

II. KRONIKA / CHRONICLE

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THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF 8TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE IN REFERENCE TO THE „ONE WORLD – MANY CULTURES” CONGRESS, HELD IN BYDGOSZCZ ON 26-27 OCTOBER 2017

On 26 October 2018 for the eight time Kujawy and Pomorze University in Bydgoszcz had the pleasure of inaugurating the International Interdisciplinary Conference accordingly to the „ONE WORLD – MANY CULTURES” congress. The theme of this year’s seventh edition of the congress was called “Intercultural dialogue and the truth behind it.” Moreover, this effort became inseparable with other symposiums exhibited in our region, due to the multi-annual collaboration with the Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation, Marshal’s Office as well as Bydgoszcz City Hall.

Under this year’s patronage of the congress “One World Many Cultures” were dr Jarosław Gowin – Vice Prime Minister of Poland and the current Minister of Science and Higher Education; Ks. Abp Stanisław Gądecki – Metropolitan Bishop of Poznań and the Representantive of the Presidium of the *Polish* Episcopate; Piotr Całbecki – Marshal of the Kujawy and Pomorze; Rafał Bruski – Mayor of Bydgoszcz. Honorary Chairman of the congress “One World Many Cultures” were prof. nadzw. KPSW, dr Helena Czakowska – Rector of Kujawy and Pomorze University in Bydgoszcz; Padre Federico Lombardi, SJ – Chairman of Fondazione Vaticana Joseph Ratzinger – Benedetto XVI.

The history of the congress dates back to 2010, when a series of annual international conferences were integrated into the Kujawy and Pomorze University’s tradition and revolved around the topic of broadly understood intercultural dialogue and the exchange of ideas concerning the most important problems of the modern world. Among the participants were academic representatives of the field of humanities, theological, economic, social, natural, law, medical and technical sciences, representing national and foreign scientific centers.

The first day of congress was special because of the inauguration were Ks. Abp prof. dr hab. Henryk Muszyński – Senior Primate of Poland, who was longstanding member of the congress “One World Many Cultures” committee,

received the title of Honorary Chairman of the Kujawy and Pomorze University in Bydgoszcz from academic senate J.E. The inauguration of congress was conducted by prof. nadzw. KPSW, dr Helena Czakowska – Rector of Kujawy and Pomorze University in Bydgoszcz. According to her „Intercultural dialogue does not mean that we should give up our own convictions, instead we should perceive it as precious source of knowledge. What is more, structural diversity surrounding our world induce us to advertise shared ideas and values(...) One of the most important and responsible key points of our society is to create foundation for mutual understanding and dialogue. After all, dialogue based on truth is the only way for cultural coexistence as well as dignified life for every person.” Subsequently, Ks. bp Artur Miziński and the General Secretary of the Polish Episcopal Conference – Andrzej Kobiak gave their speeches. Then, both patronage of the congress “One World Many Cultures;” Piotr Całbecki – Marshal of the Kujawy and Pomorze and Rafał Bruski – Mayor of Bydgoszcz; were asked to address the audience. What is more, the latter handed the Medal of the City of Bydgoszcz to Padre Federico Lombardi SJ – Chairman of Fondazione Vaticana Joseph Ratzinger – Benedetto XVI and Prof. nadzw. KPSW, dr hab. Janusz Kutta delivered his laudation. Afterwards, the main event arrived and the title of Honorary Chairman of the Kujawy and Pomorze University in Bydgoszcz was given from academic senate J.E. to Ks. Abp prof. dr hab. Henryk Muszyński – Senior Primate of Poland. Naturally, ks. Abp Henryk Muszyński gave his own speech to the audience – “God gave me long and fulfilled life and I dedicated it mostly to serve various communities. After all, for me as a Biblicist, dialogue is the most fundamental part of the human speech.” In addition, the inauguration of congress became an opportunity for the university to receive the Medal of Sapientiae Servientes, which stands for in servitude of knowledge. The most important aspect of such award is the fact that this medal refers to *raison d’être* of the Kujawy and Pomorze University in Bydgoszcz and the Sapientiae Servientes phrase in itself is inscribed on the university’s banner. The award was handed by J.M Rector and the President of KPSW to dr Jarosław Gowin – Vice Prime Minister of Poland and the current Minister of Science and Higher Education; Padre Federico Lombardi SJ – Chairman of Fondazione Vaticana Joseph Ratzinger – Benedetto XVI; Ks. bishop dr hab. Artur Miziński – the General Secretary of the Polish Episcopal Conference; Michael Schudrich – Chief Rabbi of Poland. With that, the inauguration of congress cease to an end and the plenary session began, commenced by the Scientific Committee Chairman prof. nadzw. KPSW, dr hab. Alicja Grześkowiak and Vice Chairman prof. nadzw. ks. dr. Mariusz Kuciński.

