

CHRONICA

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In gratitude to pope emeritus Benedict xvi during the 618th academy year at the university

Without a doubt, the bestowing of an honorary doctorate upon Pope Emeritus Benedict xvi was one of the exceptional events of the past academic year of 2014–2015. This was exceptional not only because of the recipient’s dignity, but also because this honor was given by our university in collaboration with the Academy of Music in Krakow. In both instances, the reason for the honor was gratitude to the laureate for his unusually valuable theological teachings on music as well as for his constant expression of distinctive concern for the beauty of Church music and attentiveness to its appropriate place in the liturgy celebrated by the Church. Since 2008, both universities offer a program of study of Church music that take place in the Interuniversity Institute of Church Music. On the part of our university, an additional motivation for this distinction was the desire to express gratitude for raising our institution to the rank of a pontifical university, which took place on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19, 2009.

Furthermore, the event under discussion is exceptional because since entering “an aura of silence and hiddenness” Benedict xvi had not hitherto accepted any honors. In this case, he made an exception, because as he himself wrote in response to the request by both universities, “the joy that I can in this way stand near the venerable and beloved person of St. John Paul II anew is so great that I simply could not have said ‘no’ to this distinction.”

The ceremony of bestowing the doctorate took place on July 4, 2015, in the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo. The Archbishop of Krakow and our university’s Great Chancellor Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, our university’s Rector Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Zyzak, the Rector of the Academy of Music in Krakow Prof. Dr. Hab. Zdzisław Łapiński, and the representatives of the milieu of staff and students of both universities took part in the ceremony. Prof. Dr. Hab. Stanisław Krawczyński, the previous Rector of the Academy of Music in Krakow, gave the laudation. The ceremony was graced by the singing of our

university's Psalmodia choir and a performance of the Ypsylon string quartet of the Academy of Music in Krakow.

In his *lectio magistralis*, the pope emeritus gave thanks for the distinction and raised several very important matters related to religious music and its significance in not only the liturgy but also in culture. He heeded attention to the tensions that have appeared since the Second Vatican Council as a result of the relinquishment of the performance of major works of music during the liturgy. The post-conciliar concern for the simplicity of the liturgy and the engagement of the laity gave way to anxiety resulting from the cultural impoverishment of the Church. Thus it is necessary to be concerned that music does not disappear from the liturgy, since it is a special way of participating in it. For this reason, the dignified laureate noticed: "The activity of both universities that present me this honorary doctorate is a substantial contribution to ensuring that the great gift of music resulting from the tradition of the Christian faith remains alive and that the creative power of the faith will not fizzle out in the future. I sincerely thank you all for this."

Other Important Events

In addition to the Pope Emeritus, Professor Elie Wiesel – a Nobel Peace Prize-winning writer and journalist who coined the term *Holocaust* – also received an honorary doctorate in the previous academic year. This distinction is an expression of appreciation for both his significant academic output in the fields of philosophy, Jewish Studies, and literature, as well as for his outstanding literary activity and his commitment to peace, the defense of truth, and human dignity. The ceremony of the bestowing of the doctorate took place on June 30, 2015, at the Park East Synagogue in New York. A three-person delegation from our university took part: our Rector Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Zyzak, the Prorector for Academic Potential and International Cooperation Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Józef Stala, and Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Tadeusz Pieronek, who gave the laudation. In his doctoral lecture, the laureate emphasized that the experience of the Holocaust did not become a sufficient warning for humanity; in many parts of the world, evil is not condemned, and those with decision-making power engage in empty discussions rather than acting. Because of this, he pleaded at the end of his lecture: "We can't give evil a second chance!"

Another important event in the previous year is the launching of the university's Internet television. On December 1, 2014, the JP2TV website (www.jp2tv.pl) was launched, and the presentation and first live broadcast of the

university's JP2TV television took place on March 18, 2015, at the auditorium on 3 Bernardyńska Street. JP2TV Television is the realization of a project of the students and lecturers, whose goal was to prepare a television program, at the Institute of Journalism and Social Communication at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. The television channel functions above all thanks to the engagement of the students, who on a volunteer basis perform duties necessary to realize the program. To this end they make use of the didactic space and amenities of the TV Studio of the Institute of Journalism and Social Communication at the Faculty of Social Sciences of our university.

Presently, the television channel prepares film footage that is published on the website www.jp2tv.pl, producing promotional materials for the university, and reporting on and documenting ongoing events from the life of the university. The aforementioned duties have been divided among three editorial offices: the Information and Journalism Editorial Office, the Reporting and Documenting Editorial Office, and the "Mała Forma Telewizyjna" Editorial Office. Our JP2TV Television promotes values encribed in the Pontifical University of John Paul II's statute, in accordance with the teachings of our university's founder and patron, St. John Paul II.

Other important events in the university's life in the previous year include the approval of a new statute by the Congregation for Catholic Education. It took place on June 8, 2015, six years after our institution became the Pontifical University of John Paul II. The statute's introduction defines our identity as follows: "The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow [...] is a pontifical university, a Catholic university canonically erected by the Holy See. In response to the contemporary needs of the Church in Poland, it continues the historic mission of the Faculty of Theology of the Jagiellonian University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Krakow" (§1).

The previous 2014–2015 academic year, like previous years, began with a traditional pilgrimage of our community to the Marian shrine in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska on September 30, 2014. The first part of the program was the speech "Consumerism as a Attitudinal Error" given by Dr. Hab. Joanna Mysona Byrska from the Faculty of Philosophy of the Pontifical University of John Paul II. Next, a solemn Mass presided by the Rector of our university, Rev. Prof. Wojciech Zyzak, was concelebrated. The homily was given by Rev. Prof. Dr. Janusz Urban CSSR, the Rector of the Redemptorist Seminary in Tuchów near Tarnów. The Stations of the Cross took place in the afternoon at the "Cavalry routes;" it was prepared and led by theology students.

Professors, administrative staff, and students from the university – students of the diocesan and religious seminaries of Krakow, nuns, and lay students – took part in the pilgrimage. During the pilgrimage, prayers through the intercession of Our Lady of Calvary for good preparation for World Youth Day in Krakow as well as God's blessings for the entire university were said. The pilgrims also prayed in thanksgiving for the blessing of the canonization of John Paul II, the founder of our university (which then was the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Krakow).

The solemn inauguration of the 2014–2015 academic year took place on October 16, 2014. The date of the inauguration is in reference to the anniversary of the election of St. John Paul II to the Throne of St. Peter (which took place on October 16, 1978). As usual, the inaugural ceremony consisted of a liturgical part in St. Anne's Collegiate Church and of an academic part on the Karol Szymanowski Philharmonic in Krakow. Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, the Archbishop of Krakow and Great Chancellor of our university, presided over the solemn inaugural Mass, while Rev. Bishop Dr. Hab. Roman Pindel, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bielsko-Żywiec, gave the homily. After Mass, the participants of the inauguration walked in a procession to the Krakow Philharmonic, where His Magnificence Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Zyzak, the Rector of our university, spoke. At the beginning, he greeted the university's Great Chancellor Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, and after that the assembled guests, who included representatives of the Polish Bishops' Conference: His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski; His Eminence Cardinal Marian Jaworski; Rev. Archbishop Wacław Depo, Archbishop of Częstochowa; Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Roman Pindel, Archbishop of Bielsko-Żywiec; Rev. Bishop Tadeusz Rakoczy, Archbishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Bielsko-Żywiec; Rev. Bishop Jan Kopiec, Bishop of the Diocese of Gliwice; Rev. Bishop Jan Wątroba, Bishop of the Diocese of Rzeszow; Rev. Bishop Stanisław Jamrozek, Auxiliary Bishop of Przemyśl; Rev. Bishop Włodzimierz Juszczak, Bishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Diocese of Wrocław-Gdańsk; the representatives of Poland's Parliament: Senator Mr. Kazimierz Wiatr and Deputy Mr. Piotr Ćwik; the representatives of the city and voivodeship authorities: the Voivode of Lesser Poland Mr. Jerzy Miller; Deputy Marshal of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship Dr. Stanisław Sorys; the Assistant Director of the Department of Regional Policy of the Marshal Office of the Lesser Poland Region Mr. Jacek Woźniak; Chairman of the Krakow City Council Mr. Bogusław Kośmider; the rectors of secular post-secondary institutions of higher education: Rector of the Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University Prof. Dr. Hab. Jerzy

Malec; Rector of the State Higher Vocational School in Nowy Sącz Prof. Dr. Hab. Engineer Zbigniew Ślipek; Prorector for Employment and Financial Policy at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow Prof. Dr. Hab. Jacek Popiel; Prorector for the Education of Students at the Krakow University of Economics Prof. Dr. Hab. Krzysztof Surówka; Prorector for Didactics and Student Affairs at the Agricultural University of Krakow and Professor at the Agricultural University of Krakow Dr. Hab. Sylwester Tabor; Prorector for Student Affairs at the Pedagogical University of Krakow and Professor at the Pedagogical University of Krakow Dr. Hab. Jan Suchanicz; Prorector for Study at the University School of Physical Education in Krakow Prof. Dr. Hab. Edward Mleczko; Prorector for Student Affairs at the Tadeusz Kosciuszko University of Technology Prof. Dr. Hab. Leszek Mikulski; Prorector for Student Affairs at the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow and Professor at the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow Dr. Hab. Jan Tutaj; Associate Dean of the Faculty of Acting at the Ludwik Solski Academy for the Dramatic Arts in Krakow Dr. Hab. Monika Jakowczuk; the Rectors of Catholic universities: Prorector for Study and Development at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Derdziuk; Prorector for Student Affairs at the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum and Professor of the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum Dr. Hab. Filip Musiał; Prorector of the Collegium Boblanum at the Pontifical Theological Faculty in Warsaw Rev. Dr. Artur Filipinowicz; Assistant Rector of the Philosophical-Theological College in Czestochowa Rev. Dr. Robert Plich; Director of the Theological Institute of Czestochowa Rev. Dr. Hab. Marian Duda; Dean of the Greek Catholic Faculty of Theology at the University of Prešov in Prešov (Slovakia) Rev. Prof. Peter Šturák; Associate Dean of the aforementioned faculty Mr. Docent Marek Petro; Associate Dean for Knowledge and Art at the Pedagogical Faculty at the Catholic University in Ružomberok (Slovakia) Ms. Docent Emilia Janigova; Director of the Institute of Educology and Social Work at the University of Prešov in Prešov (Slovakia) Prof. Beáta Balogova; the former rectors of our university: Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Władysław Zuziak; Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Jan Dyduch; Rev. Bishop Prof. Dr. hab. Tadeusz Pieronek; Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Adam Kubiś; consuls: Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Werner Köhler; Consul General of Mexico Mr. Janusz Postolko; the representatives of various Church institutions: of the Archdiocesan Chapter (Rev. Protonotary Apostolic Dr. Bronisław Fidelus); the Chapter of St. Anne's Collegiate Church (Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Tadeusz Panuś); Director of the Polish Section of Aid to the Church in Need Rev. Dr. Hab. Waldemar Cisło,

a Professor at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw; representatives of the Metropolitan Curia; Deans of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Krakow; rectors of the major seminaries; the Rector of the National Seminary for Older Candidates for Holy Orders Rev. Dr. Józef Morawa; Rector of the Major Seminary of the Archdiocese of Krakow Rev. Dr. Hab. Krzysztof Gryz; Rector of the Major Seminary in Rzeszow Rev. Dr. Paweł Pietrusiak; Rector of the Major Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Krakow Rev. Grzegorz Cioch; representatives of the uniformed services as well as representatives of Bank BPH (Senior Counsel to the Corporate Client Krzysztof Czuban; Director of the BPH Business Center in Krakow Grzegorz Brach); and the Chairman Mr. Antoni Rączka.

It is worth mentioning that members of the Polish Bishops' Conference, representatives of Polish universities, and secular authorities sent telegram and congratulatory letters for the inaugural ceremony: President of the Republic of Poland Mr. Bronisław Komorowski; Minister of Science and Higher Education Prof. Lena Kolarska-Bobińska; Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz, Archbishop of Warsaw; Cardinal Henryk Gulbinowicz; Rev. Archbishop Wojciech Polak, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gniezno and Primate of Poland; Rev. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Papal Nuncio in Poland; Rev. Archbishop Andrzej Dzięga, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Szczecin-Kamień; Rev. Archbishop Henryk Hoser SAC, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Warsaw-Praga; Rev. Archbishop Jan Babjak, SJ, Archbishop of Prešov and Metropolitan Archeparch of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia; Rev. Archbishop Józef Kowalczyk; Rev. Archbishop Józef Michalik, Archbishop of Przemyśl; Rev. Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski, Archbishop of Lodz; Rev. Archbishop Wiktor Skworc, Archbishop of Katowice; Rev. Bishop Andrzej F. Dziuba, Bishop of Łowicz and Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Polish Bishops' Conference; Rev. Bishop Antoni Pacyfik Dydycz, Archbishop Emeritus of Drohiczyn; Rev. Bishop Ignacy Dec, Bishop of Świdnice; Rev. Bishop Janusz Stepnowski, Bishop of Łomża; Rev. Bishop Józef Guzdek, Field Bishop of the Polish Army; Rev. Bishop Stefan Regmunt, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gorzów; Chairman of the Polish Academy of Sciences Prof. Dr. Hab. Michał Kleiber; Prof. Dr. Hab. Engineer Andrzej Jajszczyk, Director of the Natinoal Science Center; Dr. Elżbieta Ci-pora, Rector of the State Higher Vocational School in Sanok and a Docent at the State Higher Vocational School in Sanok; Dr. Hab. Tamara Zacharuk, Rector of the Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and Humanities and Associate Professor at the Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and

Humanities; Prof. Dr. Hab. Edward Włodarczyk, Rector of the University of Szczecin; Prof. Dr. Hab. Marek Bojarski, Rector of the University of Wrocław; Dr. Hab. Reader Marek Krawczyk, MD, Rector of the Medical University of Warsaw; Prof. Dr. Hab. Ryszard J. Górecki, Rector of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn; Prof. Dr. Hab. Jacek Wysocki, Rector of the Poznan University of Medical Sciences; Prof. Dr. Hab. Reader Andrzej Drop, Rector of the Medical University of Lublin; Ms. Róża Thun, Member of the European Parliament; Mr. Andrzej Romanek, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland; Member of the Republic of Poland Ms. Jagna Marczułajtis-Walczak; Mr. Stanisław Caputa, Vogt of the Municipality of Lipowa.

Another important part of the inauguration was the matriculation of first year students of the university's four faculties (Theology, Philosophy, History and Cultural Heritage as well as the Social Sciences). This part of the ceremony was led by the Prorector for Student Affairs and Didactics Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Janusz Mastalski. As in previous years, the head of the Students' Union Ms. Oliwia Topolska spoke after the matriculation. She encouraged her youngest fellow students to make the best use of their time at the university and to be active in the Students' Union's activities.

After the matriculation, awards and distinctions were presented. For the first time, the Gold Medals for the Those Honored by the Pontifical University of John Paul II were presented. The university's Rector Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Zyzak Presented it to the Great Chancellor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz and the first Great Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Theology Cardinal Franciszek Macharski as well as the first Rector of the Pontifical University of John Paul II Rev. Prof. Dr. Cardinal Marian Jaworski. After the inauguration, the medal was also presented to Rev. Bishop Prof. Dr. Hab. Wacław Świerzawski (the former Rector of the Pontifical Academy of Theology) on June 14, 2015. Meanwhile, the Archbishop of Krakow Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz presented other awards: two Gold Medals of the Pontificate of John Paul II for Service to the Archdiocese of Krakow. Its recipients were the former Rector of the Academy of Music in Krakow Prof. Stanisław Krawczyński as well as the conductor of the Psalmodia choir, Dr. Hab. Włodzimierz Siedlik, a faculty member at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the Academy of Music in Krakow on the occasion of the jubilee of the 25th anniversary of his artistic activity.

Next, the Rector's awards for contributions to the university and for the best academic papers were given. Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Michał Heller was awarded the Rector's Award for the largest number of points attained for an academic

publication in the previous academic year. Meanwhile, the awards for achievements in academic-didactic and organizational work were given to 14 persons: three received an award for the best doctoral dissertation, one received an award for the best Licentiate of Sacred Theology degree, nine received awards for the best Master of Arts thesis, and five received awards for the best Bachelor of Arts thesis. Thirteen persons received the Rector's award for administrative staff.

The last part of the ceremony was the inaugural lecture titled "The Service of Thinking and *Gaudium Veritatis*," which was given by Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Józef Makselon from the Faculty of Philosophy of our university. Referencing the now-famous speech Pope John Paul II gave to academics in Krakow on June 8, 1997, Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Makselon, who is a psychologist of religion, reminded the audience that the service of thinking, or, as the Pope had conceived, all intellectual activity whose purpose is the common good generates "joy [from encountering] the truth" (*gaudium veritatis*). He also heeded attention to each individual's conditions of searching for truth, noting especially so-called epistemic anxiety and humility in the search for truth.

The singing of the Psalmodia Choir of the Pontifical University of John Paul II conducted by Mr. Włodzimierz Siedlik was weaved into the inaugural ceremony. A chorale with organ variations and *Gaude Mater Polonia* was performed at the start of the ceremony, followed by Romuald Twardowski's *Alleluja* and *Gaudeamus igitur*. At the close of the inauguration, the choir performed Romuald Twardowski's *Magnificat*.

Other important events in the university's life that take place each year include above all the Days of John Paul II. This is a very important time also in the life of the city of Krakow. These days are a common undertaking of the universities represented in the Council of Rectors of Krakow Universities. They are of an academic, interdisciplinary, popularizing, and cultural nature. They are the inspiration for the undertaking of academic study whose purpose is the popularizing of the papal legacy. They always take place at the beginning of November (due to the liturgical feast of St. Charles Borromeo, John Paul II's patron saint, and the anniversary of the ordination of the future pope). Last years Days of John Paul II, held for the ninth time, took place on November 3–6, 2014, and their leading motif was hope, because the Pope often told the young that "You are the hope of the Church" and "You are the hope of the world." As in previous years, the Days of John Paul II took place on the campuses of several universities belonging to the aforementioned council. Also this year the patrons of the event were the Archbishop of Krakow Cardinal

Stanisław Dziwisz, the Archbishop Emeritus of Krakow Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, Voivode of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship Mr. Jerzy Miller, Marshal of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship Mr. Marek Sowa, and the Mayor of Krakow Mr. Jacek Majchrowski.

