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**SPRAWOZDANIE Z OGÓLNOPOLSKIEJ KONFERENCJI
NAUKOWEJ *ŚWIĘTOŚĆ KOŚCIOŁA NA PRZYKŁADZIE HISTORII
POMORZA*, WSD KOSZALIN, 5 LISTOPADA 2022 ROKU**

**REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE *THE
HOLINESS OF THE CHURCH ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE HISTORY
OF POMERANIA*, HIGHER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE
DIOCESE OF KOSZALIN-KOŁOBRZEG, NOVEMBER 5, 2022**

On November 5, 2022, in the auditorium of the Higher Theological Seminary in Koszalin, a nationwide scientific conference *The Holiness of the Church on the example of the history of Pomerania* was held. It was planned as one of the activities within the project *Baptism of Pomerania in the history of Poland and Europe: 900th anniversary*. It is a long-term scientific and educational project, financed thanks to a subsidy granted by the Ministry of Education and Science, implemented in cooperation with the Institute of Theological Sciences and the Institute of History of the University of Szczecin and the Institute of Archeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. 900th anniversary of the first of the two missions of St. Otto of Bamberg is an opportunity to remind and better show the breakthrough significance of the baptism of Pomerania for the history of Poland and Europe. The anniversary, which falls in 2024, brings back the history of Pomerania joining the Piast state and the two-time mission of Otto, the secretary at the Płock court of Władysław I Herman and the tutor of Bolesław III Wrymouth. At the invitation of Bolesław III Wrymouth, the Bishop of Bamberg came to Poland twice for missionary purposes – for the first time in 1124 and again in 1128. During his missionary journeys, he reached Pyrzyce, Kamień Pomorski,

Szczecin, Wolin, Kołobrzeg and Białogard. It was thanks to his activities that areas that had been largely pagan until then adopted Christianity.

The conference *The Holiness of the Church on the example of the history of Pomerania* was an interdisciplinary undertaking, creating a platform for scientific exchange of ideas, primarily from the borderline of history and theology. In the hall of the seminar in Koszalin gathered mainly students of theology, but also people associated with the figure of St. Otto, especially with the places of his cult located in the Dioceses of Koszalin-Kołobrzeg, Pelplin and the Archdiocese of Szczecin-Kamień. In addition to the possibility of stationary participation, the conference was also broadcast live via Dobre Media. Recordings of all lectures are available for listening on the YouTube platform.

The meeting opened with greetings and greetings from Fr. dr. hab. Kazimierz Dullak, prof. US, vice-dean of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Szczecin and Fr. dr. Jarosław Kwiecień, rector of the Higher Theological Seminary in Koszalin.

The proceedings were divided into two blocks. The first, moderated by Fr. prof. dr. hab. Janusz Królikowski, concerned the figure of St. Otto of Bamberg. Three lectures were planned there, and due to the sudden absence of the first speaker, two were held. The first lecture was given by prof. dr hab. Stanisław Rosik, a historian working at the University of Wrocław, specializing in issues related to the history of the Polish and general Middle Ages, one of the best Polish specialists on the figure of St. Otto. His lecture, entitled *The Saint Standing Firmly on the Ground. In the twelfth-century debate on the ideal of a bishop and a missionary for the end of the century*, it concerned the person of the bishop of Bamberg, primarily in terms of the diversity of views in the historical sources available to us about him. Prof. dr hab. S. Rosik presented an analysis of the most important medieval biographies of Otto, presenting on their basis a synthetic image of the bishop of Bamberg. The analyzed works included three writings: the oldest biography of Otto, the work of an anonymous author, written before 1146; a life by Ebo of Michelsberg, written around 1152, and a life by Herbord from 1159, which is a synthesis and reinterpretation of the first two. The reflections were supplemented with extensive quotes from the discussed sources, reflecting well the then context of shaping the image of the holy bishop. From the hagiographic stories emerges the image of a shepherd distinguished by wisdom and piety. However, these are not theoretical, purely spiritual features, but have a clear, practical dimension, which find their expression in the works of mercy undertaken by the Saint of Bamberg. The descriptions of the beginnings of the cult of bishop Otto, also included in the discussed hagiographic works, confirm the uniqueness of this figure.

