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THE BEGINNINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL MISSION  
OF THE REDEMPTORISTS IN VILNIUS IN 1936

Redemptorist missionaries began their activity in the Polish lands in the last decades of the eighteenth century, on the eve of the final fall of the First Republic of Poland. They carried on this initial activity of their congregation in Poland for twenty-one years, from 1787 until 1808.<sup>1</sup> As Zdzisław Bortkiewicz indicated in his article of 1888, upon their arrival the Redemptorists were one of the youngest missionary congregations active in Poland.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, the Redemptorist missionary efforts in Poland became well known due to the publications of various scholars, among whom must be mentioned Fathers Maciej Sadowski<sup>3</sup> and Marian Brudzisz.<sup>4</sup> These two historians have provided valuable points of reference for the author of this article.

After 1808 the resumption of missionary activity of the Redemptorists in Poland did not take place until the mid-nineteenth century. It was then that they obtained permission from the Austrian authorities to settle in Galicia, and they founded a residence in Mościska near Przemyśl in 1883. In the late 1880s, they also undertook further missionary activity in the Polish territory under the Prussian rule.<sup>5</sup> It was far more difficult to obtain gov-

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<sup>1</sup> See A. OWCZARSKI, *Redemptoryści Benonici w Warszawie, 1787-1808* [*The Redemptorists-Bennonites in Warsaw, 1787-1808*], Kraków 2003, passim.

<sup>2</sup> See Z. BORTKIEWIECZ, *OO. Redemptoryści w Polsce* [*The Redemptorists in Poland*] *Przegląd Powszechny*, vol. 5, Kraków 1888, 129-130.

<sup>3</sup> See M. SADOWSKI, *Redemptoryści polscy w latach 1939-1945* [*The Polish Redemptorists in the years 1939-1945*], Kraków 2005, passim.

<sup>4</sup> See M. BRUDZISZ, *Redemptorist ministry among the Polish in the Soviet Socialist Republics of Lithuania and Byelorussia 1939-1990*, in: *SHCSR 61* (2013) 57-121.

<sup>5</sup> E. NOCŃ, *Misje parafialne Redemptorystów polskich w latach 1886-1918* [*Parochial missions of the Polish Redemptorists in the years 1886-1918*], Kraków 1998, 20-23.

ernmental permission to do missionary work in Tsarist Russia, Poland's principal invader, where the ministry of missionary congregations had been banned since 1864 due to Tsarist policy.<sup>6</sup> Noteworthy changes took place at the beginning of the twentieth century. At that time, subsequent to Russia's defeat in the Russo-Japanese War, one of the twentieth-century Russian revolutions broke out in 1905. As a result of socio-political transformations triggered by this revolution, Tsar Nicholas II put into effect a limited liberalization of the strict Russian political system. One of its elements was the *Decree of Toleration*, issued on October 30, 1905, which guaranteed, among other things, a qualified freedom of religion. This, in turn, offered new opportunities for Catholic orders and congregations in the Russian Empire.<sup>7</sup> Thus the Redemptorists were granted permission to stay in Russia in the years 1906-1908 in order to pursue missionary work among Polish exiles and their descendants in Siberia and Caucasus.<sup>8</sup> However, such permission did not apply to the lands of the First Polish Republic directly incorporated into the Empire, for example, Lithuania.<sup>9</sup> Hence, in November 1909 a request was submitted by the Redemptorist Father Bernard Łubieński to Piotr Stołypin, the Russian Prime Minister, to continue his ministry in Lithuania. This request was rejected outright.<sup>10</sup>

After Poland regained its independence, Redemptorist missions were also established outside the lands under the Prussian and Austrian rule. One by one, Redemptorist foundations were erected in Kościan, Warsaw, Mościska and some tentative construction work was begun in Lviv, Zamość and Vilnius.<sup>11</sup>

The first efforts to establish the Redemptorist parochial mission in Vilnius took place in 1935. Fathers Franciszek Świątek and Tadeusz Birecki attempted to launch this mission field by approaching the Vilnius Archbishop Romuald Jałbrzykowski for support.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 25-26.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 23-24.

