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

Part Three. The Apostolic Visitation to the Church in Herzegovina in January and February 1911 in the Light of Contemporary Sources: The Question of the Material Assets of the Diocese of Mostar-Duvno

Summary

This article, the third part of a broader study of the history of the apostolic visitation to the Catholic Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1910-1914 and the second part of the apostolic visitation of the papal delegate Pierre Bastien to the Catholic Church in Herzegovina, is a continuation of the author's research and publications on this topic, which he began in 2021. While the entire visitation to Bosnia and Herzegovina lasted from December 1910 to September 1914, the visitation to Herzegovina lasted only a very short time, from January to February 1911. In the first article on the visitation to the Catholic Church in Herzegovina, the author limited himself to the pastoral aspect of the visitation: meetings with the secular and religious clergy, visits to individual parishes and Franciscan communities. This was the very first apostolic visitation to the Vrhbosna Church Metropolis, which had been canonically established by the bull of Pope Leo XIII, *Ex hac augusta Principis Apostolorum* (*Ex hac augusta*), on 5 July 1881. Although the need for an apostolic visitation had been raised in February 1910, the decision to conduct one was not made until 8 November 1910, at a meeting of the Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs. The decision was confirmed on 28 November 1910 by Pope Pius X in a letter addressed to Archbishop Stadler, his suffragans, and the Franciscan provincials of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The newly appointed Apostolic Visitor, Belgian Benedictine Pierre Bastien, arrived in Sarajevo on 28 December 1910, after receiving his orders and instructions for the apostolic visitation. He was not recalled until September 1914. While he was trying to establish the necessary contacts of a church and political nature with the responsible people in the Church, society and politics at the beginning of his visitation in Sarajevo, he received a new order from Rome to immediately go to Herzegovina and to examine the newly arisen financial and pastoral situation in the dioceses of Mostar-Duvno and Trebinje-Mrkan after the death of Bishop Fra Buconjić. This first and specific visitation to the Herzegovinian dioceses was undertaken in January and February 1911. The article focuses on the acquisition of material assets in the Herzegovinian Vicariate and later in the Diocese of Mostar-Duvno, as well as the material state of the same immediately before and after the death of Bishop Buconjić in December 1910. On this occasion, all episcopal/diocesan assets associated with the thirty-year tenure of Bishop Fra Paškal Buconjić were sold or donated, which sparked interest and concern both at the metropolitan headquarters in Sarajevo and at the Holy See in Rome.

Keywords: Apostolic delegate Bastien; Bishop Buconjić; Cardinal State Secretary Merry del Val, Mons. Lazar Lazarević, fra Radoslav Glavaš; fra Luka Begić; fra Nikola Šimović; fra Lujo Bubalo; Mons. Stjepan Hadrović; Herzegovinian Franciscans.