

**Report of the Commission  
for the External Visit  
of the Quality Evaluation carried out at**

**THE JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN (KUL)  
Poland**

**(12-16 December 2021)**

**Faculty of Theology  
Faculty of Philosophy  
Institute of Canon Law**

**Lublin 2022**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **External Evaluation Commission**

### **Visit methodology and Program**

### **General information and present status regarding the KUL**

#### **1. Self-Evaluation Report (SER)**

1.1. Observations and Comments

1.2. Recommendations

#### **2. Mission, Vision, Governance and Strategic Plan**

2.1. Observations and Comments

2.2. Recommendations

#### **3. Learning and Research**

3.1. Observations and Comments

3.2. Recommendations

#### **4. SWOT Analysis**

4.1. Summary

4.2. Comments and Recommendations

#### **5. Quality Assurance**

5.1. Observations and Comments

5.2. Recommendations

#### **6. Third Mission**

6.1. Observations and Comments

6.2. Recommendations

#### **7. Conclusions and recommendations in order of priority**

#### **Annex – Program of the Site visit**

## **REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION COMMISSION**

### **External Evaluation Commission (EEC)**

The AVEPRO nominated the following Commission for the External Evaluation and Promotion of Quality of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL).

Rev. Prof. Denis Sahayaraj KULANDAISAMY, OSM (President)

Pontifical Faculty of Theology "Marianum", Rome

Rev. Prof. Zdzisław J. KIJAS, OFM Conv (Thematic Expert)

Pontifical Faculty of Theology S. Bonaventure – "Seraphicum", Rome

Rev. Prof. Wojciech KUĆKO (Thematic Expert)

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw

Rev. Prof. Marek RACZKIEWICZ, CSSR (Thematic Expert)

Universidad San Dámaso, Madrid

Rev. Tymoteusz MIETELSKI (Student Representative Expert)

Jesuit University Ignatianum, Cracow

### **Visit Methodology and Program**

After receiving the Self Evaluation Report (SER) of the Catholic University of Lublin from the President of AVEPRO, the President of the External Evaluation Commission (EEC) made all the arrangements and set out the program for the visit, assisted by the Dean of Theology, Rev. Prof. Przemysław Kantyka. Two weeks before the visit, the Commission had two online meetings to discuss the SER and to plan the visit.

The visit took place in the site of the Catholic University of Lublin from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Although the COVID-19 pandemic emergency was not completely over, the visit took place in presence with observance of COVID-19 security norms. The on-site meetings were spread over four days. The first three days were filled with a number of meetings with various authorities, staff and students of the Faculties of Theology, Philosophy and Institute of Canon Law. During the visit, the Commission held meetings with the Great Chancellor, the Rector, the Deans and Directors of the Faculties of Theology, Philosophy and Canon Law, the teams that prepared SER, professors, and students of all the Faculties of Theology/Philosophy and the Institute of Canon Law, various

stakeholders, staff, and service employees. The Commission was well received by the University in a friendly atmosphere. The Commission found participants open to dialogue during the visit.

Conversations during the meetings were held in English and Polish. Except for the President of the Commission, all were from Poland. Therefore, there was no difficulty with language. Whenever someone spoke in Polish, the President was assisted with the English translation.

Apart from various meetings, the Commission visited the classrooms while the professors were giving classes. The Commission is very happy about the teaching methodology and the modern electronic equipment and tools used for teaching.

At the end of each day, the Commission held one-hour meeting to evaluate the day and to make a summary of the important points that emerged during the meetings and conversations.

The visit and meetings took in a very cordial and fruitful manner. On the final day of the visit, the Commission met separately with the Deans, Vice-Deans and the Authority of each Faculty of Theology, Philosophy and the Institute of Canon Law and presented to them their observations and recommendations.

### **General Information and the present Status of the KUL**

The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) was founded in 1918 and has been working for the benefit of the Church in Poland for over a hundred years. It is a very prestigious educational institution in Poland. It is the oldest university in Lublin and the first Catholic University in East-Central Europe. It is a private university, where Polish and foreign students study in a wide range of Faculties and disciplines. It is an open university, where people of all religious denominations can study. It is well known for its high-quality standard of education in Poland. It is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In this University, there are three Church Faculties: Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Philosophy and Institute of Canon Law. These two Faculties and the Institute function as per the norms of the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* and the Code of Canon Law. It is subordinate to the Holy See and the Polish Episcopal Conference cares for its scientific development and material situation.