The following academic sessions took place as part of the Days of John Paul II: “Music with Respect to Poetry in the Teaching of John Paul II, Part v” (November 3, 2014), organized by the Academy of Music in Krakow; the academic conference “The Legacy of John Paul II in Libraries and Archives Domestically and Abroad” (November 4, 2014), organized by our university’s Main Library; the Second “Legacy of John Paul II the Great International Congress” (November 4, 2014) organized by our university in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Bogdan Piotrowski of the University of La Sabana (Bogota, Colombia); the conferences “Czym jest przekraczanie progu nadziei?” (“What Is Crossing the Threshold of Hope?” November 4, 2014) organized by the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum, and “Święty Jan Paweł II – losy nadziei (‘Saint John Paul II: The Fortunes of Hope;’ November 4, 2014) organized by the *Fides et Ratio* International Academic Society. The main academic event was the “Drogi nadziei” (“The Roads of Hope;” November 5, 2014) international symposium organized by the Organizational Committee of the Ninth Days of John Paul II that took place in the auditorium of the Collegium Novum of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. The following papers were presented: “Osoba i dziedzictwo św. Jana Pawła II nadzieją dla Kościoła i świata” (“The Person and Legacy of St. John Paul II as Hope for the Church and the World;” Rev. Archbshihop Stanisław Gądecki); “Jan Paweł II – papież politycznych nadziei” (“John Paul II: The Pope of Political Hopes;” the former ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Holy See Ms. Hanna Suchocka); “Nadzieja – ta pełna Przyszłości” (“Hope, That Beautiful Future;” Prof. Stanisław Grygiel); “Polska potrzebuje światłych patriotów! O wielkiej nadziei i marzeniu św. Jana Pawła II” (“Poland Needs Enlightened Patriots! Concerning the Great Hope and Dreams of St. John Paul II; Prof. Franciszek Ziejka); “Nadzieja na moralność. Moralne wymagania w świecie bez wymagań” (“Hope for Morality: Moral Requirements in a World without Requirements;” Sister Prof. Barbara Chyrowicz), “«Nadzieja to pierzaste stworzenie». Nadzieja, obietnica, utopia” (“‘Hope Is a Fledged Creation’: Hope, Promise, Utopia;” Prof. Tadeusz Sławek), “Przemiana smutku w nadzieję i radość. O kategorii konsolacji w muzyce” (“The Transformation of Sadness into Hope and Joy: Concerning the Category of Consolation in Music;” Prof. Leszek Polony), “Źródła nadziei. Poznanie absolutne według św. Jana od Krzyża i św. Jana Pawła II” (“Sources of Hope:

Absolute Encounter According to St. John of the Cross and St. John Paul II;” Prof. Anna Grzegorzcyk), “Rozwój społeczeństwa informacyjnego. Nadzieja czy zagrożenie?” (“The Development of the Information Society: Hopeful or Threatening?” Prof. Andrzej Pach).

Furthermore, there were many other cultural events, including concerts and theatrical performances, as well as a literary contest and a photographic one for students from across Poland for works inspired by the thought and work of Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II. The awards were presented after Mass at the culmination of the event at the “Have No Fear!” John Paul II Center in the so-called White Seas in Krakow (November 6, 2014). Analogous Days of John Paul II were held in Tarnow and Krosno.¹

In concern for the preservation and passing down of the legacy of John Paul II to the young generation, open lectures devoted to matters that are the subject of the Pope’s teaching are held once each month on Thursdays on the premises of the “Have No Fear!” John Paul II Center at 18 Kanonicza Street in Krakow. They are organized by the Center for Studying the Thought of John Paul II. In the past academic year, the following lectures were given by the representatives of various academic and cultural milieus: “Inspiracje personalistyczne w teologii Jana Pawła II” (“Personalistic Inspirations in the Theology of John Paul II;” Rev. Dr. Hab. Krzysztof Guzowski, professor at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); “Świadomość i emocje w ujęciu Karola Wojtyły” (“Consciousness and Emotions as Conceived by Karol Wojtyła;” Rev. Dr. Hab. Grzegorz Hołub, Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow); “Kościół: ludzki i Boski” (“The Church: Human and Divine;” Rev. Dr. Hab. Cezary Smuniewski, National Defense University in Warsaw); “O powinności moralnej w wychowaniu” (“Concerning the Moral Duty in Bringing Up Children;” Dr. Katarzyna Jasińska, Warsaw); “Chrześcijaństwo, Kościół, demokracja” (“Christianity, the Church, Democracy;” Rev. Dr. Hab. Nikodem Brzózy OP, Poznan); “O pojednaniu (nie tylko płci)” (“Concerning Reconciliation, Not Only of the Sexes;” Dr. Aneta Gawkowska – The Institute of Applied Social Sciences at the University of Warsaw); “Czy Bóg realizuje swój plan w ludzkiej historii?” (“Does God Realize His Plan in Human History?” Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Daniel Szczurek, professor at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow); “Edukacja religijna w rodzinie. Refleksje nad nauczaniem Jana Pawła II” (“Religious Education in the Family: Reflections on the Teaching

¹ You can find more information (in Polish) at the website: www.jp2.krakow.pl/_2014/index.php?program,8 (30.12.2015).

of John Paul II;” Rev. Full Professor Dr. Hab. Józef Stala, Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow). The center also organizes a discussion group about John Paul II’s new feminism titled “kobietaz1” (“Womanz1”). The meetings take place once a month.

Furthermore, the center publishes an editorial series “Studia nad Myślą Jana Pawła II” (“Studies on the Thought of John Paul II”), whose editor is Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Jarosław Kupczak, OP. Recently the fifteenth volume – Ms. Inga Mizdrak’s *Ku wolności i samospelnieniu człowieka. Zarys antropologii filozoficznej Karola Wojtyła* (“Towards Freedom and Man’s Self-Actualization: An Outline of Karol Wojtyła’s Philosophical Anthropology”) – was published.

In addition to John Paul II, Krakow can also boast of Rev. Prof. Józef Tischner, a philosopher famous in Poland and throughout Europe. They are popularized in the form of the Tischner Days, organized by the Pontifical University of John Paul II (this year’s main organizer), the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the Ludwik Solski Academy for the Dramatic Arts in Krakow, and the Znak Social Publishing House. Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz is the honorary patron of the event.

This year’s Tischner Days, held for the fifteenth time, took place on April 22–25, 2015, under the slogan: “The Dispute About Man.” The Tischner Days began with a Mass at St. Anne’s Collegiate Church in the intention of Rev. Prof. Tischner. Also this year the Mass was celebrated by Rev. Bishop Prof. Dr. Hab. Grzegorz Ryś, who also gave the homily. Next, the gala during which the Józef Tischner Znak and Hestia Award was presented was held. This year’s Tischner Days also included the following events: the “Co się stało z naturą ludzką?” (“What Has Happened to Human Nature?”) International Academic Conference; Cave of Philosophers discussion meetings about “The Dispute About Man,” and the lecture about “Człowiek sceny, człowiek dramatu” (“Man of the Stage, Man of the Play”) was given by Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Michał Heller from our university as part of the “Colloquia Tischneriana” series. The lecture was given on April 24, 2015, in the Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University. In his lecture, Rev. Prof. Heller heeded attention to the relationship between the stage and the actor, or metaphorically at the relationship between the natural sciences, of which he is a representative, and the philosophy of man (phenomenology), which was undertaken by Rev. Tischner. Without such a stage, the discourse about the human drama would be impossible. According to Rev. Heller, “saying that the stage is the universe as it is studied by the empirical sciences would not contribute anything valuable to the discussion. What’s most important is that man is incorporated into this stage.” Contemporary

cosmology proves that he is incorporated into it from the very beginning, or from the beginning of the universe. Rev. Prof. Heller is inclined towards expanding “the metaphor of the play to the entirety of cosmic history,” because “man’s fate was in question already from the initial conditions of the Big Bang. Even small disturbances of at least some of the initial parameters of the Big Bang would have led the universe on a path of empty evolution without the possibility of the appearance of life.” Simultaneously, he admits that even such a cosmology is not able to help man much in his existential drama; for this reason, “Father Józef Tischner with his philosophy of drama” is also needed. Rev. Prof. Heller thus demonstrated that such diverse paths of attaining the truth as cosmology and phenomenology have a point of contact: man and his drama.²

Jubilees and Promotions

Important cyclical events also include jubilees. An especially important jubilee in the life of our university is the anniversary of the inauguration of the activity (the erection) of the Faculty of Theology in Krakow on January 11, 1397. The central point of its celebrations is academic promotions. The anniversary celebrations took place on January 12, 2015, for the first time, unfortunately, far from the relics of the founder of the Faculty of Theology, St. Jadwiga (Hedwig) Queen of Poland. Because of the tourists visiting the cathedral at Wawel, the ceremony was moved to St. Anne’s Collegiate Church. During the solemn Mass, which was celebrated by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, the Great Chancellor of our university, the university expressed its gratitude to God for 618 years of care for the faculty. The homily was given by Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Wiesław Przychyna, the Director of the Liturgy Institute of our university. After the Mass, promotion ceremonies – during which doctoral diplomas were given to 12 people (nine from the Faculty of Theology, one from the Faculty of Philosophy, and two from the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage) – took place. Also during the ceremony, six people – Rev. Dr. Hab. Sylwester Jędrzejewski and Rev. Dr. Hab. Stanisław Wronk from the Faculty of Theology; Rev. Dr. Hab. Stanisław Cieślak, SJ, and Dr. Hab. Marian Wołkowski-Wolski from the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage; Dr. Hab. Hubert Kaszyński (habilitation dissertation was written at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow)

² You can read more about the Fifteenth Tischner Days (in Polish) at: www.dni.tischner.pl/ program (30.12. 2015).

and Rev. Dr. Hab. Robert Nęcek (whose habilitation dissertation was written at the Catholic University of Ružomberok in Ružomberok, Slovakia) from the Faculty of Social Sciences – received habilitation diplomas. Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz (instead of the President of the Republic of Poland, pursuant to an agreement between the government and the bishops' conference) bestowed the academic title of professor upon four persons: Prof. Dr. Hab. Jarosław Kupczak, OP (Theology); Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Stanisław Sojka (Theology), Prof. Dr. Hab. Wiesław Delimat (the procedures for giving him the academic title of Professor of Music Studies were undertaken at the Institute of Art at the Polish Academy of sciences), Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Witko (the procedures for giving him the academic title of Professor of the Humanities were undertaken at the Institute of Art at the Polish Academy of Sciences). Meanwhile, Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Józef Stala was elevated to the position of Full Professor. As the Prorector of our university, he also expressed gratitude in the name of those promoted. It is also necessary to note that Mr. Bronisław Komorowski, President of the Republic of Poland, bestowed the academic title of Professor of the Humanities upon Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Józef Wołczański on January 28, 2015.

The second round of promotions, which since last year take place in June (in the place of May promotions), took place on June 8, 2015, in St. Anne's Collegiate Church in relation to the liturgical feast of St. Jadwiga of Poland, which takes place on that day. They are also an opportunity to recall the anniversary of the erection of the university (then the Pontifical Academy of Theology) by John Paul II (on December 8, 1981) and later its elevation to the rank of a pontifical university by Benedict XVI (on June 19, 2009). The promotions took place after a celebration of the Lauds about St. Queen Jadwiga, which was prepared by nuns from the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Queen Jadwiga and were led by the university's Great Chancellor Cardinal Dziwisz. Twelve persons received doctoral diplomas (eight from the Faculty of Theology, two from the Faculty of Philosophy, and two from the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage). They were ceremoniously given by their promoters. Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Kalniuk, MS, from the Faculty of Theology received the diploma of habilitated doctor from the Great Chancellor. Next, the cardinal bestowed the academic title of Professor of Theology (in place of the President of the Republic of Poland, on the basis of an agreement between the government and the Bishops' Conference) upon Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Jan Machniuk and Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Jan Daniel Szczurek (whose signature is below), both from the Faculty of Theology. The latter expressed gratitude on behalf of the promoted to the cardinal and the university.

International and Domestic Cooperation

Not only the development of the academic faculty, but also cooperation with international research centers influences the university's development. Contacts with international research centers in Bochum (Germany), Ružomberok, Prešov (Slovakia), Kiev and Lviv (Ukraine) remain particularly active. A sign of constantly growing cooperation is the signing of new Memoranda of Understanding between our university and several international institutions of post-secondary education. Such a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Germany, on November 6, 2014. From the German side, the Rector Prof. Alfred Forchel and Dean Prof. Heribert Hallermann signed the memorandum. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra (Slovakia) on February 20, 2015. From the Slovak side, the university's Rector Prof. Lubomír Zelenický, csc, signed it. We signed an Agreement for Cooperation with the University of Split (Croatia) represented by Prof. Šimun Anđelinović on June 5, 2015. We signed an Agreement for Cooperation with the Philosophical-Theological Academy Brixen/Bressanone (Italy) represented by Rector Rev. Prof. Dr. Paolo Renner on June 9, 2015. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Pontifical University of Salamanca (Spain) represented by the Rector Rev. Ángel Galindo García on July 13, 2015. Finally, another Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Russian Christian Academy for the Humanities in St. Petersburg (Russia) on September 9, 2015. Its Rector, Prof. Dmitry Bogatyrev, signed it on behalf of the academy.

From December 2013 to the end of the 2020–2021 academic year, our university is also a participant of the European Union's Erasmus+ program. As part of the program, we signed a total of 60 agreements with 60 international universities. Most recently, agreements were signed with Yildirim Beyazit University (Turkey, only academic faculty), the University of Pisa (Università di Pisa, Italy), the Brandenburg University of Technology (Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany), the Pontifical University of Salamanca (Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, Spain), the Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg (Universität Würzburg, Germany), the University of Tilburg (Universiteit van Tilburg, Netherlands), the University of Tübingen Eberhard Karls (Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany), the University of Ljubljana (Univerza v Ljubljani, Slovenia), the Catholic University of Toulouse (Institut Catholique de Toulouse, France), the University

of Lusafona (Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias, Portugal), and the University of Naples (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II).

It is especially worth noting the aforementioned cooperation with the Faculty of Theology at the Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), which has been going on uninterrupted since the signing of an agreement on November 2, 1983. From the German side, Rev. Prof. Christof Breitsameter is responsible for the organization of meetings, while Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Dziejdzic is responsible for it from our university. In the past academic year, the German side organized a symposium titled “Religion in Europe After 1990” (“Religion in Europa nach 1990”), which took place on May 8, 2015, in Bochum. Papers were presented by Rev. Dr. Hab. J. Dziejdzic, Professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, from our university (“Religion and Moral Attitudes in Contemporary Europe;” “Religiosität und moralische Einstellungen im gegenwärtigen Europa“), Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Joachim Wiemeyer from the Ruhr University Bochum (“Denominational Policy as the Result of Growing Religious Pluralism;” “Religionspolitik als Folge zunehmender religiöser Pluralisierung”), Rev. Dr. Hab. Henryk Sławinski, Professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II, from our university (“Religious Freedom and the Preaching of the Word of God Today;” “Religionsfreiheit und Verkündigung des Wortes Gottes in Gegenwart“), and Prof. Dr. Hab. Thomas Söding from the Ruhr University Bochum (“The Theology of Didactics in Light of the Sermon on the Mount: An Approach to Teaching Religion in Europe “). Students from both university participated in the symposium.

Meanwhile, an expression of our openness to academic cooperation with partners from behind our eastern border is the tightening of our university’s ties with the Catholic academic milieu in Ukraine, especially in Lviv. The result of this cooperation was the academic conference “The Catholic Church in East-Central Europe in the Face of Two Totalitarianisms (1917–1990),” which took place in Lviv on December 10–11, 2014. In addition to our university, the organizers of the conference were: the Institution of National Remembrance, Branch in Rzeszow; the Major Seminary of the Archdiocese of Lviv of the Latins in Lviv-Bryochovychi; and the parish of the Latin Rite Archcathedral Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lviv. The honorary patron of the conference was the Archbishop of Lviv of the Latins Rev. Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki and the Marshal of the Subcarpathia Voivodeship Władysław Ortyła. Academic staff from our university; the Jagiellonian University in Krakow; the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin; the Institute of National Remembrance, Branch in Rzeszow; the University of Rzeszow;

the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw; the Archives of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate; the National Archives of the Csongrád/Szeged Region in Szeged (Hungary); the Museum of John Paul II and Primate Wyszyński; the Archive of New Records in Warsaw; the Archdiocesan Archive in Przemyśl; and the doctoral students of our university (from the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage), the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and the University of Szeged (Hungary).

The following topics were the subjects of the conference: volunteers in Soviet Russia in the first half of the 1920s; “secular ritual” as a means of communicating ideas, concepts, and feelings of the Soviet people in promoting the materialistic worldview; the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Lviv in 1939–1946; the pastoral mission of Rev. Jan Olszański (1919–2003) in Podolia after World War II in the opinions of Soviet secret service agents; books of Mass intentions of the churches and parishes of Lviv as evidence of the Poles’ faith and piety during the German and Soviet governance of the city (1939–1946) – an analysis of selected documents; the Church in the “demo-gulag” in 1944–1989; reception of the Second Vatican Council by religious congregations in the Vilnius and Grodno regions, or concerning conciliar renewal under the conditions of a totalitarian state; the structure of the Catholic Church in Hungary before and after the Treaty of Trianon (1920, Versailles, France); the symbiosis of denominations (Catholics, Orthodox, and Unites) in Transylvania after the Treaty of Trianon; the rebirth of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin in Slovakia after World War II; German persecution of Sorbian clergy during the days of the Third Reich; persecution of Catholic priests in the lands occupied by the USSR in 1939–1942 in light of Polish documents from the Hoover Institution; the unknown memoirs of the priests from the Dioceses of Kamianets and Zhytomyr persecuted in the USSR preserved in the resources of the Vatican Archives; the rebuilding of the churches of Warsaw under the Primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński; the Catholic Church in Poland and communism in 1918–1939; the place and role of the Religions Department of the Polish People’s Republic’s battle against the Church; communist repressions of the Archdiocese of Lviv in Lubaczów in 1944–1956; collaboration between the Polish Security Service and the Committee of State Security of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union (Комитет государственной безопасности, КГБ) in the fight against male religious orders; the army service of the seminarians of the Major Diocesan Seminary in Przemyśl as an element of communist repression; Bishop Franciszek Barda and the “new authorities” in Poland after World War II – selected issues; and Archbishop Ignacy Tokarczuk – the custodian of the memory of the Eastern Borderlands of Poland.

The materials from the conference were published under the same title: *Kościół katolicki w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej w obliczu dwóch totalitaryzmów (1917–1990)* [“The Catholic Church in East-Central Europe in the Face of Two Totalitarianisms (1917–1990),”], edited by M. Krzysztofiński, J. Wołczański, Rzeszów–Stalowa Wola–Lviv 2015, one volume.

With reference to cooperation with Catholic universities, it is worth mentioning our university’s engagement in the forum of secular universities. Our university maintains regular contacts with all the universities in Poland through the Conference of Rectors of Universities in Poland – CRUP). Since March 4, 2006, the Rector of the Pontifical University of John Paul II is a member of this conference in accordance with §2 of its updated rulebook.

When discussing international and domestic cooperation with various universities, we should also mention our particularly promising cooperation with the Municipality of Krakow. With the development of the Religious Tourism Studies program (a new program of study designed and implemented at the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of John Paul II) in mind, our university signed an agreement with the aforementioned municipality regarding the handling of religious tourism and preparation for it. On November 6, 2014, this agreement was signed by: Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Krakow, and Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Zyzak, Rector of our university. In the signed agreement, both sides have agreed, among other things, on technical cooperation with regards to educating students; the organization of internships for students; and the shared organization of seminars, workshops and training, conferences, and congresses. The sides of the agreement have also committed themselves to exchange information related to the situation of the tourism industry and to mutually provide statistics, research, and experts’ opinions to each other. These activities will be especially significant in light of the next World Youth Day, which will take place in Krakow in 2016. Our university’s Faculty of Theology organizes religious Tourism Studies. Their aim is to pass down basic theological knowledge; familiarize students with basic world history, Church history, and with religious art and the religious cultures of various countries; as well as to impart professional knowledge and practical skills related to, among others, planning trips, tourism laws and regulations, the leading of tour groups (tour leaders and tour guides), as well as managing a business in the tourism industry.

