

## On the Work of the Piarist Order in South Moravia in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

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*This paper<sup>1</sup> aims to give an account of the work of the Piarist Order in South Moravia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Attention is devoted principally to education which was (and remains) the fundamental area of interest to the Piarist Order. The Piarists operated in Mikulov, Strážnice, Hustopeče and Kyjov in South Moravia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They also worked for a certain time at the Episcopal Philosophical Institute in Brno. This paper shows the diversity of the activities of the order in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and its subsequent decline in the second half of the century. The causes of this decline are summarised.*

Key words: *Piarists; education; Mikulov; Strážnice; Hustopeče; Kyjov; Brno*

The most important literature on the Piarist Order in the Czech Lands is the publication *The Piarists in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia* by the authors Zemek, Bombera and Filip.<sup>2</sup> This is an immensely valuable work for the history of the order. No great attention is, however, paid here to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The history of the Piarist Monastery in Strážnice in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is mentioned in a number of small works. There is a short article by E. Ježek<sup>3</sup> from 1934 on the Piarist grammar school in Strážnice in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The history of the Piarist Order in Mikulov is mentioned in a number of books and articles. It is surprising that there is no work devoted specifically to this topic. The work by M. Zemek<sup>4</sup> devotes most

<sup>1</sup> Jireček, M. (2009). *K situaci piaristických kolejí na jižní Moravě v 19. století*. Dissertation. Brno: The Faculty of Education at Masaryk University.

<sup>2</sup> Zemek, M. – Bombera, J. – Filip, A. (1992). *Piaristé v Čechách, na Moravě a ve Slezsku. 1631–1950*. Prievidza: TEXTM.

<sup>3</sup> Ježek, E. (1933–1934). *Strážnické gymnasium v XIX. století*. Příloha k Výroční zprávě státního čl. reál. gymnasia ve Strážnici za školní rok 1933–34. Strážnice.

<sup>4</sup> Zemek, M. (1981). *Gymnázium a Mikulov. Almanach k třístému padesátému výročí založení mikulovského gymnázia*. Brno: Muzejní a vlastivědná společnost; Zemek, M.

attention to the Piarist Monastery in Mikulov. The literature devotes little attention to the Piarist residence in Hustopeče. The work of the Piarists in Hustopeče is given greatest mention in the literature devoted to the history of the town as a whole. Only a few short papers have been written on the history of the Piarist residence in Kyjov, mainly authored by R. Hurt.<sup>5</sup> The literature to date devotes no great attention to the work of the Piarist Order in Brno, with the exception of Svátek's paper<sup>6</sup> which came out in Spanish.

### The Expansion of the Piarist Order in South Moravia

The Piarist Order was established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Spaniard Joseph Calasanz. The order was introduced to our lands in 1631 when the order's first transalpine monastery was founded in Mikulov in South Moravia. Cardinal Franz von Dietrichstein, who knew the founder of the Piarist Order in person, was responsible for introducing the order to this largely German winegrowing town.<sup>7</sup> An extensive complex of buildings, which included the Church of Saint John the Baptist, was built here (in part reconstructed) for the Piarists.<sup>8</sup> The monastery in Mikulov was one of the most important sites for the Piarist Order in this country. Mikulov was the seat of the order's provincial superior until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (before being replaced by Prague in 1849). This meant that the very best teachers among the members of the order were brought here, and this was also reflected in the standard of the local schools. The further expansion of the Piarist Order in the territory of our modern state and the surrounding area was also run from Mikulov Monastery as the seat of the provincial superior. The provincial superior also performed pastoral visitations to all the monasteries in the province and

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(1981). Mikulovské gymnázium v 17. století. K 350. výročí založení. Jižní Morava 17, s. 90–109.

<sup>5</sup> Hurt, R. (1968). Gymnasium a Kyjov. In *70 let gymnázia v Kyjově (1898–1968)*. Kyjov: SVVŠ; Hurt, R. (1938). O střední školu v Kyjově. In *Čtyřicet let čs. státního reálného gymnasia Josefa Klvani v Kyjově. 1898–1938*. Kyjov.

<sup>6</sup> Svátek, J. (1970). El Colegio Escolapio de Brno. *Ephemerides Calasantinae*, 39/4, pp. 162–171.

