

Jan Bulak

Summary of the doctoral thesis

Title: *Economic Foundations of the Functioning of Parish Churches in the Diocese of Samogitia (Telsze) in the Years 1795-1844*

The thesis is devoted to the subject of the economic foundations of the functioning of parish churches (secular and monastic), affiliate churches, chapels and altars located in the Samogitian diocese in the years 1795–1844. The starting point of the period in question is marked by the Third Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the annexation of the almost whole area of the diocese to Russia. The end point is marked by the implementation of the reform of financing of the Catholic Church in Russia, which resulted in the sequestration of church property managed by the lower clergy. The research was based mainly on the parish visitation records and the financial documentation of the Church kept in the Lithuanian State Historical Archives in Vilnius (fonds 669 and 1671). The author used also the materials from the collections of the Curia Archives of the Kaunas Archdiocese (KAKA), the Russian State Historical Archive in St Petersburg (RGIA), the Vilnius University Library (VUB), the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (LMAVB) and the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania (LNB) in Vilnius. The methods used in the thesis were quantitative and qualitative analysis of economic phenomena, supported by some basic elements of statistics.

The dissertation consists of the introduction, four chapters and the conclusion. The introduction presents the aim of the thesis and the methodology used, as well as shows what was achieved by the historiographers until now in the field of research on the economic foundations of the activity of the Church.

The first chapter provides a brief introduction to the area and the historical period in question. It presents the geographical and cultural characteristics of Samogitia, the history of the Samogitian diocese from its beginnings until 1844, and outlines the conditions for the functioning of the Catholic Church in Russia from the First Partition of Poland until the signing of the concordat with the Vatican (1847).

The second chapter is devoted to the issue of the endowment of the clergy of the Samogitian diocese. It starts with the description of the right of patronage in its area at the

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turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. Another subchapter constitutes the description of the topic of the fund assigned to churches. It usually consisted of land and money bequests. The next parts of the chapter present the sizes of the lands belonging to parish farms, along with their characteristics and evaluation. The part devoted to monetary bequests includes descriptions of the size of the total capital of the analysed goods, the nature and amount of the bequests made for church goods and obligations which they entailed. Apart from the precise concept of the 'fund', there were annuats, i.e. tributes, which the clergymen received every year. Finally, the problem of the functioning of the church without a fund was briefly outlined.

The third chapter deals with production in parish estates. It discusses the social organization of the production of goods: the categories of the community serving in churches (and also generating income) and the serfs, as well as the duties of these two groups. In addition, the author devoted some attention to the hired workers (who were the basis for the functioning of church farms), along with their living and working conditions. A separate subchapter deals with the issue of production in parish estates, presenting the subjects of agriculture and animal husbandry.

The last, fourth chapter examines the issue of money management in parish households, with the division into revenues, expenses and income. They were divided into categories that reflect those used in the visitation records. The revenues included those from cash bequests, rents and leases, farm profit, tributes and all others. The expenses covered: funds necessary for church and farm buildings and their renovation, taxes and other tributes, worship costs, money paid to vicars and other priests, costs of service, farm buildings, education and charity actions, as well as of food, clothing and other that should be regarded as a cleric's personal expenses. The chapter ends with a brief discussion of the profitability of the analysed goods.

The conclusion of the thesis contains the summary of the research works. It is followed by the bibliography and lists of tables, diagrams and maps, which complement the results of the research.

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