

Annual Report of the President of the Polish Theological Society for 2016

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The previous general meeting of the Polish Theological Society took place on February 23, 2016. It consisted of two parts. First, a vote of confidence was given to the board for 2015 after the president, treasurer, director of the Publishing Section, and the head of the Review Panel presented their reports. During the second part of the general meeting, His Excellency Bishop Kazimierz Górny received a medal for Service to the Polish Theological Society, while His Excellency Bishop Dr. Jan Wątroba gave his lecture on: *Marriage and the Family in the Post-Synodal Reflection*.

Two thousand sixteen was the third continuous year the board, which had been elected on February 25, 2014, for a three-year term, was active. Its members were the following:

Board

President Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Panuś;
Vice-President Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Kuligowski;
Secretary Rev. Dr. Hab. Romuald Kośła, OFM;
Treasurer Rev. Dr. Andrzej Mojżeszko;
Librarian Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Bednarczyk; and
Director of the Publishing Section Mr. Sebastian Wojnowski, MA.

Review Panel

President Rev. Prof. Tomasz Jelonek.
Members: Rev. Dr. Hab. Sylwester Jędrzejewski, SDB; Rev. Dr. Artur Kardaś, CR.

Court of Conciliation

President Rev. Prof. Jacek Urban.
Members: Rev. Prof. Tomasz Dąbek, OSB; Rev. Prof. Stanisław Hałas, SCJ.

By the end of 2016, the Polish Theological Society numbered 954 members (after a thorough verification of the number of members). In 2016, twenty-five new members were accepted: two

in the Torun branch; one in the Przemysl branch; six in the Radom branch; two in the Szczecin branch; two in the Philosophy Section; two in the History Section; one in the Catechetical-Pedagogical Section; five in the Pastoral-Sociological Section; one in the Spirituality Section; two in the Section for Consecrated Life; and one in the Fundamental Theology Section.

According to our information, the following have left for the Lord's House since the previous general meeting: His Eminence Cardinal Franciszek Macharski; Rev. Prof. Jerzy Chmiel; and Rev. Dr. Stanisław Stańczyk, CSSR.

In accordance with the statute proscriptions, the board held four meetings in the year for which this report has been prepared: on May 10, 2016; September 29, 2016; November 22, 2016; and February 28, 2017.

During the first board meeting, a lecture on *The Role of the Church in Initiating Social Dialogues* was given by Rev. Prof. Jan Wal, the former President of the Polish Theological Society, who during the year under analysis experienced the gold jubilee of his priesthood. During the subsequent part of the meeting, the president gave an account of the inauguration ceremony of the Elblag Branch. It took place on April 26, 2016, with the participation of Bishop Dr. Jacek Jezierski. During this meeting, the first eleven members were accepted into the society branch, and its previous organizer, Rev. Dr. Krzysztof Kaoka, was elected President. The program of the inauguration ceremony also included a lecture by Rev. Dr. Sławomir Małkowski, lecturer in philosophy and ethics at the Major Diocesan Seminary in Elblag, about: *Konsekwencje błędu antropologicznego w duszpasterstwie i wychowaniu* ("The Consequences of the Anthropological Error in Ministry and in Raising Children").

New directors were also appointed during the first board meeting. After the resignation of Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Borutka, Rev. Dr. Robert Samsel began to head the Bielsko-Biala branch; meanwhile, Rev. Dr. Waclaw Umiński, CM, began to direct the History Section after the resignation of Rev. Prof. Józef Marecki. The current state of preparations for the conference *Chrześcijananie jutra. Nadzieje i obawy* ("The Christians of Tomorrow: Hopes and Fears") was also presented. The participants became familiarized with the state of preparations for the publication of future issues of the prestigious quarterly *Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny* (*The Biblical and Liturgical Movement*).

The second meeting of the board began with a lecture by Sebastian Wojnowski, president of the Publishing Section, on: *Open Access to Academic Publications*. The president of the society invited those presented to the academic conference titled: *Błąd antropologiczny – źródło upadku ładu społeczno-moralnego w Europie* ("Anthropological Error: The Source of the Decline of the Social and Moral Order of Europe"), while Rev. Dr. Hab. Stanisław Wronka informed about subsidies to the quarterly *Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny* (*The Biblical and Liturgical Movement*) from funds devoted to activities popularizing science by the Minister of Science and Higher Education from July 1, 2016, through December 31, 2017. As Sebastian Wojnowski has emphasized, this

project encompasses the creation of an English-language version of the quarterly *Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny* (*The Biblical and Liturgical Movement*) 69 (2016) nr. 3–4 and 70 (2017) nr. 1–2 as well as the digitalization of archival issues of the quarterly (from between 1948 and 2011) and publication of all the issues of the journal in open access.

The third statutory meeting was preceded by an academic conference on: *Błąd antropologiczny – źródło upadku ładu społeczno-moralnego w Europie* (“Anthropological Error: The Source of the Decline of the Social and Moral Order of Europe”). The President thanked Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Kuligowski, Professor at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, for his work to prepare this conference. Participants were informed about the state of the realization of projects financed from financial resources devoted to research presented by the Minister of Science and Higher Education, and also about the presentation of two additional contests as part of the National Program for the Development of Humanities, namely: an edition of all the writings of Rev. Piotr Skarga accompanied by historical and theological commentaries, as well as a translation and publication of *The Triads* by St. Gregory Palamas. The final part of the November board meeting consisted of a discussion of the program of the general meeting that would take place on February 28, 2017, while information about the achievements of various local branches and thematic sections was presented.

The academic conference that took place after the board meeting consisted of four presented papers: *Człowiek współczesny wobec transcendencji* (“The Contemporary Person and Transcendence,” Prof. Franciszek Adamski); *Sekularyzacja – próba diagnozy i kierunku terapii* (“Secularization: An Attempt at Diagnosis and the Direction of Therapy,” Rev. Dr. Hab. Grzegorz Wąsek); *Integralna wizja człowieka jako fundament kultury i wychowania* (“The Integral Vision of the Person as a Fundament of Culture and Education,” Rev. Dr. Grzegorz Godawa); and *Wiarygodna tożsamość chrześcijaństwa dzisiaj* (“A Credible Christian Identity Today,” Rev. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Nowicki).

The fourth board meeting discussed the merging of the Pedagogical-Catechetical and Sociological-Pastoral Sections. Also presented was a broad action plan of the Syndonology Section both in Poland and abroad, authored by Miłosz Grygierczyk, MA, of Warsaw.

There are sixteen thematic sections in Krakow and seventeen local branches as well as the Publishing Section that heads the UNUM publishing house as part of the Polish Theological Society.

1. The Activity of Thematic Sections

Biblical Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Bogacz, Professor at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. In the 2016–2017 year, the Biblical Section along

