Tomasz Rozkrut
The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, Poland

Review

„Quod iustum est et aequum”. Scritti in onore del Cardinale Zenone Grocholewski per il cinquantesimo di sacerdozio,

The Commemorative Book published in 2013 to mark the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, Prefect of Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, opens with a letter of appreciation from Pope Francis in Latin. The Jubilarian receives praises particularly for his work in the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura and the Congregation for Catholic Education. Reference is made to the numerous awarded honorary doctorates as well as to Cardinal Grocholewski’s untiring effort for a correct interpretation of Canon Law. Successively, a copy of the blessing for the occasion was included, as well as the salutation from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI of 25 May 2013. In the further part, following the commemorative introduction of S. Gądecki, Metropolitan Archbishop of Poznań, laudatory letters were inserted: from Cardinal A. Sodano, dean of College of Cardinals, Archbishop J. Kowalczyk, the Primate of Poland, Archbishop C. Migliore, Papal Nuncio in Poland, and the employees of the Congregation for Catholic Education. This part of the commemorative publication should be regarded as an occasional and unique presentation, and, at the same time, an authentic tribute to the
Cardinal’s enormous scientific and organizational output, primarily through his constant attention for the development of the universal Church and for his great effort to present Canon Law as a useful and significant means within the contemporary Church. Successively, the publication is divided into three parts. The first concerns the life of the Jubilarian himself and his ministry of service in the various Vatican dicasteries. Particular attention is given to his many years working in the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura and as a Prefect in the Congregation for Catholic Education.

The first part of the Commemorative Book consists of articles related to Cardinal Z. Grocholewski’s life and activity. The chosen issues reflect the places of Jubilary’s work, the areas of his interests and his ecclesial service. The presentation here consists of a commemorative speech by Archbishop M. Jędraszewski, an exploration in Z. Grocholewski’s priestly and pastoral work in the years 1963–1966 (Bishop G. Balcerek), a study of his seminary formation (Bishop S. Napierała), the significance of university in the contemporary society (F.-X. Dumortier s.j.), the Rota Studium conducted by the Roman Rota (J. Słowiński), a history of Agropolis, a titular see assigned to him in the years 1982–2001 (R. Rybacki), Archbishop Z. Grocholewski’s current titular cardinal church in Rome – San Nicola in carcere (G. Marino), a short survey of his service at the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura (P. Malecha), and lastly an article on “vir bonus et sapiens, dicendi peritus” (Bishop I. Dec). This part of the commemorative publication ends with some final remarks by Bishop Z. Fortuniak, M. Król and V. Han-Sun Chiang, Rector of the Catholic University FU Jen in Taiwan.

The second part of the publication contains articles concerning various issues of Canon Law, particularly the church procedural law that Cardinal Z. Grocholewski dealt with as an “ex officio” for many years, primarily by emphasizing a correct application. The second set of articles include those by renowned contemporary experts in such as: M. J. Arroba Conde CMF, P.J. Brown S.S., Cardinal R.L. Burke, A.D. Busso, Archbishop F. Daneels O. Praem., G. Dzierżoń, Cardinal P. Erdö, W. Góralski, J. Krukowski, J. Llobell, K. Lüdicke, G. Montini, B. Nowakowski, N. Schöch, H. Schwendenwein, H. Stawniak, L. Świto.

The third and last part of the publication includes issues related to education in general and human development. The diverse studies here presented concern the shaping of contemporary moral and intellectual elite. The authors include B.-M.Barth, F. Bechina, S. Bergan, Cardinal W. Brandmüller, D.P.

In conclusion, the editors of this publication did their best to choose unique authors coming from different continents and academic circles. These include cardinals, bishops, priests, and laymen all of whom are close contacts and collaborators of the Cardinal in Rome or from around the globe. Finally, it should be emphasized that on the occasion of Cardinal’s Grocholewski’s anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood, this outstanding publication rightly brings together informative and interesting articles. Moreover, it should be stressed that this work is edited and published in a truly professional way. This publication could have been enriched had an updated bibliography of Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski been included. That would have indeed given witness to his rich personality and his prodigious scientific output.