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The unique medieval church in Wiślica

Almost all Polish kings prayed before the smiling Virgin Mary. The collegiate in Wiślica is one of the best preserved medieval churches, with unique relics of the past.

The church had been built between 1350 and 1380 and, later on, it was elevated to the rank of a collegiate. In the 15th C., a sacristy and a treasury were added to it. Unfortunately, the temple suffered greatly in the struggles of the Swedish deluge and later, during WWI. Its roofing, ceiling, polychromes and bell-tower were severely damaged then. Thus, when the war ended, the temple has been partly rebuilt, but due to that its bell-tower and front side of the collegiate were pulled down. Nowadays, in the underground there are some remains of the former church, e.g. the, so called, orant stone from the 17th C. The most valuable pieces in the Wiślica sanctuary are: a 14th-century tabernacle, frescos depicting the scenes from

the life of the Virgin Mary and a figure of the Łokietkowa Madonna, known also as the Smiling Mother of God. The figure has been a source of worship for ages. It was crowned in 1966 by the Primate of Poland, cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, in the presence of 40 thousand of worshippers and church officials, among whom there was also the later pope Karol Wojtyła.

The figure of Łokietkowa Madonna draws thousands of pilgrims every year. Wiślica is a point, where a walking pilgrimage to Częstochowa starts and a stopping place for the faithful going to the Jasna Góra from other Polish cities.