with the Institute for Biblical Theology at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow organized an international interdisciplinary conference on: *Mitosierdzie w nauczaniu i praktyce kościelnej* (“Mercy in Church Teaching and Practice”). It took place in the lecture hall on 3 Bernardyńska Street on April 28, 2016, and consisted of two parts. In the first part, professors from various academic centers – five lecturers were from abroad (from Jerusalem, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia); three were from outside Krakow; and four were from Krakow – presented. Meanwhile, young graduate students had the opportunity to present papers during the second part of the conference. The subject matter of the papers mainly centered around the topic of Divine Mercy in the Old and New Testaments. An interesting aspect was presented by Rev. Prof. Stanisław Wojtko of Bratislava, among others. In his discussion of the pericopes of the Gospel of St. Luke regarding Divine Mercy, he presented them as tools for the formation of the young generation in the spirit of a merciful approach to oneself, to one’s neighbor, and in one’s relationship with God. The representatives of other academic disciplines also participated in the conference. Rev. Prof. Arkadiusz Baron, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, presented on the topic of mercy in St. John Chrysostom’s homilies. Rev. Prof. Jan Daniel Szczurek presented on the dogmatic teaching of the Church on mercy, while Rev. Prof. Wiesław Gogola, OCD, spoke about mercy in monastic life. The second meeting in the 2016–2017 year took place on June 21, 2016. The lecture introducing the academic discussion was given by Dr. Marcin Majewski on the topic of: *Grzech pierworodny w kontekście nauki. Nowe interpretacje teologiczne Rdz 3 i Rz 5* (“Original Sin in the Scientific Context: New Theological Interpretations of Genesis 3 and Genesis 5”), in which they presented the controversial views of various researchers from around the world. Most of them present views that cannot be considered to be compatible with Catholic teaching. The participants of this discussion noted that our task is not so much to look for the views of philosophers, theologians, and the representatives of other academic disciplines, but rather to closely analyze the text of Sacred Scripture and refer to it as the inspiration for theological thinking. The aim of Catholic Biblical scholars is above all to study the inspired texts in order to evaluate the views that the world of science presents in light of the Bible. Also important is a second direction that leads to the conclusions resulting from Biblical texts being the inspiration for further research. The third meeting took place in the Ursuline convent on 9 Starowiślna Street. Twelve people took part in the meeting. The paper on *Warunkowe czy bezwarunkowe przebaczenie (Mt 18, 21–22)* (“Conditional or Unconditional Forgiveness? (Matthew 18:21–22)”) was presented by Rev. Dr. Hab. Stanisław Wronka. The Chairman of the section was happy to share the information that thanks to the efforts of Rev. Roman Mazur, SDB, and Rev. Roman Bogacz the Nestle-Aland Greek text of the *Novum Testamentum Graece* will be published with a critical commentary in Polish. There are also preparations for a multimedia program containing concordances to the Old and New Testaments that search for Greek terms in the context of three words that are contained in one expression.

Moral Theology Section. This section will be chaired by Rev. Dr. Bogusław Mielec. In 2016–2017, the section initiated a cycle of monthly meetings of professors' meetings on Pope Francis' apostolic adhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. So far, they have taken place on the following dates: October 6, November 10, and December 2. They have dealt with such topics as: *Theory and Practice in the Church: Does Theology Have a Pastoral Application?* (Rev. Dr. Hab. Robert Woźniak), *How Sacred Scripture Is Cited in "Amoris laetitia"* (Rev. Dr. Wojciech Węgrzyniak), *The Ecclesiology and Sacramentology of "Amoris laetitia": The Limits „of the "Logic of Including Everyone"?* (Rev. Prof. Jan Szczurek).

Homiletic Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Kazimierz Panuś. In the 2016–2017 period, the Homiletic Section met in Warsaw as part of the First Practical Theology Congress that took place on September 19–21, 2016, at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University. The congress was held on the occasion of the jubilee 1,050th anniversary of the baptism of Poland and took place under the slogan: *Polska krajem misyjnym? 1050 lat po przyjęciu chrześcijaństwa* ("Is Poland a Missionary Country? 1,050 Years after the Introduction of Christianity"). On September 19, the chairman of the section gave a lecture titled: *„Kościół przyniósł Polsce Chrystusa" (Jan Paweł II). Rola kaznodziejstwa w chrystianizacji Polski* ("The Church Brought Christ to Poland" (John Paul II): The Role of Preaching in the Christianization of Poland") introducing the sessions. It is also worth mentioning work on the project titled: *Kazania w kulturze polskiej. Edycje kolekcji tematycznych: kazania adwentowe, bożonarodzeniowe, wielkanocne i patriotyczne* ("Sermons in Polish Culture: The Editions of Thematic Collections: Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Patriotic Sermons") by the Polish Theological Society, financed by the National Program for the Development of Humanities in the 2015–2019 period.

Pastoral-Sociological Section. The work of this section is headed by Prof. Franciszek Adamski. On April 21, 2016, an academic session was held, during which Dr. Krystyna Kluzowa presented a paper titled: *Działalność charytatywna parafii krakowskich* ("The Charitable Activity of Krakow Parishes") was organized in conjunction with the Pedagogical-Catechetical Section. She presented the state and needs of charitable work in the case of Krakow parishes, basing her lecture on sociological studies. These studies exposed the lack of religious motives as a basic factor of the engagement of the faithful in works of charity. Instead, these motives are humanitarian values. The presented studies also noted that the people engaged in such works of charity are ageing. Krakow is one of the biggest academic centers in Poland, although a mere three student volunteer teams are active there.

Spirituality Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Wojciech Mleczek, CR. The section continued works related to the many years' research program about: *Duchowość klasztorów polskich: przekaz i komunikacja* ("The Spirituality of Polish Monasteries: Message and Communication"). In the 2016–2017 period, this section organized two symposium from this cycle: on September 17, *Ks. Stefan Pawlicki CR: człowiek nauki i wiary w służbie odnowy*

społecznej i duchowej (“Rev. Stefan Pawlicki, CR: A Man of Science and Faith in the Service of Social and Spiritual Renewal”) was held in the Centrum Resurrectionis in Krakow. Meanwhile, a symposium on *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”) was held in the convent of the Sisters of the Resurrection in Kety. The results of these and previous symposia have been published in post-conference materials. Two compilations edited by the section chairman were published in Krakow in 2016: *Ks. Stefan Pawlicki CR: człowiek nauki i wiary w służbie odnowy społecznej i duchowej* (“Rev. Stefan Pawlicki, CR: A Man of Science and Faith in the Service of Social and Spiritual Renewal”) as well as *Stuga Boży Bogdan Jański: doświadczenie duchowe i projekt społeczny* (“Servant of God Bogdan Jański: His Spiritual Experience and Social Project”). The third publication from this cycle titled: *Wychowanie – komunikacja – zdrowie. Charyzmat felicyjański* (“Education – Communication – Health: The Felician Charism”) edited by Rev. Robert Nęcek, Ewa Kucharska, and Rev. Wojciech Misztal was also published this year. The representatives of numerous academic centers both in Poland and abroad participated in the realization of this work, which contributed to intellectual exchange, the integration of the academic milieu, and the promotion of further studies on the spiritual legacy of Polish religious orders and their impact. Furthermore, the Spirituality Section participated in the preparations for the Days of John Paul II celebrated in 2016 under the slogan *Miłosierdzie* (“Mercy”) by co-organizing the conference *Media: przestrzeń i narzędzie miłosierdzia* (“Media: The Space and Tool of Mercy,” Krakow, November 8). The members of the section also took an active part in the national academic conference devoted to the memory of Archbishop Józef Życiński *Media – kultura – dialog* (“Media – Culture – Dialogue”), which took place on February 11 in the auditorium of the Collegium Novum of the Jagiellonian University, as well as in the symposium *Tradycja kultu opieki Matki Bożej nad narodem w kontekście jubileuszu 360 rocznicy ślubów króla Jana Kazimierza* (“The Tradition of Devotion to the Virgin Mary’s Aid to the Polish Nation in Light of the Jubilee 360th Anniversary of the Vows of King Jan Kazimierz,” Lviv, April 8).

Pedagogical-Catechetical Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Grzegorz Godawa. In the 2016–2017 period, the section continued its collaboration with the Sociological-Pastoral-Sociological Section. The effects of this collaboration included an academic meeting that took place on April 26, during which Dr. Krystyna Kłuzowa presented a paper titled: *Działalność charytatywna parafii krakowskich* (“The Charitable Activity of Krakow Parishes”). A discussion in which the representatives of both sections participated took place after the paper. The chairman of the Pedagogical-Catechetical Section participated in the preparations for the conference titled: *Chrześcijaństwo jutro – nadzieje i obawy* (“The Christians of Tomorrow: Hopes and Fears”) organized by the Polish Theological Society on November 22, 2016. During it he presented a paper titled: *The Integral Vision of the Person as a Fundament of Culture and Education*.

