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The Contribution of Herzegovinian Parishes to the Restoration of the Franciscan Monastery in Kreševo in 1767 and 1822 and Its Maintenance to the Middle of the 19th Century

Summary

The Franciscan Province Bosna Srebrena was reduced to three monasteries on the territory of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina after the end of the Great Turkish War (1699): Fojnica, Sutjeska and Kreševo. Taking into consideration the results of the war with respect to the new borders between the Ottoman Empire and the Venetian Republic, and bearing in mind that of the three areas with monasteries, Kreševo was the smallest in size, the Provincial administration (the Province encompassed Dalmatian monasteries to 1735, and Slavonian-Hungarian monasteries to 1757) entrusted the care of parishes in western Herzegovina, which until then had been, for the most part, under the pastoral care of Franciscans from Živogošće and Zaostrog, to the Kreševo monastery. The Neretvica region, together with the entire Konjic and Jablanica region, had already been connected to the monastery from the destruction of the Franciscan monastery in Konjic (1521 or 1524).

As was customary at the time, all parishes contributed to maintaining the monastery through regular donations either in money or kind, and special fundraising activities were organised after the destruction of the monastery and church in the fire that occurred in the spring of 1765, when monetary and other donations were collected, and for the extensive restoration, which because of the dilapidated state of the previous construction, began in the first half of the 19th century.

The paper seeks to show the types and amounts of each parish's share in the contributions to the restoration and maintenance of the monastery. Several examples will illustrate the nature of the problems which the monastery administration and the parish priests and chaplains of individual parishes encountered, particularly in the delivery of contributions in kind, and which were connected to the behaviour of individual local Muslim landowners towards them. The paper also briefly presents the relation of individual Orthodox dignitaries towards the parishes and parish priests in Herzegovina.

The paper also presents hitherto unknown facts on the pastoral activities of the Franciscans of the Kreševo monastery outside the monastery's region, in the region of the Trebinje-Mrkan Diocese.

Keywords: Franciscan monastery Kreševo; Herzegovina; restoration; contributions; Dubrave parish; Trebinje-Mrkan Diocese.