

Секция «История»

Josaphat Kocylovskij – Greek Catholic bishop of Przemyśl

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Josaphat Kocylovskij (1876 -1947) was a Greek Catholic bishop of Przemyśl in Poland from 1917 to 1946. Before 1901, when he entered the seminary in Rome, he had been a student of law in Lviv and the Austrian army officer in Vienna [6]. After getting doctorates in philosophy and theology, in 1907 he was ordained to the priesthood. In 1911 he entered the Order of Saint Basil the Great. Soon after, he was made vice-rector and professor of theology. In 1916 he became Greek Catholic bishop of Przemyśl [3]. As a bishop, he led to the rapid development of religious life in his diocese. He undertook a series of reforms, with the most important - the introduction of obligatory celibacy of the priests, which caused huge protests from the clergy and the faithful. He also worked to raise awareness of the national Ukrainians in Poland [2, 7, 9]. After World War II, being opposed to the communists, he was accused by them for collaborating with the nazis and obstructing the deportation of Ukrainians from Poland to Soviet Union [5,8]. Imprisoned, he refused to convert to Orthodoxy for freedom [1]. The second time he was arrested in 1946, passed by the Poles to the Soviet authorities, and then imprisoned in the prison camp Chapaievka near Kiev, where he died in 1947.

The speech shows how the bishop Josaphat Kocyłowski ran an effective pastoral work, put into practice his vision of the Greek Catholic Church as a link between the Catholic and Orthodox, and how as a supporter of the Ukrainian national movement put its relations with the Austrian, Polish, Soviet, and German government and the Polish communists in Przemyśl in the dramatic years of the first half of the twentieth century.

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