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## 200 YEARS SINCE THE CANONICAL ERECTION OF THE GREEK CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PREŠOV (22 SEPTEMBER 1818)

**Keywords:** Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo, Greek Catholic Eparchy of Prešov, Gregor Tarkovič

**Słowa kluczowe:** Greckokatolicka eparchia mukaczewska, greckokatolicka eparchia preszowska, Grzegorz Tarkovič

The official title of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia is the Prešov Greek Catholic Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* in Slovakia. The official title is commonly shortened to the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia. The seat of this particular Church is in Prešov. The Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia embraces all Catholics of the Eastern (Byzantine - Slavic) Rite who permanently or temporarily reside in the Slovak Republic.

The Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* in Slovakia comprises the Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Prešov, the Greek Catholic Eparchy<sup>1</sup> of Košice and the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Bratislava. The Metropolitan is also the archbishop of the Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Prešov. The other two Eparchies are headed by their own eparchial bishops.

The Košice and Bratislava eparchies were detached from the mother Eparchy of Prešov. The Greek Catholic Eparchy of Prešov (present-day Archeparchy of Prešov) presents therefore a common historical foundation for all Greek Catholics in the whole territory of Slovakia.

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<sup>1</sup> *Eparchy* is the Eastern term corresponding to the Latin term *diocese* used in the Roman Catholic Church. Eparchy is a particular church; all eparchies were erected by the Apostolic See in Rome.

The year 2018 witnessed anniversaries of several significant events in the history of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia: the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Prešov Metropolitan Church sui iuris in Slovakia (30 January 2008), 50 years since the restoration of the activities of the Greek Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia (13 June 1968), and the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Blessed Bishop Pavel Peter Gojdič OSBM (17 July 1888), to name a few. The most important, however, was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Prešov Eparchy itself (22 September 1818).

The Prešov Greek Catholic Arch (Eparchy) traces its history back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>2</sup>. The territorially extensive Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo was administratively divided into three vicariates: Maramaroš (or Sihot') Vicariate (established already in 1723 by Bishop of Mukachevo Juraj Genád Bizanci, confirmed in 1776 by Bishop Andrej Bačinský), Szatmár Vicariate (1776) and Košice Vicariate (1787)<sup>3</sup>.

Košice Eparchial Vicariate<sup>4</sup> laid the foundations of the future independent Greek Catholic Eparchy of Prešov. It was officially established upon the decision of the Habsburg Emperor Joseph II by the decree No. 350/4451 issued on 3 February 1787 by the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council<sup>5</sup>.

The Vicariate became an auxiliary administrative body to the Mukachevo Eparchy. The reason behind its establishment was a better and easier administration of the territorially extensive Eparchy, which extended from Spiš in the west to Maramaroš in the east, covering thirteen counties: Abov, Bereg, Boršod, Gemer, Maramaroš, Sabolč, Szatmár, Spiš, Šariš, Turňa, Ugoča, Uh and Zemplín. These thirteen counties comprised 729 parishes and 443,514 faithful in 1792<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> The main work dealing with the establishment of the Košice Vicariate, division of the Eparchy of Mukachevo, erection of the Eparchy of Prešov and its early development until the end of Bishop Grigorij Tarkovič episcopacy is: Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologia Historia Almae Diocesis Eperjessiensis ab origine videlicet, usque obitum primi Episcopi Gregorii Tarkovics deducta*. Prešov 1848. In Russian translation: ID.: *Хронологическая история славной епархии Пряшевской от ее начала до первого епископа Григория Тарковича*. С. Петербургъ 1877.

Ukrainian authors writing about the history of the Eparchy of Prešov: Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970; See also Pekar, A.: *Narysy istorii Cerkvi Zakarpatt'a*. Romae 1967; PEKAR, A.: *Historic Background of the eparchy of Prjashev*. Pittsburgh 1968.

<sup>3</sup> Šturák, P.: *Prierez dejinami Prešovskej eparchie*. In: *Vybrané osobnosti v histórii Prešovského biskupstva*. Prešov 2003, p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> From 1787 until 1806 – the Košice Vicariate (*Vicariatus Cassoviensis*), from 1806 named after the Vicar's permanent residence as the Prešov Vicariate (*Vicariatus Eperjessiensis*). After the death of Bishop Andrej Bačinský in 1809, there was a distinction between Mukachevo District and Košice District, hence the name Vicariate of Košice District (*Vicariatus per districtum Cassoviensem*).

<sup>5</sup> Ruby, J.: *Brevis historia dioecesis Eperjesiensis*. In: *Schematismus venerabilis cleri graeci ritus catholicorum dioecesis Eperjesiensis pro anno domini 1898*. Eperjesini 1898, p. 6; See also AGAP, ŠENKO, J.: *Košický vikariát gréckokatolícky v Prešove (1609) 1787–1820*. Prešov 1964, p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> Bendász, I. – Koi, I.: *A Munkácsi Görögkatolikus Egyházmegye lelkészékeinek 1792. évi katalógusa*. Nyíregyháza 1994, p. 30.

### Organizational structure of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo as of 1792<sup>7</sup>

County	Number of parishes	Number of subsidiaries	Number of faithful
1. Abov	20	208	17,934
2. Turňa	3	25	1,286
3. Bereg	74	146	39,959
4. Boršod	10	102	8,344
5. Maramaroš	124	44	74,633
6. Šariš	85	247	44,703
7. Gemer	1	7	1,535
8. Spiš	17	97	17,896
9. Sabolč	36	99	22,941
10. Szatmár	127	99	74,308
11. Ugoča	33	34	19,679
12. Uh	66	137	38,522
13. Zemplín	133	309	81,774
Total	729	1,554	443,514

The territory of the Košice Vicariate comprised the following counties: Abov, Boršod, Gemer, Spiš, Šariš, Turňa and the northern part of the Zemplín County. The Vicariate was divided into seventeen districts or deaneries (proto-presbyteries): *Košice, Cserehát, Szántov, Boršod, Bardejov, Bukovec, Prešov, Makovica, Poprad, Svidník, Spiš inferior, Spiš superior, Humenné, Hostovice, Laborec, Stropkov* and *Vranov*. In 1792, these seventeen deaneries included 208 parishes and 825 subsidiaries comprising 131,229 faithful<sup>8</sup>.

An Eparchial Vicar appointed by the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council<sup>9</sup> headed the Eparchial Vicariate. On 27 June 1787, Ján Pásztélyi (alias Ján Kováč

<sup>7</sup> Consignatio Parochorum, Parochiarum et Filialium, Numeri Animarum, nec non Parochialium Proventum Almae Diocesis Munkaciensis per respectivos comitatum continens eorum Subdivisionem in Vice-Archi-Diaconatum facta die 1-ma 7 bris. Anno 1792. In: *Magyarország története 1790–1848*. Budapest 1980, pp. 425–441.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> The Hungarian Supreme Royal Council was the highest political and administrative body in the whole of the Hungarian Kingdom. It included the office of the Palatine. It was established in 1529 in Buda. In 1530, after the capture of the town by the Turks in 1530, the Council was moved to Bratislava. Initially, the Supreme Royal Council was associated with the judiciary, later it took over financial and military matters concerning the Hungarian militia – noble insurgence. From 1549, the Council became a permanent office headed by the Palatine and the highest-ranking officials of the country who reported directly to the Palatine. It was reorganized in 1723 and it acted as “the extended arm” of the monarch. Its members were appointed based mostly on their expertise and merits. The Council was organized into sections, where each was in charge of a particular agenda. Francis II created permanent sections: economic, urban, administrative, sec-

from the Subcarpathian village of Pastil' in Veľkoberezniansky district in the Uh County), Canon of Mukachevo, was appointed its first vicar<sup>10</sup>.

