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Book review:

Jacek Urban, *Święty Jan Paweł II jako biskup krakowski (wybrane zagadnienia)* [Saint John Paul II as the Bishop of Krakow (selected issues)], publ. Academic Bookshop, Kraków 2020, pp. 312

Another book on John Paul II by Father Professor Jacek Urban, as the author emphasizes himself, was published on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Polish Pope. It is a continuation of the work Karol Wojtyła as the Bishop of Krakow published in 1988, which is referred to not only in the content, but also in the very title of the reviewed work. The previous one was compiled in connection with the 10th anniversary of the pontificate of John Paul II and consisted of a series of studies on the ministry of Karol Wojtyła as the Bishop of Krakow in 1964–78.

The Professor's book is therefore intended as a complement and supplement to the publication which was created thanks to the efforts of Karol Wojtyła's associates and students over thirty years ago. Importantly, the author entered the Krakow seminary during Karol Wojtyła's time as Bishop, and he completed it in the significant year 1978. Witnessing firsthand, and drawing on his own life experience and memory, he has a knowledge about the management of the Krakow diocese by the protagonist of his reflections.

For many years, the author has been known in scholarly circles as the custodian of the memory of the Krakow Church. Therefore, in view of his being a professional historian, professor, expert on the history of the Wawel Cathedral and Kraków, a long-time canon and prelate of the Kraków Cathedral Chapter and the director of the Archives of the Kraków Metropolitan Curia and the Archives and Library of the Kraków Cathedral Chapter, there is hardly anyone better qualified among contemporary researchers to undertake the effort of writing a book on such topics.

The reader, fully aware of all the above competences of the author, sets the bar high for him, hoping to find a study containing new and original findings, based on previously unknown sources. The reviewed work, consisting of a dozen or so texts (some previously published), meets these expectations fully.

The content is presented in chronological order, as the author states himself. In the first chapter "The Wawel Sources of John Paul II's Spirituality," the author presents the roots of Karol Wojtyła's spirituality, which reach back to his childhood and youth in Wadowice, and after 1938 connect him with the Wawel cathedral. In the next chapter "Episcopal Consecration of Fr. prof. Karola Wojtyła (1958)," the author takes up a topic related to the Episcopal ordination of Wojtyła, with reverence recreating the course of the ceremony itself. In the chapter "Karol Wojtyła, The Problem of *Tygodnik Powszechny* (1962)," the Author focuses on Karol Wojtyła's relations with the local intellectual, academic, and ecclesiastical environments, introducing a reader to a typical "Wojtyła's" way of viewing the world, i.e. one governed by the sense of justice and a deep analysis of problems.

Equally important is the participation of Bishop Wojtyła in the Vaticanum Secundum, described in the chapter "Bishop Karol Wojtyła and the Second Vatican Council (1962–65)" based on materials from the Chapter Archives at Wawel. A valuable testimony to the future Pope's deep reflections on the decisions of the Council may be derived from the letters of Karol Wojtyła (often cited by the author), directed to the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Krakow.

Regretfully, Fr. Prof. J. Urban did not attempt to point out (in footnotes, for instance) source references to specific Council sessions and the considered documents, which would certainly help readers intrigued by a broader context of the events. It would be worthwhile to mention, for example, "Vatican Council II. Constitutions, Decrees, Declarations," Poznań 2002.

The Author skillfully depicts the Ingress of the Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyła, to the Wawel Cathedral (March 8, 1964), introducing a short historical outline at the beginning of the chapter where he explains both the origin of the ceremony and its development over the centuries. It might be interesting to present other celebrations of this type in the communist period in Poland, as this would help to identify similarities and differences from local tradition during ingress.

An important place in the Author's considerations is the 1958–68 correspondence between Archbishop Karol Wojtyła and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, the Primate of Poland (the whole collection is stored in the Archives of the Metropolitan Curia in Krakow). Thanks to the abundant quotations from the letters of both these leaders of the Polish Church, the reader gets an insight into their mutual relations, with an emphasis on the admirable loyalty of Archbishop Wojtyła towards the Primate.

In the chapter "Inheritance from Hedwig. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła's concern for the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Krakow in the light of his speech on December 10, 1973" – the Author describes an issue very close to the heart of both the future Pope and the Author himself – the Pontifical Faculty of Theology.

Fr. Prof. Urban strongly emphasizes the role of Archbishop Wojtyła and his numerous efforts in the process of a gradual transformation of the Faculty of Theology (once a 'gem in the crown' of Krakow university, in 1954 by the decision of the authorities of the Polish People's Republic converted into an independent higher-learning institution). The result of his actions and his longlasting legacy is today's Pontifical University in Krakow, bearing the name of John Paul II.

The next two chapters: "Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and clerics-soldiers," and "Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, and the Krakow Franciscans," illustrate the paternal protection that the future Pope gave to seminarians and, numerous religious congregations, and secular priests. Thanks to these activities, the communist indoctrination in these circles, done both by open and classified methods, was significantly blunted.

In reflections on Cardinal Wojtyła, one cannot fail to mention Queen Hedwig, the Lady of the Wawel Castle. Author and the future Pope both share the same fascination by her personality and deeds. In the chapter "Veneration of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła-St. John Paul II for St. Queen Hedwig," Fr Prof. describes the enormous determination of the then Governor of the Krakow cathedral to maintain her worship and to bring the

process of beatification and canonization of the Great Queen to a happy ending. The crowning achievement of Karol Wojtyła's efforts was a solemn mass at Błonia Park in Kraków on June 8, 1997, when he himself, as a Successor of St. Peter, canonized Queen Hedwig of Anjou.

In the final chapters "The Krakow's Cardinal Karol Wojtyła Museum (of the Archdiocese) and the John Paul II Museum at Wawel (Cathedral)" and "«Wojtylans» in the Archives of the Krakow Cathedral Chapel at Wawel," the author – distinguished expert on Krakow archives – draws attention to the documentary heritage of Cardinal Wojtyła, which is located both in the archives he manages and in the Archdiocese Museum.

Finally, the last chapter *To the Tomb of St. Stanisław (1979)*, contains a description of what might be seen as a farewell of Karol Wojtyła to his beloved Krakow. In the 1978 Cardinal Wojtyła was elected Pope. His First Pilgrimage to his Homeland a year later was an opportunity for a great manifestation of patriotic and religious feelings on the part of his countrymen, and for K. Wojtyła it was the crowning achievement of his pastoral work in the Polish Church. The Author cites many excerpts from the Papal sermons and speeches delivered during those hot June days, and then, in a conclusion, he emphasizes the later significance of John Paul II's jubilee pilgrimage for Poland and Europe (i.e. creation of Solidarity movement just a year later).

As a kind of postscript, the book presents two ongoing initiatives aimed at publishing the works and writings of Karol Wojtyła. The first concerns literary works, the second philosophical and theological works. The reader also learn that the catalog-inventory of the Archives of Cardinal Wojtyła will be published shortly.

The structure of the book allows the reader to observe Karol Wojtyła's growth in the ministry of the Krakow Church in a chronological order, it follows the directions of his activities, shows personal and institutional relations, discovers hitherto unknown sources and facts, as well as better illustrating the circumstances and context of allegedly well-known and described events, such as the consecration of a bishop and the metropolitan ingress.

Nothing of the above would be possible without the Author's erudition, graceful narration, innate inquisitiveness, and observational skills. He often gives the floor to Karol Wojtyła himself, citing his statements abundantly and/or providing important sources. Thanks to this, the book meets expectations not only of professional historians, but also everyone interested in the recent history of the Krakow Church and the life of Saint John Paul II.