COMPARISONS: RELIGION, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE
The fates of St. Thomas and St. Stanislaus appear similar at first sight: a virtuous life, service to their kings, becoming bishops, defending the Church and morals, coming into conflict with the king, and a martyr's death. The analysis of late medieval Latin sermons on these two can help identify and clarify the connections and analogies between their cults, and also their individual differences and particularities. In recent decades, sermon studies have flourished, especially in western Europe, and shed new light on various aspects of medieval society and religiosity. This avenue of investigation has also a great deal to say to hagiography and history of saints’ cults, although sermons on saints have still not received sufficient attention within hagiographic research.

The observations on Stanislaus’ sermons set out below are based mostly on manuscripts. The sermons on St. Thomas come partly from manuscript research, a manuscript text from Kraków, an edited text and mostly on the work of Phyllis Roberts, who compiled an inventory of sermons and analysed the preaching on Thomas.

St. Thomas of Canterbury was a popular saint for preaching, one of the most popular besides the founders of religious orders and...