Dogmatic Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Żelazny, Professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. In the 2016–2017 period, the section regularly held monthly meetings of its members devoted to research on Christianity in antiquity. In addition to the regular participants, invited professors of patrology as well as those traveling through Krakow participated, including: Rev. Prof. Marian Wysocki from Lublin; Rev. Prof. D. Hab. Paweł Wygralaka, Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan; Rev. Prof. Bogdan Czyżewski from Gniezno; and Rev. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Uciecha of Katowice participated. Efforts to organize a symposium about Christians in the Middle East, which the section hopes will be of interest to young graduates of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, are underway.

Missiology Section. The section's work is chaired by Rev. Dr. Grzegorz Wita. The section did not present a detailed report.

Canon Law Section. It is chaired by Rev. Dr. Andrzej Kukła, CSSR. During the period of 2016–2017, the members of this section undertook important efforts related to present legal issues in the life of the Church. Rev. Dr. Andrzej Kukła, the chairman of the section, lectured on the rules 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. Members of the Canon Law Section actively participated in several important academic events, such as the graduate students' conference on *Salus animarum suprema lex in świetle kanonicznego prawa karnego* ("Salus Animarum Suprema Lex in Light of Penal Canon Law") organized by the Faculty of Canon Law of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (Warsaw, May 14); the academic conference *Ius connubii – ochrona i ograniczenia w prawie międzynarodowym, polskim i kanonicznym* ("Ius Connubii: The Defense and Limits in International, Polish, and Canon Law") organized by the Faculty of Canon Law of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (Warsaw, May 19); the Fifth National Academic Conference *Kodeks Prawa Kanonicznego w badaniach młodych naukowców* ("The Code of Canon Law in the Research of Young Academics," the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin, June 4); as well as the International Conference of the Society of Polish Canon Lawyers *O małżeństwie i rodzinie w prawie kanonicznym i w prawie polskim* ("On Marriage and the Family in Canon Law and Polish Law," Wloclawek, September 9–10). Furthermore, collaboration with Prof. Zbigniew Krysiak of the Warsaw School of Economics, President of the Institute for the Thought of Schuman, was initiated. Schuman's cause for beatification, intended to recognize him as one of the initiators of the new Europe, is underway. The members of the Canon Law Section took part in many academic meetings during which one of the leading topics was the new procedure for passing verdicts on the annulment of marriages. Numerous academic publications and presentations discussed the practical matters

related to the work of tribunals since Pope Francis' presentation of new guidelines in his letter *Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus*.

Liturgical Section. This section is chaired by Rev. Dr. Stanisław Mieszczak, SCJ. In the reported period of 2016–2017, the activity of the Liturgical Section was organically tied to the milieu of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow as well as broadly understood theological and liturgical formation in various sectors of the life of the Church. Sister Dr. Hab. Adelajda Sielepin, CHR, Professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, led a catechumenal study for catechists as well as open lectures from the *God – Man – The Liturgy* cycle at the Catholic Intellectuals' Club in Krakow. Lectures and workshops during the course for the formation of extraordinary ministers of communion (Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Mieczkowski and Rev. Dr. Stanisław Mieszczak, SCJ) were also held. 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 Seventh International *Ad Fontes Liturgicos* Symposium in Nyiregyhaz (Hungary) about the concepts of time and the calendar in the liturgy. The members of the Liturgical Section were consultants in the preparation of the liturgy for World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow and in editing liturgical materials for the participants in that unusual event. A ceremonial for liturgical teams serving in the sites where catechesis was held was also compiled. An important subject of the work of the members of this section is the liturgical-pastoral formation of young people, the faithful, and the clergy (including the formation of altar servers, extraordinary ministers of communion, photographers, and other groups).

Religious Art Section. The work of this section is headed by Prof. Tomasz Węclawowicz. In 2016–2017, 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. In April, the section's chairman traveled to Oxford University to present a detailed paper about St. Wojciech, the first patron of Poland; devotion to him; and the forms and contents presented on the Gniezno Doors, a unique work of Polish Romanesque art documenting devotion to this patron of Poland in the thirteenth century. At the end of April, an abridged version of the paper was presented in Krakow's Archaeological Museum during the conference titled: *Apostołowie barbarzyńskiej Europy* ("The Apostles of Barbarian Europe"). In May, the section's Chairman presented a paper on King Casimir the Great's patronage of religious art at Charles University in Prague. The occasion was last year's celebrations of the 700th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Charles IV, held in Prague. Both Charles IV and Casimir the Great mutually inspired each other in their respective patronage of the arts, while devotion to relics, popular in the fourteenth century, was a significant ideological backdrop for them. Father Mateusz Kawa, OCist, a member of the section, was the patron of conservation efforts in his monastery in Mogiła, and proposed to organize a monastery museum that would document the 800-year

history of the Cistercians there. A detailed blueprint for the museum gained the acceptance of the Social Committee for the Renewal of Krakow's Landmarks. Last year, Prof. Andrzej Włodarek, who specializes in unique archival materials, finished his inquiry regarding the unique efforts to search for and catalog bells evacuated from the eastern territories of what once was the Polish Republic from Russia – both Tsarist and Soviet Russia – during the First World War. In essence, this is also a documentation of the losses of the Polish Church during World War II, as the bells that were reclaimed during World War II were later confiscated. The inquiry gained data about no longer existing cities, churches, and bells, and about the people of those times. This material is useful to recreating the cultural landscape in both the material and non-material aspects as well as to all sorts of comparative and interdisciplinary research. It will be published in 2017.

Philosophical Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Henryk Majkrzak, SCJ. A meeting of the section dedicated to the topic of the second issue published by the section of the yearly academic publication *Theofos* took place on February 24. The Philosophical Section celebrated the jubilee 1,050th anniversary of the baptism of Poland, and along with the Institute of St. Jadwiga at the Carmelite monastery in Krakow organized a special session during which Rev. Dr. Hab. Henryk Majkrzak, SCJ, gave a lecture on *The Theology of Baptism*. On May 10, the section's chairman represented it during a special academic session at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin devoted to Rev. Prof. Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, OP. On September 22, Rev. Henryk Majkrzak participated in the general meeting of the Polish Society of St. Thomas Aquinas in Lublin. On December 1, 2016, the director of the section took part in the international symposium titled: *Metafizyka Arystotelesa u podstaw kultury filozoficznej W 2400 rocznicę urodzin Arystotelesa* ("Aristotle's Metaphysics at the Foundations of Philosophical Culture: On the 2,400th Anniversary of Aristotle's Birth") in Lublin. Last year, two new members (Rev. Dr. Jarosław Paszyński, SJ, and Rev. Dr. Wojciech Paluchowski, CM) were accepted as new members of the section.

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 international academic conference paying tribute to Rev. Prof. Zachariasz Jabłoński on *Miłosierdzie, Kościół, Maryja* ("Mercy, the Church, and Mary"), organized on May 31 by Rev. Prof. Andrzej Napiórkowski. Meanwhile, the chairman of the section presented two papers: on September 23, he presented *Tożsamość prymacjalna chrześcijaństwa we współczesnej refleksji fundamentalno-eklezjologicznej* ("Primal Christian Identity in Contemporary Fundamental-Ecclesiastical Reflections") during the conference of the Society of Fundamental Theologians in Koszalin titled: *1050-lecie chrztu Polski – teologia fundamentalna na straży tożsamości chrześcijańskiej* ("The 1,050th

Anniversary of the Baptism of Poland: Fundamental Theology Safeguarding Christian Identity”). Meanwhile, on November 22, he discussed *Sekularyzacja – próba diagnozy i kierunki terapii* (“Secularization: An Attempt at Diagnosis and the Direction of Therapy”) at the conference: *Błąd antropologiczny – źródło upadku ładu społeczno-moralnego w Europie* (“Anthropological Error: The Source of the Decline of the Social and Moral Order of Europe”) organized in Krakow by the Polish Theological Society. 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 book publications published in 2016: T. Kałużny, *Przed Soborem Wszechprawosławnym* (“Before the Pan-Orthodox Council”) and A. Napiórkowski *Teologie XX i XXI wieku* (“Theologies of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries”) as well as *Maryja jest piękna* (“Mary Is Beautiful,” Niepokalanow 2016).

