

Title of dissertation: History of the Krakow Province of the Capuchin Fathers 1945-1970

Abstract:

The dissertation is a monographic study of the history of the Krakow Capuchin Province in the years 1945-1970. It aims to give a comprehensive account of the situation in which the Capuchins of this province found themselves after the Second World War and the role they played in the religious life of the Catholic Church at that time. The dissertation is made up of five chapters and essentially deals with the development of religious life, the problems of vocations and the internal formation of the Capuchins of the Krakow Province. The author also presents issues related to educational and scientific work. An important part of the topic presented is pastoral activity, which includes traditional forms of partnership but also ministering to clergy and consecrated persons, as well as extraordinary ministry to the lay faithful under the Capuchins' care and working in ecclesiastical structures. In the latter area, the commitment to promoting the third order, service to the sick and needy and several other forms of formative work should be mentioned in particular. The missionary work of the Capuchins in the former Soviet Union, Western Europe, Australia or the Middle East is presented separately. The overall picture of these problems is presented against the background of the difficult economic and human resources situation in the province that takes into account social relations and relations with the state authorities marked by frequent harassment and surveillance by the security apparatus, with occasional drastic repressive measures applied. Financial penalties and the seizure of property were imposed in many cases. There was also interference in the staffing of church positions. Some of the Capuchins were even imprisoned for their religious and patriotic activities.

The dissertation is arranged by subjects or by subjects and chronology, and historical events are reconstructed using the inductive method. The subject matter elaborated is largely based on sources but also on relevant scientific studies available. Oral and written accounts (questionnaires) were also used to complement the missing source data. In studying the issue, 377 references were considered, of which 188 are manuscripts and printed sources plus the aforementioned accounts and surveys. The searches were carried out in 11 archival resources – diocesan, monastic and state archives.

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