**Organizational structure of Košice Vicariate of Mukachevo Greek Catholic Eparchy in 1792<sup>11</sup>**

County	Deanery	Number of parishes	Number of subsidiaries	Number of faithful
Abov*	–	20	208	17,934
Turňa**	–	3	25	1,286
Boršod	1. Boršod	10	102	8,344
	1. Bardejov	12	29	6,397
	2. Bukovec	14	24	6,495
	3. Prešov	13	131	10,097
	4. Makovica	17	13	8,430
	5. Poprad	14	21	7,184
	6. Svidník	15	29	6,100
	<i>Total</i>	85	247	44,703
Gemer	–	1	7	1,535
Spiš	1. Spiš inf.	8	73	7,371
	2. Spiš sup.	9	24	10,525
	<i>Total</i>	17	97	17,896
Zemplín	1. Humenné	7	40	3,606
	2. Hostovice	14	12	9,901
	3. Laborec	20	18	12,016
	4. Stropkov	15	26	6,259
	5. Vranov	16	43	7,749
	<i>Total</i>	72	139	39,531
Total	17	208	825	131,229

\* Abov County comprised Košice and Szántov deanery and a part of Cserehát deanery.

\*\* Turňa County comprised a part of Cserehát deanery.

tions responsible for counties, towns, police, orphans, ecclesiastical affairs, censorship, education, trade, taxes, etc. In 1848/49, because of the Magyar revolution, the Council was invalidated and replaced temporarily by the Magyars ministries, which were created more or less arbitrarily. It was restored for a short time in 1860–1867. After the Austrian-Hungarian (Magyar) constitutional compromise it was replaced by a system of Hungarian ministries established according the Austrian model.

<sup>10</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnojj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, p. 16.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

Following the agreement with a commissioner of the Chapter of Eger, a monastery belonging to the Order of Preachers (the Dominican Fathers) in Košice was to become a seat of the Vicariate. At that time, the monastery was used for civil purposes of the town of Košice. While the Dominican monastery needed to be accommodated to suit the purpose of the vicar's residence, it was decided that the temporary residence was to be located in the Franciscan monastery in Košice. The City Council, however, opposed the idea of having the seat of the Vicariate in their town and permitted the Bishop of Eger to establish a Minor Seminary in the vacant Franciscan monastery instead<sup>12</sup>. Ján Pásztélyi therefore continued to live in Uzhhorod. In his "*History of Prešov Eparchy*" (*História prešovského biskupstva*), Alexander Duchnovič states that Pásztélyi did not show a great enthusiasm for his office. On 27 June 1788, he asked Bishop Andrej Bačinský to release him from the vicar's office because of his ill health<sup>13</sup>. Bishop Bačinský accepted Pásztélyi's resignation and nominated Canon Michal Bradáč as his successor<sup>14</sup>.

In 1788, the Supreme Royal Council decided that only Canon of the Mukachevo Chapter<sup>15</sup> can be appointed as an eparchial vicar and he must be approved by the monarch<sup>16</sup>. Since Michal Bradáč met all the necessary requirements, the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council appointed him the second vicar of Košice on 13 January 1790<sup>17</sup>. Bradáč engaged vigorously in resolving problems surrounding the vicar's residence, but the City Council of Košice adamantly refused to reconsider their decision. The new vicar was forced to establish his temporary residence in his own home in Kamienka and in a nearby village of Jakubany<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://grkat.nfo.sk/Texty/historiaex.html>, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> Ján Pásztélyi died in 1799. In: Oznámenie o smrti Jána Pásztélyiho, prepošta, bývalého generálneho vikára košického; AGAP, Košický vikariát, inv. no. 87, year 1799, sign. 141.

<sup>14</sup> Lacko, M.: Z našej minulosti: Biskupský vikariát košický. In: *Mária* 7, 1982, p. 15.

Michal Bradáč was born on September 3, 1749 in Kamienka in Spiš County to a family of a Greek Catholic priest. He was a brother of Ján Bradáč, Bishop of Mukachevo. Michal Bradáč studied in Podolíneč, Košice, Trnava, he completed his theology studies in the Seminary of St. Barbora in Vienna. In 1777, he was ordained a priest in Uzhhorod cathedral church and appointed a Canon of the Chapter. He lectured Dogmatics at the Academy of Theology in Uzhhorod.

<sup>15</sup> The Chapter of Mukachevo was established in keeping with the regulations of the bull *Ex-imia regalium*, by which the Eparchy of Mukachevo was established. In 1771, the Consistory was created and seven archdeacons were appointed as consistorial advisers. In 1776, the Consistory transformed into the Chapter with seven members (Canons).

<sup>16</sup> Decree of the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council No. 3045/26521 dated July 12, 1788. In: DUCHNOVIČ, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, p. 15.

<sup>17</sup> Ruby, J.: *Brevis historia dioecesis Eperjesiensis*. In: *Schematismus venerabilis cleri graecis ritus catholicorum dioecesis Eperjesiensis pro anno domini 1898*. Eperjesini 1898, p. 7.

<sup>18</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, pp. 16–17.

After being rejected in Košice, Bradáč turned to Prešov. There, the former monastery that belonged to the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor Conventual was closed down by the emperor Joseph II on 12 July 1787. Nevertheless, just as in Košice, the City Council in Prešov was not in favour of the Greek Catholic vicar's residence in their town either. The Šariš County opposed the idea too. A number of reasons were presented as to why the town needed these buildings, such as that the Piarist grammar school was to be relocated there from Sabinov; it was to be used as an arms depot, etc. Michal Bradáč managed to gain support from an army general and a head of the Szabolcs County General Splényi and Baron Nicholas Vécsey, the Chief Justice of the Royal Court. Their collaborative effort bore fruits. On 19 August 1792, the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council ordered that the Minorite monastery and church in Prešov were handed over to the Greek Catholic Vicariate<sup>19</sup>.

There was no Greek Catholic parish in Prešov before. Formerly, Prešov was a filial to Ruská Nová Ves parish. With a new vicariate, an independent Greek Catholic parish was established in Prešov. A former Minorite monastery church was officially declared the Greek Catholic parochial church<sup>20</sup>.

The new vicar's residence was in a sorry state. The monastic buildings were damaged in a disastrous fire that swept through Prešov in 1788. The monastery had a damaged ceiling and a leaky roof. Besides that, just before the vicar was ready to occupy his apartment, all furniture, but also doors and windows were removed from it. The residence and the church needed to be repaired. At that time, a part of the monastery was filled with arms and military provisions, while the army occupied some other rooms. The army was using some parts of the monastery up until 1821 – that means even after the establishment of the Prešov Eparchy<sup>21</sup>. Another part of the monastery was a home to three families that were rather hostile towards the Vicar Bradáč. In 1797, it was suggested that the Royal Bench Court moved into the building of the Eparchial Vicariate, which meant yet another dispute over the ownership of the building. The dispute was examined by a committee headed by Count Anton Szirmay, the president of the Prešov District Board. Finally, the committee granted Vicar Bradáč the right to use the building<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> Ruby, J.: *Brevis historia dioecesis Eperjesiensis*. In: *Schematismus venerabilis cleri graeci ritus catholicorum dioecesis Eperjesiensis pro anno domini 1898*. Eperjesini 1898, pp. 7–8. See also LACKO, M.: Z našej minulosti: Biskupský vikariát košický. In: *Mária* 7, 1982, p. 15.

<sup>20</sup> Kónya, P.: Konfesionálne pomery v Prešove v čase založenia gréckokatolíckeho biskupstva. In: CORANIČ, J. (ed.): *Gréckokatolícka cirkev na Slovensku vo svetle výročí IV*. Prešov – Užhorod 2016, pp. 90–91.

<sup>21</sup> Sabol, S.: *Prešov v minulosti a dnes*. Bratislava 1943, pp. 98–99.

<sup>22</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervago episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, pp. 20–21.

In 1802, Vicar Bradáč was delegated by the Chapter of Mukachevo Eparchy as a representative to the Hungarian Royal Diet<sup>23</sup>. On this occasion, Bradáč turned directly to the imperial court. The following year, His Majesty issued a decree (No. 5175, dated 8 March 1803) requesting the blueprints of the necessary repairs and changes to the former monastery building, converting it into a permanent vicar's residence<sup>24</sup>.

