

REV. JACENTY MASTEJ

FROM THE PAGES OF THE HISTORY OF KUL'S  
INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGY:  
ITS EMPLOYEES AND STRUCTURE. INTRODUCTION

**Abstract.** The activity of the Department of Fundamental Theology (from 1918), then the Section of Fundamental Theology, and from 1999 the Institute of Fundamental Theology (IFT) shares the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the existence of John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The aim of the article is to present the evolution of the IFT structure and the people who contributed to its development.

**Keywords:** John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin; Section of Fundamental Theology; Institute of Fundamental Theology; Department of Fundamental Christology and Ecclesiology; Department of History and Ethnology of Religion; Department of Religious Studies and Missiology.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin is an excellent opportunity to bring the presence of the Institute of Fundamental Theology closer to the University's life. The editors of the *Roczniki Teologicznych* [Theological Annals] number 9 in 2018 give us a multifaceted presentation of the significant academic research achievements of the Institute of Fundamental Theology, which is why most of the articles contained in this notebook were prepared by the Institute's employees. Research and didactic work, first in the framework of the Fundamental Theology Section and then the Institute of Fundamental Theology, resulted in the creation of the Lublin school of fundamental theology. A substantive

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Rev. Dr. Hab. Jacenty Mastej, KUL professor, is the head of the Department of Fundamental Christology and Ecclesiology; Institute of Fundamental Theology, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Al. Raławickie 14, 20–950 Lublin; lecturer in fundamental theology at the Priestly Formation Seminary in Rzeszów; address for correspondence—e-mail: [jmastej@kul.pl](mailto:jmastej@kul.pl)

and detailed discussion of the achievements of this school is included in the following part of this issue and will be preceded by a presentation of the changes that took place in the IFT's structure along with a presentation of the people who contributed to its development.

The Department of Fundamental Theology and the Department of History of Religion, which form the core of the Institute of Fundamental Theology, were founded at the first meeting of the Catholic University Senate in autumn of 1918. The Chair of Fundamental Theology was entrusted to Rev. Piotr Kremer, a former professor at the Academy of Catholic Theology in St. Petersburg, a close associate of Rev. Idzi Radziszewski from the times of the Spiritual Academy in St. Petersburg (Moskal 2009, 15–20, Łukaszyk 1968, 12–13). Rev. Prof. P. Kremer became the first dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Catholic University of Lublin. Lectures on the history of religion in the years 1918–1920 were led by Rev. Józef Archutowski, professor of Sacred Scriptures (Łukaszyk 1968, 13). In November 1920, the Council of the KUL Faculty of Theology created four sections: biblical studies, fundamental theology, dogmatic theology and moral theology (Misiurek 1999, 11). During this time, the lectures were conducted by: Rev. Prof. P. Kremer, Rev. Dr. Roman Konecki (1923/24) and Rev. Bishop Dr. Czesław Sokołowski (1924/25) (Kaucha 2014, 53). In October 1929, the Faculty of Theology reorganized. Rev. P. Kremer was still the Chair and headed the Fundamental Theology Section, and lectures on the history of religion in the years 1930–1939 were given by Rev. Dr. Józef Kruszyński from the Biblical Theology Section (Łukaszyk 1968, 14).

In January 1945, Rev. Prof. Adolf Tymczak was entrusted with leading the Section and the Department of Fundamental Theology, a former associate professor at the Jan Kazimierz University in Lviv and a professor at the Seminary in Przemyśl. In the academic year 1945/46, this function was taken over by Rev. Dr. Edward Bulanda, who in 1945–1949 taught comparative history of religion (Łukaszyk 1968, 14–15). On May 31, 1946, the Council of the Faculty of Theology made Rev. Dr. Bolesław Radomski head of the chair of the Department of Fundamental Theology. At that time, he was a professor of the Seminary in Łódź, assistant professor at the University of Warsaw. The Council gave him the post of associate professor, entrusting him with the management of the Fundamental Theology Section (Story 2002/2003, 327–328, Łukaszyk 1968, 15–17, Marczewski 2009, 79–80).

After the tragic death of Rev. B. Radomski in 1956, his place was taken by Rev. Dr. Edward Kopeć, former lecturer at the Higher Theological Seminary in Wrocław (Rusecki 1985, 7–22, Rusecki 2009, 167–176). In the years 1956–1959, the Section of Fundamental Theology was headed by Rev. Dr. Bogusław Waczyński (Łukaszyk 1968, 17–18). In 1957, lectures were delivered by Rev. Dr. Czesław S. Bartnik for the Section (Łukaszyk 1968, 24–26).

