

Summary of the PhD thesis with the title
The Archpriestship of Unguraș – Stronghold of the Romanian
Orthodoxy from North-Western Transylvania from the 19th to the 20th
centuries

The Orthodox Archpriestship of Unguraș was active between the 19th and 20th centuries, and was vastly composed of parishes situated in the territories where now lies the county of Salaj. In a dominating Greek-Catholic area, part of the orthodox parishes which did not unite with the Roman Church reorganized themselves, forming the Archpriestship which we find at the beginning of the 19th century as the Archpriestship "of Miluan" and "of Dăbâca".

Starting with 1951, this churchly circumscription was mentioned under the name of the Orthodox Archpriestship of Unguraș, as pertaining to the Episcopate of Sibiu. Its name was given by the place of Unguraș, which also functioned as an Archpriestship over a long period. For nearly a century, from 1851 to 1948, when it was dissolved, the Archpriestship of Unguraș was the stronghold of the Romanian orthodoxy in the Sălaj area, as the sole orthodox Archpriestship functioning in this territory. A series of remarkable Archpriests succeeded, having studied at the most prominent schools of the era, who, by their activity, received recognition well outside the borders of the Salaj County. Petru Roșca, Pavel Roșca, Ioil Ghiurișan and Valer Matei were some of these Archpriests of Unguraș.

This paper, *The Archpriestship of Unguraș – a Stronghold of the Romanian Orthodoxy from North-Western Transylvania* is structured into four chapters, in addition to the introduction and the final conclusions of the research conducted. Furthermore, we attached a number of archive documents, relevant to our research topic.

To begin with, in Chapter I we conceived an analysis of the geographical frame and the historical context surrounding the development of the Orthodox Archpriestship of Unguraş. We insisted to locate the territory of the county where the parishes which compiled the Archpriestship of Unguraş originated. Then we presented the impact that was delivered to the area of Sălaj by each of the historic events of the 19th and 20th centuries. In the same chapter we completed our analysis of the local political development, the evolution of the demographic and denominational structure in the area of Sălaj, as well as the administrative structures overseeing the activity of the churches.

In the Chapter II we presented the parishes which compiled the Archpriestship, analysing the evolution of the numbers of those faithful, the situation of the places of worship and the estate held by the parish, and thereafter we looked at the most prominent servants of each parish. To this end, we analysed information from various archive sources, such as: parish protocols, school protocols, official reports and statistics, church calendars. In the beginning we identified the parishes which formed the core of the Archpriestship in the 19th century. We then presented each parish along with its subsidiary, where was the case, in respect to the territory and the category it was part of. Thus, we stopped at the following orthodox parishes: Baica, Bălan, Bodia, Bozna, Chendremal, Cubleşul Român, Dâncu, Dolu, Fizeş Sânpetru, Popteleac, Gălpâia, Hida, Jac, Jimborul Mare, Miluan, Păuşa, Racâş, Sântă Măria, Stâna, Tămaşa, Treznea and Unguraş. In addition, we also researched their pertaining subsidiaries: Bred, Romita, Chichişa, Vaşcapău şi Ciumărna. In the second part of this chapter we analysed the situation of the newly established Orthodox parishes as well as their allotment to the Archpriestship in the 20th century: Ciumărna, Stârciu, Şimleu Silvaniei and Zalău.

In Chapter III we presented biographical data and notes from the activity of the Archpriests of Unguraş. We insisted on the biographies of the Archpriests who activated in the Archpriestship after it was first recorded in documents as

”of Unguraș” and until it was dissolved. By analysing archived documents, such as official reports, personal charts, correspondence and communications, we managed to extract aspects from the lives and activities of the first heads of the Archpriestship of Unguraș: Petru Roșca, Pavel Roșca, Ioil Ghiurișan and Valer Matei. We regard as absolutely necessary to emphasize the crucial role played by the representatives of the Orthodox Church and their efforts to maintain their religious identity. These aspects, all of which relate to the survival of orthodoxy in our area of interest are covered within this ample research, as a homage paid to those who, despite the particularly harsh conditions of the time, managed to maintain their religious and national identity.

In the last chapter we presented cultural, economic and moral aspects from the Clerical life and the lives of Orthodox faithful churchgoers. In the first part of this chapter we underlined the contribution of the Church in the cultural evolution within the parishes pertaining to this Archpriestship. We analysed the impact of the main cultural activities of the era on the parishes of the Archpriestship. They include the Astra Agencies, the Reunion of the Romanian Schoolteachers, the Reunion of the Romanian Women of Salaj, etc. Furthermore, we identified the parish libraries, their held number of volumes, along with their reader attendance. In the last sub-chapter referring to the cultural aspects, we tangentially approached the situation of the confessional schools of this Archpriestship.

Therefore, the research topic contributed with several novelties aimed to present part of the Christian history in Salaj. In order to do so, we relied on sources among the main existing documents in files which are kept at the National Archives, as well as various other fonds, in relation to our topic.