

„The role of Bishop Wilhelm Pluta in the reception of the post-Council liturgical renewal in the Diocese of Zielona Góra-Gorzów”

Abstract

The renewal of the life of the Church ushered in by the Second Vatican Council's reform of liturgy is an exceptionally complex and far-reaching process. Accordingly, answering a question about the reception of the post-Council liturgy renewal in the local Church is one of the most difficult tasks in terms of methodology. This is because a mere analysis of what was implemented is not sufficient – it is also necessary to present a process related to the liturgical formation of priests and laypeople. The creative adoption of certain fundamental assumptions, structures of thought, methodologies and intuitions, whose external expression is the source text, appears to be a more important aspect of the reception of liturgical renewal. Therefore, the subject discussed in the paper – the role of Bishop Wilhelm Pluta in the reception of the post-Council liturgical renewal in the Diocese of Zielona Góra-Gorzów – is topical and useful. Bp W. Pluta's service in the Diocese of Gorzów coincided with major events in the life of the Church: the preparation, proceedings and decisions of the Second Vatican Council.

The Council was undoubtedly one of the most significant events in the modern history of the Roman Catholic Church. The teachings of the Council inspired the ministry of Bishop Wilhelm Pluta, the author of bold and innovative pastoral solutions. For instance, the system he developed to prepare people for marriage was viewed as ground-breaking back in the day. Another example of liturgical renewal reception proposed by Bp W. Pluta involved establishing various groups and communities within parishes – a novel idea in the 1960s and at the beginning of 1970s. It has to be stressed that the methods of liturgical formation suggested by Bp W. Pluta are still relevant. This applies in particular to the preparation for receiving Holy Sacraments and to the continued pastoral care provided after their reception.

Keywords: Bp Wilhelm Pluta, Diocese of Gorzów, liturgical renewal, reception of liturgical renewal.