

Annual Report of the President of the Polish Theological Society for 2018

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The previous general meeting of the Polish Theological Society took place in Krakow on February 27, 2018. It consisted of two parts. First, a vote of confidence was given to the board for 2017 after the president, treasurer, director of the Publishing Section, and the head of the Review Panel presented their reports.

During the second section of the meeting, after Rev. Associate Professor Tomasz Wielebski's laudation, the medal *For Contributions to the Polish Theological Society* was presented to Rev. Prof. Andrzej Potocki, OP (University of Warsaw), and Prof. Andrzej Nowak (Jagiellonian University) gave his lecture on *The Changes of Polish Patriotism: 1768–1918–2018*. Through this lecture, the Polish Theological Society participated in the hundredth anniversary of the restoration of Poland's independence. Two thousand seventeen was the second year the society's board that had been selected on February 28, 2017, was active. Its members were the following:

Board

President: Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Panuś

Vice-President: Rev. Assoc. Prof. Piotr Kroczek

Secretary: Rev. Assoc. Prof. Romuald Kośła, OFM

Treasurer: Rev. Andrzej Fyda

Librarian: Rev. Dr. Hab. Jan Bednarczyk

Director of the Publishing Section: Mr. Sebastian Wojnowski

Review Panel

President: Rev. Prof. Tomasz Jelonek

Members: Rev. Assoc. Prof. Sylwester Jędrzejewski, SDB

Rev. Assoc. Prof. Witold Ostafiński

Court of Conciliation

President: Rev. Prof. Maciej Ostrowski

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

At the end of 2018, the Polish Theological Society counted 964 members (seventeen new members were accepted in 2018). Since the previous general meeting, the following have gone to the Father's eternal house: Rev. Prof. Jan Kowalski, Mons. Antoni Sołtysik, Rev. Dr. Krzysztof Tadeusz Sojka, Rev. Janusz Bielański PA, Rev. Prof. Jan Maciej Dyduch, Bishop Prof. Tadeusz Pieronek, and Rev. Prof. Andrzej Potocki, last year's laureate of the medal *For Contributions to the Polish Theological Society*.

In accordance with the statute proscriptions, the board held four meetings in the year for which this report has been prepared: on April 18–19, 2018, in Włocławek; October 2, 2018, in Krakow; November 28, 2018, at the Cistercian abbey in Krakow-Mogiła; and February 26, 2019, in Krakow.

The first board meeting in the year under review took place in Włocławek on April 18–19. It was tied to the celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of the establishment of the Theological Academic Society of the Major Seminary in Włocławek. Rev. Assoc. Prof. Lech Król, its chairman and at the same time the president of the Włocławek Branch of the Polish Theological Society, invited all the members of the board to it. The board meeting was held on the first day. It began with Rev. Dr. Henryk Witczak's lecture on *The History of Włocławek and the Beginnings and Development of the Structure of the Local Church*. Next, Rev. Dr. Jacek Kędzierski, supervisor of the Rev. Jan Długosz Complex of Catholic Schools in Włocławek, spoke. He presented a brief historical overview of this didactic institution and its present tasks. Later during the assembly, the chairman informed those present about the letter by the secretary general of the Polish Episcopal Conference, Bishop Artur Miziński, who confirmed the reception of the text of the resolution of the general meeting and the text of the amended statute and presented it to the Legal Council for an opinion. The chairman also presented Rev. Prof. Andrzej Potocki's message of thanks and informed about the Dominican friar's poor health. During the next part of the meeting, eight new members were accepted into the society. The assembly concluded with a prayer for the deceased. Participants in the meeting signed the memorial book of the Theological Academic Society in Włocławek. In the afternoon hours, thanks to the kindness of their hosts the board members visited the Włocławek cathedral, seminary and library with old prints, diocesan museum, and the building of the

Complex of Catholic Schools. They were also near the dam where Blessed Rev. Jerzy Popiełuszko's body was found and near the monument to the defenders of Włocławek during the Polish-Bolshevik War of 1920.

The program of the second day of the jubilee (April 12, 2018) consisted of a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Dr. Wiesław Mering of Włocławek as well as a symposium on the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of the establishment of the Theological Academic Society in Włocławek. The following papers were presented during the symposium: *The Activity of the Theological Academic Society of the Major Seminary in Włocławek in Light of the Activity of Theological Societies in Poland* (Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Panuś); *The Topics Discussed in "Studia Włocławskie" in 1998–2018* (Rev. Prof. Ireneusz Werbiński); and *The Achievements and Perspectives of the Expansion of the Activity of the Theological Academic Society of the Major Seminary in Włocławek* (Rev. Assoc. Prof. Lech Król). Rev. Dr. Hab. Kazimierz Skoczylas promoted the twentieth volume of the journal *Studia Włocławskie*, which was published on the occasion of the society's jubilee. At the conclusion of the symposium, the chairman Rev. Kazimierz Panuś presented Bishop Wiesław Alojzy Mering the medal *For Contributions to the Polish Theological Society*. The board expresses great gratitude to Rev. Lech Król and his collaborators for their hospitality and the possibility of direct contact with the "yesterday" and "today" of the Church in Włocławek.

The second board meeting was held on October 2, 2018, in Krakow. It began with a lecture by Rev. Romualda Kośła, OFM, secretary of the Polish Theological Society, on the topic of *St. Bonaventure and His Contribution to the Development of Teaching on the Sacred Heart of Jesus*. The speaker claimed that in St. Bonaventure's reflections we can find well-profiled fundamentals of the doctrine and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – anthropological and paschal – whose rationale comes from truths about the incarnation and redemption. After the lecture, Rev. Assoc. Prof. Lech Król recounted the celebrations of the ninetieth anniversary of the branch in Włocławek. He emphasized that one of the positive aspects of the jubilee was establishing contacts with the Włocławek Academic Theological Society and the perspective of closer collaboration with it. During the next part of the meeting, Sebastian Wojnowski recounted the course of the Second Congress of Academic Societies that was held in Poznan on September 14–15, 2018. The participant in the congress emphasized the excellent organization and atmosphere of the sessions, even though apart from presentations of the activity of specific societies the congress did not deal with important topics, nor did it initiate efforts to bolster the social role of the academic movement. During the next

part of the sessions, Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Panuś suggested that ordinary board meetings be held in various places related to the society's activity, as in previous years. In response to a suggestion by Prof. Tomasz Węclawowicz, director of the Sacred Art Section, it was decided that the next board meeting would be held in the Cistercian abbey in Krakow-Mogila. The chairman made those present open to the need to expand the society's activity to include new local branches and accept doctors of theology whose dissertation directors or reviewers are society members. He also presented an opinion of the Legal Council of the Polish Episcopal Conference regarding the statue of the Polish Episcopal Conference presented on September 12 by the general secretary. The changes resulting from this opinion will be included in the statute by a commission summoned by the board under the direction of vice-president Rev. Assoc. Prof. Piotr Kroczek and were presented to the general meeting for resolution. Rev. Assoc. Prof. Stanisław Wronka, editor-in-chief of the quarterly *The Biblical and Liturgical Movement*, and Sebastian Wojnowski, director of the Publishing Section, spoke about publishing activity, including the above-mentioned journal, as well as the implementation of projects financed by the Minister of Science and Higher Education from funds dedicated to the popularization of research. Another part of the meeting was the president's information about the rejection of the request to finance the research project concerning the translation and publication of Grzegorz Palamas' texts. Because of the rejection for funding, the session on the Shroud of Turin that had been planned for November was not held. It should be emphasized that the Biblical Section, which collaborates with the Polish Center of Syndonology, deals with this topic. In the final part of the meeting, there was a presentation of the activity of individual branches and sections, while four new members were accepted into the Polish Theological Society.

