

Annual Report of the President of the Polish Theological Society for 2017

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The previous general meeting of the Polish Theological Society took place on February 28, 2017. It consisted of two parts. After the president, treasurer, director of the Publishing Section, and head of the Review Panel had presented their reports, a vote of confidence was given to the board for 2016. Next, the elections for the board of the Polish Theological Society for the 2017–2020 term were held. During the second part of the general meeting, His Excellency Bishop Marek Szkućło gave a medal Archbishop Dr. Damian Zimoń for his contributions to the Polish Theological Society. Meanwhile, Rev. Prof. Jerzy Szymik gave a lecture on the topic *The Truth, Theology, and God*.

Two thousand seventeen was the first year the society's board that had been selected on February 28, 2017, was active. Its members were the following:

Board

President: Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Kazimierz Panuś

Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Hab. Piotr Kroczek, professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II

Secretary: Rev. Dr. Hab. Romuald Kośła, OFM

Treasurer: Rev. Andrzej Fyda, MA

Librarian: Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Bednarczyk

Director of the Publishing Section: Mr. Sebastian Wojnowski, MA.

Review Panel

President: Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Tomasz Jelonek

Members: Rev. Dr. Hab. Sylwester Jędrzejewski, SDB; Rev. Dr. Hab. Witold Ostafiński

Court of Conciliation

President: Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Maciej Ostrowski

Members: Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Tomasz Dąbek, OSB; Rev. Dr. Franciszek Ślusarczyk

By the end of 2017, the Polish Theological Society numbered 945 members (after a thorough verification of the number of members). In 2017, twenty-eight new members were accepted: two were accepted into the Philosophical Section; two into the Sindonological Section; two into the Biblical Section; two into the Sosnowiec Branch; fourteen into the Czestochowa Branch; one into the Kielce Branch; four into the Torun Branch; and one to the Przemysl Branch.

According to our information, the following have left for the Lord's House since the previous general meeting: Bishop Professor Waclaw Świerzawski; Rev. Prof. Józef Ścibor, CSsR; Rev. Dr. Marek Leśniak; Prof. Waclawa Szelińska; Rev. Prof. Jan Kowalski; and Rev. Prof. Augustyn Piel and Rev. Prof. Marian Wolicki from the Przemysl Branch.

In accordance with the statute proscriptions, the board held four meetings in the year for which this report has been prepared: on May 9, 2017; September 28, 2017; November 28, 2017; and February 27, 2018.

During the first board meeting, Rev. Dr. Stanisław Mieszczak, SCJ, gave a lecture on *The Liturgy of World Youth Day*. Next, the director of the Publishing Section informed about funds for the implementation of three publishing projects that had come from the Minister of Science and Higher Education's resources for the popularization of research. These funds will finance, among others, the creation of an Institutional Repository of the Polish Theological Society. During the next section of the meeting, Piotr Kroczyk, a professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II, spoke on the topic of new contacts with international academic societies. Consequently, an English language version of the website should be created and information about individual thematic and regional sections should be updated. The next item on the agenda was the topic of expanding the society to include a new regional branch in Lublin. Rev. Mirosław Matuszyny, vicar of the parish of the Conversion of St. Paul in Lublin, presented this proposal. Pursuant to the statute, in the subsequent part of the meeting the nominations of the directors of thematic sections for the new 2017–2020 term. On this occasion, Rev. Dr. Hab. Grzegorz Godawa informed that the new section summoned after fusing the Catechetical-Pedagogical and Pastoral-Sociological ones will be called the Pedagogical-Social Section. A Catechetical Section will also be formed in the future. Secretary Rev. Dr. Hab. Romuald Kośła, OFM, spoke about unifying the database of the society members. This will allow us to estimate the number of the thematic sections, which are mostly in Krakow, and facilitate communication with

them. The need to update certain data, including academic titles, email addresses, and mailing addresses, was also acknowledged. Financial matters were discussed by the new treasurer Rev. Andrzej Fyda, MA, who in March received the entire documentation from his predecessor, Rev. Dr. Andrzej Mojżeszko, and took over his statutory duties. The directors of individual sections and branches informed those in attendance about the activity of their academic centers and also introduced projects that would be realized in the near future. In one motion, Rev. Prof. Tomasz Jelonek expressed the need to collect archival books in one place, as this is material that historians need for research.

The second assembly of the board began with a lecture by Rev. Dr. Waclaw Umiński, CM, the director of the History Section, on the topic: *The Formation of Diocesan and Regular Clergy in the Interwar Era: The Example of the Vincentian Boarding School in Warsaw*. The president informed of the correspondence with the secretary general of the Polish Episcopal Conference, Bishop Artur Miziński, concerning the updating of the personal information of the society's executives. The secretary general of the Polish Episcopal Conference will present it to the Minister of Interior and Administration, pursuant to article 14 of the law of May 17, 1989, concerning the relations between the state and the Catholic Church in the Republic of Poland. As a Church organization, the Polish Theological Society informs state authorities on the appointment and recalling of persons who hold perform functions in the board through the Secretariat of the Polish Episcopate. In the next part of the meeting, Mr. Miłosz Grygierczyk, the assistant director of the Sindonological Section, presented the current state of the expansion of this section. He began his report with his personal interest in the relic of the Shroud of Turin and presented several phases of the section's activity in the near future. They include: creating a subpage; the publication of two original photographs of the original Shroud of Turin taken by Barrie Schwartz (USA) in 1978 during research by the STURP team; preparing a description of the tortures during Jesus Christ's passion with the appropriate explanations; and establishing numerous contacts with sindonological experts both in Poland and internationally. The international section will organize an academic conference dedicated to the topic of the Shroud of Turin in November 2018. In the name of the board, the president thanked Rev. Dr. Jerzy Bielecki for his many-years' dedicated leadership of the Czestochowa Branch and wished the new director, Rev. Dr. Hab. Paweł Maciaszek, successes in his work for this branch. Rev. Dr. Hab. Stanisław Wronka, editor-in-chief of the *Biblical and Liturgical Movement*, informed about the state of preparation for subsequent issues of the quarterly journal. Meanwhile, the director of the Publishing Section discussed the digitalization of the first twenty-three volumes of *Analecta Cracoviensia* published by the Polish Theological Society and the creation of an Institutional Repository of the Polish Theological Society, whose purpose will not

only be to make archival publications of the Polish Theological Society widely available, but above all to formally publish online original works in open access by the UNUM Publisher. Those present also became familiarized with the financial report prepared by the treasurer, Rev. Andrzej Fyda, MA. The directors of sections and branches presented reports from their activity so far and informed of their academic and research initiatives planned for the near future.

During the third board meeting, Rev. Dr. Hab. Lech Król, the director of the Wloclawek Branch, gave a lecture on the topic of *Blessed Michał Kozal as a Model of Spiritual Life*. In it, he presented the spiritual life of the martyr of Dachau; we marked the hundredth anniversary of his priestly ordination on February 23 of this year. Rev. Dr. Hab. Lech Król invited the board members to Wloclawek to mark the ninetieth anniversary of the existence of the branch, which will be held on April 18–19, 2018. In addition to the board meeting, there are plans to visit the religious sites that are important to the city as well as a symposium commemorating the aforementioned anniversary. During the meeting, a new commission was summoned to amend the statute so that it would be consistent with the current provisions of civil and canon law, especially canons 298–320. The commission's members included the president, Rev. Dr. Hab. Piotr Kroczek, a professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II; as well as the following members: Rev. Dr. Andrzej Kukła, CSSR, director of the Canon Law Section, and Mr. Sebastian Wojnowski, MA, director of the Publishing Section.

During the meeting, the state of preparations for an academic conference devoted to the Shroud of Turin was discussed. The speakers included two newly accepted section members: Prof. Dr. Hab. Zbigniew Treppa of the University of Gdansk as well as Rev. Dr. Hab. Krzysztof Kacha of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.