<sup>8</sup> M. SADOWSKI, *Redemptoryści polscy w latach 1939-1945...*, 30.

<sup>9</sup> E. NOCUŃ, *Misje parafialne Redemptorystów polskich w latach 1886-1918...*, 25.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 25.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 32-33.

<sup>12</sup> M. BRUDZISZ, *Redemptorist ministry among the Polish in the Soviet So-*

It must be mentioned that some preaching ministry by Redemptorists in Vilnius had preceded these first steps toward a Redemptorist residence in the Vilnius area. Thus we find significant notices in a December 1927 edition of *Słowo*, the daily newspaper published by the Vilnius Conservatives. It told of “Holy Missions” about to be conducted from December 7 to December 18, from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. in the following Vilnius churches: the Church of the Holy Spirit, the Church of St Raphael the Archangel, the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, and the Church of St. Jacob and St Philip. The missions were to be conducted by Redemptorists who came from Warsaw specifically for this purpose.<sup>13</sup>

The first announcement about the intended arrival of the Redemptorists in Vilnius appeared in the Vilnius press in a January 5, 1936, edition of the *Dziennik Wileński* [*Official Vilnius*], a press organ of the National Party headed by Aleksander Zwierzyński. One may also note that on the pages of the oldest and largest of Vilnius’ daily newspapers of that day, there are generous details about the Redemptorists coming to Vilnius. Apart from that, some of the activities of the Redemptorists in the northeastern territories of the Second Republic of Poland received attention in the pages of *Słowo*.

The above-mentioned note is relatively brief, yet it conveys essential facts about these Redemptorists beginnings in Vilnius. It seems clear that the then-Archbishop of Vilnius Romulad Jałbrzykowski, heartily welcomed these “sons of the Great Doctor of the Church, St Alphonsus de Liguori.”

Regarding the location of a future residence and church of the missionaries, no detailed information was provided, except that it would be situated on the outskirts of Vilnius, because it was said that the Redemptorists desired to work among the poorest population, and wanted to give particular attention to the unemployed.<sup>14</sup>

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*cialist Republics of Lithuania and Byelorussia 1939-1990...*, 59-60. See FN 4 above.

<sup>13</sup> *Misje OO. Redemptorystów* [*The Missions of the Redemptorists*], in: *Słowo*, No. 275, 3.

<sup>14</sup> *Zakon OO. Redemptorystów* [*The Redemptorist Order*], in: *Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 5, 2.

Toward the end of January 1936, a Redemptorist Church Building Committee in Vilnius was begun. Its organizational meeting took place on January 26 in the “Sodality House” at 8 Zamkowa Street. At that time, definite information was provided about the site of the Redemptorist complex. It was to be erected in Vilnius Pośpieszka: this was a district of the city where numerous social, cultural and recreational facilities were being planned.

The head of the Committee was Vilnius’ Archbishop Romuald Jałbrzykowski. Those present at the meeting included, among others, the Auxiliary Bishop Kazimierz Mikołaj Michalkiewicz of Vilnius, and Lukwik Bociański, the provincial governor, who represented governmental authorities. There were also various representatives of both state and private institutions.

The meeting was chaired by Professor Franciszek Bossowski, the acknowledged leader of the Vilnius Catholic intelligentsia. In addition, there were present other prominent educators from Stefan Batory University, such as the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Witold Staniewicz, Professor Marian Zdziechowski, the former Vice-Chancellor, as well as outstanding exponents of pre-war Polish philosophy. The role of secretary for the meeting was assumed by Professor Michał Sopoćko.<sup>15</sup>

At the beginning of the meeting Father Franciszek Świątek took the floor, delivering a short address about the history of the Redemptorists with particular regard to their activity in Poland. He gave much attention to the Redemptorist St. Clement Mary Hofbauer, the patron saint of Warsaw, and Father Bernard Łubieński, C.Ss.R., who was revered for his effective preaching and holiness of life. According to the account in the newspaper *Dziennik Wileński*, Father Świątek’s lecture ended with the following declaration:

In Vilnius we have decided to take up residence in the suburbs, because we are needed there. Being grateful for the generosity of His Excellency, the Archbishop, and the kindness of the society here, we will do our best to fulfill our task in the spirit of

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<sup>15</sup> *Ukonstytuowanie się Komitetu Budowy Kościoła Redemptorystów* [The Establishment of the Redemptorist Church Building Committee], in: *Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 29, 2.

our Father St. Alphonsus and the tradition of our St. Clement Mary Hofbauer for the glory of the God and welfare of our country.<sup>16</sup>

The Corporate Statute of the Committee was adopted and its officers were elected. The chosen director of the Committee was Archbishop Jałbrzykowski. The honorary presidium was formed by its President, Bishop Kazimierz Michalkiewicz, Magdalena Aleksandrowicz<sup>17</sup> from Wierszuba, Professor Bossowski and his wife, Father Emmanuel Bułhak, K. Falkowski, the engineer, General Juszczyński, General Przewłocki, Zofia Kościałkowska, Aleksander Meysztowicz, the President of Vilnius Land Bank, T. Nagórski, the Vice-President of Vilnius, Mieczysław Nowicki, the Director of Postal Service in Vilnius, as well as the above mentioned Professors.<sup>18</sup>

Subsequently, the Revision Commission, the Committee Executive Unit and a fundraising financial section were also selected. The members of the Revision Commission included Zenon Mikulski, the President of the District Chamber of State Control, J. Sierosławski, President of the National Bank of Poland in Vilnius, Leopold Woyna, the President of Vilnius Internal Revenue Chamber and the already mentioned Father Michał Sopoćko.

The head of the Executive Unit was Jan Borowski, an excellent Vilnius architect. Adam Skarżyński and Father Franciszek Świątek, C.Ss.R. became vice-presidents. The post of Treasurer was taken by Kazimierz Luboński. Other members of this unit included Tadeusz Hermanowski and Mrs. Glatman.<sup>19</sup>

It must be emphasized that at the beginning, according to the wish of the Archbishop of Vilnius, the Redemptorists lived at 13 Zarzeczna Street in the residence of Canon Stanisław Miłkowski, who was in charge of the Marianum Institute of Vilnius, situated at the Church of St. Bartholomew.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 2.

<sup>17</sup> The author uses the name *Aleksandrowicz* according to the spelling version existed in the Corporate Statute of the Committee. It must be indicated, however, at the bottom of this Statute there is a handwritten signature which shows that the correct version of the surname is *Alexandrowicz*.

<sup>18</sup> *Ukonstytuowanie się Komitetu Budowy Kościoła Redemptorystów...*, 2.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, 2.

<sup>20</sup> *Ojcowie Redemptoryści w Wilnie* [*Redemptorists Fathers in Vilnius*], in:

After establishing their committee, the representatives submitted an Application for officially registering the Committee with the state, together with the Committee's Corporate Statute, which, according to the documentation now preserved in Lithuanian Central State Archives, was completed on February 13, 1936.<sup>21</sup>

Detailed information about the Committee's organization and its activities, can be found in this Corporate Statute. The Committee's primary goal was to build the Redemptorist Church in Vilnius Pośpieszka. To achieve this, the Committee was allowed to engage in various endeavors, all of which in some way promoted Redemptorist missionary work. Among its activities, of course, was a wide range of efforts aimed at obtaining financial resources. There were both direct appeals to people of means, and indirect appeals by way of benefit concerts, festivals, lectures, and the sale of specialty items and publications.<sup>22</sup>

Further information about this fundraising by the Committee has been located through archival research which has yielded brochures and press clippings from that era. For instance, in a newspaper article from February 16, 1936, in the "Center of Interior Missions" [*Siedziba Misji Wewnętrznych*] located on St. Anna Street in Vilnius, Father Franciszek Świątek presented a lecture entitled "Missions of the Redemptorists in Siberia at the Time of the Decree of Toleration, and in Industrial Centers of Polish Cities." It was stated that the proceeds from the lecture were to be contributed to the Committee's General Fund.<sup>23</sup>

On March 24, 1936, *The Marriage of Figaro* was performed at the theater in Pohulanka: proceeds from the performance were destined to be used for the building of the Redemptorist Church. Tickets for all such undertakings of the Committee were availa-

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*Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 216, 7.