Recognition of the University

Our university not only acknowledges other academic centers by giving honorary doctorates, as has been mentioned above, but also itself receives such honors. In the past academic year, our university's Great Chancellor Cardinal Dziwisz received this honor. Admittedly, it was not a distinction given directly to a professor of our university, but the university community is proud of this honor bestowed upon our Great Chancellor by the University of Prešov in Prešov. The ceremony during which the distinction was bestowed took place in Prešov on November 12, 2014, during the Family Congress (November 11–12, 2014) organized as part of the Year of the Family celebrated by the Archeparchy of Prešov by the Archbishop of Prešov Ján Babjak, SJ. The doctorate given to the cardinal was in the field of Catholic theology for "his accomplishments in the development of scientific encounter, culture, and humanism; for his contributions to the development of the Slovak Greek Catholic Church, and for having broadly represented it at the international level," and also for the recipient's personal efforts taken to build good relations between the Archdiocese of Krakow and the Archeparchy of Prešov. Prof. René Matlovič, Rector of the University of Prešov in Prešov, presented the honorary doctorate during a ceremonious session of the Academic Council of the University, which took place in the lecture hall of its Greek Catholic Theological Faculty. Representatives of academic milieus and the Church in Poland and Slovakia took part in the ceremony. Rev. Prof. Dr. Peter Šturák, Dean of the Greek Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Prešov, gave the laudation. Thanking for kindness towards the university, he recalled that "as the Great Chancellor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz has made and still makes an important contribution to his collaboration with the Greek Catholic Theological Faculty in Prešov, as evidenced by the signing of new bilateral agreements regarding the cooperation of this Faculty with the Faculty of Theology and Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage at [our] university. His personal contribution to mutual cooperation also consists of allowing Greek Catholic priests from Slovakia to study there, thanks to which in the past they have received the necessary academic qualifications for functioning in the area of post-secondary education. Particularly valuable are his advice and his suggestions that lead towards a constant improvement of education in the field of theological studies."

Undoubtedly, another distinction was the honorary doctorate given to Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Michał Heller by the University of Silesia in Katowice. The

ceremony took place on March 11, 2015, in the concert hall of the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. The university Senate gave the honor upon the request of the councils of three faculties: the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry; the Faculty of Social Sciences; and the Faculty of Theology. The engagement of these three units demonstrates Rev. Prof. Heller's three areas of activity: cosmology, philosophy, and theology. The reviewers were: Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Mączka, Professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II, from our university; Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Bronek from the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin; and Prof. Dr. Hab. Marek Biesiada from the University of Silesia in Katowice. The laudation was given by Prof. Dr. Hab. Bogusław Dembiński, who noted that: "the thinking of Rev. Prof. Dr. Heller gains an all-encompassing, consistent form in which the mathematic natural sciences become permanently tied to theology and philosophy." The diploma was presented by Prof. Dr. Hab. Wiesław Banyś, Rector of the University of Silesia in Katowice. In pointing out the motivations behind presenting this distinction, he noted, among others, the unusual attitude of the priest and professor, who constantly reminds us that ethical values are just as important and scientific skills, which is best attested to by the Copernicus Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Krakow, where the greatest spiritual values are linked with science. Representatives of the academic community; members of Poland's Parliament; the representatives of regional governments and the diplomatic corps, clergy, local governments; and Rev. Prof. Heller's friends and family all took part in the ceremony. The ceremony concluded with his lecture on "Rationality and the Meaning of the Universe." In it, he emphasized that "the fragility of our existence often pesters us, but thanks to the scientific method and its enormous success the cosmos has convinced us that its deep structure has something friendly within itself: it allows us to understand it, at least partially, and that which we have already understood contains the promise that the process of understanding will continue to progress."

The Church's Concern for European and Interreligious Unity

A very important and momentous international event was the "Rola Kościoła katolickiego w procesie integracji europejskiej" ("Role of the Catholic Church in the Process of European Integration") conference, organized each year by the Pontifical University of John Paul II; this time, it was held for the fifteenth time. The conference took place in the Krakow Conference Center in Tomaszowice

near Krakow on September 25–26, 2015, and was devoted to the topic of “Dignity, Freedom, and Human Rights.” The conference was organized by our university in cooperation with the Robert Schuman Foundation in Luxembourg, and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The European People’s Party (Christian Democrats), the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union – COMECE in Brussels, and the Wokół Nas Publishing House in Gliwice also participated in the organization of the conference. During this year’s edition, about 320 people took part and 34 speeches and papers were presented.

The conference was inaugurated by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, the Archbishop of Krakow, and after him Rev. Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek (Chairman of the Organizational Committee), Dr. Christian Schmitz (Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Poland), Mr. Horst Langes (Honorary President of the Robert Schuman Foundation in Luxembourg), Mr. Marek Sowa (Marshal of the Lesser Poland Voivodship), Mr. György Hölvényi (Member of the European Parliament and the Deputy Chairman of the EPP Group on Intercultural Dialogue and Religious Affairs), Mr. Allesandro Calcagno (Expert on Basic Rights for the COMECE), and Dr. Jan Oblrzycht (Member of the European Parliament and Head of the Polish Delegation to the European People’s Party) all greeted the guests after him.

The introductory speeches were devoted to the following matters: Dignity: Existential Value, or a Personal or Legal Category? (Rev. Dr. Florian Kolffhaus, Secretariat of State of the Holy See); Freedom: The Limits of Freedom or Freedom without Limits? (Cardinal Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch); Human Rights: Their Origins and Scope from the Christian Perspective and That of the European Union (Prof. Andrzej Zoll, former Polish Ombudsman, Jagiellonian University in Krakow); Dignity, Freedom, and Human Rights in European Politics (Mr. Elmar Brok, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, Germany). Next, there were discussion in three thematic working groups relevant to the topics of the first three introductory speeches. Dr. Dominika Kozłowska (Editor-in-chief of the *Znak* monthly) led the first group, Mr. Zbigniew Nosowski (commentator for the *Więź* quarterly) led the second group, and Dr. Andrzej Grajewski (commentator for the *Gość Niedzielny* weekly) led the third group. In the evening, Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz for the participants of the conference in the Dominican Basilica of the Holy Trinity. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio to Poland, gave the homily.

The results of the discussions in the working groups and afterwards the papers introducing the discussion on “Global player – Europe. Aktualne międzynarodowe problemy polityczne, które wymagają zaangażowania UE” (“Europe As a Global Player: Contemporary International Political Problems That Require the EU’s Engagement”) were presented on the next day. They were given by Dr. Jacek Saryusz-Wolski (Member of the European Parliament and Deputy Head of the European People’s Party, Poland) and Prof. Rocco Buttiglione (Member of the Italian Parliament). Mr. Jacek Stawiski (TVN Biznes i Świat) led the discussions after the papers.

Our university’s Rector Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Zyzak spoke at the conclusion of the entire conference. He reminded the participants that according to Theodor Heuss, the first President of Germany, Europe was built on three hills: the Capitoline Hill, Acropolis, and Golgotha. They symbolize different perspectives, and for centuries European culture had harmoniously held them together. Their main values include human dignity, which is a foundation of its freedom and rights. Thus an integral understanding of human dignity (both natural and supernatural) is necessary as the source of human rights, which are mentioned in Pope St. John XXIII’s encyclical *Pacem in Terris*.³

The popularizing of concern about the unity of Christians is one of the main purposes of the Institute of Fundamental Theology, Ecumenism and Dialogue. For this reason, the institute actively participates in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the related Day of Judaism in the Catholic Church and Day of Islam in the Catholic Church each year. Such was the case this year as well: the institute co-organized the aforementioned Week of Prayer, which took place in Krakow on January 18–25, 2015. The theme of this year’s edition were the words from the Gospel According to St. John: “When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Give me something to drink’” (John 4:7). The co-organizers of this year’s Week of Prayer were the Ecumenical Ministry of the Archdiocese of Krakow, the Krakow branch of the Polish Ecumenical Council, the Club of Catholic Intellectuals in Krakow, and the Chemin Neuf community. The ecumenical services of the Word of God took place in various churches and chapels belonging to the Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession, Polish National Catholic, and Roman Catholic Churches. This year, there was no service in the

³ You can read about this year’s edition of the conference (in Polish) at: www.kosciol-europa.org.pl/program.php (30. 12. 2015). You can also find all the original recordings of all the presentations there.

Mariavite community because of the death of their minister. The ceremony that inaugurated the Week of Prayer took place in an Orthodox church in Krakow (on 24 Szpitalna Street) on January 18, 2015. As in previous years, Rev. Paweł Kubani (Roman Catholic Church) introduced the common prayer. The culmination of the Week of Prayer was Mass led by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz on Sunday January 25, 2015, in the Dominican Holy Trinity Basilica in Krakow on 12 Stolarska Street. Rev. Leszek Kołodziejczyk, Pastor of the Polish National Catholic parish in Bolesławiec, gave his testimony at the end of the ecumenical service, which was led by Rev. Bishop Grzegorz Ryś.

The Fifteenth Day of Judaism in the Catholic Church in Poland took place earlier, on January 17, 2015 (it was celebrated across all of Poland) with the theme of "I seek Yahweh and He answers me, frees me from all fears" (Psalm 34) right before the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was organized by the Institute of Fundamental Theology, Ecumenism and Dialogue of the Pontifical University of John Paul II; the Ecumenical Ministry of the Archdiocese of Krakow; and the Jewish Religious Community of Krakow. The introduction to this year's Day of Judaism was a lecture about "Jakie owoce może przynieść mowa" ("The Fruits That Speech Can Bring"), which was given by Mr. Eliezer Gurary, Chief Rabbi of Krakow, on January 12, 2015, at our university. The "Hawdala" prayer meeting of Christians and Jews took place on the Day of Judaism at the Tempel synagogue on 24 Miodowa Street in Krakow. Its participants included Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, Archbishop of Krakow, and Mr. Tadeusz Jakubowicz, Chairman of the Jewish community of Krakow. The prayer was introduced by Rabbi Eliezer Gurary, while the prayer itself was led by the Rabbi of Galicia, Mr. Edgar Gluck. The music was provided by the Perflugium Early Music Ensemble with the participation of Rabbi Jicchak Horowitz. The who meeting was led by Mr. Janusz Poniewierski of the "Covenant" Club of Christians and Jews.

Meanwhile, the Krakow celebrations of the Fifteenth Day of Islam in the Catholic Church took place on January 29, 2015. Their motif were the words "Ku prawdziwemu braterstwu między muzułmanami i chrześcijanami" ("Towards a True Brotherhood of Muslims and Christians"). The celebrations were organized by the Institute of Fundamental Theology, Ecumenism and Dialogue of the Pontifical University of John Paul II; the Ecumenical Ministry of the Archdiocese of Krakow; and the Franciscan friars. They began with the service of the Word of God, which were led by Rev. Bishop Grzegorz Ryś. After the service, the participants went to the university building, where they listened to a lecture titled "W cieniu kalifatu. Codziennosc relacji chrześcijańsko-muzułmańskich"

(“In the Shadow of the Caliphate: Quotidian Relations Between Christians and Muslims”), which was given by Dr. Marcin Rzepka of the Institute of History and Cultural Heritage of our university.

Popularization of the Results of Research

In addition to the aforementioned cyclical initiatives intended to increase knowledge imparted during regular classes, there are also symposia, conferences, and guest lectures, which simultaneously are the means to popularize the results of research undertaken by the academic-didactic staff of our university. Some of them were organized with the participation of external institutions. Here are several of them, presented chronologically.

In collaboration with the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, the Pontifical University of John Paul II, at the initiative of the Specialization in Pastoral Theology at the Faculty of Theology organized the most recent, Twenty-Second International “*Sacrum* and Nature” Seminar titled “Krajobraz sakralny” (“The Sacral Landscape,” [Сакральний ландшафт]),” which took place in Lviv (University of Lviv, Львівський національний університет імені Івана Франка, Ukraine) on September 25–26, 2014. Academic staff from our university, the aforementioned university in Lviv, the Pedagogical University of Krakow, the Tadeusz Kosciuszko University of Technology, the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, the Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatyuk National Pedagogical University in Ternopil (Ukraine), and the University of Prešov in Prešov (Slovakia). The presented papers dealt with such topics as: general matters related to the presence of *sacrum* in the landscape; sacral objects in the geospace of Lviv and the vicinity; the religious landscapes of Western Ukraine; sacred places as an element of the natural-cultural landscape of the Ternopil region; pilgrimages in the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia and their significance in the religious formation of the person; Polish calvaries as an expression of the development of the religious landscape in the modern age; pilgrimage trails in the religious landscape of Poland; the Way of St. James in Poland as a return to the medieval tradition of pilgrimage; the role of wooden churches in promoting the tourism of the Prešov region; Greek Catholic parishes of the Levoča Mountains – Torysky, Nižné Repaše, Olšavica – as places for experiencing the beauty of nature and religious heritage of Slovakia; the *sacrum* in the landscapes of Polish national parks; sacral elements of the landscape of Greater Poland; and love for going on pilgrimage and its popularity. The materials from the symposium were

published in the book *Krajobraz sakralny* (“The Sacral Landscape”), ed. M. Ostrowski, J. Partyka, Krakow–Lviv 2014. The publication contains texts in Polish, Ukrainian, English, and Slovak.

The problem of taxes has always provoked many emotions, and although for many reasons it is very important, it is still insufficiently present in the public discourse. To accommodate the interest in this matter, the Faculty of Theology and the “Talent” Ministry for Entrepreneurs and Employers organized a conference about “Moralność podatkowa 2240” (“Tax Morality 2240”), which took place on October 9, 2014. The number 2240, which appears in the title of the conference, is a reference to paragraph 2240 in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, in which there is discussion about the paying of taxes. Papers were presented by academic staff from our university and the Warsaw School of Economics in Warsaw. During the conference, the following matters were discussed: tax morality; democracy, taxes, and consumerism; a Christian’s attitude towards the abuses of tax authorities; Theodoret of Cyrus’ accounts of the revenue agency in his *Letters*; tax morality of Catholic businesspeople in Poland as the social cause of attitudes towards the tax code; and the confession and spiritual direction of tax fiddlers. From the practical perspective, especially valuable was heeding attention to the ministry aspect of tax matters, and in particular the shaping of consciences through the Sacrament of Penance. The summary of the papers and discussions can be expressed in the following opinion: the feeling of belonging, responsibility for one’s loved ones, and justice dispose us towards paying taxes. However, taking into consideration the complexity of this problem, we should continually broaden our knowledge in the fields of economics and law and actively take part in public life in order to improve the quality of life of society through various activities.

The demographic crisis and high unemployment are two important problems that affect families in different ways. An academic reflection on these topics was undertaken at the conference titled “Rodzina wobec wyzwań współczesnego rynku pracy” (“The Family and the Challenges of Today’s Labor Market”), which took place on October 14, 2014. It was organized by the Institute of Social Work of the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Ombudsman of Poland, the City of Krakow, the Institute of Social Work, and the Regional Labor Office in Krakow. Lectures were given by professors of the Maria Grzegorzewska University, the University of Rzeszow, and our university. The topics of plenary lectures dealt with the following matters: the situation of persons with autism in today’s labor market – from passivity to activity; teleworking – a threat or an opportunity for the activation of at-risk groups on the job market?; and work

as the source of the absence of the father in the family. Discussions on the following topics were held in the panel sessions: the influence of migration on the professional, social, and family situation of Poles; at-risk groups and the job market; counseling and job activation; children in migrant families; age and sex as risk factors on the job market; and family counseling and other forms of aid to the family.

Music plays a crucial role in the life of contemporary youths; it shapes their attitudes and aesthetic senses. It also has significance for their faith. Thus the conference titled “Tradycja, terażniejszość i przyszłość przekazu muzyki kościelnej w kontekście współczesnych interpretacji i tendencji. Muzyka i wiara młodych” (“The Tradition, Present Day, and Future of the Form of Church Music in the Context of Contemporary Interpretations and Tendencies: The Music and Faith of the Young”), which took place on October 21, 2014. It was organized by the Interuniversity Institute of Church Music, which is a shared unit of the Academy of Music in Krakow and our university. Papers were presented by academic staff of the institute and the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. The papers dealt with such topics as the basic purposes of World Youth Day; the role of music in relation to God; the role of music in building the community and society as seen in the example of the Jesuit Reductions of Paraguay; the liturgy and the central event of the meeting of the young; and the topics of catechesis and the challenges that face young people today. The discussion panel at the end of the conference tried to answer the question: “Can we pass down the experience of faith through music?”

Honest journalism is one of the priorities of the Institute of Journalism and Social Communications, which is active as part of the Faculty of Social Sciences at our university. The conference “Przejawy manipulacji w dziennikarstwie, reklamie i *public relations*” (“Expressions of Manipulations in Journalism, Advertising, and Public Relations”), which took place on October 21–22, 2014, at our university, was devoted to the promotion of such journalism. In addition to the aforementioned institute, its organizers were: the University of Warsaw, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the employees of the aforementioned institutions and the academic-didactic staff of: the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Warsaw), the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, the University of Rzeszow, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, the University of Wrocław, the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, the University of Economics in Katowice, the University of Gdansk, the College of Social and Media Culture in Torun, the Maria Curie-Skłodowska

University in Lublin, the University of Economics and Innovation in Lublin, the Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University, and the Pedagogical University of Krakow. The first day consisted of plenary sessions. In the second part of the first day and the second day, lectures were simultaneously held in two sections. All the papers had the form of short, fifteen-minute presentations.

During the plenary sessions, the following matters were discussed: the constitutional principle of the freedom of press and the phenomenon of manipulation in the press; manipulation in the media – not what you think; manipulation in light of the ethics of communication – an ethical attempt at conveying the phenomenon of free media and other standards in the digital era; our everyday manipulation – the methods and techniques of influencing the recipients of the media; the suggestions and manipulations in selected publications of Polish weekly opinion magazines; and the techniques of manipulation using children in Polish television advertisements. The sessions held in sections were devoted to more detailed matters.

In the section dealing with the expressions of manipulation in journalism, the following topics were discussed: the phenomenology of manipulation in journalism; principles and ethical compromises in the field of communication of the coming generation of journalists, lawyers, and bureaucrats in light of research; techniques of manipulation used in media communications and the legal responsibility of the journalist – a legal analysis; the selection of information in the media – principles, values, manipulations; manipulating journalists – the influence of public relations agencies and press secretaries on regional media; manipulating information in the work of the press secretary; ostensible objectivity as a form of journalistic manipulation; manipulation in the Russian press.

In the section dealing with the expressions of manipulation in advertisements and public relations, the following were the topics of papers: motifs of death sexuality, and violence in commercials – concerning the limits of the viewer's emotions; advertainment, or how to turn off the consumer's vigilance; women's press – between advertorials and information; the Machiavellianism of the promotion of anti-pain medications – commercials that kill? (on the basis of one's own research); bad public service announcements are like "a stain on a shirt that can't be washed"; victory without arms, or how Russian propaganda works; public relations and the social strategies of responsibility – between informing, convincing, and manipulation; the consumer falling prey to "education-indoctrination"; and useless social media – a lack of a mission and the ignoring of the civic interest as the main causes of journalistic manipulation.

The next day, the following topics were discussed in the section dealing with the expressions of manipulation in journalism: Sochi and politics – the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi in the mass media (based on texts published in selected issues of *Gazeta Wyborcza*); manipulation in the news; manipulation in reporting; communication standards in the world of politics and the example of the “recordings affair” in the *Wprost* weekly as published in the Polish tabloids on June 23, 2014; the media image of reality – others or foreigners? Manipulating the image of foreigners in the Polish media; between visual manipulation and informing on the basis of journalistic photography in Polish opinion-forming weeklies; manipulation of the rhetoric of the image and word; establishing an inter-media agenda as a strategy of concentrating and distracting the attention of public opinion; lessons of tolerance? The “Other” in the media – strategies of presentation and assimilation; Facebook – the planet of different (“Other”) faces?; the world of fortunetelling, the new media, and the recipient.

In the last section that dealt with the expressions of manipulation in advertising and public relations, the papers dealt with the following topic: political manipulation and the quality of democracy on the basis of the local elections in 2010 and 2014; media propaganda – generating stereotypes on the basis of the activity of Rev. Jerzy Popiełuszko 30 years after his death; emotions and manipulations – concerning communicating about the 1 percent of the income tax written off to a charity; “PR means something good?” Public relations in the opinions of students of journalism and photography of the Institute of Journalism at the University of Warsaw; expressions of manipulation in shaping the image of a politician – the “Ottinger effect” in the Polish public sphere; the mass media – the subject of manipulation in the hands of politicians, or a manipulator of political information?; dialogue, manipulation, or PR? Local government online media as a communications tool in local communities; persuasion and manipulation as a contextual phenomenon on the example of the advertisements for the financial markets services institutions; universities in a media crisis – the dichotomous image of the academic and the university in the media; designing or redesigning a new brand name; semiotic manipulation in media communications; and journalists in electoral campaigns and advertisements as examples of the processes influencing the perception of the journalist’s career.

