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The state authorities towards the Roman Catholic Church in Radom and the Radom district in the years 1945-1975

The work describes a history of the Radom Church in the first 40 years of communist political authority in Poland, from the end of World War II to the liquidation of districts. It is based on the materials gathered mainly in the archive of the Institute of National Remembrance, in the Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw, in the state archives in Radom and Kielce, and in the Church archive in Sandomierz. The work presents the subject in seven chapters. The first chapter presents territory of Radom and Radom district and the structure and the organization of state authorities regarding to the Church. The second one is dedicated to the personal issues and the efforts of the communist to disintegrate the clergy (conflicts connected to appointments to the parishes, repressions towards persons during the Stalinist period, the movement of the so-called "priest-patriots" and agents in church circles). Chapter three is dedicated to financial restrictions towards the Church's institutions. At first, it is described the taking possession of "Caritas" by the communist authority and plundering of properties. It also presents fiscal sanctions (taxes, and books inventory). The next chapter analyzes the problems connected with the construction of new worship buildings and the establishment of new parishes. The fifth chapter is dedicated to an analysis of the efforts of the communist political authorities towards the limitation of Church pastoral activities. It describes restrictions related to the religious cult, reduction of the feast-days, gradual abolition of religious processions, conflicts connected with the organization of pilgrimages and the Church' preaching activity. The next chapter analyzes the problems connected with the secularization of the educational system fostered by the communists. It refers to the liquidation of schools managed by religious congregations and the gradual elimination of catechism instruction from schools. The last chapter refers to the attitude of the State authorities towards the organization of celebrations of the Great Novena and the Millennium of the Baptism of Poland in 1966, the 150th anniversary of the erection of the diocese of Sandomierz in 1968 and the peregrination of the image of the Black Madonna of Częstochowa.

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