The board learned about the preparations for the publication of new issues of the *Biblical and Liturgical Movement* quarterly; its digitalization and internationalization; as well as the evaluation in the ICI Journals Master List database (77.26) and the number of times the journal was cited (297). The final part of the November board meeting consisted of a discussion of the program of the general meeting that would take place on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, while information about the achievements of various local branches and thematic sections was presented.

The fourth board meeting that the statute foresees took place on February 27, 2018. Those in attendance became acquainted with the draft of the new statute; it was decided that it would be presented to the general meeting for acceptance. New members were accepted and this year's symposia prepared by various regional branches and thematic sections were discussed.

The Polish Theological Society includes fifteen thematic sections in Krakow and seventeen local branches as well as the Publishing Section, which runs the UNUM publishing house.

1. The Activity of the Thematic Sections

B i b l i c a l S e c t i o n . The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Bogacz, professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. In addition to the meeting on June 20, during which it was decided that a symposium devoted to the topic of freedom in the Bible would be held in 2018, the members of the Biblical Section met on the occasion of important academic conferences. The Day of the Shroud of Turin on October 21 was such an important event. Then, the Polish Sindonological Center inaugurated its activity. An international academic conference dealing with the present state of research with regards to the Shroud of Turin was held in Krakow's Have No Fear! John Paul II Center. It was attended by guests from Italy (Dr. Gian Maria Zaccone, Director of the International Center of Sindonology in Turin; Enrico Simonato, a chemist and the secretary of the International Center of Sindonology in Turin; and Rev. Prof. Rafael Pascual, LC, Director of the Science and Faith Institute in the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum University in Rome) and Poland (Prof. Dr. Hab. Zbigniew Treppa, Director of the Division of the Anthropology of Visual Representation at the University of Gdansk; Prof. Dr. Hab. Władysław Sinkiewicz, MD, a cardiologist of the Ludwik Rydygier Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz; Prof. Dr. Hab. Wojciech Kucewicz of the Chair in Electronics at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow; Prof. Dr. Hab. Krzysztof Pilarczyk of the Institute of Religious Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow; and Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Bogacz, Professor at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, and Director of the Biblical Section of the Polish Theological Society). During the session, important contacts between the Polish Sindonological Center and the International Center of Sindonology in Turin were established. Guests from Italy were most interested in learning that studies on the shroud have been going on for many years in Poland and that the Polish Theological Society plays a significant role in them. It was possible to visit an exhibit on the shroud during the conference. The members of the Biblical Section also met during the Third Father Augustyn Jankowski Symposium held on November 6 in the Benedictine abbey in Tyniec. It was devoted to the topic of the end of the world. The point of departure for the discussion was the text of the Book of Revelation. The speakers also referred to other Biblical books dealing with the topic

of the end times, including the Prophetic Books, the Book of Job, and the targum. This academic discussion was very relevant, because the contemporary person faces thoughts about the end of the world and universe. During the symposium, there were references to contemporary physics within the context of questions about what science can tell us about the end of the world.

M o r a l T h e o l o g y S e c t i o n . This section is chaired by Rev. Dr. Bogusław Mielec. It continued its cycle of monthly meetings dealing with Pope Francis' apostolic adhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. In the year for which the report was prepared, six meetings were held (on February 23, April 6, June 1, September 28, November 30, and January 11, 2018). The following topics were discussed: *The New Gospel of the Family according to Cardinal Walter Kasper; Attenuating Circumstances in Moral Evaluation as Conceived in Amoris Laetitia; Pope Francis' "New Moral Theology" and Karl Rahner's Existential Ethics; and The Synods on the Family in 2014 and 2015: The Procedure and Analysis of the Documents*. Seven lecturers in various theological disciplines from the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow take part in these meetings. They are closed, which allows for free and in-depth discussion, while their interdisciplinary nature allows for a broad look into the adhortation's subject matter.

H o m i l e t i c S e c t i o n . The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Kazimierz Panuś. In 2017, the Homiletic Section met in Wigry near Suwalki as part of the two-day conference on the subject of *Preaching God's Word in the Peripheries*, which was organized by the Association of Polish Homileticists. On September 25, the section's director gave a lecture titled: *Miejsca przepowiadania słowa Bożego. Panorama historyczna [The Places for Preaching God's Word: A Historical Panorama]*. It is also worth mentioning the advanced work on the project titled: *Sermons in Polish Culture: The Editions of Thematic Collections (Continuation): Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Patriotic Sermons* by the Polish Theological Society, financed by the National Program for the Development of Humanities during the 2015–2019 period.

S p i r i t u a l i t y S e c t i o n . The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Wojciech Mleczek, CR. The section continued work related to the many years' research program *The Spirituality of Polish Monasteries: Message and Communication*. On March 8 of the year for which this report has been prepared, the section organized a symposium on *Helping to Grasp the Meaning of Life: The Legacy of Rev. Walerian Kalinka, CR*, in Krakow's Centrum Resurrectionis. The results of these and previous symposia have been published in the following post-conference materials: *Celina i Jadwiga Borzęckie: inspiracje duchowe i działalność społeczna matki i córki [Celina and Jadwiga Borzęcki: The Spiritual Inspirations and Social Activity of Mother and Daughter]*, ed. W. Mleczek, M. T. Opryńska, W. Misztal, Krakow 2017, and in the collected volume *Resurrectionist Spirituality: From*

Personal to Social Renewal, ed. W. Mleczek, R. Nęcek, W. Misztal, Krakow 2017. The Spirituality Section took part in the organization of the Eleventh Conference of Media Ethics *Zaufanie w mediach – zaufanie do mediów [Trust and the Media and Trusting the Media]* at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow on May 24–25. It is also worth noting that since September 2016, the director of this section is a consultor of the Clergy Commission of the Polish Episcopal Conference and the member of the group preparing new regulations for priestly formation in Poland.

P e d a g o g i c a l - S o c i a l S e c t i o n . The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Grzegorz Godawa. In 2017, the Pedagogical-Catechetical Section was fused with the Sociological-Pastoral Section, which had hitherto been led by Prof. Dr. Hab. Franciszek Adamski. That is how the Pedagogical-Social Section was formed. In the past year, they held three meetings devoted to important social phenomena. On January 25, Rev. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Muszala, a professor at the Pontifical University of John Paul II gave a paper titled: *Siedem kroków rewolucji prokreacyjnej [Seven Steps of the Procreative Revolution]*. Next, on June 13, Prof. Dr. Hab. Franciszek Adamski presented *Utopijne wizje a wyzwania natury: wokół sporu o redefinicję małżeństwa i rodziny [Utopian Visions and the Challenges of Nature: Concerning the Dispute on the Redefinition of Marriage and the Family]*, and on October 10 Dr. Hab. Józef Binnebesel, a professor of the Nicolaus Copernicus University, spoke on the topic of *Ars moriendi. Kulturowo-wychowawczy kontekst lęku przed śmiercią [Ars Moriendi: The Cultural and Educative Context of Fear of Death]*. The members of these sections as well as students of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow participated in these meetings. A discussion followed each paper. This formula of meetings will be continued by the section in the following year. At the same time, there will be efforts to deepen the social and pedagogical conditions of the functioning of the family in today's world.

D o g m a t i c S e c t i o n . The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Żelazny, a professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. In 2017, this section organized a symposium: *Wspólna tradycja chrześcijan. Koncepcja Boga w tradycji orientalnej i zachodniej [The Common Tradition of Christians: The Concept of God in the Oriental and Western Traditions]*, which was held in the auditorium of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow on Bernardyńska Street. The co-organizers of the symposium were the Polish Theological Society as well as the French organization L'Oeuvre d'Orient. This association, which was founded in France 160 years ago by lay professors from the Sorbonne, not only provides Christians from those areas with material support, but it also attempts to save their theological and cultural legacy. Up to the present, their accomplishments in preserving manuscripts and artworks as well as helping communities has been

very effective. It is worth emphasizing the UMUM Publishing House's contribution to the preparations for the symposium: the compilation and printing of information materials.

