THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Summary

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, Under the Protection of the Most Holy Virgin Mary. Assistant of the Falsified was organized in the Warsaw area on October 10, 1937. In 1939, the congregation numbered 260 sisters and carried on its activities in 16 outposts under the name of the society “Science and Work”, which was directed by Mother General Weronika Ostrouska (Mother Bernarda).

In the framework of its apostolic activity, which developed in two principle directions – educational and care work – the congregation directed 3 technical schools, 4 centers for technical courses, 1 secondary school, 1 general school, 5 boarding houses, 3 orphanages, and 4 pre-schools. In 1939, the scope of this work, which was carried out in 27, different kinds of schools and care homes, earned under the sisters’ care about 1,980 children and young people, to a large extent poor.

During the occupation, as a result of the extermination policy of the Third Reich and the fighting, the congregation’s livelihood and work was significantly limited. Difficult living conditions led to a decrease in the number of sisters, and an increase in the mortality. The number of new appointments fell and total of those received into the order was equalized by the total of those who left or were dismissed. In connection with this, in 1945, the congregation numbered 240 sisters, on the whole older and exhausted from the inordinate amount of work, maltreatment, etc.

The congregation’s livelihood was greatly affected by the evacuation of sisters from 9 homes in the Warsaw area during and following the Uprising, and by their several-month long migration. As a result of the war, the congregation lost 3 outposts in Warsaw, along with losses in Vinzus, Poliskon and Landwartei. In addition, it suffered significant material losses, which included not only the destruction of 3 large estates, but also of facilities at the homes, educational and care establishments owned by the congregation. Altogether, material losses encompassed 11 outposts, i.e. 61% of the total number of houses owned by the congregation.

Linked with material losses suffered, the liquidation of several outposts and the opening of new ones, the congregation carried out its work at 17 outposts in 1946, and 14 in 1947.

From 1939-1946 the outside activity of the congregation was not only restricted, but its former character underwent significant changes. The congregation, scanning the needs of the time to the extent that occupation conditions allowed, actively engaged itself in social and charity work, which it carried out in an organized fashion or spontaneously, without directives from above. As a part of its educational activities, the sisters ran 3 technical schools in Warsaw, Klonowice, and Suchwola. This work represented a battle with the occupiers for Polish youth. Clandestine teaching took place at the secondary school in Częstochowa,
THE CONGREGATION OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE AILING

Summary

The Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Ailing was founded in Warsaw in 1903, by Capuchin father Honorat Kozminski (1829-1916) and Kozminski Grazyniezyda (1868-1927). The first foundation of the congregation was given by the Apostolic Constitutions on March 3, 1907. The aim of the congregation was to work among the sick and suffering. To this day this aim remains the same.

Until 1952 the sisters were divided into 2 choirs. Those sisters serving the sick (Liturgically) belonged to the first choir, and those who were involved in the household belonged to the second.

The 2-year novitiate was located in Warsaw until 1908, after which time it moved to Kozimierz.

This secular order acted efficiently in the form of special societies whose work was conducted on the basis of statutes, confirmed by state authorities.

As with other religious communities, the years 1939-1947 were very difficult for the congregation. War conditions made it difficult for the congregation's authorities to meet all their obligations in accordance with the constitution. Convocation of the general chapter was put off until the war was over and canonical inspections were not conducted for the duration.

In 1939 the congregation numbered 287 sisters and 15 houses. In 1945 - 276 sisters and 17 houses; and by the end of 1947 - 272 sisters and 13 houses. Altogether, during the period 1939-1947, 81 sisters joined the order, 35 died and 61 left (of which 24 were postulants).

The war had its impact on the religious group, which was evidenced in decreased enrollment, frequent deaths and arrests in the number of those leaving the congregation. Members of the congregation were imprisoned (4), taken away to labor camps (2), and camps of war (7). As a result of bombardments, 5 sisters perished and 1 died being taken off to execution.

The sisters living in the General Government, where the congregation had the largest concentration of houses (8), experienced relatively less difficulties than those in other occupied territories. Sisters in the following areas carried out their work with serious difficulties, which were brought on by the policies of the occupying forces in regards to these lands: Reich Commissariat East - 2 houses in Wizna, Reich Commissariat Ukraine - 3 houses in Guty Grodzieszczyzna, Sztutowo and Lub., "Wola Country" - 2 houses in Siedlce and Piotrkow.

The lack of direct contact with congregation authorities, the war situation, and the various degrees of pressure applied by the occupiers, all weakened the ties between some of the sisters and the religious community.

The basic fate of the Wizna Upbring had repercussions on the fate of the congregation's houses located in the capital. Sisters were forced to evacuate 4 outposts in a dozen or so groups. They made their way to different places where they set up provincial outposts and undertook new tasks.

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THE CONGREGATION OF THE ABBESS OF PURGATORY SOULS

Summary

The Congregation of the Abbess of Purgatory Souls was founded in 1899 by Father Honorat Kozminski, with the assistance of Wanda Clepszas.

When the war broke out in 1899, the general administration, elected by the chapter in 1937, administered the congregation. Julia Maria Brochuks was Mother General. In September, 1939, the congregation owned 6 houses. One of them, located in Warsaw, was totally destroyed during the uprising. After evacuation from the city, the sisters were forced to search for new places to live. In the spring of 1946, the sisters in Wizna were included in the repatriation operation. As a result of these translocations on May 9, 1945, the congregation owned 7 houses, a situation which lasted until 1947.