<sup>7</sup> Balcárek, P. – Mičák, L. (2008). *Kardinál František z Dietrichsteina (1570–1636): prelát a politik neklidného věku*. Olomouc: Olomouc Museum of Art; Svátek, J. (1981). Dopisy k počátkům gymnázií na Moravě z let 1632–1636. *Studie muzea Kroměřížska '80*, s. 43–51.

<sup>8</sup> Richter, V. – Krsek, I. – Zemek, M. (1971). *Mikulov*. Brno: Blok.

subsequently ordered changes in the running of the individual monasteries.<sup>9</sup> In Mikulov, the Piarists first ran a three-year preparatory school (later the main school) and a complete six-year grammar school. The Piarists also ran a Loretan Seminary in Mikulov where music, singing and theatre were cultivated.<sup>10</sup> A large number of extremely distinguished persons worked at the Piarist Monastery in Mikulov before the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, of whom we might mention at least the distinguished Enlightenment historian Gelasius Dobner. The parish in Mikulov was divided up in 1784. The Piarists received part of the parish and the Piarist church became the parish church.

The second oldest Piarist monastery in this country was also founded in South Moravia when the monastery in Strážnice was established in 1633 (the order was invited here by Count Franz von Magnis). The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary was established for the Piarists in Strážnice, being symbolically converted from former buildings of the brotherhood. A monastery and schools were also built. A three-year preparatory school (the main school following the reforms of 1777) and a complete six-year grammar school (reduced to a lower four-year school at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, then expanded into a complete five-year school in 1777)<sup>11</sup> were established here. A number of distinguished figures also worked in Strážnice before the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, of which we might mention the order's distinguished historian and functionary Bernardus a St Philippo Nerio who came from here (born as Matěj Peldřimovský).<sup>12</sup> From 1785, the Piarists were also responsible for part of the original parish in Strážnice.<sup>13</sup>

The next place where the Piarists operated in South Moravia was Moravský Krumlov. The Piarists only operated here extremely briefly, however, and not in the period studied here. Their residence here operated in the years 1644–1647. In 1757, the Piarists were brought to the

<sup>9</sup> Moravian Provincial Archive (MZA) collection E 53 Piarists Mikulov, carton no. 6, book no. 14, sgn. A 14 – Book of Pastoral Visitations in the Province 1731–1817.

<sup>10</sup> Vrbka, S. (2001). *Kronika gymnázia Mikulov. Almanach k 370. výročí založení piaristického a 65. výročí vzniku českého gymnázia v Mikulově*. Mikulov: Regional Museum, pp. 11–12.

<sup>11</sup> Ježek, E.: c. d.

<sup>12</sup> Bartůšek, V. (2007). *Strážnice a piarističtí svatí a blahoslavení. In Okolo Strážnice. Sborník městského muzea ve Strážnici*. Strážnice: The Museum and History Society in Strážnice, p. 37.

<sup>13</sup> MZA, collection E 54 Piarists Strážnice, carton no. 6, microfilm no. 16 – *Historia domus 1854–1940*, p. 6.

largely German town of Hustopeče where a small monastery or residence was established. They were not invited here by the local gentry (i.e. the Liechtensteins), but by the townspeople. The Piarists established a lower four-year grammar school here, and also ran three years of the primary school. Of the originally planned square site with a church in the middle, one wing with a chapel consecrated to the founder of the order Joseph Calasanz was built here for the Piarists.<sup>14</sup> The people of Hustopeče attempted to expand the grammar school into a complete grammar school, instead of which they also lost their lower grammar school during the reforms of the Enlightenment. It was replaced by a three-year main school which was a great blow to the town. The lower grammar school was revived for just a short time in the years 1819–1822.

The next place in which the Piarists operated in South Moravia was the ethnically predominantly Czech town Kyjov to which the Piarists came in 1760 after long talks. Their monastery here was again a small one, i.e. a residence. Over time, the Piarists established three years of a primary school and a lower grammar school in the town. A building was built for them here which housed the schools and the Chapel of Saint John of Nepomuk.<sup>15</sup> The lower grammar school in Kyjov was also abolished during the Theresian reforms and was replaced merely by a main school with German as the teaching language. This meant a significant decline in the importance of the residence here. Of the important names of the local Piarists of the 18<sup>th</sup> century we might mention at least the historian Adolf Pilař. In terms of their importance, the residences in Hustopeče and Kyjov did not match the monasteries in Mikulov and Strážnice.

