

THE YEAR OF THE PAPAL JUBILEE

607th Academic Year

at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow

The present academic year is the 22nd year of the Pontifical Academy of Theology and the 607th year of its Faculty of Theology. Like all previous years it was filled with didactic work and numerous research assignments carried out by our staff. It was the year of the 25th anniversary of John Paul II's pontificate and the last academic year before joining the EU structures by Poland. To the best of its abilities the Pontifical Academy of Theology participated in the preparations through the "Institute for Integration", which it established.

The academic year 2003/2004, which is being described here, traditionally began with a pilgrimage to the Marian Sanctuary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska on September 30, 2003. The programme included the following events: an address entitled "Eucharist and Participation in the Act of Redemption According to John Paul II's Encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*", which was delivered by Rev. Asst. Prof. Wojciech Misztal, a concelebrated Mass presided over by bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek with a sermon "With St. Mary in Search of the Truth" preached by Father Bernard Hylla CR, and the Ways of the Cross on the Calvary Paths. Professors, academics, administrative employees, the Academy students, clerics of the diocesan and monastic seminaries from Cracow, nuns and lay students were the participants of the pilgrimage.

The solemn inauguration of the academic year was held on Monday, October 20, 2003. Inaugural ceremonies traditionally consist of a liturgical part in St. Anne's Collegiate Church and an academic part held in the Cracow Filharmonic Hall. The solemn inaugural Mass was presided over by Archbishop Stanisław Nowak, Metropolitan of Częstochowa.

After the Mass the participants proceeded to the Cracow Filharmonic Hall, where after *Gaude Mater Polonia* was sung, the Academy Rector bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek delivered an address. He outlined the major events of the previous academic year and summed up its activity by saying: "We are developing, but I am still looking forward to the dynamics which would allow us to be reassured about the future". He then ma

triculated the first-year students of all three faculties (Theological, Philosophical and the Church History) at the Academy and handed out rector's awards. Inaugural address: *Medieval Unity of Europe – model and its limits* was delivered by Rev. Asst. Prof. Grzegorz Ryś. The ceremony was interspersed with the performance of the Academy choir *Psalmodia* conducted by Włodzimierz Siedlik. The Grand Chancellor of the Academy, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, Metropolitan of Cracow, bishops from several dioceses, 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 foundation of the Pontifical Academy of Theology by Pope John Paul II is an important event of the academic life. This year we very solemnly celebrated the 22nd anniversary of this event. Apart from reminiscing about the Pope's momentous decision of December 8, 1981 to found our Academy, the academic achievement and merits of two retiring professors, who were awarded *Bene merenti* medals, were recalled. These are Rev. Prof. Jan Kowalski and Rev. Asst. Prof. Marian Jakubiec. Laudatory speech in honour of Rev. Prof. Kowalski was delivered by Rev. Asst. Prof. Jan Orzeszyna, Professor of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, while the speech in honour of Rev. Asst. Prof. Jakubiec was given by Rev. Asst. Prof. Tadeusz Panuś.

Simultaneously, the anniversary of the erection of the Faculty of Theology in Cracow (Jan. 11, 1397) is solemnly celebrated. Its central point has always been the conferment of academic degrees. Anniversary celebrations took place on Monday January 12, 2004. In a solemn Mass officiated in the Wawel Cathedral by the Grand Chancellor, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the Academy expressed its gratitude to God for the 607 years of His care of the Faculty. The Mass was followed by academic promotions. Doctor's diplomas were handed to 12 persons, while the diplomas of assistant professor to 4: Rev. Asst. Prof. Janusz Królikowski, Rev. Asst. Prof. Janusz Mastalski, Rev. Asst. Prof. Wojciech Misztal and Rev. Asst. Prof. Andrzej Żądło. Father Zdzisław Kijas, OFMConv., received the Professor's diploma.

