

DECLARATION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THEOLOGIANS OF THE THREE SEAS COUNTRIES

Between 2nd and 27th October 2023, a Congress of Theologians of the Three Seas Countries *Bringing Faith and Theology Closer* was held in Lublin, Poland, at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. It brought together theologians from countries located in the area between the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea and the Adriatic Sea: Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The above initiative follows on from the 1991 meeting of theologians of Eastern European countries and the Forum of Theologians of Central and Eastern Europe held from 2001 to 2011.

The countries of the Three Seas area, which experienced devastating ideological destruction by totalitarian systems in the 20th century, regained their independence and realized both their historical and cultural uniqueness, as well as the need for economic and cultural cooperation coupled with the integration of the European space, based on enhancing communication and exchange of ideas as well as strengthening human relationships.

The integration of any space, however, cannot be reduced to mere political negotiations and economic arrangements, for then it remains merely a system of bureaucratic procedures. It must become, above all, a community of spirit: sharing common values that flow for us above all from the Gospel of Christ and lead to the formation of a common identity. Hence, arises the task facing the Churches and theologians to promote this integration by discovering common theological loci and seeking ways to live the Christian faith in this particular place in the world. The mission of theologians of the Three Seas countries is twofold: to guide the efforts of Christians in making the countries belonging to it a space of justice, peace and responsibility for creation, and to provide an example of a just, peaceful and responsible society for other regions of the world.

As Christians, together with all people of good will, we stand in solidarity with brothers and sisters suffering from war in various parts of the world, especially in Ukraine.

The Three Seas theologians boast many outstanding prophets, including Saints Cyril and Methodius and their disciples, who as early as more than a thousand and a hundred years ago travelled the Three Seas region, spreading Christian faith and values, creating tools for civilizational changes and affirming the cultural distinctiveness of its peoples. The idea of Cyril and Methodius transcended the contemporary boundaries of theological thinking and contributed to the development of Christian culture in countries previously on the periphery. It became a tradition that inspired successive generations of theologians, and provided them with answers to the most perennial questions about the relationship between faith, culture and mission. Church leaders from the Christian East and West referred to this heritage in their teaching about the two lungs of Europe.

The Congress of Theologians of the Three Seas Countries is a manifestation of a community of experience, a search for elements of a common tradition and the reading of the signs of the times. It is an initiative to discover the scholarly, cultural and social potential that would provide the Churches as well as political and social leaders with the impetus to carry out their mission. The Three Seas theologians want to jointly contribute to upholding and developing the spiritual and intellectual heritage of Christianity in their countries of origin.

The undersigned theologians present at the Congress declare their willingness for collaboration that will find expression in sustaining the cooperation and the desire to get to know each other better and better, which will be made concrete in conducting joint theological research and issuing joint publications, organizing conferences, exchanging academic staff and students, and striving for active participation in important areas of social, cultural and religious life.

Given in Lublin, on the 27th of October, in the year of our Lord 2023

Ks. Przemysław Kozłowski
Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski: Jana Pawła II

Ms. Włodzisław Paulina
Relacje AKW

Ks. Grzegorz Urojnicki
Uniwersytet Srebrnitski

Rev. Wilhelm Dancu
University of Bucharest

Ks. Mirosław W. Wnibel, WTKUL

Rev. László Berendy, PPE

Dr. Rafał Paolowski - Pontifical Faculty of Theology Włocławek

Ms. prof. Wojciech Piętkowski
WTK

Ks. Mateusz Dąbrowski, University of Opole

Janez Vodica University of Ljubljana (Teof)

Rev. Adrian Podaru, Babeş - Bolyai University

Don. Benas Ulančius
Vytautas Magnus University.

Rev. Ciprian Bilanescu - Greek Catholic Church from Romania

Ks. Sławomir Pawłowski WTK

Ks. Jacek Kempa Wydział Teol. UKatowice

Ms. prof. Wojciech Piętkowski
WTK

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Ioanese Hoana S), Ignatian University in Comana
ks. Marian Lovatko, Katedra Uniwersytet Lubelski
Fr. Prof. Cristian Sonea, University Babeş-Bolyai Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Oleh Turii, Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv)
Piotr Asylik, AKW
Paul Szladi-Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca Romania
Kazimierz Piek - KUL
W. Peret Jurec
W. Karol Górecki (KUL)
Dr. Józef Młynarczyk, KUL
Dr. Józef Młynarczyk