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Lublin — miasto zgody religijnej
Ekumenizm w historii, teologii, kulturze
(Lublin — the City of Religious Concord
Ecumenism in History, Theology, Culture),
eds. Sławomir Pawłowski, Sławomir Jacek Żurek
Lublin: Towarzystwo Naukowe KUL, 2017, pp. 407

For seven hundred years Lublin has been a town where the faithful of various religions and Christian denominations live in mutual consent and cooperation. Every place in the town is full of religious and cultural mementos which are testimony to its religious diversity and multiculturalism. Lublin is marked with the presence of three religious traditions, among which there are three Christian denominations and Judaism.

The year 2017 was rich in historical anniversaries — 700th of granting the town city rights (1317), 500th of Reformation (1517), 100th of the Catholic University of Lublin (1918), where, for more than thirty years, the Institute of Ecumenism has been operating. The three momentous events were the inspiration to organize the Ecumenical Congress in this town. The fruit of the event is a monography *Lublin — the City of Religious Concord. Ecumenism in History, Theology, Culture*. It is a set of several articles written by leading Polish and foreign specialists in ecumenical and comparative theology about the history of certain Christian denominations and ecumenism, and research on modern religious tendencies.

The publication consists of three parts. The first one refers to Orthodoxy, the second one contains chapters on Roman Catholic and Old Catholic traditions, and the third one deals with issues connected to Protestantism.

The first part of the monograph — Orthodoxy — familiarizes the reader with the beginnings of Orthodoxy. Quoting A. Mironowicz, the author of the first chapter (“The Orthodox Church in the First Polish Republic”), “Orthodoxy has always been a great gift for the man.” In his text “Freedom and Conciliarity of Orthodoxy and the Contemporary Anthropological Crisis,” Artur Aleksiejuk shows many problems of Orthodox communities. The problems can be found mostly in the liturgy full of signs (cf. M. Wideryński, “Orthodox Mysteries”; M. Abijski, “The Renaissance of Byzantine Singing in Poland”; D.A. Vanca, “Liturgical Identity and Ecclesiastical Conscience”). The end of the first part focuses on the ecumenical dialogue which the Orthodox Church carries out with other Churches.

The second part of the monograph shows the paths of the Roman Catholic and the Old Catholic tradition. The following authors present their academic research: A. Pietrzak (“Catholicism: Farewell to Eurocentrism”), M. Lisak (“Polish Catholicism in the Light of Sociological Research at the Beginning of 21st Century”), S. Palka (“What the Holy Spirit Tells the Church in Poland”), K. Nitkiewicz (“The Catholic Church in Ecumenical Dialogue — People, Teaching, Actions”), W. Henn (“The Importance of the Ecumenical Document *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*”) and K. Mielcarek (“The Experience of Dialogue on the World Forum”). At the end of the second part, there are three chapters in which the authors, who belong to the Old Catholic Church, present the state of contemporary dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church.

Protestantism today and its dialogue are the third part of the publication. The dialogue which Protestantism holds with other ecclesiastical communities, both from the historical and ecclesiastical point of view, has been presented here in a really interesting way. Excellent theologians and academicians have written their articles in this part of the monograph (M.J. Uglorz, M. Ševčíková, R. Hacker, J.T. Maciuszko, J. Sojka, I.A. Murzaku, G. Brudny, J. Szarek). In the final chapter of this part entitled “The Sermon Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of Reformation, Preached during the Service in the Holly Trinity Church in Lublin on October 31st, 2017,” Bishop Jan Szarek reminds the congregation that Reformation is always a reformation of the heart, transformation, and personal renewal. The author of the chapter also quotes the words of Pope Francis who — referring to the father of Reformation — said that “the spiritual experience of Martin Luther is a challenge for all of us and we should really base our lives on Christ.”

Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Protestantism, and before the Second World War Judaism, had for many centuries formed the spiritual, intellectual and also everyday life of Lublin.

The interdisciplinary monography *Lublin — the City of Religious Concord...* edited by Sławomir Pawłowski S.A.C. and Sławomir Żurek is an academic monument devoted to this significant event — the International Ecumenical Congress (Lublin, October 29—31, 2017). We all hope that apart from the above discussed publication it will bear other fruit and will be continued in many other ways.

Józef Budniak