

**10<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference “Religious and Cultural Heritage of the Way of St. James - on the 30th Anniversary of the Recognition of the Route as the First European Cultural Route”**

**Kraków – Pontifical University of John Paul II, 7 October 2017**

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference, dedicated to the subject of “Religious and Cultural Heritage of the Way of St. James - on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Recognition of the Route as the First European Cultural Route”, was held on 7 October 2017 at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków.

The Conference was organized by the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, the Institute of Geography of the Pedagogical University in Kraków, the Faculty of Theology at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, the Michałowice Commune Office, the Brotherhood of St. James the Greater, in Więclawice Stare, and the Commission for Geography of Religion of the Polish Geographical Society.

In 1987, the Council of Europe recognized the pilgrimage route to the tomb of St. James the Greater, in Santiago de Compostela as the first European Cultural Route and encouraged the restoration of the former pilgrimage paths. At present, the *Camino de Santiago* network (the Ways of St. James) has already embraced most of the European continent. With each passing year, there is an increase in the number of marked sections of the Way St. James as well as new initiatives relating to the development of the cult of St. James in spatial arrangements of individual European countries. In the last decade, Poland has joined the group of *Camino* leaders, by marking more than 6,300 km of sections of *Camino de Santiago*.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when the Way of St. James was announced the first European Cultural Route by the Council of Europe prompted the Polish scientific community of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, the Pedagogical University in Kraków and the Commission for Geography of Religion of the Polish Geographical Society to organize the 10<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference dedicated to the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. The objective of the conference was to draw attention to the spiritual and cultural potential underlying this particular European distinction in a specific historical situation. The decision made 30 years ago to recognize the *Camino de Santiago* as a “cultural route” was not only a historical tribute to the contribution of the Way of St. James to the identity of Europe as a continent, which, on the roads leading to Compostela, was unravelling what had joined nations of the old continent. As it was the case with previous conferences, the meeting was also an opportunity to share experiences and discuss the issue of the functioning of the marked sections of *Camino de Santiago* in Poland.

The honorary patronage of the conference was held by Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski – Metropolitan Bishop of Kraków, Archbishop Julián Barrio – Metropolitan Bishop of Santiago de Compostela, Bishop Krzysztof Zadarko – Chairman of the Council for Migration, Tourism and Pilgrimages of the Polish Episcopal Conference, Agustín Núñez Martínez – Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Poland, Professor Kazimierz Karolczak, PhD – Rector of the Pedagogical University in Kraków, Rev. Professor Wojciech Zyzak, PhD – Rector of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, Jacek Krupa – Marshal of the Małopolskie Voivodeship, Professor Antoni Jackowski, PhD – Honorary Professor of the Jagiellonian University and Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society, Bogusław Kośmider – Chairman of the Kraków City Council, and Antoni Rumian – Head of the Michałowice Commune.

The conference was attended by more than 70 people, including researchers and academics representing domestic and foreign (Spain and Slovakia) research centres, representatives of Brotherhoods and parishes of St. James in Poland, as well as members of organizations and associations dealing with, among other things, promotion of pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela.

On behalf of the Conference Organizational Committee, attendees gathered in the hall of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków at 3 Bernardyńska Street were welcomed by Canon Ryszard Honkisz – Custodian of the Diocesan Sanctuary of St. James in Więclawice Stare, Rev. Piotr Roszak, PhD – Chairman of the Conference Scientific Committee and Franciszek Mróz, PhD – Chairman of the Conference Organizational Committee. The ceremonial opening of the conference was followed by speeches of Professor Antoni Jackowski, PhD – Honorary Professor of the Jagiellonian University and President of the Polish Geographical Society, Rev. Professor Józef Stala, PhD – Vice-Chancellor for Research Potential and International Cooperation of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, Tomasz Rachwał, PhD – Director of the Institute of Geography of the Pedagogical University in Kraków and Rev. Piotr Roszak, PhD – Deputy Dean for Science of the Faculty of Theology of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. Rev. Professor Józef Stala, PhD, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków informed the participants that the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków had received St. James Academic Accreditation and had been included in the *Campus Stellae* project which joins students and academics from higher education institutions with the idea of pilgrimages – walking tours along the Way of St. James.

During the plenary session headed by Waldemar Rozynekowski, PhD, three lectures were delivered. Professor Enrique Alarcon (Universidad de Navarra) presented results of further discoveries in the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, Professor Jesús Tanco Lerga (Universidad de Navarra) presented the Mozarabic dimension of *Camino de Santiago* and Rev. Piotr Roszak, PhD, delivered a lecture entitled *The Camino de Santiago and «borders». Migration context of pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela*.

The second lecture session, headed by Franciszek Mróz, PhD, started with a speech of Santiago Sierra Gonzáles, Counsellor for Culture of the Embassy of Spain in Poland. During that session, lectures were delivered by Wojciech Mruk, PhD, of the Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University (lecture entitled *Why did Saint Julian run an albergue on the road to Santiago de Compostela?*), Waldemar Rozynekowski, PhD, of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (*Manifestations of the cult of St. James the Greater in Poland – selected examples*), Rev. Jakub Kuchta, MA, of the John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin (*Cult of St. James in the Tarnów Diocese*), Waldemar Hass, PhD, representing the Museum of Archaeology and History in Głogów (*Old and contemporary depictions of St. James the Greater in selected examples from the north of Lower Silesia*), Paweł Plichta, PhD of the Institute of Intercultural Studies of the Jagiellonian University (*Elements of the cult of St. James in selected narrations of Polish pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela*) and Łukasz Mróz, PhD, of the Brotherhood of St. James, the Apostle, at the Sanctuary of the Holy Sepulchre in Przeworsk (lecture entitled *The Way of St. James as a product of religious tourism*).

The third lecture session was headed by Rev. Piotr Roszak, PhD, and lectures delivered during that session mainly concerned the religious and cultural heritage of selected sections of *Camino de Santiago* in Europe. These were presentations by Bogna Matuszewska-Sulima, MA, of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management of the Jagiellonian University, Alicja Słyszewska, MA – Director of the Diocesan Tourist Information Centre in Pelplin,

Berenika Seryczyńska, MA, of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Magdalena Goik of the Upper Silesian Club of Camino Friends, Barbara Karpala, MA, of the Brotherhood of St. James in Więclawice Stare and Franciszek Mróz, PhD, of the Institute of Geography of the Pedagogical University of Kraków. During the general discussion, the participants emphasized the need to continue further the scientific research relating to the cult of St. James as well as to the functioning and development of the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela.

The last item of the conference was the premiere of the film series *Grunt to Droga (The road is the main thing)* directed by Teresa Kudyba. The series consists of 5 films, whose characters are people of different backgrounds, joined by *Camino de Santiago*. All the episodes had been filmed in the Kuyavian and Pomeranian section of *Camino Polaco*. The participants of the conference evaluated the project positively and congratulated both the director and the publisher, Rev. Piotr Roszak, PhD. The final element of the “St. James” anniversary conference was an invitation to the 11<sup>th</sup> St. James International Conference, which will be held in October 2018.

It is worth mentioning that most of the lectures delivered during the conference were published in the paper titled *Religious and Cultural Heritage of the Way of St. James - on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Recognition of the Route as the First European Cultural Route* edited by Rev. Piotr Roszak, Franciszek Mróz and Łukasz Mróz, published by the “Czuwajmy” Publishing House.

*Franciszek Mróz – Chairman of the Conference Organizational Committee*