

УДК 322

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BISHOP OF PODLASIE, ARCHBISHOP JAN MARCELI GUTKOWSKI DEFENDER OF THE FAITH AGAINST TSARISM

Annotation. The profile of the bishop of the diocese of Janów or Podlasie, Jan Marcel Gutkowski, who was in southern Podlasie in the years 1826-1840 during the period of the Kingdom of Poland, has a unique dimension of the symbolic fight against tsarism. A special figure recognized during his ministry as a «pillar of the Polish Church» clashed with the restrictions on professing the Catholic faith in the area to which Tsarist Russia claimed rights. During his priestly ministry, Jan Marceł Gutkowski was a military chaplain and even the chief chaplain of the Polish Army during the period of the Duchy of Warsaw until 1925.

In his episcopal ministry, he strived for a proper understanding of the sacrament of marriage, defended the proclamation of the Word of God in the Kingdom of Poland, also by priests of the Greek-Catholic denomination. Such an attitude of a courageous priest contributed to difficulties on the part of tsarist officials, who from the level of the county and province hindered the proper functioning of the diocese. As a result of complaints to the Vatican, Bishop Gutkowski was expelled from the diocese by the tsarist authorities and sent to Ozieran. After the decision of Pope Gregory XVI, he was appointed titular archbishop of Marcianopolitan and sent his fate to Lviv in Ukraine, where he was buried in the Lychakiv cemetery. It can be said that this is an interesting figure also for today's times.

Keywords: military chaplain, bishop, tsarism, Catholic Church, Greek Catholic Church

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BISKUP PODLASKI, ABP JAN MARCELI GUTKOWSKI OBROŃCA WIARY PRZED CARATEM

Streszczenie. Sylwetka biskupa diecezji janowskiej czyli podlaskiej Jana Marcelego Gutkowskiego urzędującego na Południowym Podlasiu w latach 1826-1840 w okresie Królestwa Polskiego, posiada wyjątkowy wymiar symbolicznej walki z caratem. Szczególna postać uznana w okresie posługi za «filar polskiego Kościoła» zderzyła się z ograniczeniami wyznawania wiary katolickiej na obszarze, do którego prawa rościła sobie carska Rosja. W trakcie posługi kapłańskiej Jan Marceli Gutkowski był kapelanem wojskowym, a nawet naczelnym kapelanem Wojsk Polskich w okresie Księstwa Warszawskiego aż do 1925 r. W kolejnym roku zostaje mianowany drugim w kolejności biskupem nowo erygowanej diecezji janowskiej czyli podlaskiej.

W swojej posłudze biskupiej zabiegał o właściwe rozumienie sakramentu małżeństwa, bronił głoszenie Słowa Bożego na terenie Królestwa Polskiego, również przez kapłanów wyznania grecko-katolickiego. Taka postawa odważnego kapłana przyczyniła się do trudności ze strony urzędników carskich, którzy od poziomu powiatu i województwa utrudniali funkcjonowanie prawidłowe diecezji. W wyniku skarg do Watykanu biskup Gutkowski został wydalony z diecezji przez władze carskie i skierowany do Ozieran. Po decyzji papieża Grzegorza XVI został mianowany tytularnym arcybiskupem marcjano-politańskim i swoje losy skierował do Lwowa w Ukrainie, gdzie został pochowany na cmentarzu Łyczakowskim. Można powiedzieć, że jest to ciekawa postać również na dzisiejsze czasy.

Słowa kluczowe: kapelan wojskowy, biskup, carat, Kościół katolicki, Kościół grecko-katolicki

The article aims to show the profile of one of the bishops of Podlasie in office in the years 1826-1840 in the perspective of the fight for the faith during the influence of tsarist rule in the Kingdom of Poland.

Research methodology, is based on the historiographic method through access to sources in such archives as the Vatican Archives, the Archive of Old Records in Warsaw, and the Diocesan Archives in Siedlce. The work also uses the method of analysis, induction and comparative method.

A scientific novelty is to show the figure of the bishop who served as the chief chaplain of the Polish Army during the period of the Duchy of Warsaw until 1825, which shows a broad research perspective also in the aspect of building military

pastoral ministry. Bishop Gutkowski's attitude towards tsarism in retrospect points to the right direction of the contemporary situation in Ukraine, which indicates Russia's constant desire to dominate the territories of Central and Eastern Europe.

Applications. Maintaining a united front in maintaining the unity of faith, culture and national identity shows the contemporary geopolitical situation, as is the case in the central and eastern part of Europe. Thanks to the research process and analysis of the pastoral attitude of priests, bishops, including military chaplains, it is possible to ensure proper morale in dealing with contemporary threats to national security.