As the SER states on p. 9, KUL is an academic institution which “stood out as a space of freedom, which was especially important in the life of the Church and the Fatherland during the period of communist enslavement. The University strives to serve free Poland in the same way, by ensuring the freedom of research, education and upbringing in the spirit of Christian respect for the dignity of human being”.

The Commission found the physical layout and structure of the University, such as its location, building, offices, library (faculty libraries and the main library) and classrooms in very good condition within a friendly atmosphere. At the University, we can feel the Ecclesiastical spirit behind its very existence and activities. Being the first “Catholic University” in Poland, it keeps up its spirit of its “catholic characteristics” in a very ecclesial sense.

The four-day visit helped the Commission understand and evaluate the present situation of the university with a view to giving recommendations for its further growth and better quality of academic service.

## **1. Self-Evaluation Report (SER)**

### *1.1. Observations and Comments*

The AVEPRO sent the SER to the members of the Commission a few weeks before the visit to the university. It was sent in both Polish and English. The Commission went through the SER and had discussion over it before going for the site visit. The SER has been prepared with great care and rigorous scientific method. It is easy to read, systematic, reliable and honest. It contains objective answers to all the aspects mentioned in the AVEPRO questionnaires. It follows the *Guidelines for Self-Evaluation* indicated by the AVEPRO and all the relevant information about the University.

It is a very detailed report consisting of 161 pages. After a short introduction to the Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Philosophy and the Institute of Canon Law (pp. 5-9), it presents the vision, mission and strategic goals of the University (pp. 9-14). Then, in the main part of the Report, we have the Self-Evaluation (pp.15-148) divided under the following subtitles: 1) The Vision, Mission and Goals; 2) SWOT Analysis; 3) Quality Assurance Policy; 4) General Overview of the Curriculum; 5) Learning Strategies and Models and Central Position of the Students; 6) Support and Student Service; 7) Learning and Teaching; 8) Research Work; 9) Cooperation Network – Scientific Cooperation; 10) Activities benefiting the External Surroundings [Third Mission]; 11) International Policies; 12) Promoting and Managing Information; 13) Management Principles and Models and Managing Available Resources [Structures, Personnel, Economic and Financial Resources].

As per the Guidelines of the AVEPRO, the University has attached 11 Annexes as an integral part of the SER with precise details: 1) Organizational Chart of the Faculty of Theology; 2) Number of Academic Teachers; 3) Average age of Employees by Occupational Group and Position; 4) Average Number of Academic Hours by Week; 5) Number of Students; 6) Number of Newly Enrolled Students; 7) Number of Graduates; 8) Average Number of Years until Graduation; 9) Percentage of

Student Withdrawal; 10) Academic Achievements and Number of Publications; 11) Financial Sources.

All these detailed statistics, data and descriptions have been very helpful for the Commission to understand the overall picture of the University. The large amount of information and data presented in the SER is very much appreciated by the Commission.

The Commission appreciates the systematic manner in which the SER has been prepared. The different parts of the SER have been prepared by different groups. The SER of the Faculty of Theology was prepared by a team of eleven members. The SER of the Faculty of Philosophy and that of the Institute of Canon Law were prepared by two different teams of eight members each. As stated in the SER (pp. 5-8), the preparatory commissions worked according to their competencies, consulting other people of the faculty as well (academic workers, administration staff and students). After preparing the data, the commission discussed the individual elements of the report at subsequent meetings, introducing corrections to its individual points.

The SER has been completed with honesty and sincerity. Therefore, what is written in it reflects exactly the present status of the University. The Commission confirmed this during the visit.

Each Faculty has prepared its own SER through teamwork, but it seems there was no coordination to harmonize the three reports together. That is why the SER of the Institute of Canon Law had only 10 subtitles, whereas the other two Faculties had written the Report with 13 subtitles. The Institute of Canon Law sent the Commission the complete report, a few days after the site visit, for which the Commission is grateful.

### *1.2. Recommendations*

- 1) Some points are overlapping in the SER (especially regarding the Vision, Mission and Goals, Learning, Quality Assurance). As all these three Institutions (Theology, Faculty and Canon Law) have many things in common, some points have been repeated in all the three Self-Evaluation Reports. In future, such repetitions could be avoided.
- 2) In preparing the SER, apart from the teaching and non-teaching staff, some other external category such as Polish Bishops' Conference, external stakeholders and those connected with the third mission could also be consulted and asked for their opinions and contributions.