Historical Section. Its work is headed by Rev. Dr. Waclaw Umiński, CM. In 2016–2017, the section was the co-organizer of the national academic conference titled: *Szanując przeszłość, budujemy przyszłość. 70 lat „Naszej Przeszłości” (1946–2016)* (“We Build the Future by Respecting the Past: Seventy Years of ‘Our Past,’ 1946–2016”), which took place on October 22, 2016, in the auditorium of the Institute of Theology of the Congregation of the Mission on 4 Stradomska Street. During the conference, members of the section were among those who presented papers. They included: Rev. Prof. Józef Marecki (Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow) – *Historia i zasób Archiwum „Naszej Przeszłości”* (“The History and Resources of the Archives of ‘Our Past’); and Rev. Dr. Waclaw Umiński, CM (Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow) – *Czasopismo „Nasza Przeszłość” jako źródło do historii zakonów i zgromadzeń w Polsce* (“The Magazine ‘Our Past’ As a Source on the History of Religious Orders and Congregations in Poland”). Furthermore, the members of the section tried to reactivate previously undertaken efforts and they prepared a plan of work for 2017 and the following years.

The Theology of the Consecrated Life Section is active under the direction of Sister Dr. Hab. Adelajda Sielepin, CHR. It currently has sixteen members from various academic centers across Poland and abroad (Madrid and Kazakhstan). Four meetings took place in 2016–2017. A visible effect of their joint efforts is the section’s first publication, titled: *Chrzest, przymierze, konsekracja* (“Baptism, the Covenant, Consecration”), which is the collection of thirteen articles authored by the section’s members. It is the first volume from the *Ewangelia – prorocтво – nadzieja* (“The Gospel, Prophesy, 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. Currently, there are preparations for a conference devoted to the vocation to the consecrated life, as is a larger publication in this field. Furthermore, individual members of the section undertake educational and formative initiatives in order to explain and help make understandable topics related to

the theology of the consecration of people. They do this through academic journals and popular publications as well as by participating in symposia and conferences for consecrated persons in religious orders, and by organizing retreats and days of reflection on the topic of consecration.

The Syndonological Section was founded on May 21, 2014, by the Syndonological Study, 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 proven to be a competent organizer. He initiated collaboration with many syndonologists in Poland and abroad. This augurs dynamic development of the section in the future.

2. The Activity of Local Branches

Katowice Branch. 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 3 and was also attended by representatives of the world of culture and the media. During it, a lecture on *Struktura symbolu i jego wartość poznawcza w religii* (“The Structure of the Symbol and Its Cognitive Value in Religion”) was given by the Chairman of the section. The second meeting took place on December 14 in the Archdiocesan Museum. It was connected to the opening of *Visegrad Karma*, an international exhibit of posters titled: *Czasy upadku komunizmu* (“The Time of the Fall of Communism”). During this meeting, Adrienne Körmendy, Consul General of Hungary gave a lecture on *Political Influences on Culture and Social Life*. Students of theology and invited guests also take part in the branch’s meetings, which take place in the building of the seminary, at the Faculty of Theology or in the presbytery of the parish of Saints Peter and Paul in Katowice.

Czestochowa Branch. The section’s work is chaired by Rev. Dr. Jerzy Bielecki. The branch held two meetings took place in the 2016–2017 period. Furthermore, the Czestochowa branch co-organized a symposium on the topic of *W poszukiwaniu racjonalności. Wokół myśli ks. arcybiskupa Józefa Życińskiego* (“The Pursuit of Rationality: Concerning the Thought of Archbishop Józef Życiński”), which took place on May 21. Four papers were presented during the symposium: *Miejsce człowieka w przyrodzie* (“Man’s Place in Nature,” Rev. Dr. Marek Słomka); *Modne przesady* (“Fashionable Superstitions,” Rev. Prof. Stanisław Wszolek); *Człowiek – kapłan – uczonec* (“Man – Priest – Scholar,” Rev. Dr. Włodzimierz Skoczny); as well as *Piękno wszechświata, harmonia nauki i wiary w twórczości ks. abpa J. Życińskiego* (“The Beauty of the Universe and the Harmony of Faith and Science in the Work of Archbishop Życiński,” Rev. Dr. Jacek Marciniec).

Przemysl Branch. The work of the branch, whose membership currently numbers thirty-eight persons, is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Hab. Waclaw Siwak. During the period under analysis,

two meetings of members and supporters took place. On May 5, Rev. Dr. Norbert Podhorecki presented his paper on: „*Umysł zamknięty*” *Allana Blooma pokłosiem myśli filozoficzno-społecznej Alexisa de Tocqueville* (“Allan Bloom’s ‘Closed Mind’ As the Consequence of the Social and Philosophical Thought of Alexis de Tocqueville”). The second meeting took place on November 12 in the auditorium of the Major Archdiocesan Seminary in Przemyśl on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the coronation of the figure of Our Lady of St. Hyacinth, which is venerated in the Przemyśl archcathedral. At that time, an academic conference titled: *Wędrujące Madonny* (“Traveling Madonnas”), which presented the image of Madonnas from the former Polish eastern borderlands in the Subcarpathian region. Its participants were the members of the branch; two of them presented papers: Rev. Dr. Hab. Waclaw Siwak presented on *Koronacja przemyskiej figury Matki Bożej Jackowej w historyczno-teologicznej perspektywie* (“The Coronation of the Przemyśl Figure of Our Lady of St. Hyacinth from a Historical and Theological Perspective”), while Rev. Dr. Henryk Borcz discussed *Jak Madonna Jackowa dominikanów opuściła – i do katedry przemyskiej przybyła* (“How St. Hyacinth’s Madonna Left the Dominicans and Traveled to the Przemyśl Cathedral”). The speakers also included Rev. Marek Wojnarowski, MA, Director of the Archdiocesan Museum in Przemyśl and the co-organizer of the conference, who presented a paper titled: *Matka Boża Jackowa z przemyskiej Bazyliki Archikatedralnej – symbolika koron i ikonografia przedstawienia* (“Our Lady of St. Hyacinth from the Przemyśl Archcathedral Basilica: The Symbolism of the Crowns and the Iconography of the Presentation”).

Kalwaria Zebrzydowska Branch. In 2016–2017, this branch was chaired by Rev. Dr. Roland Panczerz, 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. In collaboration with the Bernardine monastery in Kolo as well as the Society of Friends of the City of Kolo, it organized an academic conference on *Bernardyny w Kole (1466–2016) – 550 lat dziedzictwa i posługi* (“The Bernardines in Kolo, 1466–2016: Five-Hundred Fifty Years of Heritage and Service”) on October 8. Seven papers were presented: *Klasztor bernardynów w Kole w okresie staropolskim* (“The Bernardine Monastery in Kolo during the Early Polish Period,” Rev. Prof. Andrzej Bruzdziński, Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow); *Źródła utrzymania kolskiego klasztoru oo. Bernardynów w okresie przedrozbiorowym* (“The Sources of the Upkeep of the Kolo Monastery of the Bernardine Fathers before the Partitions of Poland”); Dr. Krzysztof Witkowski, the Society of Friends of the City of Kolo); *Klasztor w Kole w warunkach pokasacyjnych 1864–1918* (“The Kolo Monastery in Post-Dissolution Conditions, 1864–1918,” Prof. Dr. Hab. Roland Prejs, OFMCap, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); *Bernardyny kolscy w okresie rządów totalitarnych w XX wieku* (“The Kolo Bernardines under Totalitarian Rule in the Twentieth Century,” Dr. Aleksander Krzysztof Sitnik OFM, Bernardina Major Seminary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska); *Gloryfikacja św. Franciszka na sklepieniu kościoła*

bernardynów w Kole. Uwagi o historii malowideł i ikonografii franciszkańskiej ("The Glorification of St. Francis on the Vault of the Bernardine Church in Kolo: Comments on the History of Franciscan Paintings and Iconography," Dr. Janina Dzik, Krakow); *Inkunabuły z kolskiego klasztoru w zbiorach Biblioteki Prowincji oo. Bernardynów w Krakowie* ("Incunables from the Kolo Monastery in the Collection of the Library of the Krakow Province of the Bernardine Fathers," Dr. Agnieszka Fluda-Krokos, Pedagogical University of Krakow); and *Teatralny wystrój świątyni – ołtarze* ("The Theatrical Design of the Church: Altars," Rev. Dr. Cyprian Janusz Moryc, OFM, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin). The second meeting of the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska branch took place on November 5 on the occasion of the feast of Blessed Duns Scotus, the patron of the Major Seminary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. The meeting was held simultaneously to the inauguration of the new 2016–2017 academic year. An opening lecture on the topic of *Relacje między teologią a naukami przyrodniczymi* ("The Relationship between Theology and the Natural Sciences") was given by Rev. Dr. Hab. Damian Wąsek (Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow) as part of the meeting.

