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## THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES OF LEMKO ADMINISTRATION

### 1. THE LEMKO APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

On February 10, 1934, Rome separated the Lemko deaneries from the eparchy of Przemyśl (Peremyshl) and appointed an Lemko Apostolic Administrator for them.

Administering the Lemko Apostolic Administration belonged to an apostolic administrator directly depended on the Apostolic Capital. The first candidate on that post was priest Nicolas Nagorzansky, who however, in the face of numerous difficulties connected with organizing the Administration, and devolving upon the administrator's shoulders, did not undertake that, proposed him, post<sup>1</sup> The first factual apostolic administrator of the Lemkoland became priest doctor qualifying Bazyl Masciuch. He was born on 30-th March, 1873 in Nowa Wieś (Nova Ves), in the surroundings of Krynica (Krynytsya). On 12-th October, 1899 he received the priest's holy orders. As a priest he continued his farther university studies in Vienna, crowning them in 1903 with a title of a doctor of the canon law. In 1912 he obtained the defence of a thesis presented to qualify himself as assistant professor in the sphere of the canon law at Lvov University. For some time he was a professor of the canon law at Greek-Catholic theological seminary in Przemyśl (Peremyshl), and next he worked as a parish-priest in Krynica (Krynytsya). On 17-th November, 1934 Pape Pius XI nominated him to a post of the Lemko administrator. He got the nomination decree by intervention of Congregation for Laws of the East Churches. It bears a date the 11-th December, 1934. The ceremony of oath of the first administrator of the Lemko Apostolic Administration took place few days later, on 19-th December in that year. During his reign he, first of all, exerted himself for

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<sup>1</sup> T Ś l i w a, *Kościół greckokatolicki w Polsce w latach 1918-1939*, [w:] *Kościół w II Rzeczypospolitej*, red. Z. Zieliński, S. Wilk, Lublin 1980, p. 155.

relieving the tension of strained religious-nationalistic relations at Lemkoland, and for stabilization of ecclesiastical-lawful organization of newly established Administration. As the administrator he merely acted through 2 years. He died on 12-th March, 1936 in Rymanów-Zdrój (Rymaniv-Zdroj)<sup>2</sup> After death of priest Bazyl Masciuch, for the time of vacancy on the post of the Lemko administrator, the Apostolic Capital charged management over the Administration to priest John Rolyansky, hitherto existing chancellor of the Administration's curia, the curia's councillor and simultaneously the parish-priest in Wróblík Królewski (Voroblyk Karolivskyj). He possessed an authority belonging to chapter's vicar, administering the diocese during sede vacante. He was born in 1888, the priest's holy orders received on 19-th December, 1916. In 1936 he took over the presbytery in Wróblík (Voroblyk)<sup>3</sup>

He was a vacant on the post of the Lemko administrator till 13-th July, 1936, when the following administrator ad Nutum Sanctae Sedis was nominated priest doctor James Medvecký. That priest was connected with Stanislavovsky circle and he was a collaborator of bishop Gregory Chomyszyn, the local ordinary, who was distant in his political and nationalistic views from nationalism or chauvinism. The new Lemko administrator was born on 7-th January, 1880 in Kwiatowa (Kvyatova). On 7-th April, 1905, he received the priest's holy orders. Through over 5 years he worked as a permanent catechist at school. At the same time he completed his specialistic at Vienna University and he crowned them with a doctor's degree in the sphere of theology on 6-th July, 1910. In the same year, on 1-st October, he took upon himself duties of a professor of theology at the theological seminary in Stanisławów (Stanislavov). In the twenties' he received the succeeding positions and the church departments. Since 1921 he was an official in charge of a department of Greek-Catholic episcopal consistory in Stanisławów (Stanislavov). Four years later he was honoured with a post of honourable canon of Stanislavovsky cathedral chapter, becoming next its custodian in 1927, and at last an archdeacon. Besides the diocesan positions, he was honoured in 1935 by Pape Pius XI with a title of the household prelate of His Holiness. The succeeding promotion in tserkva hierarchy, was nomination for the Lemko administrator on 13-th July, 1936<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Szematyzm greko-katolicko-ho duchowienstwa Apostolskoji Administracji Lemkowszczyzny*, Lwiv 1936, p. VI, 102; Ś l i w a, op. cit., p. 155.

<sup>3</sup> *Szematyzm* 1936, p. XV, 118, 136.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 165.

## 2. CURIA OF THE LEMKO APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Lemko Apostolic Administration possessed, at the department of the administrator, its own curia some departments. The main department was curia's office, ran by a chancellor. The post of the chancellor was held by priest John Polyansky, the parish priest from Wróblík Królewski (Voroblyk Karolivskyj). He was a man in his prime – in 1936 he was 48 years old. He didn't possess any academic title. His assistants in the office was priest Gregory Seme-niuk, employed as a notary. That priest, born on 2-nd September, 1885 and ordained on 21-st June, 1931, a celibate. Besides the post of a notary, he fulfilled other functions neither in curia nor in priesthood<sup>5</sup>

The succeeding departments of curia where: college of prosynodal examiners, college of parish-priests consultants, property council, council for the matters of faith's chastity and customs, censor of religions books, college of prosynodal judges, a promotor of justice and defender of marriage tie<sup>6</sup>