Meanwhile, Vicar Bradáč had to face yet another challenge. Greek Catholic Bishops of Križevci Jozafát Bastašič OSBM (1789–1793), his successor Sylvester Bubanovič (1795–1810) as well as the Greek Catholic Bishops of Veľký Varadín (present-day Oradea in Romania) Ignatius Darabanth OSBM (1789–1805) and Samuel Vulcan (1807–1839) conceived and promoted a new plan to divide the vast Eparchy of Mukachevo. According to their plan proposed to the Imperial Court, the western counties of the Eparchy of Mukachevo (parishes in present-day Slovakia) were to be incorporated into the Eparchy of Križevci and the eastern counties to the Eparchy of Veľký Varadín<sup>25</sup>. This solution meant that the reduced Eparchy of Mukachevo would no longer require the Vicariate of Košice. Vicar Bradáč discussed this issue with a representative of the imperial authorities Bishop Mitterpacher in Prešov and convinced him that it was necessary to maintain the status quo. Bishop Mitterpacher informed Vienna about the talks with a rather positive outcome. Not only did the authorities adopt this stance, they also suggested that the Vicariate would not be abolished, but it might be elevated to an eparchy instead<sup>26</sup>.

On 2 September 1806, by the Imperial Decree issued by Francis II, the Greek Catholic Vicariate of Košice was established with the residence in Prešov<sup>27</sup>. The monasterial church was to serve both the Vicariate and the parish of Prešov since there was no Greek Catholic church to be used by their faithful<sup>28</sup>. Further decrees were issued to determine the amount of subsidy to be used for the provision of personnel and material resources of the church<sup>29</sup>. The Court Chancery asked to present a budget proposal for the restoration of the monastery

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<sup>23</sup> The imperial court granted the right to parliamentary office for the first time to Bishop A. Bačinský in 1780. In 1789, the right was extended to his successors and in 1790 also to one member of the Mukachevo Chapter.

<sup>24</sup> Ruby, J.: *Brevis historia dioecesis Eperjesiensis*. In: *Schematismus venerabilis cleri graecis ritis catholicorum dioecesis Eperjesiensis pro anno domini 1898*. Eperjesini 1898, p. 11.

<sup>25</sup> Bishop of Veľký Varadín sought to compensate for the losses of his flock. In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the majority of Romanians in his eparchy reunited with the Orthodox faith.

<sup>26</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, pp. 22–23; cf. PEKAR, A.: *Narysy istorii Cerkvi Zakarpatt'a*. Romae 1967, pp. 85–86 and Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, pp. 76–77.

<sup>27</sup> Ruby, J.: *Brevis historia dioecesis Eperjesiensis*, p. 12.

<sup>28</sup> Pekar, A.: *Narysy istorii Cerkvi Zakarpatt'a*. Romae 1967, p. 85.

<sup>29</sup> AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1807, inv. no. 95, sign. 185.

building so that it could serve as the vicarial residence. The proposal also concerned adjustment of the church for the purpose of the Eastern liturgical rite<sup>30</sup>. In 1807, a royal architect from nearby Solivar Jozef Bretterbayer drafted a project for the reconstruction of both the monastery and the church. In August 1808, the Supreme Royal Council approved the project and assigned necessary financial resources<sup>31</sup>. Bretterbayer was to be in charge of the reconstruction. In the end, it did not go according to plan. The royal architect allegedly embezzled the money and even used the material bought for the reconstruction in his own house in Solivar<sup>32</sup>. Problems with reconstruction continued during the office of the following Vicar and Bishop Gregor Tarkovič until they were finally resolved during the episcopacy of second bishop of Prešov Jozef Gaganec.

In 1807, following the example of the Chapter of Mukachevo, Francis II authorized the establishment of the Vicarial Consistory and released funds for the church and vicarage<sup>33</sup>. The Vicarial Consistory consisted of a chairman, a vicar, two assessors from clergy, and a notary and it had the authority to act within the bounds granted by the Bishop of Mukachevo<sup>34</sup>.

Meanwhile, in Uzhhorod, 75-year-old Bishop of Mukachevo, A. Bačinský, requested an auxiliary bishop due to his poor health. The emperor responded to his request positively and on 11 March 1808 appointed Michal Bradáč, Vicar of Prešov, as the titular bishop of Doryllea and auxiliary of the Bishop of Mukachevo (with no right of succession)<sup>35</sup>. Pope Pius VII (1800–1823) confirmed Bishop Bradáč on 30 September 1808. He received his episcopal consecration on 8 January 1809 in Veľký Varadín<sup>36</sup>. Bishop Andrej Bačinský passed away in Uzhhorod towards the end of 1809<sup>37</sup>. The Chapter of Mukachevo elected two Vicars General<sup>38</sup>, Canon

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<sup>30</sup> The first project was drafted by Tomáš Martinázy in 1803, but it was rejected due to some mistakes. MURÍN, J.: *Dejiny gréckokatolíckeho biskupstva Prešovského za prvých dvoch biskupov (1787–1876)*. Dizertačná práca [Dissertation Thesis], Michalovce 1943. Rukopis, p. 24.

<sup>31</sup> AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1807, inv. no. 95, sign. 19, 309; AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1808, inv. no. 96, sign. 79, 249.

<sup>32</sup> Following the investigation, Jozef Bretterbayer was removed from his office. In 1813, the charges against him were dismissed. See: Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, pp. 24–25.

<sup>33</sup> AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1807, inv. no. 95, sign. 41.

<sup>34</sup> Šeňko, J.: *Košický vikariát*. Prešov : ŠOBA 1964, p. 7.

<sup>35</sup> AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1808, inv. No. 96, sign. 224.

<sup>36</sup> Šeňko, J.: *Košický vikariát*. Prešov : ŠOBA 1964, p. 3.

<sup>37</sup> AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1809, inv. no. 97, sign. 267. Information about the date of death of Bishop Bačinský differ. A. Duchnovič and J. Kubinyi refer to November 19, 1809, whereas M. Lacko and A. Pekar to December 18, 1809.

<sup>38</sup> According to the decision of the Council of Trent, upon the death of a bishop the Chapter had to elect Vicar General within eight days. Vicar General was subordinate to Provost of the Chapter. His office ceased when a new bishop is confirmed and canonically installed.



Ján Kutka for the Mukachevo District and Michal Bradáč for the Košice District<sup>39</sup>. According to the practice of the Archdiocese of Esztergom, Rome authorized only one Capitular Vicar to exercise the administrative authority over the diocese and that was Ján Kutka. As an auxiliary bishop of Mukachevo, Michal Bradáč was paradoxically subordinate to Vicar Kutka and his administration was limited to his vicarial district. Following the election, Bradáč returned to Prešov where he remained until the death of Ján Kutka (17 October 1812). On 24 October, the Chapter elected Michal Bradáč to be his successor<sup>40</sup>.

Michal Bradáč left Prešov on 28 October 1812 and moved to Uzhhorod where he assumed the administration of the Eparchy of Mukachevo as Vicar Capitular. The pope confirmed the election of Bradáč as the Capitular Vicar on 1 December 1812 while the approval by the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council was granted on 26 January 1813<sup>41</sup>. Meanwhile, the City Council of Prešov decided to take advantage of the situation in order to confiscate the vicar's residence claiming that the building is needed for the storehouse.

Andrej Kamko<sup>42</sup>, a local Greek Catholic pastor, denounced the action. The Emperor then forbade the execution of that decision. On 30 July 1813, Canon Gregor Tarkovič was appointed as the new Vicar of Košice district. Until then Tarkovič had worked as a censor of the Slavic books in Buda. Following the death of Capitular Vicar and Auxiliary Bishop M. Bradáč, (20 December 1815), the Chapter of Mukachevo elected Tarkovič to be his successor on 22 December 1815. On that very day, the Chapter elected Canon Ján Olšavský, to become a new vicar at the Vicariate of Košice. He assumed his office on 8 December 1816. Olšavský remained in his vicarial office until 6 August 1820. The establishment of the Chapter of the Prešov Eparchy meant that the Episcopal Vicariate of Košice ceased to exist<sup>43</sup>.