The Piarists also operated briefly in Brno. They did not have a traditional monastery or residence here, though they taught at the Episcopal Philosophical Institute based in the Minorite Monastery by the Church of St Johns in the years 1807–1821. Their place of work here was known as the “Domus Brunensis”. For some time, the Piarists here substituted, for a fee, for other orders and monasteries that were unable to provide teaching.<sup>16</sup> The college had two years, with teaching conducted in Latin. Interest in the introduction of the Piarist Order was also seen in other towns in South Moravia, though no other monasteries were established.<sup>17</sup> In total, the Piarists established 31 monasteries and residences in this country.

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<sup>14</sup> Foltýn, D. (2005). *Encyklopedie moravských a slezských klášterů*. Praha: Libri, p. 315.

<sup>15</sup> Ibidem, p. 405.

<sup>16</sup> Šujan, F. (1902). *Dějepis Brna*. Brno: The Museum Society in Brno, p. 303.

<sup>17</sup> Bombera, J. (1995). *Piaristé jako učitelé a vychovatelé ve službách šlechty*. In *Jižní Morava* 31/34, p. 26; Foltýn, D. (2005). c. d., p. 106.

## Piarist Education

The work of the Piarist Order is inseparably linked with teaching and education – schools of various types were established wherever the order worked – from lower schools and grammar schools (the Piarists later run the first secondary grammar schools and vocational colleges) to colleges of philosophy (see below). The order was also popular among the higher classes – the Piarists also worked as private teachers in aristocratic families.<sup>18</sup> In the years 1804–1849 they also ran the Theresian Academy in Vienna designed to educate aristocrats. The very best teachers from among the members of the Piarist Order in this country were summoned here. Members of the order were also active in science and worked at universities. The fact that a single “form” teacher taught all subjects for a long period of time (until the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century) at Piarist schools can, perhaps, be seen in a negative light. The Piarists went a long way towards overturning the monopoly position held by the Jesuits in the area of education.<sup>19</sup> Unlike the Jesuits, however, and in spite of what has been said above, the Piarists engaged primarily in lower education and teaching poor children in small towns. Also unlike the Jesuits, they taught originally in their mother tongue. The Piarists also employed more modern teaching methods (with less dictation and learning by rote). Piarist education was, on the whole, more tolerant and moderate.<sup>20</sup>

The Piarist Order entered the 19<sup>th</sup> century at a pinnacle, with an increasing number of schools and pupils. The Enlightenment reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph II, however, had a significant impact on the position of the order. In addition to compulsory school attendance, a number of other changes influencing education were also introduced during these reforms.<sup>21</sup> Unlike the Jesuits, whose order was abolished in 1773, the Piarists were allowed to continue their work. Interventions by the state into Piarist education were, however, increasingly frequent.<sup>22</sup> The

<sup>18</sup> Bombera, J. (1995). *Piaristé jako učitelé ...*, pp. 25–42.

<sup>19</sup> Hýbl, F. (1989). *Metodika výuky na piaristických školách. Studie muzea Kroměřížska '89.*, pp. 86–89; Holinková, J. (1995). *Vyučovací metody na piaristických školách. In Piaristé v Příboře. Sborník příspěvků z odborného symposia 300 let piaristického gymnázia v Příboře, konaného 1.–3. června 1994.* Nový Jičín: The State District Archive in Nový Jičín, pp. 104–107.

<sup>20</sup> Hýbl, F. (1989). c. d., p. 89.

<sup>21</sup> Kadlec, J. (1991). *Přehled českých církevních dějin 2.* Praha: Zvon, pp. 153–154.

<sup>22</sup> Eibel, Z. (1967). *Z dějin piaristického gymnázia v Mikulově. 1631–1873. Jižní Morava 3,* p. 73.

