

Father Mirosław Grakowicz CSsR

Abstract of the doctoral thesis

Title of work: **Life and activity of Fr. Joseph Schweter CSsR (1874-1954)**

The subject of the doctoral dissertation is the life and activity of Father Joseph Schweter CSsR (1874-1954). The work is an attempt to present at a monographic way the life and activities of a Redemptorist who was born and raised in the Prudnica region. He was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Wrocław, and then joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. Love for God and concern for man was the motive of his apostolic work as a people's missionary, retreat giver, confessor, spiritual director, historian, theologian, and writer. He spent most of his religious life in the Redemptorist monastery in Bardo, serving at the local Sanctuary of Our Lady, Guardian of the Holy Faith. Due to his charitable activity, he was called *homo caritatis* by his contemporaries, and as a writer he was called a *historian of the Silesian Caritas*.

The work consists of four chapters. The first chapter presents childhood and youth of Fr. Schweter, as well as his family environment, his education in a primary school, junior high school, at the University of Wrocław, priestly ordination in Wrocław and service as a vicar in the parish in Żagań. Then the first years of formation in the Redemptorist congregation he joined are described. The second chapter presents his pastoral activity, first as a diocesan priest, and as a Redemptorist. His studies at the University of Vienna, which ended with a doctorate in theology, are also discussed in this chapter. The third chapter is devoted to his activity as a people's missionary and retreat leader. The fourth chapter presents the apostolate of Fr Schweter as a writer. The items published by him in print and those that remained in the typescript are presented. In the form of an annex, extensive quotes from the chronicle of the Redemptorist monastery in Bardo are added to the work, describing the last years of Fr. Schweter's life, his illness, death and funeral, as well as the content of his spiritual testament. Also included is a chronological listing of his apostolic works and a list of his works and articles published and left in typescript.