

## **Jakub Smrčka**

Jakub Smrčka was born in Tábor, CZ in 1974 and began his studies of theology at the Hussite Theological Faculty at the Charles University Prague in 1993. He attended the Department of Old Catholic Theology at the University of Bern from 1997 until 1999 and completes his postgraduate studies at the Charles University in Prague with a dissertation on The Bohemian Reform Currents of the 14th Cent. and the Devotio Moderna from 2001 until 2008. He has worked as a curator for collectives at the Hussite Museum in Tábor since 2004 holds the position as director of the museum since 2010. Apart from his work at the museum, he acts furthermore as Deacon for the Old Catholic Church of TR.

### **Jan Hus and the early movement of the Bohemian reformation**

Jan Hus is a well-known representative of the Bohemian and European history even though his attempts to reform the church ended in accusations of heresy and his burning at the stake in Constance. The Bohemian movement is often only associated with the Hussite wars but is rarely tied to the general reformation movement. It was Martin Luther, however, who put emphasis on the historically important Hussite movement. Through his words ‘omnes sumus Hussitae ignorantes’ (We are all Hussites even without knowing it), he elevated Jan Hus into the family of reformers and established him together with John Wycliff as one of the early representatives of the reformation movement. This also emphasized the importance of the roots of the Bohemian reform movement within the environment of the Charles University Prague and also of the Bohemian Wycliffism. Beginning in Prague the words and teachings of Jan Hus spread far and wide. The Lutheran reformation kept close contact with the bohemian reform church of the Utraquisten as well as with the Unitas Fratrum. Through Jan Hus these reform movements of Bohemian culture became well-known within the world Reformation movement and established the early beginning of the Bohemian reformation itself.