

Where art meets the sacred



SACROEXPO

28th International Exhibition of Church Construction,
Church Fittings and Furnishings and Religious Art

21-23.06.2027



Expo Kielce
exhibition & congress centre





200

exhibitors from 18
countries



+5000

visitors from 20
countries



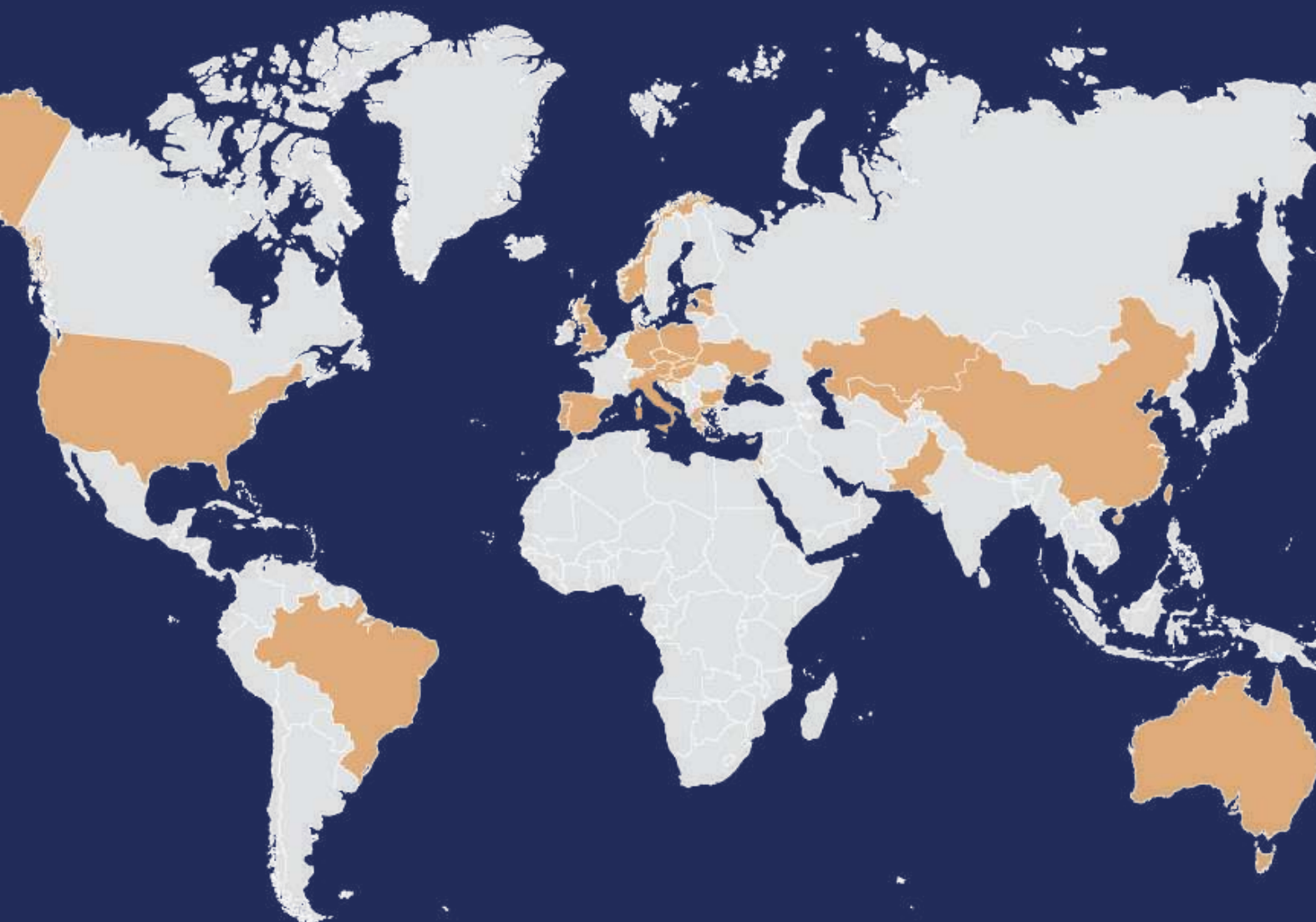
+10

expo-accompanying
events



18 h

of presentations



Trade Fair Partner



Sacroexpo – Where the Spiritual and Religious World Meets

Sacroexpo is an international gathering of people brought together by faith, culture, art and a shared responsibility for heritage. The 27th Expo Kielce expo was a convention of almost 200 companies and institutions from as many as 18 countries. Alongside exhibitors from Poland, Italy, Germany, Austria and Spain, participants came to Kielce from as far afield as the United States and Uzbekistan, as well as Ukraine, Croatia, Greece, Slovenia and Hungary. The international character of the event extended well beyond the products offered by manufacturers and distributors serving parishes. The “Life Is Beautiful” exhibition showcased works by artists from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and Ukraine, while a special exhibition of Uzbek crafts offered visitors an opportunity to discover artists and craftspeople from Uzbekistan. Sacroexpo’s international dimension has another distinctive symbol – the Per Artem ad Deum Medal, now awarded under the patronage of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Culture and Education.

At Sacroexpo 2026, visitors could attend the premiere of Piotr Barszczowski’s “Pieta XXI”, meet artists and take part in conferences, while the final of the 30th jubilee edition of the Biblical Competition of the Diocese of Kielce brought young people together around the Word of God.

Akcja Katolicka was an important partner of the trade show, bringing to the Sacroexpo programme the perspective of lay people actively involved in the life of the Church and wider society.

For three days, our trade show becomes a meeting place for the world of the sacred at the heart of Europe.



28
The 28th edition
of Sacroexpo will be held
on 21–23 June 2027
at Expo Kielce.

Catholic Action and SACROEXPO together in the service of values

