

Reports, forum

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Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski, Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow and Great Chancellor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow

On 8 December 2016, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, accepted the resignation of Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz from the ministry of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow and appointed Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski, the previous Metropolitan Archbishop of Łódź, as the new Krakow Metropolitan Archbishop. His Excellency Archbishop. M. Jędraszewski, is also the Great Chancellor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow.

1. Installation to the Wawel Cathedral

Abp. M. Jędraszewski addressed the bishops, clergy and laity with the words: “Let us make a joyous effort to proclaim Jesus to the modern world.” The celebration of the installation of the new Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow were held on 28 January, 2017, in the Saints Stanislaus and Wenceslaus Cathedral. The participants of the celebrations included the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Beata Szydło, as well as numerous representatives of the local government and authorities, art and science fields, as well as the faithful of the

archdioceses of Krakow and Łódź. Polish and foreign cardinals, Papal Nuncio Abp. Salvatore Pennacchio, archbishops and bishops, including Card. Zenon Grocholewski, Card. Kazimierz Nycz, Abp. Stanisław Gądecki, Abp. Wojciech Polak were also present at the ceremony.

The initial part of Mass was celebrated by the Papal Nuncio to Poland – Abp. Salvatore Pennacchio. At the beginning of the Eucharist, the new Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow was addressed by his predecessor – Card. Stanisław Dziwisz. The hierarch welcomed his successor and remarked that the Krakow Church is a living, dynamic Church, open to contemporary problems and faithful to the teaching of the Church. It is a Church of great potential owing to its people involved in communities, movements and associations. It is a Church of great potential thanks to the entire presbyterium of the archdiocese of Krakow, as well as consecrated persons. It is a Church of the youth, who are our hope. The papal bull by Pope Francis “*Sublimis inter sidera*” was then read out. The new Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow was presented with the insignia of his bishop authority: the pallium, a unique vestment, personally embroidered by St. Hedwig and The rationale tailored to resemble the Queen’s coat, adorned with pearls. The privilege of wearing it may only be enjoyed by the head of the Krakow Church. The crosier, on the other hand, is a pastoral staff – the symbol of the office of the diocesan bishop. After receiving the insignia, the new Metropolitan Archbishop accepted pledges of reverence and submission, the so-called homage, from auxiliary bishops, representatives of the clergy, consecrated persons, laity as well as representatives of world of science (the Rector and Vice-rectors of UPJPII).

During the homily, Abp. M. Jędraszewski spoke of the meaning and value of vigilance in Christian life. He indicated that since the moment man was called to existence, God’s vigil is permeated with the fatherly care for him, the care for this unique gift bestowed upon man – his freedom. He remarked that vigil, expressed in the concern for a simple person was dear to St. Hedwig, the Queen. This vigil was also manifested in her care for educating the intellectual elites, by funding the Jagiellonian University. He also asked to: make a joyous effort with him to proclaim Jesus, the only Redeemer of man, to the modern world.

Having sung “*Te Deum*” hymn after Communion, speeches by the Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for Catholic Education – Card. Zenon Grocholewski, the President of Episcopal Conference of Poland – Abp. Stanisław Gądecki, as well as by an auxiliary bishop of Krakow – Bp. Jan Szkołoń were delivered. Cardinal Z. Grocholewski reminded the rich legacy of the Krakow Church and

its prominent figures, in particular, the Pope Saint John Paul II. He also reminded about the existence of “Have No Fear!” Center, which is devoted to him, as well as the pontifical university with John Paul II as its patron. He proclaimed: have courage to carry out what is born of prayer. Whereas Abp. S. Gądecki expressed best wishes on behalf of Polish bishops, he also remarked that the installation is a herald of the effort of a shepherd searching for the lost sheep, and at the same time, the sacrifice of the Lamb, who gives his life for the sheep. The entire pastoral effort will lead to one thing, which is building the mature faith of the members of the diocese, building the consistent, harmonious and prudent faith of each and every baptized person. Bp. Jan Szkodoń, an auxiliary bishop, spoke on behalf of the bishops, clergy and laity of the Archdiocese of Krakow. He welcomed Abp. M. Jędraszewski to the community of the Krakow Archdiocese as a Shepherd, who in the name of Jesus, and with His power, will lead us to green pastures, defend against the wolf, comfort and protect the sick and weak sheep, search for the lost sheep and will carry the weakest one.