Tuchow Branch. 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 in 2016–2017 marked the 113th year of its activity. The academic staff active in the Tuchow branch were thirty-one Redemptorists, including three professors and two habilitated doctors. In the previous year, the members of the Tuchow branch published four books; fifty-five scholarly and popular articles; and thirty-one reviews, including internal reviews as well as reviews of magazines, books, the scientific output of various scholars, and doctoral dissertations. They also published four interviews. They participated in several dozen radio and television broadcasts on various national stations and channels. They participated in thirty symposiums and meetings; they were the organizers of ten of them. They also presented twenty-nine papers. Last year, one of the members also gave twelve vocal concerts. In 2016–2017, the Tuchow branch co-organized an annual academic symposium on January 26–28. The following papers were presented during it: *Sakrament miłosierdzia źródłem nowego życia dla człowieka zagubionego* ("The Sacrament of Mercy as the Source of New Life for the Lost Person," Rev. Dr. Jordan Śliwiński, OFM^{Cap}) and *Rola osobistego doświadczenia Pięćdziesiątnicy w nawróceniu pastoralnym oraz zaangażowaniu w Nową Ewangelizację* ("The Role of the Personal Experience of Pentecost in Pastoral Conversion as Well as Engagement in the New Evangelization," Rev. Dr. Artur Godnarski). Redemptorists also presented papers: Rev. Dr. Marek Kotyński dealt with the topic of *Jubileusz 150-lecia otrzymania Ikony MBNP. Główni propagatorzy kultu MBNP w Polsce i ich metody* ("The 150-Year Jubilee of the Receipt of the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help: The Main Promoters of Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Poland and Their Methods"). Meanwhile, Rev. Dr. Maciej Sadowski presented on *Chrzest rodzający naród i państwo. Kontekst*

społeczno-polityczny chrztu Polski i jego konsekwencje ("The Baptism That Gave Birth to the Nation and State: The Socio-Political Context of the Baptism of Poland and Its Consequences"). Open guest lectures by Rev. Prof. Vimal Tirimanna, CSSR, a Redemptorist from Sri Lanka and Lecturer at the Alphonsian Academy in Rome, took place in the auditorium of the seminary in Tuchow on April 21. He presented the contemporary problems of the apostolic adhortation *Amoris laetitia* and introduced the guests present at the meeting to his experience of the sessions of the recent episcopal synod on marriage and the family in which he participated as a consultant of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences. Homiletic workshops on the topic *Go into the world and preach the Gospel to all creation* were held on November 6–8. The participants of the workshop, twenty-five Redemptorists from Poland and abroad, participated in a series of lectures related to pastoral theology and homiletics by Rev. Prof. Ryszard Hajduk, CSSR, 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 topics related to parish missions and retreats in Poland. The academic session *Matka Boża Nieustającej Pomocy – Ikona Miłosierdzia* ("Our Lady of Perpetual Help: An Icon of Mercy"), which took place on November 5, 2016, in the shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Krakow-Podgorze, was met with great acclaim. The co-organizers of this colloquium were the Chair in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century History at the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow as well as the Homo Dei publishing house. The following papers were presented during the session: *Ikona jako język Ewangelii Miłosierdzia* ("The Icon As the Language of the Gospel and Love," Dr. Hab. Marek Kita, professor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow); *Bóg Miłosierdzia w ikonie MBNP* ("The God of Mercy in the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help," Rev. Dr. Marek Kotyński, CSSR); *Mistagogiczny wymiar uroczystości koronacyjnych ikony MBNP w kościołach polskich redemptorystów* ("The Mystagogical Dimension of Coronation Ceremonies of the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Polish Redemptorist Churches," Rev. Dr. Maciej Sadowski, CSSR); and *Dzieje kultu ikony MBNP w Uniwersyteckim Szpitalu Dziecięcym w Krakowie* ("The History of Devotion to the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in the Children's Hospital in Krakow," Rev. Dr. Hab. Lucjan Szczepaniak, SCJ, and Sister Dr. Bożena Leszczyńska, OCV). At the end of the academic session, a commemorative book titled: *Musimy siać* ("We Have to Sow"), dedicated to the late Rev. Dr. Hab. Gerard Siwek, CSSR, was presented. Meanwhile, the *Pro Redemptione* award was presented to Rev. Prof. Jacek Salij, OP; Rev. Prof. Krzysztof Pawlina; Rev. Dr. Jerzy Szyran, OFMConv; and Rev. Maciej Kucharzyk, MS. 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 *Teologia terapeutyczna – profetyczne świadectwo papieża Franciszka* ("Therapeutic Theology: Pope Francis' Prophetic Witness"), given on October 1 by Rev. Prof. Andrzej Wodka, CSSR, Rector of

the Alphonsian Academy in Rome, as well as the third meeting of the members of the branch, which took place on February 19, June 25, and October 1, 2016.

Kielce Branch. The section's work is chaired by Rev. Dr. Paweł Borto. In addition to its monthly meetings, the activity of this branch was expanded to include new important events. Work on the improvement of the substantive formula of the journal *Kieleckie Studia Teologiczne* ("Kielce Theological Studies") as well as its digitalization on the Academicon platform was begun. During the March meeting, the branch's members decided to take part in the organization of the international interdisciplinary conference on *Paradygmaty kultury. Ciało* ("Cultural Paradigms: The Body"). In response to young people's need for worldview-related discussions, a decision was made to closely work with the Kielce Youth Ministry in order to engage in similar educational activity for university students in Kielce. Initiated in 2013 by Rev. Andrzej Kwaśniewski, Director of the Diocesan Archives, the cycle of workshops for guides in the Kielce Diocese continues to spark great interest among the representatives of numerous parishes and undoubtedly fits well with the strategy to popularize knowledge about the Church in Kielce yesterday and today. During the October meeting, Rev. Zbigniew Trzaskowski proposed to co-organize along with the Institute of Polish Philology at the Jan Kochanowski an international conference for theologians, literary scientists, and scholars of cultural studies under the working title: *Skarbiec nieprzebrany. Współczesna recepcja Biblii* ("An Inexhaustible Treasure Chest: Contemporary Reception of the Bible"). In a lively exchange of views, the participants presented their suggestions on the topic of the detailed program of the session. The meetings of the branch in November and December were dominated by a lively discussion on the substantive and formal preparation for the jubilee Twentieth Polish Day of Judaism in Kielce on January 17, 2017, under the telling title: „*Uwiodłeś mnie Panie, a ja pozwoliłem się uwieść*” (*Jr 20, 7*) (“You Duped Me, O Lord, and I Let Myself Be Duped” (Jeremiah 20:7)). Among the invited guests was Rabbi Abraham Skorka, Rector of the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary in Buenos Aires, who gave a lecture on dialogue between Jews and Christians in the contemporary world.

