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SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS

The subject of the thesis:

LIFE AND WORK OF BLESSED SISTER M. ANTONINA KRATOCHWIL (1881-1942) OF THE CONGREGATION OF SCHOOL SISTERS DE NOTRE DAME - TEACHER, EDUCATOR, AND MARTYR OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The subject of this dissertation is the life and activities of Blessed Sister M. Antonina Kratochwil of the Congregation of School Sisters of Notre Dame - teacher, educator, and martyr of the Second World War. This work is an attempt to monograph the life and work of Blessed Sister Antonina, who was born and raised in Cieszyn, Silesia. She entered the Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Wrocław. Still, she came to know this religious community during her childhood in Bielsko, where she attended a school run by this Congregation. After her formation and study to become a teacher, she worked in the Congregation's houses in Karvina, Zaolzie, Lviv, Tłumacz, and Mikulitsyn. During the Second World War, while she was the Superior in Mikulitsyn, she was arrested together with the entire community and imprisoned in Stanislawow prison, where during the interrogations by the Nazis, she experienced brutal torture. She did not complain but prayed for the conversion of her Nazi oppressors. Her stay in prison severely strained her health. Soon after leaving prison, she died in a hospital and was buried in the Stanislawow cemetery. Throughout her life, Sister Antonina was a very tactful person. She was characterized by great kindness, openness, and cordiality toward every person. As a teacher, she used innovative work methods with children and young people.

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter presents Sr. Antonina's family environment and her years of education at the school run by the Congregation of School Sisters of Notre Dame in Bielsko. The second chapter presents her religious formation and preparation for the teaching profession, which she underwent at the Provincial and Formation House in Wrocław. The next - the third chapter - takes a closer look at her educational activities at the Congregation's institutions - in Karvina, Lviv, Tłumacz, and Mikulitsyn. The fourth chapter discusses the background and the circumstances of Blessed Antonina's martyrdom during World War II. Chapter five, on the other hand, takes a closer look at the posthumous veneration and beatification of Sr. M. Antonina Kratochwil. The work also contains an appendix with John Paul II's homily at the Beatification Mass of 108 Polish Martyrs on 13 June 1999 in Warsaw, a litany to Blessed Sr. M. Antonina Kratochwil in Polish and her biography and prayers in Czech, as well as her photographs.

Keywords:

Congregation of School Sisters of Notre Dame, religious education, Sr. Antonia Kratochwil SSND, repression of religious sisters during World War II, 108 martyrs, beatification.