The Missiology Section. Rev. Dr. Grzegorz Wita coordinates the work of the section in close collaboration with the Association of Polish Missiologists and with the Pontifical Missionary Works of the Archdiocese of Katowice. Activities related to the promotion of missions and missionary formation in coordination and in the spirit of Pontifical Missionary Works are still undertaken. The Association of Polish Missiologists, whose secretary has been the undersigned, continued its activity. Several Polish missiologists took part in the International Missiological Congress organized by the International Association of Catholic Missiologists in Pattaya, Thailand, on July 10–15, 2017. The topic of the congress was Christian witness in a religiously diverse world. Rev. Prof. Jan Górski from the Faculty of Theology of the University of Silesia participated in several international sessions and meetings. Academic endeavors were also undertaken as part of the Association of Polish Missiologists, whose general meeting was held in Kamień Śląski along with a symposium on September 17–19, 2017. The section continued and expanded its activity related to the popularization of missions at the national level by participation in the National Missionary Council, which is part of the Mission Commission of the Polish Episcopal Conference, or the Pontifical Missionary Works. A study visit of the Pontifical Missionary Works took place in September. Bishop Moses Hamungole from Zambia visited the Archdioceses of Katowice and Krakow in late May and early June. Additionally, in the Silesian region a Contest on Knowledge about Africa was created for high schools and a Missionary Contest was created for elementary schools. Numerous radio and several television broadcasts were also prepared. The Fifteenth Missionary Rally took place on June 10, 2017, in Brenna. One successful initiative was the symposium titled: *Misyjne poznawanie świata [The Missionary Experience of the World]*, which popularized anthropological and missiological knowledge. It was held in October 2017 at the conclusion of the Missionary Week in the Municipal Museum in Żory. Furthermore, workshops, retreats, and other formation meetings (such as days of reflection and formative retreats, a Missionary Congress, and the Missionary Workshop) were held. The members of the section published several articles and took part in several conferences and academic symposia.

The Canon Law Section. This section is chaired by Rev. Dr. Andrzej Kukła, CSsR. During the period under review, the members of this section undertook important efforts related to current legal issues in the life of the Church. Rev. Dr. Andrzej Kukła, the chairman of the section, lectured on the laws of religious orders at Università della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano, Switzerland. Thanks to this, he initiated a fruitful collaboration with the professors and students of that University's Faculty of Law, as well as with

Prof. Libero Gerosa, Dean of the Faculty of Theology. The director of the section is also a member of the commission for the amendment of the statute of the Polish Theological Society that was established by the board on November 28. The members of the Canon Law Section actively participated in several important academic events, including the academic symposium *Rozdział i współpraca Państwo-Kościół w Europie. Kазus prawa polskiego i hiszpańskiego* [*The Separation of and Collaboration of Church and State in Europe: The Cases of Polish and Spanish Law*], the Faculty of Theology of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, May 17; *Kościół i jego prawo w nauczaniu św. Jana Pawła II. Międzynarodowa konferencja naukowa w 30 rocznicę wizyty Papieża Polaka w Katolickim Uniwersytecie Lubelskim* [*The Church and Its Law in the Teaching of St. John Paul II: An International Academic Conference on the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Visit of the Polish Pope to the Catholic University of Lublin*], the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, June 9; the Sixth National Academic Conference *Non nova sed nove – Codex Iuris Canonici 1917 w setną rocznicę promulgacji* [*Non Nova Sed Nove: The 1917 Code of Canon Law on the Hundredth Anniversary of Its Promulgation*], the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, October 18; the international academic conference *Sprawy kanonizacyjne po „Sanctorum Mater” – 10 lat doświadczeń* [*Canonization-Related Matters after Sanctorum Mater: Ten Years of Experiences*], the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, November 8; and the symposium *Granice prawa do sakramentów. Między kodeksem prawa kanonicznego z 1917 roku a kodeksem z 1983 roku* [*The Limits of the Right to the Sacraments: Between the 1917 Code of Canon Law and the 1983 Code*], the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, November 16. This section's initiatives also included meetings and consultations with lecturers of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw and the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. The section's members also took part in preparing and compiling commentaries to the new rules of the functioning of ecclesiastical courts with regards to judging on the validity of marriages (*Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus* and the papal adhortation *Amoris Laetitia*).

The Liturgical Section. This section is chaired by Rev. Dr. Stanisław Mieszczak, SCJ. In 2017, the activity of the Liturgical Section was organically tied to the Liturgical Institute of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow as well as broadly understood theological and liturgical formation in various areas of Church life. This section leads a catechumenal study for catechists as well as open lectures from the *Bóg – człowiek – liturgia* [*God, Man, the Liturgy*] cycle at the Catholic Intellectuals' Club in Krakow (Sister Dr. Hab. Adelajda Sielepin, CHR, Professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II, and session on liturgical spirituality in religious orders and seminaries. During the course for the formation of extraordinary ministers of communion, lectures and workshops are held (Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Mieczkowski and Rev. Dr. Stanisław

Mieszczak, SCJ), as is a monthly theological-liturgical and spiritual formation of the Diocesan Liturgical Diaconate. Courses for photographers who want to take pictures during liturgical celebrations are regularly held. Meanwhile, the section's collaboration with the Center for Liturgical Formation in Zawichost is of a permanent nature. The members of sections hold numerous courses for young people, familiarizing them with theological and liturgical affairs. As in previous years, the Liturgy Institute of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow along with the Ukrainian Liturgical Center in Lviv and the Greek Catholic Faculty of Theology at the University of Prešov organized the Eighth International *Ad Fontes Liturgicos* Symposium, this time on October 25–26 in Lviv. Its topic was *Searching for the Sources of Monastic and Cathedral Liturgy*. During it, Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Mieczkowski presented his paper *Liturgia w katedrze wawelskiej w pierwszej połowie XVII wieku na podstawie przewodnika Piotra Hiacynta Pruszcza* [*The Liturgy in the Wawel Cathedral in the First Half of the Seventeenth Century on the Basis of Piotr Hiacynt Pruszcza's Guidelines*]. Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Mieczkowski was the co-organizer and participated in an international liturgical symposium devoted to the topic of the liturgical year and the liturgical calendar, which took place in Prešov, Slovakia, on April 27. There, he presented a paper: *Reforma kalendarza liturgicznego po Soborze Watykańskim II (w Kościele rzymskokatolickim)* [*Reform of the Liturgical Calendar in the Roman Catholic Church after Vatican II*]. The director of the section Rev. Dr. Stanisław Mieszczak, SCJ, gave the following paper: *Formy i treści teologiczne nabożeństw w Kościele katolickim* [*The Forms and Theological Contents of Religious Services in the Catholic Church*] during the academic conference *Język nabożeństw* [*The Language of Services*], which was organized by the Presidium of the Polish Language Council in Zywiec on September 28–30. The section also actively participated in the jubilee fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Liturgical Institute in Krakow.