Sandomierz Branch. The section's work is chaired by Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Bogusław Sieroń, Professor at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The branch numbers thirty people and is headquartered at the Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek Institute of Theology in Sandomierz. In 2016–2017, the Sandomierz branch undertook many activities. It organized or co-organized three international academic conferences. The first of these took place as part of the Sandomierz meetings with the Bible and dealt with the topic *Zdrowa rodzina – zdrowe społeczeństwo – interdyscyplinarna refleksja na bazie adhortacji apostołkiej papieża Franciszka „Amoris Laetitia”* (“A Healthy Family and a Healthy Society: An Interdisciplinary Reflection Based on Pope Francis' Apostolic Adhortation *Amoris Laetitia*,” Stalowa Wola, November 26); the second dealt with *Styl i jakość życia współczesnego człowieka* (“The Style and Quality of Life of the Contemporary Person”). Both were organized under the slogan: *Religia i wspólnota*

("Religion and Community," Stalowa Wola, May 24). The third conference was devoted to the topic of *Kwestia profesjonalizacji w zakresie przeciwdziałania nieuczciwym formom nacisku i grupom kulturowym* ("The Topic of Professionalization in the Field of Precluding Dishonest Forms of Pressure and Cultural Groups," Stalowa Wola-Sandomierz, December 8–11). It is worth noting that the presenters during these conferences were not only from Poland, but also from Ukraine, the United States, Lithuania, Latvia, Japan, Spain, and Italy. Additionally, three conferences were held in Poland. The first took place on October 15 on the occasion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy and the preparations for the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the Sandomierz Diocese topic: *Biskup Stefan Zwierowicz (1842–1908)* ("Bishop Stefan Zwierowicz, 1842–1908"). The second took place on February 2017, and was on the topic of *Uczeń ze specjalnymi potrzebami edukacyjnymi w szkole* ("A Student with Special Educational Needs in School"). Finally, the third conference took place on January 28, 2017, and was devoted to St. Thomas Aquinas. It dealt with the topic of: *Nauka – religia. Współczesne wyzwania* ("Science and Faith: Contemporary Challenges"). Furthermore, two meetings of the Sandomierz branch were held, during which lectures were given by Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Bogusław Sieroń, Professor at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, on: *POL-on.nauka.gov.pl – czyli jak uprawiać teologię w świecie 3D printing?* ("POL-on.nauka.gov.pl: How Can Theology Be Done in the World of 3D Printing?") on June 17. Meanwhile, Rev. Dr. Marcin Hanus presented on *Dylematy współczesnej teologii małżeńskiej i rodzinnej w świetle posynodalnej Adhortacji Apostolskiej papieża Franciszka Amoris Laetitia* ("The Dilemmas of Contemporary Theology of Marriage and the Family in Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Apostolic Adhortation Amoris Laetitia") on December 6. The members of the Sandomierz branch also took part in thirty-two academic conferences, presenting papers or leading sessions, in Poland and abroad. Intensified publishing activity was also undertaken. The fruit of this is fourteen books and articles edited or published in collected works in *Przegląd Biblijny* ("The Biblical Review") and *Przegląd Uniwersytecki* ("The University Review"), and especially the quarterly *Spółczesność i Rodzina* ("Society and Family"), edited by the chairman of the branch, which in the last evaluation (December 2015) by the Minister of Science and Higher Education received 11 points for each article published in them.

Tarnow Branch. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Królikowski, Professor at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. In 2016–2017, studies on the history of the Diocese of Tarnow were continued. Preparations to publish the seventh volume of *Dziejów diecezji tarnowskiej* ("The History of the Tarnow Diocese"), devoted to outstanding lay faithful, are underway. There are also preparations to publish an encyclopedia of martyr-priests from the World War II era (about fifty people). It has also been decided how and to what extent the Tarnow branch will take part in the upcoming ceremonies related to the 200th anniversary of the existence of the seminary in Tarnow. This will be mostly related

to documenting the history of the seminary and its most illustrious figures. The history of the Tarnow branch of the Polish Theological Society has also been published. It has also been decided that the members of the branch would take part in the diocesan synod, taking into account the promotion of theology.

Rzeszow Branch. The Chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Garbarcz, Professor at the University of Rzeszow. In 2016, the members of the Rzeszow branch of the Polish Theological Society engaged in academic and didactic activity in the Major Diocesan Seminary in Rzeszow, in 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 collaborated by organizing and taking an active part in conferences, symposiums, and workshops. They also collaborated in this field with the Rzeszow branch of Civitas Christiana; published numerous articles, mostly of a popular nature in the diocesan press; and led broadcasts in VIA Catholic Radio. As part of the ceremonies related to the 1,050th anniversary of the Baptism of Poland, a national academic symposium titled: *Wiarygodne oblicze Kościoła w Polsce 1050. Rocznicą Chrztu* ("The Credible Face of the Church in Poland on the 1,050th Anniversary of the Baptism") was organized in the Theological and Pastoral Institute in Rzeszow. On September 20, 2016, Biblical scholars from across Poland attended the symposium in the Theological and Pastoral Institute in Rzeszow. The three-day Biblical reflections were divided into five sessions accompanied by discussions. The meeting of Biblical scholars in Rzeszow took place as part of the 54th Polish Biblical Scholars Symposium. On November 12, the Tenth Biblical Conference took place in the Caritas Center in Myczkowce. It was devoted to the topic of *Ku lepszemu rozumieniu Pisma Świętego* ("Towards a Better Understanding of Sacred Scripture"). The participants of the conference (approximately 220 people) proceeded to listen to the following papers: *Biblia o królowaniu Boga* ("The Bible on God's Reign," Rev. Prof. Tomaszek Jelonek, Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow); *Wydarzenie pod Cezareq Filipowq (Mk 9, 27–33) i jego znaczenie dla formacji Jezusowego ucznia w Ewangelii wg św. Marka* ("The Event in Caesarea Philippi (Mark 9:27–33) and Its Significance in the Formation of Jesus' Pupil in the Gospel according to St. Mark," Rev. Dr. Tomasz Bąka, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); *Muzyka instrumentalna w Starym Testamencie* ("Instrumental Music in the Old Testament," Rev. Dr. Hab. Tadeusz Bratkowski, University of Rzeszow); *Mało znane rośliny biblijne cz. III* ("Lesser Known Biblical Plants, Part III," Dr. Hab. Zofia Włodarczyk, Agricultural University of Krakow); *Krzyż w życiu Jezusa z Nazaretu* ("The Cross in the Life of Jesus of Nazareth," Rev. Dr. Hab. Jacency Mastej, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); and *Symbole obietnic dla zwycięzcy w walce o wiarę wg Apokalipsy Św. Jana 2, 3* ("The Symbols of Promises to the Victor in the Battle for the Faith in Revelation 2:3," Dr. Ewa Janus, Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow). The Mass concluded with a special Mass celebrated

during the Hour of Mercy in the center's chapel. It was celebrated by Rev. Dr. Marek Dzik, Director of the Biblical Study Center of the Diocese of Rzeszów, while the homily was given by Rev. Prof. Tomasz Jelonek.

Bielsko-Biala Branch. The Chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Robert Samsel. The branch's membership currently numbers forty-seven persons and it is headquartered at the St. John Cantius Institute of Theology in Bielsko-Biala at 5a Żeromskiego Street. In the year under discussion, the jubilee of the 1,050th anniversary of the Baptism of Poland was celebrated on May 17. The inaugural lecture on *Chrzest Polski – konieczność dziejowa czy suwerenny akt woli księcia Mieszka?* ("The Baptism of Poland: An Historical Inevitability, or Duke Mieszko's Sovereign Act of the Will"?) was given by Dr. Grzegorz Wnętrzak (University of Warsaw), after which a lively discussion took place. In October 2016, the Bielsko-Biala branch initiated collaboration with the University of the Third Age active at the University of Bielsko-Biala, thus becoming obliged to give its participants lectures in the field of theology.