Presentation of the main material:

In order to understand the history of the publications shown in the content, it is worth presenting the fact of the administrative division of the diocese, which changes were caused by the creation of the Kingdom of Poland during the partitions in Poland. In connection with the new administrative division in the country and through the decisions of the Holy See, a new organizational structure of the Catholic Church in Poland was created.

Documents from the early nineteenth century, such as the Bull Quemadmodum Romanorum Pontificum of Pope Pius VII of 23 September 1805 and the Decree Universi Christi Ovilis, which formed a new territorial division of the diocese in the country, should be mentioned here [Bylina, 2017, p. 9-29; Zachajkiewicz, 2000]. The decisive document was the bull of Pius VII Ex imposita nobis 30 VI 1818 r., which erected a new diocese of Janów, i.e. Podlasie with its capital in Janów Podlaski [Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Archivio Vaticano Sale Sisto V, XXXI D 15, Bullarii Romani continuatio Romae 1853, Bulla Ex imposita nobis z 30 VI 1818 r., t. XV, Par. 1, p. 17, s. 61-68]. In its subordinateity, the diocese of Janów or Podlasie was subordinate to the Metropolis of Warsaw.

The first bishop of the diocese of Janów or Podlasie was Fr. Feliks Łukasz in Levino Lewiński, the former suffragan of Włocławek [Bylina, 2017, p. 31-44; Kasabała, 2004, s. 902-903]. The second bishop of Podlasie was the Dominican Father Jan Marcelli de Gutkowo Gutkowski.

Jan Gutkowski's youth and the path to the priesthood and chaplaincy

Jan Marcelli de Gutkowo Gutkowski as the son of Ludwik and Marianna née Czachorowski was born on May 27, 1776 in the village of Witkowo Pawlaki parish Raciąż near Ciechanów in the diocese of Płock. Baptized on May 27, 1776, as evidenced even by a certificate from the Vatican Archives [Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Archivio Concistoriale, Acta Camerarii 54 f. 620, Extractum ec Libru Metrices Baptisatorum Ecclesiae Parochialis Raciizensis, Villa Vawłaki 1776, Dat in Raciąż in 30 Aprilis 1[??]7.].

Initially, he studied in Płock, then as a 16-year-old he joined the national cavalry. After a few years, he joined the Dominican Order in Płock, where he received the monastic name marcelli. He finished his seminary studies in Warsaw, in 1799 he was ordained a priest and until the dissolution of the Order in Płock he was its prior until 1804. His next places of residence are Gdańsk and Wrocław [Bibliotheca

Apostolica Vaticana. Processus Consistoriales, vol. 224, k. 116, 120; Żywczyński, 1960-1961, p. 180].

During the times of the Duchy of Warsaw, Jan Marcelli Gutkowski became a chaplain in the Vistula Legion from 1806, and a year later he became the chief chaplain of the Polish Army. He participated in the Napoleonic campaign, was in Germany, France, Spain and Russia, where in the battles of Berezina he was taken prisoner until 1815. Released by Tsar Alexander I, he became chaplain of the mounted guard and military dean on 9 December 1815. On February 22, 1816, he became the chief chaplain of the Polish Army until 1825 [Żywczyński, 1958, p. 129].

In the meantime, he held the office of parish priest in Orszymów near Płock in 1817, in the same year he was a scholastic prelate of the Płock cathedral chapter, and a parish priest of the collegiate church of Zamość, chaplain of the Canonical Sisters, in the church of St. Anthony. In 1819 he received the title of doctor honoris causa of theology awarded by the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. In 1820 he became Prelate Archdeacon of the Metropolitan Chapter of Warsaw [Diocesan Archives of Siedlce, Akta osobiste ks. bp Gutkowski Jan Marcelli, zaczęte 12. 1818-zakończone 16. 05. 1840, Nominacja ks. Marcelego Gutkowskiego i ks. Edwarda Czarneckiego z dnia 16 grudnia 1820 r., Lit. G. Dział II, Nr 19, t. I.].

The period of bishopric in the diocese of Janów or Podlasie

On July 3, 1826, Monsignor Jan Marcelli Gutkowski was appointed bishop of the diocese of Janów or Podlasie by Pope Leo XII [Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Archivio Concistoriale, Iuramenta fidelitatis et professionis fidei, Testimonium super Consecratione in Episcopum Podlachiensem Illustrissimi ac Reverendissimi Joanni Marcelli Gutkowski, 7/18 f. 215]. Episcopal ordination took place in Warsaw on 1 October 1826 by the Archbishop of Warsaw Wojciech Skarszewski, bishop of Augustów Mikołaj Jan Manugiewicz and suffragan of Podlasie Franciszek Ignacy Lewiński [Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Archivio Concistoriale, Iuramenta fidelitatis et professionis fidei, Obedientissimus Filius et humillimus Servus Joannes Marcellus Gutkowski, Episcopus Podlachiensis. Varsavia Die 1 Mensis Octobris 1826 anno, 7/18 f. 214].

