

Streszczenia w języku angielskim

Kinga Bialek

Keywords: faith-based diplomacy, faith-based diplomats, interfaith dialogue, Cyprus problem, Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process (RTCYPP), process of reconciliation

The aim of the article is to provide a deeper understanding of how faith-based diplomats help to promote reconciliation in Cyprus. Interfaith dialogue on the island has a centuries-old history, but with the onset of the so-called Cyprus conflict, it has taken on a new significance. Since the island's division, religious leaders have not convened to settle concerns for more than three decades, despite the fact that the dispute has negatively impacted religious freedom and access to places of religious worship. Since 2009, as part of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process (RTCYPP), religious leaders have been attempting to foster reconciliation on the island, essentially becoming faith-based diplomats.

The research topic was to examine how religious leaders' activities could contribute to building trust, respect and tolerance in Cyprus.

The author formulates the hypothesis that faith-based diplomacy can be effective in resolving conflict, in which religion is a significant identification aspect for one or both sides of society; hence, it might be used as a tool in the Cypriot reconciliation process. Although religious divisions are not the root cause of the Cyprus issue, as a result religion has gained a prominent political function.

The article relied on reports from the United States Department of State from 2000-2022, Freedom House reports, and UN reports. The source literature on the role of religion under Ottoman and British authority in Cyprus was also analyzed.

Ks. Łukasz Krucki

Keywords: John Paul II, I pilgrimage to Poland, Archdiocese of Gniezno, Gniezno, Christian culture

The aim of the article is to discuss John Paul II's visit in Gniezno on his first pilgrimage to his country. The research problem is to analyze all the papal speeches made in Gniezno on June 3 and 4, 1979 and to show the significance of their content for the subsequent changes that occurred in Poland and Central and Eastern Europe. The Pope delivered important speeches in this city in the form of homilies and catecheses addressed to different groups of people. He touched upon vital topics relating to the gift of baptism and responsibility for its fruits, the historical role of Saint Adalbert, the contemporary evangelizing mission of the Church and primateship.

The author argues that the Pope took advantage of the Pentecost celebrations to present a new vision of a united Europe that breathes with "two lungs" - eastern and western. The Pope's conception was based on the idea of Pentecostes Slavica (Pentecost of the Slavs). It was only possible to implement after the changes of 1989. Nonetheless, the visit to Gniezno on June 3-4, 1979, served as a herald of transformations not just in Poland, but across Central and Eastern Europe.

The following methods were used: philological and comparative, which took into account both the context of the papal statements and how they impacted the audience.

Serhij Sieriakow

Keywords: war, Jesuit schools, the Polish province of the Society of Jesus, quality of Jesuit education

The article analyzes the impact of the military threat on the operation of Jesuit schools in the eastern portion of the Polish province of the Society of Jesus during the middle and second half of the 17th century. It has been found that the receipt of information about an impending danger of military action resulted in the discontinuation of the educational process, the return of pupils to their parents, and the evacuation of the majority of priests and religious brothers as well as material goods from the Order's facilities. It has been established that the war caused shorter or longer closure of Jesuit educational institutions or their partial non-operation. It has also been

demonstrated that the pace and magnitude of the resumption of educational activity were considerably influenced not only by the existence or absence of the fear of further assaults, but also by the extent of damage to a specific Jesuit center's urban infrastructure and rural estates.

The article also examines how the war affected the quality of Jesuit education. The violent death of many experienced teachers as well as the partial breakdown of the training system of the Polish province of the Society of Jesus (especially during the years of the Deluge), coincided with a gradual renewal of the structure of many schools in the 1660s, resulting in an acute shortage of teachers. This problem was solved by more active participation in the educational process of young Jesuits with significant gaps in intellectual training and inadequate linguistic skills.

Marek Szajda

Keywords: Jews, Lower Silesia, settlement, historiography, postwar period, state of research

The settlement of the Jewish population in Lower Silesia is an important component of the postwar history of Jews in Poland. It is also a notable part of the narrative surrounding the so-called Recovered Territories.

The article presents the state of research on the history of the Jewish population in Lower Silesia immediately following the end of World War II. The author puts forward the thesis that scholars are somewhat less interested in the history of the community of Jewish survivors living in Poland after 1945, despite the fact that the number of publications on this topic has increased significantly in recent years.

The research problem is an attempt to show new trends and viewpoints, as well as a recommendation to identify several research areas that may prove enormously useful in the development of further studies on the topic.

In addition to noting the most important publications relating to the immediate postwar period (1945–1950), current research trends as well as new perspectives and challenges facing scholars are discussed.

