

Marek Story

Dissertation title:

**The Parish of Kamień near Rudnik by the San River between 1907 and 1939
in the light of its multi-ethnic, religious and cultural environment.**

Summary of the dissertation

The purpose of this dissertation is to show the beginnings of the Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Kamień which currently belongs to the Diocese of Rzeszów, however, previously belonged to the Latin Diocese of Przemyśl. The author aims to answer the question how the parish of Kamień near Rudnik was founded and how it functioned in the years of 1907-1939 in the light of its multi-ethnic, religious and cultural environment.

The author of the dissertation has been interested in the history of the Roman-Catholic parish of Kamień for many years. He wrote a master's thesis under the supervision of Rev. Prof. Stanisław Nabywaniec, as part of the seminar on the history of the Church, which was successfully defended in 2005 at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The thesis focused on the ministry in the parish of Kamień from its beginnings until the outbreak of the Second World War.

The village of Kamień was founded in 1578 by king Stephen Báthory. In the following centuries, Catholics living in Kamień belonged to two neighboring parishes: in Górno and in Jeżowe. An important point in setting up the local parish was when a church in Kamień was built. It was consecrated in 1901 by bishop Karol Józef Fischer from Przemyśl. A few years later, in 1907, bishop Józef Sebastian Pelczar from Przemyśl canonically erected a new parish.

The dissertation has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter shows the history of the villages which belonged to the parish of Kamień after 1907. The author speaks about their geographical location, their foundation and development, as well as their membership in the State and Church administration until 1907. The author also

speaks about the people who lived in Kamień and had Polish, German and Jewish ethnic background which, to a large extent, corresponded with the religious mix. The second chapter speaks about the process of setting up and development of the parish of Kamień, its membership in the State and Church administration between 1907 and 1939, as well as the material basis of its functioning and its rights of patronage. The third chapter focuses on the places of worship within the parish of Kamień: the church of the Roman-Catholic parish and the evangelical church. The author speaks about the cemeteries – the Catholic and the evangelical, as well as shrines, figures and crosses. Next chapter describes the local priests and their associates. The complexity of the religious and moral life of the people is presented in chapter five. The author describes various forms of the devotion of the parishioners, especially their participation in the Sunday and holiday masses, liturgical and paraliturgical services, as well as their religious customs. Another dimension presented in the chapter refers to the moral state of the believers as well as the call to the priesthood. The author also describes religious and cultural traditions of the Protestant and Jewish people, as well as mutual impact of the cultures and preservation of their cultural and religious identity. The last chapter presents various organizations and religious groups which existed in the parish of Kamień between 1907 and 1939.

When looking for source information about the history of the parish of Kamień, the author used mostly archival resources. Especially helpful was the query made to the Archdiocesan Archive in Przemyśl and the Parish Archive in Kamień. One of the printed sources worth mentioning is the “Chronicle of the Diocese of Przemyśl”. During the research process, the author also used resources about the parish itself and the region, in the light of the situation in the Church and in the Polish State in the following historical period.

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