## 2. Mission, Vision, Governance and Strategic Plan

### 2.1. Observations and Comments

The SER is clear in presenting the Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan (Goals) at two different levels: at the University level in general (pp. 10-14) and then at the level of the two Faculties and Institute individually (pp. 15-19; 66-69; 116-119). They have been presented according to the University's *Development Strategy* for the years 2020-2025.

Having had a number of meetings at various levels, the Commission firmly states that the University is carrying out its mission with clear vision and strategic goals. As mentioned in the SER, the University wants "to maintain its own identity, making it recognized not only in Poland, but also abroad" (p. 9). Numerous efforts taken by the University in the recent years to reach its goals deserve our appreciation.

The University supports the development of research and education in disciplines relating to other fields of study such as biological and medical sciences. It is certainly a solid contribution of the University to the Pope's call to serve life.

The overall vision of the University is motivated by three important tasks: 1) Service to God; 2) Service to the Fatherland; 3) Combining tradition with development. In carrying out these tasks, the University, as a Catholic Institution, aims to support the holistic growth of the students in all spheres of life, by providing them with psychological guidance, socio-political awareness and ethical/religious motivation, in addition to the academic formation. As mentioned in the SER (p. 11), the University's value systems are as follows:

- God as the first value and the source of values
- Fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Respect for the inalienable dignity of every human being
- Reliability in performing assigned tasks and duties
- The primacy of truth and freedom in scientific research
- Concern for studies.

In promoting values, the University makes efforts to keep up standards of behavior at the University: honesty, reliability, respect, quality, development and improvement. In actualizing the above-mentioned tasks and values, the University has successfully gone forward quite well and it can still strive for higher objectives and goals.

During the site visit, the Commission observed that the University is putting its heart, soul and energy into achieving its strategic goals. These goals cover all the areas of the University's activities, such as Research work, Education, giving proper importance to the Ecclesiastical, Social, Educational and Cultural dimensions.

The vision and mission of the Faculty of Theology is apparent in the way it operates within the dynamic reality of the University. Its mission is accomplished in the areas of research and education. The Commission appreciates its commitment and fidelity to the *Magisterium* of the Church and the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*. Its didactic activities of providing theological education for the first cycle (five-year uniform MA Studies in Theology) and the second cycle (Licentiate in Theology with 12 different specializations) and the third cycle (Doctorate in Theology) is one of its great tasks. It is carried out with efficiency, proper method and special care. It is worthy of mention that the State Evaluation Committee has confirmed its quality by giving it a high-level rating of category "A": in 2013 (for the years 2010-2012), then in 2017 (for the years 2013-2016). The Commission encourages the involvement of the Faculty of Theology in promoting quality of research as well as undertaking activities aimed at establishing collaboration with other church institutions and the use of social media to spread the social and ethical teachings of the Church. As stated in the SER (p.19), the Faculty of Theology faces difficulties to achieve its strategic goals. The Commission has given some recommendations to resolve these difficulties at the end of the paragraph 2.2.

The Faculty of Philosophy dedicates itself to the academic and ecclesial mission in the local context as well as at the international level. One of the positive elements of this Faculty is that it has students coming from Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Cameroon. This Faculty is not just offering philosophical knowledge but also educates the students to excel in modern social and cultural life, inculcating in them the social teachings of the church and helping them grow in the pursuit of cosmic and divine knowledge.

The Commission witnessed the quality of the research conducted by the faculty during its visit. It is worthy of mention that the State Evaluation Committee has confirmed its quality by giving it a high-level rating of category "A": in 2013 (for the years 2010-2012), then in 2017 (for the years 2013-2016). The Commission appreciates the mission carried out by the Faculty of Philosophy through its presence in the media and collaboration with international, national and local scientific institutions (PAN committees, associations and scientific societies).

The Faculty of Philosophy strives to offer a high-quality education to its students. It educates them in the spirit of the Gospel and Christian values. Moreover, some of the initiatives and efforts for its further development include: developing the native tradition of the Lublin School of philosophy of religion, history of Philosophy, in particular medieval studies, logic and research methodology, philosophy of nature and natural science; internationalization of research, strengthening the impact on the environment through the implementation of research services for external entities, commercialization of scientific research results and cooperation with non-academic circles.