The second lecture, prepared by Bishop prof. dr. hab. Henryk Wejman, a theologian of spirituality, representing the Faculty of Theology of the University of Szczecin, was a broadening, spiritual reflection on the figure of Otto. Bishop prof. dr. hab. H. Wejman in his lecture *Faces of holiness of Otto of Bamberg. A study of biographical facts*, referred not only to the historical aspects of Otto's activity, but also pointed to important features of his spirituality, which can also be inspiring for a modern man. The speaker paid special attention to the synthesis of two dimensions of holiness: natural abilities and human history, and grace resulting from the relationship with God. The combination of these two aspects can be seen both in the works of mercy performed by the bishop and in the way he experiences the office of bishop. What's more, the attitude of holiness, according to Bishop Wejman, is confirmed in the moral synthesis of three dimensions that are necessarily related to each other: relationship to Christ, the need to show brotherly love (which is a form of testimony about the relationship to Christ) and the need to be open to each other – among the experience multifaceted variety.

The second block of lectures concerned mainly other saints related to the old history of Pomerania. The moderator of this panel was bishop prof. dr. hab. Henryk Wejman. The first lecture was given by Fr. prof. dr. hab. Janusz Królikowski, representing the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. In his lecture *An Unknown Source to the History of St. Wojciech and its importance*, the speaker drew attention to the role of constant search for historical sources, even where it seems that all data has already been obtained. In his opinion, it is difficult to expect to find completely unknown works, but it is worth looking for details, fragments found in works that are not directly related to the subject under study. In the lecture of Fr. prof. dr. hab. Janusz Królikowski, a special place was devoted to discussing fragments of the Chronicle of the Cassian Monastery, dating from the end of the 11th century, by Leon of Ostti. This story about the monastery at Monte Cassino includes accounts of the stay of St. Adalbert in this cradle of Benedictine spirituality. Also in the later catalogs of saints, dating back to the 15th/16th century, you can find other inspiring threads about St. Wojciech, however, requiring historical verification, primarily due to the time distance from the described events. The image of a missionary that emerges from these sources is, according to Fr. prof. dr. hab. Janusz Królikowski, an image of a character not only related to the political situation of the time. He is also a man of deep, Christocentric piety. According to the speaker, it is worth ensuring that St. Wojciech should not be reduced to his historical role, but also bring out much more universal features of his spirituality.

In the next speech, Dr. Katarzyna Parzych-Blakiewicz, prof. of the University of Warmia and Mazury presented a historical and spiritual biographical outline of Bl. Dorothy of

Mątowy. In the lecture *Hagiological patronage – theological reflection on the traces of memory of Bl. Dorothy of Mątowy*, the speaker took up the topic not only of Dorothy's own life, but also of the development of her cult, interpreting it as proof of the vitality of evangelical values implemented by the blessed of Mątowy. Dr. hab. Katarzyna Parzych-Blakiewicz referred to the records of Jan of Kwidzyn, Dorothy's first biographer, also describing the grassroots nature of the nascent cult. The cult, finally approved only in 1967, continued uninterrupted since Dorothy's death in 1394. According to the speaker, very different, often difficult events from her life make up a rich and coherent feature of deeply Christocentric spirituality, realized in the many ways of her life. Dorothy, long before she became a hermit, in her experience of a difficult marriage, the death of her children, and later also her husband's conversion and death, did not give up her ascetic attitude, while remaining fully committed to her vocation as a wife and mother.

The last concluding lecture was given by Fr. prof. dr hab. Ireneusz Werbiński, an outstanding Polish hagiologist, employee of the Jagiellonian College – Toruń University. In his lecture *The message of holiness for individual ways of life vocation*, the speaker undertook to present the topic of holiness in various life vocations. Referring to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and the thoughts of post-conciliar popes, especially John Paul II, he reminded that the path of faith is essentially the path of holiness, to which a person commits himself at the moment of baptism. This baptismal rooting of holiness allows us to speak in the Church about one holiness, which, evolving over time, becomes an inspiration for people of different epochs.

Both panels ended with an open discussion, which enabled the participants of the conference to join the debate. The summary of the conference was delivered by Bishop dr. Zbigniew Zieliński, coadjutor of the Diocese of Koszalin and Kołobrzeg. He drew attention to the practical dimension of the presented reflections, seeing in them not only an opportunity to reminisce, but also a challenge and obligation to discover personal holiness, understood and lived in the ecclesial perspective. In his opinion, this means the need to focus not only on the individual dimension of holiness, but also on its universality.