

## 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “Eben-Ezer“ Deaconess Motherhouse in Dziegiełow (Poland)

In September 2018 we celebrated the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Eben-Ezer” Deaconess Motherhouse in Dziegiełow.

The motherhouse was founded in 1923 by Pastor Karol Kulisz (Born in Dziegiełow on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1873). After World War I he became known as a preacher, as the leader of the pietist awakening movement, as a social activist and as a patriarch. Even as a vicar in Ligotka Kameralna (today in the Czech Republic) the “Betesda” Senior and Nursing Home.

Most of all he was very observant and his heart was sensitive to the misery which appeared in the aftermath of the war. Pastor Kulisz founded the “Eben-Ezer” Charity Work for the abandoned and homeless children as well as for the disabled and the unemployed.

This is what we would like to emphasize in a very special way today when Poland celebrates the centennial of its independence. His greatest wish was to be able to build and to work in a free country. He never asked about confession or ethnicity; he was only interested in the person’s needs. At the time that the charity was founded, his helpers were women committed in the community, as well as young girls who were then formed to be deaconesses. The beginning was very difficult. There was absolutely no support except one’s faith.

With time, the number of deaconesses increased and they took up new tasks as hospital nurses and chaplains in the hospitals of Cieszyn and Bystra, as well as in kindergartens and parishes.

We started our 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> with the concert of a chamber orchestra and the ECHO choir from the Czech Republic. This was a good



introduction for the main celebration which took place on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. For work-related reasons, it was impossible for the Voivodeship Council to participate in the celebrations on Sunday; therefore, their words of greeting were presented on Saturday during the concert. At 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, the main Divine Service began with a solemn procession of sisters, pastors and bishops. The service was presided over by Reverend Marek Londzin (Director) accompanied by Reverend Emil Gajdacz (Superior Emeritus) and Reverend Tymoteusz Bujok. The very moving sermon was delivered by Bishop Adrian Korczago of the Diocese of Cieszyn who is also President of the Deaconess House’s Board of Trustees.

The Divine Service was attended by many staff members of “Emmaus” senior citizen’s home and by residents in wheelchairs. The residents, together with the staff, also

presented a play about the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Eben-Ezer”. It touched the sisters and everyone present very deeply.

The motherhouse received numerous greetings on the occasion. Bishop Ryszard Bogusz (President of Diakonie Poland) spoke on behalf of his organization. Mayor Krzysztof thanked the sisters and all the staff for their service and prayers and wished God’s blessing upon the whole work. Sylwia Cieslar, Vice-President of the Silesian Provincial Parliament, handed the “Eben-Ezer” Motherhouse the gold medal of merit of the Voivodeship of Silesia.

The same gold medal of merit was also awarded individually to Sr. Ewa Cieslar (Superior) and Sr. Lidia Gottschalk (Superior Emerita).

The music was provided by the church choir conducted by Jean Claude Hauptmann.

After the Divine Service, the participants were invited to an open-air lunch near the church. In the afternoon, while having coffee and cakes on a sunny and very warm day, there was time for many good conversations and sharing of memories.

Superior Sr. Ewa Cieslar and Director Reverend Marek Londzin would like to thank, on “Eben-Ezer”’s behalf all those who sent or gave us their greetings and prayers.

The greatest joy in this jubilee event was the presence of our home residents with those who care for them. It was the first time that such a thing was possible in this way. Praise to God. May He repay all those present with his blessing!

Reverend Marek Londzin  
Director