The conference attracted much attention, especially thanks to the diversity of the topics discussed. There are plans for the publication of post-conference materials.

The activity of feminist milieus disposes us towards a heightened reflection on the image of the woman in the public consciousness. Such a reflection was undertaken during the “Faces of Women in Search of Positive Prospects” conference, which took place on November 17–18, 2014, in Krakow. It was organized by our university’s Faculty of Theology and the University of Ljubljana. Papers were presented by academic staff from our university, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the University of Ljubljana (Univerza v Ljubljani, Slovenia), the Ivan Franko Zhytomyr State University, Житомирський державний університет імені Івана Франка, Ukraine) and representatives of the Solayea Institute (the Solayea Institute is an institute promoting sustainable approach to life in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The papers’ subject matter concentrated around four thematic groups. In the first of them, related to theology and morality, three papers were presented: “Love Changes Faces,” “A Woman Leading to God: The Mystery of Divine and Human Joy Shown and Explained by Julian of Norwich,” and “Understanding Emotions and Responsibility for Your Own Morality in a Relationship: What Can I Do As a Young Woman?” In the group that dealt with topics relating to Philosophy, two papers were presented: “Personalism, Transcendence, and God in Irigaray’s Thought” as well as “Religious Intuition Versus Experience: Simone Weil and Edith Stein in Search of the Truth about Man.” Topics related to Family and Education were presented in four papers: “The Transition to Motherhood and Vulnerability for Marital Dissolution,” “Emotional Changes After Divorce for Women,” “Women and Meritocracy in Education Discourse: Ukrainian,” and “Education and Feminization of the Teaching Profession.” Finally, topics related to Culture and Ecology were presented in four papers: “Young Lady of the Manor and Nihilism: Considerations on the Margins of the History of Nineteenth-Century Polish Feminists,” “The Muslim Woman: European Mass Media Stereotypes,” “Faces of Women Through Historical Reality and Ecology of Woman’s Nature Awareness,” and “Mother Gaia: The Archetype of Femininity.” Materials from the conference were published in the volume: *Faces of Women: In Search of Positive Prospects*, ed. M. Godawa, S. Gerjolj, Krakow 2015.

The liturgy is an important element of our religious life. Last year’s Annual International Liturgical Symposium “Ad fontes liturgicos,” held for the fifth time, was devoted to the topic of “Liturgical Commentaries As a Source of Liturgiology.” The symposium took place at the Ukrainian Catholic University (Львівський національний університет імені Івана Франка) on October 23–24, 2014, and was organized by that university with the participation of the Liturgy Institute at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow

as well as the Greek Catholic Faculty of Theology at the University of Prešov in Prešov (Slovakia). Papers were presented by academic staff from those universities. The papers dealt with such topics as: prefaces to Cyrillic prayer books of 16th–18th centuries; forewords to liturgical books as a source of knowledge for the clergy (Kyiv Metropolitanate in 16th–17th centuries); liturgical commentaries of Rev. Izydor Dolnytskyj, synaxarian Triodi, Nykyfor Ksantopul – between commentary and contradiction; Nicephorus Callistus Ksanfopula, Polish “marshals” in the interwar period as liturgical commentaries for various groups of faithful; practice of infrequent partaking of the Eucharist as an expression of the total non-understanding of the liturgical texts of the Divine Liturgy of the 18th century and its contribution to the liturgical life of the Church; yours from Your we bring – liturgical commentary as part of a living spirituality; the Cherub Song: a liturgical translation in light of liturgical commentary; liturgical catechism of Aleksander Dukhnovych in 1851 – the first liturgico-catechetical work of Preshov Eparcy in Hungary; relevance of the liturgical commentaries of Mikulash Rusnak; Byzantine sources of Nova Skryzhal Bishop Veniamin; “silent” prayers as a source of commentary on liturgical tradition; and “Liturgical Year” home of Prosper Geranzha as a commentary on the Roman Liturgy of the 19th century. There are plans for the publication of the post-conference materials.

Ethics has enormous significance in the life of any human community, not only religious, but also secular ones as well. In order to find answers to contemporary ethical problems in public life, the Specialization in Applied Ethics as well as the Specialization in Social and Political Philosophy of the Pontifical University of John Paul II organized for the seventh time an academic conference in the “Etyka i życie publiczne” (“Ethics and Public Life”) series titled “Nienawiść a życie publiczne” (“Hatred and Public Life”), which took place on October 27–28, 2014. Papers were presented by academic staff from our university and the following universities: the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the University of Rzeszow, Wrocław Medical University, the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, the University of Prešov in Prešov, the Medical University of Bialystok, the University of Economics and Innovation in Lublin, the Krakow University of Economics, the Agricultural University of Krakow, and the Pedagogical University of Krakow.

The papers’ subject matter was concentrated around five thematic areas. In the group titled “Concerning Hatred,” the following topics were pondered: resentment as an attitude of hatred; the myster of moral transformation;

analytical-phenomenological remarks on hatred; hatred – an important variable of public life; *homo crudelis* – at the sources of human cruelty; what do we talk about when we talk about hatred? Several semantic remarks on the concept of hatred; “hate speech” in the media discourse – a linguistic manipulation or a reality?; and hatred used, hatred overcome. In the group dealing with the topic of “Examples of Hatred,” the following phenomena were analyzed: ideological hatred in the individual experience – the example of the de-kulakization of rural areas; questions about whether “hatred of hatred” is good or evil; perhaps it’s beyond good and evil?; the success of hatred – forms of exposing conflict in the media and politics; hatred as a form of stimulation in post-modern society; hatred as a form of alienation in light of the thought of Karol Wojtyła; hatred and the educational mode of human existence; “raising up to hatred” – the ethical principles of everyday life as conceived by Leszek Kołakowski; Eurasianism – a Russian imperial ideology conglomerating hatred; and hatred as a tool of war. In the field of topics titled “Hatred in Christian Thought,” the following papers were presented: the Catholic hater – an analysis from the perspective of personalistic ethics; contemporary expressions of hatred in public life as the consequence of a lack of Christians’ conscious engagement in public and social life in light of the “*Christifideles laici*” adhortation as well as various apostolic letters by St. John Paul II; and hatred towards evildoers and human dignity – is there such a thing as justified hatred? In the part titled “Destructive Hatred,” the following topics were presented: hatred in the interpersonal relationships of people with anorexia; the many dimensions of the anti-humanism of hatred in the context of the thought of Michel Foucault on the basis of psychological experiments; “only the mediocre can feel safe”: indirect aggression online as an expression of the need for social standardization; and the creation of communities of the “righteously indignant.” Finally, the group of phenomena titled “Hate Speech,” the following topics were presented: hate speech – troublesome concepts; “political correctness” as the generator of hate speech; and from hate speech to violence.

At the end of the conference, “Youth Workshops,” were held, during which the following topics were analyzed: revolution and patriotism from the perspective of Alexander Herzen; aggression while judging others; hatred of hatred – the destructive force of feelings; hatred in the new capitalist society as conceived by Richard Sennett; hatred and Dilts’ neurological levels; and from prestige to hatred – concerning the social awareness of a brand name.

The presented subject matter clearly points towards the presence of hatred in various areas of social life, which is expressed, for example, by the term “hate

speech,” which appears in the statements of many politically engaged persons and groups. It has a strong emotional tilt, which allows for its diverse usage. Thus it is good that this topic was tackled and subject to a scientific analysis and evaluation. For this reason there are expectations for a publication of the materials from the conference.

The past half-century of post-conciliar ecumenical dialogue has become an opportunity for reflection on the course of this dialogue. The Institute of Fundamental Theology, Ecumenism and Dialogue along with the John Paul II Institute of Intercultural Dialogue in Krakow as well as the Polish Ecumenical Council organized an academic session titled: “O co chodzi w ekumenizmie? Czym jest dialog? Podstawowe idee Vaticanum II pół wieku później” (“What’s Ecumenism All About? What Is Dialogue? The Basic Ideals of Vatic II Half a Century Later”), which took place on November 18–19, 2014. Academics from the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches as well as the Methodist, Polish National Catholic, Old Catholic, Mariavite, and Baptist church communities took place in the session. During the session, the following topics were discussed: “Ekumenizm «na luzie», przyjazna współpraca i co dalej?” (“‘Casual’ Ecumenism: Friendly Cooperation, and Then What?”), “Jedność Kościoła a jedność w wierze – od ekumenizmu idealistycznego do ekumenizmu realistycznego?” (“The Unity of the Church and Unity of Faith: From Idealistic to Realistic Ecumenism?”), “Ekumeniczny potencjał doświadczenia nawrócenia” (“The Ecumenical Potential of the Experience of Conversion”), “Błaski i cienie wychowania do ekumenizmu – refleksje z perspektywy mariawity” (“The Highlights and Lowlights of Ecumenism: Reflections from the Perspective of a Mariavite”), “The Possibilities and Limits of Ecumenical Dialogue in the Slovak Republic,” “Owoce dialogu między chrześcijanami w tradycji kijowskiej: inicjatywy Wydawnictwa Duch i Litera oraz Centrum św. Klemensa” (“The Fruits of Dialogue of Christians in the Kyiv Tradition: The Initiatives of the Duch i Litera Publishing House and the St. Klemens Center”), “Stosunek do Żydów i judaizmu jako warunek drogi jedności chrześcijan,” (“The Attitude Towards Jews and Judaism as a Condition of the Road to Christian Unity”), “O ponadpółwiecznych doświadczeniach ekumenisty” (“Concerning the More Than Half-Century Experience of an Ecumenist”), and “Papież Franciszek wobec islamu – nowe akcenty w dialogu z muzułmanami?” (“Pope Francis and Islam: New Accents in the Dialogue with Muslims?”). Materials from the conference were published in the 37th volume of the “Library of Ecumenism and Dialogue”: *O co chodzi w ekumenizmie? Czym jest dialog? Podstawowe idee Vaticanum II pół wieku później* (“What’s Ecumenism All About? What

Is Dialogue? The Basic Ideals of Vatican II Half a Century Later”), ed. M. Kita, Kraków 2015.

Accusations of priests' crimes against children that appear from time to time require the Church's determined response, including at the legal level. The Church's stance towards this has been expressed in John Paul II's *motu proprio* titled *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, which defines the procedures in the case of the committing of a crime of a sexual nature against a child. The decisions described in it as well as later documents have become the subject of academic inquiries during the academic symposium titled “Ochrona praw dziecka w Kościele” (“The Legal Protection of the Child in the Church”). It was organized by our university's Faculty of Canon Law and took place on November 20, 2014. It was the first symposium organized by the newly erected faculty. The guests included Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, Dr. Hanna Suchocka of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, and Rev. Bishop Artur Miziński, Secretary General of the Polish Bishops' Conference. Academic staff from our university, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw presented papers. The following were the topics of the papers: “Działania papieży oraz Stolicy Apostolskiej na rzecz ochrony osób nieletnich” (“The Activity of the Popes and Holy See in Defense of Minors”), “Władza rodzicielska a wolność religijna dziecka w prawie kanonicznym” (“Parental Authority and the Religious Freedom of the Child in Canon Law”), “Władza rodzicielska a wolność religijna dziecka w prawie polskim” (“Parental Authority and the Religious Freedom of the Child in Polish Law”), “Przynależność kościelna i obrządkowa dziecka” (“The Child's Church and Ritual Membership”), and “Prawno-kanoniczna ochrona dziecka przed nadużyciami seksualnymi” (“The Legal-Canonical Protection of the Child From Sexual Abuses”). The conclusions from the papers and discussions indicate the need for a further clarification of certain concepts and the intensification of preventing of crimes against minors. The materials from the symposium will be published in the “Annales Canonici: Monographiae” editorial series of the Publishing House of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow.

The truth that the life of the Christian is a road is not only an aspect of the theology of spirituality, but also belongs to the realm of pastoral theology. Going on pilgrimage is an activity that links moving in space with aiming towards greater perfection of one's religious life. Thus it is only right that the Specialization in Special Pastoral Theology of the Faculty of Catholic Theology of our university popularizes going on pilgrimage on the basis of undertaken didactic

activity. Another academic seminar for doctoral students was organized as part of these studies and in cooperation with international institutions on January 10–13, 2015, in Regensburg at the Pope Benedict XVI Institute. The seminar was organized by the aforementioned specialization and by the Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg in Freiburg im Breisgau (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany). Doctoral students from both universities as well as from the International Theological Institute – Catholic School of Theology (Internationales Theologisches Institut der Hochschule für Katholische Theologie, Austria) took part in the seminar. During the seminar, two papers titled “*Życie chrześcijańskie drogą*” (“The Life of the Christian as the Way,” Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. M. Ostrowski) and “*Eschatologiczna metafora pielgrzymowania w myśli Josepha Ratzingera*” (“The Eschatological Metaphor of Going on Pilgrimage in the Thought of Joseph Ratzinger,” Prof. Dr. Hab. Michaela Hastetter from the Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg) were presented. After the discussion on the topics of the papers, the doctoral students presented the results of their research undertaken in relation with their prepared dissertations. The participants of the seminar also became acquainted with the activity of the Pope Benedict XVI Institute and visited his family home in Pentling near Regensburg.

Respect for human life from its very conception is still under threat. An academic seminar titled “*Wokół statusu człowieka w okresie prenatalnym*” (“Concerning the Status of the Person in the Prenatal Stage”), which took place on January 21, 2015, and was organized by the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of John Paul II, served to increase awareness of this issue. The main part of the seminar was a lecture by Prof. Dr. Hab. Dorota Kornas-Biela, Chair of the Department of Psychopedagogy at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, titled: “*Co psychologia/pedagogika prenatalna wnosi do dyskusji na temat prenatalnego statusu człowieka*” (“What Does Psychology/Prenatal Pedagogy Contribute to the Discussion on the Prenatal Status of the Person?”). Prof. Kornas-Biela reminded the audience that human life begins with the act of conception. A discussion took place after the lecture.

The challenging principles of Christian moral life in confrontation with contemporary liberalism and the relativism of values are being seriously tested. The international conference “*Religious Liberty, Relativism, and Secularization in Our Modern Societies*,” was devoted to searching for answers to the question on how to ensure religious freedom in today’s Europe and how to counter secularism. It took place on February 21–21, 2015, in St. John’s Major Seminary

in's-Hertogenbosch (Groot-Seminarie Sint-Janscentrum, 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands). The organizers of the conference were the aforementioned seminary, our Faculty of Theology, and the Institute of Theological Studies in Brussels (Belgium). During the conference, 25 papers were presented by professors from various European academic centers, mostly in Western Europe, including: Belgium, Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, and, of course, Poland, representing various academic disciplines: philosophy of religious, legal philosophy, law, and theology. The Primate of Belgium, Rev. Abp. André Léonard, also actively participated in the debate. From our university, the conference's participants included: Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Zyzak, Dean of the Faculty of Theology; Rev. Dr. Hab. Arkadiusz Baron, Professor at the Pontifical University of John Paul II and Associate Dean of that Faculty; Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Dziejczak, Professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II; and Rev. Dr. Hab. Henryk Sławiński, Professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II (organizer of the conference from our university).

The following topics were discussed in the papers: Some positive aspects of secularization from philosophical and theological points of view; God Evacuated, God Found? What Secularization Suggests to Us?; *Memoria passionis* in the Era of Globalization: The Open Identity; Ancient Philosophy as the Fundament of Present European Culture; Late Modernity: Liquid Values and Nameless Institutions; The confessional Catholic State and *Dignitatis Humanae*: Did Anything Happen?; The Catholic Concept of Faith and Tolerance: The Inspiration of Pawel Wlodkowic; Church and Religion in a Non-Christian Society: Can We Draw Lessons from Antiquity and the Early Church?; True Freedom is the Wise Dependence; Deconstructing the Walls, Without Getting Lost: Freedom in Touch; What We Bring: Is Goethe's Concern Still an Ideal for Today's Theology Lecturers?; The Place of Religion and the Churches in the European Union; A Society That Falls into Nothingness?; *À Dieu?* A Post-secular Way of Talking About God; Religious Freedom and the Church's Mission of Preaching the Word of God; The Gospel in or from the Heart: The Actuality of the Discussion about Dogma and Tolerance between Erasmus, Luther, and the Louvain Theologians; Secularization, Mass Media, and Canonizations; The Past Is Not Another Country... Nor Is the Future!; The Postmodern Family; Secularization According to Charles Taylor; Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe and North America; Religiosity and Moral attitudes in Europe after the Turn; Religious Freedom, Secularization, and Relativism according to Alexis de Tocqueville; The Declaration *Dignitatis Humanae* of Vatican II on Religious Freedom after 50 years; Continuity or Discontinuity

of the Speech of the Catholic Church on Religious Freedom?; Happiness That Goes Beyond the Wall.

During the conference, various perspectives on the problems of Church-state relations, secularism in Europe, religiosity and morality, human rights, and religious freedom and the many challenges to it were presented. There are plans for the publication of the presented papers.

The aforementioned conference was not the only expression of the cooperation between the Major Seminary in 's-Hertogenbosch in the past year. Three of our professors (Rev. Dr. Hab. Henryk Sławiński, Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Dziejic, and Rev. Dr. Hab. Arkadiusz Baron, the Dean) presented papers during another international academic conference, which took place on March 22–24, 2015, in Sint-Janscentrum in the Dutch city of 's-Hertogenbosch and was devoted to the topic of “The challenges for Priestly Formation in Ancient Christianity and Nowadays.”

The development of independent and comprehensive thinking undoubtedly is one of the basic purposes of philosophy. Training young people in it was the purpose of the interdisciplinary philosophical workshops for high school students. It was organized by the Faculty of Theology under the title “Czego ucą nas filozofowie?” (“What Do the Philosophers Teach Us?”) and took place on March 2–16, 2015. The subject of the workshops were questions about the forms of knowing the world, knowing oneself, the meaning of our lives, what constitutes the good life, and also what is love and what is the wisdom that every person desires. The workshops were accompanied by a contest, whose prize was acceptance to the first year of Bachelor of Arts studies in Philosophy at our university. The workshops were also an opportunity to promote our philosophical studies.

The new ideology commonly described as “gender” gives birth to all sorts of doubts and provokes ever-new discussions. It lies at the basis of the strategy aiming at equal rights of the sexes, called “gender mainstreaming,” which was adopted by the United Nations Organization and subsequently by the Council of Europe in 1998. It is a new nihilistic “philosophy of sexuality,” according to which sex is not a fact of nature given to every person, but a social role autonomously chosen by him or her. This signifies a new anthropology, which is critically evaluated. Our university’s Faculty of Theology undertook such a critical evaluation during an academic conference titled: “Gender – spojrzenie krytyczne” (“Gender: A Critical Look”), which took place on March 23–25, 2015.

The papers were divided into five thematic sessions. A discussion was held after each one. During the first session, titled “Filozoficzno-kulturowe źródła

genderyzmu” (“The Philosophical-Cultural Origins of Genderism”), two papers were presented: “Zapomnienie ciała. Droga od feminizmu do *gender*” (“Forgetting the Body: The Road from Feminism to Gender Ideology,” Prof. Hanna-Barbara Gerl-Falkovitz, Professor Emeritus at the Dresden University of Technology, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany, currently Professor at the Pope Benedict XVI Pontifical Theological Academy in Heiligenkreuz (Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Benedikt XVI. in Heiligenkreuz at Vienna, Austria) and “*Gender* jako kategoria neomarksistowska” (“Gender as a Neo-Marxist Category,” Rev. Dr. Hab. Tadeusz Guz, Professor of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin). During the second session devoted to “*Gender* z perspektywy prawa” (“Gender from the Legal Perspective”) the following paper was presented: “Płeć jako przyczyna alienacji człowieka” (“Sex as the Cause of the Alienation of the Person,” Dr. Hab. Aleksander Stępkowski, Professor of the University of Warsaw), which also took into account an analysis of the provisions of the Council of Europe’s so-called anti-violence convention.

