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Newsletter for the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society
Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Stříbro – České Budějovice

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Prague-Letná, 22nd September 2022: an informal meeting of teachers at Charles University's Faculty of Law with Dean Radim Boháč at the start of the academic year. Vojtěch Stejskal, Head of the Department of Environmental Law, and Jiří Rajmund Tretera in conversation.

Photo Faculty of Law of Charles University



Pastoral Care of Lawyers in Prague

The new academic year starts with a festive service

On Tuesday, 4th October 2022, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, a festive service was held in the packed Church of St. Salvator near Charles Bridge in Prague to mark the start of the new 2022/2023 academic year.

Mass was celebrated by *Mons. Prof. Tomáš Halík*, parish priest of the Catholic academic parish at the Church of St. Salvator, Templeton Prize winner, philosopher, theologian and sociologist teaching at Charles University's Faculty of Arts.

Priests teaching various disciplines at Prague universities concelebrated with him: *Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP*, professor of church law and religion law at the Faculty of Law of Charles University, *Marek Orko Vácha*, Head of the Institute of Ethics and Humanities at the 3rd Faculty of Medicine of Charles University, *Ondřej Salvét*, professor at the Department of Systematic Theology and Philosophy of the Catholic Theological Faculty, Charles University. The other concelebrants were *Samuel Privara SJ*, a specialist on cybernetics and economics, chaplain of the Catholic University Movement, and *David Kučerka OCr.*, lawyer and canonist, member of the Church Law Society.



The Mass was accompanied by the Salvatorian schola. After the service, an informal conversation continued in front of the church in the Student Courtyard of the Klementinum. Refreshments and musical accompaniment were also provided.

Photographs from the festive service are available at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/131423870@N02/albums/72177720302636559>.



Local group in Prague

Meeting of Prague Faculty of Law teachers with the Dean

The new dean of Charles University's Faculty of Law, Professor Radim Boháč, Head of the Department of Financial Law, has established a new tradition of meeting with teachers at the start of the academic year.

This year's get-together took place on 22nd September 2022 in the early evening, under the open sky in a restaurant in Letenské sady, the second largest park in Prague, on the hill above the Vltava river. During a pleasant meeting over a glass of Pilsner beer or a soft drink there was also the chance to discuss some pressing issues relating to the energy crisis and the war in Ukraine.



Dean Radim Boháč speaking at the get-together with Prague Faculty of Law teachers.



Local group in Olomouc

The ICLARS Congress is held in Córdoba

From 19th to 21st September 2022, the 6th ICLARS (International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies) Congress was held in the Palacio de Congresos in Córdoba, focussing on relations between the state and the church with the title *Human Dignity, Law, and Religious Diversity: Designing the Future of Inter-Cultural Societies*.

The morning programme of the conference's plenary session consisted of keynote and round table lectures where the procedural languages were English and Spanish, with simultaneous translations.

On Monday, after the opening ceremony the first series of lectures and a subsequent round table were held on *Promoting mutual respect between diverging conceptions of the relationship between religious freedom and other fundamental rights: the contribution of the legislative and executive power*. Afterwards, John Whitte, Jr. from Atlanta (Georgia, USA) gave a keynote lecture on *Human dignity, law and religious diversity in historical perspective: James Pennington's human right campaign against slavery and racism*.

On Tuesday morning, there were two series of short round table lectures on: *Promoting mutual respect between diverging conceptions of the relationship between religious freedom and other fundamental rights: the contribution of courts of justice* and *Promoting mutual respect between diverging conceptions of the relationship between religious freedom and other fundamental rights: the contribution of the civil society*.

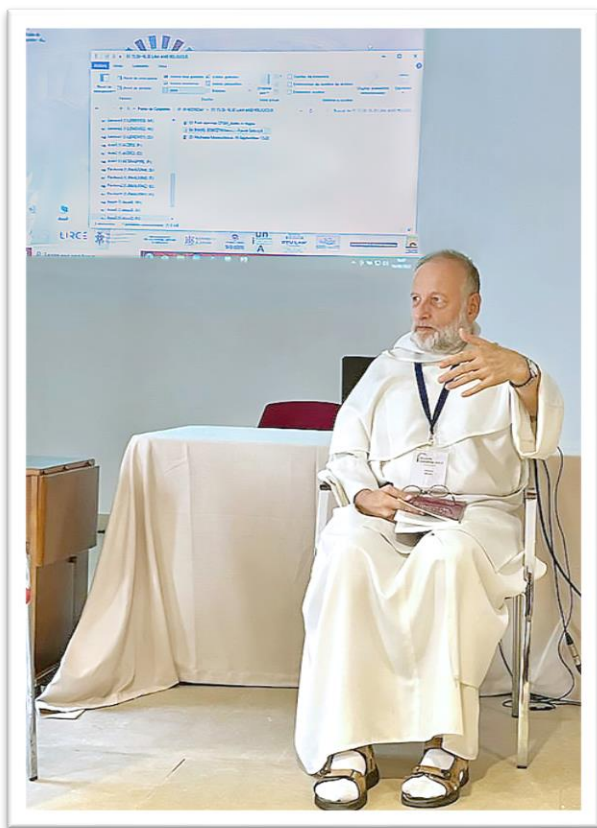
This was followed on Wednesday by two more similar series of short round table lectures on: *Promoting mutual respect between diverging conceptions of the relationship between religious freedom and other fundamental rights: the contribution of international organisations* and *A glance of history: the study of law and religion in Europe since the 19th century*.

In the afternoons, there were panel discussions without translations in four languages: mostly English or Spanish, less frequently in French and Italian.

The evening programme was devoted to: on Monday a tour of the mosque-cathedral in Córdoba ending with a concert by the local Gregorian schola, on Tuesday a concert of flamenco and Arabic music, on Wednesday a gala evening at the Real Círculo de la Amistad.

Among the members of the Church Law Society participating were *Jakub Kříž, Michaela Moravčíková, Jaroslav Benák, Damián Němec, Piotr Stanis, Wolfgang Wieshaider* and *Piotr Szymaniec*.

Michaela Moravčíková, Piotr Stanis and Damián Němec spoke on Monday, 19th September in a panel discussion on *Law and religious diversity in low migration societies*. Wolfgang Wieshaider presented a paper on the same day in a panel discussion on the comparison of confessional law models, which was moderated by Mark Hill from London.



On Tuesday, 20th September, Jaroslav Benák spoke in a panel discussion on *Preventing discrimination and guaranteeing religious diversity* and Jakub Kříž and Piotr Szymaniec spoke on the same day in a panel discussion entitled *Open questions about religious freedom in Europe: Between human dignity and state neutrality*.

The participants at the conference were from Europe, North and South America, Africa and Asia. The next conference is due to be held in 2024 at the University of Notre Dame du Lac in Indiana (USA) followed by another conference in 2026 in Singapore.

Damián Němec

Damián Němec OP speaking in Córdoba.

Photo Paweł Sobczyk

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Photo on the front page: Prague-Letná, 22nd September 2022, an informal meeting of teachers at Charles University's Faculty of Law with Dean Radim Boháč at the start of the academic year. Vojtěch Stejskal, Head of the Department of Environmental Law, and Jiří Rajmund Tretera in conversation.

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E-mail: sccp@prf.cuni.cz

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