## 2.2. Recommendations

### A) Theology

- 1) The Strategic Goals of the Faculty of Theology could include a clear and detailed academic program for the second and third cycles.
- 2) The Faculty of Theology could open up opportunities to give more courses, not only in Polish, but also in other languages as there are also students from other countries.
- 3) The Commission appreciates that the Faculty of Theology offers to other faculties missionary courses in Polish and English promoting a Christian vision of the world and of man (Bible in Culture) and will lead from the next academic year a new missionary course in Polish and English (Marriage and Family in Christian Anthropology). The commission recommends the Faculty to maintain the missionary courses currently offered. It may feel free to offer more missionary courses in the future, but not at the cost of cancelling the existing missionary courses.
- 4) The Commission recommends that the Faculty of Theology discuss with the University authorities about sourcing more financial resources to encourage the Faculty to open new branches of studies that could help promote dialogue and progress necessary for today's changing world, especially in response to what is happening in neighboring countries.

### B) Philosophy

- 1) The Faculty of Philosophy could continue to undertake promotional activities and to offer more courses in other languages so that many more students may come from abroad. This could help the students develop their knowledge and language skills and it may open up their horizons for more job opportunities in the future.
- 2) The Commission appreciates that the Faculty of Philosophy offers missionary courses promoting a Christian vision of the world and of man (Ethics, Logic, and History of Philosophy). The commission recommends the Faculty to maintain the missionary courses

currently offered. It may feel free to offer more missionary courses in the future, but not at the cost of cancelling the existing missionary courses.

### C) *Common Recommendations*

- 1) All the three institutions are appreciated by the Commission for promoting their high-level research results through their periodicals and publications. It is recommended that it could be done in some other ways as well, for example, through a systematic collaboration with other Faculties on a regular basis also from abroad, and their cultural and ecclesial richness could be made known to other countries as well.
- 2) The Commission appreciates that the University has developed a good network with former students. The former students could be encouraged to actively work more for some specific concrete action plan at various levels for the welfare of the University, such as fundraising activities or promoting new students for the University. The University can engage the former students to give feedback on the University's activities and on the quality of its services.

## **3. Learning and Research**

### *3.1. Observations and Comments*

#### *Learning:*

The study program offered by the University for the students of Theology, Philosophy and Canon Law reflect the Catholic character of the University and is aimed at the growth of its students in all spheres of life. Students are put at the center of the learning process. In line with the generally applicable regulations of studies at the University, the Faculties are open to adapt to the individual student's needs, considering matters related to their health, family, material situation or social functions.

The University offers the students effective means of learning to facilitate a high-quality education. The Commission visited the University Library (the main library) as well as reading rooms and specialist libraries. These libraries give access to the students to consult all the books that are necessary for their learning. The library staff are very cordial with the students and therefore there is a very good atmosphere of study and research. In addition, the students can have remote access to e-resources. The University has highly advanced information and communication technologies to help the students for a better learning.

Professors are well-qualified with the required academic degrees. There is a very serene and collaborative relationship between the students and the professors. The University has been good at finding right solutions to continue an effective way of teaching through online platforms during the pandemic.

The learning outcome of the students is checked by using effective methods such as research projects, presentations, credits, examinations, tests, quizzes, exams etc. During the meeting with the Commission, the students expressed their high satisfaction with the education offered by the University and the way they are given credits.

In any process of learning the quality of relationship between the teachers and the students plays a vital role. Through open dialogue and meetings with the students, the Commission perceived the respectful and fraternal relationship among the academic staff and the students.

Students are asked to perform anonymous evaluations of the courses, the quality of the teaching staff, content of the course, etc. The evaluations were regularly done even in the last two pandemic years, however, in this period, due to COVID-19 restrictions and rules, the number of responses dropped.

The Commission notes also the logistic facilities that help the students during their stay at the University, namely the large dormitories, canteen, Chaplaincy, theaters, etc. The students can also make use of the various other means and opportunities given to them for their integral growth: spiritual counseling, sessions and conferences for their intellectual and faith formation.

During the site visit, the Commission was impressed by the effective and qualitative education, learning and teaching.