The third meeting of the board in the year under review took place on November 27, 2018, in the Cistercian abbey in Krakow-Mogila. After a word of welcome by the abbot Dr. Piotr Chojnacki and a prayer in front of the image of the Crucified Christ famous for its many graces, Rev. Mateusz Kawa, OCist, discussed the stages of the abbey's historical development, while Prof. Tomasz Węclawowicz, director of the Sacred Art Section, shared his reflections concerning renovation works in the church and abbey that were implemented in recent years. Board members could admire the beauty of the church's interior and its exceptional polychrome; they also visited the arcade, chapter, refectory, and library, with its numerous old prints. The board sincerely thanks the entire Cistercian community for the invitation and warm reception.

The board meeting began with information on amendments to the society's statute. All the comments presented by the Legal Council of the Polish Episcopal Conference were taken into consideration in the text.

The next part of the sessions was the holding of the general meeting. During the sessions, the topic of the far-reaching changes in the organization and financing of academic research, above all new programs, including Support for Academic Journals, as well as the rules of preparing lists of presses publishing reviewed academic monographs and academic journals and reviewed materials from international conferences. This new situation facing the UNUM Press and *The Biblical and Liturgical Movement* found themselves was discussed by Rev. Assoc. Prof. Stanisław Wronka and Sebastian Wojnowski. During the next part of the sessions, Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Panuś recalled the hundredth-anniversary of the establishment of the Polish Theological Society in 2024 and of the need for proper preparations for an appropriate celebration of this great jubilee in the near future. There are plans to establish honorary and academic committees for the celebration of this anniversary. During the meeting, the directors of sections and branched informed about their initiatives in the previous year. Rev. Dr. Andrzej Kukła, CSsR, reported on the symposium devoted to Bernard Häring, the precursor to new moral theology. Meanwhile, Rev. Assoc. Prof. Franciszek Jabłoński, the new director of the Missiology Section, informed of two important symposiums in which he participated: the ninetieth anniversary of the existence of seminary mission circles and the congregation of the Polish Missiologists' Society. Two new members were accepted into the society.

The fourth board meeting that the statute foresees took place on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. Those present learned about the new statute and decided to present it to the general meeting for resolution. After its adopting during the general meeting, it was submitted to the secretariat of the Polish Episcopal Conference for confirmation. Plans for celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the society were discussed. Meanwhile, Rev. Assoc. Prof. Lech Król was nominated as a candidate of the Polish Theological Society to the Council of Academic Councils at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Those present became familiar with a report by Dr. Andrzej Kubanowski of Bydgoszcz, who represented the Polish Theological Society at the inauguration of the Academic-Cultural Society in Środa Wielkopolska. Two new members were accepted and this year's symposiums 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 UNUM Press.

The Activity of the Thematic Sections

Biblical Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Bogacz. In the year under review, one working meeting was held. It took place on March 8 in Krakow at 3 Bernardyńska Street. During this meeting, an interesting lecture was given by Rev. Dr. Roman Mazur, SDB, on the topic: *Betsaida Iulia: Familiar Places, New Location*. It was also decided that section members would take part in the seminars devoted to the Shroud of Turin, which are organized along with the Polish Center of Syndonology. Seminars were devoted to the following topics: *Syndonology: the Organization of the Discipline and Polish Syndonologists in the Previous Century* (March 15; led by: Prof. Krzysztof Pilarczyk); *Radiocarbon Dating: The Study of the Century on the Shroud in 1988* (April 26; led by: Prof. Wojciech Kucewicz); *The Shroud and the Canonical Gospels* (May 17; led by: Rev. Assoc. Prof. Roman Bogacz); and *Christ's Shroud as a Sign, Source of Information, and Intentional Message* (June 8 in Gdansk; led by: Assoc. Prof. Zbigniew Treppa, University of Gdańsk). Section members personally took part in the first three seminars, which were held at the Jagiellonian University's Auditorium Maximum at 33 Krupnicza Street. These seminars were transmitted live and are available on the digital platform. In relation to the hundredth anniversary of the restoration of Polish independence, the Biblical Section along with the Institute of Biblical Studies and the Biblical Work of John Paul II in Krakow organized an international Biblical-pedagogical session titled: *Human and National Freedom from the Perspective of Sacred Scripture*. The session took place in Krakow at 3 Bernardyńska Street on June 14. On November 6, the Biblical Section took active part in the Fourth Symposium of Father Augustyn Jankowski in Tyniec titled: *The Psalms: Poetry or Prayer?*

Moral Theology Section. This section is chaired by Rev. Dr. Bogusław Mielec. In the year under review, the section continued cycle of monthly meetings of professors' meetings dealing with Pope Francis' apostolic adhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. The subject of research was the so-called *dubia* of four cardinals as well as the influence of Latin American theology of mercy on the eighth chapter of the adhortation. An indirect fruit of these investigations is Rev. Prof. Jarosław Kupczak's book titled: *Źródła sporu o „Amoris laetitia” [The Sources of the Dispute on “Amoris Laetitia”]* (Poznan 2018). Its author clearly makes note of this in the preface to his publication. Seven lecturers from various theological disciplines 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.

Homiletic Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Kazimierz Panuś. In the year under review, the Homiletic Section met during the celebrations related to the fiftieth anniversary of the existence of the Liturgical Institute of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. On October 24, the section's director gave a lecture titled: *Seminary Homiletics in 1968–2018: Lecturers, the Subject Matter of Courses, and Various Forms of Preparation to Preach the Word of God*. The project titled: *Sermons in Polish Culture: The Editions of Thematic Collections: Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Patriotic Sermons*, realized by the Polish Theological Society and financed by the National Program for the Development of Humanities in the 2015–2019 period, is currently underway.

Spirituality Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Wojciech Mleczek, CR. In the previous year, research related to the many-years' research program on the topic of *The Spirituality of Polish Monasteries: Message and Communication* was continued. On February 21, the sixteenth symposium from the series *Rev. Paweł Smolikowski, CR: A Life for God, the Church, and Society*, was held in Krakow's Centrum Resurrectionis along with the Chair of the Spirituality of the Media and Social Relations of the Institute of Journalism and Social Communication of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the John Paul II University in Krakow. The collective volume *Pomóc uchwycić sens życia: dziedzictwo ks. Walerian Kalinka, CR [Helping to Grasp the Meaning of Life: The Legacy of Rev. Walerian Kalinka, CR]* (ed. W. Mleczek CR, Kraków 2018) has been sent to print and published. It presented a large body of materials from a similar conference that was held in 2017. A new initiative, which was organized for the first time in 2018 by the Spirituality Section in collaboration with the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow and the Resurrectionist Congregation, was the Resurrectionist Seminar. It took place in the Centrum Resurrectionis on June 13–15. Twelve speakers, three of whom were from abroad, participated. The representatives of the following academic centers took part in the implementation of these tasks: the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage, the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Theology, the Faculty of Theology Section in Tarnow of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, the Institute of the Theology of Spirituality of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, the Faculty of Theology of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, the Center of Resurrectionist Spirituality in Rome, the Major Seminary in Lviv (Ukraine), the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, the International Commission for Resurrectionist Studies, the Congregation of Resurrectionist Sisters, the Polish Province of the Resurrectionist Congregation,

and the Historical Commission of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Katowice. The implemented works lead to the exchange of thought, the integration of the academic milieu, and the promotion of further study on the spiritual legacy of Polish religious orders and their impact. Since September 2016, the director of this section is the consultor of the Commission on the Clergy of the Polish Episcopal Conference and a member of the group working on new rules of priestly formation in Poland and the member of two international commissions of the Resurrectionist Congregation: those on Formation and Resurrectionist Studies.