R e l i g i o u s A r t S e c t i o n . The work of this section is headed by Prof. Dr. Hab Tomasz Węclawowicz. In 2017, the activities of the members of the section focused on the broadly understood popularization of the legacy of Polish religious art in both their material and non-material aspects. This activity took place on numerous levels by various members of the section after mutual consultations. In his home monastery in Mogiła, Father Mateusz Kawa, OCist, consecutively was the patron of conservation efforts, above all working with the abbot to organize the convent museum documenting eight hundred years of the history of the convent along with the presentation of the works of art that have been gathered there throughout the centuries. Prof. Andrzej Włodarek, a member of the section, continued the inventorying of the artistic collection of the Benedictine convent in Staniatki. Furthermore, as a highly competent volunteer, he co-organized the viewing of the Krakow collection as part of the Cracovia Sacra Nights,

which were held under the slogan *Skarby krakowskich klasztorów* [*The Treasures of Krakow's Monasteries*] in August. Professor Włodarek is also preparing a concept for a museum in the Krakow convent of the Poor Clares in Krakow. Dr. Aleš Pospišil, an international member of the section, supported the search for Czech copies of the image of Our Lady of Piekary, which will be reproduced in the monograph titled: *Hodegetrie Krakowskie* [*Cracovian Hodegetria*], which is being prepared by the art conservator Prof. Marta Lempart-Geratowska and Prof. Małgorzata Szuster-Gawłowska of the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow as well as Rev. Dr. Szymon Tracza of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow.

Philosophical Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Henryk Majkrzak, SCJ. Two important section meetings took place in 2017. A February 28 meeting was devoted to another issue of the *Theofos* annual journal published by the section, and one on November 27 was devoted to the section's ongoing matters. The director of the section, Rev. Dr. Hab. Henryk Majkrzak, SCJ, gave two lectures at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin: *Aktualność filozoficznego przesłania św. Tomasza z Akwinu* [*The Relevance of St. Thomas Aquinas' Theological Message*], September 26 and *Św. Tomasz z Akwinu. Człowiek w perspektywie celu ostatecznego* [*St. Thomas Aquinas: The Person from the Perspective of Ultimate Purpose*]. Two new members were accepted into the section as rapporteurs (Dr. Rafał Kazimierz Wilk, OSPPE, and Bartłomiej Krzych, S.T.L.).

Fundamental Theology Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Damian Wąsek. In the period under discussion, the representatives of the section organized, co-organized, or participated in numerous academic events. They were especially engaged in initiatives of an ecumenical and apologetic nature. It is especially worth noting the two-day symposium *Podwawelskie spory o kształt wiary. Wybrane kontrowersje w teologii współczesnej* [*Disputes on the Shape of the Faith near Wawel Castle: Selected Controversies in Contemporary Theology*], which was organized by the section on November 15–16. During the sessions, Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Dzidek gave a paper on the topic: *Rola Tradycji w Kościele* [*The Role of Tradition in the Church*]. Meanwhile, the director of the section presented: *Rola biskupa w Kościele: pasterz czy tylko zarządca? Punkty sporne i perspektywy zmian* [*The Role of the Bishop in the Church: A Pastor, or Only a Manager? Points of Contention and Perspectives of Change*]. Discussion panels were led by Rev. Prof. Łukasz Kamykowski and Dr. Hab. Marek Kita, professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. These events were preceded by meetings and consultations of the section's members. Meetings concerning the main issues in fundamental theology were simultaneously held. The fruits of the work of the members of this section are also new books published in 2017, especially those written or edited by Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Napiórkowski: *Will St. Faustina and St. John Paul*

II become Doctors of the Church? Polish Saints and Apostles of Divine Mercy; Reformatorzy a Kościół rzymski [The Reformers and the Roman Church]; and O Bogu i o nas. Homilie na niedziele i święta. Rok liturgiczny B [About God and about Ourselves: Homilies for Sundays and Holidays, Liturgical Year B].

The Historical Section. Its work is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Waław Umiński, CM. In 2017, members of the section took part in four international conferences: *Znak, symbol a rituał v sakralnom priestoreh* (Prešov, March 28); *Krajobraz kulturowy Europy. Trwałość i przemijanie [Europe's Cultural Landscape: Permanence and Temporality]* under the patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister of Poland and Minister of Science and Higher Education Jarosław Gowin (Krakow, May 10–11); *Muzea kościelne wobec nowych wyzwań [Church Museums and New Challenges]*, Mszczonow, October 18–20; and *Wspólnota różnorodności – dziedzictwo kulturowe Krajów Czwórki Wyszehradzkiej – Unity of Diversities: The Cultural Heritage of the Visegrad Four* (Krakow, November 14–15). It is worth emphasizing that Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Józef Marecki, former vice-president of the Polish Theological Society and former director of the Historical Section, received the Order of Polonia Restituta. It was given to him by Dr. Jarosław Gowin, Minister of Science and Higher Education as well as Deputy Prime Minister of Poland. Meanwhile, Dr. Hab. Lucyna Rotter received an individual award and degree from the Minister of Science and Higher Education for her academic accomplishments. The Historical Section also held two meetings. On November 9, Rev. Dr. Waław Umiński, CM, gave a paper titled: *Oddziaływanie Konwiktu Teologicznego w Warszawie w latach 1918–1939 na polu formacyjnym i edukacyjnym [The Effects of the Theological Boarding School in Warsaw in 1918–1939 with Regards to Formation and Education]*. Meanwhile, the second meeting of the Historical Section took place on December 7. The latter meeting took place in the Historical-Missionary Museum of the Vincentian Order in Krakow. It was led by the section's director, who is also the museum custodian. The participants saw a special exhibit prepared for the four hundredth anniversary of the existence of the Vincentian family.

The Section for the Theology of the Consecrated Life is active under the direction of Sister Dr. Hab. Adelajda Sielepin, CHR, a professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. The section currently has sixteen members from various academic centers. Four meetings took place (May 30, September 23, December 12, and February 6, 2018), during which the topic of the theology of the vocation to the consecrated life was discussed. In subsequent meetings, members of the section presented the following papers: *Powołanie jako doświadczenie głosu Boga [The Vocation as an Experience of God's Voice]*, Sister Dr. Joanna Nowińska, MS; *Powołanie jako świadectwo o Chrystusie [The Vocation as Witness to Christ]*, Sister Dr. Benita Skrzyp, SSFN; and *Rola przyjaźni w życiu konsekrowanym. Jan Chrzciciel przyjaciel*

Oblubieńca [The Role of Friendship in Consecrated Life: John the Baptist as the Friend of the Bridegroom], Sister Dr. Jolanta Olczyk, SSFN. Papers were published in the monograph *Ewangelia, prorocstwo, nadzieja [The Gospel, Prophecy, Hope]*. This was the second volume of the publishing series. The section is preparing an open session devoted to the topic of *The Aspect of Friendship in the Vocation to the Consecrated Life*. Furthermore, the section's activity encompasses that of its individual members, who are active in the fields of education and formation, also in the milieu of consecrated persons. The fruits of this are articles in academic and popular journals as well as participation in symposia; conferences for consecrated persons in religious orders as well as diocesan and regular seminaries; as well as leading retreats and days of reflection concerning consecration. The section currently has sixteen members from various academic centers across Poland and abroad (Madrid and Kazakhstan). Four meetings took place in the period for which the report has been prepared. A visible effect of their joint efforts is the publication titled: *Chrzest, przymierze, konsekracja [Baptism, the Covenant, Consecration]*, which consists of thirteen chapters authored by the section's members. It is the first volume from the *Ewangelia – prorocstwo – nadzieja [The Gospel, Prophecy, Hope]* series inaugurated by the section that year, which deals with topics related to the theology of consecrated life. The publication is edited by Sister Adelajda Sielepin, CHR, and Rev. Kazimierz Wójtowicz, CR. It was published by the Alleluja Publishing House belonging to the Resurrectionist Congregation in Krakow. Currently, there are preparations for a conference devoted to the vocation to the consecrated life, as is a larger publication in this field.

The **S i n d o n o l o g i c a l S e c t i o n** was founded on May 21, 2014, by the Sindaonological Study Group, which for years had been headed by Rev. Doc. Dr. Hab. Jerzy Chmiel. This section is headed by Rev. Piotr Listopad, MA, S. T. L. The deputy chairman of the section, Mr. Miłosz Grygierczyk, MA, an employee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has proved to be a competent organizer. He initiated collaboration with many sindonologists in Poland and abroad. This augurs dynamic development of the section in the future.