*Research:*

In compliance with the “Development Strategy of the Catholic University of Lublin”, the two Faculties and the Institute are fully engaged in promoting research activities in the specialized sections and specific issues according to their competencies. The Faculty of Theology is promoting research work in the field of family study as well. It is a great contribution to modern society which has a very different view about the concept of family.

Without a solid financial status, no research can be carried out. Funds donated to the University for academic research by the State authorities and external benefactors is much appreciated. The Commission acknowledges with great esteem the numerous scientific publications

of the Faculties. The Commission considers that it is worth mentioning some of the important publications:

Theology:

*The Biblical Annals, Verbum Vitae, Vox Patrum, Annals of Theology, Theology in Poland, The Church in Poland: History and Culture, Studies of Theological Sciences, Polish Academy Sciences* (in collaboration with the Theological Studies Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences).

Philosophy:

Research contributions to monumental collective publications in the form of encyclopedias and academic textbooks, work on nine volumes and supplement that resulted in *Universal Encyclopedia of Philosophy* and two-volume *Encyclopedia of Polish Philosophy* and other publications in the following main journals: *Roczniki Filozoficzne* [Annals of Philosophy], *Ethos. Kwartalnik Instytutu Jana Pawła II* [Ethos. The John Paul II Institute Quarterly], *Roczniki Kulturoznawcze* [Annals of Cultural Studies] and *Człowiek w Kulturze* [Man in Culture].

Canon Law:

The Institute of Canon Law has published a number of scientific research works. The employees of the Institute publish their scientific articles in six academic journals: *Bulletin of the Association of Polish Canonists, Bulletin of the Association of Alumni and Friends of the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Lublin, The Church and Law, Annals of Legal Studies, Files of the Legal Commission. Polish Academy of Sciences, Lublin Branch, and Legal Studies of the Catholic University of Lublin*. Apart from these, we want to highlight a very precious and much appreciated publication: *Lexicon of Canon Law* (no. NN110209638). It is the outcome of the academic research carried out by employees of the Institute through an impressive and prestigious project financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

The scientific contribution of the University for the progress of Theology, Philosophy and Canon Law is extraordinary, both at the national and at the international levels and it makes a significant impact on the Church and on society. But the Commission observed that it has become a challenging task for the University because of the high level of competition in the academic world and insufficient financial resources.

### 3.2. Recommendations

#### A) Theology

- 1) The specificity of the Faculty of Theology is the most extensive system of specialist education in Poland for Licentiate and Doctorate. But the recent Higher Education Law in Poland is a big challenge for the academic education. Right now, the University has six Faculties but it has only one Doctoral School. It means that only two students can be given admission for each discipline in the Doctoral school. During the visit, the Commission learnt that the Faculties have difficulty in guaranteeing coherence between the academic titles offered and the content matter of the study program. In order to help the Faculty of Theology face this difficult situation, the Commission gives the following solutions:
  - in consultation with the Polish Bishops' Conference, the Ministry of Education and other Faculties of Theology, to try out the possibilities to return to the old program of Doctoral studies.
  - if this solution is not possible, then the Commission suggests to open more Doctoral schools for the Faculties.
  - Otherwise, the University could open a separate Doctoral school just for these three Institutions, to maintain their specific identity, which is different from that of the other Faculties.
  - the fourth solution would be to create one Doctoral school in collaboration with other theological Faculties present in Poland.
- 2) As the Faculty of Theology has a very high level of research and education system and has a rich and well-furnished library, it should think of how to share its academic richness with the other Faculties of Theology in Europe by collaborating with them to respond to the signs of the time at all levels: catechetical, ecumenical, pastoral, etc. Such a collaborative work can also aim at strengthening the synodality of the Church. These initiatives should be done in a systematic way on a regular basis.
- 3) It is the biggest of all the other Theological Institutions in the Central East Europe, and has a very big and rich library, it should help the other neighboring countries to create innovative steps to foster Christian culture and Gospel values and to help elaborate theological, pastoral catechetical materials. Having adequate potential and capacities, it could become a point of reference to face the political, cultural, economic and pastoral challenges, not only in Poland but also in neighboring countries.

- 4) The Commission appreciates the large number of professors with high educational qualities and degrees. The average age of the teaching staff is relatively high. Therefore, the Commission recommends that the Faculty should start thinking of recruiting young professors to continue the same traditional catholic spirit of the Faculty. When this becomes possible, it could also hire the lay professors to teach.

