

Abstract

This master thesis deals with the history of the Capuchin order in Czech-Moravian territory during 1618–1673. The Czech-Austrian Capuchin province was established in 1618 and in 1673 was divided into Czech and Austrian part which led to formation of two individual provinces of the Capuchin order.

The first chapter of the master thesis introduces the review of existing literature that deals with this theme and the characterization of sources. This chapter is focused on narrative sources that are fundamental for this master thesis. In the second chapter, the Capuchin order is characterized (with the emphasis on the structure and formation) and its history, because this information explains the behaviour of Capuchins in the Czech-Moravian territory. We could not omit the Franciscan order and its history in this passage, because these also influenced the orientation and spirituality of the Capuchin order.

The whole history of the Czech–Austrian Capuchin province is comprised in the third chapter. This period witnessed a significant progress in admission of new members of the Capuchin order. We are interested in the national origin of the members and their social stratification. Further, we deal with the impact of the Thirty Years War on the order in the specified region. The reasons of founding new Capuchin convents are explained here.

The fundamental fourth part of the master thesis focuses on the successful interaction among various parts of the society (the monarch, the nobility, towns etc.). Thanks to this interaction, the order could develop its activities in Bohemia and Moravia. The means of creating and deepening social contacts are presented. We study the network of the benefactors of the Capuchin order. However, conflicts with several groups in the society, mainly with other religious orders and diocesan priests which considered the Capuchin order to be their rivals, are also mentioned.

A number of attachments is appended to the master thesis. The largest amount consists of prosopographical indexes of friars – province ministers, definitors, guardians, lectors, novice-masters etc. Biographies of the most important friars of the Czech–Austrian province could be created on the basis of the indexes.