However, the second of the planned papers, “Polityka *gender* wobec obowiązków pozytywnych państwa” (“Gender Politics and the Positive Responsibilities of the State,” Dr. Hab. Michał Królikowski, University of Warsaw) unfortunately was not presented. The second session titled: “Płciowość człowieka według nauk empirycznych” (“Human Sexuality According to the Empirical Sciences”) was devoted to the topics: “Elementy seksomu w kształtowaniu się płci męskiej bądź żeńskiej osoby ludzkiej” (“The Elements of the Sexome in the Development of the Human Person’s Male or Female Sex,” Prof. Dr. Hab. Alina Midro, the Medical University of Białystok) and “Teoria płci: podstawy teoretyczne i skutki społeczne” (“A Theory of Sexuality: Theoretical Basis and the Social Consequences,” Dr. Anthony McCarthy, Head of Education and Research in the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children [SPUC], Great Britain). During the fourth session titled “Filozoficzna krytyka genderyzmu” (“A Philosophical Critique of Genderism”), the following papers were presented: “«Gender Trouble» – Judith Butler w świetle logiki i metodologii – analiza głównych założeń i ich konsekwencji” (“Gender Trouble: Judith Butler in Light of Logic and Methodology – An Analysis of the Main Assumptions and Their Consequences”), Dr. Hab. Marek Rosiak, Professor at the University of Lodz) and “*Gender* jako dzieło rozumu ateistycznego. Dekonstrukcja dekonstrukcjonistów” (“Gender As the Product of Atheist Reason: Deconstruction of the Deconstructionists,” Rev. Dr. Hab. Dariusz Oko, Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow). The fifth, and final, session was titled “Inżynieria społeczna

genderystów” (“The Genderists’ Social Engineering”). It also consisted of two papers: “Obywatel i człowiek – bunt i pojednanie” (“Citizen and Man: Rebellion and Reconciliation,” Dr. Marguerite Peeters, Director of the The Institute for Intercultural Dialogue Dynamics in Brussels, Belgium) and “Rewolucja seksualna w klasie” (“The Sexual Revolution in the Classroom,” Ms. Gabriele Kuby, sociologist and commentator, Germany). The conference concluded with a panel discussion with the participation of the following speakers: Ms. Marguerite Peeters, Ms. Gabriele Kuby, and Dr. Hab. Piotr Mostowik (a lawyer from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow) as well as Rev. Dariusza Oko. The speakers’ noted, among others, the rejection of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the redefinition of basic concepts. Approximately 1,300 people took part in the conference; they included a few supporters of genderism.

The papers and discussions confirmed Benedict xvi’s thesis that the strategy of gender mainstreaming is attempting at undertaking an anthropological revolution, especially in the Euro-Atlantic sphere. Furthermore, they presented the decidedly anti-Christian nature of this strategy as well as the fact that the ideology that lays at its fundament is a direct swing at Christian culture. The organizers of the conference said that they would publish the materials not only in Polish, but in English as well.

The contributions of the religious orders to the development of Christian culture have always been recognized. The academic conference “W kręgu kultury zakonnej” (“In the Sphere of Monastic Culture”) served to document them. It was organized by the Institute of the History of Art and Culture at the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage along with the Krakow Province of the Discalced Carmelites and took place on April 9–10, 2015. The conference was devoted to Prof. Rev. Dr. Hab. Józef Benignus Wanat, ocd, in order to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of this illustrious and respected Church historian and art historian, lecturer at our university, author of many books and articles related to the history of Carmelite monasteries and their archives, as well as the history of devotion to the Mother of God and St. Joseph in Poland. The conference consisted of two sections. During the tribute section, the priest and professor’s former collaborators, monastic superiors, and friends and family recalled him and his work. The academic session consisted of papers presented by academic staff from many Polish universities as well as the representatives of institutions that deal with history and art, especially the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, the Museum of the Archdiocese of Warsaw,

the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, the University of Silesia in Katowice, the Karol Lipiński University of Music in Wrocław, the Institute for Art Historical Research (IRSA) at the University of Warsaw, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, the Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the “Pro Patria” Foundation, Vistula University in Warsaw, the Carmelite Institute of Spirituality in Kraków, the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków, and the University of Rzeszów. The papers dealt with topics related to the religious architecture, painting, sculpture, and other elements of the decor of Carmelite churches and monasteries; the attitude of the orders of monastic communities to religious architecture; Carmelite archival collections; the theology of the Carmelite habit and scapular and the teachings of selected saints of Carmel as well as other monastic families; as well as the mystagogy of the spaces of churches. Through this conference, the Institute of the History of Art and Culture of our university honored the memory and recalled the accomplishments of its professor.

The “Duchowość Klasztorów Polskich: Przekaz i komunikacja” (“The Spirituality of Polish Monasteries: Message and Communication”) is another cycle of academic conferences documents and popularizes the place of religious orders in the life of the Church. Last year’s edition, held for the eleventh time, was devoted to the founder of the Congregation of the Ursulines of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus and was titled: “Św. Urszula Ledóchowska – kobieta w Kościele i społeczeństwie” (“St. Urszula Ledóchowska: A Woman in the Church and in Society”). It was organized by the Specialization in Spirituality of the Media and Social Relations along with the the Congregation of the Ursulines of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of its founder. The conference took place on April 17, 2015, in Pniew near Poznań. Papers were presented by academic staff from our university, the University of Szczecin, the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum in Kraków, the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław, the St. Urszula Ledóchowska Center for Spirituality in Warsaw, and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The papers dealt with such topics as: the relationship between prayer and work in the life and writings of St. Urszula Ledóchowska; the Ignatian method of rumination according to Urszula Ledóchowska; St. Urszula’s vision of consecrated life; St. Urszula’s *Testament*; St. Urszula as a synthesis of spirituality; the life and spirituality of St. Urszula Ledóchowska as a contemporary evangelical proposal; the vocation and place of the family in the Church and contemporary world in light of St. Urszula’s teachings; St. Urszula Ledóchowska’s educational proposals; and how

to convincingly present sanctity today. The materials from the conference were published in the book: *Św. Urszula Ledóchowska. Kobieta w Kościele i społeczeństwie* ("St. Urszula Ledóchowska: A Woman in the Church and in Society"), ed. W. Misztal, M. Krupecka, Kraków 2015 (*Duchowość klasztorów polskich: przekaz i komunikacja*/"The Spirituality of Polish Monasteries: Message and Communication," 9).

Although the language of the symbol is usually associated with the fine arts, in fact there is also a symbolism of the landscape that has its semantics. Academic research in the field of the hermeneutics of the symbol was the topic of the Fifth International Academic Conference from the "Symbol – Znak – Rytuał" ("Symbol – Sign – Ritual") cycle titled: "Krajobraz semantyczny miast i wsi" ("The Semantic Landscape of the City and Country"). It was organized by the Chair of Auxiliary Sciences of History and Archival Science at the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage as well as the Greek Catholic Faculty of Theology at the University of Prešov in Prešov (Slovakia), for the first time with the cooperation of the Department of Land Management and Landscape Architecture of the Faculty of Environmental Engineering and Land Surveying at the Agricultural University of Krakow. Papers were presented by academic staff from the aforementioned universities as well as the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum in Krakow, the Witelon State University of Applied Sciences in Legnica, and the Provincial Archive of the Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God, as well as from international universities: the Europa Institut (Europa-Institut Saarbrücken der Universität des Saarlandes, Germany), Institute of Visual Culture (NyF Vizualis Kultúra Intézet, Nyíregyháza, Hungary) as well as the Viennese community of the Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God (Austria). The conference showed that the language of symbols and signs also exists in the field of cultural landscapes and can be captured in both a chronological, as well as a territorial or thematic aspect. The conference took place in the new building of our university's Main Library, where for this occasion there was also organized an exhibition of works by Prof. Dr. Hab. Czesław Dźwigaj, a sculptor and author of many monuments, including approximately 50 dedicated to St. John Paul II.

In the age of the dynamic development of the social media, there appear questions about which attitudes and which practices related to them are appropriate for building, developing, and maintaining positive interpersonal relationships. The interdisciplinary conference "Szczęście i radość w relacjach społecznych" ("Happiness and Joy in Social Relationships") attempted

to answer these questions. The conference was organized by the Department of Social and Political Philosophy of the Faculty of Philosophy and took place on April 21–22, 2015. Philosophers, sociologists, psychologists, historians, and political scientists discussed what joy and happiness look like in today's social relations. In addition to our university, they represented the following: the University of Rzeszow, the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wroclaw, and the University of Economics and Innovation in Lublin, as well as the media – the *Liberté!* quarterly. The topics of the papers included such subjects as: joy resulting from collecting and reading literature; the philosophical aspects of collecting; the social dimension of the passion of consumption; a fulfilled life as the purpose of coaching; the media victory of play; work as a source of happiness and joy; happiness as an attractive commodity – the post-modern concept of eudaimonia; *ius post bellum* – an opportunity for joy and happiness in the “post-war” era; the relationship between joy and virtue; happiness and the perspective of time perception; joy and happiness as the result of lying; the trap of happiness; the happiness of the new capitalist society in the reflections of Richard Sennett; the social power of happiness and joy; the happiness of camps; and separation as a primary source of unhappiness in modern society. The conference participants had the opportunity to learn how to build lasting relationships in which happiness and joy are not only a means to an end, but are also that element of our social life that permanently increases its quality.

The popularizing of shrines not only serves the development of pilgrimages; it also has an ecumenical dimension. Both these aims were realized during the international academic seminar titled: “Znaczenie narodowych sanktuariów dla europejskiej identyfikacji w ujęciu katolickim i prawosławnym” (“The Significance of National Shrines for European Identification in the Catholic and Orthodox Conceptualizations”), which took place on May 8–11, 2015. The seminar was organized by our university's Department of Pastoral Theology, the Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg in Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany), the International Theological Institute – Catholic School of Theology (Austria), and the Pope Benedict XVI Pontifical Theological Academy in Heiligenkreuz (Austria). Papers were presented by the academic staff of the universities organizing the seminar as well as representatives of the following academic centers: the Oriental College of Eichstätt (Collegium Orientale Eichstätt, Germany), University of Prešov in Prešov (Slovakia), the Pedagogical University of Krakow, and the University of Bern (Universität Bern, Switzerland).

The subject matter of the papers dealt with the following topics: “Rola świętych miejsc pielgrzymkowych w budowaniu tożsamości chrześcijańskiej,

narodowej i europejskiej – wprowadzenie w tematykę seminarium” (“The Role of Holy Pilgrimage Sites in Building Christian, National, and European Identity”), “Sanktuaria europejskie (na przykładzie sanktuarium św. Wojciecha)” (“European Shrines on the Example of the Shrine of St. Wojciech”), “Bawarski ośrodek pielgrzymkowy Altötting” (“The Bavarian Pilgrimage Site of Altötting”), “Greckokatolickie miejsca pielgrzymkowe na Słowacji” (“Greek Catholic Pilgrimage Sites in Slovakia”), “The Development of the Sacred Space and the Pilgrimage Movement in the Context of Identity Formation – The Example of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lichen (Poland),” “Budslaw – narodowa pielgrzymka na Białorusi” (“Budslau: A National Pilgrimage in Belarus”), “Lewocza i Šaštín – centra pielgrzymkowe Słowacji” (“Levoča and Šaštín: The Pilgrimage Centers of Slovakia”), “Pielgrzymka organizowana przez wspólnotę Taize i jej ekumeniczny charakter” (“Pilgrimages Organized by the Taize Community and Their Ecumenical Nature”), “Barokowa bazylika pielgrzymkowa Czterdziestu Świętych i jej ekumeniczno-misyjne znaczenie” (“The Baroque Basilica of Forty Saints and Its Ecumenical-Missionary Significance”), “Budowanie tożsamości w wojsku poprzez pielgrzymki na Jasną Górę” (“Identity Formation in the Army Through Pilgrimages to Jasna Góra”), “Pielgrzymka kolejarzy na Jasną Górę – budowanie tożsamości i jedności środowiska zawodowego” (“The Railway Workers’ Pilgrimage to Jasna Góra: Building the Identity and Unity of the Professional Circle”), “Ikony z narodowych sanktuariów – rosyjski wkład do religijnej topologii Europy” (“Icons from National Shrines: The Russian Contribution to Europe’s Religious Landscape”), “Znaczenie europejskich szlaków pielgrzymkowych w budowaniu tożsamości Europy” (“The Significance of European Pilgrimage Trails in Building European Identity”), “Cel i charakter najpopularniejszych pielgrzymek w Europie” (“The Aim and Nature of Europe’s Most Popular Pilgrimages”), “Uganda’s Martyrs’ Shrine in Namugongo: How Can Shrines Enable the Urgency of Ecumenical and Inter-religious Dialogue?”, “Przymierze kultur, działalność na rzecz pokoju i pojednania sanktuariów Schönstatt w Burundi” (“The Covenant of Cultures, Activism on Behalf of Peace and Reconciliation on the Part of the Schönstatt Shrines in Burundi”), “Eschatologiczny wymiar pielgrzymowania w ujęciu katolickim, prawosławnym i protestanckim” (“The Eschatological Dimension of Pilgrimage in the Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Conceptions”), “Eschatologiczna pielgrzymka w dziełach Józefa Ratzingera / Papieża Benedykta XVI” (“The Eschatological Pilgrimage in the Works of Joseph Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI”), “Eschatologia w ujęciu Wacława Hryniewicza” (“Eschatology As Conceived by Wacław Hryniewicz”), “Eschatologia w niemieckiej teologii

ewangelickiej” (“Eschatology in German Evangelical Theology”), “Eschatologia w Kościele prawosławnym” (“Eschatology in the Orthodox Church”), and “Teologiczne źródła eschatologii Kościoła greckokatolickiego na Słowacji” (“The Theological Sources of the Eschatology of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia”).

More than 50 people from abroad took part in the seminar. They represented: Austria, Belarus, Burundi, Georgia, Germany, Slovakia, Switzerland, and Uganda. The seminar was accompanied by a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Calvary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Krakow-Łagiewniki, the St. John Paul II Shrine in Krakow-White Seas, and the Sanctuary of the Holy Cross of the Cistercian Abby in Krakow-Mogiła.

That concern for the family is one of the most important areas of activity of our university is attested to not only by the fact that we have Family Sciences Studies (at the Faculty of Social Sciences), but also in the fact that we organize a catechetical conference devoted to the family. On May 13, 2015, the fifteenth edition of the “Dysfunkcjonalność rodziny a działania pastoralne Kościoła” (“Dysfunctionality of the Family and the Church’s Pastoral Activities”) conference was held in Tarnow. It was organized by the Department of Pedagogical and Catechetical Studies of the Faculty of Theology Section in Tarnow, which is an integral part of our university. In addition to our own academic staff, papers were presented by staff from the following universities: the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, the Małopolska School of Economics in Tarnow, Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic), as well as a representative of Caritas in the Diocese of Tarnow. The subject matter of the papers dealt with such topics as: the healthy family and the dysfunctional family; supporting the contemporary family in the process of bringing up children; disruption of the caretaking/cultural functional of the family and ministry; the activities of Caritas on behalf of families whose functioning has been disrupted; the dysfunctional family – the Church’s pastoral support; and growing up in a religiously weakened family in the Czech Republic. The results of the papers and discussions lead to the conclusion that in the era of the presently strengthened attacks on the family, a shared, many-aspect activity of the Church, which will liven and strengthen its hopes, especially in difficult situations.

With regards to the temptation of manipulation in the media, there is still the question of ethics in the media. This is especially visible at the intersection of privacy and the common good. For this reason, the Institute of Journalism and Social Communications of our university as well as the Axiology Section of the Polish Society of Social Communications with the support of the St.

Hedwig (Jadwiga) the Queen Foundation organized the ninth “Ethics of the Media” International Conference titled: “Prywatność w mediach – prywatność i społecznościowość mediów” („Privacy in the Media: Private and Social Media”). The conference took place on May 13–14, 2015. Papers were presented by academic staff from our university as well as the following universities: the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the University of Wrocław, the University of Warsaw, the University of Silesia in Katowice, the Catholic University in Ružomberok (Slovakia), the University of Economics in Katowice, the Koszalin University of Technology, the College of Social and Media Culture in Torun, the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany), the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, the Wrocław University of Technology, the University of Economics and Innovation in Lublin, Opole University, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, the University of Economics in Katowice, the Krakow University of Economic, the Salesian Pontifical University (Università Pontificia Salesiana, Italy), and the University of Rzeszow. Furthermore, a judge from Regional Court presented a paper. In total, more than 50 papers were presented.

The papers’ subject matter dealt with the following topics: the media and privacy; privacy as a value; the rational limits of privacy in the media; the media’s privacy games; privacy in the age of new technologies; privacy in the social media; privacy as a challenge for the media and for journalism; the ethical, legal, and psychological aspects of privacy in the media; and the right to privacy. In each of these areas, several (from five to seven) more detailed topics were discussed. The conference showed that the media have an enormous potential of knowledge and values that have great significance for private life and the public good. Thus they should be experienced, passed down, and defended. Unfortunately, the media are prone to the temptation of infringing upon privacy with regards to the common good, and the reverse is also true: they infringe upon the common good in the name of the private property of the commercial media. The relationship between privacy and the public sphere is not only a matter of knowledge, but also one of ethics, because the irresponsible crossing of boundaries between the private and public sphere can have unfortunate consequences for them both. The content presented during the conference was published in the book: *Prywatność w mediach – towar czy wartość* (“Privacy in the Media: A Commodity, or a Value?”), ed. M. Drożdż, Tarnow 2015.

Last year marked the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Teresa of Ávila (St. Teresa of Jesus). Her spiritual legacy, which is still relevant, was the topic of the most recent Days of Spirituality, which was organized by the Pontifical Theological Faculty Teresianum in Rome, the Carmelite Institute of Spirituality in Krakow, and our university's Chair in the History of Spirituality. The Eighteenth Days of Spirituality with St. Teresa of Jesus titled: "W relacji przyjaźni" ("In a Relationship of Friendship") took place on May 13–15, 2015, in Krakow at the Carmelite Institute of Spirituality. Papers were presented by researchers from the institutional organizers as well as the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and the University of Lodz. The papers dealt with the following topics: the relevance of St. Teresa in today's Church; man's relationship with God; St. Teresa's vision of God; St. Teresa's vision of man; symbolic anthropology; the woman in the Church; the consecrated woman; St. Teresa of Jesus as the master of the relationship; St. Edith Stein about the evangelical dimension of religious life as conceived by St. Teresa the Great; man in relationship to the world; and the reception of St. Teresa's writings in the works of secular poets from the 17th and 18th centuries. The Days of Spirituality concluded with the Hagiograf Theatre Troupe's performance of *Alumbrado* according to the writings of St. Teresa of Jesus. The Carmelite Institute of Spirituality is preparing a publication of the presented papers, which will appear as part of the *Karmel Żywy* ("Living Carmel") series.

