**MILLENIUM REGNI POLONIAE**

This is a research project related to the 1000th anniversary of the first Polish royal coronation of Bolesław I the Brave. The project refers to the events of fundamental importance for Polish history. They were both symbolic and real culmination of the process of establishing the Polish state and its taking an equal position in the European, i.e. Western Christian civilization which was politically rebuilt by emperor Charlemagne, the king of the Franks (800), and Otto I the Great, the king of Germany and the first emperor of the *Sacrum Imperium Romanum* (962).

That process was initiated by Mieszko I, the prince of Polans from the Piast dynasty, who united the tribes of Western Slavs, with his baptism in 966, the creation (968) of the first missionary diocese on Polish lands in Poznań, and his act called in historiography *Dagome iudex* (990) placing the "State of Gniezno" under the protection of the Holy See.

His work was continued by prince Bolesław the Brave whom emperor Otto III honored by placing his own diadem on his head and giving him a copy of the most sacred relic of the empire, the so-called Spear of St. Maurice. The most concrete result of Bolesław’s activity was the creation of a full and autonomous church structure in Poland, with its own archbishopric. The Prince of Poland also received the title of patrician of the Holy Empire, which was a symbolic expression of the recognition of Poland ("Sclavinia") as the fourth - next to Italy, Gaul and Germania - member of the *Rei Publicae Christianae*.

Scientific endeavors undertaken as part of the project *Millenium Regni Poloniae* will refer to the multi-aspect nature, complexity and richness of meanings of that act.

First of all, they will embrace the above-mentioned political meaning, as a confirmation of the independent (in modern terminology - sovereign) position of the Kingdom of Poland among the nations of Europe, as well as historical reflection on the shape of the forthcoming political forms of monarchy in Poland. Starting from the patrimonial monarchy of the first Piast dynasty, through the late medieval (from 1295 and 1320) estate monarchy of the last Piast and Jagiellon dynasty, the "republican" "mixed (mixta) monarchy” of elective kings, the monarchy hereditary again, but based on the Enlightenment theory of "separation of powers", established in the Constitution of 3 May 1791 in the decline of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, finally ending with the truncated constitutional monarchy of the Kingdom of Poland in an involuntary union with the Russian Empire, with limited sovereignty, up to the attempts to restore an independent monarchy undertaken during World War I and the monarchist movement in the Second Republic of Poland.

Secondly, the research activities undertaken as part of the project will refer to the spiritual and cultural significance of the above mentioned act by which the Polish nation ("the baptized nation", as used to say the Primate of the Millennium, Blessed Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński) became rooted in the spirituality of Roman Catholic Church and the culture of *Christianitas*, which was clearly expressed by Matilda of Swabia in her words of appreciation about king Mieszko II, an educated ruler (uncommon in that era) who spoke Latin and Greek.

Thirdly, the research projects will combine both of the above mentioned aspects, political and theological. They will explore the meaning of the creation, by the act of coronation joint with anointing with the sacramental holy oil, a ceremony rooted in biblical tradition and renewed in Christian monarchies (starting with the anointing of the Frankish king Pepin the Short) as a conscious act of *imitatio Davidi regis* , of the political theology of monarchy as the *corpus mysticum politicum* and the king as a "double person", having "two bodies": mortal - physical and immortal - political.

A special task in this aspect should be an in-depth reflection on the form and content of the coronation rite (in its universal and particular Polish form), as an expression of the idea of a supernatural source of power in an approach dating back to the teachings of St. Paul in the Letter to the Romans (*nihil est potestas nisi a Deo*) and the concept of St. Augustine "a happy ruler" (*imperator felix*) thanks to the dedication of the political community (*civitas terrena*) to the service of building the City of God (*civitas Dei*).

Finally, it would be necessary to look at how the monarchical tradition and the coronations of Polish kings were depicted in Polish literature and fine arts. We would also like the projects undertaken as part of these celebrations to be aimed not only at historical research on the monarchical tradition and royal anointing in over a thousand years of Polish history, but also at opening a perspective on the present and the future, as reflection on the meaning of the monarchical institution and the everlasting value of this tradition, worthy of continuation as a political, moral and spiritual compass in a world dominated by what Cyprian Norwid called "anti-Christian civilization" and by secularistic and egalitarian ideologies, also in the aspect of what is today called soft power being in the service of the Polish reason of state.

Since, after the Baptism of Poland, the royal coronation of Bolesław the Brave was undoubtedly the second milestone on the way to shaping the political, social and spiritual identity of Poles, and initiated their efforts to establish a sovereign state, a Christian nation and a universalistic civilization in which a political community was to build the City of God, we would like our research projects to cover this multi-aspect and complexity of the topic. They will necessarily be interdisciplinary, but also innovative. They will be led by representatives of historical studies, art history, archaeology, literary studies, musicology, theology, sociology and political science.

The result of the work will be not only traditional publications in magazines or books, but also multimedia recordings and live reconstructions of musical and liturgical contexts. The aim of the research is to present the meaning, character and specificity of the Polish monarchy over a thousand years, its historical impact and the presence and relevance of its heritage in contemporary Poland.

The above mentioned activities will also be reflected in publications that will summarize seminars and conferences, scientific articles and essays presenting the topic to a wider public. The relevance of the experience of the Polish monarchy will be included in survey conducted among people from the world of science, culture, politics and the Church.