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The dissertation is entitled „Parish pastoral ministry in the diocese of Cracow in the light of bishop visitations (1781-1785)”. The dissertation discusses the issue of parish pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Cracow at the end of the 18th century. The primary source of the work was the general visitation, which was conducted in 1781-1785. The visitation was conducted in Polish. The visitation volumes can be found in the church archives of Kielce, Cracow, Lublin and Sandomierz.

The Diocese of Cracow at the time in question was divided between the Republic of Poland, the Kingdom of Prussia, the Austrian Empire and the Duchy of Siewierz. The visitation covered only the areas within the borders of the Republic without the two Krakow deaneries. The Ordinary was Bishop Kajetan Soltyk, who gathered good collaborators around him. Special mention should be made of Auxiliary Bishop Franciszek Potkański and the Archdeacon of Cracow and later Suffragan of Cracow, Father Jozef Olechowski. In 1782 Bishop K. Soltyk was stripped of his episcopal authority and confined to a palace in Kielce. The reason was mental illness. Coadjutor Michael Poniatowski took over as administrator of the Cracow diocese. He was then bishop of Plock. The visitation started under Bishop K. Soltyk was continued by Bishop M. Poniatowski.

The work presents the clergy who were involved in conducting pastoral care. In the first place were pastors. They were assisted by clergy who were vicars, mansions, prebendaries, altar servers. Among them were many religious clergy. An important element of the post-Tridentine reform was the good moral life of the clergy. The visitation records present a model of a priest-pastor.

The post-Tridentine pastoral care was centered around the sacramental life and catechetical teaching and the preaching of the Word of God. There was to be an „ordo devotionis” in parishes as a permanent element, that is, an orderly form of divine worship and the teaching of the faithful. Religious confraternities and care for the sick and elderly were common in the parishes of the Cracow diocese. Some parishes had nurseries. They functioned mostly in cities and towns.

The lay faithful were not given much space in the visitation records. From them one can get a good idea of the number of faithful and the size of the parish district. Collators and church servants were presented more closely.

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