

о. д-р ОЛЕКСАНДЕР БАРАН

ЦЕРКВА НА ЗАКАРПАТТІ

В РОКАХ 1665 - 1691

(REV. DR. ALEXANDER BARAN, *The Church in Subcarpathia from 1665 to 1691*)

Resume: Carpathian Ukraine had gone through its greatest political and social crisis during the second half of the seventeenth century. The inhabitants of this geographic region were brought to the brink of ruin by insurrections, continual invasions and constant wars. The people of Carpatho-Ukraine turned to the Church for moral support and spiritual strength during this critical period. However, this aid was not forthcoming because the Church was afflicted with internal division. The Union of Užhorod proclaimed in 1646 was not ratified by the eastern section of the diocese of Mukachiv because the Protestant officials and aristocracy of Transylvania were intolerant of any uniate movement in their dominions. Thus, the people of the Diocese of Mukachiv turned to the Metropolitan See of Kiev for support. The problem was complicated as the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan of Kiev was not recognized by the authorities in Carpatho-Ukraine since the second half of the previous century. Consequently, upon the receipt of supplications of the people of this region the Metropolitan of Kiev requested that the Holy Apostolic See of Rome return the Diocese of Mukachiv to his jurisdiction. This could not be accomplished without difficulty. The Primate of Hungary was strongly opposed to any partition of his territory, particularly to the detachment of the Mukachiv Diocese from his control. He fought vigorously against the influence of the Metropolitan of Kiev in Carpatho-Ukraine and enlisted the aid of the Austrian Emperors. These, in turn, as the Kings of Hungary, subjugated the Church of the Carpatho-Ukrainians under the jurisdiction of the Latin Rite Hierarchy of Hungary.

The Princes of the house of Rakoczi did not recognize these patronage rights of the Kings of Hungary in Carpatho-Ukraine and made their own appointments to the See of Mukachiv. This Princely house managed to frustrate the combined efforts of the Primate and of the King of Hungary. When Sophia Bathory, a princess of the House of Rakoczi requested the Metropolitan of Kiev to appoint his candidate to the See of Mukachiv, he received an unexpected ally. Thus, the bishop's throne became a pawn in the struggle for control of the two opposing factions with the result that no one candidate was able to retain the position for any length of time. The Holy Apostolic See of Rome was also unable to resolve the difficulty. On the whole, the work of the candidates of the Metropolitan of Kiev, Malakhovsky Lipnytskij was more fruitful as they endeavored to raise the spiritual level of the faithful in Carpatho-Ukraine; whereas, the candidates, for the