

"Religious life in penitentiaries on the territory of the present Podkarpackie province over the period 1989-2019".

The purpose of this dissertation is an attempt to present religious life in penitentiaries in the territory of the present Podkarpackie province after 1989.

The dissertation is also an attempt to show the structures of the penitentiary system as an area where the ministry of chaplaincy was developed and prison chaplaincy was formed. The work consists of six chapters. The first chapter is an outline of the history of prison chaplaincy until 1989. It depicts the times of the First Republic, the Second Republic, World War II and Polish People's Republic. The First Republic is a period of the formation of the prison ministry in Poland and the right to care for prisoners. The Second Republic is the time when the Polish state was established after 123 years of enslavement.

Chapter One also presents the specifics of some of the prisons located in the General Government. The structures of the prison system in Poland that were shaped in the new political and social realities were brought closer. Attention was drawn to its oppressive nature, aimed mainly at oppositionists of the communist government installing itself in the country. The places where death sentences were carried out were also presented. In the context of the prison system the times of People's Poland were given a broader look. The chapter also describes religious practices carried out in internment centres, religious symbols and Pope John Paul II's pilgrimage to Poland.

The second chapter presents the distribution of inmates in prisons and detention centres after 1989. The third chapter describes the places of religious practice and introduces the structure of the pastoral care of Roman Catholics. It describes the concept of prison pastoral care and the legal acts that regulate its functioning. The chapter attempts to present the prison pastoral ministry in Poland after 1989.

The fourth chapter presents the religious practices of Roman Catholic inmates, mentioning, among other issues, the participation of inmates in weekly services. Religious holidays resulting from the liturgical year, the sacraments received by prisoners and the pilgrimages they made were discussed. The chapter also touches on the manifestations of inmates' artistic creativity, discussing their community service at religious sites.

Chapter five presents the forms of religious life of prisoners including inmates of other faiths and rites. Close consideration was given to Greek Catholics, Pentecostals, Jehovah's Witnesses whose richness and diversity of the religious life in penitentiary isolation was observable. This is an example of the fact that the modern Polish prison system appreciates the importance of the religious life of inmates.

The sixth chapter deals with the religious life of Prison Service officers and employees. It presents their participation in religious services, church holidays and pilgrimages. It also mentions the participation of the colour guard, the guard of honour and the choir of the Rzeszow Prison Service "Sursum Corda" in ceremonies of a religious or patriotic nature.

