

Abstract

„History of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star between 1948–1958“

The diploma thesis deals with the history of the order in the period of history from the rise of communism in Czechoslovakia for a long and experienced grandmaster and general of the order Josef Vlasák until his death in 1958, which was also the first decennium of totalitarianism with a strong anti-church policy. It is one of the key periods in the history of the Order, which was successful in changing social and political circumstances for two generations from the coup to World War II. After February 1948, there was a change that, in terms of both external and internal sense, significantly affected the life of the Order, which was forcibly liquidated by the state. On the other hand, the new regime tried to use appropriate personalities for its ecclesiastical politics, among them the Knights of the Cross. After Vlasák's death, thirty years passed without a proper leader.

The diploma thesis is to show how the Grand Master and other members of the Order dealt with the newly established conditions of the folk-democratic system, what liquidation of the monastery of St. Francis at Charles Bridge was like, what happened with the members of the Order, how they protected their religious and order identity, based on archival sources and published and unpublished memoirs. Also, the form of engagement of the knights of the cross used by the regime will be presented.