The idea to partition the Eparchy of Mukachevo was first put forward by the Greek Catholic Bishops of Križevci and Veľký Varadín. Mukachevo Bishop Andrej Bačinský and Vicar Michal Bradáč naturally opposed the idea. The matter was brought up again at the session of the Hungarian Diet on June 30, 1807.

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<sup>39</sup> AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1809, inv. no. 97, sign. 274, 290.

<sup>40</sup> AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1813, inv. no. 101, sign. 21; See also DUCHNOVIČ, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, pp. 28–29.

<sup>41</sup> Šencko, J.: *Košický vikariát*. Prešov: ŠOBA 1964, p. 4.

<sup>42</sup> In 1810–1815 Andrej Kamko (Andreas Kampó) was Prešov Greek Catholic priest. He is the first to appear as *prichodskij svjaščeník* in Prešov. Until then, the Vicar of the Košice Vicariate held the office of Prešov priest, although the pastoral and parochial duties were carried out by chaplains who were either vicar's secretaries or notaries of the Vicarial Consistory.

<sup>43</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, pp. 29–30; Cf. Lacko, M.: *Z našej minulosti: Biskupský vikariát košický*. In: *Mária* 7, 1982, p. 15.

The proposal of the Archbishop of Esztergom and Hungarian Primate Karol Ambróz von Este was rejected, largely due to the objection raised by Bishop Bačinský<sup>44</sup>.

The idea to divide the Eparchy of Mukachevo resurfaced again after Bishop Bačinský's death in 1809. At the 27 March 1810 session of the Hungarian Diet, Capitular Vicar Ján Kutka was asked to deliver a detailed report on the state of the Eparchy. The division of the Mukachevo Eparchy was back on the table. Kutka, however, opposed the division (following in the footsteps of late Bishop Bačinský and most likely also because he did not want to lose jurisdiction over the whole Eparchy). Vicar Kutka tabled a somewhat compromise proposal suggesting that the Eparchy of Mukachevo was divided into three eparchies – Mukachevo, Prešov, and Maramaroš and the Greek Catholic Metropolia headed by the Mukachevo Metropolitan was created<sup>45</sup>. This proposal called for division, while maintaining some degree of unity<sup>46</sup>.

After the session, Ján Kutka returned to Uzhhorod and informed the members of the Chapter of Canons about the proposal concerning the division of the Eparchy. The Chapter convened several capitular meetings on which territorial and administrative structure of the Mukachevo Eparchy was to be discussed. The Canons decided to accept Kutka's proposal to divide the Eparchy into three parts – eparchies of Mukachevo, Prešov and Maramaroš (with a seat in Nagybánya /Baia Mare in Romanian/ or in Sihot'; Romanian parishes from Maramaroš, Szatmár and Ugocsa counties were to be incorporated within the Maramaroš Eparchy)<sup>47</sup>. On 16 May 1810, the Vicarial Consistory of Košice District (vicariate) also approved the proposal to divide the Eparchy of Mukachevo and erect the Eparchy of Prešov<sup>48</sup>.

On 12 June 1810, after the Mukachevo Chapter and Prešov Consistory had backed the proposal, Vicar Kutka sent a letter to the Hungarian Diet in which he expressed his approval with the division of the Eparchy. Seventeen deaneries

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<sup>44</sup> Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, p. 81.

<sup>45</sup> This proposal was known since 1807, when Pope Pius VII restored the Halič Metropolia. This decision brought about an idea to create Metropolia by dividing the Eparchy of Mukachevo. The proposal included specific figures, e.g. the Prešov Eparchy was to comprise of 189 parishes, the Maramaroš Eparchy of 240, and the Mukachevo Eparchy – the seat of the Metropolia – of 262 parishes.

<sup>46</sup> Lacko, M.: *Z našej minulosti: Vznik Prešovského biskupstva*. In: *Mária* 8–9, 1982, p. 21; Cf.: Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, pp. 82–83.

<sup>47</sup> The proposal outlined the concrete number of parishes and faithful for individual eparchies. The Prešov Eparchy was to include 188 parishes with 145,730 faithful, the Maramaroš Eparchy was to include 240 parishes with 185,717 faithful, and the Eparchy of Mukachevo was to include 262 parishes with 193,552 faithful. Cf.: Pekar, A.: *Narysy istorii Cerkvi Zakarpatt'a*. Romae 1967, p. 87.

<sup>48</sup> AGAP, fond: Košický vikariát, section: Spisový materiál, year: 1810, inv. no. 98, sign. 179.

with 189 parishes and 145,730 faithful were to be excluded from the Eparchy of Mukachevo to create a new eparchy of Prešov<sup>49</sup>.

On 12 October 1810, Vicar Kutka informed Emperor Francis I about the proposal to divide the Eparchy of Mukachevo. Francis I ordered the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council to act. The Council set up a committee that was to be in charge of the division and summoned its members to a meeting in Buda. The Eparchy of Mukachevo was represented by Ján Kutka, Michal Bradáč and Canon Gregor Tarkovič (who had lived in Budapest since 1803, working there as the official censor of the Byzantine and Slavic books at the University Printing House and represented the Mukachevo Chapter in the Hungarian Diet). The Supreme Council acknowledged the need for the division and referred the case back to the emperor for his final approval<sup>50</sup>.

The official reason for the division of the Eparchy was its territorial vastness. Supporters of the division claimed that it was very difficult to administer the affairs of the eparchy and carry out pastoral work by one bishop. Both the distance between the individual parts of the Eparchy and the number of believers made it impossible. In his 1759 report to Rome summarizing the results of his 1750–1752 visitations, Bishop Michal Manuel Olšovský stated that the Eparchy of Mukachevo comprised 150,000 faithful (at the age of being capable of going to confession, *confessionis capaces*)<sup>51</sup>. In 1792, the number of the faithful rose to 443,514<sup>52</sup> and in 1806, there were 541, 963 Greek Catholic faithful in 724 parishes (with 1660 filials)<sup>53</sup>.

Certain animosity that M. Bradáč bore for J. Kutka after his appointment as Capitular (General) Vicar of the Mukachevo Eparchy could also be seen as one of the factors that contributed to the division of the Eparchy. Establishment of a new eparchy could thus mean fulfilment of Bradáč's own aspirations.

Atanáz Pekar and Július Kubínyi, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church historians, claim that the territorial vastness of the Eparchy was not the main reason behind its division and suggest the more complex national and political agenda of the Hungarian political circles. Both historians pointed out to the ambition of Magyars to gain an absolute majority within the multinational Hungary. In order to achieve their goal they introduced a policy of Magyarization, which was also

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<sup>49</sup> Kubínyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, p. 83.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Lacko, M.: Z našej minulosti: Biskup Michal Manuel Olšovský. In: *Mária* 7–8, 1980, pp. 15, 23–24.

<sup>52</sup> *Consignatio parochorum, parochiarum et filialium, numeri animarum, nec non parochialium proventuum almae diocesis Munkacsensis per respectivos Comitatum continens eorum subdivisionem in vice-archidiaconatum facta die 1-ma 7-bris. Anno 1792*. In: *Magyarország története 1790–1848*. Budapest 1980, pp. 425–441.

<sup>53</sup> Udvari, I.: A munkácsi görögkatolikus püspökség lelkészégeinek 1806. évi összeírás. In: *Vasvári Pál társaság füzetek* 3. Nyíregyháza 1990, pp. 79–84.

directed against Greek Catholic Rusyns<sup>54</sup>. For them the most respected authority had always been the Bishop of Mukachevo. This theory is based on the assumption that Rusyns (Pekar and Kubinyi referred to them as Ukrainians) would be protected from Magyarization by the imperial court as long as they remained united under “the rule” of one bishop. That is why Magyars tried to break this unity, which would mean losing the protection of Vienna. All that in order to accelerate and facilitate the process of Magyarization<sup>55</sup>.

However, the process of division of the Mukachevo Eparchy was stalled between the years 1811 and 1815. The international situation in Europe during the Napoleonic wars was rather complicated. Napoleon, for instance, had Pope Pius VII interned for four years (1809–1814)<sup>56</sup>.

