

The parish is proud of its educational, cultural and charity activity. During the interwar years the parish led a seven-grade primary school, printing and editorial-office for *Mariavite* publications, orphanage as well as a soup-kitchen for the poor. Mariavites had here all the necessary prerequisites of modern living including soda-water factory and counterpane workshop. Mariavite kindergarten existed until the 1970s. Nowadays the parish still takes an active part in city's life. It organizes religious education classes for children and youth. Local mariavite orchestra, apart from its parochial duties, participates in various social events like the annual charity action Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy (The Great Orchestra of Christmas Help).

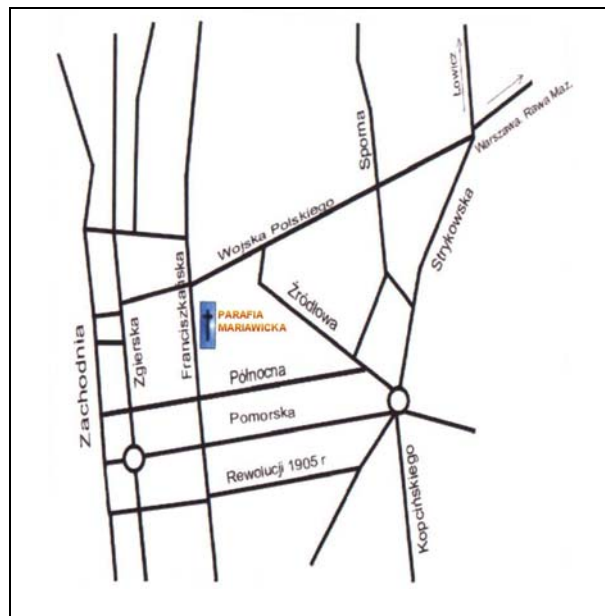
Every year in the Mariavite Parish of Łódź Ecumenical and Biblical Services take place. The Mariavites also participate in Ecumenical Way of the Cross.



In 2001 the Mariavite Intelligensia Forum for Discussion (Forum Dyskusyjne Inteligencji Mariawickiej; FDIM) was established. It assembles academic students and graduates. The organization aims to propagate objective knowledge about Mariavitism as well as to consolidate the position of Mariavite Church in media.

(e-mail address: ✉ fdim.lodz@hoga.pl)

On the first day of April, Łódź- the city of many nations, cultures and confessions- celebrates the Day of Tolerance. On this day the Friends of the City of Łódź Association (Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Miasta Łodzi) organizes guided city tours. One of the sites visited is The Old Catholic Mariavite Church where visitors do not only learn some interesting details about the temple at 27 Franciszkańska Street, but also get to know the history of Mariavitism.



Arrival plane

2002

Work out RAJ

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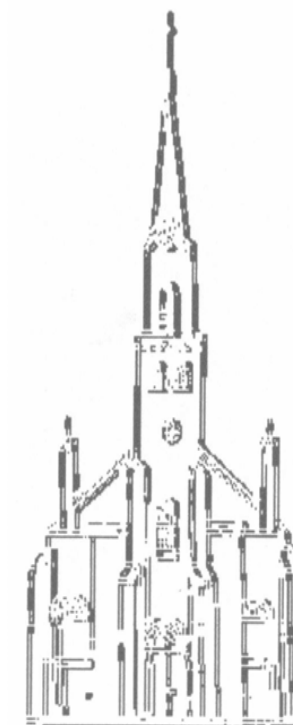
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**THE PARISH OF THE
OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH
OF MARIAVITES IN ŁÓDŹ**



ŁÓDŹ

English

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE OLD CATHOLIC MARIAVITE CHURCH

Mariavitism is a confession of Polish origin. It was established in the frames of the Roman Catholic Church after a vision of Mercy of God received on 2 August 1893 by blessed Maria Franciszka Kozłowska (1862-1921). Worship of the Eucharist and calling for help of Mother Mary are the essential points of this vision. Blessed Maria Franciszka was the founder of Mariavite Sisters' Congregation as well as Mariavite Priests' Congregation. In spite of numerous attempts to legalize their activity, Mariavites failed to gain acceptance of Vatican. Eventually, in 1906, papal excommunication concerning blessed Maria Franciszka and a Mariavite priest M. Michał Jan Kowalski gave raise to the independent church. Name "Mariavite" comes from Latin words "Mariae vitam imitans", which literally mean: "Those who follow Mary's life". During 1909 and 1910 three Mariavite priests become consecrated by Old Catholic bishops from the Netherlands. One of the newly consecrated bishops was M. Andrzej Leon Gołębiewski, the first bishop of diocese of Łódź and Silesia.

The only Mariavite Cathedral was built in 1914 in Płock and it was called a Temple of Mercy and Love. Together with nearby cloister it became a spiritual and administrative centre of the Old Catholic Mariavite Church.

The doctrine of the Church draws from Canonic Books of the Old and New Testament, Tradition and dogmas constituted during first seven Ecumenical Councils of the Church. The main vocation of the Mariavite Church is to propagate the worship of Lord Jesus Hidden in Holy Sacrament and to show the need of calling for instant help of Our Lady.

Mariavites recognize seven Holy Sacraments, aural confession is obligatory for children and youth under 18. Since 1922 Holy Communion is dispensed

The Parish of St. Francis of Assisi is the oldest Mariavite church and, at the same time, one of the first churches of the city. It dates back to the beginning of the 20th century. Located in the historic part of Łódź, Bałuty, it is one of its landmarks. This three-aisled church was built in neogothic style. The steeple was added to the main body of the building some time later. It is the only Mariavite temple in Łódź. However, in 22 Maria Skłodowska Street you can visit another church which belonged to our community till 1930s.

Spacious inside with one altar placed at the end of the main nave is a characteristic feature of every mariavite temple. Over the altar you can see a confession supported by four pillars. Pneumatic organ, built in 1960, is situated in the rear part of the church above the main entrance.



At the beginning of the 1990s the building underwent a thorough renovation, outside the temple granite pavement was laid. In 1999 the outer fencing was changed, the elevation of the building was renovated one year later.

in form of bread and wine. In 1907 mariavites started to use Polish language in their liturgy. Mariavite priests are not required to be celibate. Mariavites, like other Christians independent from the Roman Catholic Church, do not accept the pope as the ultimate authority.

At present there are more than 24,000 mariavites in Poland. The mariavite congregation in Paris counts 5000 people.

The Church was one of the founders of the Polish Ecumenical Council (Polska Rada Ekumeniczna; PRE) and still is its active member. Moreover, the Old Catholic Mariavite Church belongs to World Council of Churches with its quarters in Geneva and European Conference of Churches.

The Parish of Łódź has been since 1910 the seat of diocesan bishop.

SERVICES

- ▶ Sunday – Msza św. – at 8⁰⁰ i 11⁰⁰ a.m.
- ▶ Thursday, Saturday – Msza św. – 8⁰⁰ a.m.

Monthly adoration is celebrated on the first day of every month at 6.00 pm (during the winter season at 5.00 pm).

- ▶ During the Lent

Friday : Way of the Cross 3.00 p.m.
Sunday: Lenten Psalms right
after the service at 11.00 a.m

- ▶ May Service - every day of May 5.00 p.m.
- ▶ The Rosary - every day of October 5.00 p.m.

Every Sunday at 6.30 Radio Łódź (99,2 MHz FM) broadcasts programmes prepared by Churches of Polish Ecumenical Council. There are also broadcasts on life of Mariavite Church as a part of ecumenical documental series on channel 2. of Polish Television.