

Reports, forum

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Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński Prize of the Primate of the Millennium for 2019

In the life of all societies there are people who set the direction of development for decades, especially in the dimension of shaping and building interpersonal relationships. One of such figures was undoubtedly the Primate of the Millennium, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. His spiritual will is explored by many people and institutions. One of the organizations that commemorates this outstanding figure of the 20th-century Polish Church is the Association of Alumni and Friends of the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Lublin. The Board of this Association has been awarding the Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński Primate of the Millennium Prize since 2017 for outstanding scientific, didactic, professional or organizational achievements aimed at spreading Catholic principles in accordance with the *Deo et Patriae* principle, as well as Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński “Teacher of God’s Laws” medal.

The founder of the prize is Rev. Prof. Mirosław Sitarz. The prize is awarded every year to three individuals for outstanding achievements mentioned earlier. The medal is a way of expressing gratitude to people who have significantly contributed to the achievement of the statutory objectives of the Association. The medal marked number 1 was given by Rev. Prof. Mirosław Sitarz as a votive offering on Jasna Góra.

In 2017, the prize was awarded to: Rev. Dr. Inf. Ireneusz Skubiś, honorary editor-in-chief of `Niedziela`, Rev. Prof. Wojciech Góralski from the Cardinal

Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw and lawyer Stefan Hambura, while the first person to be awarded in 2018 was Prof. Peter Raina, author of many publications on the Primate of the Millennium.

The Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński “Teacher of God’s Law” medal was awarded to Prof. Krukowski, Wanda Wojciechowska – Kolbuch, MA, Dr. H.C. Wojciechowski, Paweł Cichosz, an attorney, Stanisław Zajączkowski, MA, Kasperski an attorney, Dr Romanko, Dr Anna Słowikowska and Stanisław Janik, MA.

In 2019, the Primate of the Millennium prize was given to: Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Müller, Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski and Rev. Dr Hab. Waldemar Cisło, Prof. UKSW. The ceremonial gala took place on January 18th that year. It began with a Holy Mass in the academic church in Lublin, presided over by Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, Apostolic Nuncio in Poland.

Then, the National Polish Scientific Conference entitled “ Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński – Graduate of the Department of Church Public and Constitutional Law of the Catholic University of Lublin” took place at the Catholic University of Lublin. Awards were given during the event to that year’s laureates: Archbishop Prof. Marek Jędraszewski and Father Professor Waldemar Cisło. Due to the absence of Cardinal Gerhard Müller in Lublin, his awarding ceremony was postponed to a different date.

Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski sent a letter to the participants, especially the prize-winners, where he wrote: “The abundant activity of Rev. Prof. Waldemar Cisło to help those in need follows the path of love filling the heart of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. It is about his interests in the field of research and science, as well as specific help realized as the chairman of the Polish section for Aid to the Church in Need. Let Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, be his inspiration, who among other things said: – ‘Our whole life is worth only as much as the love it contains’ – (Jasna Góra, 15 August 1979).” The laudation about Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski was delivered by Rev. Prof. Dariusz Kowalczyk from Rome.

Laudation for the Rev. prof. Waldemar Cisło was prepared and delivered by Dr Hab. Zbigniew Cieślak, Prof. UKSW, Head of the Department of Science of Administration and Environmental Protection at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the UKSW, judge of the Constitutional Tribunal. He said, “the public activity of Father Professor consists mainly of: managing the Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), involvement in the activities of various state entities to help refugees, especially abroad, and media activity, e.g. appearing on television, radio, the internet, scientific work and



also co-organizing charity concerts. His public activity was appreciated by the President of the Republic of Poland, who honored Fr. Prof. with the following high honors: Medal of the Centenary of Regained Independence (2018) and the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta – for outstanding merits in activities for people in need of help and support – (2019).”

The professor also gave his personal testimony: ‘My family owes a lot to Father Waldemar. He supported us, also with warm and encouraging sermons, in very difficult moments, such as the death and funeral of my mother and my wife. Our gratitude will never end. Similarly, the creation and management of the Polish section of the Pontifical Association to Aid to the Church in Need. I was lucky to be able to observe from the position of a member of the consultative board of the organization almost from the beginning of the Association's operation and development. And we started very modestly, from a rented room in the presbytery of the parish dedicated to St. Michał in Warsaw, with the cordial support of priest Józef Has. Father Professor Waldemar almost at the beginning promoted the idea of religious songs concert in the church of St. Michał and arranged a television broadcast, which helped to break through this initiative to the public. Undisputed success in achieving the ACN's goals soon became apparent, also noticed by the central links of the entire organization and the ACN's national associations.

The recipient himself also spoke and prepared a speech that noticed an extremely important problem that has not yet reach the general public awareness of “Food as a weapon in armed conflicts.” The presentation was a presentation

of Catholic Social Teaching on basic human rights in the context of ensuring access to food. There was an interdisciplinary analysis on the discussed issue. The speaker also outlined a historical perspective, dating back to the Enlightenment, in which, to some extent, one should see a reductionist and materialistic approach to basic human rights. The Church has fervently opposed such an approach to human rights. At the end, the Rev. Professor summed up his speech: “The church is undoubtedly involved in many fields of activity in the fight against hunger. It is done directly and indirectly by promoting education and health, peace and justice. This work reaches the most remote places where the proper care of governments and other institutions is lacking. It helps combat the effects of woes and conflicts much earlier than international organizations do. The church has considerable authority, which it should use to combat poverty and hunger, as it has done for centuries. However, this does not release you from the obligation to join forces and learn about the work of international organizations, especially the UN. Therefore, for the common good and even a more effective fight against hunger, it is necessary to learn about the goals of Sustainable Development (SDGs) and, according to their coherence with the social doctrine of the Church, to achieve them. Hence, an effort is needed to activate individual Christian communities so that their faith is expressed in life. Christians have the right to demand better local and international politics to combat hunger, without involving the Church on either side. The church can become a place of dialogue for various solutions, also in the housing sense. Sustainable development goals allow not only to design practical activities, but also to measure progress, which certainly contributes to better activities, including church activities. For her part, the Church can become the one who instructs and, if necessary, corrects, mediates and drives the fight against world hunger. This study contributes to the development of appropriate relationships between the SDGs and the Catholic Church.”