During his service in the diecezji he also held the office of senator of the Kingdom of Poland, a member of the Sejm Court of the Congress Kingdom (1928). He treated the time of the November Uprising as excessive bloodshed, although he did not defend the entry of his seminarians into the insurgent fight [Sokołowski, 2013, p. 35]. After the end of the insurgent fights, the bishop took up pastoral ministry in the diocese. He conducted frequent canonical visits to the parish, strived for the reform of the clergy. He personally examined priests. «He embarrassed laziness, rewarded virtue, the people worshiped their shepherd, the clergy revered their bishop» [Podręczna Encyklopedia Kościelna, t. 13-14, Warszawa 1907, p. 26]. After conducting a survey among parish priests, the bishop appointed patrons in the Diocese of Podlasie, who were saints to the Apostle Simon and Jude Thaddeus. The decision was approved by the Holy See in 1830.

In his pastoral ministry, he strongly opposed the pressure of tsarism on doctrinal issues. He had his own opinion on mixed marriages and opposed the government's order to educate children from mixed marriages in religious terms in the Orthodox spirit. He also supported the pastoral activity of Greek Catholics, who were hindered in their activities in terms of religious service. For his zealous attitude towards tsarism, Bishop Gutkowski was deprived of his salary, which was due to the State Treasury. Numerous investigations were conducted against the bishop. Provincial and district authorities hindered the functioning of the diocese, as well as it turned out that the bishop's chaplain was a Russian spy [Jarmoch, Bylina, 2018, p. 42].

Bishop Gutkowski wrote to Pope Gregory XVI about all the difficulties, in response he received consolation and assurance of support from the Holy See [Boudon, no year, p, 272].

Exiled from the country, he went to Lviv

For his unbending attitude, also for the Greek-Catholic clergy, at the beginning of April 1840, Bishop Gutkowski, on the orders of Tsar Nicholas I, was forcibly deported to Ozieran in the Mogilev Governorate (today's Belarus) to a wooden monastery of Lateran canons. A special commission was formed, headed by General Read, who on the night of 28 to 29 April 1840 broke into the bishop's residence, surrounded by hussars in Janów and at four o'clock in the morning, were transported by ambulance to Brest-Litovsk, where he spent the first night [Archive of Old Records in Warsaw, Odpis z Akt Kancelarii Namiestnika Nr 2270. p. 83-86].

Before leaving Janów, Bishop Gutkowski said to his household members: «Tell everyone that the clergy and this diocese of my faithful children, wherever God places me, and as long as I live, will be the object of my fervent prayers and remembrance. Be healthy and faithful to God and to the Holy Church. Goodbye to you! Pray for me» [Młynarski, 1970, p. 128]. Regarding the imprisonment of the bishop, the Holy See began negotiations with the Russian government in order to release the bishop. Pope Gregory XVI, bearing in mind the good of the Church, asked the bishop to renounce the bishopric of Podlasie. On April 7, 1841, the Pope wrote a letter from the bishop. Due to the non-acceptance of the letter by the Russian Government, it was not served until May 16, 1842. Bishop Gutkowski complied with the pope's advice and on May 19, 1842, voluntarily renounced the bishopric. As a result, he was released from exile and left Ozieran for Lviv. The bishop lived in the monastery of the Franciscan Fathers in Lviv. He used the title of Bishop of Podlasie until 1856 [Handy Church Encyclopedia, 1907, p. 26]. On 18 September 1856 he was appointed titular archbishop of Marcianopolita. This is evidenced by a document in the Vatican Archives [Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Archivio Concistoriale, Acta Camerarii, Archiepiscopalis Ecclesia Martianopolitan in partibus infidelium, 60 f. 416].

Bishop Jan Marcelli Gutkowski died on 3 October 1863 after a three-month illness. It was referred to *column, a pillar of the Polish Church* [Przegląd katolicki, 1863, s. 669]. The funeral of Archbishop Gutkowski was celebrated very solemnly.

The body was buried in the Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv, on the main avenue (field 4) [Sokołowski, 2013, p. 36]. This circumstance prompted me to bring closer the figure who, in his pastoral zeal as, among others, the chief chaplain of the Polish Army and a zealous pastor of the diocese, often opposed the invaders who interfered in the history of the Polish community in the area of today's Southern Podlasie. Efforts are being made to bring the body of the bishop into the diocese.

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