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## Hierarchs of the Diocese of Sejny or Augustów: Aspects of the Collective Biography of Bishops and Administrators

The diocese of Sejny or Augustów was established in 1818. It replaced the existing diocese of Wigry and part of a parish in Płock diocese. This ecclesiastical administrative unit existed for over a hundred years: until 1925 in Poland and 1926 in Lithuania. The diocese was inhabited by the believers of two nationalities, Lithuanians and Poles, who were more or less equally divided. The task of the diocesan hierarchs was to ensure proper pastoral care of both groups, and while pastoral care of the Polish-speaking congregation did not cause any major problems, in Lithuanian parishes, especially at the beginning of the existence of the diocese, pastoral work used to be somewhat problematic due to the lack of Lithuanian-speaking clergy. However, we will not go further into this issue in this article. Our objective here is to present some aspects of the collective biography of the hierarchs and administrators of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów.

Eight clergymen were bishop ordinaries in the said diocese. The first bishop of Sejny was the bishop of Wigry, Jan Klemens Gołaszewski (1748-1820). The last bishop was Antanas Karosas (1856-1947), who became the first bishop ordinary of Vilkaviškis diocese when it was established. Chronologically, bishop ordinaries of Sejny were Ignacy Stanisław Czyżewski (1752-1823), Mikołaj Jan Manugiewicz (1754-1834), Paweł Straszyński (1784-1847), Konstanty Ireneusz Łubieński (1825-1869), Piotr Paweł Wierzbowski (1818-1893), and Antanas Baranauskas (1835-1902). Prof. Witold Jemielity speaks of three suffragan bishops: Augustyn Polikarp Marciejewski (1761-1827), Stanisław Choromański (1769-1838), and Juozapas Oleka (1812-1890)<sup>1</sup>. However, it

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<sup>1</sup> W. Jemielity, ‘Zarys dziejów Diecezji Augustowskiej czyli Sejneńskiej’, *Lithuania*, 1995, No. 2(15), p. 107.

should pointed out that on 29 July 1918, Romuald Jałbrzykowski (1876-1955) was appointed suffragan bishop of Sejny or Augustów diocese; after 1921, he, as an apostolic delegate, was put in charge of the part of Sejny or Augustów diocese that remained in the Republic of Poland<sup>2</sup>. Upon a death of a bishop ordinary, there would be a period of an interregnum until a new bishop was appointed. In such cases, the cathedral chapter would elect diocesan administrators (vicar capitulars). The longest interregnum, after the death of Paweł Straszynski, lasted sixteen years; after the death of Bishop Antanas Baranauskas, there was an interregnum of eight years. Apart from bishops Marciejewski and Choromański, six clergymen served as diocesan administrators. One of them was Mikołaj Błocki (1786-1851), who was appointed bishop of Włocławek but died before his consecration. Other administrators were Bonaventūra Butkevičius (1795-1871), Jakub Choiński (1799-1869), Paweł Andruszkiewicz (1806-1892), Paweł Krajewski (1824-1901), and Juozapas Antanavičius (1853-1916). Prelate Matas Dabrila (1846-1935), the dean of Vilkaviškis, should also be included among them, because he was in charge of the diocese when Bishop Karosas fled to Russia during the First World War.

The historiography of the bishops and administrators of Sejny or Augustów is not extensive. Information about them can mostly be found in encyclopaedias and publications of a more general nature. However, there are several monographs devoted to the hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów. First of all, mention should be made of the monograph devoted to Bishop K. I. Łubieński<sup>3</sup>. Two monographs, one by Regina Mikšytė<sup>4</sup> and another by Egidijus Aleksandravičius<sup>5</sup>, deal with Bishop Antanas Baranauskas. Adam Szot wrote a monograph about Archbishop Romuald Jałbrzykowski. Individual publications are devoted to Bishop Antanas Baranauskas<sup>6</sup>. The material of the international academic conference 'Bishop Antanas Baranauskas: His Personality and His Surrounding', which was held in 2002, was published in the Annual of the Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Sciences, vol. 23.

Canon Pranciškus Augustaitis (1848-1915), a professor at the Sejny Theological Seminary who taught the history of the Church, provided biographical data on the bishops and administrators of Sejny in his monographic study<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> A. Szot, *Abp Romuald Jałbrzykowski metropolita wileński*, Lublin, 2002, p. 28-29.

<sup>3</sup> *Konstanty Ireneusz Pomian Hrabia Lubieński biskup sejneński*, Kraków, 1898.

<sup>4</sup> R. Mikšytė, *Antanas Baranauskas*, Vilnius, 1983.

<sup>5</sup> E. Aleksandravičius, *Giesmininko kelias*, Vilnius 2003. In Polish: E. Aleksandravičius, *Antanas Baranauskas: szlak wieszcza*, trans. J. Rogoza, T. Błaszczak, Sejny, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Biskup Antoni Baranowski 1835-1902. *Orędownik pojednania polsko-litewskiego*, Warszawa, 1998; *Antanas Baranauskas: 100-osioms mirties metinėms*, sudarė Irena Gasparavičiūtė ir Petras Maksimavičius, Punksas, 2003.

<sup>7</sup> P. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Vygrių ir Seinų dijecez. Istorija', *Vadovas*, 1909, No. 11, p. 272-279, No. 12, p. 373-380, No. 13, p. 68-79, No. 14, p. 172-184, No. 15, p. 276-286, No. 16, p. 386-395; 1910, No. 17, p. 71-80, No. 18, p. 181-185, No. 19, p. 260-275, No. 20, p. 367-382, No. 21, p. 73-82, No. 22, p. 175-185, No. 23, p. 273-283, No. 24, p. 383-397,

Witold Jemielity, a professor at the Łomża Theological Seminary, provided abundant valuable information about the hierarchs of Sejny before 1872 in his monograph on the history of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów<sup>8</sup>. In his multi-volume work *Lietuvos bažnyčios* (Lithuanian Churches), Bronius Kviklys dedicated

a volume to the diocese of Vilkaviškis<sup>9</sup>. Priest Ryszard Sawicki wrote about J. K. Gołaszewski, the first bishop of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów, in his study devoted to the bishops of Wigry diocese<sup>10</sup>. In a series of articles, Prof. Kęstutis Žemaitis wrote about Antanas Karosas, the last bishop ordinary of this diocese<sup>11</sup>. He also published an article about the suffragan bishop Juozas Oleka<sup>12</sup>. Priest Marius Talutis wrote an article about Bishop P. A. Marciejewski<sup>13</sup>. The author of this paper has written about Bishop K. I. Łubieński<sup>14</sup>; in addition, he published popular articles about bishops Gołaszewski, Czyżewski, Manugiewicz, Choroński, Straszyński, Łubieński, and Wierzbowski in 2018 and 2019, in the magazines *Aušra* and *Šaltinis*, which are published in Pusk and Sejny.

Among encyclopaedic publications, we will discuss the encyclopaedias of the nineteenth and the early twentieth century in more detail, because the authors of the biographical entries in these encyclopaedias relied on the archival documents from the diocesan curia of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów. Entries about bishops in Polish encyclopaedias must have begun with Bishop Michał Nowodworski's (1831-1896) in *Encyklopedia Kościelna* (The Encyclopaedia of the Church). In this encyclopaedia, Stanisław Jamiołkowski (1834-1885), a professor at the Sejny Seminary, published biographies of the bishops of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów<sup>15</sup>. He also wrote about the bishops of

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No. 25, p. 59-72, No. 26, p. 165-181, No. 27, p. 272-279, No. 28, p. 374-378; 1911, No. 29, p. 68-72, No. 30, p. 158-159.

<sup>8</sup> W. Jemielity, *Diecezja augustowska czyli sejneńska w latach 1818-1872*, Lublin, 1972, p. 31-57.

<sup>9</sup> B. Kviklys, *Lietuvos bažnyčios*, vol. 2: *Vilkaviškio vyskupija*, Chicago, 1982, p. 33-51.

<sup>10</sup> R. Sawicki, *Między ołtarzem a tronami obcych mocarstw. Biskupi diecezji wigierskiej – działalność pastoralna, społeczna i polityczna*, Warszawa 2018, p. 62-90.

<sup>11</sup> K. Žemaitis, 'Vyskupas Antanas Karosas Punske: pabėgėlis ar tremtinys?', *Terra jatwezenorum*, Punksas 2017, vol. 9, part 2, p. 246-253; 'Vyskupas Antanas Karosas Marijampolėje (1920-1926 metai)', *Terra jatwezenorum*, Punksas 2018, vol. 10, part 1, p. 268-276; 'Vyskupo Antano Karoso veikla Vilkaiviškyje 1926-1940 metais', *Terra jatwezenorum*, Punksas 2020, vol. 12, part 1, p. 349-356; 'Vilkaviškio vyskupas Antanas Karosas okupacijų metais', *Terra jatwezenorum*, Punksas 2020, vol. 12, part 2, p. 47-59.

<sup>12</sup> K. Žemaitis, 'Biskup sufragan sejneński Józef Hollak – apostoł Polski i Litwy XIX w.', *Diecezja sejneńska 1818-1925. Studia i szkice z okazji 200-lecia erygowania*, Łomża 2018, p. 69-76.

<sup>13</sup> M. Talutis, 'Vyskupas „piliakalnis“ Augustinas Polikarpas Marciejewskis', *Terra jatwezenorum*, Punksas 2016, vol. 8, part 1, p. 93-100.

<sup>14</sup> A. Katilius, 'Seinų vyskupas Konstantinas Irenėjus Lubenkis', *Terra jatwezenorum*, Punksas, 2011, vol. 3, p. 127-142.

<sup>15</sup> X. S. J. (Stanisław Jamiołkowski), 'Gołaszewski Jan Klemens', *Encyklopedia Kościelna*, vol. 6, Warszawa, 1875, p. 274-277; 'Marciejewski Polikarp Augustyn', *Encyklopedia Kościelna*,

Sejny in his manuscript study<sup>16</sup>. In 1904, the publication of *Podręczna Encyklopedia Kościelna* (Reference Encyclopaedia of the Church) was launched in Warsaw and it included biographies of the bishops of Sejny. Pranciškus Augustaitis wrote biographies of bishops Czyżewski<sup>17</sup>, Łubieński<sup>18</sup>, Oleka<sup>19</sup>, and Baranauskas<sup>20</sup>. Romuald Jałbrzykowski, a professor at the Sejny Theological Seminary, wrote about bishops Marciejewski<sup>21</sup>, Straszyński<sup>22</sup>, and the administrator Bonaventūra Butkevičius<sup>23</sup>. In addition, this encyclopaedia had entries on bishops Gołaszewski<sup>24</sup>, Manugiewicz<sup>25</sup>, Choromański<sup>26</sup>, Wierzbowski<sup>27</sup>, and the administrator Błocki<sup>28</sup>.

This article is an attempt to present some aspects of the collective biography of the hierarchs of Sejny or Augustów diocese. To this end, its author will try to address social, geographical, and ethnic origins of the hierarchs, their education, and their rise in the hierarchy. The age at which clergymen became bishops or administrators will also be discussed.

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vol. 13, Warszawa, 1880, p. 394-399; 'Czyżewski Ignacy Stanisław', *Encyklopedia Kościelna*, Warszawa 1874, t. 3, s. 687; 'Manugiewicz Mikołaj Jan', *Encyklopedia Kościelna*, vol. 13, Warszawa, 1880, p. 384-387; 'Łubieński Konstanty Ireneusz', *Encyklopedia Kościelna*, vol. 12, Warszawa, 1879, p. 590-592.

- <sup>16</sup> S. Jamiołkowski, *Opisanie kościoła sejneńskiego pod względem historycznym, architektonicznym i inwentarskim*, Archive of Łomża Diocese (*ArŁm*), without a shelf mark.
- <sup>17</sup> X. F. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Czyżewski Ignacy Stanisław', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. VII-VIII, Warszawa 1906, p. 306.
- <sup>18</sup> X. F. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Łubieński Konstanty Ireneusz', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XXV-XXVI, Warszawa, 1911, p. 109.
- <sup>19</sup> X. F. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Hollak Józef', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XV-XVI, Warszawa, 1908, p. 332-333.
- <sup>20</sup> X. F. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Baranowski Antoni', *Podręczna encyklopedia Kościelna*, vol. III-IV, Warszawa, 1904, p. 103-104.
- <sup>21</sup> X. R. J. (Romuald Jałbrzykowski), 'Augustyn Polikarp Marciejewski', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XXV-XXVI, Warszawa, 1911, p. 250-251.
- <sup>22</sup> X. R. J. (Romuald Jałbrzykowski), 'Straszyński Paweł', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XXXVII-XXXVIII, Warszawa, 1913, p. 156.
- <sup>23</sup> Ks. R. J. (Romuald Jałbrzykowski), 'Butkiewicz Bonawentura', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. V-VI, Warszawa, 1905, p. 233-234.
- <sup>24</sup> T., 'Gołaszewski Jan Klemens', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XIII-XIV, Warszawa 1907, p. 230-231.
- <sup>25</sup> Ks. L. Ł., 'Manugiewicz Mikołaj Jan', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XXV-XXVI, Warszawa, 1911, p. 242-243.
- <sup>26</sup> Ks. L. Ł., 'Stanisław Henryk Choromański', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. VII-VIII, Warszawa, 1906, p. 51.
- <sup>27</sup> Rr., 'Wierzbowski Piotr Paweł', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XLI-XLII, Warszawa-Lublin-Łódź, 1915, p. 274-275.
- <sup>28</sup> K. P., 'Błocki Mikołaj', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. III-IV, Warszawa, 1904, p. 413.

### Social, geographical, and ethnic origins

Nineteen individuals were the hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów: eight ordinaries, four suffragans, and seven administrators, including Matas Dabrila. In presenting the collective portrait of all the hierarchs, it is important to identify their social, geographical, and, if possible, ethnic origins. In terms of their social origin, most hierarchs came from the nobility. At the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century, noble birth was an important prerequisite for becoming a clergyman. In later times, this aspect was not so relevant.

Four of the bishop ordinaries came from noble families: bishops Gołaszewski, Czyżewski, Łubieński, and Wierzbowski. Bishop Łubieński came from a noble family of counts. The social origin of Bishop Manugiewicz is not clear. Two bishop ordinaries, Antanas Baranauskas (from royal peasants) and Antanas Karosas, were of peasant origin. Bishop Straszynski came from a family of a craftsman: he was a son of a poor shoemaker. Of the suffragan bishops, two – Choromański and Jałbrzykowski – were of noble birth. Pranciškus Augustaitis in his monograph *Vadovas* (The Leader)<sup>29</sup> and Jałbrzykowski<sup>30</sup> in the encyclopaedia maintain that Bishop Marciejewski was of Jewish descent, but Prof. Jemielity points out that both his parents were nobles<sup>31</sup>. His father and the whole family converted to Catholicism. Based on the act of the information process of the appointment as a bishop, Prof. Jemielity maintains that these acts do not contain any attestation to Marciejewski's Jewish origin<sup>32</sup>. Suffragan bishop Oleka came from a peasant background. As for the administrators of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów, Mikołaj Błocki, Bonaventūra Butkevičius, and Paweł Krajewski were of noble descent. Most likely, Paweł Andruszkiewicz came from the burghers. Juozapas Antanavičius and Matas Dabrila came from a peasant background. Jakub Choiński's social origin is not clear. The breakdown of the nineteen hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów by social background is the following: nine or ten nobles (including one from a noble family of counts), five peasants, probably one burgher, one from the craftspeople, and the origin of two is not clear.

As far as the geographical place of their birth is concerned, we will first of all focus on those who came from the territory of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów. There were four of them among the bishops: Gołaszewski, Wierzbowski, Jałbrzykowski, and Oleka. Five administrators were born in their own diocese: Choiński, Andruszkiewicz, Krajewski, Antanavičius, and Dabrila. The rest were born in other dioceses. Bishops Marciejewski and Karosas and the administrator Butkevičius came from the Samogitian diocese. Bishop Bara-

<sup>29</sup> P. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Vygrių ir Seinų dijecez. Istorija', *Vadovas*, 1909, No. 12, p. 375.

<sup>30</sup> X. R. J. (Romuald Jałbrzykowski), 'Augustyn Polikarp Marciejewski', p. 250.

<sup>31</sup> W. Jemielity, *Diecezja augustowska czyli sejneńska w latach 1818-1872*, p. 33.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

nauskas was born in Vilnius diocese. The diocese of Płock was the native place of Bishop Choromański and the administrator Błocki. Bishop Czyżewski was born in Kalisz, and Bishop Manugiewicz near Lviv (formerly Lemberg), in the territory of present Western Ukraine. Bishop Straszyński came from the diocese of Lublin. Bishop Łubieński was born in Warsaw. This information shows that nine hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów came from their own diocese and the rest were born in other dioceses.

Establishing the ethnic identity is not a simple task. The available data tell us that Bishop Manugiewicz was of Armenian descent, and Bishop Marciejewski came from a Jewish family in Kretinga and could speak Lithuanian. Bishops Baranauskas, Karosas, Oleka, and administrators Dabrila and Antanavičius were all of Lithuanian origin, although the latter was undecided whether he was a Lithuanian or a Pole. Some doubts surround the fact of the administrator Butkevičius being a Lithuanian; although he spoke Lithuanian, he probably identified himself with Polish culture. Other hierarchs should be considered Poles.

### Education

Here we will try to shed light on of the hierarchs' education, from primary school to higher education. First we will discuss those clergymen who pursued their theological studies in the seminaries of Tykocin and Sejny located in the diocese of Sejny or Augustów.

Bishop Wierzbowski received his initial education at home; he then studied in Łomża, where he finished five forms at the gymnasium of the voivodeship<sup>33</sup>. In 1837, he enrolled at the Tykocin Theological Seminary and graduated in 1841. Wierzbowski did not obtain higher education. Bishop Oleka received his primary education at home and then he went to the school of Seinai voivodship, which he finished in 1832. In the same year, he entered the Sejny Theological Seminary. A year later, he was sent to study at the Warsaw Superior Seminary, from which he graduated with a degree of Candidate of Theology<sup>34</sup>. Another suffragan bishop, Romuald Jałbrzykowski, received primary education in Kołaki and continued at Łomża Gymnasium; in 1893, he entered the seminary of Sejny, from which he successfully graduated and was sent to study to the Roman Catholic Spiritual Academy in St Petersburg. His studies there were crowned with master's degree in theology<sup>35</sup>. As for the administrators, Butkevičius, Choiński, Andruszkiewicz, Krajewski, Antanavičius, and Dabrila studied at the seminaries in the diocese of Sejny or Augustów. Bonaventūra Butkevičius initially went to the parish school in Kretinga. In 1811, he moved to Rudamina, where his uncle A. P. Marciejewski was a dean. He sent But-

<sup>33</sup> J. Łupiński, *Seminarium duchowne w Tykocinie w latach 1769-1863*, Łódź, 2011, p. 336.

<sup>34</sup> X. F. A., 'Hollak Józef', p. 332.

<sup>35</sup> T. Żychiewicz, 'Jałbrzykowski Romuald', *Polski słownik biograficzny*, vol. 10, No. 3, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków 1963, p. 401.

kevičius to the lyceum of Seinai, where he completed six forms. In 1817, he became a student at the seminary in Tykocin and a year later was sent to the University of Warsaw, where he graduated with a master's degree in theology. In 1844, he received his doctorate in theology from Pope Gregory XVI<sup>36</sup>. Jakub Choiński completed five forms at the Tykocin county school and then worked as a teacher at the Zavady primary parish school for five years. In 1822, he enrolled at the Tykocin Theological Seminary and graduated in 1825<sup>37</sup>. Paweł Andruszkiewicz received his primary education at the parish school in Tykocin and his secondary education at the sub-district school in Tykocin. In 1825, he entered the theological seminary in that city<sup>38</sup>. Paweł Krajewski completed four forms at the Łomża gymnasium. He entered the Tykocin Theological Seminary in 1845 and three years later was transferred to the Sejny seminary<sup>39</sup>. Juozapas Antanavičius completed four forms at the gymnasium in Marijampolė. In 1870, he started his studies at the Seinai Theological Seminary and graduated in 1876<sup>40</sup>. Matas Dabrila went to Vilkaviskis primary school and then to Marijampolė county school, where he completed four forms. On 1 October 1864, he was accepted at the Sejny Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1869<sup>41</sup>.

Two hierarchs studied at the seminaries in Płock diocese. Bishop Choro- mański pursued his theological studies at the seminary in Pułtusk until 1792, when Bishop Krzysztof Hilary Szembek sent him to the University of Cracow, where he studied for a couple of years and was awarded the degree of doctor of both laws<sup>42</sup>. Administrator Błocki received his primary education at home; later he attended the schools of Pułtusk and pursued priesthood in the seminary of that city<sup>43</sup>.

A group of hierarchs in the diocese of Sejny or Augustów were associated with monastic orders. Bishop Golaszewski studied at the Piarist college in Szczecin. On 23 September 1764, he entered the missionary monastery in Warsaw. He took his monastic vows on 24 November 1766<sup>44</sup>. Bishop Czyżewski joined the Jesuit Order at the age of fifteen; after its dissolution, he continued his studies at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, where he received a doc-

<sup>36</sup> W. Jemielity, *Diecezja augustowska czyli sejneńska w latach 1818-1872*, p. 47-48.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 52-53.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 56.

<sup>39</sup> J. Łupiński, *Seminarium duchowne w Tykocinie w latach 1769-1863*, p. 314.

<sup>40</sup> A. Katilius, 'Antanavičius Juozapas', <https://www.lkma.lt/lddb/israsas.php?id=4126> (accessed: 20.05.2021).

<sup>41</sup> *Punsko, Seinų ir Lazdijų krašto knygnešiai ir daraktoriai*, Benjaminas Kaluškevičius, Kazys Misius, Sigitas Birgelis (eds), Punskas, 2017, p. 73.

<sup>42</sup> W. Jemielity, *Diecezja augustowska czyli sejneńska w latach 1818-1872*, p. 39.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 47.

<sup>44</sup> A. Romańczuk, W. M. Bartel, 'Gołaszewski Jan Klemens', *Polski słownik biograficzny*, vol. VIII/2, No. 37, Wrocław-Kraków-Warszawa 1959, p. 238.

torate in both laws<sup>45</sup>. Bishop Manugiewicz studied with the Jesuits in Złoczów, then at the Zamojski Academy in Zamość, where he received his doctoral degree in 1776. After his studies, he was a professor at the same academy for six years until 1782, where he taught grammar, rhetoric, and French. Upon finishing his professorship, he dedicated himself to the clergy. He studied theology in Zamość, received lower orders, and left for Rome to continue his studies<sup>46</sup>. On 13 February 1815, in Italy, Manugiewicz obtained an honorary doctorate of both laws. He was awarded this degree by Duke Francisco Sforza, whose family held the privilege of conferring the doctorate from 1539. In Poland, there was no information about such a doctorate being awarded and this led to the speculation that the honorary doctorate was awarded in Vilnius<sup>47</sup>. Bishop Marciejewski was a Dominican. According to Pranciškus Augustaitis, he entered the monastery in Virbalis<sup>48</sup>. He studied at Vilnius University and received the title of a lecturer in sacred theology<sup>49</sup>.

Bishop Straszyński initially studied in Kumowo, under the bishops' residence in Lublin and was taken care of by Bishop Witiek Skarszewski's palace staff. In 1805, he graduated from the theological seminary in Krasnystaw, but did not pursue higher education<sup>50</sup>. On 4 October 1825, he received an honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Theology at the University of Cracow. Bishop Łubieński received a good education at home. He was taught by professors of the Spiritual Academy in Warsaw<sup>51</sup>. In 1839, he was sent to study at the Jesuit college in Fribourg, Switzerland. He graduated from the Jesuit College in 1843 and then his father sent him to Paris, to the Central School of Arts and Crafts (*École centrale des arts et manufactures*). However, these studies did not attract the young man as he was more interested in spiritual things. His time in Paris was not wasted, because he mastered French. For further challenges, Lubensky's father sent him to Berlin to study law and philosophy. He studied in Berlin in 1844-1845, but his vocation to become a clergyman prevailed: in 1846, he entered the spiritual seminary in Kielce and from 1847 onwards studied at Western European universities in Munich, Rome and Leuven, but did not pursue a degree. Bishop Antanas Karosas completed six forms at Šiauliai gymnasium and from 1875 to 1879 studied at the theological seminary of the Dio-

<sup>45</sup> W. Jemielity, *Diecezja augustowska czyli sejneńska w latach 1818-1872*, p. 32.

<sup>46</sup> M. Żywczyński, 'Manugiewicz Mikołaj', *Polski słownik biograficzny*, vol. XIX/4, No. 83, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków-Gdańsk, 1974, p. 502; W. Jemielity, *Diecezja augustowska czyli sejneńska w latach 1818-1872*, p. 35.

<sup>47</sup> M. Żywczyński, 'Manugiewicz Mikołaj', p. 502.

<sup>48</sup> P. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Vygrių ir Seinų dijecez. Istorija', *Vadovas*, 1909, No. 12, p. 375.

<sup>49</sup> W. Jemielity, *Diecezja augustowska czyli sejneńska w latach 1818-1872*, p. 33.

<sup>50</sup> E. Orman, K. Śmigiel, 'Straszyński Paweł', *Polski słownik biograficzny*, vol. XLIV/2, No. 181, Warszawa-Kraków, 2006, p. 262.

<sup>51</sup> X. F. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Łubienski Konstanty Ireneusz bp sejneński', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XXV-XXVI, Warszawa 1911, p. 109.

cese of Samogitia (Telšiai) in Kaunas. After the seminary, he was sent to study at the Roman Catholic Theological Academy in St Petersburg, where he graduated with a master's degree in theology.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the generalised data on the education of the hierarchs: theological education of most of the hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów was limited to graduation from a seminary. This applies to ten of them. Others studied at higher education institutions for a longer or shorter time, and five of them had doctoral degrees (including two honorary doctorates).

### Ascending the Hierarchy

The cathedral chapter of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów was established by Bishop I. S. Czyżewski in 1822.

Suffragan bishop Marciejewski, the future bishop Choromański, and administrator Butkevičius were among the members of this first chapter. After studies at Vilnius University, Marciejewski spent some time teaching Latin literature at the Dominican monasteries of Zabiala and Merkinė. Later, he was a senior and head of school at the Dominican monastery in Virbalis<sup>52</sup>. In 1798, the Apostolic See granted him a dispensation from monastic vows. He was the secretary of Michal Franciszek Karpowicz, the first bishop of Wigry. In 1803, he became the dean of Rudamina and settled there. Marciejewski lived in Rudamina to the end of his life. In 1807, he was appointed a consistorial assessor in Vilkaviškis. He became an official in 1813. On 4 June 1819, Marciejewski was appointed a suffragan of Sejny (Augustów) diocese and was consecrated on 19 September 1819 in the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw by Adam Michal Prażmowski, Bishop of Płock. A. P. Marciejewski became a titular bishop of Argos<sup>53</sup>. In 1822, he was appointed dean of Sejny cathedral chapter and after the death of Bishop Czyżewski he administered the diocese. Stanisław Henryk Lubicz Choromański was a clergyman of the diocese of Płock. In addition to being a dean, he was also the canon of the chapter in this diocese. After some of the parishes of Płock diocese were moved to the diocese of Sejny or Augustów in 1818, he became a clergyman of the latter. In 1822, he was appointed prelate archdeacon of the cathedral chapter of this diocese. On 23 August 1828, Pope Leo XII appointed Choromański titular bishop of Adrasus and suffragan of Sejny, retaining the title of the archdeacon of the chapter and the rectory of Zambrów. He was consecrated on 8 February 1929 in Warsaw, in the Church of the Holy Cross. His principal consecrator was M. J. Manugiewicz, bishop ordinary of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów, who was assisted by

<sup>52</sup> X. R. J. (Romuald Jałbrzykowski), 'Marciejewski Augustyn Polikarp', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XXV-XXVI, Warszawa 1911, p. 250.

<sup>53</sup> K. R. Prokop, 'Sakry i sukcesja święceń biskupich pasterzy diecezji wigierskiej, sejneńskiej (augustowskiej) oraz łomżyńskiej', *Studia teologiczne. Białystok, Drohiczyn, Łomża*, vol. 28, Białystok, 2010, p. 313-314.

Adam Michał Prażmowski, bishop ordinary of Płock, and Josef Marcellin Dziecielski, bishop ordinary of Lublin diocese<sup>54</sup>. In April 1829, the new bishop was appointed prelate dean of the Sejny cathedral chapter. After the death of Bishop Manugiewicz, Choromański became the administrator of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów. Bonaventūra Butkevičius was appointed member of the cathedral chapter of Sejny at the age of 28, in the third year of his priesthood. He became a prelate custodian in the chapter in 1826, and a dean in 1870. Butkevičius was a dean in Naumiestis, Łomża, Suwałki, Vilkaviškis, and Prienai. From 1842 to 1862, he was the rector of Warsaw Spiritual Academy. In 1852, he was conferred the title of the protonotary apostolic. The chapter elected Butkevičius diocesan administrator twice, in 1851 and 1853. During his first term he did not administer the diocese because he was in Rome where he sought the episcopal mitre<sup>55</sup>. After the ordination, Bishop Straszyński appointed priest P. P. Wierzbowski secretary and chaplain of the consistory of the diocese of Sejny (Augustów). He was appointed regent of the consistory in 1847 and reappointed in 1855. Priest Wierzbowski was a dean in Szumów i Suwałki. In 1856, he was made an honorary canon of the cathedral of Lublin diocese. In 1860, he was appointed surrogate judge. In 1867, a couple of more offices were added: Wierzbowski became dean of the Suwałki deanery and was appointed visitator of the monasteries of Sejny (Augustów) diocese. He was also a provisor of the Sejny Theological Seminary. He also ascended the hierarchy by becoming a gremial canon of Seinai cathedral in 1870<sup>56</sup>. Wierzbowski was consecrated on 6 October 1872 in the Church of St Catherine of Alexandria in St. Petersburg. His principal consecrator was Anton Fiałkowski, archbishop of Mohilev; he was assisted by Jerzy Iwaszkiewicz, a suffragan of Mohilev archdiocese, Aleksander Kazimierz Gitowt-Dziewaltowski, a suffragan of Płock diocese, and Bishop Tomasz Kułinski, apostolic vicar of Kielcy-Cracow diocese<sup>57</sup>. After his studies in St. Petersburg, Romuald Jałbrzykowski was briefly appointed vicar of Wąsosz and then appointed chaplain to Bishop Barauskas. In 1902, he became a professor at the Sejny Theological Seminary. In 1909, priest Jałbrzykowski became the vice-rector of the seminary of Sejny and in 1910 he became the canon of the Sejny cathedral chapter. On 29 July 1918, Pope Benedict XV appointed Romuald Jałbrzykowski titular bishop of Cusae and suffragan of Sejny. Jałbrzykowski's consecration took place on 30 November 1918, in Łomża. His principal consecrator was Archbishop of Warsaw Metropolitan Aleksander Kakowski, who was assisted by Antoni Julian Nowowiejski, ordinary of Płock, and Stanisław Gall, suffragan of the archdio-

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., p. 315-316.

<sup>55</sup> Ks. R. J. (Romuald Jałbrzykowski), 'Butkiewicz Bonawentura', p. 233-234.

<sup>56</sup> Rr., 'Wierzbowski Piotr Paweł', *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. XLI-XLII, Warszawa-Lublin-Łódź, 1915, p. 274-275.

<sup>57</sup> K. R. Prokop, 'Sakry i sukcesja święceń biskupich pasterzy diecezji wigierskiej, sejneńskiej (augustowskiej) oraz łomżyńskiej', p. 320.

cese of Warsaw<sup>58</sup>. With the exception of Bonaventūra Butkevičius, who has been discussed above, all administrators were members of the Sejny cathedral chapter. In 1839, Mikołaj Błocki became prelate archdeacon of the chapter, and held this office when he was appointed administrator. Jakub Choiński was a canon of the chapter from 1839 and did not rise further up the hierarchy. Paweł Andruszkiewicz was a prelate scholast from 1870 and the dean of the chapter from 1872. Paweł Krajewski became a canon of the chapter in 1884, a scholastic prelate in 1892, and from 1893 he was the dean of the chapter. Juozapas Antanavičius became a canon in 1893, a prelate custodian in 1901, and a prelate archdeacon in 1910. Matas Dabrila was just an honorary canon<sup>59</sup>.

Priest J. K. Golaszewski became one of the closest colleagues of Bishop Michał Franciszek Karpowicz of Wigry and was appointed vicar general and an official. On 12 February 1802, Bishop M. P. Karpowicz entrusted him with the administration of the former part of Lusk diocese in the diocese of Wigry. On 29 September 1803, two general consistories of the diocese of Wigry were established, in Waniewo and Vilkaviškis. J. K. Golaszewski became the head of the Waniewo consistory<sup>60</sup>. The preconization of Golaszewski in the consistory of the Apostolic See took place on 26 June 1805. Due to political and military conditions, the newly appointed Bishop Golaszewski had to wait for almost four years for his consecration. The consecration took place on 5 March 1809, in the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Warsaw. The principal consecrator was Ignacy Raczyński, Metropolitan Archbishop of Gniezno and the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Warsaw; his assistants were Tymoteusz Gorzeński, ordinary of Smolensk and the administrator of the diocese of Poznan, and Antonin Malinowski, a former suffragan of the diocese of Samogitia, a Dominican<sup>61</sup>.

Several hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów made their ecclesiastical careers in other dioceses. Bishop Józef Ignacy Rybiński of Kujawy diocese appointed Bishop I. S. Czyżewski as regent of his chancery. On 26 April 1787, he became a canon of the chapter of Włocławek cathedral chapter. He served as a surrogate of the bishop's court, then as auditor and judge-general. He was the dean of Rokitno and later of Wolbórz. After the death of Bishop Rybiński, he administered part of the diocese. In 1809, he became a prelate of the Warsaw cathedral chapter and for ten years was a third-instance prosynodic judge<sup>62</sup>. He was preconized bishop of Seinai on 19 May 1820. His consecration took place on

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., p. 324.

<sup>59</sup> A. Katilius, 'Seinų (Augustavo) vyskupijos aukštieji dvasininkai: katedros kapitulos narių charakteristikos metmenys', *Lietuvių katalikų mokslo akademijos metraštis*, vol. 41, Vilnius 2018, p. 150-154.

<sup>60</sup> A. Romańczuk, W. M. Bartel, 'Golaszewski Jan Klemens', p. 238.

<sup>61</sup> K. R. Prokop, 'Sakry i sukcesja święceń biskupich pasterzy diecezji wigierskiej, sejneńskiej (augustowskiej) oraz łomżyńskiej', p. 311-312.

<sup>62</sup> W. Kłapkowski, 'Czyżewski Ignacy Stanisław', *Polski słownik biograficzny*, vol. IV, Kraków, 1938, p. 381.

6 August 1820, in the Church of St Joseph of the Visitationists in Warsaw. The principal consecrator was Bishop Ordinary A. M. Prażmowski of Płock; he was assisted by Bishop Feliks Łukasz Lewiński of Podlasie and Włocławek suffragan bishop Józef Marceлин Dzieścielski of Włocławek<sup>63</sup>. Bishop Mikołaj Jan Manugiewicz became a canon of the Warsaw cathedral chapter on 7 September 1809 and a canon of Gniezno cathedral in 1815. From 1815 he permanently resided in Warsaw. In 1816, he became a canon of the collegiate church in Lowicz and a prelate of the Warsaw cathedral chapter. Pope Pius VII appointed Manugiewicz suffragan bishop of the Archdiocese of Warsaw on 13 July 1822. The consecration took place on 10 November 1822, in the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw. He was consecrated by Metropolitan Szczepan Hołowczyc, Archbishop of Warsaw, who was assisted by Bishop Ordinary Jan Paweł Woronicz of Kraków and Archbishop Józef Koźmian of Lublin<sup>64</sup>. Manugiewicz became bishop ordinary of Sejny late in 1825. In 1810, Bishop Paweł Straszynski received the title of an honorary canon of the Lublin diocesan cathedral. In 1822, he was conferred the title of the gremial canon of the Lublin diocesan cathedral. In 1823, canon Straszynski followed Bishop Skarszewski to the archdiocese of Warsaw and in 1826 became the canon of the Warsaw chapter<sup>65</sup>. In 1832, he became a clerk for the governmental commission for internal and ecclesiastical affairs, where he sat until 1836. On 16 October 1833, the cathedral chapter of the archdiocese of Warsaw elected him administrator of this archdiocese. Paweł Straszynski's consecration as bishop of Sejny took place on 8 January 1837, at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Warsaw. The principal consecrator was Bishop Franciszek Pawłowski of Płock, assisted by the suffragan Mateusz Maurycy Wojakowski of Lublin diocese and the suffragan Konstanty Wincenty Plejewski of the diocese of Płock<sup>66</sup>. Bishop Antanas Baranauskas worked as a professor at the Roman Catholic Spiritual Academy in St. Petersburg and at the Seminary of the Diocese of Samogitia (Telšiai) in Kaunas. In the latter, he served as an inspector. In 1879, he became a canon of the cathedral chapter of Samogitian (Telšiai) diocese, and in 1883 he was appointed a prelate scholast of the same chapter. In 1884, Pope Leo XIII appointed Baranauskas suffragan of the diocese of Samogitia (Telšiai)<sup>67</sup>. Bishop Baranauskas was consecrated on 6 July 1884, in the Church of St Catherine of Alexandria in St. Petersburg. The principal consecrator was Bishop Szymon Marcin Kozłowski of Lutsk-Zhytomyr; he was assisted by two suffragans, Cyril Lubowidzki of the diocese of Lutsk-Zhytomyr and Anton Jan Zerr of the diocese of Tiraspol. Baranauskas was ap-

<sup>63</sup> K. R. Prokop, 'Sakry i sukcesja święceń biskupich pasterzy diecezji wigierskiej, sejneńskiej (augustowskiej) oraz łomżyńskiej', p. 314.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., p. 315.

<sup>65</sup> X. R. J. (Romuald Jałbrzykowski), 'Straszynski Paweł', p. 156.

<sup>66</sup> K. R. Prokop, 'Sakry i sukcesja święceń biskupich pasterzy diecezji wigierskiej, sejneńskiej (augustowskiej) oraz łomżyńskiej', p. 317.

<sup>67</sup> X. F. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Baranowski Antoni', p. 103.

pointed bishop ordinary of Sejny in 1897<sup>68</sup>. Antanas Karosas, the last bishop of Sejny, ascended the hierarchical ladder in the diocese of Samogitia (Telšiai). After graduation from the academy, he was appointed professor at the Seminary of the Diocese of Samogitia (Telšiai) in Kaunas, and secretary to Bishop Mečislovas Leonardas Paliulionis in 1885. He became a canon of the Kaunas cathedral chapter in 1896, and the rector of the seminary in 1900<sup>69</sup>. On 8 November 1906, Antanas Karosas was appointed suffragan of the diocese of Lutsk-Zhytomyr. He was consecrated on 16 June 1907, in the Church of St Catherine of Alexandria in St. Petersburg. Mečislovas Leonardas Paliulionis, bishop ordinary of the Diocese of Samogitia (Telšiai), was the principal consecrator; he was assisted by Karol Antoni Niedziałkowski, the bishop of Lutsk and Zhytomyr, and Gasparas Feliksas Cirtautas, suffragan bishop of the Diocese of Samogitia (Telšiai)<sup>70</sup>. Bishop Karosas became the ordinary of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów in 1910.

Konstanty Ireneusz Łubieński and Juozas Oleka did not hold any hierarchical rank before becoming bishops, that is, they did not serve as canons or prelates in any cathedral chapter. Łubieński did pastoral work in St. Petersburg, Tallinn, and elsewhere. He was one of the hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów who was exiled before becoming a bishop. He was the only one among the bishops and administrators of Sejny to be exiled to the depths of Russia; he died on his way to the place of exile. Due to the 1863 uprising, Łubieński's appointment as bishop of Sejny caused problems with his consecration. He was consecrated not in Warsaw or Sejny, but in the cathedral of Podlasie in Janów Podlaski, on 20 December 1863. Łubieński's principal consecrator was the local ordinary Benjamin Piotr Szymański, who was assisted by two suffragans, Józef Twarowski of Podlasie diocese and Henryk Ludwik Plater of the Archdiocese of Łowicz<sup>71</sup>. After completing his higher theological studies, Juozas Oleka did not return to the diocese of Sejny or Augustów, but remained in the Archdiocese of Warsaw where he was appointed prefect of the Institute for the Deaf and Mute in Warsaw and worked there for eighteen years. Later he served as prefect of a gymnasium, was a dean in Radzymin near Warsaw, and worked as a prefect of a teacher training school there. From 1862, he was

a dean of two parishes in Warsaw<sup>72</sup>. Suffragan bishop Juozas Oleka was consecrated on 27 October 1883 in the Church of St Catherine of Alexandria in St. Petersburg. He was consecrated by Bishop Kazimierz Wnorowski of Lublin,

<sup>68</sup> K. R. Prokop, 'Sakry i sukcesja święceń biskupich pasterzy diecezji wigierskiej, sejneńskiej (augustowskiej) oraz łomżyńskiej', p. 322.

<sup>69</sup> J. V., 'Karosas Antanas', *Lietuvių enciklopedija*, vol. 11, Boston 1957, p. 81.

<sup>70</sup> K. R. Prokop, 'Sakry i sukcesja święceń biskupich pasterzy diecezji wigierskiej, sejneńskiej (augustowskiej) oraz łomżyńskiej', p. 323.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 319.

<sup>72</sup> X. F. A. (Pranciškus Augustaitis), 'Hollak Józef', p. 332.

and his assistants were Bishop Karol Hryniewiecki of Vilnius and Bishop Szymon Marcin Kozłowski of Lutsk-Zhytomyr. Juozas Oleka was a titular bishop of Arathia<sup>73</sup>.

In summary, four bishops and all seven administrators were members of the Seinai cathedral chapter. Five bishops had ecclesiastical careers in other dioceses before becoming ordinaries of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów, three of whom were suffragan bishops of other dioceses, and one was the administrator of the Archdiocese of Warsaw. One hierarch was appointed bishop while the diocese of Wigry still existed. Two of the bishops had not risen through the hierarchy, that is, they were not members of a cathedral chapter before becoming bishops of Sejny.

### Age

Age is important in terms of the ability of the hierarchs to carry out the duties entrusted to them. That is why we will take a look at the ages at which the clergymen became diocesan ordinaries, suffragans, and administrators.

Of the bishop ordinaries and suffragan bishops, the oldest to become a bishop was Juozas Oleka, who was 71 years old at the time of his consecration. M. J. Manugiewicz was appointed ordinary of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów at the age of 71, but he became a suffragan of the archdiocese of Warsaw at the age of 68. At the age of 38, K. I. Łubieński was the youngest of the bishops. At the time of his consecration, Romuald Jałbrzykowski was not much older at 42 years of age. Antanas Baranauskas became suffragan of the diocese of Samogitia (Telšiai) at the age of 49 and the ordinary of Seinai at the age of 60. Antanas Karosas was appointed suffragan of Lutsk-Zhytomyr at the age of 50 and became ordinary of Sejny at the age of 54. The ages of the other bishops ranged between 52 and 68 years. As we can see, most of the bishops of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów were over 50 when they became hierarchs. This is the age of maturity, of course.

Speaking of the administrators, two priests, Krajewski and Dabrila, took office at the age of 69 and were the oldest among the administrators. Antanavičius was the youngest: he took office at the age of 49. Butkevičius was 56 years old when he was first elected diocesan administrator, Choiński was 57, Błocki was 61 years old, and P. Andruszkiewicz was 63.

### Conclusions

Nineteen hierarchs, that is, bishop ordinaries, suffragans and administrators, were in office during the entire existence of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów. In terms of social origin, there were nine or ten boyars, five peasants, probably one urban resident, one of the craftspeople, and two of uncertain so-

<sup>73</sup> K. R. Prokop, 'Sakry i sukcesja święceń biskupich pasterzy diecezji wigierskiej, sejneńskiej (augustowskiej) oraz łomżyńskiej', p. 321.

cial origin. Geographically, more than a half – ten out of nineteen – of the hierarchs came from other dioceses. Nine hierarchs were born in the diocese of Sejny or Augustów. In terms of ethnic origin, we see one Armenian, one Jew, and five or six clergymen of Lithuanian origin (there are doubts regarding Bonaventūra Butkevičius). Other clergymen were of Polish origin. Theological education of most of the hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów was limited to graduation from a seminary; that applies to ten of them. Others studied at higher education institutions for a longer or shorter time and five of them had doctoral degrees (including two honorary doctorates). Of the nineteen hierarchs, four bishops and all seven administrators were members of the Sejny cathedral chapter. Five bishops had ecclesiastical careers in other dioceses before becoming ordinaries in the diocese of Sejny or Augustów, three of whom were suffragan bishops of other dioceses and one was the administrator of the Archdiocese of Warsaw. One hierarch was appointed bishop while the diocese of Wigry still existed. Two of the bishops had not risen through the hierarchy, that is, they were not members of a cathedral chapter, before becoming bishops of Sejny. Most of the hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów were of the mature age of over 50 years.

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## **Hierarchs of the Diocese of Sejny or Augustów: Aspects of the Collective Biography of Bishops and Administrators**

### **Summary**

The article focuses on the nineteen ordinaries, suffragan bishops, and administrators of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów who governed the diocese throughout its existence. In terms of social origin, nine or ten of them came from the nobility and five from peasants; one was probably an urban resident, one of the craftspeople, and two of uncertain social origin. Geographically, ten hierarchs came from other dioceses. Nine hierarchs were born in the diocese of Sejny or Augustów. In terms of ethnic origin, we see one Armenian, one Jew, and five or six clergymen of Lithuanian origin (there are doubts regarding Bonaventūra Butkevičius). Other clergymen were Poles. Theological education of most of the hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów was limited to graduation from a seminary. This applies to ten of them. Others studied at higher education institutions for a longer or shorter time and five of them had doctoral degrees (including two with honorary doctorates). Of the nineteen hierarchs, four bishops and all seven administrators were members of the Sejny cathedral chapter. Five bishops had ecclesiastical careers in other dioceses before becoming ordinaries of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów, three of whom were suf-

fragan bishops of other dioceses, and one was the administrator of the Archdiocese of Warsaw. One hierarch was appointed bishop while the diocese of Wigry still existed. Two of the bishops had not risen through the hierarchy, that is, they were not members of a cathedral chapter before becoming bishops of Sejny. Most of the hierarchs of the diocese of Sejny or Augustów were of the mature age of over 50 years.

**Keywords:** diocese of Sejny or Augustów, bishop, diocesan administrator, social origin.

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