

KS. WALDEMAR W. ŻUREK SDB – LUBLIN

3rd NATIONAL FORUM OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVES IN POLAND

Under the patronage of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Cracow Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, Prof. Dr Jacek Urban, the Director of the Archive of the Metropolitan Curia of Cracow¹, and a researcher at the University of John Paul II in Cracow, organized the 3rd National Forum of the Directors of the Diocesan Archives in Poland on 9-11 October 2016². The conference was held in the Archive of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter (1 Wawel) and the Archive of the Congregation of the Mission in Cracow (ul. Stradomska 4). Over 20 participants from different parts of Poland participated in it. Compared with the earlier years, it was the smallest number.

The congress began on 9 October 2016 with dinner in “the Basement under the Cross” in the Palace of the Cracow Archbishops (ul. Franciszkańska 3). The participants had their meals there during the 3rd Forum.

On the first day of the conference – 10 October (Monday), the Holy Mass in the Basilica of the Franciscan Church (St. Francis of Assisi) was presided over by Rev. Dr Michał Sołomieńko, the Director of the Archive of the Archdiocese of Gniezno. He also delivered the homily.

The Forum sessions were held in the Archive of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter. They were opened by the diocesan Bishop of Gliwice Jan Kopiec, to June 2016 a chairman of the Council for Culture and Protection of National Heritage, which is part of the Polish Episcopal Conference. The speaker stressed that our meeting was the next phase of realising that church archival materials are our common research achievements. And behind each document there is a complicated process of action for the good of science or a person.

Another speaker – Dr Wojciech Woźniak from Warsaw, the Head of the State Archives presented the topic: *The activity of the State Archives in 2016-2020*.

¹ Actually, there are two church archives in Cracow: the Archive of the Metropolitan Curia – ul. Franciszkańska 3 and the Archive of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter – Wawel 1.

² The Third Forum was organized by: the Institute of Theology of the Congregation of the Mission in Cracow, the Archive of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter and St. Mary's Basilica in Cracow.

The support policy of archival activities by the Head of the State Archives. In his speech he focused on the fact that he, being the Head of the State Archives in Poland, strives to achieve better cooperation between the state archives in Poland and church archives (diocesan), taking account of the financial aid for the latter. He does not treat this cooperation as cadential, as his function is not cadential either. And it provides opportunities to systematically deepen this cooperation.

Doctor Jan Skarbski in a speech: *Archives of the Archdiocese of Cracow. The state of preservation, prevention, description and digitization* sensitized the listeners to the state of preservation of parish archives in the Archdiocese of Cracow. He called for better conditions for the storage of archival materials in parishes. He stated that, in general, the conditions are better in the parish parishes built after the martial law in Poland. Continuing, he explained that there are only a few model parish archives. When asked whether to consolidate records, he answered that, in general, they should not be consolidated, only in exceptional cases, for example rare manuscripts. However, he advocated consolidating archival materials in a digital form.

After the part with lectures, the Forum participants visited the Archive and Library of the Cathedral Chapter at Wawel, guided by Director Rev. Dr Jacek Urban. He reminded the listeners that archival materials at Wawel have been collected for a thousand years. Over the centuries, they were obtained and lost (wars, fires and unfortunate loans). The archival collections of Wawel were organized by Bolesław Polkowski and Ewa Pietrzak. They include 1200 parchment documents coming from the European courts. The oldest document in that archive is an inventory of 1110.

Another document stored in the same archive worthy of highlight is the bull of canonization of St. Stanisław Szczepanowski, the Bishop of Cracow and martyr, issued by Pope Innocent IV on September 18, 1253³. Rev. Urban said that this bull is one of the most impressive documents of that archive.

Another important document is the Act of Krewa⁴, written on a small piece of parchment in 1385, released by Władysław Jagiełło, first published in 1837 by

³ The period of Stanisław's episcopal ministry (1072-1079) is one of the finest in the reign of the Piast dynasty. The Bishop of Cracow Iwo Odrowąż was the first one who made efforts to begin the process of canonization, later he was followed by Jan Prandota, St. Kinga OSC. After two diplomatic missions to the Holy See on September 8, the aim of which was to ask for the canonization of Stanisław, in 1253 in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Innocent IV canonized Bishop Stanisław. The ceremony of the elevation of the saint's relicts and the announcement of his canonization in Poland took place on 8 May 1254. M. Koskowska, *Święty Stanisław ze Szczepanowa*, Niepokalanów 1997; R. Grodecki, *Sprawa św. Stanisława*, Cracow 1979.

⁴ Released in Krewo (Krewo – a village near Oszmiany, now Belarus) on 14 August 1385 (the Union of Krewo) by Władysław Jagiełło. As a result, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was included into the Crown of the Polish Kingdom as its component the next year. The Union of Krewo secured Poland and Lithuania against the threat of the Teutonic Order. The Union provided for marrying Queen of Poland Jadwiga to Lithuanian Grand Duke Jagiełło and taking the Polish throne by him. In return Jagiełło committed himself to accept baptism and Christianize Lithuania, release the Polish prisoners and join his Lithuanian and Ruthenian lands to the Crown of the Polish Kingdom. *Encyklopedia Kresów*, ed. R. Kluszczyński, Cracow 2004, p. 216.

