THE FOURTH LATERAN COUNCIL:

AN EVENT THAT TRANSFORMED EUROPE

Edited by
Ivan Majnarić, Daniel Patafta, Marko Jerković, (eds.)

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CONTENTS

Preface

PART I: Law

The Fourth Lateran Council and the Development of Canon Law
RATKO RADIŠIĆ 11

The Fourth Lateran Council and the Functioning of Courts in Thirteenth Century Eastern Adriatic
TOMISLAV POPIĆ 35

Papal Attitudes towards Eastern Adriatic Piracy and the Fourth Lateran Council
IVAN MAJNARIĆ 61

PART II: Reforms

Decisions of the Fourth Lateran Council on the Election of New Bishops and Their Implementation in the Election of Split's Archbishops during the First Half of the 13th Century
SLAVKO KOVAČIĆ 79

Between the King and Church Reform: Secular Canons, Corporativism, and Monarchy in the "Post-Lateran" Age (the Hungarian-Slavonian Case)
MARKO JERKOVIĆ 107

Facing a Great Challenge: The Benedictine Abbey of Rogovo in the 13th Century
TOMISLAV GALOVIĆ 139

"Via pateret discentibus ad doctrinam": The Role of the Fourth Lateran Council in the Educational and Pastoral Reform of the Thirteenth Century
IGOR RAZUM 155

PART III: Confessional practice

Conclusions of the Fourth Lateran Council in the Writings of Saint Francis of Assisi
DANIEL PATAFTA 177

The Fourth Lateran Council about the Theologians: *Canonum sacrosancti Concilii quarti Lateranensis lectio comparata*
MISLAV KOVAČIĆ 233

Handbooks of Moral Theology and the Fourth Lateran Council
PAVAO KNEZOVIĆ 259

PART IV: Theological Echoes

Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus – The Question of Salvation outside the Church at the Fourth Lateran Council
ŽELJKO TANJIĆ and ZORAN TURZA 303

On the Sacrament of Confession: Michel Foucault and the Fourth Lateran Council
IVICA RAGUŽ 317

Doctrine of Creation at the Fourth Lateran Council: Context, Interpretation, and Characteristics
NEDJELJKA SR. VALERIJA KOVAČ 337

Is God Similar? The Lateran Rule of Speaking about God
STJEPAN KUŠAR 365

Notes on the Contributors

Preface

Among the numerous events and social processes that defined the Middle Ages, the Fourth Lateran Council is undoubtedly one that profoundly changed the society. As a reflection of the changes that affected Western European Christianity during the 12th and early 13th centuries, the conciliar conclusions had a crucial impact on the position of the papacy, the organization of the Church, the spiritual and everyday life of the faithful, and the shaping of new political and social trends in the secular sphere. This volume offers an overview of individual cases in which the impact of decisions of the Fourth Lateran Council was manifest at the wider European level as well as in the historical territories of Croatia. It is the fruit of the scholarly conference The Fourth Lateran Council: An Event that Transformed Europe, held in Zagreb in November 2015 and organized by the Department of History at the Croatian Catholic University, Chair of History and Chair of Croatian Latinity at the Department of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb, Chair of Church History at the Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb, and the Croatian Franciscan Province of Saint Cyril and Methodius. From the aspect of Croatian historiography, the volume is a contribution to the numerous global events marking the 800th anniversary of the Fourth Lateran Council.

The basic idea behind the volume – case studies from the medieval era – has been supplemented with various theological considerations, which go beyond the strict temporal limitation of being thematically focused on the Middle Ages. Thus, they not only observe the decisions of the Fourth Lateran Council in their historical significance up to the present times, but also add a specific interdisciplinary value to the main theme of the volume, which is reflected in its very structure. The volume is divided into four sections, in which the contributors have approached the subject from various angles, ranging from syntheses to case studies. The first part ("Law") focuses on the Council's impact on medieval legal culture, while the second ("Reforms") addresses the implementation of conciliar decisions in the Croatian lands

during the 13th century. In the third part ("Confessional Practice"), the authors have discussed the Council's impact on religious practice and moral theology. The final part ("Theological Echoes") addresses specific theological questions that have remained topical to the present day and yet remain closely related to the conciliar conclusions.

It should be emphasized that the editorial board respected the authors' individual approaches and did not intervene concerning the choice of cited source collections, given the fact that all papers observed the academic conventions in terms of scholarly methodology and academic research and reflection.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks for the support we received in publishing this volume. We are indebted to the Croatian Catholic University, Catholic Faculty of Theology at the University of Zagreb, and the Croatian Franciscan province of St Cyril and Method. We owe equal gratitude to all those who have contributed to the quality of this edition, especially to Marina Schumann, who has shown great dedication in translating and copyediting the texts. The results of our work are now left to the judgment of the scholarly and professional public.

Marko Jerković
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Daniel Patafta