<sup>21</sup> Lietuvos Centrinis Valstybės Archyvas [Lithuanian Central State Archives, Vilnius], Akta Starostwa Grodzkiego w Wilnie [Records of the Offices of the District Authorities in Vilnius], F. 53 – 23 – 3148, 3-5.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 4.

<sup>23</sup> *Misje syberyjskie OO Redemptorystów*, [*Siberian Missions of the Redemptorists*], in: *Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 40, 5.

ble at the Vilnius office of Caritas on Metropolitanna Street, where the Committee had located its own offices.<sup>24</sup>

The above mentioned Corporate Statute conveys still further information concerning the Committee's composition and its activity. From it we know that other organizers of the Committee and its activity were Canon Tadeusz Zawadzki, parish priest in Antokol, and M. Aleksandrowicz, a landlady from Wierszuba, who was the main donor of land on which the Redemptorist Church in Vilnius Pośpieszka was to be built. According to *Dziennik Wileński*, the Redemptorists bought a portion of land adjoining what Aleksandrowicz had donated in order to have more space for their project.<sup>25</sup>

Regretfully one finds that there is not much information concerning the Committee's work after 1936. However, it seems clear that there were some changes in the composition and outlook of the Committee. Thus Father Franciszek Świątek became its President in 1937. By 1938 the Committee had thirty-six members, with Włodzimierz Jastrzębski as its head, Father Świątek being its deputy, Kazimierz Potaszewski occupying the post of Secretary and Adam Skarzyński serving as treasurer.<sup>26</sup>

The work preparatory to actual construction in Vilnius Pośpieszka began in the spring of 1936. It went on until the following August, when the foundation stone was laid for the Redemptorist Church of Our Lady of Victory. This structure, as a correspondent for the *Dziennik Wileński* reported, was to be the votive offering of Catholic Vilnius for the victory over Bolshevik Russia in 1920. The ceremony of laying the cornerstone, symbolically held on August 15, the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Assumption into Heaven, was attended by the representatives of both state and Church, as well as by members of various social organizations.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> *Rozpoczęcie budowy Kościoła OO Redemptorystów w Wilnie* [The Beginning of the Construction of the Redemptorist Church in Vilnius], in: *Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 79, 2.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, 2.

<sup>26</sup> Lietuvos Centrinis Valstybės Archyvas, Akta Starostwa Grodzkiego w Wilnie, F. 53 – 23 – 3148, 1.

<sup>27</sup> *Uroczystości poświęcenia kamienia węgielnego pod Kościół Redemptory-*

Presiding at this ceremony was Archbishop Romuald Jałbrzykowski who first blessed the stone and then placed it at the site where the completed Church would rise. Imbedded into this stone was a glass cylinder which contained the Decree of Authorization for constructing the Church of Our Lady of Victory in a contemporary style. However, in its monumental size, it was to exhibit also some Gothic elements. Overall it would stretch to twenty meters in height and have the capacity for an estimated 2500 people. The second part of the complex, that is, the adjoining Redemptorist residence, was to be a multi-story building with some living quarters, a refectory, a spacious library and the Redemptorist oratory. The third part of the complex, was to be strictly for the missionaries. The design was prepared by the already mentioned architect, Jan Borowski, in cooperation with another architect of Vilnius, Antoni Farkiewicz, and was displayed in its entirety in the *Dziennik Wileński*.<sup>28</sup>

After the blessing and laying of the foundation stone of the church, the fundraising phase began in earnest. Father Świątek offered the opinion that once the actual construction was underway, the Committee would see increased generosity on the part of the residents of Vilnius.<sup>29</sup> However it is possible that this anticipated generosity was not realized, at least not to the degree that had been expected. For in mid-1936 the Committee issued the following appeal:

Vilnius, a guardian of Polish Culture and Catholic Faith in the northeastern borderlands of the Republic of Poland, decided to commemorate the victory of the Polish Army over Bolshevism by creating a living monument, the church dedicated to Our Lady of Victory [Matka Boska Zwycięska]. It is a thanksgiving offering

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stów [The Cornerstone Consecration Ceremony of the Redemptorists Church], in: *Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 221, 5.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 5.

