

Piotr Dawid Kolpak

The Characteristics of Saint Patrons of the Polish Kingdom in Medieval Latin Europe

The cult of saint patrons of the Polish Kingdom (saints Stanislaus, Adalbert, Florian and Wenceslaus) had crystallized on the Polish lands at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries. Although there are indications that some of these saints were already worshiped as the patrons of the state earlier, it was the activity of late medieval bishops of Kraków (mainly Zbigniew Oleśnicki) that created a specific group of national patrons. Promoted since the beginning of the fourteenth century the idea of four patrons was pointing to Krakow as the capital of the state in opposition to the older centers of Piast's state (Gniezno, Poznań).

The best example of above-mentioned process was the fourth article (*De horis*) of Cracovian diocese synodal statutes (1436) in which liturgical cult of St. Florian have been risen to level of "the remaining venerable saints patrons of this kingdom, namely Adalbert, Stanislaus and Wenceslaus."

In relation to the rest of Christian Europe the process of creating the idea of the group of national patrons has been made in Poland relatively late. Another Polish characteristic is lack of the sacred monarchs in the pantheon of patrons of the state, which was common phenomenon in the rest of Europe.