SUMMARY

The Koszalin-Kołobrzeg diocese was erected on June 28 1972 with the Bull *Episcoporum Poloniae coetus* of Pope Saint Paul VI. It happened as a result of a long process of establishing a permanent church organization in the Western and Northern Territories of Poland after the World War II. The first bishop of Koszalin-Kołobrzeg was Ignacy Jeż, the former suffragan of Gorzów. After taking office his most important task was to create structures that would allow the proper functioning of the new diocese.

Firstly, Bishop Jeż undertook a number of legal actions and acts aimed at establishing the most important diocesan institutions and determining the manner of their operation. He created the central organ in the diocese, which is the bishop's curia and its individual officials. He established consultative bodies, i.e. a diocesan consultation, a college of consultors, a presbyteral council and contributed to the erection of two chapters: the cathedral in Koszalin and the collegiate one in Kołobrzeg. Establishing bishop's Tribunal in Koszalin he also made it possible for the faithful of his diocese to conduct proceedings for annulment of marriage in their own tribunal.

Secondly, Bishop Ignatius developed the territorial structure of the diocese entrusted to him. He expanded the network of deaneries and parishes, significantly increasing their number. It was not a simple task especially in the face of the reluctant attitude of the state authorities. At the same time, he made personnel decisions in order to fill dean and vice-dean offices. In this way he created a group of his closest associates from the priests serving in the diocese.

By convening and conducting the First Synod of the Koszalin-Kołobrzeg Diocese Bishop Ignatius also brought order to and codificated particular law of the diocese.

Thanks to all these activities, undertaken during twenty years of government in the Koszalin-Kołobrzeg diocese, Bishop Ignacy Jeż gave his diocese appropriate institutional and territorial structures as well as legal foundations for carrying out the saving mission of Jesus Christ in the diocesan Church.