Pedagogical-Social Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Assoc. Prof. Grzegorz Godawa. In the year under review, the section continued a series of meetings related to pedagogical-social topics. On June 12, another meeting was organized in collaboration with students of the Institute for Family Studies of the Pontifical University of John Paul II at 3 Bernardyńska Street in Krakow. The project's title was: *On Time – About Time* and dealt with the value of time, its passage, and ways of making good use of each day. Students of the University of the Third Age of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow were invited to take part in the discussion.

Dogmatic Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Assoc. Prof. Jan Żelazny. In 2018, this section organized the symposium: *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 3 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 brings material support to Christians from those areas, but it attempts at saving their theological and cultural legacy. Their contributions to the preservation of manuscripts, works of art, and aid to Christian communities cannot be underestimated. The Dogmatic Section attempts at bringing this Eastern thought closer to Poles.

Missiology Section. After Rev. Dr. Grzegorz Wita stepped down from the function of director of the Missiology Section as a result of his becoming a parish rector, during the February 27 meeting the board handed over leadership of the section to Rev. Assoc. Prof. Franciszek Jabłoński, a priest of the Gniezno Archdiocese. In the year under review, at the meeting of the Association of Polish Missiologists in Warsaw on April 26 the new director presented the decision to give him leadership of the Missiology Section. On May 11, the director of the section took part in a symposium devoted to the ninetieth anniversary

of the Academy Missionary Movement in Poznan. In his lecture, which was supplemented by a history of the Polish Theological Society, he presented the history of the establishment of missionary circles in Poland. On August 22–26, Rev. Jabłoński took part in the World Meeting of Families in Dublin as well as in a three-day theological and pastoral symposium and the meeting with Pope Francis. On September 21–22, he took part in the Eleventh Congress of Gniezno. On September 28 in Gniezno, the director of this section organized a symposium on the family. On September 1–3, the section director participated in a missiology symposium and the general meeting of the Polish Missiology Society, giving a lecture on the missionary formation of seminarians in light of the new *ratio studiorum* from 2016. In December, his book titled: *Rodzina otwarta na świat [A Family Open to the World]* was published, while the editorial process of the next issue of the journal *Studia Misjologiczne* 8 (2018), which contains a report from the meeting of the board of the Polish Theological Society on November 27 in Krakow, was concluded. This allows members of the Polish Missiology Society to become familiar with the Polish Theological Society.

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 law 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. In the year under review, the Canon Law Section organized and co-organized meetings and conferences dealing with legal problems in the life of the Church and the Polish state. Members of the Canon Law Section, who often are lecturers in canon law at numerous seminaries and give lectures in various fields of civil and Church law, including at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, took part or were directly engaged in the organization of the following conferences: *Changes in the Code of Canon Law Introduced by Pope Francis in His Motu Proprio "De concordia inter Codices"* (the Chair in Canonical Matrimonial Law and Family Law at the Faculty of Canon Law at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw, April 25); *The Rights and Duties of the Lay Faithful and Clergy in Light of the Code of Canon Law*, organized by doctoral candidates at the Faculty of Canon Law at the Cardinal

Stefan Wyszyński University (Warsaw, May 12); the Seventh National Academic Conference on the topics: *The Code of Canon Law in the Research of Young Scholars* organized by the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (May 26); *The Defense of Marriage in the Teaching and Legislation of Pope Francis* organized by the Association of Polish Canon Lawyers, the Bishop's Court of the Diocese of Rzeszow, the Theological and Pastoral Institute in Rzeszow, the Section of Legal Studies of the Academic Association of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and the Chair in Ecclesiastical Public and Constitutional Law of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (Rzeszow, September 3–5); *The Apostolic Penitentiary: The Tribunal of Mercy in the Service of the Church* organized by the Faculty of Canon Law of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University (Warsaw, November 7); *Polish Canon Lawyers in Service of God and the Fatherland: One Hundred Years of Canon Law at the Catholic University of Lublin* organized by the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration as well as the Institute of Canon Law of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (December 7); and a symposium on *Bernard Häring, CSSR: Precursor of the New Moral Theology*, which was organized by the Tuchów branch, the Redemptorist Major Seminary in Tuchów, and the *Homo Dei* Publisher and Quarterly in Krakow (November 9). Section members also collaborate with the Legal Commission of the Polish Episcopal Conference.

Liturgical Section. This section is chaired by Rev. Dr. Stanisław Mieszczak, SCJ. In the year under review, 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. The section organizes a catechumenal course for catechists and sections in liturgical spirituality in religious orders and seminaries (Sister Assoc. Prof. Adelajda Sielepin, CHR). During the course for the formation of extraordinary ministers of communion, lectures and workshops are held (Rev. Assoc. Prof. Janusz Mieczkowski and Rev. Dr. Stanisław Mieszczak, SCJ). There is also 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 permanent. An important event in which all the members of the Liturgical Section were engaged was the jubilee of the fiftieth anniversary of the Liturgical Institute, which was celebrated on October 24 and 25. The jubilee celebrations included the Ninth International Liturgical Symposium *Ad Fontes Liturgicos* titled: *In the Service of Tradition and Liturgical Renewal* as well as a special Eucharistic celebration in St. Mark's Church.

The section convened this year and dealt with relevant topics related to Church life and the preparation of the jubilee mentioned above.

Religious Art Section. The work of this section is headed by Prof. Tomasz Węclawowicz. In the year under review, the activity of the section focused on academic and popular speeches above all concerning the historical contents of sacred architecture understood as a so-called text of culture. In April, the director of the section took part in the international academic conference titled: *The Regional and Transregional in Romanesque* organized in Poitiers by the British Archaeological Association as well as the Centre d'Études Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale. During the conference, he gave a plenary talk titled: *Four Romanesque Cistercian Abbey Churches in Lesser Poland*. Apart from historical and artistic matters related to the Cistercian order, this paper focused on the phenomenon of the spread of devotion to St. Florian and St. Thomas Becket in medieval Poland. Polish medieval religious culture is little-known in Anglo-Saxon academia; hence, the paper enjoyed great interest and generated lively discussion. In August, the director of the section was invited to the Museum of the Strzyżów Region in collaboration with the Corpus Christi parish in Strzyżów to do research related to historical landmarks in the churches of the former borderlands between the Krakow lands and the lands of the Ruthenian crown. Consequently, an analysis concerning the hitherto undocumented architecture of the Corpus Christi parish church in Strzyżów was submitted for publication. Meanwhile, during tours of historical sites it turned out that in many monumental churches there in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by outstanding architects from Lviv and Krakow there is no information about the architect, his role, and his place in the history of Polish architecture. There was also completely erroneous information. In the following year, the section director plans on presenting his postulates to the local diocesan conservator-restorer so that they may resolve the problem together. During the board meeting in the Cistercian abbey in Mogiła in November, section director and member Rev. Mateusz Kawa, OCist, presented the architecture of the church and abbey as well as the results of conservation efforts. Furthermore, throughout the past year Father Kawa was the patron of conservation efforts in the nave of the church in his abbey. Along with they abbot, he continued efforts to organize a museum documenting 800 years of the abbey's history. Prof. Andrzej Włodarek, a member of the section, continued the inventorying of the artistic collection of the Benedictine convent in Staniatki. Furthermore, he co-organized efforts to make the convent's collections available. Prof. Włodarek simultaneously continues his efforts to organize a museum in