On 17 October 1812, Capitular Vicar Kutka passed away<sup>57</sup> and the Chapter elected Michal Bradáč to be his successor<sup>58</sup>. After his appointment, Bradáč changed his mind and spared no effort in keeping the Eparchy intact (once Capitular /General/ Vicar, Bradáč hoped to be appointed as Eparchial Bishop too and did not want to lose one bit from “his” Eparchy).

After his appointment as Capitular Vicar of the Mukachevo Eparchy, Bradáč wanted to administer the Eparchial Vicariate in Prešov too. By doing so, he intended to prevent an election of a new vicar who could insist on the division of the Eparchy. Bradáč sent a request in this matter to the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council. The Council denied his request and appointed Canon Gregor Tarkovič as the new Vicar of Prešov on 30 July 1813<sup>59</sup>.

Not even the change in Bradáč’s opinion could stay the preparation of the division of the Eparchy of Mukachevo. The Supreme Council drafted the proposal concerning the division and sent it to the Emperor for approval. On 3 November 1815, Francis I issued a decree that confirmed the division (*divisio*) of the Eparchy of Mukachevo<sup>60</sup>. This decree, however, did not mention a division

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<sup>54</sup> The authors designate Rusyns as Ukrainians and identify them as any other Greek Catholics in the Eparchy. They omit one important fact and that is that the western counties were already occupied mostly by Greek Catholic Slovaks.

<sup>55</sup> Pekar, A.: *Narysy istorii Cerkvi Zakarpatt'a*. Romae 1967, p. 86; Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, pp. 79–80.

<sup>56</sup> Rendina, C.: *Příběhy papežů. Dejiny a tajemství. Životopisy 265 římských papežů*. Praha 2005, pp. 603–605.

<sup>57</sup> AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1812, inv. no. 100, sign. 240.

<sup>58</sup> AGAP, Košický vikariát, year 1812, inv. no. 100, sign. 251.

<sup>59</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, pp. 34–35.

<sup>60</sup> In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the law of patronage (i.e. the right of the Hungarian kings to interfere with the assignment of prebends, creation of dioceses and appointment of bishops, etc.) becomes an issue in Hungary. The then interpretation of this right contradicted the Canon Law. The only body authorized to divide dioceses or erect the new ones and to appoint bishops was the Holy Sec. In Hungary, however, three new dioceses (Spiš, Banská Bystrica and Rožňava) were created by

into three eparchies or the establishment of a new independent Greek Catholic Metropolia. It mentioned only the detachment of a certain territory for the new Eparchy of Prešov (the Romanian parishes, which were to create the third Maramaroš Eparchy in the original proposal, were eventually incorporated within the Eparchy of Veľký Varadín)<sup>61</sup>. One of the important reasons why it was this particular alternative of the division that was pushed through, was that the Hungarian Primate who otherwise would “lose control” over the Greek Catholics if the independent Greek Catholic Metropolia was created. This way, both Greek Catholic eparchies remained under his jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, Vienna notified the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council about the Emperor’s decree and requested from them the precise border demarcation and the exact number of parishes that would make up a newly established eparchy. The Council also had to nominate the candidates to fill the both episcopal sees (both Prešov and Mukachevo). The Supreme Council set up a special committee responsible for choosing the right candidates. The committee first met in Buda in January 1816. Apart from the representatives of the Supreme Council, other members were Roman Catholic bishops – Archbishop of Eger, Bishops of Košice and Szatmár; Greek Catholic bishops – Bishops of Križevci and Veľký Varadín and Capitular Vicar of Mukachevo Gregor Tarkovič (Michal Bradáč died suddenly on 20 December 1815)<sup>62</sup>.

At the meeting held on 16 January 1816, the committee proposed that the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Prešov should territorially correspond to the territory of the Košice Vicariate and included parts of seven different counties: Abov, Boršod, Šariš, Spiš, Turňa, Gemer, and a northern part of Zemplín (Stropkov, Vranov, Humenné, Medzilaborce and Hostovice deaneries), which made up 194 parishes (this solution was based on the one adopted in 1810 by the Mukachevo Chapter)<sup>63</sup>.

At the following meeting held on 26 January 1816, the committee chose the candidates for bishop appointments. The committee proposed Canon Alexej

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detaching them from the Archdiocese of Esztergom in 1776 on the basis of rather ambiguous law. For more detailed explanation see also Tomko, J.: *Zriadenie Spišskej, Banskobystrickej a Rožňavskej diecézy a kráľovské patronátne právo v Uhorsku*. Spišská Kapitula 1995. In 1804, the Diocese of Eger was divided in similar manner creating Košice and Szatmár diocese.

<sup>61</sup> It happened on August 3, 1823, when 72 parishes were incorporated within the Eparchy of Veľký Varadín, in 1827, however, nine Rusyn parishes returned under the jurisdiction of the Mukachevo Bishop (in 1816, one parish was incorporated within the Eparchy of Fagaras).

Cf.: Baran, A.: *Podil Mukačevskej Eparchii v XIX. storočí*. In: *Zapisky OSBM*. Rím 1963, vol. 3–4, pp. 534–569.

<sup>62</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, p. 35.

<sup>63</sup> Pekar, A.: *Narysy istorii Cerkvi Zakarpatt’a*. Romae 1967, p. 89, refers to the Vatican Archive of Constitorial Congregation, year 1818, P. II., f. 237 <sup>a-b</sup>, informs about 194 parishes, Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, p. 84 writes about 192 parishes.

Pócsy and Canon Simeon Bran, members of the Chapter of Veľký Varadín for the Mukachevo Eparchy and Capitular Vicar Gregor Tarkovič and Canon Ján Olšovský (newly appointed Eparchial Vicar of Prešov) for the Prešov Eparchy<sup>64</sup>. His Majesty approved the proposed solution concerning the detachment of the parishes and chose Alexej Pócsy and Gregor Tarkovič as the most suitable candidates for bishops. On 6 February 1816, he informed the Chapter of Mukachevo about his decision through the Hungarian Court Chancery. In a letter to Rome, dated 1 March 1816, Francis I briefed Pope Pius VII about his decision to divide the Eparchy of Mukachevo and erect a new Eparchy in Prešov. At the same time, the Emperor asked the pope to approve his decision and confirm the appointment of the candidates for bishops<sup>65</sup>.

Francis I, however, did not wait for the confirmation from the Holy See. In March 1816, he appointed Pócsy and Tarkovič as bishops of Mukachevo and Prešov, respectively<sup>66</sup>. The letter of appointment that Bishop Tarkovič received did not contain any information about the seat of the Eparchy or about the financial provision for either the eparchy or the bishop. This led to several discrepancies delaying the process of the canonical erection of the Eparchy of Prešov.

Gregor Tarkovič did not show much “enthusiasm” after his appointment. After all, he was appointed without the approval of the Apostolic See. Besides that, Tarkovič knew the conditions in his new Eparchy very well, especially the problems surrounding the dilapidated residence and the cathedral church. Until his appointment as Capitular Vicar, Tarkovič had served as Eparchial Vicar in Prešov (30 June 1813 – 22 December 1815), so he was well aware of the local circumstances. In his decision concerning the establishment of the eparchy, Emperor Francis I did not touch upon financial affairs of the new Eparchy, despite the standard practice. On 11 May 1816, G. Tarkovič therefore decided to decline this nomination (under the pretext of ill health and advanced age – he was 62 at

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<sup>64</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, p. 36.

<sup>65</sup> Pekar, A.: *Narysy istorii Cerkvi Zakarpatt'a*. Romae 1967, p. 89; porov. Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, p. 85.

