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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  
“THE CAUSES OF SAINTS AFTER «SANCTORUM MATER»  
—10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE”  
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To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the instruction *Sanctorum Mater* for conducting diocesan or eparchial inquiries in the causes of saints, drafted by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints [AAS 99 (2007), 465–517; *Communicationes* 39, no. 2 (2007): 221–68], the Department of Canonization Law and Sacramental Law of the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) organized an international scientific conference on November 8, 2017. The second reason for inviting postulators to the conference, members of the beatification and canonization tribunals and all those who would commence such processes was the special regulatory activity of the Holy See in the years 2016–2017 in matters related to canonization. In her introduction to the conference, this theme was elaborated on by Lidia Fiejdasz-Buczek (PhD), an assistant professor at the Department of Canonization Law and Sacramental Law and the organizer of the meeting. She noted that “in less than a year and a half, Pope Francis and the Congregation for the Causes of Saints promulgated three new normative acts amending the existing canonization law, and the Congregation issued several internal documents related to, among others, petitioners and postulators of the causes, and others will soon be promulgated.” She recalled the aims of the instruction *Sanctorum Mater*, pointing out that “we are meeting here to look at it from the perspective of 10 years of its application, in the light of two different pontificates, those of Popes Benedict and Francis.” By way of conclusion, she presented the reasons for the choice of topics of the speeches and presented a monograph addressing the said amendments entitled *Canonization process in a diocese or eparchy*, Lublin 2017, 348 pages, by Henryk Misztal and Lidia Fiejdasz-Buczek.

Krzysztof Wiak, PhD, Hab, an associate professor of KUL and the dean of the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration of KUL, welcomed the guests to Lublin, a city which in that year was celebrating the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its location rights under Magdeburg Law, and a place where Fr Idzi Radziszewski founded the University of Lublin. He underscored that Lublin—as its present logo signifies—is a city of inspirations, not only cultural, but also spiritual ones. Here, martyrs grew up to sanctity to be worshipped among the 108 Martyrs of the Second World War. The legacy of Fr Idzi Radziszewski was continued at the University by: Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, Venerable Servant of God Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński (Grand Chancellor of the Catholic University of Lublin) and the University's rectors, who are Servants of God today, Jacek Woroniecki and Wincenty Granat. Franciszek Blachnicki, today Venerable Servant of God, studied and lectured here. Among the graduates and students of KUL we find 8 blessed. The beatification processes of three of them are pending. The dean also expressed his conviction that “the Catholic University of Lublin is the most suitable venue to acquire knowledge about the management of causes of saints. The department has a rich tradition and has contributed greatly to the development of this science.” How can we not mention our Rev. Professor Emeritus Henryk Misztal, who enriched the history of our University as an excellent professor and educator. Finally, Prof. Wiak congratulated the organisers on making the conference possible and wished the participants a fruitful time.

The first session was chaired by Prof. Wiesław Bar OFMConv, Head of the Department of Canonisation Law and Sacramental Law (KUL). Inviting the speakers to the presidium table, he presented their scientific profiles.

The first to present was Rev. Tadeusz Syczewski, PhD, Hab, an associate professor of KUL, Head of the Department of Family Law and Family Rights, Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration (KUL), and Rector of the Seminary in Drohiczyn. In his paper entitled “Patronages of saints and the beatified in the Latin Church,” he discussed, among others, the theological and legal bases of their veneration, the principles of inducting the saints into the *General Roman Calendar* and the rules for inscribing the saints and blessed in the liturgical calendar. He clarified how to apply for the appointment of saints as patron saints of churches, provinces, districts, cities, larger territories, and religious families.

On March 10, 2016, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints issued norms concerning the financing of canonization processes. They replaced the previous norms which had been in force since August 20, 1983, and amended the provisions of the special legislation in this respect. The new regulations and their significance were discussed in detail by Rev. Andrzej Scaber, PhD, the main speaker on canonization issues of the Archdiocese of Cracow and an episcopal delegate in several dozen beatification and canonization processes. He stressed that the norms were introduced *ad experimentum* and would remain in force until 2019. The fundamental change is that the postulator no longer administers the funds allocated for a cause, but it is the petitioner who establishes a fund for the cause after the bishop accepts the *supplex libellus*. The fund is

managed by a fund administrator appointed by the petitioner with the consent of the diocesan bishop. Discussing the costs of proceedings involved at the Roman stage, the speaker noted the need for developing common standards (for dioceses, institutes of consecrated life, associations of apostolic life and other petitioners) with respect to the financing of canonization causes in Poland, because “in most diocesan investigations the cause is based on intuition and the virtue of justice.” It would also be beneficial to develop a single schedule of payments for causes pending in the diocese, to unify the costs of such proceedings throughout Poland.