the Krakow convent of the Poor Clare sisters. Last year, the section director began a collaboration with Rev. Mirosław Matusznyi, rector of the post-Bernardine Baroque Church of the Conversion of St. Paul in Lublin, and with Rev. Paweł Solecki, OFM, guardian of the Franciscan abbey in Głogówek and at the same time the custodian of Głogówek's Shrine to Our Lady of Loreto, who was accepted into the Sacred Art Section.

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 of the academic yearbook *Theofos* published by the section took place on February 27. Rev. Dr. Wojciech Paluchowski undertook the effort to translate Dietrich von Hildebrand's work *The Nature of Love* into Polish. On September 25, the section director participated in an academic meeting devoted to St. Thomas Aquinas. The meeting was organized by the Polish Society of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Chair in Metaphysics of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. A member of the section, Dr. Iwona Dafni Zogas-Osadnik, translated the most important work by St. Gregory Palamas titled: *Triads: In Defense of the Holy Hesychasts*. This work will be published in early 2019. Rev. Dr. Michał Handzel was engaged in wide-ranging academic activity, presenting numerous papers: on May 16 in Kyiv (Ukraine) on the topic of the philosophy of Grzegorz Skorowoda; on June 3, 2018, in Krakow, during the second international conference *Autism and Taboo* on the topic *Thinking in Images: An Essential Element of Platonism and Neo-Platonism*; on September 28 in Krakow during the international academic conference *Focus on Autism* he presented the paper *Psychological and Pastoral Aid to People with ASD in the Context of Catholic Ethics*; during a regional conference in Bytom on November 20, he gave a lecture titled: *Psychological-Spiritual Support for People with ASD*; and during the national academic conference *Autism in the Family and Education* in Leszno he gave a lecture on the topic: *The Moral Problems of Catholics with ASD in Poland*.

Fundamental Theology Section. The chairman of this section is Rev. Assoc. Prof. Damian Wąsek. In the period under review, 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. Specific fruits of their activity include symposiums as well as the publication of academic articles and books. Some of these events were related to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Institute of Fundamental Theology, Ecumenism, and Dialogue of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, whose members are all simultaneously members of the Polish Theological Society.

On this occasion, the academic symposium *The God Who Teaches How to Speak* was organized on October 18; during it, mostly theological-fundamental topics were dealt with. Papers were presented by the following members of the Fundamental Theology Section: Rev. Prof. Łukasz Kamykowski: *The Credibility of Dialogue Today*; Rev. Prof. Andrzej Napiórkowski, OSPPE: *Integral Ecclesiology*; Rev. Prof. Krzysztof Kościelniak: *The Perspectives of Dialogue with Islam and the Muslim World*; Rev. Assoc. Prof. Damian Wąsek: *The Perspectives of Dialogue with Science*; Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Dzidek: *The Perspectives of Dialogue with Art*; and Assoc. Prof. Marek Kita: *The Perspectives of Kerygmatic-Sapiential Apologia*. This and other academic events were preceded by meetings and consultations of the section's members. At the same time, meetings concerning the main issues in fundamental theology were held. The most important academic books published by section members include the monograph by Rev. Prof. Andrzej Napiórkowski, *Przegzystencja Kościoła [The Pre-Existence of the Church]* (Krakow 2018).

Historical Section. Its work is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Waław Umiński, CM. In the year under review, members of the Historical Section organized three meetings: on November 8, 2018; December 13, 2018; and January 10, 2019. During the first of these meetings, those gathered listened to a paper by Adrian Cieřlik, a doctoral candidate at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, on the topic: *Dominican Devotion to the Holy Rosary: Rosary Fraternities in Galicia in the Nineteenth Century*. Meanwhile, the topic of the continuation of the *Biographical Dictionary of Polish Church Archivists* was discussed; its editors are collecting materials for the second volume) was discussed, and the Research Group of the Prosopography of Archivists (under the direction of Rev. Prof. Józef Marecki) and the Research Team of Church Symbolism and Heraldry (under the direction of Assoc. Prof. Lucyna Rotter) were formed. Meanwhile, it was proposed to create a Facebook profile for the Historical Section. During the second meeting, Mr. Jan Masłyk, a doctoral candidate at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, gave a paper on: *Amidst the Nighttime Silence: The Heaven is Full of Stars and Hope Is Being Born on Earth*, while the topic of financing efforts related to the *Biographical Dictionary of Polish Church Archivists* was discussed. Finally, during the third meeting of the section Assoc. Prof. Lucyna Rottern gave a paper on the topic: *Food in the Role of a Symbol: The Semantic Meaning of Foods in European Culture*. Participants in the meeting were encouraged to assist in preparing the Twenty-First National Assembly of Archival Studies Students, which is organized by the Chair in Archival Studies and Auxiliary History Sciences at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow; it will be held in Krakow on April 24–26,

2019, under the honorary patronage of the Polish Theological Society. Members of the Historical Section celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the restoration of Polish independence with the national academic conference *The Roads Towards Independence and the Concern for Freedom in the Second Polish Republic in Light of Church Archives* (Krakow, May 24). During the conference, members of the section were among those who presented papers. They included: Rev. Prof. Józef Marecki, *The Polish Legions in the Struggle for Independence in Light of the Archives of Rev. Kosma Lenczowski, OFM Cap*; Rev. Dr. Waclaw Umiński, CM, *War Activities in 1918–1920 in Light of the Diary of the Chaplain Rev. Andrzej Masny, CM*; Adrian Cieślík, *At the Meeting Point of Two Provinces: The Dominican Order in the Polish Lands at the Time of the Restoration of Independence*; and Agnieszka Szmerek, *The Patriotic Education of Youths in Piarist Schools as a Symptom of Concern for Polish Independence*. Members of the Historical Section took part in or were directly engaged in the organization of the following conferences: *Symbol – Sign – Ritual: Nudity and Clothing* (the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow and the Gréckokatolícka Teologická Fakulta Prešovská Univerzita v Prešove in Slovakia, Krakow, December 3–4); *The Body, Clothing, and Jewellery in the Context of Cultural, Social, and Political Changes in the Latter Half of the Twentieth Century* (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, October 11–12); *Natura – Homines – The History of the Interpretation of Nature in the Past: Understanding, Meaning, Symbols* (the Faculty of History of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, November 15–16).

