

Abstract

The thesis entitled “The Czechoslovak Hussite religious community in Prague's Vinohrady in years 1942–1961“ deals with the development of the Vinohrady’s religious community within the wider historical development of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church.

The introductory part of the thesis deals with the historical preconditions of the birth of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. Besides the Enlightenment it was particularly a reformist movement of the Catholic clergy in the 19th century, closely connected to Catholic modernism, which was a revivalist movement within the Roman Catholic Church at the turn of 19th and 20th century. The impact of World War I and the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian empire mustn’t be omitted, as well as the influx of democracy, humanism and, finally, the turbulent atmosphere at the time of the establishment of the new independent Czechoslovak Republic.

The second part of the thesis is focused on the founding of the Czechoslovak Hussite religious community in the Vinohrady district of Prague, its development from the establishment of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church to its recognition by the Czechoslovak Republic. Then follows a general overview of the first twenty years of its existence, at the time of the so-called “First Republic” and at the time of protectorate, with the focus on the development from 1942 to post-war years 1945–1950. The third part deals in greater detail with the development of Vinohrady’s religious community in the years 1951–1961, which was marked by the rising pressure from the atheistic totalitarian state and enforcement of its anti-religious policies and propaganda. This part of the thesis elaborates on the management of the religious community, its spiritual administration, religious education at schools, spiritual care of children, the confirmed and youth and, last, but not least, its social activities and important events within the life of the religious community.

The fourth part portrays significant figures and personalities connected with Vinohrady’s religious community who were instrumental in its development and its direction. There are portraits of Jan Lomoz, its first vicar minister; Arnošt Šimšík, another minister who organised the construction of the church building and contributed significantly to the development of the community; Jaroslav Ebert and Vladimír Lenc, spiritual leaders working with children and youth; Jan Znoj, a sculptor and painter who decorated the church with his sculptures and Hynek Pohl, a minister in the years 1950–1960. The final part features three social institutions run by Vinohrady’s religious community – a children’s home of Dr. Karel Farský in Jílové u Prahy, a home for the elderly in Všešudy and another home of for the elderly in Jablonné nad Vltavou.