

WALDEMAR W. ŻUREK SDB – LUBLIN

## **2<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL FORUM OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVES IN POLAND**

On 14-16 June 2015, the director of the Diocesan Archive in Kielce<sup>1</sup>, Rev. Andrzej Kwaśniewski, organized the Second National Forum of the Directors of the Diocesan Archives in Poland under the patronage of the President of the Polish Episcopal Conference, Metropolitan Archbishop of Poznań Stanisław Gądecki, Bishop of Kielce Jan Piotrowski and Bishop of Gliwice Jan Kopiec. The conference was held at the Dialogue and Meeting Centre of the Diocese of Kielce in Skorzeszyce no. 167 and the Diocesan Archive in Kielce, 3 John Paul II Street.

The Congress began with the Mass concelebrated on 14 June in the chapel of the Dialogue and Meeting Centre. The principal celebrant was Rev. Waldemar Żurek, the director of the Institute of Church Archives, Libraries and Museums of the Catholic University of Lublin. On the first day of the Forum the sessions were held in the conference room of the building belonging to the Dialogue and Meeting Centre. The director and host of the Forum Rev. Andrzej Kwaśniewski greeted the directors of the diocesan archives and libraries, specialists of church archive studies and speakers.

The Forum began with the presentation of the diocesan archives in Poland, which was made by the director of the Archdiocesan Archive in Poznań Rev. Roman Dworacki, who also presented the directors of each archive, and they in turn spoke of cimelia in their archives, ongoing research projects and plans for the future. In the presentation the following directors of the diocesan archives were

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<sup>1</sup> The Diocesan Archive in Kielce – After 1917, an archivist was appointed to describe records. In 1935, Bishop Czesław Kaczmarek established the Diocesan Archive in Kielce. During the Second World War some personal records of priests were destroyed. After the war, until 1984 the storage room of the Archive was in the Seminary in Kielce. At that time, there was limited access to the collection of the archive due to lack of research room. In 1984 the archive was transferred to the building of the Curia of the Diocese of Kielce. Currently it possesses a storage-room, a research and reading room and an office room. First, the archive was ran by Rev. Jan Szczurek Since 2010, Rev. Andrzej Kwaśniewski has been its director. The director organizes an open day in the archive. *Archives of the Catholic Church in Poland. A guide*, ed. M. Dębowska, Kielce 2002, p. 43.

presented: Rev. Piotr Górecki (the Diocese of Gliwice<sup>2</sup>), Rev. Michał Sołomieńko (the Archdiocesan Archive in Gniezno), Rev. Jacek Urban (the Archive of the Cathedral Chapter in Cracow<sup>3</sup>), Rev. Czesław Chrzęszcz (the Diocese of Bielsko and Żywiec), Rev. Dariusz Piotr Majewski (the Diocesan Archive in Płock), Rev. Kazimierz Dąbrowski and Rev. Mieczysław Różański (the Archdiocesan Archive in Łódź), Halina Dudała (the Archdiocesan Archive in Katowice), Rev. Zbigniew Gmurczyk (the Diocesan Archive in Włocławek), Rev. Tadeusz Ceynowa (the Diocese of Koszalin and Kołobrzeg), Rev. Anastazy Nadolny (the Diocesan Archive in Pelplin), Rev. Krzysztof Koch (the director of the Diocesan Library in Pelplin), Rev. Stanisław Tokarski (the Diocesan Archive in Tarnów), Rev. Sławomir Kęszka (the director and coordinator of the Catholic Action in the Diocese of Kalisz), Jacek Okulus (the Diocesan Archive of Warszawa and Praga), Rev. Dr Hab. Waldemar Żurek (the director of the Institute of Church Archives, Libraries and Museums) Rev. Andrzej Kwaśniewski (the Diocesan Archive in Kielce), Rev. Roman Dworacki and Rev. Jan Maria Musielak (the Archdiocesan Archive in Poznań).

The sessions of that day were divided into two parts: the morning one at the Dialogue and Meeting Centre and the other one, in the afternoon at the Diocesan Archive in Kielce. The first session was chaired by Diocesan Bishop of Gliwice Rev. Jan Kopiec. In the introduction to the session he underlined the importance of the Forum, which provided opportunity to share professional information and news.