Questions on what conscience is and what it means to act according to one's conscience are the topic of reflection of not only philosophers and theologians, but also politicians, especially when they vote "in accordance with their consciences." The social sciences as well as neurobiology also deal with the concept of the conscience. Tackling the challenges resulting from today's moral relativism, the Department of Psychology at the Department of Family Studies and the Department of Social Work of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, and the Department of Crisis Intervention and Psychotherapy as well as the Department of Forensic Psychology at the Institute of Applied Psychology of the Faculty of Management and Social Communication at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow organized a national academic conference titled "Miejsce sumienia we współczesnym świecie" ("The Place of the Conscience in the Contemporary World"). The conference took place on May 14, 2015, and was of an interdisciplinary nature. It was addressed primarily to theologians, ethicists, psychologists, sociologists, pedagogues, representatives of family studies, and journalists. Papers were presented by staff from the institutional organizers of the conferences as well

as representatives of the following universities: Opole University, the University of Szczecin, and the Krakow University of Economics. During the conference, the following topics were discussed: conscience as a witness to truth; conscience in Polish law; the conscience clause – the essence of the matter and selected practical applications; conscience from the perspective of the neurosciences; conscience in psychological conceptions; the category of the conscience in the context of studies on the determinants of crime; the psychosocial determinants of the development of the conscience; the Greek tragedy as a space for dilemmas of conscience; the human conscience from the sociological perspective; and the cultural aspects of moral understanding. The conference showed that in light of the rising tide of demoralization and crime, a well-formed, sensitive conscience that can counterbalance them is a valuable internal tool.

Analyses of social phenomena lead many thinkers to call today's society postmodern. In order to attempt to answer the question what this term means, doctoral students from our university's Faculty of Philosophy organized a conference titled "Społeczeństwo ponowoczesne – społeczeństwo ponowoczesności" ("Postmodern Society: The Society of Postmodernity"). The conference took place on May 15–16, 2015, and its main purpose was reflection on the characteristics of the postmodern society and its key values. Papers were presented by doctoral students and academic staff from our university as well as the Pedagogical University of Krakow., the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum, as well as the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław. The following topics were discussed during the conference: the project of the postmodern society; the subject of society – the individual or the group?; social conventions; relativism, or the objectivism of values in postmodernity; postmodernity and the development of technology; postmodernity and development; the media and postmodernity; postmodernity and social needs; postmodernity as the beginning, or the end?; postmodernity and interpersonal contacts; the postmodern society – one or several?; language in the postmodern world; axiology in postmodernity; as well as postmodernity as the source of excitement – the topic of postmodernity on the pages of *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

The "Biblia w kulturze świata" ("The Bible in World Culture") symposia are a form of popularizing the Word of God and the results of Biblical research. The twelfth edition of this symposium took place on May 21, 2015, in Horodek (Ukraine). It was of an international nature and was organized by our university in cooperation with the Institute of Theological Studies in Horodek (a branch of the Faculty of Theology at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin)

and the Major Seminary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kamyanets-Podilskyi (a branch of the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome). Lectures were given by Biblicists from our university and lecturers from major seminaries in Ukraine (from Horodek, Lviv-Bryochovychi, and Vorzel). The subjects of the lectures were such topics as: the spiritual role of the interpretation of the Sacred Scripture in ministry; the synthesis of salvation history in the allegory of the vine and the branches (John 15:1–8); the structure and main theological theses of Psalm 105; Biblical motifs of conversion in the paintings of Caravaggio; the historical context of the seventh chapter of the Book of Joshua; the beginnings of Israel; and the kerygma according to the post-synodal adhortation *Evangelii gaudium*.

The gaining of knowledge is possible thanks to the appropriate method, or the one that is appropriate to the studied area of reality. The search for the most appropriate research methods in the field of cosmology is one of the main aims of the Copernicus Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Krakow). Thus the center organizes conferences devoted specifically to that methodology. The topic of last year's edition of the Krakowska Konferencja Metodologiczna (the Krakow Methodological Conference), held for the nineteenth time, was "suggested" by the history of science, specifically the hundredth anniversary of Albert Einstein's development of the general theory of relativity, the day when he presented the Einstein field equations (November 25, 1915). The conference titled "Sto lat ogólnej teorii względności" ("One Hundred Years of the General Theory of Relativity") took place on May 26–27, 2015, and was organized by the Copernicus Center for Interdisciplinary Studies with the participation of our university's Faculty of Philosophy. Papers were presented by academic staff from the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow as well as other Polish universities: the University of Silesia in Katowice, the Astronomical Observatory of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the Krakow University of Technology, the Warsaw University of Technology, and the Institute of Physics of the Jagiellonian University. During the conference, the following papers were presented: "Einsteina droga do ogólnej teorii względności" ("Einstein's Road to the General Theory of Relativity"); "Soczewki i fale grawitacyjne – triumf Einsteina w królestwie słabych pól" ("Gravitational Lenses and Waves: Einstein's Triumph in the Domain of the Weak Fields"); "Relatywizm i niezmienniki" ("Relativism and Invariants"); "Ogólna teoria względności w 'normalnej' astrofizyce" ("The General Theory of Relativity in 'Normal' Astrophysics"); "Ogólna teoria względności a problem brakującej masy" ("The General Theory of Relativity and the Problem of Missing Mass"); "Filozoficzna

recepja ogólnej teorii względności w Polsce przed II wojną światową” (“The Philosophical Reception of the General Theory of Relativity in Poland Before World War II”); “Dziura Einsteina i strukturalizm ogólnej teorii względności” (“Einstein’s Hole and the Structuralism of the General Theory of Relativity”); “Perturbacje kosmologiczne – uwagi na marginesie” (“Cosmological Perturbations: Comments on the Margins”); “Uwagi o statusie empirycznym w ogólnej teorii względności” (“Comments on Empirical Status in the General Theory of Relativity”); “Einstein, Whitehead i względność” (“Einstein, Whitehead, and Relativity”); “Efekt niejednorodności w kosmologii” (“The Effect of Diversity in Cosmology”); “Przyczynowość w przestrzeni stanów” (“Causality in the Area of States”); “Problem inflacji kosmologicznej i danych empirycznych” (“The Problem of Cosmic Inflation and Empirical Data”). The conference’s participants made inquiries about the significance of the general theory of relativity in various areas of knowledge: physics, cosmology, philosophy, and the history of science.

The organization of the academic symposium titled “Zagrożenia współczesnej rodziny jako wyzwanie duszpasterskie” (“Threats to the Contemporary Family as Pastoral Challenges”) was a form of aiding Aid to the Church in Need (“Kirche in Not” in German). The conference took place in Magadan (in Russia, near the Sea of Okhotsk) in a city not far from the location of a complex of forced labor camps (the so-called Kolyma gulags) in 1932–1957. The symposium was organized on May 27–June 1, 2015, by the Parish of the Birth of Christ in Magadan, the community of the Sisters of Mercy in Magadan, our university’s Specialization in Catholic Social Teaching, as well as the Theological Institute of the Congregation of the Mission in Krakow. Prof. David Raizman of the Institute of the History of the Far East at the Pacific National University in Khabarovsk (Russia) participated in the symposium. Papers were devoted to the following topics: the traces of the Poles in Kolyma; the media communications about the historical truth of Kolyma as a form of historic presence in the family; work with children and youths from the perspective of historical pedagogy; cults as an aspect of the culture of contemporary Russia; believers and the anti-values of social life; and the vectors of mercy according to St. Vincent á Paulo. The Polish participants of the symposium had the opportunity to learn the history of the gulags and see mementos from that cruel era. The materials from the symposium were published in the Russian language in the volume *Угрозы современной семье как пастырский вызов* (“Threats to the Contemporary Family as Pastoral Challenges”), ed. B. Karcz, Krakow–Magadan 2015.

Communication with the sick is a serious issue in social work. An aid to solving these problems in this field was the “Komunikacja i zdrowie” (“Communication and Health”) conference, which took place on June 6, 2015, at the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum in Krakow. It was organized by our university’s Specialization in Media Education as well as the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum’s Department of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Social Work. Papers were presented by academic staff from both universities as well as the Medical College of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the Catholic University in Ružomberok, the University of Zagreb (Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Croatia), the Carabinieri Investigative High Institute in Velletri (Italy), the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, as well as the Secretariat of State of the Holy See. The following were the topics of the papers: the all-encompassing approach to the person; the influence of interpersonal communication on the quality and effects of therapy; communication with people suffering from dementia; communication and health in the Code of Canon Law; the significance of communication in the teacher’s vocation; the moral and communication attitudes of the academic teacher in shaping the students’ personality; communications management in extreme situations concerning threats to life and health; preventive healthcare; the phenomenon of the encounter: the dialogue communication between teacher and student; physician, patient, employer; between the right to knowledge and the responsibility to be quiet; and the moral-legal aspects of physician-patient privilege. This interdisciplinary conference was addressed to physicians, pedagogues, historians, theologians, psychologists, therapists, sociologists, as well as journalists.

The Specialization in the History of Culture at the History of Art Department organized a national academic conference titled: “Kultura religijna Małopolski w średniowieczu i dobie nowożytnej” (“The Religious Culture of Lesser Poland in the Middle Ages and in the Modern Era”), which took place on May 28–29, 2015. Papers were devoted to the following topics: “*Sacrum* w układach przestrzennych lokacyjnych miast Małopolski w XIII–XIV wieku” (“The *Sacrum* in the Spatial Arrangements of the Cities of Lesser Poland in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries”); “*Patrocinia* w kościołach bożogrobców miechowskich w Małopolsce (XII–XVI w.)” (“*Patrocina* in the Churches of the Miechów Order of the Holy Sepulcher in Lesser Poland in the Twelfth Through Sixteenth Centuries”); “Biskup Marcin Szyszkowski jako twórca i propagator nabożeństwa siedmiu kościołów krakowskich” (“Bishop Marcin Szyszkowski as the Creator and Popularizer of the Seven Churches Visitation in Krakow”); “Religijność elity mieszczaństwa krakowskiego w okresie

nowożytnym” (“The Religiosity of Krakow’s Urban Elites in the Modern Era”); “Pobożność eliańska karmelitów w dobie nowożytnej” (“The Elian Devotion of the Carmelites in the Modern Era”); “Bakalarze dominikańskiego Studium Generalnego w Krakowie w epoce nowożytnej” (“Bachelors of the Dominican General Study in Krakow in the Modern Era”); “Refleksja teologiczna Marcina Wadowity w świetle nowych ustaleń” (“Marcin Wadowita’s Theological Reflection in Light of New Research”); “Pobożność bracka w nowożytnym Krakowie” (“Fraternal Devotion in Modern Krakow”); “Pobożność siedemnastowiecznych mieszczan krakowskich i lwowskich w świetle testamentów” (“The Piety of Seventeenth-Century Burghers in Krakow and Lviv in Light of Their Wills”); “Związki lwowskich benedyktynek obrządku łacińskiego z Małopolską” (“The Connections Between Lviv’s Benedictine Sisters of the Latin Rite and Lesser Poland”); “«Uczeni w habity przyobleczeni»” (“Scholars Donning Habits”); “Czwarty ślub zakonny jako wyraz charyzmatu i duchowości” (“The Fourth Monastic Vows as an Expression of Charism and Spirituality”); “Widzialny znak niewidzialnej łaski – ikonografia siedmiu sakramentów świętych na tzw. komplecie żywieckim ze skarbca katedry na Wawelu” (“A Visible Sign of Invisible Grace: The Iconography of the Seven Holy Sacraments in the So-Called Żywiec Set From the Treasury of the Wawel Cathedral”); and “Dawni mieszkańcy Garbar w ujęciu biokulturowym w świetle badań cmentarza powstałego z fundacji ks. Jana Welsa” (“Former Residents of Garbary in the Biocultural Conceptualization of Cemetery Research That Arose from Rev. Jan Welsa’s Foundation”). The authors of the papers were academic staff from our university as well as the Pedagogical University of Krakow, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, as well as the Archives of the Carmelite Order in Piasek in Krakow.

A serious problem for many parents is shielding their children from the increasing pressure of the gender ideology. In an attempt to tackle these challenges, parents belonging to the “Stop Seksualizacji Naszych Dzieci” (SSDN, “Stop the Sexualization of Our Children”) movement organized a conference titled “Rodzice chronią dzieci” (“Parents Protect Their Children”) co-organized by our university. The conference took place on May 30, 2015, at our university. Its topic was the search for an answer to the question: “How to protect children from sexualization?” The lecturers included Prof. Marek Rosiak (University of Lodz), Rev. Prof. Dariusz Oko (our university), as well as Ms. Ewa Tyszevska and Mr. Mirosław Strumiński, founders of the SSDN movement who are known for their strong critique of the gender ideology. The SSDN movement was organized in 2013–2014 to protest the then Polish government’s attempt to introduce permissive “Type B” sexual education into Polish schools. During

the conference, the participants were reminded that parents who are Catholics have the constitutionally guaranteed right to raise their children in accordance with Christian values. It was also noted that language created for the needs of the gender ideology seriously impairs communication.

Another important and valuable initiative on behalf of the family was an international academic conference titled: “Rodzina ceniona i zagrożona” (“The Valued and Threatened Family”). It took place on June 2, 2015. It was an interdisciplinary conference and was organized by three departments from the Faculty of Social Sciences at our university: the Department in the Ethics of Social Work, the Department of General Pedagogy, as well as the Department of Psychology. The conference’s co-organizers were: the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Prešov in Prešov (Filozofická fakulta Prešovskej univerzity v Prešove, Slovakia); the Department of Sociology of the Faculty of Economics and International Relations at the Krakow University of Economics; the John Paul II Institute on the Family in Bratislava (Inštitút rodiny Jána Pavla II. v Bratislave, Slovakia); the Bronisław Markiewicz State Higher School of Technology and Economics in Jaroslaw; the Pedagogical Faculty at the Catholic University in Ružomberok (Pedagogická fakulta Katolíckej univerzity v Ružomberku, Slovakia); and the Orthodox Faculty of Theology at the University of Prešov in Prešov (Pravoslávna bohoslovecka fakulta Prešovskej univerzity v Prešove, Slovakia). During the conference, the following subjects were discussed: the family in the crucible of values; the Church and the challenges of the postmodern family; and precautionary activities and those supporting the family in dysfunctional situations. The papers were presented by staff from the institutions engaged in organizing the conference. Its participants included familiologists, theologians, social workers, sociologists, pedagogues, psychologists, philosophers, economists, and anthropologists. The aim of the conference was, on the one hand, to emphasize the value of the contemporary family, and on the other to heed attention to new dangers that currently appear in social, political, and economic life, and that result from globalization, religious syncretism in the twenty-first century, as well as clear unification in the normative sphere.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council is an opportunity for reflection on the reception of its teaching. Such a reflection was undertaken as the international conference titled: “Kościół w dialogu. 50 lat po Vaticanum II” (“The Church in Dialogue: Fifty Years after Vatican II”). The conference took place on June 5, 2015, in the building of the Major Seminary of the Salesian Society in Krakow and was organized in conjunction with the with the

Krakow Salesian Seminary, the Faculty of Theology of the Salesian University in Rome, as well as our university's Department of Biblical Hermeneutics and Jewish Studies. Papers were presented by professors from our university, the Salesian University in Rome, the Salesian Seminary in Krakow, as well as the Žilina branch of the St. Elizabeth University College of Health and Social Work in Bratislava (Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety, Slovakia). They were devoted to the following topics: the Second Vatican Council and the mystery of the Church – the doctrine, reception, relevance, and pastoral perspectives of Biblical hermeneutics in the Church after Vatican II; Christianity and *homo religiosus*; moral issues in the conciliar decree on the formation of priests, *Optatam totius*; changes in the life of the Church, from *Dei Verbum* to *Verbum Domini*; the Church as the Body of Christ (Ephesians) in the Magisterium after Vatican II; and the Septuagint in the post-conciliar documents of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. The conference reminded its participants of the relevance of the conciliar teaching on the Church and the need to continuously incorporate it into the life of the Church.

Service to the poor is one of the priorities of the Church's apostolic activity. It is also part of the charism of the Congregation of the Felician Sisters. An academic conference titled: "Charyzmat felicjański. Wychowanie – komunikacja – zdrowie" ("The Felician Charism: Education, Communication, Health") served to familiarize its participants with this aspect of the Church's activity. It took place on May 11, 2015. The Conference was organized by the Department of Media and Social Communications at the our university's Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Work at the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum; and the Vadimed Medical Center. Papers were presented by academic staff representing our university, the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, and the Medical College of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. The speakers dealt with the following topics: "Radykalizm ewangeliczny źródłem skuteczności apostołskiej w życiu i posłudze Sióstr Felicjanek – studium w świetle konstytucji Zgromadzenia" ("Evangelical Radicalism as the Source of Apostolic Effectiveness in the Life and Service of the Felician Sisters: A Study in Light of the Congregation's Constitution"); "Istota felicjańskiego charyzmatu" ("The Essence of the Felician Charism"); "Felicjańska aksjologia wychowawcza" ("The Felician Educational Axiology"); "Problemy osób starszych w aspekcie medycznym" ("The Medical Aspect of the Problems of Elderly Persons"); and "Działalność Sióstr Felicjanek w świetle artykułów prasowych – studium lokalnej prasy świeckiej w latach

2009–2014” (“The Activity of the Felician Sisters in Light of News Articles: A Study of the Local Secular Press in 2009–2014”). The materials from the conference will be published in the near future. The planned title of the publication is: *Wychowanie – komunikacja – zdrowie. Charyzmat felicyjański* (“The Felician Charism: Education, Communication, Health”).

Treating infertility is not a solely medical matter; it is also a social one, as it concerns the family. The increasingly popular *in vitro* fertilization treatments lead to a misunderstanding, as something that is not a treatment is referred to as such. In order to accommodate families dealing with the problem of infertility, the Faculty of Social Sciences organized a conference titled: “Napro-technologia – jest nadzieja! Postaw na leczenie, a nie zapłodnienie «in vitro»” (“NaProTechnology: There Is Hope! Bet on Treatment, Not *In Vitro* Fertilization”), which took place on June 11, 2015. In addition to academic staff from our university, gynecologists, lawyers, and social activists presented at the conference. They discussed the following topics: discussion about *in vitro* fertilization; the sources of problems with procreation; the basis of diagnostics and therapy in accordance with the rules of NaProTechnology; and supporting married couples in the difficult road to parenthood. The conference was organized as part of a preventative project inaugurated by students from our university’s Faculty of Social Sciences. Their intention was to “enlighten the audience about what NaProTechnology is as well as to present why it is a better solution than state-funded *in vitro* fertilization, which does not treat the causes of infertility, causes many moral dilemmas, and leads to the death of many human beings.” The preventative project is directed at students of medicine, nursing, and the social sciences, as well as at married couples faced with the problem of infertility.

Our geographic location is favorably disposed towards the development of studies on the religious culture and philosophy of Russia. The international academic conference “Russian Religious Philosophy and Post-secularism” took place on June 11–13, 2015. It was organized by our university’s Faculty of Philosophy as well as the Institute of Philosophy “Edith Stein” in Granada (Instituto de Filosofía Edith Stein, Granada, Spain) with the participation of the Science and Culture Creators Association EPISTEME and with the support of the St. Hedwig the Queen Foundation for the Pontifical University of John Paul II as well as the International Center for the Study of the Christian Orient (Centro Internacional para el Estudio del Oriente Cristiano, Granada, Spain). In addition to our professors, academic staff from the aforementioned institutions as well as the following universities were invited to participate in the conference: St. Tikhon’s Orthodox University, Moscow (Russia); St. Petersburg

State University (Russia); the Lublin University of Technology (Poland); the University of Warsaw (Poland); the Alexander Solzhenitsyn Memorial House of the Russian Abroad, Moscow (Russia); the Jagiellonian University, Krakow (Poland); the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, Kaliningrad (Russia); the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Perm (Russia); the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands); the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Nizhny Novgorod (Russia); the University of Portsmouth (United Kingdom); the University of Information Technology and Management, Rzeszow (Poland); the Moscow Institute of Open Education (Russia); the Herzen State Pedagogical University, St. Petersburg (Russia); the St. Thomas Aquinas Institute of Religious Sciences, Kyiv (Ukraine); the Poltava Yuri Kondratuk National Technical University (Ukraine); the Orel State University (Russia); the University of Security in Poznan (Poland); the Mechnikov Odessa National University (Ukraine); the Institute of Philosophy Russian Academy of Science, Moscow (Russia); the M. K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, Yakutsk (Russia); the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk (Belarus); the Kaluga Theological Seminary (Russia); and also from the Exarhate of Orthodox Parishers of Russian Tradition in Western Europe, Brescia (Italy); *Living Water* Journal, St. Petersburg (Russia); the Russian Orthodox Church, St. Peterburg (Russia); and Zur-Hadassah (Israel).

