

ABSTRACT. Tempczyk Katarzyna, „*Matżeństwa mistyczne*” w Kościele Starokatolickim mariawitów [Mystical marriages in the Old Catholic Church of the Mariavites]. *O wielowymiarowości badań religioznawczych* [On multidimensionality of the research of religion] edited by Z. Drozdowicz – „Człowiek i Społeczeństwo” vol. XXIX, Poznań 2009, pp. 241-251. Adam Mickiewicz University Press. ISBN 978-83-232-1972-9. ISSN 0239-3271.

So called *mystical marriages* – couplings of priests and nuns – were practiced in the Old-Catholic Church of the Mariavites in the years 1922-1935. Various historical sources present a very differentiated picture of the practice. In the first part of the paper a theological interpretation of *mystical marriages* promoted in the sources dedicated to “the initiated” is presented. Subsequently, the official historical statement of the Old-Catholic Church of the Mariavites and interpretations in contemporary publications of both Mariavite denominations are described.

Especially, the text touches such problems as secrecy of the practice and its historical development, sexual character of initiations made by Archbishop Kowalski before the marriages, reinterpretations of virginity that enabled to reconcile the marriages with the monastic vows of chastity, causes of polygamy and issues connected with children born in the *mystical matrimones*.

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