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## **Tenth anniversary of a permanent Biblical and Archeological Exposition in Croatia**

The year 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of a permanent Biblical & Archeological exposition in Croatia. The following is a short and condensed presentation of this important institution by its author that includes an invitation to visit for those who are interested and find themselves near enough to include it in their itinerary.

The exposition is located in the premises of a large Franciscan monastery in the small town of Cernik near Nova Gradiška, in central Croatia, on the highway ca. 130 km east of Zagreb, thus easy to reach.

The exposition was officially opened on April 15, 2005, with big acclaim of the public, and an international scientific congress attached to it. The idea of its installation and the realization of the project has largely been the work of a local Franciscan, Prof. Dr. Tomislav Vuk, a professor since 1985 at the Faculty for Biblical Sciences and Archaeology in Jerusalem. He collected the exhibits, produced their scientific examination and description, partly also the restoration of archaeological objects, the photographic and computerized documentation and the final installation. Many refinements have been done since then.

As its main aim, the exposition has a general cultural character that collaterally includes also religious pedagogical aspects. It is thus appealing to the general cultural public as well as to people interested in the role of religious aspects in it.

Because of that, it has been put on the official itineraries for school excursions, from elementary classes up to university courses, especially in theological and archaeological faculties. It is visited by interested individuals and small and big groups, throughout Croatia but also from abroad (above 100 organized groups in 2014).

Through its concept and realization in that way the exposition contributes to the increase of general knowledge and culture, and through its presentation of the origins and development of the three monotheistic religions – Judaism,

Christianity and (indirectly) also Islam – it contributes to the mutual understanding and coexistence in cultural and religious diversity. With such broad and variegated aim and content, and particularly having a permanent character, this exposition has its importance not only locally but universally. This is the reason we present it here.

The exposition occupies the entire east wing of the monastery's big building, with two large halls. The first has a historical-archaeological character. This section offers the presentation, in a combination of chronological and thematic order, of the concrete life through the millennia of peoples who dwelled in the Ancient Near East and particularly of the historical context of the people who gave life to the Bible, as a work of literary and religious culture and one of main sources for historiography of the region from which it issued, through at least one millennium and a half. In a condensed manner this section also offers an insight into today's look of the Holy Land, particularly of the four main sites of the New Testament: Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum and Jerusalem. It thus can offer a useful introduction and preparation for a pilgrimage there. Or, after a pilgrimage, for renewal and a deepening of the knowledge and impressions brought from there.

This section is divided into thematic units, with general chronological order of the exhibits. It consists of three types of components that form a didactical unit: historical artifacts from the vast area of the Ancient Near East, from Paleolithic to the Early Arab Period (8th–9th cent. AD), in part also to the beginning of the 20th cent. AD. The information is completed by large posters that contain essential descriptive texts and additional photographic documentation.

The second and bigger hall is dedicated to the history of the main intellectual, cultural and religious product of the territory presented in the previous part – the Bible. The aim is not to present various scientific theories about the literary evolvement of its text, but of its transmission, once the text has been produced and completed. The exposition traces that way from the earliest manuscript testimonies of biblical text we have today till the newest scientific critical editions. That includes facsimile editions of almost all biblical codexes that significantly shaped the history of its transmission. The first section displays the historic manuscripts of the biblical text in original languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and in other ancient translations. The other section offers the history of the biblical text in local use, i.e. in Croatian language, from oldest manuscripts in Slavonic language and Glagolitic script to the newest translations in current use. It traces the history of Croatian literacy and culture, indirectly, in the oldest phased, for other Slavic languages too. The section contains facsimile editions of some Glagolitic manuscripts, of *incunabulae* editions (books printed up to 1500 AD; there are ten printed in Croatia or in the Croatian language, five of which have

liturgical biblical text!). Included are most of the Croatian lectionaries and all relevant editions of the entire Bible.

The exposition is being continuously amplified and revised. Last important additions have been included during 2014. It is also accompanied by an archive of digital images of over 150.000 graphic files, and a library of biblical and archaeological literature that is currently being assembled.

The monastery is endowed with accommodation for ca. 20 participants of organized meetings, a large and marvelous natural surrounding, and a beautiful Baroque church. The whole complex was built between 1728–1784.

The visits (at least for the moment) upon personal contacts with personnel of the monastery: Tel. (+385) 35 369043; fax (+385) 35 369002; Email: fra.cernik@ofm.hr. Webpage: <http://zupa-cernik.hr/>.

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## **Kolokvium „Sermo Dei currat et clarificetur“ u příležitosti 50. výročí vydání koncilní konstituce „Dei Verbum“**

*Katolická teologická fakulta Univerzity Karlovy v Praze, 25. 11. 2015*

Mezi bohatým aktuálním děním současného církevního i společenského života mohla pozornosti mnohých uniknout jedna významná událost. Dne 18. listopadu 1965 byla téměř v závěru 2. vatikánského koncilu definitivně schválena a vydána jedna z jeho čtyř věroučných konstitucí *Dei Verbum*, která pojednává o Božím zjevení a otázkách s ním souvisejících.

Toto půlstoleté výročí, významné zejména pro všechny, kdo se věnují biblickému bádání, ale také pro služebníky Slova na různých polích biblického apoštolátu, bylo vzpomenuo skromným, ale hodnotným kolokviem na Katolické teologické fakultě Univerzity Karlovy v Praze dne 25. listopadu 2015.

Titul této akademické slavnosti odkazuje na závěrečný 26. článek *Dei Verbum*, v němž se praví: „Tak tedy čtením a studiem posvátných knih ‘ať se šíří slovo Páně a ať je přijímáno s úctou’ (2Te 3,1)“. Koncil se tak připojuje k touze

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