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Apostolic Visitation to the Catholic Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1910-1914

Part II: Apostolic Visitation to the Church in Herzegovina in January and February 1911 in the Light of Contemporary Sources

Summary

In this paper, the author continues his research and publications on the Apostolic Visitation to the Catholic Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1910-1914, which he began in 2021, and delineates the more important tasks and objectives of the Apostolic Visitation of the Papal Delegate Pierre Bastien to the Catholic Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The entire visitation lasted from December 1910 to September 1914. It was the first Apostolic Visitation to this ecclesiastical province, which had been canonically established by the Bull of Pope Leo XIII *Ex hac augusta Principis Apostolorum cathedra (Ex hac augusta)*. The need for the Apostolic Visitation could be discerned as early as February 1910, however, the decision had already been made on 8th November 1910 at the session of the Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs and ratified by Pope Pio X on 28th November 1910 in a letter to archbishop Stadler, his suffragans and the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Franciscan provincials. The newly appointed Apostolic Delegate, Belgian Benedictine Pierre Bastien, upon receiving his mandate and instructions for the Apostolic Visitation, arrived in Sarajevo on 28th December 1910. He was dismissed in October 1914. While in Sarajevo at the beginning of his visitation, he had attempted to establish the necessary contacts of an ecclesiastical and political nature with the responsible people in the Church, society and politics, however, his work was interrupted by new orders from Rome to immediately depart for Herzegovina and to investigate the newly arisen spiritual and financial state in the dioceses of Mostar-Duvno and Trebinje-Mrkan following the death of bishop fra Paškal Buconjić. This first and specific visitation to the Herzegovinian bishops was conducted in January and February 1911.

Keywords: Apostolic Delegate Bastien; bishop Buconjić; Cardinal Secretary of State Merry del Val; mons. Lazar Lazarević; fra Radoslav Glavaš; diocesan priests; Herzegovinian Franciscans.