

**The awarding of the Honorary Doctoral Degree of the John Paul II
Catholic University of Lublin to Reinhard Zimmermann
on 22 June 2021**

Nadanie tytułu doktora *honoris causa* Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego Jana Pawła II
Reinhardowi Zimmermannowi, 22 czerwca 2021 r.

Церемонія присвоєння степені почесного доктора (*honoris causa*) Люблінського
Католицького Університету Іоанна Павла II Райнхарду Ціммерманну,
22 июня 2021 года

Надання титулу почесного доктора (*honoris causa*) Люблінського Католицького
Університету Іоанна Павла II Райнхарду Ціммерманну, 22 червня 2021 р.

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The Senate of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin awarded the *honoris causa* doctorate by way of a resolution to Prof. Reinhard Zimmermann, indicating that it was a sign of respect and appreciation for his academic achievement, especially for his “exceptional contribution to legal sciences through the discovery and popularization of the European legal identity.”¹ Initially, the ceremony was planned for March 2020, however, due to the prolonging pandemic restrictions, the conferring of the honorary title took place during an online transmission on 22 June 2021.

The introductory word was delivered by His Magnificence Fr. Prof. Mirosław Kalinowski, Rector of the Catholic University of Lublin, who welcomed Prof. Reinhard Zimmermann, as well as the gathered Vice-Rectors, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration, Prof. Andrzej Herbet, Director of the Institute of Legal Sciences, Prof. Joanna Misztal-Konecka, and the Director of the Institute of Canon Law, Fr. Prof. Krzysztof Mikołajczuk. His Magnificence Rector expressed his gratitude to the authorities of the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration for submitting the request to award the honorary title, as well

¹ Resolution of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin of 24 October 2019 on awarding the title of the *honoris causa* doctorate to Prof. Reinhard Zimmermann (812/III/1). Quoted after: *Profesor Reinhard Zimmermann. Doktor honoris causa Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego Jana Pawła II*, Lublin 2021, p. 7. Prof. Zimmermann's academic achievement was reviewed by Prof. Paul J. du Plessis, Head of the Department of Roman Law at the University of Edinburgh, and Prof. Michal Skřejpek, Head of the Department of the History of Law at the Charles University in Prague.

as to the former Rector, His Magnificence Fr. Prof. Antoni Dębiński, for initiating activities which culminated in the present ceremony. His Magnificence Rector Fr. Prof. Kalinowski pointed out that the university conferred the highest academic award on an exquisite scholar, an expert on Roman law, legal history and private and European law, recalling the maxim of Marcus Porcius Cato the Elder: *suum cuique*. The resolution of the Senate of the Catholic University of Lublin was read by Vice-Rector for mission and administration, Fr. Prof. Mirosław Sitarz.

The figure of the nominated scholar was presented by Prof. Maciej Jońca from the Catholic University of Lublin, who performed the function of the promoter. As he observed in his commendation speech, it was impossible to describe the whole career and all the achievements of the laureate in such a short time. Further, Prof. Jońca observed that the example set by Prof. Zimmermann proves that a creative approach to history and tradition of Roman law is still able to instigate changes in our perception of the world. He emphasized that the ceremony was aimed not only to honour an outstanding academic, but also to pay homage to a guardian protecting the memory of the roots of our common identity.²

After His Magnificence Rector Fr. Prof. Kalinowski had read the content of the diploma, Prof. Reinhard Zimmermann thanked in Polish for being awarded such a great honour and proceeded to deliver a lecture entitled: "Christian Church and Roman Legal Culture."³ Prof. Zimmermann emphasized that Roman law and canon law are closely connected by the elements of the European judicial tradition. Moving further, he indicated that in the Middle Ages it was believed that it was impossible to think about one without referring to the other: *ius canonicum et civile sunt adeo connexa, ut unum sine altero non intellegi potest*.

The ceremony was brought to a closure by his Magnificence Rector Fr. Prof. Kalinowski, who expressed his gratitude and also his hope that in the near future Prof. Zimmermann would be able to visit the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in person. Next, Rector Kalinowski extended his thanks to all those present in the university auditorium and the viewers of the transmission. He also expressed his special gratitude to the members of the University Choir, who provided a truly artistic setting to the event. The whole ceremony ended with the singing of the academic song *Gaudeamus igitur*.

² For the content of the laudation in the Polish language, see: *Profesor Reinhard Zimmermann...*, pp. 19–25.

³ The text of the lecture was published in Polish and English in a commemorative book: *Profesor Reinhard Zimmermann...*, and also in the current issue of *Studia Prawnicze KUL*. See: R. Zimmermann, *Kościół chrześcijański a rzymska kultura prawna*, pp. 321–344; R. Zimmermann, *Christian Church and Roman Legal Culture*, pp. 345–368.