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**Abstract of the doctoral dissertation entitled  
Archbishop Stanisław Gall (1865–1942) - priest, politician, soldier**

The doctoral thesis under preparation is entitled Stanisław Gall (1865-1942) - priest, politician, soldier. Its chronological framework covers the years of the life and activity of the first field bishop of the Polish Army, and the first years after his death, when the figure of the archbishop appeared in the correspondence of church dignitaries reporting on the situation in the Polish Church during the German occupation. On the other hand, the territorial scope of the work being created refers mostly to the area of the Second Polish Republic, i.e. the first years of the archbishop's life, activity during his studies, and then during the fulfillment of episcopal duties, the scope also extends to the Holy See.

The main motivation to undertake research on the discussed topic was the fact that the publications published so far in this field are scarce and scattered, and moreover, they do not present the full picture of Archbishop Stanisław Gall. By fulfilling the duties of the first field bishop of the Polish Army and bishop *sensu stricto*, and then archbishop of Warsaw, he participated in the most important events of the Second Polish Republic.

Archbishop Stanisław Gall with his life entered the groundbreaking events in the history of Poland. In his youth and adolescence, the future archbishop experienced an intensifying Russification that spread through the entire territory of the Russian partition after the lost January Uprising of 1863/64. During his priestly service, he witnessed the then greatest conflict in the history of the world, namely World War I (1914- 1918), as a result of which and the activities of the Polish armed forces, independent Poland was reborn. With the regained statehood, the duty of spiritual care over the Polish soldier fell on the shoulders of the newly ordained bishop, not only during the Polish-Bolshevik war, but until his resignation in 1933. From that moment, a period of full involvement in archdiocesan affairs began, which led Bishop Stanisław Gall to take over the duties of the deceased Cardinal Aleksander Kakowski (in 1939): first vicar general, and from 1940 - apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Warsaw. In the life of this priest, who, while performing the duties of a field bishop, the most important

moments from the history of Poland from the late nineteenth century and the first four decades of the twentieth century were concentrated.

Despite fulfilling such important functions in the structures of the Catholic Church in Poland and in the reborn Polish Army, the figure of the archbishop has not yet received a separate and comprehensive biography. Information about his activities and spiritual service can be found in numerous publications dealing with issues related to the functioning of the Church in Poland or related to the history of the Second Polish Republic. In 1994, the book by Andrzej Cezary Żak was published: "The first field bishop of the Polish Army, Archbishop Stanisław Gall 1865-1942". This publication introduces the figure of this outstanding archbishop, but it is a work that does not use a large amount of available source materials, which could much more widely introduce and illuminate the figure of Archbishop S. Gall.

The most important sources available in Poland and used in the work include church and state archives. This group undoubtedly includes the materials available in the Central Military Archives of Majora Bolesław Waligóra, the Archives of New Records in Warsaw, the State Archives in Warsaw, the Archdiocesan Archives in Warsaw, the Archdiocesan Archives in Gniezno (in the Archives of the Primate of Poland there are files devoted to the Military Chaplaincy from 1918-1939), as well as the Salesian Archives of the Piła Province.

Thanks to the great activity in social and spiritual life in the reborn Republic of Poland, newspapers and the press of that time related to the activity of Archbishop Gall. The most important in this set, illuminating the daily duties of the field bishop and then the archbishop of Warsaw, include: "Polish soldier", "Kurjer Warszawski", "Guest Sunday", "Warsaw Archdiocese News", "Pomorskie Word".

The person of Stanisław Gall appears in the literature on issues related to the archbishop through his activities for the Polish Army and the Catholic Church in Poland. One of the most important publications on the history of the Church in Poland is by Jerzy Kłoczkowski, entitled "An outline of the history of the Catholic Church in Poland" and "The Episcopate of the Catholic Church in Poland 1918-1939" by Stanisław Wilk. The activity of Stanisław Gall in the structures of the Polish Army can be seen in such publications as: "Piłsudski's Army" by Lech Wyszczelski, "Polish Army in 1926-1935", or the publication of the same author entitled "Operation Warsaw August 1920".

The work devoted to Archbishop Stanisław Gall completes an important gap in the history of the Church and Military Ministry during the Second Polish Republic. Taking into account the importance for the Polish soldier of the chaplain who was next to him, either during the war of 1920 or during most of the peaceful years of the Second Polish Republic, the work

that Archbishop Stanisław Gall put into promoting Polishness and national values is worth special emphasis in a separate and comprehensive biography. I am convinced that it will constitute a new form of biographical work, substantially in line with the entire historiography of Poland at the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century.

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