

The general objective of the project is to thoroughly study and describe the functioning of the infirmary of the Hospital of the Holy Spirit in Rome in the 18<sup>th</sup> century that was administered by the Canons Regular of the Holy Spirit (Hospitallers) since its founding in 1198. The largest charitable institution in Europe originally specialized in looking after abandoned children (a shelter) and treating patients (an infirmary). In this regard, both in terms of the number of patients under care and hospitalized, and the level and innovation of care, it played a pioneering role, being a model for other European hospitals. This was certainly the case with the *brephotrophy*, whereas the scale of the importance, rank and uniqueness of the infirmary of the Holy Spirit in the era of rationalism and enlightenment is unexplored. Based on the knowledge of the author of the project, it can be assumed that it was an institution at a very high level of healing and medicine. It was perhaps the most important and the largest such institution in Europe. However, it is only research to show the inspirational and model influence of the Roman infirmary (using innovative and precursory solutions in the treatment of patients) for the development of medicine and the shaping of a modern hospital. It is also to reveal the role of this institution in the education of doctors and medical staff. It will focus on the social and demographic problems related to the human “collectivity” of the infirmary - the patients. Their will be the subject of comprehensive prosopographic analysis. It is important to show the state of development of medicine and treatment, the process of medicalization and the avant-garde role of the infirmary of the Holy Spirit as compared to other hospitals in Rome and all over Europe. The comparative approach will be of paramount importance here. In contrast to the *brephotrophy*, the infirmary of the Holy Spirit has not been the subject of thorough studies by Polish and foreign historians.

The end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century is the beginning of the analyzed period as it was a time when radical reforms were introduced that were essential for the future operation of the hospital. It should be stressed that there are extensive source materials regarding the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, the progress in treatment as a result of the development of empirical research in medicine became apparent at that time. The process of medicalization proceeded transforming the hospital into a center of culture, research and scientific experiments - into an educational institution - a clinic. The turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century was shaped by political events: the conquest of Rome by Napoleon and the rise of the Roman republic, the first signals about the dissolution of the Hospitallers, and above all the progressive process of secularization of hospitals and the crystallization of their medical function.

At that time, the process of establishing specialized hospital was initiated, and care institutions based on the concept of Christian mercy and charity came to an end. The state, which according to the Enlightenment ideology was obliged to provide all needs to its citizens, took care of the sick and other needy and the hospitals that were previously church institutions. The 18<sup>th</sup> century gives the opportunity to observe the evolution of the level of medical art and the process of moving from traditional forms of treatment to a modern hospital, where large-scale scientific research and medical achievements have been started. The great, church, monastic and papal (though through the duality of the Pope's power, somewhat state-owned) Hospital of the Holy Spirit was a unique phenomenon in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Europe, at a time when hospitality gradually became secularized. A dilemma is the extent to which “papal-church conservatism” was combined with the Enlightenment “modernity” in the field of medicine in the Roman *Archiospedale Apostolico*?

The study will be based on the archival materials gathered in *Archivio di Stato di Roma*, and also in *Archivio dell'Arte Sanitaria*, *Archivio Storico del Vicariato di Roma*, *Archivio Storico Vaticano*, *Biblioteca Lancisiana*. The application of the method of a comprehensive source query will allow to gather possibly reliable, diverse and complementary source material, which will give a multi-faceted image of the analyzed problem. The research results will be based on a method of analysis and interpretation of source texts typical of historical research (including political and religious context – Rome, the Papal States, environmental conditions, conventions, language, etc.), comparative analysis, prosopography. The planned study will contain elements of political, social, religious history, history of social care and medicine. The significance of the problem of the care of patients is demonstrated by a continuous social debate (including parliamentary and media debate) on the hospital and medical care systems. Therefore, learning the forms of development of the art of healing and the evolution of the hospital from a medieval hospice to a modern institution - a medical clinic - is an intriguing scientific challenge.