Abstract

This diploma thesis is a microhistorical case study into the field of regional history. It examines the work of the state institutional social care facility – Retirement home in the village Rozsochatec, where the nursing staff cared for the elderly and non-independent people. The staff consisted of nuns of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and several laical helpers between 1952 and 1956. Moreover, the daily life was shaped by the presence of the Roman Catholic priest, as well as by the constant supervision of the district church secretary.

The main purpose of this work is an insight into the everydayness of this specific social facility – medical and nursing care, supplying, meals, hygiene, home cleaning and, last but not least, leisure time, spiritual and political life inside the Retirement home are explored. In addition, the work deals with individual actors (social groups) and the chateau building in the village Rozsochatec, in which the social care institution was located. It describes the relationship of the socialist state to the nuns after 1948 and portray one small religious community. This diploma thesis is based on the field archival and oral-historical research and provides insight into the 1950s against a background of emerging state social care.

Keywords: Retirement home, social care, microhistory, everydayness