At the beginning of the period discussed the congregation had 98 members. As a result of deaths and the fact that some sisters abandoned the congregation, the number decreased to 12 in May, 1945. However, by the end of 1947, 65 sisters belonged to the congregation, which meant that it was gradually overcoming its personnel crisis.

The sisters escaped the fate of the concentration camps, though one was a year camp. The novitiate was temporarily broken up. The Mother General, in consideration of the difficult living situation in the Vislatow, decided that those novices who could make it back to their family homes should temporarily leave the novitiate. This took place in October, 1939. In 1941, the novitiate was transferred to Nowe Misio.

This congregation's work during the occupation did not extend to any principle changes. Its main activities continued to be work among those sick and in need of care. A home for the elderly was not set up by the sisters in Nowe Misio. At other outposts, especially in Sztutowo and Wizna, the sisters took care of the sick in private homes, and also provided emergency aid. Although there was a break for a certain period of time, lecturing courses were conducted as before at two of the houses in Vizna. As in the past, a candelabrum workshop in operation, though its activities were somewhat limited.

To the extent that it was possible, and if the need arose, the sisters joined in other social - charitable work, in Nowe Misio they worked in field hospitals in 1944. In Wizna, from 1941-1942, they supplied imprisoned priests and sisters with packages, and upon 40 letters, gave them appropriate material aid. In Sztutowo, they went to the town station with means for Polish P.O.W.'s. In Warsaw they ran a dining hall; one of the sisters took part in preparing food supplies for the Uprising, and later worked bandaging the wounded.

The period 1946-1947 was characterized by efforts to reestablish a certain stabilization after the desolated life during the occupation years. The general chapter, convened in 1944, after a 3-year delay, started its work. Along with former activities, the congregation also took up work in pre-schools.

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THE CONGREGATION OF THE SERVANTS OF JESUS

Summary

The Congregation of the Servants of Jesus (Congregatio Ancillarum Jesu) is one of the religious families of Poland. It is founded by Father Honorat Kozminski, Minister Ecclesiasticus Stefan Mozyński was co-founder. The congregation arose in Warsaw on December 8, 1884. On April 13, 1897, it received a decree of approval. On July 14, 1906, a confirmation for 7 years, and on April 6, 1934, a final confirmation from the Apostolic Constitution.

In the beginning the novitiate was located in Warsaw, from 1897-1907 in Warsaw, after which time it was once again transferred to Warsaw, where it functioned until October 15, 1944.

The congregation's task was to better the field of domestic assistance through apostolic work and care, which in turn would have an influence on families. Work with domestic consisted of catechization, career-training, protection against bad influences, arranging work, guidance, and extension of art, counseling children for older and older needs; and the like. As the number of sisters grew along with social needs, the sphere of the congregation's apostolate work was extended. New outposts in Polish territory arose.

At the outbreak of World War II the congregation had 16 outposts. From September 1, 1939, to December 31, 1941, 3 new houses were set up in (Mielno, Cieź and Wodzica). At the same time, 3 houses were liquidated in (Płoty, Drohobycz, and Warsaw, on Jazda 60) and the sisters from one home in Wizna were repatriated, after which they resided in Wodzica. During the war, sisters were eventually transferred to Wizna, on Tokarnia 54. 4 were destroyed or devastated by the occupiers (2 houses in Promleci, 1 in Czudechowo, and 1 in Warsaw, on Nowy Swiat). Sisters were forced to temporarily desert 12 houses. Only 4 homes were saved from the evacuation orders.

On September 1, 1939, at the time of the numbers of sisters totalled 313. In the period up to December 31, 1947, 67 new members joined, 61 sisters died a natural death or perished during the lifting. 24 sisters left the congregation. As in all, the number of members decreased by 88 persons.

The congregation, desiring to fulfill the aim of its founders; conducted its work with domestic in nearly all of its outposts. This meant, primarily, charity and educational-uplifting work. In order to provide for its program it was organized into such sections: (a) teaching; (b) home economics; (c) clothing-handicrafts and pupil's homework; (d) care, (e) domestic, with the goal of teaching young girls, and feeding the poor and deserted: a) different types of workshops: tailoring, home economics, embroidery and sewing; b) clothing workshops: knitting, tailoring-making; g) pre-schools and orphanages, above all, for post-war orphans, half-

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orphans, and poor children; g) employment offices for young girls; h) station missions, with the
goal of caring for, aiding, and educating young girls just arriving in town.

As much as possible during the occupation, the congregation gave aid to chaplains and
others trying to hide from the Gestapo. It attempted to free the imprisoned and sent food
packages to those in jail and camps. For a certain time during the Warsaw Uprising there was
a dressing-station in the house on Sevenytn St. in Warsaw, a place where the wounded and
needy were helped by the sisters.

In several homes the sisters performed services for churches. They taught catechism
to children and youth. Also, for a certain time they worked with the wounded and suffering
in hospitals.

On the whole it should be stated that the congregation, mindful of the task passed on by
its co-founders, placed special emphasis on its work with young girls-domestics. The sisters
provided them with moral and material care, and taught them how to work honestly. They also
took part in various kinds of activities undertaken in an attempt to meet the special needs
arising from the situation, both before, during and after the war.