Radom Branch. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Marek Jagodziński. In 2016–2017, the branch, which has sixty-seven members, co-organized two major academic conferences. The first, titled: *Średniowiecze i nauka* ("The Middle Ages and Science"), took place on May 14 in the Cistercian abbey in Wachock. The following topics were discussed during the conference: *How Was Theology Don in the Middle Ages?* (Rev. Dr. Hab. Marek Jagodziński, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); *The Main Currents of Political Thinking during the Middle Ages in Poland* (Dr. Zbigniew Markwart, Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom); *Christian Caritas As Understood by Medieval Theologians* (Rev. Prof. Wiesław Przygoda, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); *The Cistercian Reform of the Chorale in the Twelfth Century* (Dr. Andrzej Pytlak, Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom); *The Journey to the Middle Ages As the Key to Reading Moral Theology Today* (Rev. Dr. Jarosław Wojtkun, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); *The Modern Legacy of St. Francis* (Dr. Hab. Dariusz Trzeźniowski, Professor of the Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom); *The Middle Ages in Interwar Polish Fiction* (Dr. Hab. Krzysztof Cwiakliński, Professor of the Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom); *The Significance of Philosophy in the Development of the Sciences* (Rev. Prof. Edward Sienkiewicz, University of Szczecin); and *The "Presence" of the Middle Ages in Educating Polish Law Students* (Dr. Karol Dąbrowski, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University). The second conference was titled *1050 lat Chrztu Polski. Przeszłość – terażniejszość – przyszłość* ("One Thousand Fifty Years since the Baptism of Poland: The Past, Present and Future"); it took place on June 18 in Taczów. The following papers were presented during the conference: *Chrzest i chrystianizacja Polski w świetle źródeł pisanych i archeologii* ("The Baptism and Christianization of Poland in Light of Written Sources and Archaeology," Rev.

Dr. Rafał Piekarski, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); *Od Chłodwiga do Mieszka* ("From Clovis to Mieszko," Rev. Dr. Zbigniew Niemirski, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); *Komunijna wizja sakramentu chrztu* ("The Sacrament of Baptism from the Perspective of Holy Communion," Rev. Dr. Hab. Marek Jagodziński, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); *Motywy chrześcijańskie w malarstwie polskim XIX wieku* ("Christian Motifs in Nineteenth-Century Polish Painting," Dr. Kazimierz Łyszcz, Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom); *Zagadka Niemcewicza. Dlaczego Chrztu Polski nie ma w "Śpiewach historycznych"?* ("The Niemcewicz Enigma: Why Is the Baptism of Poland Not in the 'Historic Songs'?" Dr. Hab. Krzysztof Ćwikliński, Professor of the Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom); and *Jana Pawła II idea polskości* ("John Paul II's Concept of Polishness," Rev. Dr. Wojciech Wojtyła, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin).

Sosnowiec Branch. The work of the branch, whose membership currently numbers thirty-seven persons, is coordinated by Rev. Prof. Jan Orzeszyna. In 2016–2017, three meetings took place: a day of prayer, an academic symposium, and organizational meetings. The latter were devoted to planning the work of the branch in the 2016–2017 academic year and took place on August 27. Meanwhile, the inaugural lecture on *Miłosierdzie jako kategoria życia społecznego* ("Mercy as a Category of Social Life") was given by Rev. Dr. Hab. Jacek Siewiora, Professor of the Malopolska School of Economics in Tarnow. The day of prayer for members and supporters of the Sosnowiec branch took place during Lent in the building of the Catechetical Department of the Diocesan Curia in Sosnowiec. During it, Rev. Konrad Kościuk, MA, S. T. L., Rector of the Major Seminary of the Diocese of Sosnowiec in Czestochowa, gave a paper titled: *W trosce o powołania kapłańskie i zakonne* ("Concern about Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Orders"). The academic symposium organized on June 2, 2016, on the topic of „*Bądźcie miłosierni, jak Ojciec wasz jest miłosierny*” (Łk 6, 36). *Znaczenie opieki duszpasterskiej w pracy penitencjarnej Współczesne wyzwania* ("“Be Merciful, Just as Your Father Is Merciful” (Luke 6:36): The Meaning of Pastoral Care in Penitential Work – Contemporary Challenges”) was very successful. It took place in the University of Dabrowa Gornicza on 1c Cieplaka Street. Bishop Grzegorz Kaszak, Bishop of Sosnowiec, was the honorary patron of the event. The following topics were discussed in the discussion panels: the possibilities and limits of pastoral work in the Polish penitential system; the significance of pastoral care in work with young inmates; the role of the chaplain in the context of work with the prosecution services and penitentiary staff; the contact of the chaplain with sick and elderly inmates; and pastoral care after one's sentence ends. Rev. Dr. Michał Borda was responsible for the organization of the symposium. The conference materials will be published.

Szczecin Branch. The Director of the branch, which functions as part of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Szczecin, is Rev. Prof. Andrzej Offmański. In 2016–2017, the

Szczecin branch organized three academic conferences that aroused great interest. On February 27, a conference on the topic of *Małżeństwo i rodzina po Synodzie Biskupów 2014–2015 w Rzymie* (“Marriage and the Family after the 2014–2015 Bishops’ Synod in Rome”) was held in the conference hall of the Faculty of Theology. Sixty-seven participants, including Archbishop Andrzej Dzięga and Bishop Henryk Wejman, listened to the presentation of two papers: *Trwałe wartości rodziny chrześcijańskiej* (“Permanent Values of the Christian Family,” Rev. Prof. Bronisław Mierzwiński, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw) and *Miłosierdzie – ewangelizacyjne orędzie Kościoła. Posynodalne impulsy dla duszpasterstwa rodzin* (“Mercy – The Evangelical Message of the Church: Post-Synodal Impulses for Family Ministry,” Rev. Dr. Andrzej Pryba, MSF, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań). The second academic conference was held on May 14, 2016, and dealt with the problem of the loss of sensitivity of one’s conscience as a sin of the contemporary world. This subject matter was presented from three perspectives: that of German theology (*Wpływ idei “autonomicznej moralności” – “autonome Moral” – na współczesne rozumienie grzechu*, “The Influence of the Idea of ‘Autonomous Morality’ – *autonome Moral* – on Contemporary Understanding of Sin,” Rev. Prof. Grzegorz Chojnacki, University of Szczecin); that of Italian theology (*Formacja sumienia – odpowiedzialność zapomniana?*, “Formation of the Conscience: A Forgotten Responsibility?” Rev. Dr. Marcin Szczoda); and that of French theology (*In Search of Principles*, Rev. Dr. Jan Mazur). An academic conference organized for the fourteenth time by the Chair in Catechetics of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Szczecin along with the Szczecin branch took place on June 13–14 in Trzesacz. The main topic was: *Bierzmowanie sakramentem inicjacji czy dojrzałości chrześcijańskiej* (“Is Confirmation the Sacrament of Christian Initiation or of Christian Maturity?”). The conference consisted of three sessions: *Bierzmowanie dawniej i dziś* (“Confirmation Yesterday and Today”); *Bierzmowani w XXI wieku* (“The Confirmed in the Twenty-First Century”); and *Przygotowanie do bierzmowania* (“Preparations for Confirmation”). Forty people from various academic centers across Poland took part. In addition to these three conferences, the Szczecin branch inaugurated a cycle of open lectures devoted to commemorating the pioneers of the Church by the Oder and the Baltic. As part of this meeting, papers recalling four great priests were held on November 26 in the conference hall of the Faculty of Theology: *Ks. prał. Zygmunt Szelązek – z Kresów Wschodnich do Szczecina* (“Mons. Zygmunt Szelązek: From the Eastern Borderlands to Szczecin,” Rev. Prof. Grzegorz Wejman); *Księża inf. Władysław Nowicki i kan. Maciej Szałagan – budowniczy parafii na Niebuszewie* (“Rev. Władysław Nowicki, MA, and Canon Rev. Maciej Szałagan: Builder of the Parish in Niebuszew,” Rev. Krzysztof Banach, MA); as well as *Ksiądz inf. Roman Kostynowicz – kapłan, humanista i artysta* (“Rev. Roman Kostynowicz, PA: Priest, Humanist, Artist,” Rev. Dr. Jan Marcin Mazur). These exceptionally interesting recollections presented the pastoral dynamism of the young Church returning to Western Pomerania.

