Preface

Pavel Ambros, dean of CMTF UP

Holding Acta, first of all we would like to express gratitude to all authors and people in charge for enthusiasm, hardwork and erudition manifested during preparation a new scientific theological periodical CMTF UP.

Publishing scientific theological literature within a small nation is connected with difficulties. Scientific work is expensive and its publishing in a small number of copies will not be profitable for a publisher. In modern history of Czech theology only Dědictví sv. Prokopa in the time of monarchy contributed essentially to publishing scientific work and Dědictví svatojánské published The Czech Bible. Publishing unfinished Czech Theologian Dictionary and editing activities of Dominicans in Olomouc was the greatest achievement. Other well-known publishing houses published scientific work of Czech authors and professional literature only occasionally (Universum – later Vyšehrad in Prague, Občanská tiskárna in Brno and Velehrad in Olomouc). Publishing scientific work was dependent on self-help. The Magazine of Catholic Clergy (since 1921 bulletin of the Czech theological faculty in Prague) was the only scientific magazine and in Moravia it was nineteen volumes of periodical Acta Academiae Velehradensis dealing with Cyril-Methodian and unionistic questions.

Trying to establish all previous attempts of the crucial time of Czech theology we present the first volume of Acta, meeting strict criteria of scientific work, to the professional public in this country as well as abroad. The aim is to enable all theologians cooperating with CMTF UP in Olomouc to discuss in European context and we are convinced that we are able and we should contribute – even in an insignificant way – to an open exchange of thoughts. Philosophical, theological, pedagogical and other attached disciplines cultivated at this faculty are challenged to contribute to other disciplines when “seeking their full importance because it helps them not only in correct research how their own discoveries can contribute to a human being and society but it also offers a way of judgement and particular tendency, which is absent in their own methods. This mutual relationship with other disciplines and their research enriches theology giving it a better understanding of contemporary world and it leads theological research itself to be more involved in current needs” (John Paul II., Ex corde Ecclesiae, no. 19). If only work of theologians and philosophers of CMTF UP would contribute to it. Increasing
study of significant questions of present time from the theological point of view and reflecting values and standards that help to overcome a crisis of contemporary civilisation in a Christian way and supporting ethic and religious rules that make a human life meaningful are a challenge for us to be permanently involved in this task at present as well as in the future.