

# 2024 RICHARD A. MCCORMICK S. J., CHAIR OF CATHOLIC MORAL THEOLOGY LECTURE



## THE ROLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS IN POLAND FROM 1989 - 2024

Stanislaw Obirek

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In 2002, Leszek Kołakowski, in his essay "Faith Good, Disbelief Good" wrote: "In the 1980s, a sense of trust and friendship developed in Poland between the Catholic Church and the Polish intelligentsia; both the commonality of purpose was important in this and the great role of the Church in the spiritual preparation of the changes that were about to take place. Things changed with the dawn of a new era into which the Church entered in an understandable aura of triumphalism". This triumph led the Church to claim special rights on one side and to begin effectively imposing its own law on the whole of society. This strategy led to the devastation of a fragile democracy on the one hand and to the gradual decline of the Church itself. This two-way process will be shown through a few selected examples.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024  
COFFEY HALL – MCCORMICK LOUNGE  
4:00 – 5:30 PM

For more information, contact Prof. Hille Haker at: [hhaker@luc.edu](mailto:hhaker@luc.edu)/773-508-2368

All are welcome!

Stanley Obirek is a cultural anthropologist, theologian, historian, publicist. He works at the Institute of the Americas and Europe at the University of Warsaw. He was a visiting professor at the College of the Holy Cross and a fellow at St. Louis University. His books include: *The Jesuits in the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania, 1564-1668* (1996); *Winged Mind. Walter Ong's Anthropology of Word* (2010); with Zygmunt Bauman, *On God and Man. Conversations* (2013); with Arno Tausch, *Global Catholicism, Tolerance and Open Society. An Empirical Study of the Value Systems of Roman Catholics* (2020). He is currently working on a book dealing with a global understanding of postsecularism. He is interested in the place of religion in modern cultures, interreligious dialogue, and strategies for overcoming conflicts between different civilizations and cultures.

