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**Reception of canonical norms
in teaching and legislative activity
of archbishop Damian Zimoń 1985-2011.
Canonical-historical study**

SUMMARY

Archbishop Damian Zimoń was the fifth bishop of the Archdiocese of Katowice. His priesthood has started in December 1957. As a clergyman he was a vicar in Tychy, Pszów and Katowice. He also held a position of a vicerector of the Higher Silesian Seminary. In 1975 he became a parish priest of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Katowice, and at the same time he was a dean in Katowice. He achieved a degree of the Doctor of Theology in liturgics, and he was a member of diocesan committees and councils. On June 29, 1985, he was ordained a bishop. He served as a diocesan bishop in the years 1985-2011, and since 1992 he had been the Archbishop Metropolita of Katowice. He took retirement after Pope Benedict XVI had accepted his resignation from the office. His predecessors in the office of the Bishop of Katowice were bp August Hlond, bp Arkadiusz Lisiecki, bp Stanisław Adamski and bp Herbert Bednorz.

Some partial studies on the pastoral activity of abp Zimoń on the occasion of jubilees and anniversaries have been created; however, there has not been written any dissertation on his pastoral service in such a broad context and based on archive documents thus far. The description of main activities of the bishops of Katowice is the introduction to the presentation of the service of abp Zimoń. Abp Zimoń was their continuator, which is what he had emphasized since the first moments of his service. The introduction also consists of the chapter describing the office of the diocesan bishop in the light of the *Code of Canon Law*. Main duties of the diocesan bishop and standards attributable to acceding, filling, and resigning from the office were also shown in this chapter.

The work of abp Zimoń in the (Arch)Diocese of Katowice was presented in relation to the legal standards of the *Code of Canon Law of John Paul II*. The collected documentation was put in order and revealed in three classic areas of ministry: teaching, sanctifying, and ruling. In the field of the teaching service pastoral letters of abp Zimoń were discussed, as well as his personal commitment to preaching the Word of God with a particular focus on preaching to the clergymen. The attention was also drawn to ongoing formation of the priests, nurturance of catechism, catechists, and Catholic education in the diocese, as well as ecumenical activity.

The chapter on sanctifying presents the particular norms published by abp Zimoń in the field of liturgics and extra-liturgical celebrations. It shows the crucial topic of the development of sacred architecture in 1980s and 1990s. In the following part of the chapter the nurturance concerning vocations to the priesthood, religious life and missionary life was presented, as well as various forms of ministry with particular emphasis on the ministry of families, workers and scholars, people in need, sick and elderly people.

The way of organizing and functioning of the (Arch)Diocese of Katowice from the Diocese Curia through Metropolitan Court to a changing chain of deaneries and parishes was described in the chapter on the topic of the service of ruling. Discipline regulations, implementation of the duty of canonical visitations of the diocese, the participation in *ad limina apostolorum* visits, synods, and assemblies of the Polish Episcopal Conference. Relations with governmental authorities and municipal corporations, which resulted in a fair number of efforts and lasting works, are considered the last aspect of the chapter.

Supplements, in which pastoral letters of abp Zimoń, compositions of diocesan committees and institutions of greater importance, established parishes and consecrated churches, and executed canonical visitations were enumerated for the first time, are of the special historical value. In those statements there are signatures of documents, which allows one to easily find a particular document in the Archdiocesan Archive (AAKat) or the Office of Curia in Katowice Archive.