

## Woman in theology in the year of Jadwiga Zamoyska

Foreword by Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki, Metropolitan  
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Pope Francis, in his exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, recalled that ‘to be saints, one does not need to be bishops, priests, friars or nuns [...]. We are all called to be saints, living with love and bearing witness in our daily activities wherever everyone is’ (GE 14). An example of the truth of this statement is the Servant of God General Jadwiga Zamoyska, an outstanding Pole, a woman of great merit for Poland and fully living her faith in Christ. She was born on July 4, 1831 in Warsaw, died in Kórnik on November 4, 1923, and was buried in the local church.

There are traces — from the 1930s — showing preparations for the beatification process of Jadwiga Zamoyska at the diocesan level. With the consent of the Archbishop’s Curia in Poznań, pictures were published at that time, showing the figure of the Servant of God Jadwiga Zamoyska née Działyńska. They included a short biography, several quotes from the writings of the General and a prayer composed by her, for the recitation of which one gained a hundred days of indulgence. These pictures also present a request to inform the superior of the Association of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Kuźnice about the graces received through her intercession. Furthermore, the evidence of those efforts is the book: *Jadwiga née Działyńska Zamoyska servant of the Lord* — by Felicja Suchodolska — published by the Bookstore and Printing House in Katowice in 1936. In the Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, there are also traces of the query preceding the diocesan process in the form of answers to several questions provided by Helena Olszewska, Zamoyska’s secretary.

The Archdiocese of Poznań resumed the interrupted efforts to beatify Jadwiga Zamoyska. We are convinced that she was a heroic figure, ‘The General’s thinking — writes prof. Władysław Chałupka — was enlightened and pioneering in many areas, and her views were ahead of the era in which she lived. We are amazed today by the breadth of her interests and the wisdom, insight and logic with which she spoke on very different topics: religious, political, economic’. She reminds us that holiness is the vocation of every baptized person. After all, Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for it in order to sanctify it (cf. Eph 5:25–26). Holiness is

simple, it is nothing but obedience to God. Creation obedient to the Creator. This is holiness. Thanks to Jadwiga Zamoyska, it will be easier for us to understand that all states of life — thanks to the action of God's grace and the commitment and perseverance of each of us — can become ways of sanctification. She herself wrote, 'Holiness consists in virtues. All that is needed is good-will, faithful, brave, prudent, patient, humble, persistent will'.

When learning about the lives of saints or candidates for the altars, it is worth remembering the words of Pope Francis, 'Not everything a saint says is fully faithful to the Gospel, not everything he/she does is authentic and perfect. What is to be admired is his/her whole life, his/her whole path of sanctification, this figure of him/her which reflects something of Jesus Christ and which is revealed when the meaning of his/her person as a whole is understood' (GE 22). It is good that in the year of Jadwiga Zamoyska announced by the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, a scientific reflection was undertaken not only on the spirituality of the Servant of God, but also on the presence of women in theology. Let the sharing of the fruits of this reflection both in Polish and in English contribute not only to expanding knowledge, but also help in our personal pursuit of a full life in God. Knowledge is important, but the example of life is the most moving and encourages following.