

Lublin Marie-Curie Skłodowska University

Faculty of Humanities

Department of History of Society and Education

Master of Arts Oksana Madey

Episcopal Curia of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Przemyśl in the Period of 1918-1939

Research Abstract

The main purpose of the scientific work is to present the structure, organization and activity of the Episcopal Curia of the Greek Catholic Church in Przemyśl (Poland) in the period of 1918-1939. At the same time it highlights public service of the Greek Catholic Church, namely pastoral (evangelization) and social (educational, charitable), on the territory of the Przemyśl eparchy. In this scientific paper an attempt was made to assess the performance of the curia of the Przemyśl eparchy and its auxiliary apparatus (church body) in the period of 1918-1939. Moreover, the model of management of the Episcopal Curia of the Przemyśl Eparchy was investigated as well as its position and significance in the structure of the Greek Catholic Church in Poland during the interwar period.

As the basis for the thesis archival and library sources were used. Some of the crucial sources, used in the paper, are archival documents, gathered in the State Archive in Przemyśl (Acts of the Greek Catholic Episcopate, Acts of the Greek Catholic Episcopate, sublimit), as well as in the State Archive of New Acts in Warsaw (Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Religious Confessions). An important group of bibliographic sources consists of church periodicals, published in the period of 1918-1939. In particular, great attention has been paid to so-called *shematisms*, which represent the structure of the episcopal curia, along with other church bodies of the eparchy of Przemyśl. Namely, the data from the official periodical of the eparchy *The Peremyski Yeparkhialni Vidomosti* has been profoundly researched and included into the thesis. This publication compiles and presents detailed information on various decrees of the episcopal curia and aspects of the life of the eparchy of Przemyśl. The thesis uses a larger part of the bibliography on this topic, which represents the organization and activity of the Greek Catholic Church in the Second Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, in the period of 1918-1939.

The presented work consists of five chapters. The first chapter, entitled *Description of the History of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Przemyśl till 1918*, introduces the events which have played the key role in the creation of the eparchy in Przemyśl since the XI century and its first organizational forms. Furthermore, there were described principal historical events, which had influenced the establishment of the eparchy, such as the Union of Florence (1453), the Union of Brest (1596) and the Concordat (1855). The role of the Synod of Zamoysk (1720) and the Provincial Synod of Lviv (1891) is also presented in this chapter. The above-stated events formed the ecclesiastical authorities and created reformed curial governments from the former consistory, which gradually acquired new forms of administration.

The next chapter, named *The Eparchy of Przemyśl in the Second Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Administrative Division and Relations with State Authorities*, dwells on the administrative and territorial division and changes in the structure of the eparchy. Besides, the chapter discloses the ethnical and religious structure of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Przemyśl in the period of 1918-1939. There is also presented the organization of the deaneries and parishes in the eparchy as well as the pastoral duties of the parish priests and vicars. This part of the work describes relations with Polish authorities, which were not good at the beginning of the interwar period. Such situation was mainly caused by the Polish-Ukrainian war and the struggle for independence of Western Galicia and it had a rather negative effect on Polish-Ukrainian relations. In addition, an analysis of the sources, which regulated the legal status of the Ukrainian minority and Greek Catholic church in the period 1918-1939, was undertaken. These sources include the March Constitution of 1921, the Concordat signed between the Second Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Apostolic Capital in 1925 and the April Constitution of 1935.

The third chapter, entitled *The Bishops of Przemyśl and the Episcopal Curia in Przemyśl in 1918-1939*, describes the biographies of two Greek Catholic bishops, the ordinary bishop of the eparchy of Przemyśl Josaphat Kotsylovskiy and the auxiliary bishop Hryhoriy Lakota. Apart from it, the paper outlines organization and functioning of the curia of the eparchy, for which the main legal basis was primarily the Code of Canon Law (1918) as well as other legal acts of inferior level. In this part of the work the body and members of the episcopal curia and its ecclesiastical governments are represented. Finally, the property and financial state of the curia along with the whole structure of the eparchy of Przemyśl in the interwar period are also analyzed.

The fourth chapter, entitled *Activity of the Pastoral Curia of the Przemyśl Episcopal Greek Catholic Eparchy in the Period of 1918-1939*, represents evangelizing activity of the bishop of Przemyśl, primarily implemented through the curia. One of the forms of such activity was the bishop's visitations to the deaneries and parishes and the bishop's pastoral letters, which concerned missionary work of Greek Catholic Church in the region. The chapter also considers the control, provided by the curia, over the implementation of the religious cult and its changes, which appeared in the Eastern rite due to the rivalry between the occidental and oriental tendencies. Such rivalry caused liturgical controversy and later had an impact on the liturgical forms. Also, the chapter describes the structure of a liturgical year in the Greek Catholic Church, the cult of saints in the eparchy, liturgical singing matters, etc.

In the last fifth chapter, named *Public Activity of the Episcopal Curia in the Period of 1918-1939*, the attention is focused on the public service of the curia. The main element of it was the *Catholic Action*, aimed to revive religious life and strengthen positions of Greek Catholic Church in the society. Its activity contributed to the development of various types of societies and youth organizations. Furthermore, the chapter discloses the activity of the Society of Eparchial Aid, one of the oldest and most famous religious and public societies, which helped needy people in the Przemyśl eparchy. Also, the chapter highlights the work of the Institute of Widows and Orphans as well as the Fraternity of St. Nicholas. Both organizations helped families of the deceased Greek Catholic priests. The activity of the Institute of Dyaks (church singers in Eastern rite) was focused on the teaching of dyaks, while the Theological Seminary was educating future priests. It is also described the discussion about celibacy in the eparchy of Przemyśl, which led to a conflict between the bishop and the community.

Oksana Modrej