On February 18, 1958, the Council of the Faculty of Theology reactivated the Department of the History of Religion, electing Rev. Dr. Teofil Chodźdła SVD as substitute director (Łukaszyk 1968, 29–22). In turn, on June 23, 1958, the Second Chair of Fundamental Theology and Ecclesiology was established, entrusting lectures in this discipline to Rev. Dr. Stanisław Nagy, SCJ (Seweryniak 1996, 8–10). Thus, since 1958, the Fundamental Theology Section consists of three departments: I. The Department of Fundamental Theology and Christology, whose head in the years 1961–1985 was Rev. Prof. E. Kopeć, while in the years 1986–2010 the chair was headed by Rev. Prof. Marian Rusecki (employed on October 1, 1974) (Ledwoń 2007, 3–7, Kaucha 2013, 5–12); II. The Chair of Fundamental Theology and Ecclesiology, lead by Rev. Prof. S. Nagy SCJ in the years 1964–1991 (Łukaszyk 1968, 22–24); III. The Department of History and Ethnology of Religion, headed by Fr. Prof. T. Chodźdło SVD in the years 1961–1976, and from November 1985 to September 30, 2012, by Fr. Prof. Henryk Zimoń SVD (employed on October 1, 1973) (Misiurek 1999, 15–37, Kupisiński 2010, 26–30).

In 1999, the Fundamental Theology Section was renamed the Institute of Fundamental Theology, composed of 3 departments: Fundamental Christology, Fundamental Ecclesiology, and the History and Ethnology of Religion (Misiurek 2008, 58–60).

The IFT directors were: until August 31, 2008 Rev. M. Rusecki; September 1, 2008–March 31, 2011 Rev. H. Zimoń; April 1, 2011–August 31, 2016 Rev. K. Kaucha, and since September 1, 2016 the IFT director is Rev. J. Mastej.

In 2003, Rev. Dr. Stanisław Grodź SVD was employed at the Department of History and Ethnology of Religion (he worked until 2016). On October 1, 2005, the Rev. Dr. Andrzej Pietrzak SVD began work in the Department of Fundamental Ecclesiology. On October 1, 2007, the fourth chair in the IFT was created, the Department of Theology of Religion, and Fr. I.S. Ledwon was appointed its head. On October 1, 2009, the following were recruited: Rev. Dr. Paweł Borto at the Department of Fundamental Ecclesiology and

Fr. Dr. Adam Wąs SVD (who worked until 2016) in the Department of Theology of Religion. On February 15, 2009, the head of the Department of Fundamental Ecclesiology became Rev. K. Kaucha. On October 1, 2010, the fifth chair of the IFT opened, the Chair of Missiology, which was entrusted to Rev. M. Rusecki (he managed it until his death on December 15, 2012). Upon entrusting the Chair of Missiology to Rev. M. Rusecki, Rev. J. Mastej became the head of the Department of Fundamental Christology. In the years 2011–2013, Dr. Józef Nowak worked in the Department of History and Ethnology of Religion, and in the academic year 2011/12 lectures in the field of religious studies were conducted by Dr. Wiesław Bator (½ part-time). In 2012–2015, Rev. Dr. Krystian Kałuża worked in the Department of Theology of Religion.

On March 1, 2013, the Department of History and Ethnology of Religion was transformed into the Department of Religious Studies. On October 1, 2013, the Department of Fundamental Ecclesiology and the Chair of Missiology were merged. The new chair was given the name: the Department of Fundamental Ecclesiology and Missiology, and its head was Rev. K. Kaucha. Another reorganization of the IFT's chairs took place on June 11, 2014. As a result of the transformations, two departments remained: the Department of Fundamental Christology and Ecclesiology (Rev. J. Mastej became the head) and the Department of Religious Studies and Missiology, headed by Rev. Z. Kupisiński. At that time, the Department of Theology of Religion was directed by Fr. I.S. Ledwoń.

After the reorganization of the chairs, which took place on October 1, 2016, the IFT consists of two departments: the Chair of Fundamental Christology and Ecclesiology employing KUL Prof. Rev. J. Mastej, (director), KUL Prof. Rev. K. Kaucha, Rev. Dr. P. Borto, Assistant Professor and Rev. Dr. Paweł Tambor, assistant (employed on October 1, 2016) and the Department of Religious Studies and Missiology employing KUL Prof. Rev. Z. Kupisiński (director), KUL Prof. Fr. I.S. Ledwoń and KUL Prof. Rev. A. Pietrzak.

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