

NEWSLETTER

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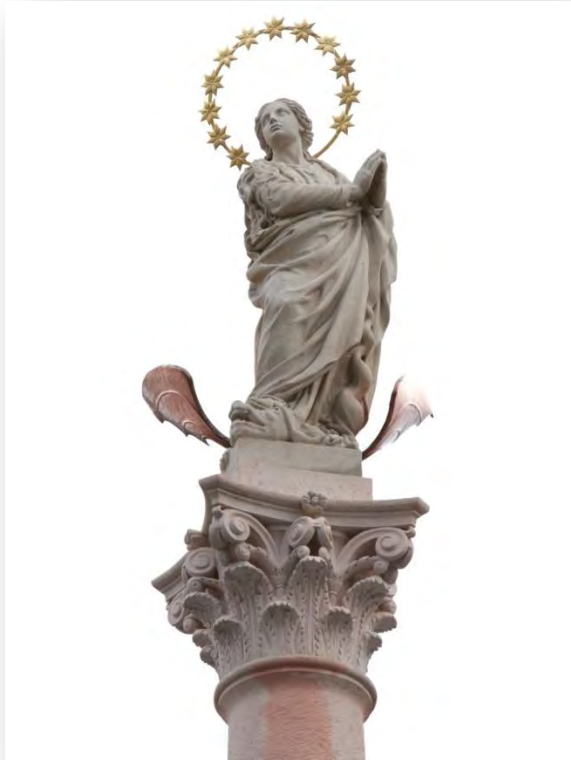
For the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society
Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Střibro

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The new Marian Column in Prague on the Old Town Square, installed on 4th June 2020.
Photo by Ferdinand Peroutka

Marian Column in Prague Reconstructed



On Thursday, 4th June 2020, a historic event took place on the Old Town Square in Prague: the column of the Virgin Mary Immaculate was re-erected here. This happened almost 102 years after the original column from 1652 was demolished by a street crowd at the same place, in November 1918.

The original Marian Column was the work of the famous Czech Baroque sculptor Jan Jiří Bendl. It was built to thank the Virgin Mary for saving Prague from the Swedish troops at the end of the Thirty Years' War (1648).

Czech Catholics have been advocating for the restoration of the Marian Column since 1918. Their efforts have been particularly intense since 1989. However, they were repeatedly rejected. The effort of the civic initiative of the Society for the Restoration of the Marian Column was yet successful. On

23rd January 2020, the Prague City Council allowed the construction to begin. On 4th June 2020, under the leadership of sculptor Petr Váňa, who has been working on the column since 2008, the column was re-erected, and the statue of the Virgin Mary was ceremoniously placed on top.

The Marian Column is one of the most important religious symbols of the Czech lands. Many Catholics see it not only as a symbol of victory over foreign occupiers, but also the presence of Catholics in the Czech nation and its final reconstruction as a sign of help from above in the fight against the current epidemic, which affected much of the world this spring.

Prof. Tretera Celebrated His Life Anniversary

On 8th June 2020, Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP, Chairman of the Church Law Society, celebrated his 80th birthday. Originally, a public celebration was to take place under the auspices of the Church Law Society in the old Baroque refectory of the Dominican Priory of St. Giles in Prague's Old Town, but due to current national health restrictions, the event was revoked.

Instead, a private celebration took place in the new refectory of the Blackfriars Priory of St. Giles, as Prof. Tretera is a member of the religious order. The celebration was attended by Dominik Cardinal Duka OP, Archbishop of Prague and Primate of Bohemia, former Dominican provincial superior (1986–1998) and personal friend of Prof. Tretera for more than 40 years. Associate Professor Zábój Horák, Vice-Chairman of the Church Law Society, took part in the celebration at the invitation of the Dominicans.



Arrival of Dominik Cardinal Duka to the Priory of St. Giles in the Old Town of Prague. In front of the main entrance to the Priory, he is greeted by the provincial superior The Very Rev. Dr med Lukáš Fošum (in the middle) and The Rev. Jiří Rajmund Tretera.

Photo by Antonín Krč



During the celebration in refectory, Cardinal Duka presented a just-printed *Festschrift (Pocta)* to Prof. Tretera. The *Festschrift* in Honour of Jiří Rajmund Tretera (see picture on the left) was edited by his colleagues from the Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague, Zábój Horák and Petra Skřejpková. 36 authors from the Czech Republic and abroad contributed to it and it was published by the Prague publishing house Leges. The book is introduced by a dedication by Cardinal Duka.

Cardinal Duka presented his personal *medal of St. Vitus* to Prof. Tretera, too. The medal is related to the patronage of the Prague Cathedral of Sts. Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert. St. Vitus was an early Christian martyr from Sicily. Presence of his remains symbolizes the independence of the state in whose territory they are located.



New refectory of the Dominican Priory of St. Giles.

Photo by Antonín Krč

At the end of the evening, the Holy Mass was celebrated in the church of St. Giles, presided by the Dominican provincial superior, and was attended by the confreres of the Prague priory. He thanked Father Rajmund for his contribution to the restoration of the Dominican order in Czechoslovakia after 1989 and his scientific, organizational, and educational activities at the Faculty of Law, Charles University, and in the administration of the Church Law Society.



Dominican provincial superior Lukáš Fošum OP delivers a sermon during the solemn mass in the church of St. Giles.

