
Editor's Preface

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Vatican II speaks of „particular churches, fashioned after the model of the universal Church, in and from which churches comes into being the one and only Catholic Church” (LG 23). This idea is developed in a later document issued by the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith entitled *Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on some aspects of the Church understood as communio*. There we read:

The Church of Christ which we profess in the Creed as one, holy catholic and apostolic is the universal Church, that is worldwide community of the disciples of the Lord, which is present and active amid the particular characteristics and the diversity of persons, groups, times and places. Among these manifold expressions of the saving presence of the one Church of Christ, there are to be found, from the times of the Apostles on, those entities which are themselves Churches, because, although they are particular, the universal Church becomes present in them with all its essential elements. They are therefore constituted after the model of the universal Church, and each of them is a portion of the people of God entrusted to a bishop to be guided by him with the assistance of his clergy (n. 7).

The diocese of Kielce, as a particular Church, is thus a reality composed of specific time, place and persons. The time is the two hundred years that have passed since its erection, by Pius VII with the Bull *Indefessum personarum* of the thirteenth of July 1805. When we speak of the place we think of the city of Kielce as the center of the Diocese and at the same time a symbol, bringing to mind its territory, which underwent several changes over the years. In this city and all parishes belonging to the diocese the Church of Kielce lives and develops in its visible structures. Yet a local Church is not merely its history and its structures, but first and foremost persons and groups that formed in the past and form now the living organism of the diocese.

This issue, the fourth, of „Kieleckie Studia Teologiczne” is dedicated to its history and to the men who formed it in its essential aspects, and who have gone to the house of the Father.

The First part, entitled „From the history of the Diocese”, contains papers read at a symposium held on 10 June 2005, to commemorate two hundredth anniversary of its founding. In the second party, „Persons important to the history of the Church of Kielce”, we present two men beatified by Pope John

Paul II, archbishop Jerzy Matulewicz, and Fr. Józef Pawłowski, rector of the Diocesan Seminary, as well as bishops who governed the diocese since its erection: Wojciech Górski, Tomasz Kuliński, Augustyn Łosiński, Czesław Kaczmarek, and Jan Jaroszewicz. In addition we recall two auxiliary bishops, serving in the church of Kielce in recent years: Jan Gurda and Mieczysław Jaworski, as well as Monsignor Wojciech Piwowarczyk, who died in the opinion of sanctity.

Finally, the third and last part, an Annex, contains copies of various important documents, maps, graphs, and tables, concerning particular periods in the history of the Diocese of Kielce.