



POLISH DIACONIA – News

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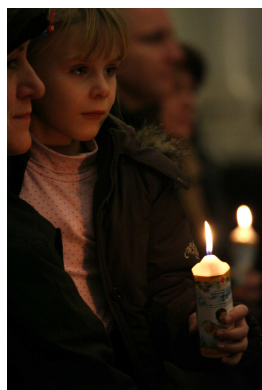
- **15 thousand Christmas candles**

will be distributed by Polish Diaconia this year as a part of the 15th ecumenical charity campaign called Christmas Aid to Children 2009. Money raised in this way will be spent on projects for the benefit of children and young people in difficult social situations. *About 2 thousand children need this form of aid* – said Wanda Falk, CEO of the Polish Diaconia, at a press conference that took place on 26 November 2009 at the office of the Polish Episcopal Conference.

The campaign is conducted jointly by Caritas Poland, Polish Diaconia, the Orthodox Eleos charity organization, and for the first time, by Diaconia of the Polish Reformed Church. Candles are sold at Lutheran, Reformed, Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches.

- **An ecumenical charity concert**

at the Roman Catholic Field Cathedral in Warsaw opened the 15th joint charity campaign Christmas Aid to Children. The concert was given by the Reformed “Zelowskie Dzwonki” (“Handbells of Zelow”), children from the “Ziarno” (“Seed”) Catholic TV show and an Orthodox male choir.



The campaign, which will last through the entire Advent, was launched on 29 November 2009, on the first Sunday in Advent. (photo by J.A. Jelinek)

- **The Lutheran Local Activity Centre** at the Lutheran church in Ustroń became operative. The Centre includes: a computer lab, rooms for cooking and ceramics classes, and a meeting hall. The Centre is open to everyone who cannot fully use different types of services related to work or education, or cannot pursue their hobbies. The Centre was established thanks to the initiative of Polish Diaconia as well as the financial and substantial support of Diakonisches Werk Rheinland, the Hoffnung für Osteuropa campaign and Neunkirchener Erziehungsverein.

- This year Polish Diaconia celebrated the **10th anniversary of its statutory operation**. For this reason on 3 October 2009 a celebratory event was organised at the Lutheran Centre in Warsaw. Ca. 200 guests from partner diaconal organisations participated. The celebrations included a symposium on volunteer work and a panel debate.

- **The Good Samaritan Statuette**

- the main prize of Polish Diaconia this year was awarded to Dr Jerzy Gizło from Poznań. Dr Gizło was appreciated for his long-standing medical commitment and for conducting the diaconal centre in Poznan. The following persons received diplomas: deaconess Janina Kiszka-Bruell from Cieszyn, Waltraut Kołtuniewicz from Wrocław and the Frauenarbeit division within Gustav-Adolf-Werk from Germany. The prizes were awarded during the Ubi Caritas gala. (photo by J.A. Jelinek)



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