Theology of the Consecrated Life Section is active under the direction of Sister Assoc. Prof. Adelajda Sielepin, CHR. In the year under review, this section held four meetings (May 28, 2018; October 2, 2018; December 4, 2018; and February 5, 2019) in the Resurrectionist abbey in Krakow at 1 Pawlickiego Street. During the meetings, section members presented papers presented by them, after which discussions followed. The previously held cycle on the topic of the vocation to consecration was continued. As part of it, Rev. Assoc. Prof. Wojciech Necel, TChr, gave a paper on the topic *The Charism of Consecrated Life in Light of the 1983 Code of Canon Law* during the May meeting. All the articles and papers written on this topic are being edited for the second volume of the series *Ewangelia – Proroctwo – Nadzieja* [The Gospel – Prophecy – Hope], which will be titled: *The Vocation to Consecration: Theology and Spirituality*. During the meeting in the winter semester, a new thematic current concerning the confrontation of consecrated life with the world was discussed. This topic was presented from both historical and contemporary perspectives and shed light on

the current problems facing consecrated persons and the world's expectations with regards to them. The first paper from this cycle at the October meeting was presented by Sister Assoc. Prof. Adelajda Sielepin on the topic: *Consecration and Patriotism*. Later meetings dealt with the following topics: *The Consecrated Life and an Engaged Laity* (Sister Dr. Bogna Młynarz) and *Consecration Amidst the Struggle Against Evil* (Dr. Jadwiga Zięba). Later meetings dealt with such topics as consecration and professional work; consecration and science; consecration and marriage; consecration in dialogue with other religions; consecration and everyday life (the values of this world); consecration and relationships with people; consecration and the media; consecration and the engaged laity; consecration and hedonism; consecration and the hunger for spirituality; and the consecrated life with respect to the tyranny of noise. They will make up the contents of the next volume from the series *The Gospel – Prophecy – Hope*, which will be titled: *Konsekracja i świat [Consecration and the World]*. A project of annual lectures on the theology of the consecrated as a proposal for seminary *ratio studiorum* and formation in religious orders was also prepared. Apart from attending the same meetings, each section member is active with regards to giving lectures, participation in conferences, and publishing in various milieus.

The Syndonological Section was founded on May 21, 2014, by the Syndonological Study Group, which for years had been headed by Rev. Doc. Assoc. Prof. Jerzy Chmiel. This section is headed by Rev. Piotr Listopad, MA, S. T. L. The section did not present a report.

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. In the year under review, members of this branch met twice in the auditorium of the parish house of the Parish of Saints Peter and Paul in Katowice. Apart from members of the Polish Theological Society, the first of the meetings, which was held on April 16, attracted numerous representatives of the world of culture and the media. This meeting included a lecture on *The Mystery of Suffering* by Rev. Dr. Krzysztof Czepirski, OMI. The second meeting took place on October 15. During it, a lecture titled: *Happiness as the Perennial Desire of Man* was given by Rev. Assoc. Prof. Andrzej Nowicki. A group of students interested in theology and invited guests also participate in the meetings of the Katowice branch.

Czestochowa Branch. The section's work has been chaired by Rev. Assoc. Prof. Paweł Maciaszek since May 1. In the reported period, the Czestochowa branch organized three important meetings. During the first of them, which took place in the auditorium of the Major Seminary in Czestochowa, Rev. Prof. Marek Skierkowski of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw gave a lecture on the topic: *Why Is It Worth Being a Theologian Today? What's Next for Theology? Theology: Scientific or Ecclesiastical?* Apart from branch members, the audience included students from the Sosnowiec and Czestochowa seminary, students of the Higher Theological Institute in Czestochowa, and a dozen or so catechists. The second meeting of the Czestochowa Branch was attended by Archbishop Waclaw Depo and took place on April 12. Those gathered first listened to a paper by Rev. Dr. Wojciech Torchalski titled: *The Presence of Mary in the Mystery of Christ and the Church in the Theological Thought of Joseph Ratzinger – Benedict XVI.* After the discussion on this topic, a plan for the work of the Czestochowa branch was presented. The third meeting of the Czestochowa Branch, which also was attended by Archbishop Waclaw Depo, took place on November 12. It began with vespers in the intention of deceased members of the society. Next, Rev. Dr. Paweł Otręba gave a speech on: *The Spiritual Mark of the Christian in Light of the Radio Sermons of Archbishop Stanisław Nowak.* During the final part of the meeting, those gathered became familiar with the program of the national academic conference that is being prepared by the Czestochowa Branch and is titled: *The Contemporary Challenges of Theology*, which will take place on May 9, 2019. Regardless of these events, the board of the Czestochowa Branch held four meetings (January 10, February 11, October 12, and November 6) to prepare the above-mentioned meetings. It is worth noting that two new members were inducted in the year under review.

Przemysl Branch. The work of the branch, whose membership currently numbers thirty-seven persons, is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Hab. Waclaw Siwak. On May 1–2, the Franciscan abbey in Kalwaria Paclawska, the Bureau for the Promotion of Devotion to the Martyrs of the Province of St. Anthony and Blessed Jakub Strzemię, the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, the Rzeszow Branch of the Institute of National Remembrance, and the University of Rzeszow organized an academic symposium on the topic: *Three Hundred Fifty Years of the Shrine of the Lord's Passion and Our Lady of Kalwaria in Kalwaria Paclawska (1668–2018).* On the first day of the symposium, the members of the Przemysl Branch presented two papers: Archbishop Dr. Adam Szal spoke on *The Contribution of the Franciscans*

to the Pastoral Life of the Przemyśl Diocese, while Rev. Assoc. Prof. Waclaw Siwek spoke on *The Kalwaria Funeral of the Mother of God from a Theological Perspective*. The texts of their presentations were printed in the publication: *Sanktuarium w Kalwarii Paclawskiej 1668–2018 [The Shrine in Kalwaria Paclawska, 1668–2018]*, ed. Z. Gogola, Wroclaw 2018. During the symposium, members of the Przemyśl Branch had their first annual meeting. Another important event was the academic conference titled: *Marian Shrines as the Cultural Legacy of the Region*, which was organized on October 15 by the Przemyśl Branch along with the Society of Lovers of Sacred Art in Przemyśl. The following papers were presented during the session: *Marian Shrines as the Cultural Richness of the Region: An Introduction* (Rev. Waclaw Siwak); *The Image of the Fiery Madonna from the Brzozów Collegiate Church* (Rev. Maciej Marszałek); *Our Lady of Consolation in Chłopice* (Rev. Stanisław Mazur); *The Hodegetria in Dąbrówki* (Zofia Bator); *Dubiecko: The Parish Church and Image of Our Lady of Sorrows* (Marta Trojanowska); *Our Lady of Consolation in Kombornia* (Rev. Radosław Kwolek); *The Image of Our Lady of the Scapular in Łańcut* (Rev. Krzysztof Szczepański, Rev. Marian Bocho); *The Apocalyptic Madonna of Nowosielce Outside Przeworsk* (Rev. Piotr Lasota); *Devotion to the Image of Our Lady of Consolation in the Bernardine Church in Przeworsk* (Szymon Wilk); and *The Rymanów Pieta* (Rev. Łukasz Chmielewski). All these presentations were published in a book prepared for the conference titled: *Matka Boska Podkarpacka. Mniej znane wizerunki [The Virgin of Subcarpathia: Lesser-Known Images]* (ed. W. Siwak, Przemyśl 2018). The conference was directed primarily towards teachers and catechists, although the audience's range was much broader and included members of the Przemyśl Branch, who treated their presence in it as one of their annual meetings. In the year under review, three members of the Przemyśl Branch gave lectures as part of Licentiate in Sacred Theology studies for priests with a specialization in pastoral theology (which were inaugurated by a resolution of the Faculty Council of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow on June 23, 2017): Rev. Dr. Norbert Podhorecki, *General Methodology*; Rev. Prof. Jan Twardy, *The Application of Creative Psychology in Work on the Sermon*; and Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Bełch, *Ministry to People Who Travel*.