2. The Activity of Local Branches

K a t o w i c e B r a n c h. The work of the branch, whose membership currently numbers twenty-one persons, is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Nowicki. Two meetings took place in 2016–2017. The first of these took place on April 26 and was also attended by representatives of culture and the media. During it, a lecture titled: *Odpowiedzialność a współczesna cywilizacja [Responsibility and Contemporary Civilization]* was given by

Prof. Jan Wojtyła, former rector of the University of Economics in Katowice. The second meeting was held on November 14. During it, Rev. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Nowicki gave a lecture titled: *Wiarygodność chrześcijaństwa dzisiaj* [*The Credibility of Christians Today*]. These meetings took place in the auditorium of the parish of Saints Peter and Paul the Apostles in Katowice and were also attended by theology students and invited guests.

C z e s t o c h o w a B r a n c h . After the resignation of Rev. Dr. Jerzy Bielecki, this branch has been directed by Rev. Dr. Hab. Paweł Maciaszek since May 1. The meeting took place on November 13 and was attended by the metropolitan Archbishop Wacław Depo. A letter of the president, Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Kazimierz Panuś, in which he thanked Rev. Dr. Jerzy Bielecki for his many years' leadership of the Czestochowa Branch, was read. The participants of the meeting discussed the future development of the *Częstochowskie Studia Teologiczne* journal, decided to get rid of the division into thematic sections, and listened to a report by Rev. Dr. Franciszek Dylus from the Assembly of the Associations of Dogmatic Theologians. In the period for which the report has been prepared, the Czestochowa branch of the Polish Theological Society expanded to include nine new members.

P r z e m y s ł B r a n c h . The work of the branch, whose membership currently numbers thirty-seven persons, is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Hab. Wacław Siwak. During the period presented in the report, two meetings of members and supporters took place. On May 18, Rev. Dr. Norbert Podhorecki presented his paper on: *Chrześcijańska myśl filozoficzno-teologiczna wobec wyzwań współczesności* [*Christian Philosophical and Theological Thought and the Challenges of Modernity*]. Meanwhile, the second meeting took place on September 23 in the Ballroom of Lancut Castle on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the coronation of the miraculous image of Our Lady of the Scapular of Lancut. During this meeting, two members of the section presented two papers. Rev. Dr. Henryk Borcz gave one titled: *Kult religijny w lańcuckiej farze u schyłku XVII wieku* [*Religious Devotion in the Lancut Parish in the Late Seventeenth Century*], while Rev. Dr. Hab. Wacław Siwak presented *Koronacja wizerunku Matki Bożej Szkaplerznej z lańcuckiej fary w historyczno-teologicznej perspektywie* [*The Coronation of the Image of Our Lady of the Scapular in Lancut from a Historical-Theological Perspective*]. It is also worth noting that in the 2017–2018 academic year the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow created new licentiate studies in theology for priests with a specialization in pastoral theology; the members of the branch have been active in organizing this course of study.

T h e B r a n c h i n K a l w a r i a Z e b r z y d o w s k a . The activity of this branch is chaired by Rev. Dr. Roland Pancerz, OFM, rector of the Major Seminary of the Bernardines, which is where the branch is headquartered. Two important academic

meetings took place in 2016–2017. The first of them was an academic conference titled: *Refleksja nad encykliką Laudato si' papieża Franciszka* [*Reflections on Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si'*], during which four papers were presented: *Religijna argumentacja w ekologii w świetle encykliki Laudato si'* [*Religious Arguments in Ecology in Light of the Encyclical Laudato Si'*], Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Jan Orzeszyna, the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow; *Aretologia encykliki Laudato si'* [*The Aretology of the Encyclical Laudato Si'*], Prof. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Derdziuk, OFM Cap, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin; *Współczesna technika a kwestie ekologiczne w Laudato si'* [*Contemporary Technology and Ecological Matters in Laudato Si'*], Dr. Jacek Poznański, SJ, the Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum; and *Franciszkańskie przesłanie encykliki Laudato si'* [*The Franciscan Message of the Encyclical Laudato Si'*], Dr. Stanisław Jaromi OFM Conv, the Major Franciscan Seminary in Krakow. The second meeting of the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska branch took place on November 4 on the occasion of the feast of Blessed Duns Scotus, the patron of the Major Seminary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. The meeting was held simultaneously as the inauguration of the new 2016–2017 academic year. The meeting included an inaugural lecture: *Problematyka zła w twórczości J. R. R. Tolkiena. Ocena w świetle teologii katolickiej* [*The Problem of Evil in the Work of J. R. R. Tolkien: An Evaluation in Light of Catholic Theology*] by Rev. Dr. Anicet Piotr Gruszczyński, OFM, of the Major Seminary of the Bernardines in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska.

T u c h o w B r a n c h . The work of this branch is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Maciej Sadowski, CSsR. The Tuchow branch bases its activity on the academic work of its members, who are the academic and didactic staff at the Major Seminary of the Redemptorist Fathers in Tuchow, which marked the 114th year of its activity. The academic staff active in the Tuchow branch are thirty-one Redemptorists, including three professors and two habilitated doctors. In the previous year, the members of the Tuchow branch published nine books, sixty scholarly and popular articles, and twenty-five reviews, including reviews of magazines, books, the scientific output of various scholars, and doctoral dissertations. They participated in several dozen radio and television broadcasts of various national stations and channels. They participated in fifty-two symposiums and meetings; they were the organizers of seven of them. They also presented thirty-seven papers and sang in eleven vocal concerts. In the period under discussion, the Tuchow Branch was the co-organizer of an annual academic symposium (from January 30 to February 1) as part of formation that constantly deepens apostolic spirituality from the perspective of missionary-retreat activity. Papers were presented by: Rev. Prof. Andrzej Wodka, CSsR, rector of the Alphonsian Academy in Rome; Rev. Dr. Krzysztof Czaplą, SAC, director of the Fatima Secretariat; and Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Ryszard Hajduk, CSsR (the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn). On March 15, the feast day of St. Clement Hofbauer, Dr.

Paulina Dąbrosz-Drewnowska of the University of Szczecin gave a guest lecture titled: *Wygnanie benonitów z Warszawy w świetle źródeł francuskich* [*The Expulsion of the Benonites from Warsaw in French Sources*]. Meanwhile, a discussion panel with Rev. Dr. Adam Owczarski, CSSR, director of the Historical Institute of the Redemptorists in Rome, took place. Homiletic workshops on the topic of: “Discovering the Persons and Gifts of the Holy Spirit” (*Odkrywanie osoby i darów Ducha Świętego*) took place on November 6–8. The participants of the workshop, twenty-five Redemptorists from Poland and abroad, participated in a series of lectures related to dogmatic theology by Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Marcin Klamka, CSSR, S. T. L., whose lectures were the inspiration for work in groups, where specific outlines for retreat sermons were developed. Along with the members of the board of the Warsaw Province of the Redemptorist Fathers, missionaries discussed current topic related to parish missions and retreats in Poland. A symposium held on the 285th anniversary of the formation of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer and the eighty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the *Homo Dei* quarterly was held in Tuchow on November 9–10, 2017, and was met with great praise. The co-organizer of this colloquium was the Krakow-based publisher Wydawnictwo Homo Dei. The participants of the symposium listened to three lectures: *Posługa kapłana wobec narzeczonych i młodych małżeństw na podstawie „Amoris laetitia”* [*A Priest's Ministry to Engaged Couples and Young Married Couples on the Basis of Amoris Laetitia*], Bishop Dr. Hab. Paweł Socha; *Etos miłosierdzia a dylematy sumienia osób żyjących w związkach nie-sakramentalnych* [*The Ethos of Mercy and the Dilemmas of Conscience of Persons Living in Non-Sacramental Unions*], Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Ireneusz Mroczkowski, the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw; and „*Amoris laetitia*”. *Spojrzenie kanonisty* [*Amoris Laetitia: A Canon Lawyer's Perspective*], Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Leszek Adamowicz, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The *Pro Redemptione* awards were presented during the final part of the symposium. Thanks to the support of the Tuchow Branch, the fifteenth volume of the annual publication *Studia Redemptorystowskie* was published. With regards to the activity of the Tuchow branch in 2016–2017, it is also worth noting the inaugural lecture in the Major Seminary of the Redemptorist Fathers in Tuchow on *O ikonografii Chrystusa Pana w starożytności* [*On the Iconography of Christ the Lord in Antiquity*], which was given on September 30 by Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Jacek Urban, dean of the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. In the period presented in the report, members of this branch held three meetings: on February 19, June 27, and September 30.

