October 14  
BLESSED RADIM GAUDENTIUS, BISHOP  
In the Archdiocese of Gniezno – Obligatory memorial

Gaudentius (Gaudenty), Saint Adalbert’s half-brother, was born about 960. He had led a monastic life in the Benedictine Abbey on the Aventine Hill in Rome. He accompanied Saint Adalbert on his mission in Prussia and witnessed his martyr’s death. In the autumn of 999 he was anointed bishop and in 1000 he assumed the Gniezno Bishopric. He died in the beginnings of the 11th century.

Common of Pastors.

OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

Letter of Pope Paul VI for the 975th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Gniezno  
(AAS 67 [1975] 326-327)  
Protect and Deepen the Faith Given to You

We have received the message of the forthcoming 975th anniversary celebrations of the creation of the first Metropolitan Bishopric on the Polish land. To this status our predecessor Pope Sylvester II elevated the famous Church of Gniezno. The event is much worth remembering and it pleases us even more that it coincides with the day dedicated to Saint Adalbert, the heavenly patron of your country, whose name is closely knit with the beginnings of the faith in Poland and whose grave is much revered.

With fatherly care we have followed both the favourable and difficult events in the history of your nation and, writing these words, we wish to spiritually partake in the aforementioned celebrations for they concern the event immortalised in the Polish history. We are well aware how the creation of this province contributed to strengthening the then newly established Catholic Church, to her further successful development and to tightening the ties of your nation with the Holy See. We also know how positive the impact thereof was for the Church missions in the neighbouring countries that had thus far not known the Christian faith, for the Church of Gniezno supported with care those who so successfully proclaimed the Gospel there, having been sent by the Holy See.

Therefore, our Reverend Brother, you have rightly decided to emphasise these beginnings of the faith during the forthcoming celebrations. We opine that it will be for the greater glory of the ancient Church of Gniezno and beneficial for the good of souls. The glorious example of a number of your fathers in faith, such a close relationship with the Holy See, such eminent testimony to the faithfulness to the Catholic religion given at all times, even in the most tormenting moments, ought to induce the believers to make much needed resolutions and compel you to more diligently protect and develop the holy heritage given to you by your ancestors, namely the Catholic faith with which the greatness and goodness of Poland has always been connected.

May God grant that these forthcoming celebrations may bring you the expected abundance of the graces of salvation; may the future, with God’s help, beautifully and harmoniously tie you to the past, thanks to the unshaken faith, brotherly love, faithfulness to the Holy See, constant unity of you all with your Pastor. Continue to, as you have done thus far, protect this unity and strengthen it, remembering about the words of the encouragement of Saint Augustine: “Let us retain unity, beloved brethren, for without it even a miracle-worker means nothing.”

RESPONSORY Colossians 3:2-3; Philippians 1:27

Come to him, a living stone,  
– And like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Translated by DChojnacki (2014).
He has become the corner stone.
– And like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God of light and Pastor of the faithful, you gave the Church of Gniezno Blessed Radim to feed your sheep with the word and shape them with his own example; and you have led him to the eternal joy through the pastoral difficulties, grant that we, through his intercession, may retain faith that he preached and courageously follow the path of Christian life that he showed us.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
– Amen.