For the second time this year promotions were traditionally held on the feast day of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr (May 8, 2004). They took place in St. Anne's Collegiate Church. The solemn promotions were presided over by the Grand Chancellor of the Academy, who conferred diplomas on 16 persons. Doctor's diplomas were given to 13 persons, the diploma of assistant professor to 3: Rev. Asst. Prof. Andrzej Bruździński,

Rev. Asst. Prof. Józef Wołczański and Rev. Asst. Prof. Stanisław Wypych CM.

An important event of international character was a symposium organised to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the pontificate of John Paul II. It was held in the Aula of *Collegium Novum* of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow from 9th to 11th October, 2003. The Symposium was organised by four institutions of higher education, with which the present Pope has been associated: the Jagiellonian University, where he studied Polish Philology and later theology, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas *Angelicum* in Rome, where he did his doctoral studies, the Catholic University of Lublin, where he worked as a professor and the Pontifical Academy of Theology, which he founded in 1981 as a continuation of the tradition of the Faculty of Theology erected by St. Hedwig, Queen of Poland, in 1397. The papers delivered at the Symposium referred to the teaching of John Paul II, his influence on contemporary theological and philosophical thought and, most generally, on the present culture and to the challenges which it poses. A collection of papers entitled «*Servo veritatis*». *Materiały Międzynarodowej Konferencji dla uczczenia 25-lecia pontyfikatu Jego Świątobliwości Jana Pawła II. Uniwersytet Jagielloński 9–11 października 2003 r.* (*Servo veritatis. Materials from the International Conference to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Pontificate of His Holiness John Paul II. The Jagiellonian University October 9–11, 2003, Cracow 2003, pp. 920*) was published. Apart from the papers presented at the Symposium it includes work devoted to the studies on the subject of the pontificate of John Paul II. Among the authors whose names are recognised in the international arena Z. Grochowski, H. J. Pottmeyer, G. Weigel, M. Heller, Archbishop A. Scola deserve special attention.

Another international event which merits a mention is the participation of the Faculty of Theology in COCTI (Conference of Catholic Theological Institutions), which is an international organization of Catholic scientific and didactic institutions, which have the right to confer academic titles of doctor and higher. About 100 higher educational institutions and Catholic faculties from all continents are its members. COCTI closely cooperates with the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), whose member is among others the Pontifical Academy of Theology. The last (the ninth) plenary assembly of the Conference took place in Lisbon on August 1–6, 2004. Its subject was *The Impact of the Diversity of Professors and Students on Faculties of Theology in the Context of Growing Cultural Pluralism*. Rev. Prof. Jan D. Szczurek was the Faculty of Theology delegate to the Conference.

The Faculty of Philosophy is also a member of a parallel international organization within the IFCU structures. This is *Conference Mondiale des Institutions Universitaires Catholiques de Philosophie* (World Conference of Catholic Academic Institutions of Philosophy). Its second world congress, organized by the Ibero-American University, was held in Mexico on 13–15 September 2004 and was devoted to the issue: *Philosophy as Mediation*. Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy Rev. Prof. Władysław Zuziak participated in the conference and delivered a paper *Scientific Authority and Moral Authority* in a workshop devoted to the issue: *Philosophy as Mediation and Moral Action*. Rev. Prof. Władysław Zuziak is vice president of COMIUCAP for Europe.

Another international event of great significance was the 4th International Conference in the series “The Role of the Church in the Uniting Europe”, which was held in Kraków–Przegorzały on September 10–11, 2004 under the patronage of Cardinal Franciszek Macharski. The subject of this year’s edition of the Conference was: “Scenarios of the Future. What do Christians have to do in Europe?”. The participants reflected on the future of our continent and primarily on the role Christians have in it. Many personages from the public life in Poland as well as representatives of the European Union, including Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, participated in the Conference. Among other participants there were: Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Pier Ferdinando Casini, President of the Italian Parliament, Rocco Buttiglione, European Union Policy Minister in the Italian Government. Among the guests from Poland there were Prof. Andrzej Zoll and Gen. Mieczysław Bieniek. The Conference was organized by the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Robert Schuman Foundation, the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Community COMECE and “Wokół nas” Publishing House. The Conference was the Academy’s contribution into the preparations of the entering the European Union structures by Poland.

