of political life and representatives from the EU participated in the conference, which

was organised by the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, the Commission of the Bishops' Conference of the European Community (COMECE), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, "Wokół nas" Publishing House and the Office of European Integration. The conference was a way of joining the preparations for Polish EU accession on the part of the Academy.

An important event of international character was the conferment of the *honoris causa* degree on the Archbishop of Vilnius, Cardinal A. J. Bačkis, which was held in a medieval hall of the Jagiellonian University *Collegium Maius* on May 13, 2003. The occasion was an opportunity for tightening bonds not only between the local Churches, but between Polish and Lithuanian nations.

Another internationally significant event was a workshop of a European Section of COMIUCAP (Conférence Mondiale des Institutions Universitaires Catholiques de Philosophie). The workshop was organised by the Faculty of Philosophy of our Academy. Apart from the above mentioned conference on the subject of European integration the Academy has long been involved in activities to support the integration through running a course of postgraduate studies of European integration. Its aim is to prepare employees who might in the future apply for posts in the Union offices in Brussels. The lecturers are specialists from ministry departments and law courts in Brussels and from the Committee for European Integration. Classes are held in Polish and English. The director of the studies is Rev. Prof. Wojciech Życiński, SDB, vice-rector of the Academy. This year, for the first time in Poland, a seminar "Preparation for the Recruitment Competition of the European Parliament" was organised. Having passed their exams in June the first group of 117 graduates received diplomas. The Academy wants to continue the course in the hope that its graduates will successfully undertake the tasks for which they were prepared.

The Academy pursues its statutory goal – expressed in the motto *Euntes docete* – also through running a course of postgraduate studies of journalism, whose aim is to promote Christian values in the mass media and, consequently, in Polish culture. It is a four-term course taught by academics from the Jagiellonian University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology as well as experienced journalists. There are currently about 80 first and second year students on the course. The head of the studies is Rev. Prof. Jan Wal. The main target of the course is professional preparation to earnest carrying out of journalist tasks in the modern world.

This is not only the central management of the Academy that is preoccupied with popularization of current activities. Individual departments –

by organising various symposia, sessions and guest lectures – pursue the same end. Some of these events were co-organised by institutions from outside the Academy.

The Department of Theology of Spirituality at the Faculty of Theology is concerned about acquainting students with spiritual legacy of new saints and the blessed. On Dec 7, 2002 the Department jointly organised a symposium devoted to the spiritual profile of the blessed s. Sancja Janina Szymkowiak of the Congregation of Daughters of Our Lady of Sorrow, beatified in Cracow on August 18, 2002 and recognized as patron saint of Romanists. As a witness of merciful love she is a perfect example for people at the beginning of the third millennium.

The Department of Theology and Biblical Informatics at the Department of Theology organised an international symposium devoted to the basic subjects of Jewish writings and their interpretation in Christianity. The symposium was held on February 20, 2003. Foreign guests of the symposium were academics of Catholic universities in Ružomberok (Rev. Asst. Prof. Anton Tyrol) and in Bratislava (Rev. Dr Stanisław Vojtko).

The Institute of Canon Law at the Faculty of Theology organised a symposium to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Code of Canon Law. The symposium was held on March 26, 2003 in Cracow. Its topic was “Diocesan Bishop and Pastoral Work and Apostolate of the Faithful”.

An important event for the Church in Poland was the 750th anniversary of canonisation of St. Stanislaus, bishop and martyr, the main patron saint of Poland. The Department of Ecclesiology at the Faculty of Theology jointly organised a symposium entitled “St. Stanislaus in the Life of the Catholic Church in Poland”. The symposium was held on April 10, 2003.

The Faculty of Philosophy organised the Third Tischner's Days devoted to the philosophical thought of a well-known Polish philosopher Rev. Prof. Józef Tischner. They were held on May 7–10, 2003 and focused on the issue of faith in the life of man and on man's involvement in the life of the Church. One of the more detailed subjects for philosophical consideration was the issue of the relation between grace and freedom – the subject hotly disputed by philosophers and theologians. Meetings, sessions and debates were held at the Pontifical Academy of Theology, State Drama School in Cracow, in the aula of the Jagiellonian University *Collegium Novum* and the office of “Znak” Publishing House. The papers will appear in a book form *Między potępieniem a zbawieniem. Myślenie religijne ks. Józefa Tischnera* (Between Damnation and Salvation. Religious Reflection of Rev. Józef Tischner).