<sup>29</sup> F. ŚWIĄTEK, Uroczystość poświęcenia kamienia węgielnego pod Kościół N.M.P. Zwycięskiej O.O. Redemptorystów na Pośpieszce w Wilnie [The Cornerstone Consecration Ceremony of the Redemptorist Church dedicated to the Lady of Victory], in: *Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 221, 5; Komitet [The Committee], Budowa Kościoła i Klasztoru O.O. Redemptorystów pod wezwaniem Matki Boskiej Zwycięskiej w Wilnie na Pośpieszce [The Construction of the Church and Monastery dedicated to the Lady of Victory], in: *Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 232, 5.

from Vilnius and the Polish nation to the Queen of Heaven and Poland [Królowa Niebios i Polski].

On the sixteenth anniversary of the Miracle at the Vistula, "The Church building Committee" was created under the aegis of His Excellency Archbishop Jalbrzykowski, the Metropolitan Bishop of Vilnius, and on August 15 of this year, the cornerstone was laid on the site of the church.

It was decided that the ministry in this church, which will be erected in the growing suburbs, will be given to the Redemptorists. They are called to do missionary work for the benefit of all people, but with special regard to those who are morally and socially neglected, and therefore to those who are most vulnerable to the influence of sectarianism and communism.

#### FELLOW COUNTRYMEN!

We will fulfill our debt of gratitude toward the Queen of Heaven and Poland for the Miracle at the Vistula. Let us make donations for the construction of the Redemptorist Church and residence in Vilnius Pospieszka.

Any donation, even the most modest one, made for the erection of this church is a penny offered not only for the Glory of the Most Holy Mary and of Poland, but is a penny given for the revival of Faith and our Polish Culture in the borderlands of our dear Homeland. It is a penny for opposing communism and godlessness, and a penny for alleviating the plight of the poor and the abandoned.

Together we join forces to realize a great ideal.

In Vilnius we are building a living monument of the miracle of the Vistula.<sup>30</sup>

In the ensuing years the priests undertook various initiatives in order to collect funds to complete the building of the church. Thus, in August 1937 they organized a dance, which took place at the race track in Pośpieszka, along with a raffle; the income from these events were deposited in the account of the Redemptorist Church Building Committee.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Komitet [Committee], *Odezwa Komitetu Budowy Kościoła i Klasztoru OO. Redemptorystów w Wilnie* [*The Appeal of the Building Committee for the Redemptorist Church and Residence in Vilnius*], in: *Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 286, 1.

<sup>31</sup> Lietuvos Centrinis Valstybės Archyvas, Akta Starostwa Grodzkiego w Wilnie, F. 53 – 23 – 3148, 2.

Apart from such building activities, the Redemptorists became involved in other actions undertaken in Vilnius. One of these was their cooperation in the establishment and organization of Marianum Academy [*Academia Polonorum in Honorem Beatissimae Mariae Virginis*] in Vilnius 1936. The first steps toward establishing institutions in Vilnius was taken in the late 1920s. Its main purpose was to gather remarkable representatives of science, literature and art who worked to promote the cult of the Mother of God [*Bogurodzica*] and the patron saints of Poland.<sup>32</sup> The model for this academy was the Marianum Academy [*Akademia Mariańska*] founded by Bishop Załuski in the Palace of Staszic in Warsaw, during the period of the First Republic of Poland. Archbishop Jałbrzykowski appointed Father Franciszek Świątek a member of the Academy's Organizational Secretariat, whose task was to work out its Corporate Statute and prepare a constitutional assembly of its appointed members. Other appointees were Father Jan Matulewicz and Mieczysław Skrudlik, Ph.D., who was the author of numerous publications dedicated to the cult of the Holy Mary of the Gate of Dawn [*Matka Boska Ostrobramska*].<sup>33</sup>

