Waldemar PARUCH (ed.)
Christianity in the History of Poland and the Poles (966–2016)

The anniversary of one millennium and half of century from Christianisation of Poland determined the publication of an interesting and valuable book-album that emphasizes the most important aspects of this topic.

Segmented in six big chapters and accompanied by interesting illustrations, photos, chronologies (pp. 233-248) and maps, the work has a foreword signed by the Primate of the country, Archbishop Wojciech Polak (pp. 8-10), but also two letters of gratitude, one of Andrezj Duda’s, the president of the state (pp. 4-5) and the other of the Marshal of Sejm, Marek Kuchcinski and the one of Senate, Stanislaw Karczewski (pp. 6-7).

After speaking about the jubilee from 1966 and the celebration moments related to it, Archbishop Wojciech insists on the necessity to see the moment that generated the publication of the book as related with the necessity to renew Christian commitment and the discovering of vocation. He underlines the fact that:

«Without any doubt, the present Jubilee Year should serve not only to remember the historical events, but, first of all, to honestly reflect on ourselves and commit ourselves to Christian vocation. At the next stages of this spiritual journey, each of us has the chance to discover the beauty of belonging to the Merciful Lord and His Body, the Church. What is more, not only should we discover but also share this truth with brothers and sisters to become merciful like He is... I trust deep gratitude to God for the gift of faith is going to awaken in us a desire for the renewal of Christian life. As there is nothing more beautiful than feeling to be a part of God’s People, among whom Jesus Christ is still active» (pp. 8-9).

Then, the author of the first chapter, Stanislaw Rosik, presents the landmarks of history of Christian of Poland, using important moments to segment his research. Therefore, the first chapter of the book is dedicated to the period 966-1370. It starts with the baptism of Mieszko I and it shows on the one side the historical evolution of Christianity in Poland, and on the other, illustrations with ruins of monuments from those times, maps, stamps of that moments or passages from chronicles, inviting the reader to a complex trip into the history. Moreover, he does not avoid the interferences with other cultures or peoples, speaking, for example, about the German penetrations in the aforementioned space in the 13th century:

«The first decades of the thirteenth century saw the intense settlement of void areas and the founding of towns on German town law. This resulted in the establishment of municipal and village self-governments regulated by the rights granted in the foundation charter. The demographic and economic potentials of the newly established settlements or the existing ones but adopting the new law, increased the inflow of inhabitants from the West, mainly from Germany, but also Jews and Wallons. The Silesia was the most popular since the time of Henry the Bearded, but throughout the whole thirteenth century, intensified urbanization processes spread all over the other provinces» (p. 41).

In the second chapter (pp. 53-92), entitled The Period of Reforms of the Church and Deeper Christianization. Poland under...
La nueva obra apologetica del sociólogo americano Rodney Stark de la Universidad de Texas, bien conocido en nuestro país por sus trabajos sobre la expansión de la Iglesia Católica en los primeros siglos (Trotta, 2009) ha tenido fortuna tanto en Italia como en España, donde ya se han publicado varias ediciones. En esta ocasión, se centrará en lo que se suele denominar en nuestra cultura las «leyendas negras de la Iglesia», es decir, cuestiones históricas deformadas y utilizadas como arma para desprestigiar a la Iglesia Católica.

Es interesante que desde la introducción, dirigida a los ilustrados fanáticos del siglo XVII-XVIII en la Europa de la Refor-