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**Congregation of Sisters of Mercy of St. Boromeo and the Situation in
19th, 20 th and 21th Century**

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This introductory chapter is expected to depict the basic information on which this thesis has been written and its main objective. The impetus of this work has been two reasons. Partly, I had done a similar topic during my bachelor's level where I had addressed the inception and development of the congregation of sisters of mercy of the St. Charles of Baromeo in Bohemia. It was from this work, that I got the motivation to extend the study by trying to further explore on the biographical background of four main leaders of this congregation. I look at their activities from different historical phases in Bohemia. This method of literature review from the archive of the congregation I considered as "untouched field". It was a great challenge that I wouldn't let go. This work in its context could not however, capture the whole scene in detail. Therefore the historical episodes to relevant leaders of this congregation are only a summarized view of important events of the period experienced by the relevant personality. The whole work is divided into four chapters.

The first chapter looks into the life of Mother Charitas-Hraběnka Coudenhova - head of the Monastery in Řepy. The biography of this noblewoman was very interesting from different aspects. It was written in a language of 1888, which made the whole work quite relevant. The second aspect was her vocation. She was the head of women Prison that was established within the monastery in Řepy. Her

biography tells of behaviors of women who were detained during her time. The fact that the behaviors of those who were detained did not change was to me, quite surprising. Personally, I have worked several years as a warder at the Řepy women Prison. Currently am working at the Prison in Prague-Ruzyně (under which Řepy belongs) as head of supervisor for the detained. My responsibility can be compared to the caretaker in the execution of penalty. Mother Charitas vividly narrates how every morning she asked the prisoners if they needed anything. Simply speaking, she would inquire to know which problems the prisoners had. This process, when the prisoners were coming to her, she referred to as “rapport”. Currently, when I arrived to my jurisdiction of work, together with the supervisor, I perform the so called cells control. Quite similar to the above mentioned rapport. I open every cell not only to control the order and how the prisoner is fulfilling his requirements but also to fulfill their right, that is; if they need anything like a doctor, social worker, pastoral care and among others. Mother Charitas I have only depicted from the preserved archived documents, which are kept at the general archive.

In the second chapter, I have described the life of famous noblewoman Mother Antoinet (Olga Chotková) but only on the basis of archived documents. The journey of this boromeo in achieving her dream was not easy at all. She had to show unwavering sacrifice for the sick and the needy. She managed to abandon wealth and comfort so that she could connect her life with care of those who were seriously sick. Today such an act is almost impractical to most of us. She however, never regretted her decision. She was firm in her faith and forever followed Jesus Christ.

The third chapter is focused on two very courageous baromeos who were tried during the total regime of 20th century and both were detained in the communist’s Prison. The first one is Mother Bohumil Žofie Langrova). The biographic information of this courageous woman I have exhausted from samizdat {disambiguation} obituary of mother Bohumila Langrova, which sisters wrote during the period of normalization. Mother Bohomila Žofie Langrová was recognized for her work in

2011. On 16th November 2011a ceremony for the price of Vaclav Benda in a form of memorial medal was organized at the institute for the study of the total regime. Mother Žofie Langrova was in memoriam awarded a memorial medal for democracy and freedom. This medal award was received on her behalf by Sister Marie Kubačáková - the general leader of the congregation.

In this third chapter, I have described also biographic information of another famous and perhaps the most famous baromeo mother Vojtěcha Hasmandová. These information I had already worked out based on available books and information gathered through regular visits to the general archive of the congregation. I was allowed to look at their correspondence and also to the official letters. Mother Vojtěcha Hasmandová was a modest and a courageous woman. Her unwavering faith and humbleness helped her to overcome all the worries of her difficult call. Currently, the process of her canonization is going on. The postulator of her canonization process is S. M. R. Česíková. Personally, I have met with Sister S. M. R. Česíková. I was thus able to meet kind, open and courageous baromeo, who knew mother Vojtěcha Hasmandova.

By this diploma thesis, I wanted to explore the world of monastic sisters. Their unwavering faith in God and their sacrifice in helping the needy. At the end, I have tried to discuss terminologies which are very relevant to this congregation such as charisma and spirituality. Today's consuming age unfortunately, does not allow us to put into consideration these kinds of charity activities and to value these terminologies.