Michał Wiszniewski (*Pomniki historii i literatury polskiej*). Three out of five seals attached to the act survived.

The oldest book in Cracow stored in Wawel is a collection of Lenten sermons -*predicationes*⁵. One may wonder how the book of the Carolingian times became part of the treasury of Wawel. Some say that it came here with the Benedictines.

On the first day afternoon, the participants had a meeting in the Archive of St. Mary's Basilica, and actually visited the tenement of the Archpriest of St. Mary's Basilica – *pralatówka* standing at the intersection of Marian square and ul. Szpitalna (4 Rynek), which used to be a seat of the Archpriests of St. Mary's Church⁶.

The first day of the Forum ended with a meeting (dinner) with Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz⁷, who will retire soon. He shared interesting information with archivists. The main topics of conversation centred around Pope John Paul II, whom he served as a secretary throughout his pontificate.

On the second day of the Forum, the Mass was presided over by Deputy Dr Jan Maria Musielak, who substituted sick Rev. Roman Dworacki, the Director of the Archdiocesan Archive in Poznań. Dr Jan Maria also delivered the homily. The session of that day was transferred to the Congregation of the Mission in Cracow (ul. Stradomska 4). There, Dr Przemysław Wojciechowski presented the paper: *Fire in archives*. As a specialist in the field of firefighting, the speaker familiarized the listeners of the Forum with the rules applicable in the event of a fire⁸. In addition, he informed them about the construction standards for the archive. And so, archives or storehouses should not be located in the basement. And if they are, at least the lowest shelf should be empty, which is safer in the event of flooding. The most common cause of fires is faulty wiring. Only fire fighters extinguish a fire, not archivists. The protective and firefighting equipment must be easily accessible and regularly inspected. Flooded archives should be dried within 48 hours. The company from Łódź deals with securing archival materials and books flooded and destroyed in a fire: Belfora Polska Sp. z o.o.; ul. Złocieniowa 2; 91-358 Łódź. These are only selected information on a fire in archives presented to the listeners.

⁵ *Predicationes* – is the oldest illuminated manuscript in our country and the relict of pre-Romanesque art. It dates back to the late 8th or early 9th century. Probably it was made in a scriptorium in Italy. The text includes initials. It is also decorated with a full-page miniature depicting a cross decorated with precious stones. T. Mroczko, *Polska sztuka przedromańska i romańska*, Warsaw 1988.

⁶ *Pralatówka* of St. Mary's Church was built between 1618-1619 by Maciej Litwinowicz on the site of a Gothic house, opposite St. Mary's Church. It is the only preserved unchanged early baroque tenement house in Cracow. It is decorated with sgraffito facade and topped with an attic typical of Cracow. The entrance to the hall leads to the Baroque portal with the coat of arms of one of protonotaries. https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plac_Mariacki_w_Krakowie (lecture on 14. 10.2016).

⁷ Dziwisz Stanisław (born 1939) – a priest of the Archdiocese of Cracow, Doctor of Theology, in the years 1966-1978 a secretary and chaplain of the Archbishop of Cracow Karol Wojtyła. In the years 1978-2005 he served as the personal secretary of Pope John Paul II. Since 2005 he has been the Archbishop of Cracow, and since 2006 a cardinal- priest.

⁸ Among other things, he informed the listeners about the order and relevance of the collected information on the fire and its types: flammable liquids, gases, metals, wood. If a fire breaks out from the first floor up, immediately three fire brigades are sent.

After listening to the lecture, the Forum participants visited the seminary library attached to the Congregation of the Mission in Cracow Stradom⁹.

The last point of the Forum was visiting the Archive of the Metropolitan Curia in Cracow at ul. Franciszkańska 3. Here, the Forum participants got acquainted with its most important treasures.

The programme of the 3rd Forum provided the opportunity to present some of the themes and issues related to the collection of archival materials, their maintenance, development, making them accessible and digitization. This gave participants the opportunity to hear additional information about the collections of the church archives in Cracow. Today the most important problem for the church archives is their underfunding and lack of fixed budgets for the current activity, both research and service. There is still an issue of the state participation in maintaining the activity of the church institutions which are owned and administrated by the Ordinaries of the individual dioceses.

⁹ The Library of the Congregation of the Mission in Cracow was founded in 1732, after merging the libraries of the houses of this congregation (Cracow, Warsaw, Lviv). It is a research facility of the Institute of Theology of the Congregation of the Mission in Cracow. It owns and collects books in the field of theology, church history, canon law, philosophy, pedagogy, psychology, art and literature. In total, it holds about 200 000 volumes of books and bound magazines. It has large storehouses and a reading room with 40 workstations for readers. 20 years ago, the library began working on a computer catalogue.