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Title: THE MEANING OF THE TERM *MYSTERIUM* IN THE THEOLOGICAL-LITURGICAL REFLECTION (Znaczenie terminu „misterium” w refleksji teologiczno-liturgicznej)

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Abstract: The Christian tradition and Liturgy have combined the term *mysterium* with the event of Jesus Christ. The very concept of *mysterium* is fairly often translated into Polish as “tajemnica” (“secret,”) therefore it may be taken to mean as some mysterious knowledge, a fact that in relation to Jesus could denote only His teaching not accessible and understandable to all. With this understanding of the term *mysterium* in mind, Christianity may easily be reduced to a worldview or moral system. It is therefore important to accurately understand the very concept of *mysterium* and evolution the word has gone through in the theological and liturgical reflection. The term *mysterium*, derived from Greek culture, was first borrowed by Christianity in as early as the New Testament it served to explain the plans of God's will and the salvific works of God made in Jesus Christ. In the theology of Church Fathers this term fairly quickly becomes central, be means of which the Fathers defined the whole phenomenon of God's salvation in Christ and the Church, especially in its acts of worship. They used it also to mark the greatness of God's works of salvation and their inscrutable character (cf. Eph 3:8). Contemporary theologians and the magisterium of the Church have assumed this concept to illustrate the salvific work of Christ, His proclamation and actualization in the worship of the Church, in the whole activity of the Church, and in Christians' daily life. Christ's *mysterium* and *mysteria* are not therefore His mysterious teaching, but a salvific work that call for being accepted in faith. Such remarks are especially important for the preacher whose task is to lead the faithful to participation in the salvific *mysteria* of Christ actualized in the Liturgy, and in the mystic and existential unity with Him.