Catholic Action operates across diverse fields: prayer and religious formation, culture, education, charity, public life, and patriotic initiatives. Such activity requires effective tools to convey our message and positively influence individuals and society. That is why we highly value our collaboration with SACROEXPO as it serves as another platform to fulfill our mission and remain closely involved in the affairs of the Church across all fields.

Before the Second World War, Catholic Action was one of the largest associations in Poland. One of its most active Church assistants was Fr. Czesław Kaczmarek from the Diocese of Płock. In his search for means of religious formation of lay people and also educating the members of Catholic Action, he dedicated his energy to establishing media and educational institutions. When he became the Bishop of Kielce, he continued to care for Catholic Action in his new diocese.

Years later, his memory remains alive within the association. Also, we try to follow the same path by finding new ways to reach people. In 2026, marking the 30th anniversary of Catholic Action's reactivation in Poland, we established a partnership with SACROEXPO held at Expo Kielce. It was a major milestone for our association, as the expo is one of the most important events of its kind in Europe, widely visited by both clergy and laity, attracting exhibitors and visitors not only from Poland, but also from abroad. Most importantly however, being there means being even closer to priests, the faithful, artists, craftsmen, Christian entrepreneurs, Christian media as well as Christian public figures and opinion leaders.

Based on our experience, being not only a partner, but also an exhibitor provided a great opportunity to present ourselves to a broader audience and to share the social teaching of the Catholic Church. During SACROEXPO, in cooperation with the Diocesan Museum in Kielce, we organized a conference on business and Catholic ethics, featuring expert lectures and open discussions with the audience. Furthermore, the expo allowed us to strengthen cooperation with our existing partners and hold discussions with other organizations sharing the same mission of spreading the Gospel. We engaged in numerous meaningful conversations with clergy, laity, entrepreneurs, journalists and artists.

Our involvement also proved to be a valuable factor in strengthening bonds within the association and promoting the personal development of our members, who had the opportunity to put their talents to work in new roles. Additionally, we attended various accompanying events, broadening our knowledge on key topics.



