

Abstract

The diploma thesis deals with the life story of the little-known Salesian priest Augustin Holík. His life can be perceived as the particular fate of a religious persecuted by the communist dictatorship, either by imprisonment in the 1950s or by the pressure of his parish activities in the 1970s. Holík was part of the first generation of religious to undergo Salesian education from childhood. He studied in the 1930s, underwent formation and obtained his first post as parish administrator in the 1940s, was arrested and interned in the 1950s, and returned to the ministry in the 1960s. Holík kept a diary during his internment, which has not yet been sufficiently used for research. This document offers a valuable insight into the internment of religious and priests in Želiv, especially from the perspective of the long-lasting everyday life. It is authentic, not only capturing great events and twists and turns, but also allowing us to understand the specific rhythm of life in the internment. Working with it forms the basis of my analysis.

I am also interested in the important role played by Holík's religious identity. For example, in his later work in Trmice at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s, where a kind of an unofficial Salesian house was established. His surveillance by the state security, the granting and withdrawal of the state approval for the exercise of clerical activity are also important aspects of Holík's life. Is it possible to grasp the personality of the priest and religious Augustin Holík using the available sources? Where is his place in the history of the Salesian Congregation? In addition to the exceptional personal source, this work draws on documents from the Archives of the Security Forces, the Salesian Archives in Prague and, last but not least, interviews with living contemporaries. In addition to the list of references and abbreviations, the thesis also includes a pictorial appendix.

Key words

Action K; The Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB); Želiv monastery; communist repression; religious orders; the State Security; 1948–1990; Augustin Holík; Vinoř; Trmice; catholic parish during communist dictatorship; oral history; ego-document