The plenary session was divided on four parts. The first part consisted of dr Jarosław Gowin – Vice Prime Minister of Poland and the current Minister of Science and Higher Education and Padre Federico Lombardi – Chairman of Fondazione Vaticana Joseph Ratzinger – Benedetto XVI speeches. Jarosław Gowin in his speech put special emphasis on the university’s role in the intercultural dialogue and the necessity to transform it into a community of people who seek truth and not prejudice. Moreover, Vice Prime Minister Gowin alluded

to the Polish National Agency For Academic Exchange's scientific dialogue, which should further enable intercultural dialogue. On the other hand, Padre Federico Lombardi spoke about Joseph Ratzinger's intercultural teachings, the emphasis on the dynamic integration between cultures and its welcoming nature. Then Michael Schudrich – Chief Rabbi of Poland spoke about the intercultural issues, noting that every one of us is connected as we share the same forebears and values thus the necessity to love and not hate every fellow human being. After him, prof. Vaja Vardidze – Rector of Sulkhani Saba Orbeliani Teaching University in Tbilisi told the audience about the culture of the Georgians and their identity crisis. The last person who spoke during the second part of the plenary session was ks. Bishop Jan Tyrawa – Diocesan of Bydgoszcz. He spoke about humankind and the way they became the true version of themselves by learning the intercultural truth. The third part of the plenary session involved the lecture of prof. UFV Juan Palao Uceda from Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Ks. Prof. Józef Wołczański from Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, ks. Prof. Kranitz Mihaly – Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University as well as ks. Prof. PUG Dariusz Kowalczyk from Pontifical Gregorian University.

The first lecture involved the issue concerning the refugees who sought shelter in Spain, at the same time facing the hardship of assimilation. Prof. Uceda concluded that the only way for the Spanish people and refugees to come to an agreement is to seek the intercultural truth and build the community together. The second lecture belonged to ks. Prof. Wołczański who told a meaningful story about the *interwar* Lviv where three nationalities coexisted that is the Poles, Jews and Russian. As a result the city itself became culturally rich and one of the epicenters of intercultural coexistence. Afterwards, ks. Prof. Kranitz Mihaly spoke about such topics as the presence of Jesus of Nazareth, fundamentalism, materialism and the way they influence the existence of culture. Finally, Prof. Kowalczyk probed about the meaning of truth and its three main principals that is ontological, existential and eschatological truth. The last part of the plenary session involved three presentations of such figures as ks. prof. Tadeusz Guz from Catholic University of Lublin, prof. Witold Kulesza from the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Lodz, prof. Grzegorz Kucharczyk from the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History Polish Academy of Sciences and prof. KPSW, dr hab. Janusz Kutta from Kujawy and Pomorze University in Bydgoszcz. First spoke ks. prof. Tadeusz Guz where he presented a dialogue from philosopher's point of view, which was aimed at the unification of primeval truth and to show the essence of Pope John Paul II teachings. Then, prof. Kucharczyk noticed that the relativism opposes the intercultural dialogue and that the Catholic Church uses the intercultural dialog since its beginning. Also, prof. J. Kutta talked about the intercultural dialogue and the way it was used through the history of Poland. On the other hand, prof. Kulesza tried to answer the question of legal truth, at the same time, noticing the mutual coexistence of illegality and law, as one cannot exist without the other.

On the next day, the International Interdisciplinary Conference continued, together with various scientific events, seven parallel national conferences and “From childhood to seniority” happening, intended for people of all age groups. The parallel national conferences teemed with an excellent scientists and participants, gathered from every leading scientific circle all around the country. Another conference was named “Criminal law used for children’s rights” and was moderated by prof. Igor Zgoliński, member of Kujawy and Pomorze University in Bydgoszcz. The conferences were a huge success due to the lectures given by acknowledged criminal lawyers from Catholic University of Lublin and University of Gdańsk. During the “Country and Law” speech, various speakers discussed the matters of statehood and citizen in terms of law. It was moderated by Krystyna Kwaśniewska, prof. dr Marta Czakowska and dr Igor Zduński. The third conference held at the event was called “Europe – mother or grandmother? The power of hope in building the future” and it was moderated by prof. ks. Mariusz Kuciński. The fourth conference was named “Humanism – Dialogue – Identity – Culture. In search of an impulse necessary for educational development.” It had four moderators, prof. Lech Witkowski, prof. KPSW Monika Jaworska-Witkowska, dr Marta Małecka as well as dr Marta Chyła whose lectures revolved around the intercultural dialogue, development of educational culture, the modern identity of people as well as wide scope of Polish Humanities. Another conference called “Education – Identity – Sensitivity” focused on social inclusion and literary culture and was divided into two sessions. The last but not least important conference was conducted by Prof. Andrzej Czyżewski and together with other speakers he tried to find an answer to various challenges of modern economy. The last conference was named “The achievements of 21st century’s engineering disciplines” and revolved around such topics as the construction and related services sectors, energy economy and satellite navigation. Another popular event was a simulation of court case called “The court case of Gen. August Fieldorf-Nil” and performed by the members of Kujawy and Pomorze University’s legal clinic. The same goes for workshops organized by students of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Philology, Jolantę Surmę i Kamilę Dominikowską, named “Multiculturalism presented in artistic handicraft”, which became an instant hit among children, teenagers and elderly people. The Teen Science Festival led by dr Joanna Mstowska, dr Katarzyna Kukowicz-Żarska and a couple of female students of English and German studies, gave an opportunity for children and teenagers to participate in numerous language workshops, where they’ve learned English and German language through various games. Prof. KPSW Małgorzata Muszyńska and dr Katarzyna Stefanowicz-Zawiszewska prepared literary workshops named “Metaphoric stroll along the culture of narrative poetry.” The workshop was a part of Children’s University Cultural Convention “ALFA” and Education and Recreation Preschool Academy. Lastly, there was another convention of the Faculty of History, Tradition and Cultural Heritage at the Intergenerational University “OMEGA” where people could look for guidance provided by the Developmental Mentorship Workshop.