The statutory aim of the Academy activity is included in its motto *Euntes docete*, which refers to Christ’s order: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28, 19). The Academy puts it into effect through conducting regular didactic classes (lectures, practical classes) for students of the three faculties (Theological, Philosophical and the Church History), who learn to acquire the Master of Arts degree. The number of students in the present academic year was about 3,000,

including 350 students of the first year. The Academy employs 260 persons, 170 of whom are didactic and academic staff.

The Academy saves no pains to constantly upgrade the quality of education. The University Accreditation Commission assesses the quality of teaching and issues "Education Quality Certification". The Certification ascertains that the given faculty meets educational standards specified by the Conference of Rectors of Polish Universities. The Faculty of Theology and the Faculty of Philosophy had already been awarded such certification, whereas the Faculty of Church History received it in the current academic year, which is a remarkable accomplishment.

The following statistical data shows the results of didactic activity. In 2003/2004 academic year the Faculty of Theology conferred 527 titles of Master of Arts of Theology. The number exceeds the number of the last year students because the Faculty confers the title on students of the Higher Seminaries which signed a contract on academic and didactic cooperation with the Faculty. Alumni of these Seminaries are not formally students, but the process of their education is supervised by the Faculty according to the above mentioned contract, their Master dissertations are assessed by the Faculty professors and the dissertation defence take place before the Master of Arts Examination Board assigned by the Faculty. The same Faculty also conferred the degree of a Licentiate on 47 persons. This is an ecclesiastical degree, different from the lay one, conferred by Ecclesiastical higher educational institutions on those who have already received the Master of Arts degree. During the last academic year the degree of the Doctor of Theology was conferred on 18 persons, 3 dissertations were submitted for vetting for the Assistant Professor and one for Professor's degree. Moreover, one academic was offered a position of Professor and 3 of Associate Professor. The Canon Law Institute, which conducts specialist studies on canon law, conferred the title of Licentiate on 6 persons.

The two remaining faculties: The Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Church History, which are considerably smaller than the Faculty of Theology, can boast the following accomplishments. The Faculty of Philosophy conferred 15 titles of Master of Arts of Philosophy, 7 titles of Licentiate and 6 Doctor's titles. One academic was awarded Professor's degree. The Faculty of Church History conferred 33 titles of Master of Arts of History, 11 of Licentiate, and 6 of Doctor. Three dissertations were submitted for vetting for the Assistant Professor degree and 5 academics were awarded the title of Associate Professor.

Apart from the basic Master of Arts course of studies a range of post-graduate studies are run for those students who want to prepare better for

professional work in a chosen field. For those interested in journalism the Postgraduate Studies in Journalism, which teach promotion of Christian values in mass media, and consequently, in Polish culture, offer assistance. The course lasts 4 semesters, the classes are taught by professors of the Jagiellonian University, the Pontifical Academy of Theology and experienced journalists. This academic year 52 first- and second-year students participated in the course while 27 persons graduated. Rev. Prof. Jan Wal is head of the Postgraduate Studies in Journalism. The primary goal of the course is to professionally prepare students for honest journalistic work in today's world.

Symposia, conferences and guest lectures help deepen the knowledge acquired in regular classes. They are at the same time a way of popularizing the results of research conducted by individual scientific and didactic employees of the Academy. Some of them were organized together with other institutions.

Twenty years ago our Academy as the first in Poland introduced lectures on the psychology of death. Today, the Section of Psychology of the Conference of the Polish Episcopate's Commission on the Teaching of Faith and the Department of Psychology of Religion at the Faculty of Philosophy at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow under the supervision of Rev. Prof. Józef Makselon organized in September 2003 a scientific symposium on the subject: *Man Facing Death. Psychological and Pastoral Aspects*.

A session "Literary Output of Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II. Poetry and Plays", which was held on November 8, 2003 in Cracow, aimed at getting more insight into a better understanding of John Paul II's personality. The session was organized jointly by the Department of Theology of Spirituality of the Faculty of Theology and the Polish Philology Institute at the Jagiellonian University.