Gratian Marx (by coincidence also a member of the order) reform, which came into effect in 1777, made a significant impact on Piarist education. Lower schools were now “trivial schools” and “main schools” (with three or four years), while middle schools were either “normal schools” or grammar schools (the number of years of grammar school education was reduced from six to five)<sup>23</sup>. Grammar schools were, in effect, separated from lower schools – a number of grammar schools were closed and merely main schools created in their place. The grammar schools in Kyjov and Hustopeče met this fate (see above). The grammar school in Strážnice, in contrast, which until this time had been merely a lower grammar school, was now expanded into a “complete grammar school”. Latin remained the principal subject taught at grammar schools. Czech was removed from teaching which was now conducted in German or, in the higher years of grammar school, Latin. Schools were meant to aid the progress of Germanisation. Access to higher education was made more difficult for boys from poor families (they now required the approval of the authorities). Visitations by bodies outside the order also began to be held at Piarist schools, and the regional governor, to whom prefects had to submit a report on the school every month, became the director of grammar schools. The Marx reform meant a consolidation of the influence of the state, in spite of the fact that the Piarists’ own regulations continued to apply at their schools. There was an increased frequency of state intervention in the life of church schools during the reign of Joseph II, Germanisation was intensified, and the payment of school fees at grammar schools was introduced. This resulted in a significant fall in the number of pupils at these schools. Schools were primarily meant to prepare capable clerical workers in all categories, for which reason the emphasis was placed on discipline.<sup>24</sup> In 1781, Joseph II dissolved all the monasteries that were not engaged in teaching, science or care for the sick.<sup>25</sup> The Piarists were able to continue their educational activities and had also lost a significant competitor thanks to the previous dissolution of the Jesuit Order. They held a considerable part of the school system here in their hands. The Piarists, however, entered the new century in altered form and accepted state intervention obediently in an effort to avoid the fate of the Jesuits and other orders.

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<sup>23</sup> Zemek, M. (1981). Vývoj školství na jižní Moravě od třicetileté války do první světové války. In *Pokrokové proudy ve výchově a vzdělávání na Jižní Moravě v uplynulých 350 letech*. Praha: TEPS, pp. 35–36.

<sup>24</sup> Kolečka, J. (1996). Státní a piaristická gymnázia na Moravě a ve Slezsku. 1774–1848. *Časopis Matice moravské*, 115/2, p. 259.

<sup>25</sup> Kadlec, J. (1991). c. d., p. 163.

A new syllabus drawn up by the Piarist Inocenc Lang was introduced in the 1807/1808 school year. Grammar schools in capitals and university and lyceum towns were to be expanded to form six-year schools, while they could remain five-year schools in other towns (this also related to the Piarist schools).<sup>26</sup> All grammar schools became six-year schools in the 1818/1819 school year.<sup>27</sup>

The Piarist Order was permitted to establish colleges of philosophy at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with one such college being opened in Mikulov in South Moravia. Their opening was originally intended to eliminate the shortage of clergymen (they were later also attended by students wanting to take medical and legal studies). In 1848, the grammar schools became eight-year schools following the “Exner-Bonitz Reform” (four-year lower and four-year higher grammar school). The Piarist grammar school in Mikulov was expanded to form an eight-year school (though the college of philosophy was abolished), while the grammar school in Strážnice had just four years from this time. Latin ceased to be the focus of instruction at grammar schools following this reform, and teaching of the national language was introduced to a limited extent.<sup>28</sup> The supervision by regional and provincial directors at schools was abolished in 1848, and the chancellor of the monastery became the director of the Piarist grammar schools. The state took over definite supervision of the school system by law in 1869. Eight-year school attendance was introduced, and the new junior secondary schools replaced the former “main schools”. Below, we will look at the work of the order at individual monasteries and residences.

## The Work of the Piarist Order in South Moravia in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

### Mikulov

The total number of Piarists in the province in the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century ranged approximately between 250 and 350.<sup>29</sup> The number of Piarists in the province then began to fall progressively in the years to come. Nevertheless, there were still more than two hundred Piarists in the province until the beginning of the 1870s. The number of Piarists in

<sup>26</sup> Kolečka, J. (1996). c. d., pp. 265–266.

<sup>27</sup> Eibel, Z. (1967). c. d., p. 70.

<sup>28</sup> Zemek, M. (1981). *Vývoj školství ...*, p. 40.

