

ABSTRACT OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

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Title:

"The cultural transmission in Catholic parishes in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of the Stanislavian period"

The aim of the doctoral thesis was to examine the methods and content of the cultural transmission in the rural and small-town Catholic parishes in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Materials concerning the Roman Catholic dioceses of: Plock, Vilnius, Cracow and Chelm as well as the Greek Catholic diocese of Chelm were examined. This choice reflected the administrative division, the ethnic and religious diversity of the parishioners and the different worldviews of bishops.

In the first chapter, I discuss theoretical assumptions, methods, sources and the state of research, including, above all, the technique of identification, analyzing and interpreting the inventories of the parish libraries in inspection protocols. In the second chapter, I compare the theories of the parish cultural transmission imposed on priests by the following bishops: Michał Poniatowski, Ignacy Massalski, Wojciech Skarszewski and Porfiriusz Skarbek-Ważyński. In the third chapter, I analyzed the practice of the parish transmission, including pastoral letters as well as the sermons and catechisms preached, written and read by parsons and vicars. I also described the dynamics and direction of the changes occurring at the time. In the fourth chapter, I examined the presence of the key ideas of the enlightened Catholicism and Catholic Enlightenment in the parish cultural transmission, that is: piety devoid of ludic elements, a critical attitude towards superstitions and freethought, an idea of nation and citizenship including representatives of all states, as well as the relations between the lords and bondsmen based on a mutually beneficial contract.

The main result of the research was the acquisition of knowledge about the social range of various ideas. In their own statements, the parish clergy fully implemented the reform of Trent and accepted a form of sermon in tune with the Enlightenment. However, because the recipients were peasants, they were skeptical about changing the transmission's content. Nevertheless, parsons and vicars passed on even the most innovative ideas of the bishops by reading pastoral letters to the faithful. I described this parish cultural transmission using the category of "Trent's enlightened Catholicism".

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