

"Between tradition and modernity. The concepts of social education according to Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński"

Summary

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Primate of Poland and a blessed of the Catholic Church, was one of the most important figures of the Church in Poland in the latter half of the 20th century. His impact on the course of history and on the life of Poles is undeniable. Today, given our historical understanding, we may pose the question; how did the person and teachings of Cardinal S. Wyszyński influence others and how great was his significance. This dissertation addresses the question as an academic problem and attempts to formulate an answer explaining the influence the Primate had on the development of the concept of social education in catholic social environments.

The first chapter presents the "Development of the socio-educational views of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński". This chapter is an introduction to the context of the Primate's life; his education and priesthood as well as his life as the bishop of Lublin and Primate of Poland. While studying canon law at the Catholic University of Lublin, he also specialized in social sciences and pedagogy. Hence, after graduating, he became involved in educating future generations of priests in the field of social sciences as well as holding lectures for workers (being the head of the Christian Workers' University in Włocławek). This period also resulted in numerous publications in the field of the social thought of the Church. The experience he gained allowed him to shape his social and pedagogical views which, in turn, played a vital role in the political activity of the Church in Poland during a time of confrontation with communism.

In the second chapter: "Human social education as a subject of teaching of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński", the Primate's thoughts on the concept of social pedagogy, which he represented, were analyzed. Being a proponent of educating people to social responsibility, he emphasized the role of core values of the most important categories of human societies (homeland, nation, family, Church and state). Cardinal S. Wyszyński in his pedagogy emphasized the promotion of these values at every stage of human life, which must be properly defined in order to fulfill their educational function.

In the third and final chapter: "Social formation of educators in the teachings of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński", the ways in which the Primate tried to form three groups of educational subjects; teachers, parents and clergy were outlined. One thing which these pedagogical environments have in common is that they should all cooperate when it comes to social education. Therefore, there is a need for pedagogical dialogue between them.

Conclusions drawn on the basis of the conducted analysis seem to confirm, in many ways, the validity of Primate S. Wyszyński's social pedagogical teaching.