Another individual who made his mark the on history of the Faculty of Theology of our Academy is St. Józef Sebastian Pelczar, Professor of the

Faculty of Theology and Rector of the Jagiellonian University. He was canonised by John Paul II on May 18, 2003 in Rome, in what was undoubtedly one of the most important events of that academic year. The Pontifical Academy of Theology and the Jagiellonian University jointly organised a symposium “Bishop Józef Sebastian Pelczar (1842–1924). Person and His Work”. In the papers an original character of Pelczar’s bishop ministry was stressed. An example of this might be his care about spiritual life of priests for whom he published an extensive work “Spiritual Life” or introducing unknown – at the time – pastoral medicine to the seminary *ratio studiorum*. The symposium was held on May 26–27, 2003 under the auspices of the Metropolitan of Cracow, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski and the Metropolitan of Przemyśl, Archbishop Józef Michalik.

Of the guest lectures, the one devoted to the “Breakthrough in Catholic and Jewish Relations”, which was delivered on October 1, 2002, is worth singling out. It was delivered by Prof. Ernest L. Ehrlich, who lectures on the contemporary Jewish history and literature at the University in Basle and consultee on the Christian-Jewish dialogue in Germany and Switzerland. Another interesting guest lecture was delivered by Rev. prof. H.-J. Pottmayer from Bochum, entitled *The Church – People of God, Communio, Sacrament. Competitive or Consenting Ecclesiological Leading Ideas?* (May 9, 2003).

The Faculty of Church History, the smallest at our Academy, undertakes various academic activities as well. One of them was the promotion of Rev. Prof. Jan Kracik’s book about relics (J. Kracik, *Relikwie*, Cracow 2002). The promotion took place at the Institute of John Paul II in Cracow on October 17, 2002. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, professors of history from the Jagiellonian University and our Academy were present. The promotion coincided with the 30th anniversary of the academic research of Professor Kracik. Another form of academic and didactic activity of international character are research trips whose aim is to gather materials on the history of religious art in Western Europe. This year students and professors travelled to Burgundy and Provence in July. The aftermath of this trip was an exhibition of photographs in the rooms of the Faculty of Church History.

Similarly as in the previous years, the Interdepartmental Institute for Dialogue and Ecumenism co-organised the Sixth Day of Judaism, which was held on January 17, 2002 and the Week of Prayer for the Unity among Christians on January 18–26, 2003 in Cracow. The motto of the Day of Judaism were the words: “God made a covenant of love with Israel”, while the motto of the Week of Prayer were the words of St. Paul:

“Yet we who have this spiritual treasure are like common clay pots” (2 Cor 4.7). The Metropolitan of Cracow, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski was present at both events along with many priests and lay Catholics and representatives of Jewish community and non-Catholic priests and faithful. The meeting on the Day of Judaism took place in the Basilica of Franciscan Friars in Cracow while the Week of Prayer in several Roman Catholic parishes, in the Methodist, Evangelical and Augsburg parishes, in the Baptist Church and in the Polish-Catholic Church. A co-organiser of the Week of Prayer was, among others, the Cracow Branch of the Polish Ecumenical Council.

In close cooperation with the Academy remains the Inter-Congregational Higher Catechetical Institute run by the Ursuline Nuns of the Roman Curia. The Institute organised the 33rd Symposium entitled *To Lead to Contemplate the Countenance of Christ*, which was held on March 29, 2003. Bishop Dr Kazimierz Nycz, delegate of Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, responsible among other things for catechesis in the Cracow Archdiocese, opened the symposium. The symposium was dedicated to Pope John Paul II on the 25th anniversary of his pontificate.

As part of the cooperation with foreign countries, the representatives of the Faculty of Theology who specialize in Biblical studies participated in *Colloquium Biblicum*, which was organised in Vienna on October 20–23, 2002. Colloquium was devoted to the issue of community in the Acts of the Apostles (*Gemeinde in der Apostelgeschichte*). Colloquia are organised in cooperation with Österreichisches Katholisches Bibelwerk.

Our Academy has been maintaining regular academic cooperation with the Theological Faculty of the Catholic University of Ruhr in Bochum (Germany). The cooperation consists in an exchange which is organised in such a way that professors (usually two) and recently also students of the Pontifical Academy of Theology go to Bochum in the autumn, and in the spring professors and students from Bochum come to Cracow. Lectures, discussions and meetings with students are organised then. As part of this exchange programme our Academy students visited Bochum on October 20–24, 2002, and in May 2003 a group from Bochum, with Prof. H.-J. Pottmayer among others, came to Cracow.