Rev. Mieczysław Różański from the University of Warmia and Mazury and the director of the Archdiocesan Archive in Łódź in his speech presented the draft statute of the diocesan archive. In the presented statute he divided the structure of the church diocesan archive into: a current archive, a temporary archive and a diocesan archive, that is a historical one. In another speech, Rev. Jan Maria Musielak from Poznań presented the topic: "An archivist like the father of the family brings new and old things from the treasury. Description and preservation of the books of the consistory from Poznań" The director of the Head Office of the State Archives – Władysław Stępiak was represented by his deputy Andrzej Biernat, who presented the topic: "The national archival collection and the place of the church archives in it." The speaker referred to Article 25 of the Concordat, providing that the diocesan bishop should appoint people to be responsible for cooperation of diocesan archives with state authorities. An attempt to implement the provisions of the Concordat, namely the establishment of government and church work teams has already taken place in recent years. Both the church and the state expect the intensification of action in this area<sup>4</sup>. Another speaker Halina Dudała

<sup>2</sup> The Diocesan Archive is housed in the premises of the Episcopal Curia in Gliwice. The director of the archive is preparing to open the diocesan archive (historical one).

<sup>3</sup> Actually, there are two church archives in Cracow: the Archive of the Metropolitan Curia in Franciszkańska Street and the Archive of the Cathedral Chapter Archive, located at the Wawel Hill.

<sup>4</sup> Cooperation of church archives with state archives was exposed at a conference held in Pułtusk, in November 2011 – "The protection of church archives records", which broadly showed the scope of this issue. The Conference was initiated by the Council for Culture and Cultural Heritage

from Katowice in her speech: "Church archival studies – problems and challenges in the field of education" informed participants of the Forum that the Diocesan Synod in Katowice had established the Commission for Cultural Heritage- it operates at the archival, library and museum level. The speaker advocated granting archive studies the statute of the subject in the programme of the seminary studies and a need for archival courses during these studies. In addition, she showed the necessity of preparing and publishing archival course for parish priests. The morning session, chaired by Rev. Sławomir Kęszka from Kalisz ended with a presentation of the companies producing materials used in the Polish archives. Magdalena Jadworzek, a representative of Kiel-tech Ltd, presented stationery Certified IZO9706, used by state archives; Andrzej Chojnacki, a representative of the Digital Center from Poznań (the company has been in the market since 1993) presented the completed project of scanning the Registry Office records from the collections of the State Archive in Toruń and the State Archive in Bydgoszcz.

In the afternoon on that day, the Forum participants went to Kielce. They had the opportunity to visit the Seminary and got acquainted with the work of the Historical Association in the seminar. The afternoon session of the Forum in the Diocesan Archive in Kielce was chaired by Rev. Anselm Weiss, a retired professor at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. At the beginning, Prof. Waldemar Kowalski presented the Diocesan Archive in Kielce. He described it as a very friendly place for researchers. Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek Society of Friends of the Diocesan Archive in Kielce is attached to this archive and informal studies of the history of the Diocese of Kielce and Małopolska are organised there. The archive organises monthly training and it cultivates the good traditions to serve both clergy and laity.

The first speakers of the afternoon session Rev. Jacek Urban from the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow spoke about: "The conservation work at the Chapter Archive on the Wawel Hill in the past decade". He reminded listeners that the archive materials at Wawel have been collected for a thousand years. Over the centuries, they were obtained and lost (wars, fires and unfortunate loans). The Wawel collection was catalogued by Bolesław Polkowski and Ewa Pietrzak (1200 parchment documents, drawn up at the courts of Europe). Another speaker, Rev. Michał Sołomieniuk from Gniezno presented the topic: "Something from nothing: attempts to approach the conservation of paper and leather in the realities of the church archives ". The speaker stressed that he had never undertaken the maintenance initiatives only by himself, but he had always engaged professionals. After the afternoon lectures there was discussion on topics previously presented at the Second Forum of the directors of the diocesan archives. Rev. Professor Anastazy Nadolny from Pelplin summarised the Forum. In a few words, he thanked the organizer and host of the Forum – Rev. Andrzej Kwaśniewski, speakers and the representatives of the companies. The last highlight of the day was a visit to the

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Protection of the Polish Episcopal Conference and the Head Office of the State Archives. In 2015, church archives were invited to participate in the creation of UNESCO's national program "Memory of the World", created in 1992, the aim of which is to take actions aimed at preserving, saving and providing access to documentary heritage.

Diocesan Archive of Kielce and an exhibition of the selected documents (the exhibition was prepared by the members of the Society of Friends of the Diocesan Archive in Kielce, under the direction of Dr Sylwia Konarska-Zimnicka from the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce and Dr Piotr Kordyś from the Polish Historical Society. It should be also emphasized that the members of the Society of Friends of the Diocesan Archive in Kielce showed a huge commitment preparing and organizing the Forum. They did it with a great culture and dedication.

