IZVLEČEK


KLJUČNE BESEDJE

cerkvena zgodovina, župnija Ljutomer, trg Ljutomer, škof Slomšek, zgodovina morale

ABSTRACT

SLOMŠEK VISITED LJUTOMER NOT ONCE BUT TWICE

The article discusses the visits of the (future) bishop of Lavant, Anton Martin Slomšek (1800–1862) to Ljutomer and materials available for this topic. Slomšek first visited Ljutomer in 1837, when he served as a spiritual at the seminary in Klagenfurt and Ljutomer, along with the entire district of Maribor, belonged to the Diocese of Seckau. In the position of Prince-Bishop of Lavant, Slomšek paid the only visit to Ljutomer or, more accurately, the parish of Ljutomer, in July 1861, when he performed a canonical visitation and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation. The visits were very different: whereas that in 1837 took place in a highly informal atmosphere, the more official visit in 1861 focused on pastoral questions.

KEY WORDS

church history, parish of Ljutomer, market town of Ljutomer, Bishop Slomšek, history of morality
Prince-Bishop of Lavant Anton Martin Slomšek (1800–1862), visited the market town/parish of Ljutomer twice. The first time was in 1837, when he, still serving as a spiritual in the Klagenfurt seminary, set out on one of his holiday trips. The second visit took place in 1861, following the transfer of the episcopal see, when he arrived in Ljutomer for the first and only time as Prince-Bishop of Lavant. It was only after 1859, when the episcopal see was moved from Sankt Andrä in Carinthia to Maribor that Ljutomer, along with the entire Maribor district, came under the Diocese of Lavant. Until then, it had belonged to the Diocese of Seckau. Most information regarding Slomšek's visits to Ljutomer can be found in documents from his legacy, kept by the Archdiocesan Archives of Maribor, and the Ljutomer parish chronicle Trg in župnija Ljutomer (Market Town and Parish of Ljutomer), compiled by Matej Slekovč (1846–1903).

The two visits to Ljutomer were very different in nature. The one in 1837 was an informal event, during which Slomšek visited the place and its surroundings, including the chaplaincy wine cellar and the wine-growing hills. The visit to the chaplaincy wine cellar rekindled Slomšek’s memory of the time of serving as a chaplain in the wine-growing areas (Bizeljsko and Nova Cerkev). In Ljutomer, he was especially impressed by the market town’s elegant appearance, the cordiality of the local clergy, and the views from the surrounding hills. In the company of local chaplains, he also visited the nearby settlement of Jeruzalem. Although he wrote extensively about viticulture, he never touched the local wine due to a poor experience that he had in Croatia and his personal rule never to drink alcohol when hot.

Slomšek's second visit to Ljutomer in 1861 was of a more formal nature. This time he arrived as an ordinary to perform a canonical visitation and administer the Sacrament of the Confirmation. During the visitation, he took note of the situation in the parish and tested both children and adults for their knowledge of Christian teachings. He was very satisfied: the church was well maintained and equipped with all necessary items, the children passed the exam with flying colours, and the people were pleased with the clergy and its work. Rising to the occasion, the parish priest, Dr Anton Klemenčič (1819–1873), known for his national revivalist endeavours and pivotal role in organizing Ljutomer’s mass political meeting, called “tabor”, compiled a special promemoria, describing the moral and religious life in the parish. In conveying the moral status of the parish, Klemenčič employed the sociological approach, which was a rare practice among the clergy. Albeit not without moralization, he found, among other things, that the highest number of illegitimate children were born to mothers from the poorest social strata, for example, cottagers’, vinedressers’, tenants’ and landless peasants’ daughters and handmaids.

In the period between the transfer of the episcopal see and Slomšek’s death in 1862, the parish and the diocese maintained official correspondence, with the first letter dating to 1860. Based on work logs and materials preserved, it seems safe to conclude that the correspondence primarily dealt with the economic, financial, personnel, and civil matters.