

ACTA

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11

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SLOVENSKA CERKVENA

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SUMMARY

The foundation of the Slovene ecclesiastical province with the principal seat in Ljubljana in 1968 was by all means the central event in the entire history of the Church in Slovenia. Before that, the Slovenes were for the most part ecclesiographically subjected to metropolitans outside the Slovene national territory: south of the Drava, first to the Aquileia patriarch, and after the abolition of the patriarchate in 1751 to the archdioceses in Gorizia and Udine; north of the Drava, to the Salzburg archbishop, and the Slovenes in the Prekmurje to the metropolitan in Esztergom.

For the inner Austrian countries, emperor Joseph II planned a new metropolitan seat in Graz, which all the dioceses of the inner Austrian countries and the Slovene Primorje would be subjected to. Owing to the opposition of the Salzburg archbishop, however, he dropped his plan, and Ljubljana was exalted to an archdiocese in 1788 and till 1807 remained the metropolitan seat for the Senj-Modruš (1787), Gradisca (1788), Trieste (1791) and Koper (1797) dioceses. The diocesan borders coincided to a large extent with the boundaries of the state and districts, greater exceptions being only the Lavant and Gurk (Klagenfurt) dioceses.

*In the Illyric Provinces (1809–1813), the French, too, demanded that diocesan borders should be subordinate to the state boundaries. So the Salzburg, Brixen and Klagenfurt dioceses had to resign a number of parishes temporarily to Ljubljana. With the fall of Napoleon, this artificial formation fell apart. Pope Leo XII, with the bull *Locum beati Petri* in 1828, established a new ecclesiographical order in Dalmatia and Istria (among other changes, he united the Trieste and Koper dioceses), and on 27th July 1830 with the bull *In supereminenti dignitatis specula*, Pius VIII founded the Gorizia (Illyric) ecclesiographical province, to which he subjected the Ljubljana, Trieste-Koper, Poreč-Pula and Krk (island) dioceses as suffragans.*

With the transfer of the seat of the Lavant diocese to Maribor in 1859, a necessity arose to fix new boundaries also among the Graz (Seckau), Klagenfurt (Gurk) and Maribor (Lavant) dioceses.

After World War One, the Slovene dioceses, too, were most painfully torn to pieces by the new Slovene boundaries. In 1935, the concordat between Vatican and Yugoslavia envisaged the formation of the Slovene ecclesiastical province

with the seat in Ljubljana and a suffragan in Maribor, yet the opposition in parliament prevented its ratification.

After World War Two, the boundaries were changed again and demanded new changes in the ecclesio-administrative order. In 1967 the Holy Seat founded special apostolic administrative units for the parts of the Gorizia, Trieste-Koper and Rijeka dioceses that were within the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, and on 21st December 1964 united them into the »Apostolic Administration for the Slovene Primorje«. Pope John XXIII exalted Ljubljana to an archdiocese on 22nd December 1961, and on 22nd November 1968 with the bull *Quisquis cum animo*, Paul VI founded the Slovene ecclesiastical province with the principal seat in Ljubljana and a suffragan in Maribor. On 12th October 1977, Paul VI also restored the Koper diocese, into which he incorporated the entire territory of the former Apostolic Administration for the Slovene Primorje, and joined it to the Slovene metropolis. At present the boundaries of the Slovene ecclesiastical province mostly agree with the borders of the SR Slovenia.