*B) Institute of Canon Law*

- 1) The Commission encourages the collaboration of the Institute of Canon Law with the diocesan tribunals and ecclesiastical institutions. Such initiatives should be continued in such a way that they may help fundraising and attracting more students.

*C) Common Recommendation*

- 1) The Commission appreciates that the University invites visiting professors to teach. We encourage this practice to be continued, not just occasionally, but in a more systematic manner and on a regular basis. The faculties could separately nominate a teaching staff member or an employee to be responsible for this element to guarantee the regular practice of inviting professors.
- 2) According to the norms of the University, the visiting professors should have a certain minimum number of teaching hours. If this is not possible with a single professor, then more professors could be invited to cover the number of teaching hours demanded by the university law.

## **4. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT Analysis)**

### *4.1. Summary*

In the SER, the SWOT analysis results of the Faculties of Theology and Philosophy and the Institute of Canon Law are found on pp. 20-22, 70-73, 120-125 respectively. There is no need to repeat the complete list of the SWOT analysis here. Therefore, we mention only some keywords as a summary of the SWOT analysis.

#### *Strengths*

- A large body of titled research scholars;
- Publications in renowned scientific periodicals;
- Ability of the faculties to influence social and Church life;
- Affiliated with several branches in Poland and abroad;

Rich collections at the faculty libraries and the University Library;  
Providing tools for a better quality of education;  
The teaching staff's high academic level;  
Activities aimed at restoring Christian values.

#### *Weaknesses*

Insufficient knowledge of foreign languages among some Faculty of Theology employees;  
Small number of research grants;  
Unregulated legal status of the Licentiate Theological Program;  
Very modest educational offer in English;  
Excessive bureaucracy in research process forced by the State and university regulations.

#### *Opportunities*

Increasing awareness and publishing skills;  
Intensive exploration of topics at the crossroads of theology, social studies and humanities;  
More possibilities in applying for projects and competitions;  
Growing awareness of the need of distance education;  
Expanding the potential and scope of cooperation with other institutions.

#### *Threats*

Reduction in the number of candidates for theology and family studies;  
The secularization of society;  
Decline in priestly and religious vocations;  
Declining interest in full-time studies;  
Small number of places in the doctoral school;  
Negative impact of the changes in the doctoral student education system in Poland.

#### *4.2. Comments and Recommendations*

Knowing strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for growth is an important success factor for any institution. The SWOT analysis gives a very clear picture of the actual situation of the University. It has been presented in detail with honesty and transparency. It is a good thing that the strengths of the faculties are much more than their weakness and threats. We observe that the University has ample opportunities to grow further in the future. The threats mentioned in the SER open up new possibilities to face the challenges faced by the University.

- 1) The Commission appreciates all the strengths of the Faculties of Theology/Philosophy and the Institute of Canon Law, as enlisted in the Self-Evaluation Report. It is highly recommended that each Faculty maintain the same good qualities and strengths in the future as well.
- 2) The honesty and openness of the Faculties to identify their weaknesses and threats is very much appreciated by the Commission. It is recommended that the officials of the Faculties of Theology/Philosophy and the Institute of Canon Law choose the most urgent and most serious issues in order of priority. They should find solutions to overcome them by their own efforts.
- 3) The Faculty of Theology could collaborate with other Faculties in Poland and abroad to resolve the problems that are not easy to resolve itself.

## 5. Quality Assurance

### 5.1. Observations and Comments

The quality of education is guaranteed by the *Internal Education Quality Assurance System* that the Rector of the University introduced on March 27, 2020. It was the follow-up of the previous *Internal Education Quality System*, implemented by a resolution of the University's Senate on November 29, 2012 (cfr. SER, p. 24). Ever since it was implemented, it has been helping the University to ensure and promote high quality of education.

Despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19, the University is making use of the effective tools of verification and evaluation in the field of quality assurance.

The active involvement of internal and external stakeholders in ensuring the high-quality education is much appreciated.