K i e l c e B r a n c h . The section's work is chaired by Rev. Dr. Paweł Borto. Apart from monthly meetings, during the reported period the branch initiated new significant events. Efforts to add the journal *Kieleckie Studia Teologiczne* to Open Journal Systems

were undertaken. The branch director popularized theology among lay students during two cycles of lectures in 2017 that were attended by between thirty and fifty persons. The members of the branch took part in the work of the Kielce Forum of Thought Well, which is a creative initiative of professors of the Major Diocesan Seminary in Kielce under the patronage of the diocese's bishop. It offers a comprehensive introduction to basic philosophical and theological matters. The well is supposed to build a comprehensive, consistent image of reality seen from the perspective of faith. Several meetings have already taken place. The Kielce branch was the co-organizer of the *Etyka w biznesie [Ethics in Business]* conference, which took place on June 13 during the Eighteenth Exhibit of the Church Construction, Church Fittings and Furnishings and Religious Art SacroExpo 2017. It is also worth noting the regular meetings of the School of Painting Icons, an initiative that was founded after one of the conferences held during the SacroExpo that dealt with the topic of icons and images in Christian art. Members of the Kielce branch celebrated the 290th anniversary of the establishment of the Major Seminary in Kielce. To mark this occasion, an academic symposium was held on November 25. During it, the following papers were presented: „Pamiętajcie o uwięzionych” (*Hbr 13, 3*) – profesorowie Wyższego Seminarium Duchownego w Kielcach prześladowani przez władze komunistyczne w latach 1949–1963 [*Be Mindful of Prisoners' (Hebrews 13:3): The Persecution of the Professors of the Major Seminary in Kielce by the Communist Authorities in 1949–1963*], Rev. Dr. Tomasz Gocel; *Wkład kieleckich biblistów i homiletów w rozwój kultury teologicznej i piśmiennictwa religijnego w latach 2002–2017 w Polsce [The Contribution of Kielce Biblicists and Homileticists to the Development of Theological Culture and Religious Writing in 2002–2017]*, Rev. Dr. Jan Nowak; *Reforma liturgii – przejście Ducha Świętego przez Kościół – spełnienie wieloletniego oczekiwania – nieoczekiwany zwrot ku przeszłości [The Reform of the Liturgy – The Holy Spirit's Entering the Church – The Fulfillment of the Greatest Expectations – The Unexpected Turn towards the Future]*, Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Stanisław Czerwik; *Znaczenie posoborowej odnowy teologii moralnej dla życia chrześcijańskiego [The Meaning of the Post-Conciliar Renewal of Moral Theology to Christian Life]*, Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Roman Kuligowski; and *Ks. dr Józef Zdanowski – opiekun sztuki sakralnej [Rev. Dr. Józef Zdanowski: A Custodian of Religious Art]*, Rev. Dr. Paweł Tkaczyk. The members of the Kielce branch were also invited to participate in the lectures of the University of Civic Education organized by the Institute of International and Defense Policy. The patron of this initiative is Kazimierz Mądzik, the Authority for Education of the Holy Cross Province. Its aim is to promote a culture of public debate.

S a n d o m i e r z B r a n c h . This section's work is chaired by Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Bogusław Sieroń, Professor at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The branch consists of thirty people and is headquartered at the Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek Institute

of Theology in Sandomierz. In 2016–2017, the Sandomierz branch undertook many activities. First, it participated in the celebrations marking the two hundredth anniversary of the existence of the Diocese of Sandomierz by organizing and participating in two symposia: *Błogosławieni i kandydaci na ołtarze diecezji sandomierskiej* [Blesseds and Servants of God from the Diocese of Sandomierz], May 6 and *Biskupi diecezji sandomierskiej* [Bishops of the Diocese of Sandomierz], October 28. The branch was also the organizer or co-organizer of three academic conferences: *Parafia podmiotem duszpasterstwa rodzin w świetle adhortacji Amoris Laetitia* [The Parish as the Subject of Family Ministry in Light of the Adhortation Amoris Laetitia], April 22; *Zieleń w przestrzeni sakralnej* [Greenery in Religious Spaces], December 2, with an introduction by the branch's director; *W oczekiwaniu na 50. numer kwartalnika WZPiNoS KUL „Społeczeństwo i Rodzina” – analiza merytoryczno-metodologiczna* [In Anticipation of the Fiftieth Issue of the Quarterly Society and the Family Published by the Non-Resident Department of Law and the Social Sciences of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin], Stalowa Wola, May 22. The members of the Sandomierz branch also took part in twelve academic conferences in Poland and abroad, during which they presented papers or led sessions. The branch is also engaged in publishing. During the past year, it published ten books and articles that appeared above all in the quarterly journal *Społeczeństwo i Rodzina*, which is edited by the branch's director. During the last evaluation of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (which took place on January 26, 2017), the journal received eleven points for each article published in it.

T a r n o w B r a n c h . The chairman of this branch is Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Królikowski. During the period under review, the branch focused on the looming two-hundredth anniversary of the Major Diocesan Seminary in Tarnow. The branch plans to participate in the anniversary by preparing a biographical encyclopedia of the faculty of the seminary, especially professors; publishing source materials, especially seminary chronicles from 1934–1956; studying the resources of the Institute of National Remembrance dealing with the seminary; and commemorating the seminarians who were conscripted into military service during the communist period.

R z e s z o w B r a n c h . The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Garbacz, a professor of the University of Rzeszow. In the reported period, the members of the Rzeszow branch of the Polish Theological Society participated in academic and didactic activity in the Major Diocesan Seminary in Rzeszow, the Theological and Pastoral Institute, the University of Rzeszow, the Rzeszow University of Technology, and the University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow. As part of this activity, the members of the branch have organized and played an active role in conferences, symposiums, and workshops. A fruit of the academic activity of the Rzeszow

Branch is several monographs published by the Bonus Liber Publishing House of the Diocese of Rzeszow. It is worth mentioning the jubilee book *Kościół Diecezji Rzeszowskiej 1992–2017 [The Churches of the Diocese of Rzeszow]*, which contains the descriptions and photographs of seventy-six churches that have been built (or are currently being built) since the diocese was established in 1992. To mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the diocese, the lengthy (1,224–page), up-to-date *Schematyzm jubileuszowy diecezji rzeszowskiej 2016/2017 [The Jubilee Modus Operandi of the Diocese of Rzeszow, 2016–2017]* was published. The twenty-fifth volume of the annual publication *Resovia Sacra. Studia Teologiczno-Filozoficzne Diecezji Rzeszowskiej*, which starting this year has received points from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, was also published. The book *Miłość i dobroć [Love and Kindness]* was published to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of Caritas in the Diocese of Rzeszow. This is yet another publication documenting the activity of this institution. The members of the society also published numerous texts in the diocesan press and participated in broadcasts in VIA Catholic Radio. The branch's members also took part in didactic activity in diocesan institutions such as the Biblical Work of the Diocese of the Diocese of Rzeszow and the University of the Third Age of the Diocese of Rzeszow. For example, on December 14, the Diocesan Organ School organized an academic conference about Church music titled: *Quo vadis, musica sacra? [Where Are You Headed, Religious Music?]*.