Sacroexpo – Where the Church and Lay People Meet



The involvement of Akcja Katolicka [Catholic Action] in Sacroexpo strengthens one of the event's most important dimensions – the active presence of lay people in the life of the Church and the contemporary world. One of the initiatives organised by the Faith–Culture–Science Academy and the Diocesan Institute of Catholic Action in Kielce was the “Business the Catholic Way” conference. The meeting focused on Catholic Social Teaching, ethics in business and the responsibility of entrepreneurs towards people and the common good. Speakers list included Adam Biskup, President of the Diocesan Institute of Catholic Action in Kielce, Andrzej Kamiński, President of the National Institute of Catholic Action, Rev. Prof. Tadeusz Borutka and entrepreneur Roman Kluska.

The Church's engagement in social issues is both expected and necessary. That is why we say that Catholic social teaching, which addresses these matters, is incredibly relevant today. The Church has the right to speak out on matters of public life. It is also the Church's duty because Christ gave it that authority and sent it out into the world. And that is why, when we speak about Catholic social teaching, we want to indicate a set of statements, one could say, principles, derived from the Gospel to shape public and social life.

Ks. Tadeusz Borutka



Art Without Borders at Sacroexpo

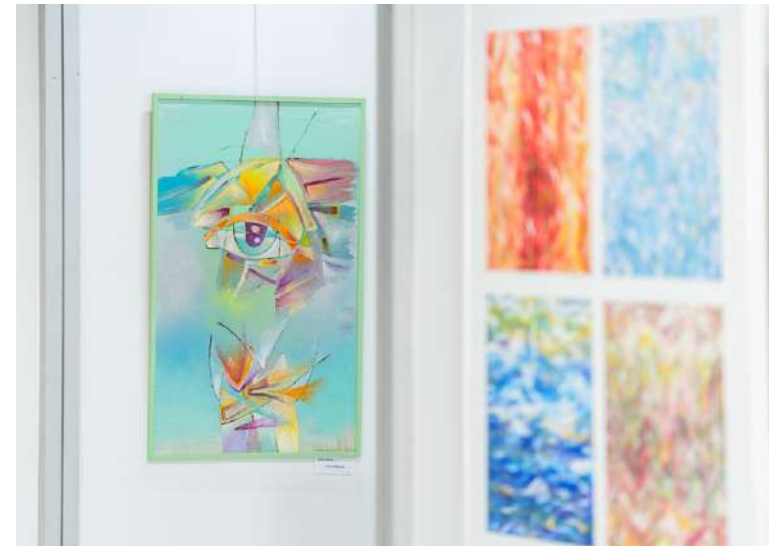
“Life Is Beautiful”

Artists from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Austria and Ukraine, different generations, styles and artistic backgrounds – the “Life Is Beautiful” exhibition was one of the events at Sacroexpo 2026 that highlighted the trade show’s international character. The exhibition was organised by the Slovak civic association Artem, whose mission is to develop and promote the fine arts and culture, with a particular focus on supporting young artists. The „Život je krásny” – „Life is beautiful” exhibition at Expo Kielce features works by Svitlana Dudenko, Domi Gabriel, Eva Ježíšková Lásková, Simona Drakulova and Silvia Petrova.



“Pieta XXI” – The Sacred in Neo-Stained Glass

One of the highlights of Sacroexpo 2026 was the premiere of “Pieta XXI” by Piotr Barszczowski – a contemporary interpretation of the scene of Christ’s descent from the cross. The work was created using the artist’s own neo-stained-glass technique. To create “Pieta XXI”, the artist organised a photo shoot at the Diocesan Museum in Kielce, involving models who included members of Catholic Action. The work received the Honorary Award of the Bishop of Kielce, Jan Piotrowski.