### 5.2. Recommendations

#### A) Theology

- 1) Besides the research specialization in the field of Theology and Family Studies, the Faculty of Theology has nine specialized sections devoted to research on specific scientific issues: 1. Biblical Studies, 2. Church History and Patrology, 3. Dogmatic Theology, 4. Fundamental Theology, 5. Moral Theology, 6. Ecumenism, 7. Spiritual Theology, 8. Pastoral Theology and Catechetics, 9. Liturgy and Homiletics. All these sections mark the unique richness of the KUL's Faculty of Theology. The Commission appreciates these specialties, because these sections are very important and they mark the uniqueness of the

KUL in Poland. Due to the proposed Education Law of Poland, it will be hard to maintain such a large number of existing sections in the Faculty of Theology. Therefore, the Commission suggests to have dialogue with the University authorities of all levels, the Polish Bishops' Conference and other theological faculties in Poland to maintain these high number of specialized sections for the welfare of the Church in Poland.

#### *B) Common recommendation*

- 1) All the three Faculties carry out the students' evaluations, data analysis and implementation of new action plans in a very effective and systematic manner. It is highly appreciated by the Commission. It is recommended that the students should be constantly encouraged to complete the evaluation of the professors and courses with openness, honesty and seriousness in view of Quality Assurance.

## **6. Third mission**

### *6.1. Observations and Comments*

The University is actively involved in a number of activities that benefit the external environment at all levels. Each Faculty's involvement in the third mission depends on its area of specialization.

The University has contributed a lot to the local Church in Poland and abroad. More than 80 Bishops of the Polish Episcopal Conference are former students of the KUL. From this, one can see how much impact the KUL has had on the Church in Poland.

The employees of the Faculty of Theology provide expert and advisory services to the Polish Bishop's Conference, diocesan bishops and major superiors of religious congregations. They also collaborate with Catholic social media in many ways. This kind of collaboration is extended to secular media as well. Moreover, cooperation with schools and family counselling centers is also highly appreciated. The cooperation of the Faculty of Theology with centers of other Christian denominations (in Lublin, Poland and the world) shows its openness and commitment to foster ecumenical dialogue. With the same spirit, the Faculty of Philosophy also carries out its third mission in various forms.

The Institute of Canon Law is also developing cooperation with the non-university environment, but it could strive to expand its collaboration beyond Ukraine, Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Commission appreciates the Institute of Canon Law for being a "breeding ground" for

the Church judiciary in Poland by giving a very solid academic formation to many clergy-men and lay students. It helps the students to become efficient in serving the Church and the State as defenders of the marriage bond. All these practical and concrete activities carried out with seriousness manifest that the University is faithfully committed to its third mission. Although it is doing its third mission very well, here are a few recommendations to improve the quality and the outcome of the mission.

## *6.2. Recommendations*

- 1) It is highly appreciated that some professors, due to their high professional efficiency and academic excellence, are invited by external bodies such as the Episcopal Conferences, Holy See, Public ministry of the Polish government and other public institutions to offer their valuable collaboration. The University should value their external collaborations and encourage them by reducing the teaching hours demanded by the academic law, but paying the same amount of salary as stated in their employment contract.
- 2) The teaching staff should continue their active participation in the third mission, according to his/her own personal qualities, capacities, talents and professional efficiency in their own field of interest. They should feel jointly responsible with the catholic identity of University in carrying out its third mission.

## **7. Conclusions and recommendations in order of priority**

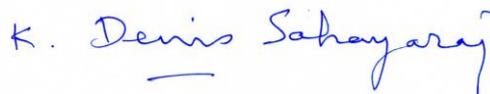
The site visit was an enriching experience for the members of the Commission to learn about the academic activities and dynamic functioning of the KUL engaged in providing its valuable academic service to Poland and the world. It has a lot of potential and enormous human resources to achieve its high goals.

Life inside the KUL is very peaceful, fraternal, cordial and student-oriented. The “governance” of the University is working in full swing to render its best service to the Church and society. Faithful to the *Magisterium* of the Church, Canon Law and Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* and the High Education Law of Poland, the KUL is able to maintain an equilibrium in meeting the demands of the Church and the State.

