



**JOSIP JURAJ STROSSMAYER UNIVERSITY OF OSIJEK
CATHOLIC FACULTY OF THEOLOGY IN ĐAKOVO**



Josip Juraj Strossmayer University
of Osijek



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Welcome to the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo

The Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo educates students to be, in the spirit of Christian faith and ecclesiasticism, morally responsible members of society who make critical analysis and act wisely and proficiently in order to contribute to the common good. Fulfilling the mission of evangelization which Christ entrusted to the Church, the Faculty takes constant care to ensure high quality and comprehensive education and formation of students. In accountability towards religious,

cultural, social and historical heritage, the Faculty continues to advance to fulfil its core mission: the intellectual and spiritual development of young people, as well as scientific research and the establishment of the truths of Christian faith. The common task of teaching and non-teaching staff is to achieve fellowship at all levels of academic life, and at the same time to nurture the spirit of openness in, although predominately Catholic, still a religiously complex environment.





The Faculty with a long history

The Faculty of today continues the tradition of over two hundred years of studying philosophy and theology in the diocesan town of Đakovo. On November 6, 1806, in the building of former Franciscan monastery, Bishop Ante Mandić opened the Theological Seminary and *Lyceum episcopale*. With great difficulty, the study of philosophy was founded first, which, even though it was founded and has always remained a diocesan institute (as well as the entire *Lyceum episcopale*) became an interest of not only young men, who were candidates for the priesthood, but also a large number of secular students, and not only from Slavonia, but also from distant regions, like southern Hungary.

The study of theology in Đakovo met the regulations of the time. A lyceum was considered as a complete theological study if it had four systematized teaching posts as well as four tested and approved professors, which the *Lyceum episcopale* in Đakovo had. This model of study was in effect until the reform in 1849, that is 1850. With the Apostolic Letter of Pope Pius XI, »*Deus Scientiarum Dominus*«, from 1931, the study of philosophy and theology was extended to five years, and the school was renamed the School of Theology (ST).

The spirit of renewal of the Second Vatican Council introduces new courses, there is a new generation of teachers, and the model of education is the highest theological institution in Croatia, the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Zagreb (CFT). In 1974, the Statute of CFT in Zagreb served as the model for the Statute of the ST in Đakovo. By the ST faculty decision and on the request of the diocesan bishop and the CFT in Zagreb to the Congregation for Catholic

Education, the affiliation to the CFT in Zagreb was approved on January 10, 1987.

With the return of the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Zagreb to the state University, the ST in Đakovo also underwent certain reforms, so in 1994 it changed its name. The School of Theology changed its name to the Theology in Đakovo – Affiliate Study of the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Zagreb, aligning its name to the Higher Education Institutions Act of the Republic of Croatia, from 1993. Aligned with the Church and state regulations, with the Statute of the University of Zagreb and with the Statute of the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Zagreb, the Statute of Theology in Đakovo came into force on February 28, 2000.

After the request from the diocesan bishop, Msgr. Dr. Marin Srakić, from November 7, 2003, to the Congregation for Catholic Education in Rome, on the pastoral need to elevate the Theology in Đakovo to the level of the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo, the Congregation accepted the request and with the Decree No. 194/2004 from June 4, 2005, it established the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo as part of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek. The first Statute of the Faculty that was approved »ad experimentum« for five years by the Congregation for Catholic Education on June 4, 2005, remained in force until April 20, 2010. On that date, the new Statute of CFT came into force, which was approved by the Congregation for Catholic Education on March 25, 2010. With the start of the academic year 2015/2016, the new Statute of the CFT in Đakovo is in force that was approved »ad alterum quinquennium« by the Congregation for Catholic Education with the Decree from June 24, 2015.





The Faculty that offers high quality theological education and various employment opportunities



The organizational units of the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo are the dormitory, the library, the Secretariat, the Department of Philosophy and History, the Department of Biblical Sciences and Patrology, the Department of Systematic Theology and the Department of Practical Theology.

The Faculty regularly conducts an integrated undergraduate and graduate university study of philosophy and theology that lasts 5 years (10 semesters).

Upon the completion of the study, the holder of the qualification is authorized to use the academic title Master of Theology (Mag. Theol.). A temporary or a permanent authorization to work in the profession is issued by the local Ordinary. The holder of the qualification is qualified for:

- › priesthood, diaconate and other pastoral services
- › teaching religious education in primary and secondary schools
- › serving as a catechist and pastoral assistant in the parish community
- › collaboration in the area of publishing, and church media
- › work in social welfare institutions and in correctional institutions
- › work in the media with Christian-religious themes
- › work in marriage and family counseling
- › work in the hospital ethics committees.



The Faculty that promotes excellence of scientific research, international cooperation and mobility

The Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo strives to realize its potential and become a recognized scientific and teaching institution in this part of Europe which fosters pluralism, interdisciplinarity, great international cooperation and outstanding social engagement. Therefore, as scientific research priorities we include:

- strengthening the scope, transparency and quality of scientific research in order to achieve competitiveness and international recognition of the Faculty
- further development of the Faculty's publishing activities in order to contribute to the advancement of teaching, scientific, educational and other activities and to encourage the creative spirit within them
- the development of professional and consulting activities.