From mid-1937, Masses were celebrated in a temporary chapel which was erected at the construction site. At the end of 1938, the first Redemptorists came to live at Vilnius Pośpieszka. As Father Maciej Sadowski has written, it was due to the generosity of the inhabitants of Vilnius and the Polish community in America that, finally, in August 1939 the entire complex, with its two-story Redemptorist residence and the large church, was completed.<sup>34</sup> The ceremony of the consecration took place on August 15, 1939, which coincided with the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the canonization of the Redemptorist found-

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<sup>32</sup> *Utworzona została w Wilnie Academia Mariana Polonorum druga na świecie, a jedyna w Polsce [The Marianum Academy Polonorum, the Second in the World and the First in Poland Has Been Created in Vilnius]*, in: *Dziennik Wileński*, 1936, No. 272, 7.

<sup>33</sup> *Założenie Akademii Mariańskiej w Wilnie [The Establishment of the Marianum Academy in Vilnius]*, in: *Słowo*, 1936, No. 272, 6.

<sup>34</sup> M. BRUDZISZ, *Redemptorist ministry among the Polish in the Soviet Socialist Republics of Lithuania and Byelorussia 1939-1990...*, 63-64.

er, Saint Alphonsus de Liguori, and was combined with a public twelve-day retreat.<sup>35</sup>

The Redemptorists' missionary labors in Vilnius during the Second World War, as well as in the following decades during which Lithuania was incorporated into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, fall beyond the scope of this article. The same can be said of the activity of the Redemptorists in today's Lithuania and Belarus (up to the year 2000), but this topic is well treated in the already mentioned work of Father Brudzisz.<sup>36</sup>

For historical purposes the author here presents the complete Corporate Statute of the Redemptorist Church Building Committee which was so effective in providing the wherewithal for the construction of the Redemptorist complex of buildings in Vilnius Pošpieszka.

CORPORATE STATUTE  
OF THE REDEMPTORIST CHURCH BUILDING  
COMMITTEE IN VILNIUS<sup>37</sup>

1. NAME

The Redemptorist Church Building Committee.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Committee is to build the Redemptorists Church in Pošpieszka in Vilnius and provide it with adequate church utensils.

3. RESIDENCE

The terrain of the Committee's activity is the area of the Archdiocese of Vilnius in compliance with local laws of associations. The residence of the Committee is the city of Vilnius.

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<sup>35</sup> M. SADOWSKI, *Redemptoryści polscy w latach 1939-1945...*, 32.

<sup>36</sup> M. BRUDZISZ, *Redemptorist ministry among the Polish in the Soviet Socialist Republics of Lithuania and Byelorussia 1939-1990...*, 64-120.

<sup>37</sup> In the copy of the Corporate Statute found by the author there are some items which at some time were crossed out. However, we do not know when and by whom these items were crossed out. Therefore, the author decided to cite its original content without any changes.

#### 4. MODE OF ACTION

The way, in which the Committee acts is as follows:

- a) It popularizes its aim through word and print among wide spheres of the society.
- b) It carries out the collection of funds.
- c) It builds the church.
- d) It buys and arranges the church interior and adequate furnishings.

#### 5. ORGANIZERS

The committee organizers are its first members:

1. His Excellency Bishop Kazimierz Mikołaj Michalkiewicz
2. Canon Tadeusz Zawadzki, parish priest of Antokol
3. Ms. Aleksandrowicz, the landlady from Pośpieszka and Wirszuba

#### 6. MEMBERS

Every citizen of the Republic of Poland who has been invited by the Executive Unit of the Redemptorist Church Building Committee may become a member of the Committee. Every member of the Committee can resign at one's own request; members can also have their name removed from the list pursuant to the Executive Unit's decision for actions contrary to the Committee's objective.