The Department of Biblical Hermeneutics and Judaism organized a scientific session devoted to a document of the Pontifical Biblical Commission *The Jewish People and their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible*. The session was held on November 20, 2003 at the Institute of John Paul II in Cracow. Its topic was *Old Testament Foundation of the Good News*.

The Department of Theology and Biblical Informatics at the Faculty of Theology organized an international Symposium *The Bible in the Culture of the World*. The Symposium was held on February 9, 2004 at the John Paul II Institute. Guests from abroad included the academics from four theological faculties in Slovakia, who delivered papers.

An event of great importance in the life of the Cracow Archdiocese used to be a Pastoral Synod, which took place in the years 1972–1978. It was opened by the Metropolitan of Cracow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and closed by him already as the Pope on June 6, 1979 during his first visit to Poland. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the closing of the Synod, the Institute of Canon Law organized a Symposium entitled *Twenty-five Years of the Cracow Synod*, which was held on June 8, 2004. Novel methods of running the Synod were stressed. They were visible in great engagement of lay persons in the activities of the so called ‘studio workgroups’ which popularized the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. Individual speakers analysed the agenda and the fruits of the Synod according to a key adopted then in its works and based on the three redemptive functions of Christ (*tria munera Christi*).

Another important event for the Church in Poland was the 750th anniversary of canonization of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, the main patron saint of Poland. The Faculty of Church History organized a session devoted to St. Stanislaus: *Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, in the Year of 750th Anniversary of his Canonization*. The session was held on December 17, 2003.

The Faculty of Philosophy organized the Fourth Tischner’s Days devoted to the philosophical thought of a well-known Polish philosopher Rev. Prof. Józef Tischner. They were held on May 5–8, 2004 and were organized by the Jagiellonian University, the Pontifical Academy of Theology, the National Higher School of Theatre and the Social Publishing Institute ‘Znak’. The subject of this year’s reflection of the Days was Józef Tischner’s social thought, which was expressed in the title of an academic session: *Józef Tischner’s Reflection on Public Life*. The speakers dwelled on such issues as: the role of truth in public life, the relations between the Church and a democratic state of law, liberalism, the essence of political thinking, the idea of freedom in public life. A statement that Tischner was not a liberal because he did not refer to such classical thinkers of liberalism as J. Locke and J. S. Mill, while he sympathized with its critics (G. W. F. Hegel, M. Heidegger) provoked discussions. The subject of a dispute with Tischner’s thought was also political thinking, which he criticized and to which he subjugated when he joined the polemics relating to decommunization. The result of this was to be a conflict between the logic of goodness (mercy) and the logic of justice in his thought.

From the guest lectures the one delivered by Rev. Dr Peter Hocken: *The Catholic Church Facing Evangelical Trends* deserves attention. The lecture was delivered on January 23, 2004 as part of the Week of Prayers for the Unity Among Christians in the Academy and was organized by the

Interdepartmental Institute for Dialogue and Ecumenism. Another lecture worthy of attention was the one delivered by Rev. Prof. Udo Zelinka, Professor at the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the Ruhr University in Bochum (Germany): *Ethics Admonishes – Ethics is Admonished* (Das Ethische mahnt – Jemand mahnt das Ethische an). Another interesting guest lecture: *John Paul II in the Holy Land and the Jewish-Catholic Relations* was delivered by Prof. Harold Kasimow from the USA on May 12, 2004. The lecture was organized by the Interdepartmental Institute for Dialogue and Ecumenism.

The Interdepartmental Institute for Dialogue and Ecumenism celebrated the 10th anniversary of its existence. A jubilee session devoted to *The Role of Academic Centres in Ecumenical Dialogue* was organized at the Institute to commemorate the event. The session was supplemented by a panel discussion, whose participants were representatives of several Polish ecumenical institutes.