The election of the Academy’s governing authorities is always a very important event. It is held every three years. The current team of Vice-Rectors and Deans was elected at the end of May, 2003. Rev. Prof. Wojciech Życiński S.D.B (for a second term) and Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Dzidek, were elected Vice-Rectors. Rev. Prof. Stefan Koperek C.R. was elected Dean of the Faculty of Theology (for a second term), and Rev. Prof. Jan Szczurek and Fr. Prov. Zdzisław Kijas O.F.M.Conv. were

elected its Vice-Deans. Rev. Prof. Władysław Zuziak was elected Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy (for a second term), and Rev. Prof. Janusz Mączka S.D.B its Vice-Dean. The duties of Dean of the Faculty of the History of the Church were entrusted to Rev. Prof. Janusz Wycisło, and of its Vice-Dean to Rev. Prof. Jan Janicki. As the Rector's term of office had not expired, there was no election to this office in 2003.

The Pontifical Academy of Theology carries out publishing activity, which is the responsibility of the Academic Press. It publishes dissertations and academic periodicals. A regularly edited academic periodical are in the first place "Analecta Cracoviensia". They include research in philosophy, theology, Church history and canon law. The 2002 volume was dedicated to the Higher Seminary of the Cracow Archdiocese on the 400th anniversary of its existence. Additionally, each faculty publishes its own periodical: *Polonia Sacra* is a periodical of the Faculty of Theology, *Logos i Ethos* – the Faculty of Philosophy, *Folia Historica Cracoviensia* – The Faculty of Church History.

Alongside its academic and didactic activity the Academy tries to promote, among other things, sacred music, as it is an extension of research on Church liturgy. The Academy has its choir *Psalmodia* conducted by Włodzimierz Siedlik. *Psalmodia* was the runner-up in the 9th National Festival of Christmas Carols and Pastorales in Będzin and won the first place in the category of chamber choirs in the 12th Festival of Choral Carols and Pastorales in Myślenice.

The results of didactic work at the Pontifical Academy of Theology can be seen in the number of students and diplomas conferred on the graduates of the faculties. In academic year 2002/2003 the Academy had 2,093 students of daily studies, including 33 foreign students. Doctoral studies had a total of 593 students while all postgraduate courses, 277. About 340 students finished their studies at three faculties with the title of Master of Arts. Doctor's degrees were conferred on 22 persons, the habilitated doctor's degree on 4, the title of full professor was conferred of 2 persons and the academic title of professor on 4. The number of foreign graduates amounted to 21, including 5 students of Polish origin.

The Library of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow is involved in creating a national system of information exchange. This system is developed within the Federation of Church Libraries *Fides*. The Library of the Academy continues to build up its catalogue on the basis of an integrated computer system VTLIS. The catalogue in the form of a data base is available on the Internet. The Library has almost 2,000 regular readers. In the 2002/2003 academic year the collection of the Library was enriched by 20,000 volumes. The Library receives about 140 foreign pe-

riodicals in exchange for “Analecta Cracoviensia”. The lack of appropriate space is a serious restriction on the Library activities. The construction of a new library building is looked forward to by the whole academic community.

Financial means for the activities of the Academy are provided by the St. Queen Jadwiga Foundation for the Pontifical Academy of Theology. Although since January 1, 1998 the Academy has been receiving state subsidies, these do not cover all expenses mainly because they are intended for salaries of didactic employees and students’ grants. All other expenses including the building of the new library need to be covered from other sources. Therefore, the Foundation popularizes 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. Holy Mass is offered for all benefactors at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Cracow.

Finally, two sad events must be mentioned. On October 23, 2002 an outstanding historian of the Church Rev. Prof. Bolesław Kumor died at the age of 77. He was a professor of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow and the Catholic University in Lublin. He left a monumental work “Historia Kościoła w Polsce” (A History of the Church in Poland). Funeral ceremony took place in St. Margaret’s Basilica in Nowy Sącz. On May 19, 2003 died Rev. Hab. Dr Kazimierz Hoła, a retired employee of the Faculty of Theology, lecturer of dogmatic theology. Funeral ceremony in Maków Podchalański was led by the Academy rector, Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek.

Rev. Jan D. Szczurek

Translated by *Bożena Grzebień*