Agata Tasak

Keywords: Catholic Church, authority, Polish society, Catholics, religion

The Catholic Church has had and continues to maintain a unique role in the public life in Poland, with emphasis being placed on its social authority. However, substantial signs of a decline in religiosity in Europe are visible over the period analysed, as is the linked process of decreasing participation in religious practices.

The main aim of the study is to describe and explain the evolution of perceptions of the Catholic Church's authority in Poland across institutional, doctrinal and personal dimensions.

By highlighting these changes, answers are sought to further important questions, concerning the changing level of trust in the institutional Church, the evolution of religiosity of the Polish society in terms of people's declaration of faith, religious practices and declarations of adherence to Catholic morality, and the scope of the Catholic Church's authority as it is perceived in Poland.

The answers to these questions are the basis for formulating conclusions about the elements of continuity and change in the perception of the authority of the Catholic Church in Polish society.

The author puts forward the thesis that confidence in the institutional Church is dwindling, and there is a gradual decline in the number of those who declare faith, while the process of abandoning religious practices is rising. In each case, the most substantial shifts are observed in the attitudes of young people. According to a prevailing opinion, if the Church is to reclaim its high degree of social authority, it should avoid political engagement, honestly explain the moral scandals disclosed and, most importantly, adhere to the principles it professes.

The basic research method was the analysis of existing (created) data.

Mikołaj Tomaszuk, Bartłomiej Secler

Keywords: Benedict XVI, pope, Catholic Church, Europe's identity, religion, Catholicism

The thought of Benedict XVI has been the subject of scholarly inquiry by representatives of various scientific disciplines, including theologians, anthropologists, historians, sociologists and political scientists. The multidimensional and multifaceted legacy of the late Pope Emeritus, who died on December 31, 2022, cannot be encompassed within the scope of a single discipline alone. This is the case, among others, with Benedict XVI's reflections on Europe. Significantly, the issues addressed by the Pope in his teaching, speeches, lectures, books and interviews, form a coherent, cohesive agenda for Europe, stemming from a comprehensive study of its condition, whether theological, social, economic or political.

The death of John Paul II's successor afforded an opportunity to undertake research on the issues of contemporary Europe, as perceived by Benedict XVI. Because of the aforementioned range of concerns addressed by him, the authors of this publication were obliged to narrow down their focus to a few crucial topics. These have been translated into the title of the publication as well as the structure of the text.

The aim of the article is therefore to analyze the thought of Benedict XVI through the lens of three criteria: identity, condition and vision of Europe. In this regard, it should be emphasized that, contrary to appearances, interpreting Benedict XVI's Europe is not an easy process. For it demands a better understanding of the views of Benedict XVI prior to the events of 2005, namely the election of Cardinal Ratzinger as Pope.

Thus, the authors assume that Benedict XVI's thought on Europe evolved over time, beginning with the future pope's university studies. Furthermore, it is also worth noting that Benedict's Europe correlates to the diagnosis of the problems of the Old Continent that John Paul II spoke and wrote about for twenty-seven years of his pontificate.

The source base included archival documents, memorials and studies.

Elżbieta Wojcieszuk

Keywords: Marian devotion, Recovered Territories, Apostolic Administration in Gorzów Wielkopolski, Image of Our Lady of Częstochowa, communist power apparatus, atheization

The purpose of the article is to characterize the religious situation in the Recovered Territories at the end of 1940s through a case study of the events from Sulęcín. The author assumed that the new settlers were people of deep faith who cultivated old traditions. This enabled them to adjust to the new conditions following their forcible relocation from the Eastern to Western areas.

The research problem focuses on the extraordinary event of bringing to Sulęcín a copy of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Góra in Częstochowa, on August 28, 1949. The following research questions were posed: why did the new settlers undertake this initiative, did they do it without the consent of communist authorities, who was the main originator of the events, as well as, what happened to him and to the copy of the painting thereafter.

The settlers were distinguished by their strong Marian devotion. Traditional pilgrimages to Jasna Góra in Częstochowa were one way to show this. In August 1949, communist authorities denied permission for the settlers from Sulęcín's Catholic parish to go on pilgrimage to Częstochowa. They decided to covertly bring a copy of the painting of Our Lady of Częstochowa to Sulęcín. The painting hangs in the church of St. Nicolas in Sulęcín to this day, serving as a symbol of local identity and integration of the parish community.

The hypothesis concerning the settlers' religiousness was confirmed, and shown to help them adapt to their new surroundings. On a methodological level, source analysis and comparative analysis were conducted.

The article was based on sources such as archival documents, personal memories and local press accounts.