Similarly as in the previous years, the Institute co-organized the Seventh Day of Judaism, which was held on January 15, 2004 and the Week of Prayer for the Unity among Christians on January 18–25, 2004 in Cracow. The motto of the Day of Judaism were the words: “And you shall be a blessing” (Zech 8, 13), while the motto of the Week of Prayer were the words of St. John: “My peace I give unto you” (Jn 14, 27). The Metropolitan of Cracow, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, was present at both events along with many priests and lay Catholics and representatives of the Jewish community and non-Catholic priests and the faithful. The meeting on the Day of Judaism took place first in the Basilica of the Franciscan Friars in Cracow and then in the neighbouring Academy, while the Week of Prayer, in several Roman Catholic parishes, in the Orthodox parish, in the Methodist and Evangelical parishes, in the Christian Baptist Church and in the Polish-Catholic Church. Upon finishing the Week of Prayer for Unity among Christians the Fourth Day of Islam in the Catholic Church was held on January 26, 2004. On this occasion a religious panel discussion was held on the subject of *Fasting in Islam and Christianity*. The discussion was organized by the Interdisciplinary Institute for Dialogue and Ecumenism and the Islamic side was represented by Ziyad Raof.

In close cooperation with the Academy remains the Inter-Congregational Higher Catechetical Institute run by the Ursuline Nuns of the Roman Curia in Cracow. On March 27, 2004 the Institute organized the 34th Symposium entitled *Christ-Eucharist as the Source of Hope*, which was held in the convent of the Ursuline Nuns of the Roman Curia in Cracow. Bishop Kazimierz Nycz, President of the Commission of Catholic

Upbringing of the Polish Episcopate Conference opened the Symposium. The topic of the Symposium was connected with the Year of the Eucharist celebrated in the universal Church. Papers dealt with issues such as the Eucharist as an offering of transfiguration and a sacrament of liberation, the Eucharist as a medicine for the sick, the feeling of senselessness among young people, threats to young people, prevention and therapy in catechesis.

Our Academy has been maintaining regular academic cooperation with the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Ruhr in Bochum. The cooperation consists in an exchange, which is organized 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 organized then. As part of this exchange programme two academics (Rev. Asst. Prof. Tadeusz Dzidek and Rev. Asst. Prof. Andrzej Witko) visited Bochum on November 2–5, 2003. Rev. Tadeusz Dzidek delivered a lecture *Limits of the Mind in Theological Cognition of God*. On May 5–9, 2004 our Academy was visited by Prof. Udo Zelinka, professor of ethics.

As part of the cooperation with foreign countries, professors of the Faculty of Theology joined in the academic activity of the Higher Seminary of the diocese of Kamieniec Podolski in Gródek, Ukraine. As part of this Seminary a scientific session was held on October 4, 2003 entitled *The 25th Anniversary of John Paul II's Pontificate*. Three professors of our Academy participated in the session (Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Borutka, Rev. Prof. Jan Orzeszyna and Rev. Prof. Andrzej Zwoliński) and delivered papers, in which they discussed the social, moral and pastoral issues present in the teaching of John Paul II.

The Pontifical Academy of Theology develops international cooperation with higher educational institutions in Slovakia. From November 26 to 27, 2003 at the Faculty of Philosophy of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra an international conference entitled: *Good Man in the Old Testament from the Biblical and Philosophical, Pedagogical and Methodological Point of View* was held. The Conference was organized by the Department of Ethics and Catechetics of that University. From the Faculty of Theology of our Academy two academics from the Department of Theology and Biblical Informatics (Rev. Prof. Tomasz Jelonek and Rev. Dr Roman Bogacz) delivered their papers devoted to the ideals of good man in the Book of Syrach and the educational role of Jewish festivals. The Department of Biblical Theology and Informatics began cooperation with three other higher educational institutions in Slovakia:

the Catholic University in Rozomberok, Komensky University in Bratislava and the University in Preszow.

Participation of our professors in international symposia promotes the Academy in the international arena. Of such events the 12th International Canon Law Congress devoted to the law of the Eastern Churches entitled *Systeme juridique canonique et rapports entre ordonnancements juridiques* deserves mention. The Congress was organized by the Faculty of Canon Law at the “La Sagesse” University and was held in Beirut from 20 to 25 September, 2004. Among the participants were Rev. Prof. Jan M. Dyduch, Rev. Prof. Józef Krzywda CM and Rev. Dr Józef Rapacz of the Institute of Canon Law. Rev. Prof. Jan Dyduch contributed a communique *Il Cancelliere e I notai della curia diocesana nella legislazione latina e orientale* to the Congress files.