#### 7. COMMITTEE'S RIGHTS

The Redemptorist Church Building Committee is a legal entity.

#### 8. MEMBERS' DUTIES

The members of Committee are obliged to work for the accomplishment of the aim within the scope of the Committee's means and pay a contribution of 2 (two) zloty annually.

#### 9. PRESIDIUM

At the head the Committee is the Honorary Presidium consisting of ten members and five deputies. The Presidium appoints the President and three vice-presidents. The President is elected through a simple majority vote by the General Assembly for the duration of the Committee's activity. The member of the Presidi-

um may resign from his post after prior notice presented to the President of the Presidium. The post of a resigning member is taken by the next one in turn.

#### 10. THE EXECUTIVE UNIT

To realize the Committee's intended goal, the Committee's Executive Unit consisting of its Chairman, its two deputies, a Treasurer and a Secretary is elected by the General Assembly for the duration of the Committee's activity by simple majority vote. The Executive Unit carries out legally binding resolutions of the Committee and represents it to outside interests in the persons of the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The Executive Unit is entitled to undertake any kind of action in terms of the realization of the Committee's aims and tasks, and it may enroll new members of the Unit or dismiss them.

#### 11. ASSEMBLY

The Committee's meetings can be ordinary or special. Ordinary General Meetings are convened in the first quarter of each year. Special Meetings are summoned if needed by the Presidium on a proposal of the Executive Unit, as well as at the request of the Revision Commission by notifying all members individually one week in advance. The meetings are valid regardless of the number of the people present. The general meeting is presided over by one of the members of the Presidium. Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the chairman casts the deciding vote. The Committee's meeting, whether ordinary or special, conclusively decides on all the matters connected with the Committee's activity.

#### 12. SUBCOMMITTEES

For its purposes, the Committee can create within itself Subcommittees, whose chairmen become members of the Executive Unit. The Subcommittees issue instructions for the local Committees, which are approved by the Executive Unit.

#### 13. FUNDS

The Committee obtains financial and in-kind resources for the building of the Redemptorist Church in Vilnius by open and closed fundraising, the sale of stickers, stamps, badges, the Com-

mittee's publications, the collection of building materials, concerts, festivals, performances, lectures, talks, etc. organized by the Committee and its Divisions in accordance with the prevailing legal regulations, the government subsidiary; it can also take out loans.

#### 14. COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee's accounts are made by the treasurer of the Executive Unit in bound books. All the financial documents, cheques and payment orders are signed by the Chairman of the Executive Unit or its deputy and the treasurer. With the aim of depositing its contributions and making withdrawals, the Committee opens its cheque account in PKO.<sup>38</sup>

#### 15. REVISION COMMISSION

The Revision Commission consists of three members and its three deputies elected at the General Assembly for the duration of the Committee's activity and it examines the Committee's accounts, should the need arise. However, no less often than once a year, there is to be given an account of its activity before the General Assembly.

#### 16. STATUTE CHANGE

Any change of the Corporate Statute or the dissolution of the Committee shall be passed by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote subsequent to a proposal of the Presidium.

#### 17. COMMITTEE'S DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Redemptorists Church Building Committee in Vilnius, all of its assets shall pass to Vilnius Metropolitan Curia of Latin rite.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> PKO – Poczтовая Kasa Oszczędności (The Postal Savings Bank).

<sup>39</sup> The Corporate Statute dated January 30, 1936 was signed by the founding members of the Committee, inter alia, by His Excellency Bishop Kazimierz Mikołaj Michalkiewicz, Canon Tadeusz Zawadzki, Magdalena Aleksandrowicz, Father Franciszek Świątek, Albina Herman, Maria Zawadzka, Stanisława Wojciechowska, Henryk Chmielewski, Stanisław Pilczewski, Piotr Kudukis and Tadeusz Birecki. Apart from that, at the bottom of the Corporate Statute there is a note saying that: *This Statute of the Redemptorist Church Building Committee in Vilnius is accepted by The Vilnius Metropolitan Curia.* It also features the illegible signature of the notary of the Vilnius Metropolitan Curia.