

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

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Dissertation title: ***Charitable activity of the Greek Catholic Church of the Przemyśl diocese in the years 1918-1939 in the context of traditions and models of Catholic charity***

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This doctoral dissertation assumed analysis of the Greek Catholic Church's charitable activity in the years 1918-1939, that is, in the era of coexistence of this institution with the Polish state. The important subject was also influence of Roman Catholic patterns on emergence of various charity initiatives in the Greek Catholic Church and their role and significance in the development and functioning of personnel (religious and secular clergy) for the implementation of these initiatives. The analysis focused in particular on three statutory institutions dealing with the Church's activity: Brotherhood of Saint Nicholas in Przemyśl, Institute of Widows and Orphans of Deceased Greek Catholic Priests of the Przemyśl Diocese and the „Eparkhialna Pomich” (Diocesan Help) Society.

The dissertation consists of twelve chapters. The first three discuss the essence of Christian charity, terminological subjects, as well as similarities and differences between the charitable activities of the Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic Church. Chapters four through seven analyze issues of the Greek Catholic structures in the Przemyśl diocese, the development of hospitality and forms of charity in its area as well as the role of secular clergy and religious orders (mainly female) in the diocese's organization and conduct. The last five chapters focus on the characteristics of the above-mentioned three statutory charitable institutions, the most important among those operating in the interwar period in the diocese. Issues of management, structure and membership, as well as the internal discourse which took place in the bosom of Greek Catholic charity organizations, were thoroughly analyzed. Material situation of the above-mentioned church charities was also discussed in detail, with a multi-faceted comparative analysis of these organizations.

The structure of the dissertation has been adapted to its specifics. Object arrangement was used, helpful in highlighting the characteristics of individual institutions. The chronology factor did not play a greater role in this case, as the analyzed processes took place in a relatively short period of two decades, so almost parallelly, while the structures described in the dissertation did not undergo far-reaching transformations. Therefore, this work is a specific case study, presenting the world of ecclesiastical charity not in one only temporal and territorial episode, but in the context of more long-lasting and supra-regional processes.

