

## **Ecclesiastical Province and the Metropolitan in Life of the Post-conciliar Church in Poland**

### Summary

The ecclesiastical provinces are essential as administrative and territorial units of the Church. Dioceses included in ecclesiastical province are able, by common effort, to make law and set up pastoral practice.

The precursor of such ideas after Vatican II was the metropolitan of Krakow cardinal Karol Wojtyła. In his ecclesiastical province, he created an atmosphere of mutual cooperation between bishops and was first to summon a provincial council in Poland.

He also, as a pope, in place of five ecclesiastical provinces has set up as many as fifteen. During Plenary Council II (1991-1998), the ecclesiastical provinces were to prepare the final version of the documents. In spite of difficulties they accomplished their tasks. So far only the metropolitan of Szczecin-Kamieński announced in June 2009 a metropolitan council. Other ecclesiastical provinces do not show any interest in making use of their pastoral and legislative possibilities.