

FILIP PAŃCZYK

Considering the admissibility of the office of village administrator being held by a Catholic priest

This article is an analysis of legal admissibility of the office of village administrator being performed by a Catholic priest. Despite the fact that this topic has already been a subject of doctrinal interest, this study distinguishes itself from other studies because it is based on a case occurring in reality. This concerns the election of Archbishop Sławoj Leszek Głódź as the village administrator of Piaski. The discussion is conducted from three perspectives – universally binding law, the Concordat itself, and Canon Law. A comparative legal perspective is provided by citing the relevant regulations existing in chosen countries. The regulations referring to the status of a village administrator in Polish legal order are also presented. The analysis allows the conclusion that in spite of the fact that universally binding Polish law and the Concordat itself both strongly emphasize the principle of autonomy and mutual independence of the state and churches and other religious unions, they do not provide for a ban on priests taking over public offices. This case is differently regulated by the Code of Canon Law which *expressis verbis* prohibits priests from holding offices connected with exercising public authority, including that of village administrator, thus ruling out the possibility of a Catholic priest performing the office of village administrator.

Keywords: admissibility of performing public offices by priests – village administrator – Code of Canon Law – principle of autonomy and the mutual independence of state and churches and other religious unions – performing of public authority