Dr Fiejdasz-Buczek, comparing the current Regulation of the Medical Board of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints (September 23, 2016) with the regulations of the Medical Board issued since 1948 and with John Paul II’s special legislation on canonisation causes, pointed out the points of convergence in declaring the extraordinary nature of a phenomenon presented as a miracle, as well as discussing the latest in the current Regulation. She also presented the procedure of proving the alleged miracle during the Roman phase of the proceedings.

Another speaker, Prof. Marek Inglot SJ, Dean of the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage of the Church at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and a historian-consultor for the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, presented the topic “The offer of life according to the *motu proprio* of Pope Francis «*Maiorem hac dilectionem*»” issued on July 11, 2017. He gave a detailed account of the discussions taking place in the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, leading to the introduction of a new path to beatification. He also discussed the conditions that must be met in order for the process to be conducted in this way. And so, for an offer of life to be “a valid and effective reason for the beatification of the Servant of God,” it is necessary to demonstrate: a) that the candidate for the altars offered their life freely and voluntarily, and that they accepted heroically a certain and imminent death out of love for Christ; b) the relationship between the offer of life and premature death; c) the practice, at least in the usual manner, of Christian virtues before the offering of life and then until death; d) the existence of a reputation of holiness and signs, at least after death; and e) that a miracle occurred after the death of the Servant of God and through his or her intercession.

Rev. Szczepan Tadeusz Prażkiewicz OCD, PhD, Hab—a theologian, a consultor for the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, a promoter of justice and postulator in several beatification and canonization processes—discussed the new structure of the *positio*. The speaker pointed out that in recent years, the relators of the Congregation, when meeting with the postulator or an external collaborator starting to work on a new *positio*, have handed over (although this is not standard) a five pages long text entitled *Struttura schematica della Positio super vita, virtutibus et fama sanctitatis*. This schema is not an officially approved and promulgated document, but it is an important reference point in the development of *positiones* and it determines their content. The schema should not be followed rigidly because each relator has his own style and work methodology. Despite these differences, the general outline and content of the *positios* are the same for all causes.

The first session was followed by a discussion. Elżbieta Szczot, PhD, Hab, an associate professor of KUL asked whether the existing paths to beatification and canonization were not sufficient. Was it necessary to introduce the concept of offer of life? Prof. Inglot replied that it seemed, however, that these “paths” did not exhaust all possible ways of canonized holiness. The introduction of the concept of this route results from various consultations done over many years. Dr Fiejdasz-Buczek asked whether the sacrifice of life related to only young people? Prof. Inglot replied that this path to holiness is not age-dependent.

The second session was chaired by Prof. Szczot. The first speaker of this session was Prof. Wiesław Bar, who characterized the “Canonizations and beatifications under the pontificate of Pope Francis.” He noted that “the period of less than five years does not seem sufficient to make generalisations and strong evaluations in the area of interest to us, given the duration of the pontificate of Pope Francis; however, it permits some recapitulations.” The speaker calculated that Pope Francis, from March 13, 2013 to May 13, 2017, in the course of 12 ceremonies canonized 885 blessed (872 with 800 not 813 martyrs of Otranto) and in the case of five he conferred equipollent canonizations (*canonizzazione equipollente*). Among the canonized, martyrs form the largest group. Three canonizations took place outside Rome (Sri Lanka, USA, and Portugal). By the end of November 2017, Pope Francis had beatified 1,123 people during 80 celebrations, 78 of which were held outside Rome. At the end of the statistical account, he stated that “for years, John Paul II was considered a great promoter of canonized holiness [...]. According to statistics, Pope John Paul II canonized or beatified more than 5 persons a month on average; Pope Benedict almost 10, and Pope Francis more than 20, counting from the date of the first beatification and canonization to the last under the pontificate of each of them.”

Then, Rev. Dr Sca̧ber took the floor, an episcopal delegate in the beatification processes of John Paul II, Fr Władysław Bukowiński, Fr Rudolf Warzecha, and Fr Piotr Skarga. In a paper entitled “Difficulties in the application of the instruction «Sanctorum Mater» in the Archdiocese of Kraków. Comments from an episcopal delegate,” he first outlined the state of beatification and canonization causes in the archdiocese, the number of exhumations performed and the canonical recognition and preservation of the earthly remains of Servants of God and the legal assistance provided to other dioceses. Then, he said that the most common difficulties resulting from the application of the instruction included the deficiencies in the instruction itself: the lack of a clear distinction between a candidate for the altars and the Servant of God, the imprecise number of vice-postulators, no explanation in the instruction what the moral responsibility of the petitioner entails. Other difficulties included: the lack of unity with regard to the opinion of holiness and the practice of virtues; the appointment of pastors of the parishes associated with the candidate for the altars as postulators, or failure to apply the principle of *ne pereant probationes*.