Photo by Antonín Krč



From the concelebrated solemn mass in the church of St. Giles: from left the prior of the priory Filip Boháč OP, Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP and former provincial superior Benedikt Mohelník OP, Vice-Dean of the Catholic Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague.

Photo by Antonín Krč

Damián Němec Celebrated 60th Birthday

On 18th June 2020, the former provincial superior of the Czech Dominicans (1998–2002) and the current head of the Department of Church History and Ecclesiastical Law of the Saints Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, Palacký University in Olomouc (Moravia), celebrated his 60th birthday.



Czech-Polish canonist The Rev. Prof. Edward Górecki (born 1930 in Czech Silesia) from the Universities of Wrocław and Olomouc (on the left) and his pupil The Rev. Damián Němec OP on a walk.

Photo by Monika Menke

Associate Professor Damián Němec is the author of an internationally known work published in English under the title *Concordat Agreements between the Holy See and the Post-Communist Countries (1990–2010)*, which was published in Leuven (Belgium) in 2012. He is the author of the main contemporary Czech monograph on matrimonial canon law *Manželské právo katolické církve s ohledem na platné české právo* (Matrimonial Law of Catholic Church with Regard to Current Czech Law), published in Prague in 2006. He also deals with the legal regulation of hospital chaplaincy in the Czech Republic and represents the Czech Bishops' Conference in this area in relation to the Ministry of Health. He lectures on canon law at the Faculty of Law, Masaryk University in Brno, and administers the Dominican Convent in Uherský Brod (East Moravia), which was handed over to nuns of the Dominican Order.

Damián Němec joined the Dominican order in the underground in 1986 and was ordained a priest at the same time as Jiří Rajmund Tretera in the Olomouc Church of St. Michael the Archangel on 29th June 1991.

Selected Writings of Prof. Giorgio Feliciani Published



The Marcianum Press in Venice published the book *Papato, episcopati e società civili (1917–2019)*, *Nuove pagine di diritto canonico ed ecclesiastico* by Prof. Giorgio Feliciani. The book is a collection of 22 selected writings by Prof. Feliciani of recent times. The book was organized by Dr Michele Madonna, University of Pavia.

The first part contains legal-historical contributions, the second deals with canon law and the third focuses on the current issues of religion law.

Prof. Giorgio Feliciani taught canon law at the Catholic University of the Divine Heart of the Lord in Milan for many years. He currently teaches at the St. Pius X. Faculty of Canon Law in Venice. He is the consultor of several dicasteries of the Roman Curia and the author of more than 250 scientific publications.

Years ago, Prof. Giorgio Feliciani met Jiří Rajmund Tretera at an international conference in Sandomierz (Poland) and they formed a long-standing friendship. He invited Prof. Tretera to lecture for a week at the Catholic University of the Divine Heart of the Lord in Milan in January 2001. Jiří Rajmund Tretera experienced a nice community of seminarians at the College of St. Augustine and was invited to meet the family of Prof. Feliciani several times. He had a great opportunity to see the whole city of St. Ambrose.

Later, Prof. Feliciani with his wife Serenella and with their son and daughter visited Prague. They stayed at the Dominican priory of St. Giles and also celebrated Easter here.

In recent years, several dozen Catholic priests from the Czech Republic studied canon law in Venice and remember Prof. Feliciani as their teacher.

Marian Column in Prague Attacked

On Sunday, 21st June 2020, the day of the solstice, a small group of vandals attacked the Marian Column on the Old Town Square in Prague. One of them lit dirty rags at the foot of the column. The fire was immediately eliminated by a patrol of Prague City Police officers and the 42-year-old main perpetrator was detained. Contamination of the base of the column was removed by an anti-graphite company within a few hours.

The incident took place just a few weeks after the restoration of the Marian Column. These days, the column is admired every day by many residents and visitors to Prague, including members of the editorial board of this periodical of the Church Law Society.

From New Publications

DVOŘÁČEK, Jiří, *Die Apostolische Exarchie in der Tschechischen Republik: Studien zur Geschichte, Gegenwart und Zukunft einer griechisch-katholischen Ostkirche*, Friedrich Pustet Verlag, Regensburg, 2020, 266 pp., ISBN 978-3-7917-3149-0.

FELICIANI, Giorgio, *Papato, episcopati e società civili (1917–2019). Nuove pagine di diritto canonico ed ecclesiastico*, Marcianum Press, Venezia, 2020, 464 pp., ISBN 978-88-6512-707-0.

GHERRI, Paolo, *Teologia del Diritto canonico. Lezioni introduttive*, LUP, Città del Vaticano, 2020, 176 pp., ISBN 978-88-4651-283-3.

Journals, periodicals

Ius Missionale, Annuario della Facoltà di Diritto Canonico della Pontificia Università Urbaniana, Urbaniana University Press, Roma, 2019, ISBN 978-88-401-5062-8.

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including:

LORUSSO, Lorenzo, *Amministrazione Apostolica per i fedeli orientali*, pp. 17–33.

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Photo on the front page: The new Marian Column in Prague on the Old Town Square, installed on 4th June 2020. Photo by Ferdinand Peroutka

Editor-in-Chief: P. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP

Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Záboj Horák

Editorial Board: Vojtěch Círus, Tomáš Grundza, Jakub Nagy, Marek Novák, Jan Svatoš

Photo editor: Antonín Krč

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