

Parish ministry in Będzin deanery in 1867 – 1914

Summary

At present, it is believed that the Dąbrowa Basin is a difficult pastoral area. The reasons for this state of affairs are sought in the past. It is connected with pastoral problems that became apparent in the nineteenth century. In the process of industrialization and urbanization, social and cultural changes took place in this area, which had an impact on the nature of the local parish pastoral ministry. First of all, the increasing disproportion between the growing settlements of typically working class character and the insufficient number of places of worship resulted in gradual disappearance of religious practices, which was due to the weakening attachment of workers to faith and tradition. Fast development of industry and trade taking place thanks to foreign capital from France, Prussia and Italy contributed to mass migration of people from agricultural areas of the Kingdom of Poland and from abroad seeking work as workers or clerical staff. This led to the diversity of society in terms of nationality and origin. The prolonged movement of the population must have caused a sense of alienation among migrants, which had an impact on their national awareness and religious life. The ubiquitous exploitation of workers by capitalists, supported by tsarism, in addition to the religious policy pursued by the tsarist authorities, led to the expansion of socialist influence in this area, both in the social sphere and in religious.

Parish pastoral care in the Będzin deanery in the years 1867–1914 became the main subject of interest in this work. The purpose of the dissertation is to analyze parish pastoral ministry corresponding to social phenomena resulting from the rapidly progressing process of industrialization and urbanization of the Dąbrowa Basin. The changes taking place in society have highlighted the growing needs in pastoral care. Therefore, it became legitimate to seek the answer to the question of whether and to what extent pastors reacted to the changing conditions of pastoral care in the Będzin deanery. What was the scope and forms of pastoral activity in the second half of the 19th century in the study area? The issues raised are also aimed at answering the question about the influence of the Russification policy on the clergy's

activities after the fall of the January Uprising and to indicate what changes occurred in pastoral care after the emergence of signs of tolerance in 1905.

The Będzin deanery was established in 1867 as part of adapting the church organization to the state administration in accordance with the tsar's policy. In this way a unit of church administration was created bordering Austria and Prussia, as a result of which from the very beginning in the deanery phenomena characteristic of the border areas was visible. In terms of state administration, the area under study was combined with the area of the Będzin district in Piotrków Governorate. In addition, it was joined by the areas of 3 parishes from the Częstochowa district: Olsztyn, Złoty Potok and Zrębice. In the church administration, the area in question belonged to the Kraków diocese from the 14th century and was divided into two deaneries: Bytom and Lelów. After the third partition, for a period of 11 years, the area of the later Będzin deanery was subject to the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Wrocław, and from 1811 returned to the diocese of Kraków. In 1834, the diocese of Kraków was divided into a part located in the Kingdom of Poland and one in the Republic of Krakow. From 1842, the area of the later Będzin deanery, which at that time consisted of Olkusz and Siewierz deaneries, became part of the Kielce-Kraków diocese, and from 1882 of the Kielce diocese, to which it belonged until 1925.

The issue of parish ministry in Będzin deanery has not been fully researched, although similar studies on parish pastoral work have been carried out in relation to various regions where at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries a similar relationship existed between the work of the Church and the policy of Russia, Austria and Prussia.