

## The Camino de Santiago – New Opportunities, Old Challenges.

### The Christian Meaning of Pilgrimage in History, Art and Theology

Saturday, 19th October 2019

Faculty of Theology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

The dynamic development of the Way of St. James has been observed for several decades. It has become the subject of analysis for geography, sociology, philosophy, history, art history and theology. The setting and marking of new routes of St. James is a phenomenon which is accompanied by social and pastoral revival, the discovery of historical, material and spiritual heritage and new initiatives which would be difficult to implement without the presence of this route.

For many, the Camino appears as a “chance” to rethink the issue of religious, personal and social identity, and, at the same time, it seems that old problems regarding the motivation of pilgrims, their difference in comparison with tourism (including religious tourism) raise questions about the pilgrim’s spirituality and charism of the Camino pilgrimage, which distinguishes it from trekking along mountain trails. One can observe many new phenomena and practices on the Camino, which syncretically combine the so-far contradictory ideas, create new “rites” and customs which form the media image of the Camino.

For the Catholic Church it is, at the same time, a challenge related to the organization of pastoral work, formation of pilgrims and the answer to the question: what shall I do when the pilgrimage is finished? It is also a way of understanding the “pilgrimage” itself, to which the traditional term of “folk piety” no longer seems to apply. Many postulate to view the potential of the Camino in terms of a new evangelization or discreet (“trodden”) apologetics, thanks to which, those who follow St. James’ trails could have the opportunity to get to know the Church and its involvement they have not experienced so far.

*What are the chances for the Camino de Santiago? What is the future of the Camino de Santiago?*

*Which of the old problems remains unresolved?*

*What new forms of pilgrimage appear among pilgrims?*

*What testimonies of pilgrimage can be found in historical sources?*

*How is the cult of St. James developing in European countries?*

*What are the main initiatives undertaken by the Church and is it possible to make the first balance of their effectiveness?*

*What is the impact of the creation of new St. James’ shrines in Poland and Europe in the Camino tradition?*

*What are the fruits and pastoral challenges associated with the development of the pilgrimage movement?*

These are just some of the questions that we would like to pose during the conference. The main speakers will be **Prof. Adeline Rucquoi** (France), **Domingo Luis Gonzalez Lopo** (Spain), **Roman Bielecki**, OP. (Poland), **Vedran Prazen** (Croatia), **Daniel Moulin** (United Kingdom), **Eamonn Conway** (Ireland).

Please submit proposals for the topics of the papers with a short summary before 30th May 2019. All summaries should be sent at [piotrroszak@umk.pl](mailto:piotrroszak@umk.pl) . The full texts of the papers which will be included in the conference volume (*Camino Polaco 4*) should be sent before 30th July 2019.

The organizers of the event are: the Faculty of Theology, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Institute of Geography, Pedagogical University of Kraków, Institute of History and Archive Science of Nicolaus Copernicus University. Supporting institutions are Confraternity of St. James the Apostle in Więclawice Stare and Confraternity of St. James the Apostle in Torun.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019, **the 1st Economic Forum “Camino Polaco”** will be organized for the entrepreneurs from Kuyavia and Pomerania (but we also invite all economic entities involved in the development of the Camino de Santiago in Poland). The aim of the forum is to meet experts and get familiar with the market research concerning the implementation of pilgrimage products commissioned by the Ministry of Science, as part of DIALOG grant received by the Faculty of Theology of Nicolaus Copernicus University.

On behalf of the Organizational Committee

Rev. dr hab. Piotr Roszak,

Prof. dr hab. Waldemar Rozykowski,

Dr Franciszek Mróz