At the close of the liturgy, Abp. M. Jędraszewski thanked everyone for taking part in the Eucharist and gave his pastoral blessing.

2. Biography

Abp. Marek Jędraszewski was born on 24 July, 1949 in Poznań. He received his high-school diploma in 1967, graduating from the Karol Marcinkowski High School in Poznań. Later, in the years 1967–1973, he studied at the Archbishop Seminary in Poznań and the Pontifical Theological Faculty in Poznań. He was ordained a priest by Abp. Antoni Baraniak on 24 May, 1973. He received his Licentiate of Sacred Theology at the Pontifical Faculty in Poznań in 1974 for his dissertation “The issue of the person in Gabriel Marcel’s philosophy” (thesis supervisor: Rev. Prof. Ludwik Wciórka). In the years 1973–1975, he served as a vicar in St. Martin parish in Odalnow near Ostrów Wielkopolski. He completed a programme of specialist studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome where in June 1977, he received a bachelor’s degree in philosophy for his dissertation “La filosofia del simbolo religioso di Paul Ricoeur” and was awarded a gold medal from the university. On 20 December 1979, he defended his doctoral thesis “Le relazioni intersoggettive nella filosofia di Levinas” (thesis supervisor: Prof. Simon Decloux SJ, the dissertation was awarded a gold medal by the Holy Father John Paul II).

After his return to Poland, in the years 1980–1996, he was an assistant professor at the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Poznań. In the years 1980–1987, he was the Prefect of the Archbishop Seminary in Poznań, while in the years 1987–1996, he was the editor and since 1990, the editor-in-chief of “Przewodnik Katolicki” (“Catholic Guide”). In 1991, he received his habilitation degree at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Krakow with the dissertation “Jean-Paul Sartre and Emmanuel Levinas – in search of a new humanism. Analytical and comparative study” (the dissertation was published under the title “In search of a new humanism. J. P. Sartre – E. Levinas”, Krakow 1994). In 1996, he was appointed as an associate professor at the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Poznań. On 2 January, 2002, he was awarded the scientific title of Professor of Theology.

In 1996, Rev. M. Jędraszewski was nominated as the Episcopal Vicar for Science and Culture in the Archdiocese of Poznań and the President of the Academic Ministry in the Archbishop Curia of Poznań.

On 17 May, 1997, the Holy Father John Paul II appointed him the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Poznań. He received the Episcopal ordination on 29 June, 1997 in Poznań. His Episcopal motto were the words: “Scire Christum” (“Know Christ”). On 11 July, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as the Archbishop of Łódź. The installation to the cathedral in Łódź was held on 8 September, 2012, on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On 8 December, 2016, the Holy Father Pope Francis nominated him the Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow.

Abp. M. Jędraszewski has been the Vice-president of Episcopal Conference of Poland since 2014. Furthermore, his other functions in the Episcopal Conference include membership in: the Permanent Council of Episcopal Conference of Poland, Section of Philosophy in the Committee on Doctrine of the Faith, Committee of Catholic Education, Council for Youth Ministry, as well as being the delegate of the Episcopal Conference of Poland for Academic Ministry. Since 30 September, 2012, he has been the President of the Committee for Catechesis, Schools and Universities of the Council of Episcopal Conferences of Europe (CCEE). On 30 November, 2013, the Holy Father Pope Francis, nominated him a member of the Congregation for the Catholic Education for five years.