The college of prosynodal examiners was a staff numbering 7 members, in which there were priests: Vlodimierz Ardan – parish-priest in Żdynia (Ždynya), Stephan Jadlovsky – parish-priest in Polany Surowiczne (Polyany Surovyczne), Vlodimierz Mochnacky – parish-priest in Tylicz (Tylych), John Pidgrabyj – parish-priest in Olchowce (Olhovce), John Polyansky, Konstanty Polyansky – parish-priest in Czerteż (Chertezh) and Michael Sobolevsky – parish-priest in Uście Ruskie (Ustye Rus'ke). The priests Ardan, Mochnacky, both Polanskys and Sobolevsky were simultaneously judges. The sixth prosynodal judge was priest Maksymylyan Durkot, parish-priest in Tylawa (Tylava). Moreover, priest Durkot belonged together with priest Vlodzimierz Vachnianin – parish-priest in Deszno (Doshno) and priest Orest Kaluznycky – parish-priest in Izdebki (Izdebky), to 3-members' college of parish-priest consultants. In the property council there were priest M. Durkot, priest W. Mochnacky and Priest K. Polansky. Into the council for the matters of faith's chastity and customs came also 3 priests – S. Jadlovsky, J. Pidgrabyj, J. Polansky. The censors of religions books were, mentioned above priest Ardan, priest Jadlovsky and priest Pidgrabyj. A promotor of justice and defender of marriage tie fulfilled thier functions individually. A post of the former was held by priest Pidgarbyj, and the latter by priest Jadlovsky<sup>7</sup>

The administrator's personal counsellors were ordinary's advisers. Those duties were held by two parish-priest: Alexander Przystupsky from Krasna and

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<sup>5</sup> *Szematyzm* 1936, s. XVI.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*, p. XV-XVII.

priest John Tatar from Hańczowa (Hanczova) in the deanery of Gorlice (Horlytsi)<sup>8</sup> At the department of the Lemko apostolic administrator acted also delegates to 5 district school councils. At district school council in Gorlice (Horlytsi) an administrator was represented by priest Joseph Lialovycz, the dean of Gorlice (Horlytsi) and parish-priest in Męcina Wielka (Matsyna Velyka), in Krosno by Jaroslav Myrovycz – parish-priest in Rzepnik (Ripnyk), in Jasło – parish-priest from Pielgrzymka (Perehrymka), priest Marian Myszkovsky, in Nowy Sącz (Novyj Sanch) – priest Emilian Węgrzynowicz, the administrator of Mushyna (Mushyna) deanery and parish-priest in Mochnaczka Niżna (Moknachka Nyzhnya), and in Sanok (Syanik), priest Emilian Konstantynowicz, the local parish-priest<sup>9</sup> Complete staff of curia at the Lemko administrator's department, not counting the delegates of district school councils, numbered 11 members. Among that staff, only notary of the office, priest G. Semeniuk and two parish-priests consultants, priest O. Kaluznycky and priest V. Vachnianin, had not got other curia functions. The remaining curia-workers nor delegate of school council possessed qualifications in respect of education.

### 3. COUNCIL OF THE LEMKO APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATION

As reale, the cathedral chapter was an institution supporting a bishop in his administering the diocese. The Lemko Administration didn't possess its own chapter. Instead of it, at the Apostolic Administrator's Department acted a council, performing to some extend, the functions of the chapter. To the council belonged 6 priests. All they were simultaneously curia-workers and parish-priest's in various parishes. Performing the parish-priest's functions by members of the council indicates that, they didn't lead the collective life after the model of canons and prelate of the general cathedral chapters and that the council was not a permanent institution residing at the administrator's seat in Rymanów-Zdrój (Rymaniv-Zdroy), but it assembled only from time to time on the conferences. Members of the council were at age shopping within the bounds of 35 to 68 years. The oldest member was priest M. Durkot and the youngest one was priest S. Jadlovsky.

Besides priest S. Jadlovsky all the council's members possessed a privilege to wear the insignia belonging to canons of the chapter. Moreover, priest

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<sup>8</sup> Ibidem, p. XV

<sup>9</sup> Ibidem.

M. Durkot was an honourable councillor of the Greek-Catholic bishop's consistory in Przemyśl (Peremyshl)<sup>10</sup>

## CENTRALNE WŁADZE APOSTOLSKIEJ ADMINISTRATURY ŁEMKOWSZCZYZNY

### S t r e s z c z e n i e

W 1934 r. decyzją papieża Piusa XI z terenu greckokatolickiej diecezji przemyskiej wydzielonych zostało 9 dekanatów znajdujących się w zachodniej części tej diecezji i utworzono z nich Apostolską Administraturę Łemkowszczyzny. Administratura podlegała bezpośrednio Stolicy Apostolskiej.

Pierwszym faktycznym administratorem Łemkowszczyzny był ks. dr Bazyli Maściuch. Po nim ster rządów w Administraturze przejął ks. dr Jakub Medwecki, związany ze środowiskiem stanisławowskim.

Stolicą Administratury Łemkowszczyzny był najpierw Rymanów-Zdrój, a następnie Sanok.

Przy administratorze Łemkowszczyzny nie było kapituły, stąd jego pracę wspierały Rady, w których skład wchodził kapłani z terenu. Byli to najczęściej proboszczowie lub dziekani, którzy rezydowali w swoich parafiach. Wielu z nich obok pracy duszpasterskiej pełniło kilka funkcji w zarządzie Administratury Łemkowszczyzny.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibidem.