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The history of Wyszków in the interwar period 1918-1939

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II. Religious life. Jewish religious community

In 1921, the population of Wyszkow consisted of 52.1% Catholic (4,653 people), and 48.6% of followers of the Mozaistycznej (Jewish) religion (4412 persons). They attended one of 14 evangelical and 5 Orthodox Churches. Ten years later, Wyszkowski deanery (consisting of nine parishes: Barcice, Brańszczyk, Długosiodło, Lubiel, Popowo, Poreba, Porządzie, Will Mystkowska and Wyszków, who in his organization has not changed since tsarist times and World War I), had a population of 45,146 people, including Catholics, 36,540; 7,739 followers of Judaism, 754 Protestants, 100 guests and 10 Orthodox bezwyznaniowych. Protesters in masses commuted to evangelical churches of Humanities and Fern Large Ostrow in the county, and the Orthodox church in Warsaw.

In the years 1915-1935, the parish priest, Fr. Can. Victor (photograph), a participant and witness to the events taking place at the parsonage in August 1920, enjoyed a remarkable respect among his parishioners, and was known from work for the church. After World War I and the Bolshevik war engaged in removing the related damage in the temple. Thanks to his efforts and organization of the shares to return Wyszkow church bells, "Benedict" (1717), "James" (1724) and "John" (1796), exported by Tsarist troops. April 6, 1924 were held in celebration of their recovery, the crowds who came Wyszkowian. The faithful attended in the same numbers other events associated with rites - i.e.,took part in the annual pilgrimages to Czestochowa, the celebration of Easter, Christmas, Corpus Christi, Christmas.

The funeral of Fr. Mieczkowski on 23 March 1935 (after his death on March 13, 1935) became a great manifestation of patriotic Wyszkowian. Attended by 30 priests, the funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr. Monsignor Figielski. In funeral speeches (that he gave a day earlier, after a body from the rectory to the church funeral oration preached by the pastor of Brańszczyk Wacławskiego), priest Mieczkowski raised patriotism and his courage in 1920. He was buried, in accordance with his will in the city cemetery, next to the graves of Polish soldiers who fell in the Polish-Bolshevik War of 1920.

Due to the progressive serious illness, Fr. Mieczkowski, from 21 August 1933, the parish administrator, Fr. Goszczycki Leon, who after the death of Fr. Mieczkowski, in late March 1935, became dean and parish priest.

The Catholic Church were very actively involved in public schools and a gymnasium. Youths were required to attend on Sundays and holidays in the masses of the saints, the three-day Lenten retreat and at least three times a year in the confessions. Every week, two hours of religion for every class were held. Over the moral education of students watched the priests Prefects: k. Joseph Jakubowski (1918-1922), Fr. Mioduszewski Lucjan (1922-1932), Fr. Dr. Boleslaw Dudzinski (1931-1937) and Fr. Przybylowski Stanislaw (1937-1939). The priest also was the guardian Mioduszewski, so moderator Society of Mary, who worked among high school students and promoted the cult of the Virgin Mary, encouraged all to deepen their knowledge and religious feelings, making social work, charity work. The school also organized days of youth patron - St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, which was celebrated with great solemnity.

The city acted rapidly, the tertiary, who arrived here after World War I - the group of brothers and sisters of the Order of St. III. Francis led the Living Rosary Rings, focusing on the 15 members who are committed to the daily recitation of the Rosary one of dozens. In St.Giles worked 115 such circles. An important organization in the whole the deanery Wyszkowskim has also been established here in the thirties of Catholic Action, which included much of the intelligence Wyszkowski, mostly related to the National Democracy. In Congress on January 11, 1933 which coincided with the course for members of the 200 people participated, which indicates its immense popularity. The last day of the congress elected Board Action - the president, Jan Wołowski , was a resident of Wyszkow.

For larger events related to religious life in the interwar period, Wyszkow also chose an annual celebration of Pope Pius XI, the existence of the largest celebrations anniversaries Wyszkowski plant - glass factory, an official visit to the town church dignitaries: the Ordinary of the Diocese of Plock, Fr. Bishop Anthony Julian Nowowiejski (17-20 August 1925 on the fifth anniversary of the Bolshevik resist) or a suffragan of Plock, Fr. Bishop Leo Wetmańskiego (12-14 August 1933).

An equally vibrant Jewish Wyszkowian (among Jewish religious work) was responsible for the education of children and young people in a religious spirit, and the rabbis had to maintain buildings and facilities associated with the ritual, cemeteries, the supervision of the assets of the municipalities and foundations, providing kosher meat to the faithful, and giving. Since the municipal authorities also depend on social policy, hence the clear conclusion as to why some political parties depend on the interest of municipalities, which quickly became the scene of the struggle for political power (e.g., after the municipality decided to entrust repairs to whom the temple or from whom to buy flour for mace). The municipality remained from direct taxes (premiums) and indirect (ritual slaughter fees for burial plots, check the child, etc.), as well as the proceeds of real estate and foundation. Direct supervision of the Jewish community was held by the Pułtuski governor who approved of the rabbis, podrabinów, the board of the municipality and the budget. In the documents of the County of visitation of 12 March 1931 was the information: "a satisfactory sanitary condition of the walls except the front of the synagogue, which blurred the different numbers for the elections to the Sejm and the City Council, which adversely affects the aesthetics of the city. Religious schools are fairly strictly maintained. Shelter for the poor requires major repair, or else were deleted. Perfectly arranged for the slaughter of poultry, the slaughterhouse of other municipalities can serve as a model. "

Elections to the municipal authorities were universal, equal, secret, direct and proportional. Active Election Law were men aged 25 years, passive - men aged 30 years, Jewish Polish citizens who have at least one-year residency of the precinct of the commune. Women were deprived of electoral rights. Also discriminated against were members of leftist political parties, mainly due to their too young age. In Wyszkow, in the twenties, the advantage that the Jewish Orthodox Aguda had, in the thirties, in turn, were the Zionists. Before the outbreak of World War II on the board of the Jewish community sat Wyszkowski: President Yitzhak Epstein, Vice President Enoch Kaluga, Second Vice President Mordechai Olenberg, secretary Moshe Abramczyk.

Wyszkowska Jewish community, in accordance with existing tasks, watched the raising of children and young people in a religious spirit. And, if not conducted in heder (Jewish children-attended public schools), it was a religious high school, yes. To the facility known as "Beit Yosef", headed in the first years of the Second Republic was Abraham Citrine, and in the years 1925-1930 Hasid from Radzyn Podlaski Arych Jacob Morgenstern, it was about 250 students. The religious school for girls, "Beit Yaakov," founded in 1927, was led by sisters Cyrla and Chasada Rosenberg, activists associated with the Aguda. They arranged on January 2, 1930, a "Hanukkah" celebration in Wyszkow which was attended by over 200 women.

In Wyszkow, as in every city district in Pułtusk, Federation Jewish Schools functioned, which were engaged in acquiring funds to conduct the schools. feeding students from the poorest families and caring for the property of the learning process. The city had also an educational establishment, "Talmud Torah", in which poor children were taught at the age of 5-13 years old (the youngest were sent to a nursery unit.) It also comes in such food and clothing. For the facility Wyszkowski, according to data from the Chronicle of Jewish Communities and the district Pułtusk Maków, 120 children attended.

All of these establishments, in addition to general subjects, were in their curricula Judaic items, mainly the Jewish history and Hebrew.

In 1934, the Jewish community suffered a huge loss. January 26, after leaving for the night burning candles, the ceiling burned, followed by the roof of the synagogue, located at the intersection of Kosciuszko and Narrow. Four-hour rescue operation carried out by the fire brigade unit wyszkowską ended up losing the elements - financial losses estimated at 10 thousand. zł.