

ABSTRACT

The contents of this diploma thesis is the history of the parish and of St. Giles Church near the town of Pisek which is in the Diocese of Ceske Budejovice – a Roman Catholic diocese situated almost entirely in Bohemia, with only a small eastern part in Moravia; this diocese was founded on 20 September, 1785.

The history of St. Giles Church dates from the first written records which were made in 1234, when the church established a parish there, and continues during the turbulent Hussite period of the 15th century, through the period following the Battle of White Mountain on 8 November, 1620 to the present time, focusing on the local activities of religious brotherhoods in Bohemia during the Middle Ages and also paying attention to the economic issues of the parish.

The research work is based mainly on the archives of written materials that have been preserved but scattered in several state and church institutions of this country where they were found in a basic and often difficult to access condition. Their summary is mainly contained in the first part of this diploma thesis.

Each chapter describes the architectural and historical background of the church and its period facilities which can be provided with documentary evidence. On the other hand, there is always parallel to the declared history of the parish in which various aspects are taken into account (for example spiritual administration, the economics, education and brotherhoods) which were of importance at that time in the parish.

After almost two-hundred-year history in the Middle Ages, around the year 1420, the parish fell into decline which is historically proved by just a small amount of existing written materials, which is specific for this time.

A fundamental change took place in the so called period of Recatholisation (during and after the Thirty Year War) that was rich in sources of archives allowing to deal with a wider range of topics.

The entire work is concluded by the last years of the First Czechoslovak Republic (this term refers to the first Czechoslovak state that existed from 1918 to 1938) which is symbolically and inseparably the end not only of the independent Czechoslovak state but also of the parish as the lowest and separate institution of the Roman Catholic Church.