



V Pan-European and II All-Poland Forum of Brotherhoods and Fraternities

April 29, 2024 - Fr. Mariusz Marszałek SAC, hsz | Częstochowa (C) (P)



Fig. Rev. Dawid Piwowski SAC

In the Valley of Mercy in Częstochowa, on April 27-28, 2024, the V Pan-European and II National Forum of Brotherhoods and Fraternities was held. The meeting was a summary of the ISKK project "Confraternities – an element of Polish regional and national tradition: documentation, animation and integration".

During the meeting, the publication "Religious Brotherhoods – Tradition, Identity, Faith" edited by Prof. Marcin Jewdokimow, Rev. Dr. Mariusz Marszałek SAC and Rev. Dr. Wojciech Sarącz SAC was presented.

The meeting was attended by about 100 people from seven countries. Before the lectures began, a letter addressed to the participants of the Forum by Cardinal Rino Fisichella was read.



DICASTERO PER L'EVANGELIZZAZIONE
SEZIONE PER LE QUESTIONI FONDAMENTALI
DELL'EVANGELIZZAZIONE NEL MONDO

From the Vatican, April 8, 2024

Il Pro-Prefetto

Prot. N. EV1/231/2024/P

Dear Friends,

You will be gathering this year for the *V Pan-European Forum*, alongside the *II National Forum of Polish Confraternities*, in Częstochowa, Poland, the homeland of St. John Paul II, who, in his homily during the concelebration for the International Jubilee of Confraternities in 1984 summarized the purposes of Confraternities in three words: worship, charity and penance.

I am pleased to remind you of the relevance of the summary made by the Pope. In fact, these three attributes still provide a detailed guideline to follow in order to become "Pilgrims of Hope", especially as the next Holy Year approaches. We are now just a short time away from the beginning of Jubilee 2025 and, as St. John Paul II said, "today, the urgency of evangelization demands that Confraternities also participate more intensely and more directly in the work that the Church carries out to bring the light, the redemption, the grace of Christ to the people of our time."

This urgency still applies today, and I invite you to Rome to participate in large numbers in the upcoming Jubilee of Confraternities, which will be celebrated from May 16 to 18, 2025, so that you can bring the leaven of the Gospel to the whole world.


✠ Rino Fisichella

In the first part of the Forum, there were presentations on the current situation of fraternities in individual European countries. The participants of the meeting took part in the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Holy Mass at the Shrine of Divine Mercy. The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Mariusz Marszałek SAC, and the homily was given by Fr. Tomasz Wojtal.

As part of the Saturday afternoon block, a workshop entitled "What's next...?" was held, which was conducted by Mikołaj Foks. Their participants were looking for an answer to the question of what actions to take in the near future in order to effectively achieve the set goals for the development of their own communities.

The culmination of the Forum of Brotherhoods was the Sunday procession in traditional costumes from the Valley of Mercy to Jasna Góra, where at 12:30 p.m. the Holy Mass was celebrated in the Chapel of the Miraculous Image.

The Eucharist was presided over by Archbishop Adrian Galbas, SAC. In his homily, the Metropolitan of Katowice emphasized the role of confraternities in the mission of the Church, and also pointed out the dangers that threaten them. Among them, he mentioned: too much emphasis on the external signs of belonging to the community and a focus on a specific charism and mission, as well as weakening the bond with the Church. The Chairman of the Council of the Polish Episcopal Conference for the Lay Apostolate thanked all the participants of the meeting for coming to the Forum and active participation in its program.

<https://www.ekai.pl/v-ogolnoeuropejskie-i-ii-ogolnopolskie-forum-bractw-i-fraterni/>



