During the conference, more than forty papers were presented, mostly in Russian, but also some in English. They dealt with the following topics: Eleusa: Secularism, Post-Secularism, and Russian Sophiology; Russian Sophiology and the Problem of the Subject in Modern Philosophy; Russian Religious Thought and the Origins of Liberalism; Religion in Public Life in the Concept of Nikolai Berdyaev; Towards a New Understanding of the Immanent and Transcendent: The Concept of “Kairos” in the works of Berdyaev and P. Tillich; The Magazine *The Way* (1925–1941) and the Question of Freedom in the Context of European Post-secular Culture; The Guest as a Messenger in the Theology of M. Maria (Skobtsova) and the Post-war “Theology of Hospitality”; Mother Mary – The Christian Worldview; The religious Philosophy of S. Frank; Postmodernism and Christianity – A Reconstruction of Answers by N. Bulgakov and N. Berdiaev; Sergey Bulgakov’s Post-Marxist Philosophy of Economics; Aleksey Losev on Religious Essence and the Generative Power of Platonism; Russian Orthodoxy and Secular Movies; A Philosophical Perspective on Religious Experience in M. Bulgakov’s *The Master and Margarita*; Overcoming Secularism: Personhood in Russian Philosophy and Radical Theological Devotion; Post-secularism: Preliminary Outline Problems and

a Former Russian Context; “Secularization” and “Post-Secular” in Russian Religious Thought: Main Features; Orthodox Aspects of the Marxist-Leninist Thinking; The Image of the Ideal Community in the Philosophical Quest Kitezhans of 1920–1930; The Concepts of Moral Philosophy in the Russian Enlightenment; Transhumanism in Russia: Science, Fun, or a Threat to Traditional Values?; Religious Processes among Young People Today and a Hundred Years Ago: A Comparative Analysis; Christian Mystical Realism: An Ecumenical Gift to the Post-secular World?; Reactualization of the Ethical Teaching of Russian Religious Philosophers; Post-secular Metaphysics: The Russian Project of Theological Philosophy; Religious Revival and Post-secular Society in terms of P. A. Florenski: The World of Words: The Philosophy of Language – P. A. Florensky and A. F. Losev between Science and Religion; The Discussion about Christian Socialism: The Forgotten Article of S. Frank; Post-secular and the Christian concept of Semyon Frank Policy; In Search of Authenticity: Russian Thought and Post-secularism; Christian Mysticism in the Poetry of the Leningrad Underground as a Challenge to Secularism; The Role of the Absolute in History (The Historiosophical Dispute between P. M. Bitsilli and L. P. Kar-savin); The Crisis of the Classical Anthropological Model in the Perspective of the Synergetic Anthropology of S. Horuzhy; Post-Secularity vs. All-Unity; Nietzsche as a Christian thinker (The Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche in the Context of the Russian Religious Philosophy in the Nineteenth through the Twentieth Centuries: The Cultural Philosophy S. L. Frank and Its Importance for the Post-secular World; The Main Features of Russian Religious Philosophy; Features of Polish Studies of Russian Religious and Philosophical Thought; The Idea of Consubstantiality of N. Lossky in the Context of Quantum Cosmology; Fulfillment of Prophecy; Problems of Philosophy and Russian Socio-religious Relations in the Teachings of Vladimir Solovyov; “How Is a Religion Possible?”: The Features and Contemporary Importance of Sergey Bulgakov’s Theological Method; and The Mystical Anarchism of George Chulkov as a Response to Contemporary Questions. Materials from the conference were published in English in: *Overcoming the Secular: Russian Religious Philosophy and Post-secularism*, ed. T. Obolevitch, P. Rojek, Kraków 2015, pp. 192.

Renewed consecrated life according to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council is a test of the livelihood of local Churches. A reflection on the shape of that life was the subject of an academic conference organized by the Institute of Spirituality at our university’s Faculty of Theology. The conference titled: “Bogactwo charyzmatów. Życie konsekrowane po Soborze Watykańskim II” (“The Richness of Charism: Consecrated Life after Vatican II”) took place

on June 27, 2015. Staff from our university as well as the representatives of several religious orders were invited to present papers. During the conference, the following topics were discussed: the direction of the renewal of consecrated life after Vatican II; the concept of the monastic charism after Vatican II; fidelity to the Carmelite charism in light of the Order and Constitution; Benedictine monasticism after Vatican II; the Jesuits after Vatican II; the charism of Blessed Zofia Czeska and its contemporary realization; the charism of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Holy Soul of Christ in the context of the life of Servant of God Mother Paula Zofia Tajber; the charism of St. Faustina Kowalska; the mystery of Our Lady of Sorrows in the charism of Blessed Małgorzata Łucja Szewczyk, founder of the Seraphic Sisters; and the charism of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Queen Hedwig Servants of Christ as an answer to contemporary times.

Making a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. James in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) is becoming increasingly popular in Poland. The study of its history and its future perspectives was the topic of the Eighth Academic Conference “Droga św. Jakuba w Polsce – historia, terażniejszość, przyszłość. W 10. rocznicę otwarcia pierwszego polskiego odcinka Camino de Santiago” (“The Way of St. James in Poland – Past, Present, Future: The 10th Anniversary of the Opening of the First Polish Section of «Camino de Santiago»”), which took place on September 4–6, 2015 in Krakow, Michalowice, and Wieclawice Satre. The conference was organized by our university as well as the Institute of Geography at the Pedagogical University of Krakow, the Fraternity and Shrine of St. James the Apostle in Wieclawice Stare, the Municipality of Michalowice, as well as the Municipality of Palecznica. Papers were presented by people affiliated with the institutions organizing the conference as well as the representatives of the following universities and organizations: the “Polish Ways of St. James” Association; the Museum of Archaeology and History in Glogow; the University of Szczecin; the Military Ordinariate of Poland; the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow; the Confraternity of St. James at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulcher in Przeworsk; the Confraternity of St. James in Szczyrk; the Institute of Geography at the Pedagogical University of Krakow; the Confraternity of St. James in Wieclawice Stare; the University of Navarra in Pamplona (Spain); the Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg in Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany); the Institute of History at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow; Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun; the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin; the Confraternity of St. James in Wieclawice Stare; Holy Cross University

in Kielce; the Universal Confraternity of St. James (Archicofradía Universal del Apóstol Santiago, Spain); the “Keep Going” Foundation; the Ivan Franko National University in Lviv (Ukraine); the University of Rzeszow; the “Schola Cantorum Cracoviensis” choir; and the University of Gdansk.

During the conference, more than twenty papers were presented (seventeen in Polish and one each in Spanish, French, and German). They dealt with diverse topics and their subjects included such issues as: the Lower Silesian Way of St. James – the genesis, creation, and practice from the perspective of ten years of pilgrimages; material and non-material examples of the revival of devotion to St. James the Apostle in the Glogow area in 2004–2015; the Pomeranian Way of St. James – a continuation of the traditional pilgrimages of Pomeranians, or a new area of religious tourism in northern Poland?; the network of Ways of St. James in Mazovia; the Way of St. James in the Holy Cross region; from Warsaw to the Holy Cross – the first part of the “Ways of Mercy from Warsaw to Krakow; the Subcarpathian Way of St. James and the perspectives of extending the Way of St. James to Eastern Europe across the Via Regia from Kyiv; the Way of St. James in the Beskid Mountains; the Way of St. James in Lesser Poland – the genesis, functioning, and perspectives for development; the image of the Way of St. James in Poland – perspectives for development, opportunities, and threats; the beginnings of devotion to St. James – new archaeological evidences (El origen del culto a Santiago: nuevas evidencias arqueológicas); history, legend, and music on the way of St. James – miracles and the legend of *legenda pendu-dépendu* (Histoire, légende et musique sur le chemin de St Jacques. Les origines du miracle et de la légende du pendu-dépendu); ministry on the road – the signs of the times and Biblical evidence for new challenges in pilgrimage ministry (Seelsorge auf dem Weg – Zeitzeichen und biblische Vergewisserung für neue Herausforderungen in der Pilgerpastoral); the Christian life on the road; a blessed about a saint, or Blessed Jacob de Voraing about St. James the Apostle; the image of the Iberian Peninsula in the fifth book of the *Codex Callixtinus*; the Order of Santiago – its genesis and cultural role; the relics of St. James the Apostle in the reliquary cross of Bishop Adolf Piotr Szelązek; devotion to St. James in papal teaching; the medieval Way of St. James in Brandenburg; pilgrimages to the Holy Land from the fourth to the end of the twelfth centuries; the “Camino” and Europe’s Christian identity – several proposals for the future; devotion to St. James the Apostle in Lviv – the state of research and work on extending the “Via Regia” Way of St. James to Ukraine; “Camino de Santiago” as a cultural trail – the essential significance and consequences of “cultural” description; the Nosalists, Rorantists,

and Mansionaries... or concerning the musical baggage of the Polis pilgrim; the streets of St. James in Poland; the crests of Polish cities with images of St. James the Apostle; and Peregrino – a domestic version, but a very authentic one at that – writing memoirs about the “Camino de Santiago” on the basis of reading Emil Wąsacz’s book *Santiago de Compostela. Dziękczynne pielgrzymowanie* (“Santiago de Compostela: A Pilgrimage of Gratitude”).

Papers from the conference and other (illustrated) texts were published in the joint publication *Droga św. Jakuba w Polsce – historia, terażniejszość, przyszłość. W 10. rocznicę otwarcia pierwszego polskiego odcinka Camino de Santiago. Studia i materiały dedykowane prof. dr. hab. Antoniemu Jackowskiemu* (“The Way of St. James in Poland – Past, Present, Future: The 10th Anniversary of the Opening of the First Polish Section of «Camino de Santiago»”), ed. P. Roszak, F. Mróz, Krakow 2015.

In addition to symposia and conferences organized by institutions devoted to research and didactics, it is worth noting the “Mysterium Fascinans” academic symposium connected with a beautiful celebration of the liturgy organized in previous years by students of theology who are members of the Liturgical Academic Circle at the Major Seminary of the Archdiocese of Krakow in conjunction with the Dominican Liturgical Center in Krakow and our university’s Faculty of Theology. Last year’s eighth edition of the “Mysterium Fascinans” Liturgical Retreat with the theme of “Wolą Boga jest wasze uświęcenie” (“God’s Will Is Our Sanctification”) was organized by the Dominican Liturgical Center Foundation and took place on September 11–13, 2015 in the building of the Major Seminary in Krakow. The subject of reflection was sacraments of service, or marriage and Holy Orders.

In summarizing information about our university’s activity in the past year, it is also worth mentioning the “Ich Areopag wiary” (“Their Areopag of Faith”) cycle. These are meetings with well-known people who have the courage to publicly speak about their faith. These meetings are organized by seminarians from the Major Seminary of the Archdiocese of Krakow, who simultaneously are students at our Faculty of Theology. The cycle included meetings with Tomasz Budzyński, a rock vocalist whose work includes the band 2Tm2,3; a painter; a poet; and also the author of the book *Soul Side Story*. The second such meeting took place on May 20, 2015, with Mr. Jan Budziaszek, the drummer for the band Skaldowie, who as a layman gives retreats. He is the author of the series of books titled: *Dzienniczek perkusisty* (“The Diary of a Percussionist”) and the initiator of the “Jednego Serca i Jednego Ducha” (“One Heart and One Soul”) concert.

Guest lectures are also a form of academic cooperation and exchange between universities. In the past academic year, several such open lectures took place. On March 26, 2015, the Specialization in Pastoral Theology organized a guest lecture by Rev. Prof. Filip Müller from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany). He is a specialist in the field of homiletics, but he also deals with pastoral theology. His lecture about “The Catholic Church in Germany: Challenges in the Contemporary Situation” (“Kościół katolicki w Niemczech – wyzwania wobec współczesnych sytuacji”) was devoted to the activity of the Catholic Church in Germany and its unique conditions, pastoral problems, and pastoral strategies, thanks to which the German Church tries to solve its difficult problems. The presented areas of activity are above all sacramental ministry and catechesis. Professors and students participated in the lecture and made a lively contribution to the discussion. The lecture was also an opportunity to determine the direction of future cooperation between both academic centers.

Lectures by Prof. Anders Ekendberg from the Newmann Institut – University College (Newmaninstitutet w Uppsala, Sweden) took place on April 15–16, 2015. The following were the topics of the lectures: “The Early history of the Liturgical Year;” “The Meaning of Baptism and the Eucharist: Some Early Christian Theological Paradigms;” and “The Church in Scandinavia: Secularization and Ecumenism as Challenges.” The lectures were organized by the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in partnership with the Newmaninstitutet.

Along with the Dominican College of Philosophy and Theology, our university’s Faculty of Philosophy continues the tradition of open lectures. This time, they were organized under the title: “Transformacje ontologii – zapomnienie bycia a (post)sekularyzm” (“The Transformation of Ontology: Forgetting Being and (Post)Secularism”), which was given by Prof. Tomas Sodeika, a philosopher from Vilnius University (Vilniaus Universitetas, Lithuania). The lectures took place on May 25–28, 2015, in the Dominican Holy Trinity Basilica in Krakow.

The Academic Activity of Undergraduate and Doctoral Students

The students themselves participate in popularizing activities by organizing conferences and academic symposia. As examples, we can name the following initiatives of students.

The first Student Oxford Debate took place at our university on November 5, 2014. During the debate, answers were sought to the following question: "Is the death penalty necessary in today's world?" Two teams competed against each other and presented arguments both in favor of and against capital punishment. The debate was open to all the students of the universities in Krakow who wanted to discuss important yet difficult matters. The debate was organized by the "Ster" ("Rudder") Student Clinic, the Academic Chaplaincy "Patmos," and the Students' Union of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow.

Long-lasting and at the same time valuable initiatives include the Seventh "Ecclesia Semper Reformanda?" Seminarists' Academic Symposium, which took place on November 13, 2014. The introductory lecture titled "Synod diecezjalny – (nie)skuteczne narzędzie reformy Kościoła?" ("The Diocesan Synod: An (In)Effective Tool for Church Reform?") was given by Rev. Dr. Grzegorz Strzelczyk from the University of Silesia in Katowice. Next, the students presented papers in which they tackled the following subjects: the reformers of the Old Covenant as an inspiration for changes in the Catholic Church; "maturation of the Body of Christ" and the Biblical basis for the maxim "Ecclesia semper reformanda"; "let the renewing of your minds transform you" (Romans 12:2), or understanding reform in the New Testament; "Fratres Semper Reformandi": Humbert of Romans and the first reform of the Dominican Order; the sanctity of the person as the basis for Church reform in light of St. John of the Cross; personal conversion as the way to Church reform and the example of Cardinal John Newman; the renewal of the liturgy of episcopal ordination in the spirit of Vatican II; change of the image of the Church; the reform of the ministry and the image of the parish in Poland; new religious communities as a sign of renewal of Church life and the example of the French Church in 1970–1996; and cremation – an atheistic ritual? From "dies irae" to "sine die". The symposium was organized under the patronage of our university's academic staff.

A socially valuable initiative is the search for a solution to the problem of panhandling, which unfortunately is visible in Krakow. Our students decided to notice this problem and organized a Discussion on Begging, which took place on March 25, 2015. The meeting was organized by the "3 Bernardyńska Street Community" and the "Ster" ("Rudder") Student Clinic at the the Academic Chaplaincy "Patmos." It became a part of the "Pomoc osobom żebrzącym" ("Help to Beggars") social program. Employees of the Municipal Social Welfare Center in Krakow and streetworkers who shared their experiences working with homeless persons were invited to participate in the discussion.

During the presentation and subsequent discussion, forms of aid to beggars, their nature, the causes of panhandling, and the nature of the work and the problems of the streetworkers themselves were discussed. The participants were primarily students from universities in Krakow – those studying Social Work and Studies on the Family – as well as academic staff and priests as well as Albertine nuns who serve the poor and homeless.

The undergraduates and doctoral students' "Phronesis" Academic Circle, which functions at our university's Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage, organized an academic conference titled: "Myśl polityczna i ustrojowa II Rzeczypospolitej" ("Political and Institutional Thought of the Second Polish Republic"), which took place on May 28–29, 2015. Papers were divided into the following thematic groups: looking for a political system in the beginnings of independent Poland; the political milieu of the Second Republic and the political system; ideals, the political system, administration – concepts and practice; as well as the original visions of the political system of the Second Republic and topics related to the April Constitution. They were presented by undergraduate and doctoral students from our university, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, the University of Lodz, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the University of Gdansk, the University of Wroclaw, the University of Silesia in Katowice, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, and the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin.

The popularization of knowledge among senior citizens is the purpose of a special institution called the University of the Third Age. A part of our university since the 2011–2012 academic year, the University of the Third Age is dynamically expanding its activity. In the previous academic year, almost 450 people studied in it. Classes took place on Mondays and Tuesdays and, like in previous years, dealt with topics in the areas of philosophy, theology, history and the social sciences. The University of the Third Age also featured organized days of reflection, formative conferences, pilgrimages, cultural events, as well as visits to monuments of Christian culture. In the past year, for example, there were organized artistic workshops of the word and image titled: "Światła symboli – Księga" ("The Lights of Symbols: The Book"). The symbol of the Book serves for reflection on wisdom memory, time, and experience. During the workshops, the development of the meaning of "the book" from antiquity to present times was presented. An example of another initiative undertaken in the previous year was the organization of a computer course.

Distinctions

The above-described activity of the Pontifical University of John Paul II has not remained unnoticed in society. In addition to the ordinary gratitude of people who make use of it each day, recognition shown to both the entire university and its individual employees brings us great joy and satisfaction.

One of the expressions of such distinction is our university's receiving an award in the "Social Entrepreneur Leader of Malopolska 2014" contest in the "Entrepreneur supporting the development of the social economy of Lesser Poland," which we received on October 2, 2014. The aim of this contest was to promote social entrepreneurs who own a business, meet with commercial success, and donate their profits to social causes that are in accordance with their mission. The ceremony during which the awards were presented took place in the Home Army Museum in Krakow. Our university's Chancellor, Rev. Andrzej Lichosyt, received the award.

Another cause for satisfaction is the making of our professors members of the Polish Language Council. At a special meeting of this council on March 2, 2015, the former Deputy President of the Polish Academy of Sciences Prof. Dr. Hab. Mirosława Marody presented nominations for the 2015–2018 term. The new members included two academic staff from our university: Prof. Dr. Hab. Walery Pisarek from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Wiesław Przyczyna from the Faculty of Theology. Furthermore, both professors became members of the council presidium, and Rev. Prof. Przyczyna became Chairman of the Religious Language Commission of that council.

Some Numbers...