The meetings with the Grand Chancellor, Magnificent Rector, Deans, Vice-deans, teaching staff, stakeholders, students, employees, and other administrators, helped the Commission to understand the strengths and challenges of the University. Apart from all the recommendations given at the end of each subsection, the Commission hereby gives a summary of final Recommendations in the order of priority:

- 1) The most important and most urgent challenge for the three academic institutions is the proposed High Education Law of the Polish government, especially for the second and third cycle studies. The recommendations regarding this issue can be found in subsection 3.2.
- 2) The Faculties should maintain contact with external professors and it is recommended that they should invite visiting professors on a regular basis in a systematic manner.
- 3) The three Institutions can continue to create more systematic plans regarding the visiting professors in view of a more holistic formation of the students.
- 4) The Commission recommends that the Faculties of Theology/Philosophy and the Institute of Canon Law, in collaboration with the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow and other ecclesiastical institutions in Poland, should strive to continue its wonderful service to be key promotor of Christian values in Poland. The faculties cannot successfully carry out certain new initiatives with their efforts alone but through effective means of collaboration with other similar institutions in Poland and abroad. Thus, the three Institutions can continue to promote the richness of Catholic heritage in the Polish Church.

Rome, 29 March 2022



Rev. Prof. Denis Sahayaraj KULANDAISAMY, OSM (President)  
Pontifical Faculty of Theology "Marianum", Rome



Rev. Prof. Zdzisław J. KIJAS, OFM Conv (Thematic Expert)  
Pontifical Faculty of Theology S. Bonaventure –"Seraphicum", Rome



Rev. Prof. Wojciech KUĆKO (Thematic Expert)  
Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw



Rev. Prof. Marek RACZKIEWICZ, CSSR (Thematic Expert)  
Universidad San Dámaso, Madrid



Rev. Tymoteusz MIETELSKI (Student Representative Expert)  
Jesuit University Ignatianum, Cracow

## Annex: Program of the Site Visit

## **ANNEX – PROGRAM OF THE SITE VISIT**

### **Visit of AVEPRO at John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin**

**12-16 December 2021**

#### **12 December 2021**

In the afternoon - accommodation of the Commission and preparatory meeting

19.00 – Dinner

#### **13 December 2021: Faculty of Philosophy**

07.45 – Mass in “Konwikt” chapel or academic church

08.30 – Breakfast

09.00 – Initial meeting with the deans and directors of all three faculties

10.00 – Faculty of Philosophy - meeting with the team preparing the report

11.00 – Coffee break

11.30 – Sightseeing of the Faculty – didactic / library / base, visits to classes

13.00 – Lunch

14.30 – Meeting with students

15.00 – Meeting with doctoral students

15.30 – Meeting with the teaching staff

16.30 – Coffee break

17.30 – Summary meeting - Evaluation Committee

19.00 – Dinner

#### **14 December 2021: Faculty of Theology**

07.45 – Facultative: Mass in “Konwikt” chapel or academic church

08.30 – Breakfast

09.00 – Meeting with the deans, the director and the team preparing the report

10.30 – Sightseeing of the Faculty – didactic / library / base, visits to classes

11.30 – Coffee break

12.00 – Meeting with students

13.00 – Lunch

14.00 – Meeting with professors and doctoral students

- 15.30 – Meeting (coffee) with the Great Chancellor of University – Archbishop Stanisław Budzik  
in his residence
- 17.30 – Summary meeting - Evaluation Committee
- 19.00 – Dinner

**15 December 2021: Institute of Canon Law**

- 07.45 – Facultative: Mass in “Konwikt” chapel or academic church
- 08.30 – Breakfast
- 09.00 – Meeting with the director of the Institute and the team preparing the report
- 10.30 – Sightseeing of the Institute – didactic / library / base, visits to classes
- 11.30 – Coffee break
- 13.00 – Lunch
- 14.30 – Meeting with students
- 15.00 – Meeting with professors and doctoral students
- 16.30 – Coffee break
- 17.30 – Summary meeting - Evaluation Committee
- 19.00 – Dinner

**16 December 2021: “Sum up” Day**

- 07.45 – Facultative: Mass in “Konwikt” chapel or academic church
- 08.30 – Breakfast
- 09.00 – Meeting with the Stakeholders
- 10.00 – Meeting with the Rector
- 10.30 – Meeting with university quaestor and invited guests
- 11.00 – Closed meeting of the Evaluation Committee to prepare the final presentation
- 13.00 – Lunch
- 14.30 – Meeting with deans of the Faculty of Theology – Presentation of results and recommendations
- 15.30 – Meeting with deans of the Faculty of Philosophy – Presentation of results and recommendations
- 16.30 – Meeting with dean of the Faculty of Law and the director of the Institute the Canon Law –  
presentation of results and recommendations
- 17.30 – Meeting among the members of the External Evaluation Commission
- 19.00 – Dinner.