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INTRODUCTION	2
SANCTUARY IN ŚWIĘTA LIPKA	3
THE SANCTUARY OF STOCZEK KLASZTORNY	4
THE CONCATHEDRAL IN OLSZTYN	5
THE FROMBORK CATHEDRAL	6
THE SANCTUARY OF GIETRZWAŁD	7

INTRODUCTION



Chwałęcín -arch. WMROT

Warmia is a historical land situated in the present-day province of Warmia and Masuria. For centuries, it was known as Holy Warmia, because the church (bishop and chapter) ruled here. From the 15th to the 18th century, Warmia belonged to Poland and was Catholic. The churches established there were "mostly always" Catholic. The shrine in Święta Lipka was built in Masuria, about 200 m from the border with Warmia. The cult of the Virgin Mary has developed there, but the beautiful church could not be built until the beginning of the 17th century, when freedom of worship for Catholics was introduced in the evangelical Masuria. Sanctuaries were often established in places where worship had previously developed. The cathedral of the Warmia archdiocese has been in the basilica in Frombork. The church in Olsztyn is a co-cathedral, as the bishop lives in Olsztyn and Olsztyn is the largest city in the region.

SANCTUARY IN ŚWIĘTA LIPKA



fot. Robert Wróbel

Święta Lipka has been located in Masuria, although only a few hundred metres from the border of historic Warmia. It is home to Poland's famous Marian shrine. The church in Święta Lipka is one of the most beautiful monuments of Jesuit Baroque architecture, sculpture and painting in the north-eastern Poland. The interior of the church is very spacious. The impression is heightened by the illusionistic, allegorical painting decoration of the walls and vaults. The attraction of the building is the magnificent organ from 1719 - 1721 with 40 voices. The organ is the work of Jan Josu Mosengel of Königsberg. There are moving figures in the organ front that are set in motion when the instrument is played. Organ concerts in the summer attract thousands of tourists and pilgrims.

www.swlipka.pl

THE SANCTUARY OF STOCZEK KLASZTORNY



fot. Robert Wróbel

Stoczek Klasztorny is home to a pilgrimage sanctuary - the Basilica of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The creation of the sanctuary in its present form is linked to the political situation of Poland in the 17th century. At the time, Poland was plagued by wars with Russia, Turkey and Sweden. Then Warmia suffered heavily from the Swedes. In 1635, bishop Mikołaj Szyszkowski vowed to build a church in Stoczek if Warmia was freed from the Swedes. When the Swedes retreated, a rotunda-shaped temple was erected here between 1639 and 1641.

After the annexation of Austria to Germany in 1938, the Nazis imprisoned bishops from Austria in the Stoczek monastery. In turn, the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, was imprisoned in Stoczek Klasztorny between 1953 and 1954. There is a Chamber of Remembrance dedicated to those events. The church's furnishings are late Baroque. The main altar contains an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of Peace from 1643 - a copy of an image from the church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.

www.stoczek.pl

THE CONCATHEDRAL IN OLSZTYN



Fot. Wojciech Krom, arch. The Municipal Office Olsztyn

St James the Elder Church is actually the co-cathedral of the Archdiocese of Warmia. It is a three-nave, hall-shaped, Gothic basilica built in the 14th century. The church tower was completed in the 16th century. The Second World War fortunately bypassed the church, thanks to the then parish priest Jan Hanowski, who managed to obtain an order from the Soviet wartime commander of the city, prohibiting soldiers from destroying and burning Olsztyn churches. This event is commemorated by a plaque. There are two instruments in the church; a small organ dating from around 1807 and a main organ built in 2008 in reference to the previous instrument. The Olsztyn Organ Concerts have been held at the Cathedral on summer Sunday evenings for several decades.

www.sanktuariummaryjne.pl/

THE FROMBORK CATHEDRAL



arch. WMROT

The Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Andrew the Apostle is located on Cathedral Hill and was built in the 14th century. The church has several annexes, including two chapels: St George's (known as the Polish Chapel) - built around 1500, and the Saviour's Chapel (known as the Szembek Chapel) - a Baroque chapel from 1735. The Cathedral of Warmia is a Gothic, hall-like, three-nave building with a length of about 97 m, a width of 12 m (chancel) to 22 m (main body) and a height from the floor to the vault keystone of 16.5 m. The interior of the cathedral contains many valuable relics, including a late Gothic polyptych (the main altar until the mid-18th century) founded in 1504 by Bishop Watzenrode, uncle of Nicolaus Copernicus, a 14th century stone portal in the west porch, a fragment of Gothic stall in the presbytery, Gothic tombstones and a 17th century organ prospectus. In 2010, the 'next' funeral of Nicolaus Copernicus took place in Frombork Cathedral. Therefore, this scientist also has a modern epitaph.

www.frombork.art.pl/pl/wzgorze-katedralne/

THE SANCTUARY OF GIETRZWAŁD



arch. IT Gietrzwałd

In 1877 the visitation in Gietrzwałd took place. Our Lady appeared to the two girls 160 times. Then, after these visitations, the Gothic church was extended. The visitations were officially approved as true 100 years later. The main altar contains a venerated 16th century image of the Virgin and the Child. Due to its importance, it is the most frequently visited sanctuary by pilgrims in the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship.

www.sanktuariummaryjne.pl/