B r a n c h i n B i e l s k o - B i a l a . The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Robert Samsel. Currently, the branch's membership numbers forty-five persons and it is headquartered at the St. John Cantius Institute of Theology in Bielsko-Biala at 5a Żeromskiego Street. Two meetings took place during the reported period. The May 18 meeting took place alongside a lecture on the topic of: *Capernaum: St. Peter's Home and City* by Rev. Dr. Jan Piotr Urbański, OFM. Meanwhile, the November 17 meeting included a discussion panel of the branch's members, who spoke about contemporary theological problems. The branch has continued its collaboration with the University of the Third Age at the University of Bielsko-Biala. As part of this collaboration, branch members give lectures or speeches on theological, philosophical, and religious topics.

R a d o m B r a n c h . The chairman of this branch is Rev. Dr. Hab. Marek Jagodziński. In the reported period, the branch, which has sixty-seven members, co-organized two major academic conferences. The first was titled: *Hermeneutyka wartości w kulturze [The Hermeneutic of Values]* and took place on May 20 in the Józef A. and Andrzej S. Załuski Municipal Library in Radom. The following papers were presented during the conference: *Wartości za słowami „obcy” i „obecny”, czyli o interpretacji danych językowych [Values after the Words ‘Other’ and ‘Present’: Concerning the Interpretation of Linguistic Data]*, Dr. Hab. Przemysław Łozowski, Professor of the Kazimierz Pułaski University of

Technology and Humanities in Radom; *Wartości w dyskursie politycznym (na przykładzie ulotki wyborczej z lat 1922–1989)* [*Values in Political Discourse: The Example of Campaign Flyers from 1922 to 1989*], Dr. Hab. Grzegorz Majkowski, Professor of the Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom; *Kultura, ewangelizacja kultury, inkulturacja wiary* [*Culture, the Evangelization of Culture, and the Enculturation of Faith*], Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Marek Jagodziński; and *Suwerenność narodu przez kulturę* [*The Sovereignty of the Nation through Culture*], Rev. Dr. Wojciech Wojtyła. The second conference was titled: *W hołdzie wobec myśli Jana Pawła II* [*An Homage to the Thought of John Paul II*] and took place on November 23 in the Major Diocesan Seminary in Radom. The following papers were presented during the conference: *Jan Paweł II o wychowaniu do miłości w rodzinie* [*John Paul II on Raising Children to Love in the Family*], Dr. Iwona Błaszczak, Warsaw University of Life Sciences; *Nauczanie Jana Pawła II do więźniów i służb penitencjarnych* [*John Paul II's Insights for Inmates and Penitentiary Workers*], Dr Sylwester Bębas, the Pedagogical University of Krakow; *Sport w nauczaniu Jana Pawła II* [*Sport in the Teaching of John Paul II*], Rev. Dr. Hab. Sławomir Fundowicz, Professor of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin; *Jana Pawła II teologia „Solidarności”* [*John Paul II's Theology of Solidarity*], Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Edward Sienkiewicz, the University of Szczecin; „*Europa jest chrześcijańska w swoich korzeniach*” – *Jana Pawła II wizja kultury europejskiej* [*‘Europe’s Roots Are Christian’: John Paul II’s Vision of European Culture*], Rev. Dr. Wojciech Wojtyła, the Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom; and *Trynitarno-komunijne wymiary misji Kościoła według encykliki Jana Pawła II „Redemptoris missio”* [*The Trinitarian-Communal Dimensions of the Church’s Mission according to John Paul II’s Encyclical Redemptoris Missio*], Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Marek Jagodziński, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.

S o s n o w i e c B r a n c h . The work of the branch, whose membership currently numbers thirty-seven persons, is coordinated by Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Jan Orzeszyna. In the reported period, four meetings took place: a day of prayer, two academic symposia, and one organizational meeting. The latter were devoted to planning the work of the branch in the 2016–2017 academic year and took place on August 28. Meanwhile, the inaugural lecture on the topic of *Language in Catechesis* was given by Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Kazmierz Misiaszek of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. A Lenten Day of Reflection took place on April 1 in the building of the Catechetical Department of the Diocesan Curia in Sosnowiec. The day began with a lecture by Rev. Łukasz Musiał, vice-president of Caritas of the Diocese of Sosnowiec, on the topic: *How to successfully live out the Christian vocation in confrontation with reality?* The first academic symposium organized by the Sosnowiec branch dealt with the problem: *Ekologiczne nawrócenie. Pierwszy krok: zrozumieć świat stworzony* [*Ecological Conversion: The First Step is to*

Understand the Created World] and took place on October 20. Meanwhile, the second commemorated *Srebrny jubileusz diecezji sosnowieckiej* [*The Silver Jubilee of the Diocese of Sosnowiec*], November 18. Bishop Grzegorz Kaszak, Bishop of Sosnowiec, was the honorary patron of both events.

S z c z e c i n B r a n c h . The Director of the branch, which functions as part of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Szczecin, is Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Offmański. During the reported period, the Szczecin branch organized four academic conferences. On February 25, the conference *Czy małżeństwo i rodzina pozostawione same sobie?* [*Are Marriage and the Family Left to Fend for Themselves?*] took place. Presented papers included: *Czy współczesna polska rodzina potrzebuje Kościoła?* [*Does the Contemporary Polish Family Need the Church?*], Bishop Stanisław Stefanek and *Nieplodność – naprotechnologia czy program in vitro?* [*Infertility: NaProTechnology or In Vitro Fertilization?*], Dr. Bożena Bassa, the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. Meanwhile, the symposium *Światu dzisiaj potrzeba nowej ewangelizacji i misji* [*Today's World Needs the New Evangelization and a Mission*] took place on May 13. During it, two papers were presented: *Ewangelizacja – katechizacja – apostołstwo* [*Evangelization, Catechesis, and the Apostolate*], Rev. Prof. Andrzej Offmański, the University of Szczecin as well as *Dzisiejszy świat potrzebuje odnowy wiary* [*Today's World Needs a Revival of the Faith*], Rev. Prof. Władysław Majkowski, Polonia University in Czestochowa. On June 12–13, an academic conference organized by the Chair in Catechesis at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Szczecin along with the Szczecin branch of the Polish Theological Society titled: *Katecheza maryjna na dzisiejsze czasy* [*Marian Catechesis for Today's Age*] was held for the fourteenth time, this time in Trzesacz. The conference was made up of three sessions: *Katecheza maryjna w tajemnicy zbawczej Boga i Kościoła* [*Marian Catechesis in the Mystery of God's and the Church's Salvation*]; *Katecheza maryjna i doświadczenie adresatów* [*Marian Catechesis and the Experiences of Those Its Addressed To*]; and *Katecheza maryjna w posłudze katechetycznej Kościoła w Polsce* [*Marian Catechesis in the Church's Catechetical Service in Poland*]. In addition to these three conferences, the Szczecin branch inaugurated a cycle of open lectures titled: *Ocalić od zapomnienia* [*To Save from Oblivion*], which are devoted to commemorating the pioneers of the Church near the Oder and the Baltic. During this meeting, the following papers recalling four great priests were presented on November 25 in the conference hall of the Faculty of Theology: *Ks. dr Bolesław Domański – kapłan spod Znak Rodła* [*Rev. Dr. Bolesław Domański: A Priest from under the Rodło Symbol*], Paweł Majewicz, MA, the Institute of National Remembrance; *Ks. prof. Franciszek Tessen-Węsierski – pierwszy polski ksiądz w powojennym Szczecinie* [*Rev. Prof. Franciszek Tessen-Węsierski: The First Polish Priest in Postwar Szczecin*], Rev. Dr. Hab. Grzegorz Majkowski, Professor of the University of Szczecin; *Ks. Franciszek*

Włodarczyk TChr – kapłan niezłomny [Rev. Franciszek Włodarczyk, *SChr: An Unshakeable Priest*], Dr. Zbigniew Stanuch, the Institute of National Remembrance; and *Ks. prał. Jan Abramski – sługa Maryi i przyjaciel kapłanów* [Mons. Jan Abramski: *A Servant of Mary and Friend of Priests*], Rev. Dr. Robert Masalski, the Metropolitan Archive in Szczecin. These exceptionally interesting recollections presented the pastoral dynamism of the young Church after it had returned to Western Pomerania.

