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Název práce: Beatified Gerhard Hirschfelder – the contribution of a religious figure to the creation of a transnational site of memory

Abstract

The diploma thesis deals with the origin and development of the cult of the German priest Gerhard Hirschfelder. In the 1930s he worked as a popular chaplain and youth pastor, first in the border village of Czermna and then in Bystrzyca Kłodzka. He disagreed with limiting the power of the Roman Catholic Church by national socialists. He paid for his attitude with his life in the Dachau concentration camp. After the end of the war, the original German and Czech population of the area of Kłodzko was expelled and replaced by Polish people. Since the late 1990s, Hirschfelder has been worshiped by all three nations. He was beatified in 2010. The thesis is a case study of a transnational site of memory (*lieu de mémoire*). It examines under what circumstances, thanks to which actors and in what form the cult of the German martyr arose on Polish territory. Based on that information, the thesis tries to deduce what symbolism the figure of the priest currently carries for individual national groups.