Torun Branch. The section's work is chaired by Rev. Prof. Dariusz Zagórski. The branch's board held two meetings took place in the 2016–2017 period, on March 10 and November 8. The Torun branch was the patron and co-organizer of three academic conferences: *Chrzest święty – dar i wyzwanie* ("Baptism: A Gift and a Challenge," April 21–22); *Człowiek – mądrość i głupota* ("Man: Wisdom and Folly," September 24); as well as *Ksiądz i kobieta* ("The Priest and the Woman," November 14). The members of the Torun branch prepared two seminars in October and December 2016 on "God's dual nature," presenting the views of St. Thomas Aquinas and Alfred N. Whitehead on this (Rev. Prof. Mirosław Mróz and Dr. Hab. Marek Piwowarczyk, *Osobowe życie Boga – klasyczna koncepcja Boga a koncepcja A. N. Whitehead'a*, "God's Personal Life: The Classical Concept of God and That of A. N. Whitehead") as well as Prof. Marek Szulakiewicz and Rev. Dr. Hab. Piotr Roszak, *Jak działa Bóg? Panenteizm, immanentna Transcendencja, filozofia procesu i tomizm* ("How Does God Work? Panentheism, Immanent Transcendence, Process Philosophy, and Thomism").

Wrocław Branch. 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. During the first meeting on January 13, a lecture on the subject *Przyszłość ludzkości idzie poprzez rodzinę! Aktualne uwarunkowania i realizacja posługi zbawczej Kościoła w służbie małżeństwu i rodzinie* ("The Future of Humanity Goes with the Family! Contemporary Conditions and the Realization of the Church's Saving Ministry in the Service of Marriage and the Family") was given by Rev. Dr. Hab. Zbigniew Zaremski, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Theology of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun. The second meeting organized for members of the society took place on June 8. During it, a lecture titled: *Główne przyczyny kryzysu ekologicznego dzisiaj. Czytając encyklikę Ojca Świętego Franciszka «Laudato si. W trosce o wspólny dom»* ("The Main Causes of the Ecological Crisis Today: Reading the Holy Father Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*") was given by Rev. Dr. Hab. Zdzisław Pawlak, Professor of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun. The branch's third meeting in Wrocław took place on October 22 and was open to the public. During it, a lecture on *Dyskusje wokół adhortacji papieża Franciszka „Amoris laetitia”* ("Discussion of Pope Francis' Adhortation *Amoris Laetitia*") was given by Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Lubowicki, OMI, an academic staff member at the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław and a member of the Polish Episcopal Conference's Committee on the Family. The fourth academic meeting of the Wrocław branch took place on November 16 and was a prayer and academic session devoted to the mystery of Divine Mercy and consisted of two parts. First, a liturgy of the Word was held in the seminary church of St. Vitalis. Next, a lecture on the topic *Miłosierni jak Ojciec – miłosierni czynem* ("Merciful Like the Father: Merciful in One's Acts") was given in the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński auditorium by Rev. Prof. Czesław Parzyszek. Academic meetings lead to lively discussions on the topics brought up in the lectures. It is worth emphasizing that its participants included 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. The Włocławek branch publishes an annual academic journal *Studia Włocławskie* (“Włocławek Studies”).

The Pelplin branch inaugurated its activity in 2014. The work of the branch, whose membership currently numbers thirty-eight persons, is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Hab. Janusz Szulist. In 2016–2017, the annual statutory meeting took place on November 16 in the building of the Diocesan Library in Pelplin. Furthermore, the Pelplin branch co-organized two national conferences. The first was Pelplin Areopagus titled: *Szkola na Pomorzu, Pomorze w szkole* (“The School in Pomerania, Pomerania in the School;” Pelplin April 22–23). The co-organizers of the national conference were the Pelplin Diocesan Curia and the Kashubian-Pomeranian Association. The Pelplin branch also organized a national conference titled: *Etos opiekuna osoby starszej* (“The Ethos of the Caretaker of an Elderly Person”). It was held in Torun on December 1, and its co-organizer was the Faculty of Theology of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun. Work on this year’s Pelplin Areopagus titled: *25-lecie reorganizacji struktur Kościoła katolickiego w Polsce* (“The 25th Anniversary of the Reorganization of the Structures of the Catholic Church in Poland”), which will take place on May 12–13, 2017, will take place.

The Elbląg branch is the youngest of the society’s branches. Its inauguration ceremony took place on April 26, 2017, in Elbląg with the participation of Bishop Dr. Jacek Jezierski. During this meeting, the first eleven members were accepted into the society branch, and its previous organizer, Rev. Dr. Krzysztof Kaoka, was elected chairman. The program of the inauguration ceremony also included a lecture by Rev. Dr. Sławomir Małkowski, lecturer in philosophy and ethics at the Major Diocesan Seminary in Elbląg, about: *The Consequences of the Anthropological Error in Ministry and in Raising Children*. Additionally, the Elbląg branch organized two sessions. On December 8, 2016, during the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception a lecture by Rev. Dr. Karol Jasiński on *Wyzwania religii w sferze publicznej* (“The Challenges of Religion in the Public Sphere”) was held in the Major Seminary in Elbląg. The speaker presented various definitions of the public sphere and indicated possible models of the presence of religion in this sphere, heeding particular attention to those fields in which religion can and be present in the public debate. An important aspect of this presentation was the emphasis on the problem of religious language, which is often incompatible with the language used in the public sphere. The second meeting took place on January 28, 2017, on the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas. It was connected to Rev. Prof. Wojciech Zawadzki’s lecture on *Znaczenie drugiego pokoju toruńskiego 1466 r. dla Elbląga* (“The Significance of the Second Peace of Torun in 1466 for Elbląg”). The speaker emphasized the important role of Elbląg in the socio-political changes in the State of the Teutonic Order in the Middle of the Fifteenth Century. Participants in the

lectures and discussions included Bishop Jacek Jezierski as well as lecturers and seminarians from the Major Seminary in Elblag.

3. Final Remarks

The most important accomplishments of the board of the Polish Theological Society in 2016–2017 include the establishment of a branch in Elblag and a ceremony inaugurating its activity. It is worth noting that during the 2014–2017 term the board established branches in Pelplin and Elblag. If we add to this branches in Szczecin, Wloclawek, and Torun, which were established only slightly before, it would be no exaggeration to say that the Polish Theological Society has indeed expanded its activity across all of Poland.

The Polish Theological Society is undertaking the project *Kazania w kulturze polskiej. Edycje kolekcji tematycznych (kontynuacja)* (“Sermons in Polish Culture: An Edition of Thematic Collections”), whose purpose is to publish four edited anthologies of sermons by 2019: Advent, Christmas, Easter, and patriotic sermons. This project is financed by subsidies from the Minister of Science and Higher Education dedicated to the National Program for the Development of Humanities. In 2016–2017, the Polish Theological Society also undertook two publishing projects: *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* financed by funds from the Minister of Science and Higher Education dedicated to efforts to popularize science in 2016–2017. With regards to the preparation of applications for the financing of projects it is worth mentioning the engagement of Sebastian Wojnowski, the head of the Publishing Section.

It is especially worth recognizing the vibrant activity of the branches in Wloclawek, Radom, Sandomierz, and Szczecin, as well as the Krakow Sections devoted to the Bible; Consecrated Life; Spirituality; and Religious Art.

The Polish Theological Society is a Church legal entity whose activity is on a national level; thus the board on behalf of the Archbishop of Krakow Prof. Marek Jędraszewski as well as the bishops present at the general meeting expresses its gratitude to the Polish Episcopal Conference for its concern for the development of the society. The board also thanks all of the society's active members who despite all difficulties do everything for its activity to be continued and to serve the further deepening of Polish society's sensitivity to theological thinking.