Kalwaria Zebrzydowska Branch. The activity of this branch is chaired by Rev. Dr. Roland Pancierz, OFM, rector of the Major Seminary of the Bernardine Friars, which is where the branch is headquartered. On May 26, the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska Branch in collaboration with the Bernardine Major Seminary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska organized a symposium on the topic: *The Bernardines in Bydgoszcz, 1480–1829*. The following papers were presented during the

session: *The Ecclesiastical-Political Context of the Foundation of the Bernardines in Bydgoszcz in 1480* (Rev. Assoc. Prof. Tomasz Moskal); *The Bernardines in Bydgoszcz during the Old Polish Era* (Rev. Prof. Andrzej Bruździński); *The Bydgoszcz Bernardines' Efforts at Re-Catholicization* (Rev. Dr. Alojzy Pańczak, Franciscan Major Seminary); *Friars of the Bernardine Convent in Bydgoszcz in Light of the Obituaries of Deceased Friars and Brothers* (Dr. Krzysztof Witkowski); *Bartłomiej of Bydgoszcz and His Traces* (Dr. Alicja Szulc); *Paweł of Łęczycza, 1572–1642* (Rev. Dr. Aleksander Sitnik); *The Post-Partition Fates of the Bydgoszcz Bernardines and Their Material Works* (Dr. Stefan Pastuszewski); *Bernardine Archival Materials in the Collection of the State Archive in Bydgoszcz* (Assoc. Prof. Marek Romaniuk); *Bibliotheca Bernardina: The Historical Collection of the Regional and Municipal Library in Bydgoszcz* (Dr. Joanna Matyasik); *The Image of St. Anthony of Padua in the Post-Bernardine Church in Bydgoszcz* (Rev. Dr. Andrzej Efreń Obruśnik); *Loretan Houses and Devotion to Our Lady of Loreto in Bernardine Abbeys in Poland* (Rev. Dr. Cyprian Janusz Moryc); and *An Outline of the History of the Poor Clares in Bydgoszcz in the Seventeenth-Nineteenth Centuries* (Dr. Patrycja Gąsiorowska).

Tuchów Branch. The work of this branch is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Maciej Sadowski, CSSR. The Tuchów Branch was focused around the didactic and pedagogical staff of the Redemptorist Major Seminary in that city, which in the year under review celebrated the 115th year of its activity. In the year under review, the academic staff active in the Tuchow branch consisted of thirty-one active Redemptorists, including three professors and three habilitated doctors. In the previous year, the members of the Tuchow branch published eleven books, sixty-seven scholarly and popular articles, and twenty-two 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-nine symposiums and meetings, eight of which they organized. They also presented forty-one papers. Last year, one of our musically gifted members also performed twelve vocal concerts. In the year under review, the Tuchów Branch co-organized the annual academic symposium on the topic: *Marriage and the Family* (January 29–31, 2018) as part of permanent formation of apostolic spirituality from the perspective of missionary-retreat activity. Papers were presented by professors of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin: Rev. Stanisław Dyk, Rev. Andrzej Kiciński, and Leszek Adamowicz. On March 15, the renowned composer and filmmaker Dariusz Regucki gave a lecture in the auditorium of the Tuchów Seminary on the occasion of the liturgical feast of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer. On November

5–7, 2018, homiletic workshops on titled: *Mission in the Power of the Holy Spirit* were held in Lubaszów. The participants of the workshop, forty Redemptorists from Poland and abroad, participated in a series of lectures related to pastoral theology and homiletics by Rev. Dr. Michał Dąbrowka and prepared a specific plan of retreat sermons. An academic symposium on the topic: *Bernard Häring, CSsR: Precursor of the New Moral Theology* was presented in Krakow. The co-organizer of this symposium was the Krakow-based publisher Homo Dei Press. Thanks to the support of the Tuchów Branch, the sixteenth volume of the academic journal *Studia Redemptorystowskie. Pismo Naukowe Warszawskiej Prowincji Redemptorystów* was published. With regards to the activity of the Tuchow branch in the year under review, it is also worth noting the inaugural lecture in the Major Seminary of the Redemptorist Fathers in Tuchów on September 29, 2018, on the topic: *Christian Thought in the Philosophical Reflection of Hans Urs von Balthasar*, which was given by Rev. Assoc. Prof. Marek Urban, CSsR. In the period presented in the report, members of this branch held three meetings: on February 18, June 27, and September 29, 2018.

Kielce Branch. The section's work is chaired by Rev. Dr. Paweł Borto. In the year under review, apart from monthly meetings the activity of the Kielce Branch of the Polish Theological Society was supplemented by two important events in which the members took an active part. The first was an academic session devoted to Czesław Kaczmarek, the Bishop of Kielce, which was held on October 23, 2018, in the auditorium of the Kielce Major Seminary. The program included papers presented by: Rev. Prof. Jan Śledzianowski (*Bishop Czesław Kaczmarek: Priest and Pastor of the Diocese*) and Rev. Dr. Tomasz Gocel (*Bishop Czesław Kaczmarek: An Unshakable, Persecuted, and Imprisoned Pastor*). An inspiring meeting was also held with Rafał Nowak and Sławomir Mazur, the filmmakers who made *Czesław Kaczmarek, biskup niezłomny* [*Czesław Kaczmarek: An Unshakable Bishop*]. The session concluded with the Eucharist, which was celebrated in the seminary chapel of St. Casimir. The second important even was the theological-pastoral conference on the topic: *From "Humanae Vitae" to "Amoris Laetitia"*, which was organized on November 19 by the Major Seminary in Kielce and took place in the Bishop Czesław Kaczmarek Auditorium. Papers were presented by Rev. Dr. Marcin Kowalski (*The Biblical Foundations for Teachings on Marriage in Humanae Vitae and Amoris Laetitia*); Rev. Assoc. Prof. Roman Kuligowski (*The Significance of Paul VI's Encyclical for Christian Morality*); and Rev. Dr. Jarosław Wojtkun (*A Continuation of the Thought of Humanae Vitae in the Post-Synodal Adhortation Amoris Laetitia or the Proposal of a New Paradigm of Morality?*). Meanwhile, Rev.

Dr. Sebastian Wieczorek led a discussion on the topic of the reception of Pope Francis' post-synodal adhortation *Amoris Laetitia* from the perspective of the testimonies of married couples. The conference concluded with a panel discussion. The Kielce Branch continued its efforts to adapt the journal *Kieleckie Studia Teologiczne* so that it may function on the Open Journal Systems platform. On May 24, the branch secretary Rev. Zbigniew Trzaskowski presented a paper on the topic: *Paul of Tarsus' Hymn on Love: A Literary Studies Scholar's Perspective* at the University of Rzeszow during the National Interdisciplinary Academic Conference *Life Without Love Is (Im)possible* (May 24–25), in which thirty-five representatives of academic centers participated.

