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Ruch pielgrzymkowy do sanktuarium na Świętym Krzyżu w Górach Świętokrzyskich

Pilgrimage activity to the Święty Krzyż (Saint Cross) sanctuary in Świętokrzyskie Mountains

Abstract

Visiting holy spots date back to the pagans' times around Poland. The tradition to make pilgrimages by Christians is a thousand years long and dates back to the pilgrimage made to the tomb of Saint Wojciech in Gniezno, by the Caesar Otto III, in the year 1 000. Contemporary pilgrimage activity is tied to religious motives, to places, which people recognize as holy, where people recognized as holy lived, or where holy relicts are deposited.

One of such places is Święty Krzyż, located on Łysiec Mountain in Świętokrzyskie Mountains, where in the past was an important center of pagans' cults. For the last 1 000 years Christians have been using the same place to worship God. It is now one of the most important places in the Świętokrzyski Region, frequented by tourists and pilgrims from all over Poland. The significance of this historical object is greater for the reason of deposited there relicts of the Holy Cross Tree, which caused this place to become the sanctuary of Our Lord's Jesus Suffering.

The information in the article contains data pertaining to the intensity of pilgrimage activity during recent years, with a particular attention paid to the period of 1999-2005. The history of pilgrims' activity in the year 2005 has been analyzed in detail.