<sup>66</sup> Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, p. 85, refers to Welykyj, A.: *Documenta Pontificorum Romanorum historiam Ucrainae illustrantia*, vol. II. Romae 1954, pp. 337–339 sets the date of appointment to March 22, 1816. In comparison, Lacko, M.: *Z našej minulosti: Vznik Prešovského biskupstva*. In: *Mária* 8–9, 1982, p. 21, sets the date to March 19, 1816, while VASIL, C.: *Porovnanie cirkevnoprávnych prameňov byzantsko-slovanskej katolíckej cirkvi v Mukačevskej a Prešovskej eparchii s Kódexom kánonov východných cirkví*. Rím 1994, p. 40, March 20, 1816.

The Letter of Appointment issued by Emperor Francis I is dated 19 March 1816. The discrepancies concerning the date may have arisen in relation to its execution. The Emperor informed the Supreme Royal Council about his decision to appoint Tarkovič. The Council then issued a decree on 22 March 1816 in which they informed Gregor Tarkovič about his appointment.

that time)<sup>67</sup>. On 29 October 1816, the Hungarian Supreme Royal Council once again asked Tarkovič to either confirm or refute his decision about the appointment, since in case of his refusal, the Council needed to propose a new candidate. Eventually, Tarkovič accepted the appointment on condition that the financial provision of the Eparchy would promptly be dealt with. The Hungarian Court Chancery addressed this matter and proposed to allocate some financial means that would cover the expenses related to the reconstruction of the bishop's residence, bishop's pension, purchase of liturgical items, and charitable and educational funds. The Chancery also decided that the Eparchy was assigned some immovable property to provide stable income without the need for state subsidies. This proposal was then referred to His Majesty. On 11 July 1817, Francis I issued a deed of donation<sup>68</sup> for the newly created Eparchy of Prešov in which he confirmed Tarkovič's appointment as the Bishop of Prešov and granted him the temporarily fixed subsidy of 6,000 florins that was to be paid from the Religious fund. Francis I ordered to transfer 50 % of the state subsidy received by the Eparchy of Mukachevo to provide for their clergy to the newly established Eparchy of Prešov. The Chapter of Prešov would also be provided for<sup>69</sup>. The Emperor, however, did not respond to all requests presented by the Hungarian Court Chancery, which left Bishop-Elect Tarkovič unhappy with the solution. For instance, the reconstruction of the residence remained the most pressing issue. At that point, Tarkovič had not received any confirmation from Rome regarding the establishment of the new Eparchy or his own appointment as a new bishop. He decided to take the matter into his own hand and travel to Vienna. Having no financial resources (the money that he was granted by the Emperor was to be placed at his disposal as soon as he takes the oath to his office), Tarkovič lived three years in Vienna in poverty. Yet, he succeeded in taking necessary steps to secure provision of his Eparchy. On 30 September 1817, Francis I instructed to pay the subsidy of 30,000 florins to both the Eparchy of Mukachevo and Prešov. The monies were to be distributed proportionally to both Eparchies and used as an endowment for different religious funds (educational fund to provide for seminarians; a fund for orphans and widows of deceased priests, etc.)<sup>70</sup>. He also ordered to commit funds to the reconstruction of the residence and the cathedral. This money was to be available after the bishop's enthronement<sup>71</sup>. On 17 April

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<sup>67</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, p. 38.

<sup>68</sup> AGAP, Fond Listiny Gréckokatolickeho biskupstva Prešov, inv. no. 1, box 1., sign. 8806.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> The Supreme Royal Council authorized both eparchies to divide the endowment and funds on 1 March 1816. The Council enforced his Majesty's decree issued in 1817 on October 24, 1820.

<sup>71</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, p. 42.

1818, the emperor offered Bishop-Elect Tarkovič the possession of a former Camaldolese monastery Červený kláštor in a village of Lechnica, Spiš District as the benefice.

The income proceeding from the said possession of 11, 692 fl. and 42 cr. the Bishop-Elect was to divide as follows: 6,000 florins to cover his own expenses, 5,000 florins for the Chapter and 692 fl. and 42 cr. for the maintenance of the cathedral church<sup>72</sup>. Due to red tape, many of these ordinances came into effect after the bishop's return to Prešov in 1820.

Earlier we mentioned that Francis I did not wait for the Holy See to approve of the division of the Eparchy of Mukachevo and confirm the newly appointed Greek Catholic bishops. Besides that, the emperor's request dated 1 March 1816 lacked some essential and concrete information about the matter. That is why Pope Pius VII authorised the Consistorial Congregation to investigate. The Consistorial Congregation requested the Apostolic Nunciature in Vienna to provide the missing information. The Apostolic Nuncio then contacted the newly appointed Bishop of Mukachevo Alexej Pócsy. But the investigation did not proceed apace. The Nuncio learnt that Empress Maria Theresa removed the seat of the Mukachevo Eparchy to Uzhhorod in 1775 without the prior approval of the Apostolic See. The new fact meant another problem – what was the proper name of the eparchy then: the Eparchy of Mukachevo or the Eparchy of Uzhhorod?<sup>73</sup> Yet another delay in the investigation was caused by the personnel changes. Archbishop Paolo Leardi replaced Cardinal Antonio Gabriele Severolio in the office of the papal nuncio. Although Archbishop Leardi was officially appointed on 7 March 1817, the Consistorial Congregation had to wait until his arrival to Vienna, which happened only in the summer of 1817.

On 24 July 1817, Pope Pius VII confirmed the removal of the Eparchy's seat to Uzhhorod and granted "sanatio in radice" for all acts performed in this regard. The pope also declared that the Eparchy of Mukachevo would retain its original name<sup>74</sup>. On 11 August 1817, he confirmed Pócsy's appointment as

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<sup>72</sup> Ibid, p. 44.

<sup>73</sup> The seat of the Eparchy of Mukachevo used to be the Basilian monastery of St. Nicolas located on Černecha Hora near Mukachevo. In 1751, Bishop Michal Manuel Olšovský moved his residence to Mukachevo, to the house he had built with the financial support of Empress Maria Theresa. In 1775, the seat of the Eparchy was moved to Uzhhorod (the Eparchy was still known as the Eparchy of Mukachevo). The bishop's residence was housed in the former Jesuit College. Officially, the bishop's Office and other institutions commenced their activities after the consecration of the cathedral on 15 October 1780. Following the death of Bishop A. Bačinský, some experts in Canon Law raised serious doubts as to the move of the bishop's residence without the prior consent of the Holy See being in line with the Canon Law. The matter was then forwarded to the Holy See for consideration.

<sup>74</sup> Welykyj, A.: *Documenta...c. d., Translatio Ecclesiae cathedralis Munkacsiensis ex oppido Mukačevo in civitatem Ungvár, in Ucraina Carpatica tunc Austriae subiecta*, p. 326.



Bishop of Mukachevo, who assumed his office after taking his episcopal ordination in January 1818<sup>75</sup>.

Bishop-Elect Tarkovič remained in Vienna because the process of the canonical establishment of the Eparchy of Prešov had not been finalized at that point. To accelerate the whole process, Gregor Tarkovič requested all necessary documents concerning the division of the Eparchy from the Mukachevo Chapter. The materials *Litterae testimoniales* were prepared by the Chapter on 16 October 1817 and subsequently forwarded to Tarkovič. On 14 February 1818, Nuncius Leardi contacted again the Chancellor of Vatican and reminded him that Emperor Francis I approached the Holy See about the canonical erection of the Eparchy of Prešov and confirmation of Tarkovič's appointment as a new bishop as early as 1 March, 1816. Alexej Pócsy, a newly ordained Bishop of Mukachevo approved the establishment of the new Eparchy and informed the Consistorial Congregation about his decision on 28 April 1818. Still, the information did not suffice for the Holy See and so on 6 May 1818 the Consistorial Congregation approached the Nuncio in Vienna and asked him to answer eighteen important questions. Here are some of them:

- How many eparchies will be created, two or three?
- What about the financial provision for the eparchy?
- What about the territory of the eparchy? How many parishes and faithful will it comprise?
- Will the Bishop of Prešov have the right to vote in the election of the Archbishop of Esztergom?
- What about the Patrocinium of the new cathedral church?
- Why there is no mention of a seminary in the emperor's request?<sup>76</sup>

Having all questions answered, Nuncio Leadri sent the completed material to Rome on 23 May 1818. In his letter, he provided the Congregation with the information about the Eparchy's territory (30x20 Hungarian miles<sup>77</sup>), and its financial provision. Leadri explained that the Bishop of Prešov did have the right to participate in the election of the Archbishop of Esztergom and that the cathedral church would be dedicated to Saint John the Evangelist. With regard to the

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<sup>75</sup> Lacko, M.: *Z našej minulosti: Biskup Alexej Pócsy*. In: *Mária* 12, 1981, pp. 15–16.