Sandomierz Branch. The section's work is chaired by Rev. Assoc. Prof. Roman Bogusław Sieroń. The branch numbers thirty people and is headquartered at the Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek Institute of Theology in Sandomierz. In the year under review, the Sandomierz branch undertook many activities. Members of the branch co-organized or participated in four academic conference: *The Jubilee of Teachers, Educators, and Catechists as Part of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary Jubilee Celebrations of the Diocese of Sandomierz* (March 3); *Laypeople of the Church in Sandomierz: The Jubilee of Laypeople as Part of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary Jubilee Celebrations of the Diocese of Sandomierz* (April 21); *The Pastoral Challenges of the Diocese of Sandomierz: A Symposium Summarizing the Celebrations of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Diocese of Sandomierz* (October 20); and *Biblical and Sacred Gardens* (December 1). The members of the Sandomierz branch also took part in twenty academic conferences in Poland and abroad, during which they presented papers or led sessions. The branch also expanded its publishing activity. During the past year, it published thirty-one books and articles that appeared above all in the quarterly journal *Spółczesność i Rodzina*, which is edited by the branch's director. Rev. Dr. Hab. Roman Bogusław Sieroń and Rev. Assoc. Prof. Tomasz Moskal prepared many entries on persons for the *Encyklopedia 100-lecia Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego [Encyclopedia of the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Catholic University of Lublin]* (vol. 1–2, ed. E. Gigilewicz et. al., Lublin 2018).

Tarnow Branch. The chairman of this branch is Rev. Prof. Janusz Królikowski. The section did not present a report.

Rzeszow Branch. The chairman of this section is Rev. Assoc. Prof. Andrzej Garbarcz. In 2018, 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. The Rzeszow Branch systematically collaborated with the School Inspectorate in Rzeszow (especially with Rev. Andrzej Cypryś, S. T. L.) and the Rzeszow Branch of Civitas Christiana. On April 18, the Catechetical Branch of the Diocese of Rzeszow organized the catechetical symposium *Educating for Patriotism* in the St. Józef Sebastian Pelczar Theological and Pastoral Institute. Branch members took active part in the symposium, whose participants numbered 200 people. They also actively participated in several conferences and workshops for teachers and catechists organized by the School Inspectorate in Rzeszow. On April 28, the diocesan stage of the Twenty-Second National Contest of Biblical Knowledge organized by Civitas Christiana took place in the Theological and Pastoral Institute. Rev. Dr. Marek Dzik, the moderator of the Biblical Work in the Diocese of Rzeszow, presided over the contest committee. One hundred people took part in the contest. The academic conference *Między zaangażowaniem a kontestacją. Kulturowe i historyczne czynniki zmiany społecznej* [*Between Engagement and Contestation: The Cultural and Historical Factors of Social Change*] took place on June 26 in the Theological and Pastoral Institute. The conference was organized in conjunction with the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. On September 3–5, the Theological and Pastoral Institute in Rzeszow hosted the National Academic Conference and Assembly of Polish Canon Lawyers. The conference dealt with the topic: *The Defense of Marriage and the Family in Pope Francis' Legislation*. Rev. Assoc. Prof. Piotr Steczkowski was responsible for its organization. The members of the society also published numerous articles, especially popular ones, in the diocesan press and participated in broadcasts in VIA Catholic Radio.

Bielsko-Biała Branch. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Robert Samsel. Currently, this branch consists of forty-five members and is based in the headquarters of the diocesan curia of Bielsko-Żywiec in Bielsko-Biała at 5a Żeromskiego Street. Two meetings took place during the reported period. On May 14, there was a discussion panel of the society members on the topic of relevant theological matters, while on November 12 the branch director, Rev. Dr. Robert Samsel, presented his book titled: *Świętość i święci wyniesieni na ołtarze przez Jana Pawła II jako paradygmat teologiczny, edukacyjny i zjednoczeniowy* [*Sanctity and Saints Raised to the Altars by John Paul II as a Theological, Educational, and Conciliatory Paradigm*]. Those present became familiar with the theological

topics that were raised there. The branch has continued its collaboration with the University of the Third Age at the University of Bielsko-Biała. 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. Prof. Marek Jagodziński. In the year under review, the branch co-organized the national academic conference titled: *Wiara i rozum dzisiaj. Encyklika „Fides et ratio” wobec wyzwań współczesnego świata [Faith and Reason Today: The Encyclical “Fides et Ratio” with Respect to the Challenges of the Contemporary World]*, which was held on November 15 in the Major Seminary in Radom. The following papers were presented during the first session: *Faith and Reason or Reason of Faith? A Question of Primacy: Anselm of Canterbury and John Paul II* (Assoc. Prof. Maciej Manikowski, University of Wrocław); *Blessed Lead Encumbering Undeveloped Wings Hurriedly Preparing for Flight, or on the Need for a Rational, Critical, and Restrained Reflection on the Relationship Between Reason and Faith – Ratio et Fides and Faith and Reason – Fides et Ratio* (Assoc. Prof. Marek Rębierz, the University of Silesia); *Dispute (Dialogue) Between Faith and Reason as a Constitutive Element of the Development of Science* (Assoc. Prof. Wiesław Wójcik, Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa). Meanwhile, the following topics were dealt with during the second session: *Artificial Intelligence: From an Idea to the Transformation of Reality* (Rev. Assoc. Prof. Józef Kloch, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University); *The Encyclical Fides et Ratio: Towards an Integral Truth* (Rev. Prof. Marek Jagodziński, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); and *Reason and Faith and Culture in Light of the Encyclical Fides et Ratio* (Rev. Dr. Wojciech Wojtyła, Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom).

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. Jan Orzeszyna. In the reported period, four meetings took place: a day of reflection, two academic symposia, and one organizational meeting. The last of these, which was devoted to planning the branch's initiatives in the 2018–2019 academic year, took place on August 31, 2018. During it, a lecture titled: *The Catechist in the Contemporary School* was given by Rev. Prof. Zbigniew Marek (Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education Ignatianum). The Lenten day of prayer for members and supporters of the Sosnowiec branch took place on March 17 in the building of the Catechetical Department of the Diocesan Curia in Sosnowiec. During it, Rev. Dr. Paweł Pielka (the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow) gave a lecture on *How to Believe in the Church?* It is worth emphasizing the tremendous weight

and success of the academic symposiums organized by the Sosnowiec Branch. The first of these took place on September 15. It began with the Eucharist, which was presided over by Rev. Dr. Michał Borda, secretary of the Sosnowiec Branch, while the homily on the Holy Spirit was preached by Rev. Dr. Michał Knapik. During the sessions, the following papers were presented: *The Mission of the Church and Social Teaching* (Dr. Michał Kosche); *The Basic Principles of Catholic Social Teaching* (Dr. Magdalena Kosche); and *The Mission and Statue of the Civitas Christiana Association* (Mateusz Zbróg). The second academic symposium, which commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the restoration of Polish independence, was organized by the Sosnowiec Branch on October 20. Bishop Dr. Grzegorz Kaszak participated in it. During the sessions, the following papers were presented: *From Siewierz in Service of the Republic: Dr. Leon Korusiewicz: Diplomat, Historian, Patriot* (Assoc. Prof. Lech Krzyżanowski, the University of Silesia); *The Catholic Church in the Dąbrowa Basin Under Stalinism* (Assoc. Prof. Adam Dziurok, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University); and *The Role and Aims of Catechesis in the Patriotic Education of Children and Youths* (Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Panuś, Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow).

