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Thesis title: *Capuchin Order and its activities in Bohemia and Moravia between 1673–1783*

Abstract

This dissertation deals with the history of the Capuchin order in Czech-Moravian territory during 1673–1783. The year of the establishment of the Czech-Moravian Capuchin province is 1673. In 1783, this province was divided into a Czech and a Moravian province; this led to the establishment of two new independent provinces of the Capuchin order. At the same time the upper time limit coincided with the religious reforms of Joseph II., which had essential influence on activities of the Capuchin order.

The first chapter introduces a review of the existing secondary literature that deals with this theme, analysing and explaining the methodology used in the thesis. The second chapter describes historiography and archival databases that existed in the Czech-Moravian Capuchin province, which contributed to the formation of collective memory. This chapter also portrays concrete institutions which keep records in their archives on the history of the Capuchin order.

The history of the Czech–Austrian Capuchin province is covered in the third chapter. This period witnessed significant progress in admission of new members to the Capuchin order; therefore the thesis examines the national origin of the members and their social stratification. In this chapter, the thesis also analyses concrete and imminent reasons for founding a new Capuchin convent.

The last fourth part of this thesis focuses on the successful activities of the Capuchin order among various parts of the society (the monarch, the nobility, towns etc.). Thanks to this interaction, the order could settle down in the area and develop its activities across Bohemia and Moravia. The means used to create and deepen social contacts are presented. The thesis describes network of the benefactors of the Capuchin order, but also some conflicts with several groups in the society, mainly with other religious orders and diocesan priests who considered the Capuchin order to be their rivals.

A number of attachments is appended to the thesis, of which the largest amount consists of biographies of friars mentioned in the thesis.