The morning of the second day of the Forum was devoted to visiting Kielce. Its participants had the opportunity to visit the State Archive in Kielce, the Palace of the Bishops of Cracow<sup>5</sup>, the Cathedral in Kielce<sup>6</sup>, and the Diocesan Museum<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> The Palace of the Crocow Bishops – a baroque palace in Kielce, the former residence of the Bishops of Cracow. The best preserved original early Baroque palace of the first half of the seventeenth century in Poland. The building was erected in 1637-1641 on the Cathedral Hill. The money for the residence came from the private funds of Great Crown Chancellor and Bishop of Cracow Jakub Zadzik (1582-1642). The palace was surrounded by a defensive wall with loopholes. In 1816 Stanisław Staszic created Mining Academy in the palace. In the twentieth century it was converted into the headquarters of Józef Piłsudski Legions, a recruiting office, a printing house, a post office. In the interwar years it housed the provincial office. In the years 1945-1971 it was the seat of the Provincial Council. Since 1971, the National Museum has been located there. J.L. Adamczyk *Architectural monuments in the Kielce district*, Kielce, 2005, p. 16.

<sup>6</sup> The Cathedral in Kielce – the church on the Castle Hill, built by Bishop of Cracow Gedeon Gedko in 1171. The church dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was consecrated in 1213 by Bishop Wincenty Kadłubek. The Romanesque building was destroyed twice: in 1243 by Duke Konrad Mazowiecki and in 1260 by the Tatars. Peace was only brought when the fortifications of Kielce were constructed. In the years 1632-1635 the church was rebuilt in Baroque style. Then side aisles, a choir and marble portals were built. In the years 1642-1657 a masonry belfry was erected. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the entire Romanesque part of the church was demolished and the side aisles were extended. A new chancel and two sacristies were built in the south part and in the north part a chapter house and a treasury were formed. In 1728 a covered corridor was built to connect the collegiate church with the palace of the bishops and St. Trinity Church. In 1827 the walls with loopholes and the passage leading to the palace were demolished. In 1805 the Diocese of Kielce was established and the collegiate church was raised to the dignity of the Cathedral dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Constantine. The Cathedral is a three-aisled basilica of six bays. On the eight-hundredth anniversary of its existence (on September 28, 1971) the Cathedral received the title of a minor basilica. In the altar in the south aisle there is an image of the patron saint of the city – Our Lady of Grace of Kielce, painted around 1600 and crowned by Pope John Paul II on June 23, 1991. J.L. Adamczyk, *A Guide to the monuments of architecture and buildings of Kielce*, Kielce 1998, p. 22-28.

<sup>7</sup> The Diocesan Museum in Kielce – is located in the former house of the parish priest of the Kielce Cathedral Basilica of 1627. Among the most valuable exhibits are, a chasuble of the first bishop of Kielce, Kazimierz the Great's goblet and the famous "Gradual of Wiślica" – a manuscript dating from the thirteenth century. The origins of the Diocesan Museum date back to 1911. "Przegląd Diecezjalny" of Kielce mentioned a need to create a museum in Kielce, not only for those who deal with history and monuments of art but also for all concerned. Then first exhibits were collected in the buildings of the Seminary in Kielce. Ten years later Augustyn Łosiński, Bishop of Kielce (1867-1937) donated a number of gifts. Unfortunately, many of the collected exhibits were destroyed during the Second World War. Some also disappeared without a trace. In 2005, Bishop Kazimierz Ryczan decided to transfer the Diocesan Museum into the building at 3 John Paul II

The program of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum provided an opportunity to present topics and issues related to the collection of archive materials, their maintenance, description, sharing and digitization. This enabled the participants to obtain additional information on the collection of particular church archives. Today the most important problem for the church archives is their underfunding and lack of permanent budgets for research, maintenance and service. There is still an open issue of participation of the state in maintaining the activities of these church institutions, and it involves cataloguing church collections of the Polish culture, which, not without reason, raises many concerns of the Polish church hierarchy.

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Street, where it is currently located. The museum houses a rich collection: in the Gothic Hall there are, among others, Gothic sculptures (St. John the Baptist. Jan Jałmużnik). Apart from the paintings there are sculptures of the Middle Ages, mainly Marian – themed ones. They come, inter alia, from the turn of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. There are many exhibits that are a product of craftsmanship. The most valuable ones are founded by Kazimierz the Great: the goblet of about 1362. Among recently dated exhibits are paintings, liturgical vestments and numerous books. E.M. Wołoszyński, *Holly Cross Mountains – Turistic Guide*, Warszawa 2010, s. 27.