<sup>76</sup> Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, pp. 87–88.

<sup>77</sup> The territory in this proposal corresponds with the one drafted by the Supreme Royal Council in 1816. It includes Abov, Boršod, Gemer, Šariš, Spiš and Turňa counties and 5 deaneries belonging to the Zemplín County (Stropkov, Vranov, Humenné, Hostovice, and Laborec). When compared to the initial proposal, however, there which considered 188 parishes, there was one change taking into account creation of new parishes. The territory of the Eparchy of Prešov comprised 193 parishes and 1109 filials with 148,987 faithful. *Archivum Secretum Vaticanum, Acta Sacrae Congregationis Consistorialis, anno 1818*. The same number of parishes is also mentioned in the papal bull *Relata Semper*.

seminary, Leadri confirmed that students would undergo formation in seminaries in Vienna, Trnava, Budapest, and Uzhhorod until a new seminary was built<sup>78</sup>.

The process of canonical establishment of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Prešov could finally commence. On 7 August 1818, in the presence of two witnesses, Gregor Tarkovič took the oath of fidelity to the Catholic Church into the hands of the Apostolic Nuncio and made profession of faith. On 9 September 1818, the Consistorial Congregation issued a decree establishing the Eparchy of Prešov. A few days later, on 19 September 1818, Rafael Monius, Secretary of the Congregation presented the content of the papal bull in front of the congregation of the faithful for the first time. The bull *Relate semper*<sup>79</sup>, (named after the opening line) was solemnly promulgated on 22 September 1818 and confirmed by Pope Pius VII at the meeting of the Consistorial Congregation on 2 October 1818<sup>80</sup>.

In the opening section of the bull, Pope Pius VII reminds that it is his duty to care for the spiritual good of his faithful and that he is prepared to erect a new diocese when needed. The following lines of the bull describe the reasons for the division of the Eparchy of Mukachevo (territorial vastness), name Emperor Francis I as the person who initiated the division and confirm that Bishop A. Pócsy approved the division. The bull contains the following provisions:

- Prešov will be the seat of the Eparchy
- the Church of Saint John the Evangelist will become the cathedral church (during the episcopacy of Jozef Gaganec the cathedral underwent reconstruction and in 1848 it was consecrated again and dedicated to Saint John the Baptist)
- the Chapter consisting of five canons is created
- the bishop will reside in the residence of the episcopal vicariate
- the emperor will provide the bishop with a salary of 6,000 golden florins, which he will receive until the immovable property can generate regular income. The income should be proportionally distributed among the Chapter's Canons
- the territory of the Eparchy comprises 193 parishes (covering six whole counties: Abov, Boršod, Gemer, Spiš, Šariš, and Turňa and five deaneries of the Zemplín County: Humenné, Hostovice, Laborec, Stropkov and Vranov)
- Bishop of Prešov has the full authority over the Greek Catholics within his Eparchy but he must not interfere with the affairs and jurisdiction of Roman Catholic bishops. He should be a good pastor to his faithful without being prejudiced towards the Archbishop of Eger (and other Roman Catholic bishops, for instance, the Bishops of Košice, Rožňava, Spiš, and Szatmár, who

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<sup>78</sup> Ibid., p. 89.

<sup>79</sup> AGAP, Fond Bežná agenda, Oddelenie Spisy, inv. no. 454, sign. 442.

<sup>80</sup> AGAP, Listiny, inv. no. 6, sign. 137.

administer dioceses in which the Greek Catholic parishes belonging under the jurisdiction of the Eparchy are located)

- the Eparchy of Prešov will fall directly under the administration of the Archbishop of Eger who also has the rights of the Metropolitan
- the emperor as Rex Apostolicus has the right to appoint new bishops, but his nomination must be confirmed by the Holy See. Only then can the new bishop be ordained
- every bishop must profess his faith prescribed to the bishops of Byzantine rite in the presence of two witnesses – either Chapter canons or priests of the Eparchy. A document confirming that must be sent to the Apostolic Nuncio in Vienna<sup>81</sup>.

After issuing the founding bull *Relate semper*, Pope Pius VII also issued a letter of appointment for Gregor Tarkovič, the first Greek Catholic bishop of Prešov<sup>82</sup> and handed him jurisdiction over the newly established Eparchy<sup>83</sup>. On 6 October 1818, the pope also issued two other documents. One of them was addressed to the clergy and faithful of the Eparchy of Prešov<sup>84</sup>. The last from the series of decrees was the concordat that defined the relationship between the Greek Catholic Eparchy and Rome<sup>85</sup>.

The papal bull *Relate semper* was not expedited straightaway because the Holy See wanted to secure the payment of all costs related to the issue of the bull. Interestingly enough, the payment of 1,055 florins was addressed to Bishop Tarkovič, although it was a common practice that the state settled the expenses in similar cases. Having no financial resources, Bishop-Elect Tarkovič approached the Apostolic Nuncio in Vienna on 5 February 1819. He explained that he had no way of paying the requested sum of money and offered his resignation. Nuncio informed the Hungarian government and on 4 April 1819, Chancellor Klemens Metternich announced that the government made a commitment to pay all the expenses<sup>86</sup>.

Financial problems that Bishop-Elect Tarkovič encountered during his stay in Vienna did not seem to disappear. Having thoroughly examined the documents related to the possession of Červený kláštor, Tarkovič found out that the stipulated income of 11,692 fl. and 42 cr. was in fact a little less than 4,000 florins. This amount could hardly be enough to maintain the residence, the cathedral church and to pay the Canons.

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<sup>81</sup> AGAP, Bežná agenda, Spisy, no. 454, sign. 442; Slaninka, M.: *Relata semper. Bula Pia VII. O zriadení Prešovskej eparchie*. In: [http://www.grkat.nfo.sk/Texty/relata\\_semper.html](http://www.grkat.nfo.sk/Texty/relata_semper.html).

<sup>82</sup> AGAP, Listiny, inv. no. 3, sign. 10088.

<sup>83</sup> AGAP, Listiny, inv. no. 5, sign. 10088/18.

<sup>84</sup> AGAP, Listiny, inv. no. 3, sign. 10088/13.

<sup>85</sup> AGAP, Listiny, inv. no. 2, sign. 10088/14.

<sup>86</sup> Kubinyi, J.: *The History of Prjašiv Eparchy*. Romae 1970, p. 91.

Besides that, the possession of Lechnica was rather distant from Prešov. On 26 February 1819, Bishop-Elect Tarkovič asked for possession in Vyšná Myšľa (former property of Jesuit University in Košice) and Brestovo instead of Červený kláštor. The Hungarian Court Chancery took this request into consideration, but they did not accept it. The possession of Vyšná Myšľa had already been assigned to the Esztergom Seminary<sup>87</sup>. Instead of that, on 7 July 1820, His Majesty issued a decree by which the smaller properties in Vranov (nad Topľou) with land in Kajňa (present-day Slovenská Kajňa) were assigned to the newly established Eparchy on condition that they would be administered by the bishop himself. The decree also allotted some money to be used for the purchase of liturgical books and other liturgical paraphernalia. However, it did not stipulate the proportional distribution of the income from these properties among the bishop, the Chapter and the cathedral church. The Chancery recommended to the emperor to divide the benefice so these institutions could receive their own share. His Majesty approved this proposal and by his decree dated 10 December 1820 instructed to divide the whole benefice into thirteen shares: six of which were assigned to the bishop five to the Chapter and two to the cathedral church. From that day on the payment of 6,000 florins and 50% of subsidy from the Religious Fund, formerly assigned to the bishop was to cease. The possession of Lechnica was transferred in December 1820 and the one in Vranov in February 1821<sup>88</sup>.