T o r u n B r a n c h . The section's work is chaired by Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Dariusz Zagórski. In the reported period, the Torun branch organized three conferences: *Nowe media i wychowanie* [*The New Media and Education*], May 20; *Kobieta – cudowne Boże naczynie* [*The Woman: God's Wonderful Vessel*], October 21; and the Theological-Ethnological Academic Conference *Człowiek – mężczyzna i kobieta* [*The Person: Man and Woman*]. These conferences took place in the John Paul II Center for Dialogue in Torun. On June 23, the Torun branch was also the co-organizer of the Torun Night of Theologians. The book *Między mistyką a codziennością. Magdalena Mortęska i jej rola w reformie trydenckiej* [*Between Mysticism and Everyday Life: Magdalena Mortęska and Her Role in the Tridentine Reforms*].

W ł o c ł a w e k B r a n c h . The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Lech Król. Four academic meetings, two of which were open lectures, took place in 2016–2017. The first meeting organized for members of the society took place on February 22. Topics discussed during the meeting included: preparations for the celebrations of the ninetieth anniversary of the Wloclawek branch; the publication of the manuscripts of Blessed Michał Kozal dealing with the spiritual formation of seminarians; and prepared the twentieth volume of *Studia Włocławskie*, which will be a jubilee edition, for print. The remaining three meetings were open to the public. The first of these took place on June 14. Those presented listened to the lecture *Archidiecezja wrocławska w rozwoju historycznym* [*The Historical Development of the Archdiocese of Wrocław*] by Marian Gołębiowski, the archbishop-emeritus of Wrocław, and participated in the promotion of the nineteenth volume of *Studia Włocławskie*, dedicated to the chairman, Rev. Dr. Hab. Lech Król. The second open meeting took place on October 10 and was devoted to the five-hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. During it, two speakers gave presentations. Rev. Dawid Mendrok, MA, a pastor of the Lutheran Church in Wloclawek, gave a lecture titled: *Gdyby dzisiaj żył Marcin Luter, co znalazłoby się w jego tezach?* [*If Martin Luther Were Alive Today, What Would We Find in His Theses?*]. Meanwhile, Dr. Hab. Wojciech Hanc, a professor of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, dealt with the topic: *Marcin Luter z perspektywy ekumenicznych dialogów* [*Martin Luther from the Perspective of Ecumenical Dialogues*]. The third open meeting took place on November 15. During it, Rev. Dr. Marek Sędek, the general moderator of the Life-Light Movement

from Kroszno nad Dunajcem, gave the lecture: *Osoba i dzieło sługi Bożego Franciszka Blachnickiego w 30. rocznicę jego śmierci* [*The Person and Work of the Servant of God Franciszek Blachnicki on the Thirtieth Anniversary of His Death*]. The participants of the second part of the meeting listened to testimonies on the life of the Servant of God Rev. Franciszek Blachnicki and the Life-Light Movement he had established. It is important to emphasize that these open meetings are attended by Bishop Wiesław Mering, Bishop of Włocławek; Bishop Emeritus Prof. Bronisław Dembowski; priests from the Włocławek Diocese and regular priests serving in the diocese; seminarians from the Diocesan Seminary; female religious; and laypeople.

Pelplin branch inaugurated its activity in 2014. The work of the branch, whose membership currently numbers thirty-six persons, is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Szulist. In reported period, the annual statutory meeting took place on November 24 in the building of the Diocesan Library of Jan Bernard Szlaga in Pelplin. Furthermore, the Pelplin branch of the Polish Theological Society co-organized the Third Pelplin Areopagus titled: *Dziedzictwo diecezji chełmińskiej na Pomorzu. 25-lecie reorganizacji struktur Kościoła w Polsce* [*The Legacy of the Diocese of Chełmno: The 25th Anniversary of the Reorganization of the Structures of the Catholic Church in Poland*], which took place on May 12–13, 2017, in Pelplin.

Elbląg branch is the youngest of the society's branches. It is led by Rev. Dr. Krzysztof Kaoka. The branch's members met in the Major Diocesan Seminary in Elbląg on December 8 during the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. During it, Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Janusz Szulista, a professor of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun discussed *The Church's Relationship to the World in the Teaching of Joseph Ratzinger*. The lecturer presented the concept of the Church as the people of God, or a community united by God's authority, as the Mystical Body of Christ in which mutual love is the force that unifies the Head and members of the Mystical Body, and as a temple of the Holy Spirit. The above-mentioned problems were presented alongside problems that are very present in today's world: striving for extreme austerity or richness in the liturgy as well as topics related to the new evangelization. Participants in the lectures and discussions included Bishop Jacek Jezierski as well as lecturers and seminarians from the Major Seminary in Elbląg.

Final Remarks

Among the most important achievements of the Polish Theological Society in the reported period is the amendment of the statute.

The Polish Theological Society is undertaking the project *Kazania w kulturze polskiej. Edycje kolekcji tematycznych (kontynuacja): kazania adwentowe, kazania bożonarodzeniowe, kazania wielkanocne, kazania patriotyczne* [Sermons in Polish Culture: The Editions of Thematic Collections (A Continuation): Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Patriotic Sermons] financed by a program of the Minister of Science and Higher Education, the National Program for the Development of Humanities in 2015–2019, whose purpose is the compilation of four anthologies of sermons. The publishing activity included, on December 31, 2017, the conclusion of the two programs financed as part of Contract No. 797/P-DUN/2016 from the resources of the Minister of Science and Higher Education intended for the popularization of academic research: *The Digitalization of the Biblical and Liturgical Movement (1948–2011)* and *the publication of the entire magazine catalog in open access* and *Creating an English Language Edition of the Biblical and Liturgical Movement Quarterly 69 (2016) Nr. 3–4 and 70 (2017) Nr. 1–2*. Meanwhile, the following three programs, which are financed as part of Contract No. 672/P-DUN/2017 by the funds of the Minister of Science and Higher Education for the popularization of scholarship are being implemented: *The Creation of an English Language Edition of the Quarterly Journal Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny 70 (2017) Nr. 3–4 and 71 (2018) Nr. 1–2*, *The Digitalization of Archival Issues of the Academic Journal Analecta Cracoviensia 1–24 (1969–1992)*, and *Their Publication in Open Access*; as well as *The Creation and Configuration of an Institutional Repository of the Polish Theological Society and the Digitalization of the First Twenty Archival Academic Publications*. With regards to the preparation of applications for the financing of projects it is worth mentioning the engagement of Sebastian Wojnowski, the chairman of the Publishing Section.

It is especially worth recognizing the vibrant activity of the branches in Włocławek, which in the reported period celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of its activity; Radom; Sandomierz; and Szczecin, as well as the Krakow branches devoted to Social Pedagogy; the Theology of the Consecrated Life, Spirituality, and Religious Art.

The Polish Theological Society has the status of an ecclesiastical legal entity active at the national level. Thus during the general assembly the board expressed its gratitude to Archbishop Prof. Marek Jędraszewski as well as the Polish Episcopal Conference for their concern for the development of the society. The board also thanks all of the society's active members who despite numerous difficulties do all they can to continue the society's activity and continue to make Polish society increasingly aware of theological thought.