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"Dokumenty tridentskeho koncilu (latinský text a překlad do češtiny)",
Trans. Ignác Antonín Hrdina,
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Dokumenty tridentského koncilu
(latinský text a překlad do češtiny)
Trans. Ignác Antonín HRDINA, 335 pp.
Praha: Krystal OP, 2015

Nowadays, in various academic disciplines we can observe a dangerous tendency of a too strong concentration on contemporary urgent issues. But the present time is strongly connected with previous periods and with their scientific discussions. Therefore, knowledge of the past and of scholarly tradition is crucial, and even more so is this true in the humanities. This is true especially in theology, where we can very often observe interpretation of the theological, pastoral, and canonistic developments since the Second Vatican Council in terms of discontinuity, and in particular in a sharp contrast to the Council of Trent.

The best answer to such tendencies is more in-depth knowledge of the past, including the previous ecumenical council. Assistance in achieving this goal has been provided by the publishing house Krystal OP, the imprint of the Czech Dominican Province. Before annotated documents of the First Vatican Council had been published in 2006, prepared by a coordinated group of translators supervised by Prof. Karel Skalický from the Faculty of Theology at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. At about the same time, the documents of the Council of Trent have been published in the translation of Prof. Ignác Antonín Hrdina OPraem., the judicial vicar of the Archdiocese of Prague and lecturer of canon law and state ecclesiastical law at the Catholic Faculty of Theology at Charles University in Prague and at the Faculty of Law at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen.

The discussed publication contains the Latin and Czech texts of the dogmatic and reformist decrees and canons adopted over a total of 25 meetings of the Council of Trent (1545—1563), as well as the procedural decisions regarding the transfer or adjournment of the meetings, etc. Also, the appendix contains five “implementing” acts of Pope Pius IV from the years 1564—1565 and the “censorship Decalogue,” prepared on the basis of the requirements of the Council. In the left column the pages of the publication display the original Latin text taken from the Latin-German edition of the documents of Trent and the First Vatican Council edited by Franz Seraph Petz, the capitulary of Passau Cathedral (*Des heiligen ökumenischen Konzils von Trient Canonen und neuer DECR in deutscher Uebersetzung. Mit einem Anhang: Die dogmatischen Constitutionen des Vatikanischen Konzils und die neueren päpstlichen Entscheidungen*. Passau: Joseph Bucher, 1877), and in the right column its Czech translation. Some textual and factual explanations are to be found in the footnotes, and there is at the end of the publication both the nominal index and a very detailed table of contents, which enables the location of particular issues.

Besides a more thorough knowledge of canonical tradition, this book offers very emphatic assistance in searching for the answers to many of the historical and theological questions connected with this period of conflict, with the Protestant Reformation and the very different interpretations of the task of the Council of Trent, both in general history and in Church history.

I am convinced that a reading of the documents of the aforementioned council allows not only a view of its very broad determination of Catholic doctrine and of the necessary reformation of vices in the life of the Church, but also an estimation of its pastoral significance, with a stimulus very perceptible up to the present day.

It is useful to note that this book fits well within the broad scientific effort of the author, which includes: Roman law, the history of law, canon law, and state ecclesiastical law, expressed by, for example, three volumes of texts devoted to the study of state ecclesiastical law (*Texty ke studiu konfesního práva*) of 2006—2007, including Europe and the US, the Czech state and Czechoslovakia. So the reviewed work by Professor Hrdina is another very important resource that will benefit both professionals and the general public.