The Strategy of the Faculty, adopted in 2016, sets before the Faculty a clear objective of building recognition and excellence in relation to the neighboring countries. To this effect, the main objectives of international cooperation are determined and defined by the following strategic development goals:

- to formalize good cooperation with foreign universities, in terms of signing cooperation agreements
- education, raising interest and awareness of students, teachers and non-teaching staff of the possibilities and advantages of mobility programs.







The Faculty that offers a peaceful atmosphere for questioning and searching for God and man



Assoc. Prof. Boris Vulić, teacher

»I see our CFT as a desirable castle where we retreat to in order to better understand the faith and God's action in the world. Therefore, I would like that many wish to be part of this academic community, which I feel as a young Church that is only about to make its contribution.«



Blaž Jokić, student

»The theological spirit that permeates this Faculty enables personal relationship between students and professors, intellectual development and growth in faith. The Faculty allows me to pursue God professionally, and for God to be my bread, my daily thought, my desire...«



Filip Sertić, student

»The fellowship among students at the Faculty is particularly emphasized, so that the students work together as an active workgroup. I would like to stress the commitment of teachers in the process of spiritual development of us students.«



Antonija Pranjković, expert adviser for quality

»The Faculty provides hard-working, pleasant and familiar environment that encourages identifying and finding new spaces for improving the quality of studying.«



Marin Ivanišić, expert associate for computer network and information system

»The Faculty has very good computer and communications infrastructure that allows the use of modern technology, both for teachers and students in the teaching and research work, as well as for employees in carrying out their daily duties.«





Internal surveys that are regularly carried out by the Office for Quality Assurance and Monitoring of the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo, show that the students are particularly satisfied with:

- personal approach to students and high level of interpersonal communication and openness at the Faculty
- commitment and concern for the scientific and spiritual formation
- the implementation of activities for promoting the importance of science as such
- the wide range of extra-curricular activities (choir, film, drama, charitable and biblical groups, volunteering, demo work in the library, student newspapers »Theophilus«)
- the involvement of students in the Erasmus + mobility program
- the possibility of obtaining scholarships for postgraduate studies in country and abroad
- study trips abroad
- the kindness and accessibility of professional staff and the courtesy of all the offices at the Faculty
- the excellent organization of infrastructure and the consolidation of institutions and locations (dormitory, faculty, library, chapel)
- modern IT equipment and wireless Internet access
- accessibility for persons with disabilities
- modern dormitory.





The Faculty with a well-equipped library

The Central archdiocesan and university library in Đakovo, together with the libraries of bishops Strossmayer and Bäuerlein, and the library funds of many priests and parishes, is among the most valuable in eastern Croatia. The library fund includes books from the 15th to the 21st century. Regarding their contents, the books are from the fields of biblical sciences, philosophy, theology, history, literature and liturgy, while the reference collection includes encyclopedias, dictionaries, lexicons, directories, bibliographies etc. The library also includes a rich Collection of old books and manuscripts that contains: eleven (11) incunabula, Croatian books and rare foreign books. As separate units, the Collection also keeps the Petrovaradin Library and the Library of Bishop Čolnić.

The space for loaning books (the reading room) is equipped with shelves that are easily searchable for books and expert journals. The library consists of about 140,000 volumes of books (70,000 titles and 750 textbooks, and a series of graded works – graduation, master's and doctoral dissertations – that are kept in the library). There is also a total of 567 Croatian and 390 foreign journals (approximately 15,000 journal bindings) at user disposal. The library has a good cooperation with all the libraries (of the same or related areas of humanities) within Croatia, particularly in the field of interlibrary loan.

The reading room that is part of the library has 60 seats, and a space to search the available databases that includes computers with Internet access.





The Faculty in the Heart of Slavonia

Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo
(www.djkbfbf.unios.hr);

Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek
(www.unios.hr);

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
(www.mzos.hr)

Grand Chancellor: Msgr. Đuro Hranić, PhD
The Archbishop and Metropolitan of Đakovo-Osijek

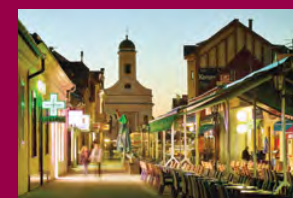
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The details on the Dean's Chain of Office summarize the basic message of Christian faith: *Aquileia knot*, which symbolizes the joyous knot of salvation, the Eucharistic knot of the divine and human. The knot is present in the Basilica of Aquileia, which was the starting point for missions to our parts. There is also *the Croatian wattle*, an expression of our Homeland, and everything is embroidered with rings that remind of our Slavonian gold coins, of our flat and beautiful Slavonia. The entire chain merges to the center, to the three circles that symbolize *the Trinity*. This merging in the Christian faith is always concrete, through *Our Lady of Dragotin*, the Patroness of the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo, to whom each year the Faculty offers pilgrimage of thanksgiving, and who by her example and love guides all of the students, teachers and staff to Christ and leads them to the fullness of divine life.

