

The Deanery of Craiova. Pages of History

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Abstract

In Craiova, a city with roots that go deep into history, has resided an archpriest since the late fifteenth century, perhaps due to the insistence of Craiovești boyars eager to have on their estates a superior ecclesiastical face. The emergence of Craiova's Great Money, who has become in a relatively short time the second important political institution, after the Lord, leads us to believe that the tasks (spiritual) of the archpriest of Craiova have increased, making him a true "religious leader" of the region. This explains, for example, why during the Austrian rule, most of the complaints submitted by the romanians (from the right side of Olt river) to the Austrian authorities were signed by the archpriest of Craiova. Towards the end of the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, the archpriests number increased in Wallachia, being seen even three or more representatives of the Hierarch in one county. The same will be the case in Dolj county, which meant, among other things, a reduction of archpriests influence in social, economic and cultural. After 1864, the church's reforms initiated by Alexandru Ioan Cuza, change again the archpriests status. Remains a single hierarh representative in each county, often imposed by the political parties in power. During this period of time each archpriest was aided by a blagocin (vicearchpriest). After 1922, the situation changed again, for each county operated two deaneries. This situation has been preserved, with some brief interruptions, until the fall of the communist regime. After 1990, depending on momentary needs of the Church, deaneries number ranged typically between 3 and 5 in each county. As it concerns the archpriests of Craiova, many of them have earned the respect of contemporaries, as true patriots. We mention, as examples, Constantin Dincă, archpriest during the Revolution of 1848, Ștefan Amzulescu, actively involved in the collection for the needs of the Romanian Army during the campaign of 1877-1878 and

Constantin Săndulescu, defender of peasant uprisings in 1907. By their intellectual and moral posture and their meritorious deeds, they remained in history (not only in the Church History) as people who have loved, above all, The Faith and The Nation.