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. Andrzej Offmański. In the year under review, the Szczecin branch organized four academic conferences that met with great interest. The first of these was held on February 24 and was dedicated to the topic: *Our Place in the Contemporary Church*. Eighty-two people participated in it. Two papers were presented: *Contemporary Problems with the Identity of the Church* (Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Czapiga, the University of Szczecin) and *Empowerment of the Laity as a Departure from the Model of a Clericalized Church* (Rev. Dr. Kazimierz Półtorak). Another conference, titled: *“Next to God, I Love My Fatherland Most”: One Hundred Years of Our Nation’s Independence* was held on April 17. Thirty-two participants listened to the presentation of two papers: *The Reconstruction of the Polish State in 1918* (Prof. Janusz Faryś, the University of Szczecin) and *The Contribution of the Church to the Preservation of Polish National Identity* (Rev. Assoc. Prof. Grzegorz Chojnacki, the University of Szczecin). An academic conference organized for the fifteenth time by the Chair in Catechetics of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Szczecin along with the Szczecin Branch of the Polish Theological Society took place on June 11–12 in Trzęsacz. This time, it was dedicated to patriotic education in catechesis and in religious education. The conference consisted of three sessions: Fundaments, Conditions, and Proposals for patriotic education. Bishop Marek Mendyk and

Bishop Wojciech Osial from the Commission on Catholic Education of the Polish Episcopal Conference as well as fifty participants took part. In addition to these three conferences, the Szczecin branch continued the cycle of open lectures titled: *The Save from Oblivion*, which are devoted to commemorating the pioneers of the Church near the Oder and the Baltic. On November 24, papers recalling three great figures were presented in the conference hall of the Metropolitan Curia in Szczecin: *Bishop Teodor Bensch: The First Postwar Bishop in the Western and Northern Territories of Poland* (Rev. Dr. Jan Mazur): *Rev. Józef Anczarski: From the Eastern Borderlands to Pomerania* (Rev. Assoc. Prof. Grzegorz Wejman, the University of Szczecin), and *Rev. Dr. Władysław Siwek, TJ: The Founder of Student Ministry in Szczecin* (Dr. Zbigniew Stanuch, Szczecin Branch of the Institute of National Remembrance). Archbishop Andrzej Dzięga of Szczecin, Bishop Henryk Wejman, Senator Edmund Bilicki, and twenty-seven participants, members of the society, took part in the meeting.

Torun Branch. The section's work is chaired by Rev. Prof. Dariusz Zagórski. In the reported period, the Torun branch organized two academic meetings: on February 7 and October 24. The Torun Branch was the patron of the conference: *The Christian Orient: History, Legacy, and the Present* (Torun, May 15–16) as well as another edition of TEKA (Teologiczno-Etnologiczna Konferencja Akademicka; the Theological-Ethnological Academic Conference): *A Human – Prayer and Meditation* (June 14). The branch director also published a book titled: *25 lat Wyzszego Seminarium Duchownego Diecezji Toruńskiej (1993–2018) [Twenty-Five Years of the Major Seminary of the Diocese of Torun, 1993–2018]*.

Wloclawek Branch. The chairman of this section is Rev. Dr. Hab. Lech Król. In the year under review, four meetings were held in the Major Seminary in Wloclawek. The first was a working meeting, the second was a jubilee meeting on the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of the establishment of the Theological Society in Wloclawek as a Branch of the Polish Theological Society in Lviv (which was mentioned above), and the remaining two were open lectures. Members of the society, consecrated persons, seminarians, and laypeople from Wloclawek and its vicinity participated in these open meetings. The board of the Wloclawek Branch invited teachers and catechists as well as the members of various parish movements from the city and its vicinity to the lectures. It also began a collaboration with the Wloclawek Academic Society. In the year under review, the sermons of Blessed Bishop Michał Kozal were published. This collection of primary sources commemorates the eightieth anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Blessed Michał Kozal in the Wloclawek cathedral in August 1939

as well as the eightieth anniversary of his imprisonment by the German occupying authorities (November 7, 1939). Thanks to the efforts of the Włocławek Branch, a large work (1,314 pages) by Rev. Assoc. Prof. Witold Kujawski titled: *Parafie diecezji włocławskiej: okres kujawsko kaliski 1818–1925* [*Parishes of the Diocese of Włocławek: The Kujavia-Kalisz Period, 1818–1925*] (Włocławek 2018) was published. The author of the monograph included the following dedication: “To commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the establishment of the Theological Society in Włocławek.” It is worth adding that the academic journal *Studia Włocławskie* is on the index of BazHum; thus, all the articles are regularly digitized and accessible on the website: <http://bazhum.muzhp.pl/czasopismo/774/>.

Pelplin Branch. The work of the branch, whose membership currently numbers thirty-six persons, is coordinated by Rev. Prof. Janusz Szulist. In reported period, the annual statutory meeting took place on October 15 in the building of the Curia of the Pelplin Diocese. Furthermore, the Pelplin Branch co-organized the Fourth Pelplin Areopagus on the topic *Love of Small and Large Fatherlands* along with the Diocesan Curia, the Kasubian-Pomeranian Association, and the Faculty of Theology of the Nicolaus Copernicus University. This national conference was held of February 24–25. The Pelplin Branch also organized an open meeting for all who were interested on October 15. During it, Rev. Assoc. Prof. Jarosław Babiński gave a lecture on the topic: *The Metaphysical Meaning of Old Age: An Attempt at Comparing the Anthropological Statements of Rev. Franciszek Sawicki and Bogusław Wolniewicz*. Thanks to the branch’s efforts, two books were published: Rev. Janusz Szulist, *Troska o środowisko naturalne w społeczeństwie. Komentarz do encykliki „Laudato si” papieża Franciszka* [*Concern for the Natural Environment in Society: A Commentary on Pope Francis’ Encyclical “Laudato si”*] and *Opieka nad osobą starszą. Studium moralno-społeczne* [*Taking Care of Elderly Persons: A Moral-Social Study*], ed. Janusz Szulist, Wojciech Cichosz.

The Elbląg Branch is the youngest of the society’s branches. It is led by Rev. Dr. Krzysztof Kaoka. The section did not present a report.

Final Remarks

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

The Polish Theological Society is undertaking the project *Sermons in Polish Culture: The Editions of Thematic Collections*, which is financed by the Minister of

Science and Higher Education from the National Program for the Development of Humanities. Its aim is to prepare four anthologies of sermons until 2019: Advent, Christmas, Easter, and patriotic sermons. It is important to emphasize the efforts of the director of the Publishing Section Sebastian Wojnowski in efforts to receive financing for academic research and publications.

It is especially worth recognizing the vibrant activity of the branches in Wloclawek, which in 2018 celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of its activity; Radom; Sandomierz; and Szczecin, as well as the Krakow branches devoted to the Bible, the Theology of the Consecrated Life, Spirituality, and Religious Art.

The Polish Theological Society is an ecclesiastical legal entity whose activity is on a national level; thus, the board thanks the Archbishop of Krakow Prof. Marek Jędraszewski as well as the bishops present at the general meeting of the Polish Episcopal Conference for its concern for the concern of Church authorities for 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.