While Bishop-Elect Tarkovič was still in Vienna, the Eparchial Chapter in Prešov was formed. Francis I announced his intention to form the Chapter already on 6 February 1816. In line with the stipulation in the papal bull *Relata semper*, the Chapter was approved and then canonically erected by Pope Pius VII on 29 September 1818. Having established the financial provision for the Chapter, the resolution of the Emperor was promulgated on May 16, 1820<sup>89</sup>. Canon Ján Mehay<sup>90</sup> was appointed as Provost – Capitular Vicar (he presided the Chapter, supervised the administration of all funds endowments). Other members of the Chapter were:

- Michal Kanyuk, as Canon – Lector, the second-ranking official after the Provost, responsible for the administrative agenda

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<sup>87</sup> Lacko, M.: *Z našej minulosti: Vznik Prešovského biskupstva*. In: *Mária* 8–9, 1982, p. 22.

<sup>88</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnojj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, p. 46–49.

<sup>89</sup> *Schematismus Venerabilis Cleri Graeci Ritus Catholicorum Dioeceseos Fragopolitanae pro anno Domini 1931*. Fragopoli 1931, p. 13.

<sup>90</sup> AGAP, Listiny, inv. no. 7, sign. 4666–5, box 1.

Ján Mehay was born in 1776 in a village of Barakony in the Turňa County. He studied Philosophy in Košice, and Theology in the General Seminary in Bratislava. He was a member of the Vicarial Consistory. In 1818 he was appointed the Canon of Mukachevo. He died in Prešov on January 28, 1835.

- Bazil Hodobay, as Canon – Cantor: was responsible for the liturgical singing and liturgy, direct superior to clerics, deacons and cantors
- Andrej Chira, as Canon – Custodian: took care of church supplies and liturgical paraphernalia
- Ján Habina, as Canon – Scholasticus: was in charge of chaplain and priest education, headed the department of theology and supervised the Chapter archive<sup>91</sup>.

The members of the Chapter were formally installed on August 6, 1820 in the cathedral that formerly belonged to Eparchial Vicariate. At the ceremony, the papal bulls and royal decrees related to the establishment and provision of the Eparchy and the Chapter and to the elevation of the vicarial church to the cathedral were read. On that very day, the process of the establishment of the Eparchy of Prešov was officially completed. Everybody impatiently awaited the arrival of Bishop-Elect Gregor Tarkovič from Vienna. During his absence, the administration of the Eparchy rested on Capitular Vicar Ján Mehay<sup>92</sup>.

Having solved all the matters concerning the Eparchy, Tarkovič visited Apostolic Nuncio on September 10, 1820 and decided to come back to Prešov. On his return, he paid a visit to the Archbishop of Esztergom and Primate Alexander Rudnay (in 1820 he moved his residence to Esztergom from Trnava) and he also stopped in Buda. Tarkovič became ill in Miškolc and in such an unfortunate state, he arrived to Prešov on November 7, 1820. In Prešov, he found his residence desolate, in far worse condition than he had left it several years before. And in these “ruins”, he spent the rest of his life with great patience and ascetics<sup>93</sup>.

Having recovered from the illness, Bishop-Elect Tarkovič started to consider his episcopal consecration. He was confirmed by both His Majesty and Pope Pius VII but was not consecrated and could not assume the administration of the newly erected Eparchy of Prešov. Having realized that a big ceremony would involve a lot of money and because of his poor health too, Tarkovič decided on simple and quiet ceremony at the Monastery of the Basilian Fathers in Krásny Brod. He was consecrated on June 17, 1821 in the presence of the Canons of his Chapter and clergy. The main consecrator was Bishop of Mukachevo, Alexej Pócsy<sup>94</sup>. At the ceremony, Tarkovič professed the Catholic faith and took the oath<sup>95</sup>. Returning to Prešov, he was privately installed in the cathedral in the

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<sup>91</sup> Hrivnák, S.: *Gréckokatolícke biskupstvo v Prešove 1323–1821–1950*. ŠOBA Prešov 1968, pp. 67–69; porov Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria slavnoj eparchii Prjaševskoj ot jeja načala do pervaho episkopa Grigorija Tarkoviča*. Sankt Peterburg 1877, p. 47.

<sup>92</sup> Duchnovič, A.: *Chronologičeskaja istoria*, p. 48.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid., p. 52.

<sup>94</sup> AGAP, Bežná agenda, Spisy, year 1822, inv. no. 338, sign. 404; *Pamätný list o vysviacke biskupa G. Tarkoviča*.

<sup>95</sup> AGAP, Bežná agenda, Spisy, year 1822, inv. no. 338, sign. 691.

Canons of his Chapter and assumed the administration of the Eparchy, which until then was governed by the Provost of the Chapter<sup>96</sup>.

Administratively, the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Prešov was divided into five archdeaneries, 17 deaneries and 194 parishes comprising 161, 261 faithful.

**Administrative organization of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Prešov as of 1823<sup>97</sup>**

Archdeanery	Deaneries	Number of parishes	Number of subsidiaries	Number of faithful
I. Abov-Turňa	1. Košice	8	150	8,577
	2. Cserehát	10	131	9,438
	3. Szántov	5	31	3,633
	3	23	312	21,648
II. Boršod	1. Boršod	11	179	11,791
III. Cathedral (Šariš)	1. Bardejov	11	32	9,082
	2. Bukovec	13	25	9,405
	3. Prešov	14	160	11,379
	4. Makovica	12	20	11,074
	5. Poprad	14	26	9,960
	6. Svidník	10	40	7,827
	6	74	306	58,727
IV. Spiš	1. Spiš inf.	11	137	12,779
	2. Spiš sup.	9	105	13,903
	2	20	242	26,682
V. Zemplín	1. Humenné	7	45	3,553
	2. Hostovice	13	9	9,888
	3. Laborec	18	25	12,891
	4. Stropkov	12	32	6,906
	5. Vranov	16	47	9,175
	5	66	158	42,413
Total	17	194	1,197	161,261

<sup>96</sup> Pekar, A.: *Historic backround of the Eparchy of Prjashev*. Pittsburgh 1968, p. 8 and Lacko, M.: *Z našej minulosti: Biskup Gregor Tarkovič*. In: *Mária* 10, 1982, p. 15 state that the installation by the Chapter took place on the very same day as the consecration. It is unlikely since the distance between Krásny Brod and Prešov is over 100 km and the existing means of transport would make impossible to execute that. Babjak, J.: *P. Michal Lacko, SJ – informátor a formátor gréckokatolíkov*. Trnava 1997, p. 80 is of the same opinion.

<sup>97</sup> *Schematismus sub Guberno Illustrissimi ac reverendisimi domini Gregorii Tarkovits, miseratione divina primi episcopi Eperiessiensis Graeci ritus catholicorum pro Anno 1823*. Eperies 1823, pp. 112–115.

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## 200-LECIE UTWORZENIA W PRESZOWIE GRECKOKATOLICKIEJ EPARCHII (22 WRZEŚNIA 1818)

### Streszczenie

Artykuł opisuje proces podziału greckokatolickiej eparchii mukaczewskiej i utworzenie nowej preszowskiej eparchii. Administracja rozległej terytorialnie eparchii mukaczewskiej z jurysdykcją nad 13 okręgami rozciągającymi się od Spiś i Gemer na wschodzie do Máramaroś na zachodzie była zadaniem trudnym. Greckokatolicka eparchia preszowska powstała na fundamencie wikariatu koszyckiego utworzonego w 1787 r. Proces kanonicznego jej utworzenia okazał się długi i skomplikowany – trwał prawie trzy lata. Rozpoczął się 3 listopada 1815 r., kiedy to cesarz Franciszek I zdecydował się podzielić eparchię mukaczewską i utworzyć nową greckokatolicką eparchię w Preszowie. Papież Pius VII bullą *Relata semper* z 22 września 1818 r. zatwierdził nowe biskupstwo.