A very important academic event was also the 7th Congress of Polish Theologians in Lublin, organized by the Catholic University of Lublin. The Congress took place on 12–15 September 2004 and was devoted to the issue: “Church in Public Life. Polish Theology in the Light of New Challenges”. The majority of the professors of the Faculty of Theology participated in the Congress presenting papers or taking part in the discussions.

The choice of a new rector undoubtedly belongs to important events in the life of an academy. Elections of a new rector at our Academy are not held together with elections for other positions but one year after the latter. As a result of the elections held on May 24, 2004 the Academy Senate chose Rev. Prof. Jan Dyduch for the position of rector. A ceremony of thanking the leaving rector Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek took place on June 8, 2004 and was connected with the 40th anniversary of his academic work. On this occasion he was presented with a copy of a jubilee book dedicated to him and entitled *Lex tua in corde meo. Studies and Materials Dedicated to His Magnificence Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek on the Occasion of the 40th Anniversary of His Academic Work* (Cracow 2004, pp. 767).

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 2003 volume was dedicated to Rev. Asst. Prof. Jerzy Chmiel, retired professor and distinguished Polish Biblicist. The volume includes a lot of articles written by foreign authors. Additionally, each faculty publishes its own periodical: *Polonia Sacra* is the periodical of the Faculty of Theology, *Logos*

i Ethos – of the Faculty of Philosophy, *Folia Historica Cracoviensia* – of 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 PhD. *Psalmodia* is invited to sing during various academic celebrations. This year the Choir won the Fourth Małopolska Region Choir Competitions in Niepołomice (April 25, 2004) and took first place in the 22nd International Festival of Orthodox Church Music at Hajnówka. The Festival was held on May 28–30, 2004. *Psalmodia* Choir also participated in a concert of joint choirs from Cracow on the occasion of joining the European Union by Poland. The concert took place in the Cracow Market Square on May 1, 2004. The Choir also participated in the Polish Congress of Liturgical Music *Musicam sacram promovere*, which was held on September 17, 2004 in Cracow.

The Pontifical Academy of Theology does not forget about spiritual formation of its students and employees. Lay students of each year have their own priest, who officiates at a Holy Mass, delivers homilies and has individual pastoral talks with them. The Holy Mass is held at least once a month, formation meetings with homilies – most often in Advent and in Lent. They constitute an integral part of retreat held in these liturgical periods. Students who prepare for priesthood receive spiritual and pastoral formation in their seminaries. Academic and didactic employees and the administrative staff spend at least one day each year on a retreat, which consists of a homily, Holy Mass, common prayer (the Ways of the Cross, adoration of the Holy Sacrament). It is also an occasion to get together and deepen interpersonal ties.

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 4,000 regular readers. In the 2003/2004 academic year the collection of the Library was enriched by about 20,500 volumes and it has 266,553 books and 121,738 periodicals in stock (388,291 in all). The Library has 1,180 magazine titles including about 140 foreign periodicals received in exchange for “*Analecta Cracoviensia*”. The Academy Library is a specialized one. The lack of appropriate space is a serious restriction on the Library activities. The construction of a new library building is approximating its final stage, which fills the whole academic community with great hope.

Financial means for the activities of the Academy are provided by the St. Queen Hedwig 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, one sad event must be mentioned. On December 27, 2003 at the age of 68 and in his 41st year of priesthood died Rev. prelate Dr Tadeusz Matras, priest of Częstochowa Archdiocese, Secretary of the Pontifical Faculty of Theology, later the Pontifical Academy of Theology, where he was director of the rectorate, secretary of a periodical *Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny* (Biblical and Liturgical Movement), an esteemed lecturer of Biblics and literature, tutor of many generations of students. May He Rest in Peace!

Rev. Jan D. Szczurek