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# **Supraśi Orthodox Monastery**

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## Monastery buildings

The Monastery of the Annunciation in Supraśl (Polish: Monaster Zwiastowania Najświętszej Marii Panny w Supraślu), also known as the Supraśl Lavra is a monastery in North Eastern Poland in the Podlaskie Voivodeship. Today it belongs to the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church and is one of six Eastern Orthodox monasteries for males in Poland.

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History[edit]

Another view of the Monastery complex



The monastery's renaissance gardens

The Supraśl Orthodox Monastery was founded in the 16th century by the Marshall of the Great Duchy of Lithuania Aleksander Chodkiewicz. Jeremias II Tranos, the Patriarch of Constantinople issued a special tomos sanctioning its foundation. 1501

saw the building of the first wooden church of St. John the Evangelist. In 1516, the Church of the Annunciation was consecrated, later the monastery was further expanded with the addition of another church dedicated to the Resurrection of Our Lord, which housed the monastery catacombs. With the passing of the years, the Supraśl Lavra became an important site of Orthodox culture as a result of its large library and lively contacts with other important Orthodox sites such as the Kiev Lavra and Mount Athos.

In 1609, the Monastery was one of the first entities to accept the Union of Brest in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and the Basilian Order took over its administration. The Basilians oversaw the rebuilding of the Monastery complex and expansion of its publishing activity. At the end of the 17th century, a printing house was established and, over a period of slightly more than one hundred years, published 350 titles in Ruthenian, Polish, and Latin. During that same period, several filial monasteries were also established, the most noteworthy being the filial monastery in Warsaw, which has remained in operation to this day. In 1796, Prussian authorities confiscated the holdings of the monastery after the third Partition of Poland. Nevertheless, it continued to play an important role in the religious life of the region as the seat of a newly created eparchy for those devout Ruthenians under Prussian rule, starting in 1797 and lasting until it fell under Russian rule after the Treaties of Tilsit in 1807.

In 1824, the Russians gave the monastery complex to the Russian Orthodox Church. In 1875, the St. Panteleimon church was built, in 1889, St. John the Theologian, and finally in 1901, St. George the Victor. In 1910, there was a restoration of the 16th century frescoes, which had been covered up by the Basilians. In the aftermath of the havoc of World War I, the monks fled from the monastery for the interior of Russia, taking with them the miraculous icon of Our Lady of Supraśl.

In the period between the two world wars, the monastery was used by the Latin Rite Salesian Order. In 1944, the retreating German army destroyed the Church of the Annunciation, along with all of its precious frescoes.[1] The Communist government turned the monastery into an agricultural academy. After the collapse of the Communist government, the monastery was turned over to the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church, which immediately began the still ongoing conservation work and renovation of the monastery.

The Codex of Supraśl, the oldest Slavic literary work in Poland and one of the oldest of its kind in the world, is named after this monastery.

Monastery complex[edit]

Church of the Annunciation

In the courtyard of the monastery complex is the Church of the Annunciation (1503-1511, destroyed 1944, in the process of being rebuilt since 1985. Surviving original fragments of the original frescoes are currently exhibited in the Archimandrites' Palace. The church is being rebuilt according to the design of architect M. Kuźmienko.

Monastery buildings Baroque, built between the 17th and 18th century.

Archimandrites' Palace ( built between 1635-1655) today the palace houses the Supraśl Icon Museum

The Church of St. John the Theologian (1888)

The Gate-Belltower built in 1752, modeled after the Branicki Palace in Białystok.

The premises of the Supraśl Lavra is planned as the future home of the Supraśl Academy, modeled after similar institutions run by the Orthodox Church in Greece today.

References[edit] Jump up ^ Gegen Ende des Krieges sprengt die deutsche Armee die Kirche auf ihrem Rückzug in die Luft.

(German) «Geschichte». [www.monaster-suprasl.pl](http://www.monaster-suprasl.pl). Retrieved 2009-12-17.[dead link] External links[edit]



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*Another view of the Monastery complex*



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[Official website of the Supraśl Lavra - en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)