Rev. Prof. Peter Šturák (Th Dr) from the Greek Catholic Theological Faculty of University of Prešov, Slovakia, and a member of the Historical Commission in the

process of Bishop Pavol Peter Gojdič OSBM, outlined the cases of beatification of Greek Catholics, that is those of Pavol Peter Gojdič (1888–1960), Redemptorist Fr Metod Dominik Trček (1886–1959), and Bishop Vasil Hopko (1904–1976), an auxiliary bishop of Prešov. Gojdič and Trčka were beatified by John Paul II on November 4, 2001 in Rome, while Hopko was listed as a blessed by John Paul II on September 14, 2003, in Bratislava.

On February 22, 2017, two beatification processes were inaugurated in Seoul for a total of 214 Korean martyrs. The first group includes martyrs from the turn of 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the other group includes 20<sup>th</sup>-century martyrs. The background for the persecution of the first group of martyrs was discussed by Dr Jakub Taylor of the Academy of East Asian Studies at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul in a paper entitled “The background of conversions and apostasy in Korea in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.”

An important event in the life of the Catholic Church in 2017 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marian apparitions in Fatima and the canonization of Francis and Jacinta Marto by Pope Francis on May 13, 2017 during his apostolic journey to Portugal. For this reason, Marcin Bider, PhD, an assistant professor at the Department of Law of the Faculty of Economic and Legal Sciences, Siedlce University of Life Sciences and Humanities, presented a miracle proven for the canonization of the Fatima children, namely a healing from a deep craniocerebral trauma combined with an injury to the orbit and eyeball. He emphasized that *ex officio* experts, appointed by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, while evaluating the trauma suffered and the course of the therapy applied, stated that based on current medical knowledge it was impossible to explain this healing in a rational way.

A discussion was held at the end of the meeting. When asked about the possibility of the beatification of Jesuits in Japan, Prof. Ingot replied that there is neither private veneration nor opinion of graces in the case of them. Therefore, the commencement of a process of beatification is currently impossible. Dr hab. Szczepan Tadeusz Praśkie-wicz OCD emphasised the significance of the canonization of the first married couple Louis Martin and Marie-Azelie Guérin, which took place on October 18, 2015. Lech Buczek, PhD, of the Department of Political Sciences at the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration (KUL), asked Dr Jakub Taylor whether the Koreans of the Bugin faction (Puk-in) abandoned Confucianism for sure and accepted cruel persecution and drastic torture only because they were hungry for knowledge. “I am convinced,” he said, “that it was about a deeper motivation, about the motivation of faith.” In turn, commenting on some of the arguments of Dr Taylor’s paper, Dr Fiejdasz-Buczek noted that his presence in the Historical Committee on the case of the 214 Korean martyrs would be very useful.

Closing the conference, Rev. Ambroży Skorupa, PhD, Hab, an associate professor of KUL, Director of the Institute of Canon Law, said, among other things, that the message of holiness and its current validity were experienced in a European, Asian, Latin American and missionary way. Therefore, it was very valuable, purposeful and important to

address the subject of canonization law and to analyse the changes which Popes Benedict XVI and Francis introduced in the years 2007–2017.

The conference gathered over 100 people from all over Poland: postulators, members of canonization tribunals, ecclesiastic courts and others who are interested in canonized holiness for various reasons.

*Translated by Tomasz Pałkowski*



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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  
“STEFAN CARDINAL WYSZYŃSKI—A TEACHER  
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On January 13, 2018, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin hosted the International Scientific Conference “Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński—a teacher of God’s Laws.” It was organized by an organizational committee composed of: Rev. Mirosław Sitarz, PhD, Hab, an associate professor of Catholic University of Lublin (chairperson), Waldemar Bednaruk, PhD, Hab, an associate professor of KUL, Judyta Dworas-Kulik, PhD, Agnieszka Romanko, PhD, (secretary), and Anna Słowikowska, PhD.

The conference began with a speech delivered by Rev. Prof. Sitarz and Krzysztof Wiak, PhD, Hab, an associate professor of KUL, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration. The conference speakers from Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland, were introduced. The event was organised in response to the appeal of John Paul II from 1981, who directly wanted Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński to be remembered and prayed for. The first part of the conference was led by Prof. Krzysztof Wiak. The second part was led by Rev. Prof. Józef Krukowski.