For a more complete image of our university, it is worth mentioning some statistical data. In the 2014–2015 academic year, 2,958 undergraduate and doctoral students studied at our university;⁴ 261 academic staff were employed, including 49 full professors, 79 habilitated doctors, 107 doctors, 26 Master of Arts recipients, as well as 122 additional employees (94 in the administration

⁴ The marked decrease in the number of students compared with the previous year is not only related to the demographic slump, but also with the change in the "definition" of a student necessitated by the POL-on computer system (an integrated information system about research and post-secondary education).

and 28 in the library). A total of 490 students were accepted for the first year of First Cycle studies. In the previous academic year, our university bestowed 221 professional Bachelor of Arts degrees, which are the culmination of First Cycle studies (14 at the Faculty of Theology, 54 at the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage, and 153 at the Faculty of Social Sciences) as well as 353 Master of Arts degrees, which are the culmination of Second Cycle studies (144 at the Faculty of Theology, nine at the Faculty of Philosophy, 49 at the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage, 123 at the Faculty of Social Sciences and 28 at the Faculty of Theology Section in Tarnow) as well as 26 Canonical Licentiate (Church degrees; 18 at the Faculty of Theology, seven at the Faculty of Canon Law and one at the Faculty of Theology Section in Tarnow). Twenty-seven persons received the academic degree of Doctor (19 at the Faculty of Theology, five at the Faculty of Philosophy, and three at the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage). Seven became habilitated doctors and six received the title of Professor.

In order to avoid any misunderstandings, it should be noted that the presented numbers of bestowed degrees and academic titles do not always coincide with the promotion ceremonies, because typically several months pass from the moment that all proceedings end (the doctoral proceeding ends at the moment the dissertation is published, as well as the habilitation and professorial proceedings) to the promotion ceremony. For this reason, it is often the case that the proceeding ends during one academic year and the promotion takes place the following year.

Promotion of the University

There are several institutions (units) at our university whose purpose is the promotion of its academic and didactic activity. They include the Office of Information and Promotion, which has been active since the 2004–2005 academic year. In the past academic year, it engaged in numerous promotional activities, which included participation in the Festival of Science in Krakow. In the previous year, it took place on May 20–23, 2015, under the slogan: “Enlighten Yourself!” It refers to the United Nations Organization’s declaration of 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies. As in past years, our university organized academic panels, a painting exhibit, workshops, and quizzes. Several dozen volunteers from four faculties became engaged in the preparations of our participation in the festival.

Radio Bonus, which since 2010 regularly has internet broadcasts 24 hours a day, is expanding its cooperation with Vatican Radio, the sound service of the Catholic News Agency in Poland (KAI), as well as domestic radio stations. Radio Bonus accompanies many conferences and academic symposia as their media patron. It is the work of journalism and social communications students, who have at their disposal a professionally equipped radio studio as well modern reporting equipment. You can listen to Radio Bonus at: www.radio.upjp2.edu.pl.

In addition to Radio Bonus, since 2014 there has also been the JP2TV internet television, which was discussed previously. Here it is worth adding that it is the only student television station in Poland that uses professional TriCaster equipment for the realization of its programs. You can watch JP2TV Television at: www.jp2tv.pl.

An important form of promoting our university is its publishing activity, for which the Publishing House of the Pontifical University of John Paul II is responsible. Since 1970, university-wide academic publications have been published, especially *Analecta Cracoviensia*, which includes studies in the areas of philosophy, theology, Church history, canon law, and the social sciences. Thus far, 43 volumes (46 annuals) of this periodical have been published. In addition to *Analecta Cracoviensia*, each faculty publishes its own magazine: *Polonia Sacra* is the publication of the Faculty of Theology, which since 2013 also publishes the English-language magazine *Theological Research: A Journal of Systematic Theology*; *Logos i Ethos* is a periodical of the Faculty of Philosophy; and *Folia Historica Cracoviensia, Pro Musica Sacra* (since 2004), as well as *Orientalia Christiana Cracoviensia* (since 2009) are publications of the Faculty of Church History. Since 2009, the Faculty of Social Sciences publishes *Studia Socialia Cracoviensia*. The Faculty of Canon Law publishes *Annales Canonici*. This is an annual legal publication aimed at academic milieus, practitioners of law, and all who are interested in Church Law. The Faculty of Theology Section in Tarnow publishes two magazines *Tarnowskie Studia Teologiczne* ("Tarnow Theological Studies"; since 1938) and *The Person and the Challenges* (since 2011). The Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, which is part of the Faculty of Philosophy, publishes *Zagadnienia Filozoficzne w Nauce* ("Philosophical Problems in Science"). This is a biannual publication that deals with the discovery and analysis of philosophical problems related to the natural sciences. A magazine of a similar nature is *Semina Scientiarum*, which initially was published as a supplement to the aforementioned *Zagadnienia Filozoficzne w Nauce* ("Philosophical Problems in Science"). It is edited

by participants of the Seminarium Naukowego z Filozofii Przyrody (“Academic Seminar about the Philosophy of Nature”) and is devoted to questions at the intersection of philosophy and the natural sciences. In 2011, a new journal titled: *Racjonalia. Z punktu widzenia humanistyki* (“Racjonalia: From the Point of View of the Humanities”) at the Faculty of Philosophy. In it, there are published works by Bachelor of Arts students (First Cycle), two-year Master of Arts students (Second Degree), doctoral students (Third Cycle), continuous Master of Arts students, participants in post-diploma studies, and treatises of academic staff from postsecondary schools. There are also preparations for a new magazine of the Faculty of Theology dealing with Biblical studies: *Studia Biblica Cracoviensia*.

The university’s official informative publication is *Vita Academica. Biuletyn Informacyjny Uniwersytetu Papieskiego Jana Pawła II w Krakowie* (“Vita Academica: The Information Bulletin of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow”), which is a bimonthly and contains information dealing with the most important events from the life of our university. Our students also have their own publication: *Patos. Czasopismo Społeczno-Kulturalne Młodych* (“Patos: A Social-Cultural Journal of the Youth”), which is edited and published by our university’s Students’ Union. The magazine has been published for many years, once as a quarterly and presently as a bimonthly. *Patos* is a publication of lay students; those studying for the priesthood have their own magazine: *Novum Tempus Liberum* (NTL), which is edited by seminarians from the Archdiocesan Major Seminary in Krakow. Currently, it is published as an annual and features information from the seminarians’ seminary and university lives.

The publishing house also publishes several editorial series. Of those that are regularly published, it is especially worth noting *Studia nad myślą Jana Pawła II* (“Studies on the Thought of John Paul II”) published by the Center for Studies on the Thought of John Paul II (currently, there are 16 volumes in the series). In the 2014–2015 academic year, the Publishing House of the Pontifical University of John Paul II published sixty-four publications, including 19 issues of magazines as well as the *Vita Academica* Information Bulletin. Among its publications, it is worth noting the publishing of materials from the Ninth Days of John Paul II titled: *Drogi nadziei* (“Roads of Hope”), ed. Z. Zarębianka, K. Dybeł, Krakow 2015. Furthermore, our publishing house has been systematically increasing the number of publications available online (on the websites of magazines and in the university’s repository). There has also been

activated a “platform of journals,”⁵ where there are made available continuous publications (fourteen at the moment) of our university.

In addition to academic-didactic activity, our university tries to promote, for example, sacral music; it is thus the extension of research on the liturgy of the Church and its musical tradition. Since 1988, the “Psalmodia” Academic Choir under the direction of Dr. Hab. Włodzimierz Siedlik, who has been directing it since the beginning, has been active at our university. The “Psalmodia” choir graces various academic ceremonies with its singing, including the celebration inaugurating the academic year or our university’s anniversary celebrations. The choir also works to promote Polish culture abroad. Thanks to cooperation with the St. Hedwig the Queen Foundation, it can take part in various artistic events.

Without a doubt, the most important event in the choir’s activity last year was the conclusion of the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of its existence. On this occasion, the main concert took place in the Krakow Philharmonic on October 12, 2014. During the concert, the performed compositions included the following: Romuald Twardowski’s *Alleluia*, Stanisław Moniuszko’s *Des-dur Mass*, Feliks Nowowiejski’s *Fatherland*, and Krzysztof Penderecki’s *Hymn to St. Wojciech*. The concert’s organizers were: the “Psalmodia” Academic Choir, the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, the St. Hedwig the Queen Foundation, and the PASSIONART Association.

On November 8–23, our choir took part in the Tenth Days of Church Music, during which the choral music of Romuald Twardowski under the direction of Mr. Włodzimierz Siedlik was performed on November 18.

Our choir’s successes include receiving the highest distinction at the Twenty-Fourth Christmas Carol Choral Festival in Myslenice on February 1, 2015. It was honored with the Grand Prix as well as an award for the best performance of the Christmas Carol “Dnia jednego o północy” (“One Day at Midnight”).

The choir’s activity receives financial support from the St. Hedwig the Queen Foundation for the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow.

Concern for Our Undergraduate and Doctoral Students

In its didactic as well as academic-research activity, the Pontifical University of John Paul II is also concerned for the spiritual formation of its students and staff. It does so through the Academic Chaplaincy “Patmos.” Each year of lay

⁵ <http://czasopisma.upjp2.edu.pl/index/index> (31. 12. 2015).

students has its own minister, who celebrates Mass for them, preaches ascetic conferences, and gives individual spiritual direction. Masses take place at least once a month, which formational meetings with conferences most frequently take place during Advent and Lent. They constitute an integral part of the retreats given during these liturgical periods. All of the ministry activities are coordinated by Rev. Dr. Lucjan Bielas. The spiritual and pastoral formation of students preparing for the priesthood is undertaken in their seminaries. Lay students meet for prayer at the Chapel of St. John Paul II, which can be found in the university's building at 1 Franciszkańska Street, as well as at the chapel at 3 Bernardyńska Street since the building there has been leased.

Concern for students also involves aiding them in solving their problems. This is the aim of the "Ster" ("Rudder") Student Clinic, which has been active since 2014. It is a joint initiative of the Academic Chaplaincy "Patmos" and students from the Faculty of Social Sciences. The clinic helps in resolving family crises, finding the appropriate specialist, helping to find a source of funding for a research project, or in any other issue that complicates student life. The clinic is open to the needs of the students from all the universities in Krakow. In the previous academic year, it organized a series of meetings from the "Zaufanie i przedsiębiorczość" ("Trust and Entrepreneurship") cycle as well as the Academic Catechesis for the Engaged to Be Married. The first such catechesis took place on April 7, 2015. Its purpose is to prepare those who are engaged to be married for conscious and lasting marriage as well as for the responsible starting of a family.

It goes without saying that good university studies not only help the student gain necessary knowledge, but they also develop one's skills. At our university, the Akademicki Inkubator Przedsiębiorczości (AIP, Academic Incubator of Entrepreneurship) will serve to realize this aim. It started its activity on October 1, 2014, in cooperation with the "Akademickie Inkubatory Przedsiębiorczości" ("Academic Incubators of Entrepreneurship") Foundation. This institution supports students in the field of developing and running their own business. Everyone who has an idea for his or her own business can take advantage of the support it offers. The incubator provides legal, training, and accounting assistance, and also teaches running one's own business in practice. It also offers support from specialists, who help to evaluate and test business ideas or the minimum costs of an initiative. The Academic Incubator of Entrepreneurship functions as part of our university's Career Office.

The university's authorities also make an effort to offer the best possible conditions for study to students with disabilities. Such students are given

assistance by the Office for Persons with Disabilities. On November 13, 2014, the International Day of the Blind was marked. At our university, the related celebrations were organized by the aforementioned office as well as the “Ster” (“Rudder”) Student Clinic. Its participants could learn how to help a blind person with mobility; became familiar with materials in Braille and audio descriptions for films; looked through goggles that simulated vision impairment; and could learn how to walk with a cane. There was also a gallery of famous people with disabilities. The office also took part in the organization of the most recent eighth edition of the Krakow Days of Integration, which took place on April 21–25, 2015. This year’s Days of Integration commenced with the conference: “Student z niepełnosprawnością w środowisku akademickim II – doświadczenia po latach” (“The Student with Disabilities in the Academic Milieu II: Experience After Years,” April 21, 2015), which was organized by our university in conjunction with the Krakow Municipal Government. The second event organized by our university was a happening titled: “Osoby z niepełnosprawnością są wśród nas” (“People With Disabilities Are Among Us,” April 24, 2015). Other universities engaged in the celebrations of the Krakow Days of Integration collaborate within the ramifications of the Agreement on People With Disabilities, which was signed on October 27, 2010. Last year, the Agricultural University of Krakow also joined the agreement. Presently, seven Krakow universities cooperate within the framework of this initiative: the AGH University of Science and Technology, the Krakow University of Technology, the Krakow University of Economics, the Pedagogical University of Krakow, the Pontifical University of John Paul II, the Jagiellonian University, and the aforementioned Agricultural University of Krakow.

On May 21, 2015, elections for the chairperson of our university’s Students’ Union were held. Its new chairperson is Ms. Justyna Lusio, a second-year student of theology. On May 26, 2015, the Students’ Union also elected a new board of directors. Its newly chosen deputy chairpersons are Ms. Anna Żegleń and Ms. Justyna Niedbała, while Ms. Zuzanna Puchalska and Ms. Joanna Rams became the secretaries.

The university also remembers its graduates. This is evidenced by the regular meetings of lay graduates of the Faculty of Theology, which for some time have been taking place in January as *Oplatek* meetings. The most recent such meeting took place on January 17, 2015, and its topic was the Year of Consecrated Life and Pope Francis’ message devoted to it.

Assisting in Academic Activity

Our university's library is highly specialized. It takes part in the creation of an all-Polish system of exchange of library information and the work of the Krakow Library Group, the Nukat Union Catalog of Polish Research Libraries and the FIDES Federation of the Polish Church Libraries. The library continues to expand its catalogue based on the VTLS/Virtua integrated computer system. The number of volumes (as of December 2015) was 209,230, while the number of recorded continuous publishers was 5,138 (also as of December 2014). This catalogue is available online in the form of a database. The number of the library's regular readers was 13,320 in 2015. In the 2015, the library was enriched by 5,013 volumes of books, 209 individual inventory multimedia collections, and 926 individual inventory journals. In 2014, the library's book collection totaled 392,290 volumes. In 2015, the library acquired 674 operational journals, and subscribed to 350 journals (including 161 foreign ones). Furthermore, as part of inter-library exchange, the library received 112 domestic and foreign magazines. Most foreign journals receive *Analecta Cracoviensia* in return.

A dynamically expanding area of our library's activity is the collecting and making available of digital databases, which we have been doing for many years. These are above all full-text, bibliographic, and factographic databases, and the digital versions of magazines and books as well as information from the internet. From the point of view of their accessibility, they can be divided into the all-accessible and those with licensed access. Access to them is possible for our staff and students not only from the computers of the Main Library, but also from home computers (after logging in). The library offers access to the following databases: the Polish Virtual Library of Science (financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education), IBUK Libra (a service that makes accessible the publications of the Polish Scientific Publishers PWN), the ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials, and Communication & Mass Media Complete. It also makes possible access to databases considered to be the most important licensed databases: Ebsco, Elsevier, Nature, Science, Scopus, Springer, Web of Science, Wiley-Blackwell, and also access to the Institute for Scientific Information (which encompasses various databases created by the Thomson Reuters company, until 2013 the Web of Knowledge platform).

The St. Hedwig Queen of Poland Foundation for the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow is responsible for the acquisition of financial resources aiding the activities of the university. Although the university receives subsidies from the state government, which covers 72 percent of the university's

expenses, this does not cover costs forfeited for investments. The missing financial resources must therefore be covered by other sources. Thus the foundation is responsible for the popularization of the university's activity with the help of various available resources that encourage benefactors to aid us.

In the previous year, the foundation celebrated the 25th anniversary of its activity. On this occasion, the Krakow premiere of the film *Chopin: The Space Concert* with live music took place on Thursday February 19, 2015 in the Krakow Philharmonic. As photos from space were shown, Karol Radziwonowicz played the piano, and Wojciech Proniewicz played a solo set accompanied by the philharmonic's string ensemble under the direction of Tomasz Radziwonowicz. The director Adam Ustynowicz presented the history of how the film was made, while in the introduction Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Michał Heller showed the relationship between the harmony of the cosmos and the beauty of music. Representatives of the municipal and regional authorities, consuls, the authorities of Krakow universities, members of the Foundation Council, friends, sponsors, donors, and well-wishers as well as many other supporters of the foundation's activity participated in the film's premiere.

Chopin: The Space Concert is an unusual film that was made in the International Space Station with the accompaniment of music by Frederic Chopin. The CD with the music was taken into space by the crew of the Space Ship *Endeavor*, whose members included George D. Zamka, an American astronaut of Polish origin (STS-130 *Endeavour* commander). This is a film that allows us to look at our planet and at our existence in a different way and to realize the majestic beauty of the Earth and man's smallness. In the same way, this could symbolize the essence of our university and its foundation's activity: presenting how unplumbed the Truth is and how fragile man is.

The foundation, which initially was called the St. Hedwig Queen of Poland Foundation for the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Krakow was formed on February 2, 1990, from the initiative of the founders: Cardinal Dr. Franciszek Macharski, then the Archbishop of Krakow and our university's Great Chancellor, and Bishop Prof. Dr. Hab. Wacław Świerzawski, who at the time was our university's Rector.

Currently, the foundation supports the university's activity by co-sponsoring research projects presented by academic staff, undergraduates, or doctoral students; the foundation co-subsidizes their publications as well as students' initiatives and ventures. Some of them have been mentioned above.

The foundation's board wishes to express its gratitude to all its benefactors for their support, kindness, and willingness to help. A Mass is celebrated for all the benefactors in the St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Krakow.

In Grateful Memory...

A regular aspect of university life is prayer for its staff that have passed away as well as all staff from the universities and post-secondary schools in Krakow and Lesser Poland that have passed away. Each year in November during a solemn Mass in St. Anne's Collegiate Church in Krakow, academic milieus pray for those who in the previous academic year passed on to eternity. In the previous year, it was celebrated on Monday November 17, 2014.

In the previous academic year, our university's academic community was sorry to say goodbye to two of its former employees.

Rev. Dr. Hab. Gerard Siwek, CSSR, died on April 28, 2015, in Krakow. He was a distinguished employee of many years of our university's Liturgy Institute as well as a homilist, catechist, editor of the *Redemptoris Missio* editorial series, and the author of many published books and articles published in the quarterly journal *Homo Dei* as well as *Współczesna Ambona* ("The Contemporary Pulpit"). The funeral Mass was celebrated on May 1, 2015.

Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Tadeusz Ślipko, SJ, went to his Father's house on May 1, 2015, in Krakow in the 98th year of his life, the 76th year of his monastic vocation, and the 68th year of his priesthood. He was an acclaimed ethicist and lecturer, professor of the humanities, and philosopher specializing in ethical issues with many years' experience. In the field of ethics, he was most interested in problems related to bioethics, ecology, genetic engineering, and pre-natal diagnostics. He laid down an outline of ethics concerning specific natural communities: from marriage and family ethics through the ethics of international life and ethical problems related to peace and war. His funeral ceremonies took place on May 6, 2015.

In the previous academic year, we also parted with two of our students. The seminarian Damian Radzięta unexpectedly went to his Father's house on January 22, 2015, in Krakow. He was a student of theology studying for the priesthood. He came from the Diocese of Bielsko-Żywiec. The funeral ceremonies took place on January 29, 2015.

After a long illness, Mr. Artur Sułowski died on March 10, 2015, in Wieliczka. He was a graduate of the Faculty of Theology and a student of the Faculty of Philosophy, a doctoral student at the Faculty of Theology, Chairman of the

Theologians' Academic Circle, and the author of many publications. He was an active participant in university institutions. The funeral ceremonies took place on March 13, 2015, in Wieliczka.

We ask Divine Mercy for our deceased university staff and they remain in our grateful memory, as we try to emulate their example of academic honesty and human goodness.

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The above described activity of the Pontifical University of John Paul II attests to its dynamic growth, engagement in solving contemporary scientific problems, and openness to the needs of the Church and the local community. Everyone who values Christian values as well as the person and work of St. John Paul II may study at our university or support its activity, which ultimately is the realization of Christ's missionary summons: "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you." (Matthew 28:19).

Rev. Jan Daniel Szczurek
Translation: Filip Mazurczak