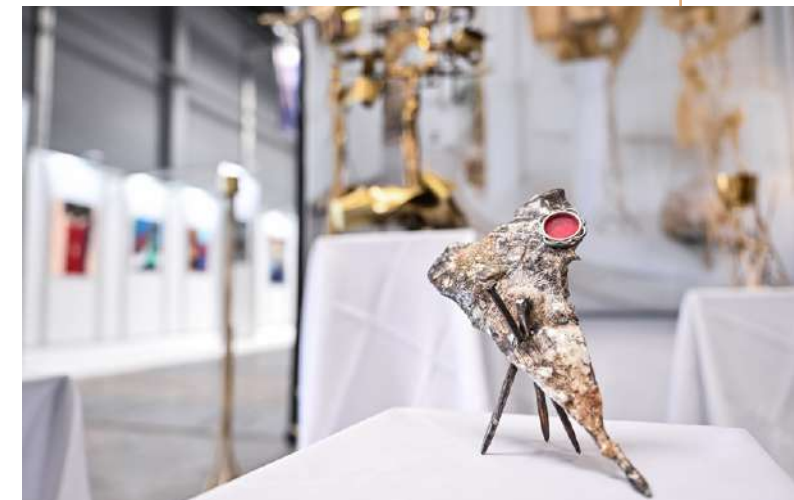


Uzbekistan. Art and Craftsmanship from the Heart of the Silk Road

Gold embroidery, hand-woven carpets, miniature painting, jewellery, woodcarving and traditional dress – during Sacroexpo 2026, Kielce became a meeting place with the remarkably rich heritage of Uzbekistan. The exhibition, featuring works by no fewer than 23 Uzbek artist-craftspeople, was organised by the ARTISAN Craft Association from Bukhara.

Contemporary Polish Spiritual and Religious Art

Paintings, sculptures and icons by contemporary artists filled the Art Zone, prepared in cooperation with Art in House Auction House and Art Gallery. The exhibition demonstrated that the sacred remains an important and inspiring subject for contemporary artists. The artists that presented their works: Teresa Pastuszka-Kowalska, Joanna Mieszko, Aleksandra Elizabete Wojtysiak and Dariusz Kowalski, to name a few.



Art Without Easy Answers

Sacroexpo also provided a space for a bold discussion about contemporary sacred art. During a conference organised by the Faith–Culture–Science Academy, Karolina Staszak asked whether it was time to “paint Catholicism anew”, while Rev. Doctor Wojciech Surówka OP explored the work of Jerzy Nowosielski and its place in sacred spaces. In his speech, Father Surówka asked the following questions: “Can someone like this create spiritual art?”



