

Relations of the Polish priories of the Order of the Holy Spirit *de Saxia* and the Mother house in Rome until the end of the 18th century

The aim of the project is to present the history of contacts and the relations between the Polish priories of the Order of the Holy Spirit *de Saxia* and the Mother house of this Order in Rome, from the foundation of the first Polish priory around 1220, until the dissolution of the male branch in Poland in 1783.

The Order of the Holy Spirit *de Saxia* was founded at the end of the 12th century by Guy of Montpellier to care for the poor, needy, sick and abandoned children. Around 1220, the Krakow bishop Iwo Odrowąż founded a priory and hospital in Prądnik near Kraków, and in 1244 the Order moved to Krakow. New foundations were created soon after, including Sandomierz, Kalisz, Sławków and Łańcut. Until the dissolution in 1783, for almost six centuries the Order conducted extensive care activities - hospitals were operated at the priories, the largest of which, in Krakow, was also the city's main hospital. The Order also undertook pastoral and educational works.

From the beginning of its existence in Poland until 1741, the Order in Poland was legally dependent on external structures. Initially, it was a priory in Vienna, Austria, from where the brothers came in the 13th century. From the 14th century, dependence on Vienna ceased in favor of Rome - the central seat of the main superior of the Order called the preceptor. As the male branch of the Order was active in Poland for 563 years, the level of dependence, methods of communication, frequency of contacts, their type and the scope of competence of the Roman home towards Polish priories have been changing depending on the era, political and social conditions. Thanks to the constant relationship with the Roman house, Krakow and Polish priories belonged to the European network of priories subordinate to Rome. Sources indicate Krakow's contacts with priories in Vienna and Litovel (Moravia), where Poles served as superiors. The presence of Roman brothers as visitors in the 15th and in the mid-17th century is also documented.

A preliminary query in Roman archives, especially the *Archivio di Stato di Roma*, showed the existence of extensive research material for the proposed topic. Pre-identified sources have been also found in the Vatican Apostolic Archives and in the archives in Vienna and the Czech Republic. Analysis of these sources will help to determine the type of relationship and dependence in each period, their frequency and the resulting consequences - personal decisions and the impact on activity profile and religious life.

The undertaken research will be the first attempt to comprehensively develop the issue of contacts between Rome's mother house and priories in Poland. So far, no papers have been written about the external relations of the Order in Poland. There is also a lack of comparative work in relation to the priories of this Order in other countries.

We hope that the project will contribute to a better understanding of the types of dependencies prevailing in the structure within the Order, as well as its activity in Poland. The interest of researchers in recent years about the history of the Order of the Holy Spirit *de Saxia* outside of Italy suggests that the project's results will meet with interest abroad. It also seems that the results obtained will become a valuable tool for research in other fields of science, such as historical sociology, social welfare, history of medicine and history of law. Due to the planned release of results in a foreign language, the work can become a tool in comparative analyzes of the history of other religious orders in Europe.