

The Číhošť Miracle

The event happened in 1949 in the church of Číhošť . During the sermon of the parish priest Josef Toufar the sanctuary crucifix moved several times. The phenomenon attracted publicity, yet has not been explained till this day. The church did not have time to express any theories of the miracle. Neither was the event work of the State Security, as the article proves, though the State Security used the case for anti-ecclesial propaganda and for the consequent abolishment of monasteries. This was the beginning of a direct campaign against the Church and its representatives.

The Číhošť Case was part of a broader layer within the context of relationships between the State and the Church in the years 1918 – 1950. Before, and even after November 1989, it was viewed as a case between victim and torturer. State Security member Ladislav Mácha who beat Fr. Toufar to death for false evidence has never admitted guilt, arguing that he only acted on commands of his superiors and to follow the interest of the Communist Party. The case proves hypocrisy and absence of moral values in former members of the State Security and the fact that offenders were manipulated into crime by the repressive party apparatus.

The Office for Documentation and Investigation of Communist Crimes dealt with more than 2,100 cases in the 1990's. In all of them no one except the direct offender could have been prosecuted under the conditions of the contemporary political representation and justice. There is one positive point, though : a deed that had been considered heroic for forty years proved to be a crime in which the direct offender was indicated as well as the real initiator of the crime.

The system that in its essence made those crimes possible and protected them must be pronounced guilty.