

Paweł Dyrda

"Father Michał Buniowski (1888-1977). Priest – Soldier – Artist."

The main aim of the dissertation is to present the figure of Father Michał Buniowski, a priest associated with the Przemyśl diocese. A proper historical context allows for an approximation of the truth about a person. One cannot speak of someone's achievements, attitudes, or decisions without presenting the conditions in which they took place. In the author's intention, this work is, therefore, a pretext to depict the Polish reality at the end of the 19th and 20th centuries: the Galician village during the period of autonomy, primary and secondary education, the obligations imposed on the Polish population regarding military service in the Austro-Hungarian army, and the situation in this part of Europe after the outbreak of World War I. Considering the fundamental theme of this study, the activity of the Higher Theological Seminary in Przemyśl will also constitute an important part of the dissertation.

When Poland regained independence, Father Buniowski served as a priest in his first parish after his ordination. Both issues, Poland's independence and Father Buniowski's service, have been included in this work, as well as the pivotal event in Polish history — the war with the Bolsheviks, in which Father Michał had to participate.

The 1920s and 1930s were a period of ongoing changes that were taking place in every aspect of our country's life. This time was defined by the difficult task of compensating for the delays resulting from the over a century-long period of partitions and war destruction. It involved attempts to develop the most efficient model in which the state could function, e.g. social and economic changes, legal reforms, etc. The interwar period was an important and probably the most active stage in the pastoral and educational work of Father Buniowski. This theme is further developed in subsequent sections of this dissertation.

At the outbreak of World War II, Father Michał Buniowski was preparing for the new school year in Dukla, where he spent the period of occupation. To answer the question of the conditions under which he had to fulfill his ministry, it was necessary to delve into the history of this city, its inhabitants, and various forms of resistance against the Nazis.

For Father Michał the post-war years were a period of service in the parish in Jawornik Polski, after which he retired. Subsequently, he returned to his homelands: first to Pigany, and later to Sieniawa. This was the time of the communist rule, which was also given proper attention in this dissertation.

An important aspect of Father Buniowski's activity was painting, both sacral and secular. Therefore, the next part of the work answers questions about the origins of this passion, his teachers, and his most significant and preserved works to this day.

The collected data has been described in the chronological order. As a result, it was possible to fully and clearly present the most important aspects of Father Michał's activity. It should be added that, due to the nature of the study and the adopted research model, it will have a chronological and topical structure.

It is also worth emphasizing that certain facts from Father Buniowski's biography remain unknown due to the passage of time and the lack of source materials. To some extent, to fill these gaps, elements of similar biographies of other people were brought in, as well as facts related to the organizations within which he operated.