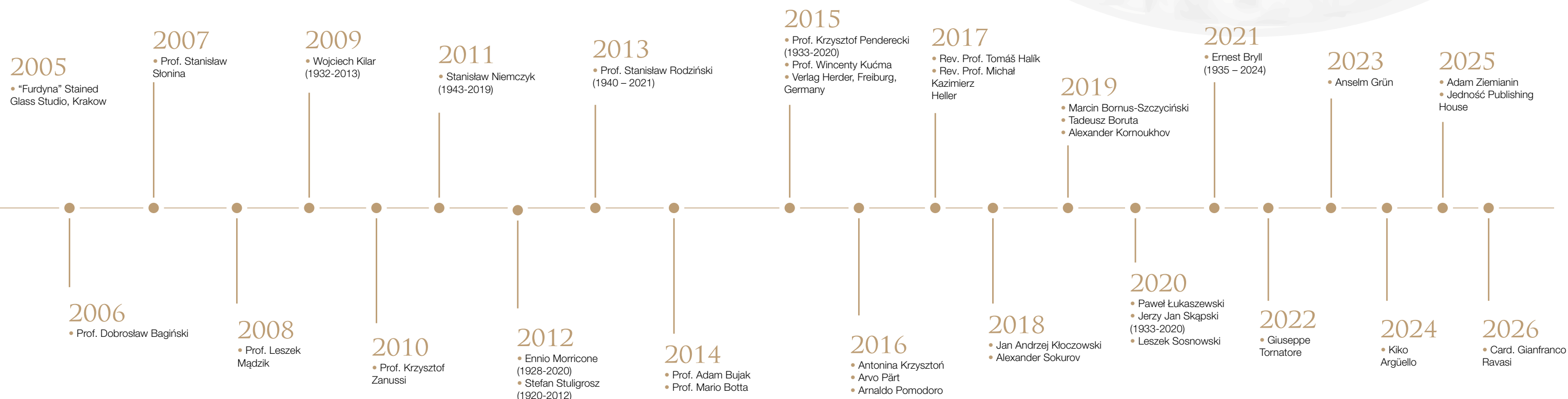
PER ARTEM AD DEUM

THROUGH ART TO GOD

(...) art and faith, as has always been the case throughout the history of Western culture, were sisters. Biblical symbols, biblical figures, stories and motifs became the subjects of art. If someone walks into a museum or an art gallery in Europe or the West without knowing anything about the Gospels or the Bible, they will not understand most of the works on display, because art and faith were once deeply intertwined. That is precisely what we want to achieve with the Per Artem Ad Deum award – to bring art and faith together once again.

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi

For more than 20 years, the Per Artem ad Deum Medal has connected SACROEXPO with the Vatican and leading figures from the world of culture. Established in 2005, the distinction is awarded to artists, creators and institutions whose work fosters dialogue between art, faith and spirituality. Until 2022, the Medal was associated with the Pontifical Council for Culture; it is now awarded under the patronage of the Vatican's Dicastery for Culture and Education. The international standing of the Medal is perhaps best reflected in the names of its recipients – artists, intellectuals and cultural figures known far beyond their own countries. This milieu included: Ennio Morricone, Krzysztof Penderecki, Arvo Pärt, Wojciech Kilar, Krzysztof Zanussi, Mario Botta, Arnaldo Pomodoro, Giuseppe Tornatore, Anselm Grün and Kiko Argüello, as well as the 2026 recipient, Gianfranco Ravasi – biblical scholar, theologian and humanist, author of more than 150 publications and long-serving President of the Pontifical Council for Culture. An idea born at SACROEXPO in Kielce has now grown far beyond Poland's borders. Per Artem ad Deum creates a space where the Church meets contemporary culture and artists from around the world, reminding us that beauty can be a universal language of dialogue – between nations, cultures and people – as well as a path that leads people towards God.



Meetings That Stay with You

Sacroexpo is about more than exhibitions and presentations. Above all, it is about people and conversations. In 2026, visitors could meet travellers, clergy and experts in culture and art, and take part in discussions that ranged from Italy and Vietnam to questions about the place of contemporary art within the Church.



Italian Treasures

Sacroexpo Featuring Fr. Professor Witold Kawecki, a Redemptorist, theologian, and expert on culture, began with his book *Italian Treasures* but quickly developed into a broader conversation about art, spirituality, and Europe's Christian roots. Father Kawecki also highlighted the importance of Christianity to European identity. "Without Christianity, there would be no Europe", he stressed, pointing to its influence on the language, art, architecture, literature and ways of thinking that have shaped Europeans.



Vietnam – Between Jesus and Buddha

Jakub Rybicki – traveller, photographer, reportage writer and tour leader for pilgrimage operator Misja Travel – offered a very different journey. His presentation, "The Unobvious Vietnam: Faces of the New Asian Tiger. Between Jesus and Buddha", revealed a country far removed from the usual tourist stereotypes.

Participants explored the history of Christianity in Vietnam, local religious traditions and the shrine at Trà Kiệu associated with Marian apparitions. There were also stories of Saigon and Hanoi, as well as Notre-Dame Cathedral and St Joseph's Cathedral. The meeting presented Vietnam as a place where Buddhism and Christianity, history and modernity come together to create an extraordinary cultural mosaic.



Faith told through film

Catholic education through film

 SACROEXPO 21-23.06.2027