<sup>29</sup> MZA, collection E 53 Piarists Mikulov, carton no. 28, book nos. 85–93, sgn. B 20 – B 21/8.

Mikulov itself was relatively high – there were generally between twenty and thirty members of the order here until the end of the 1860s. The number of Piarists here then began to fall rapidly, a situation exacerbated by the fact that clerics were discharged from the order in 1871. There were just ten members of the order at the monastery in Mikulov in 1873 and the decline continued. In 1880, there were just four Piarists in Mikulov. Attempts were made to revive the monastery here – there were eleven members of the order here in 1888 (including novices – a noviciate was opened in Mikulov in 1888, meaning that the order could train its successors for the first time since 1870 when the noviciate in Lipník nad Bečvou was closed). These novices usually soon decided to leave the order, however. In 1900, there were five members of the order at the Piarist Monastery in Mikulov, and the order's oldest monastery in the country, with its extremely glorious history, found itself facing increasingly serious problems.

The chancellors of the Mikulov Piarist Monastery during the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were the distinguished historian František Adolf Qualbert Moravec (1797–1801), Ignác Schlöss (1801–1805 and again in 1809–1812), František Xavier Frieze (1805), Agapitus Svoboda (1805–1807), Anselm Wirkner (1807–1809), Andres Kostka (1812–1819), Adaukt Winarz (Vinař) (1819–1823), Alfons Thoma (1823–1825 and again in 1831–1836), Prosper Hussák (1825–1831), Kornelius Bielezky (1836–1837), Bonifác Buzek (1837–1840), Emericus Gönner (1840–1848), Achaz Hess (1848–1852), Rudbert Lopata (1852–1871), Libor Thoma (1871–1874), Godefridus Ringel (1874–1879) and Alfred Paul (1879–1900). The frequent turnover in this position is clear.

A large number of distinguished figures can be found among the Piarists at the monasteries in South Moravia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Of the numerous names of distinguished Piarists in Mikulov, let's mention at least the most distinguished – professor of literature and literary criticism and translator František Dominik Kinský (1747–1848),<sup>30</sup> the eminent physicist, mathematician, astronomer and scientist Kassián Halaška (1780–1847).<sup>31</sup> the distinguished philosopher Bonifác Buzek

<sup>30</sup> Zemek, M. (1981). *Gymnázium a Mikulov...*, p. 32; Skutil, J. (1981). *Pokrokové proudy ve výchově a vzdělávání na Jižní Moravě v uplynulých 350 letech*. Praha: TEPS, pp. 212–213.

<sup>31</sup> Svátek, J. (1961). Univerzitní profesor Dr. Franišek Kassián Halaška z Budišova – učenec světového významu. *Vlastivěda severomoravského kraje – Vítkovsko 11–12*, pp. 1–5; Týž (1967). Nad dílem Františka Kassiána Halašky. *Jižní Morava 3*, pp. 76–82; Týž (1969). Čeští kulturní pracovníci 19. století jako učitelé na piaristické škole ve Staré Vodě. *Oderské vrchy. Vlastivědný zpravodaj 1/3–4*, pp. 45–60; Koňařík, S. (1981).



(1788–1839)<sup>32</sup> and, for a short time, the eminent physicist and astronomer Florus Ignác Stašek (1782–1862). The distinguished orientalist Berthold Winter (1759–1869) and prefect of the Theresian Academy in Vienna Anastazius John,<sup>33</sup> who also gained fame for teaching the deaf, also worked here. Of the Piarists here in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, we might mention at least the mathematician, physicist and astronomer František Oktavius Šofka<sup>34</sup> (1811–1879).<sup>35</sup>

At the beginning of the century the monasteries in Mikulov and Strážnice were often visited by the provincial superior.<sup>36</sup> Mikulov Monastery was affected by the Napoleonic Wars at the beginning of the century, with some of its buildings being converted into a military hospital (a hospice was also established at the Piarist Monastery in 1866 following the Austro-Prussian War).

The total number of pupils attending Piarist schools grew at the beginning of the century.<sup>37</sup> During the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the

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František Ignác Kassián Halaška. *Kosmické rozhledy. Neperiodický věstník Československé astronomické společnosti při ČSAV 1*, pp. 41–46; Zemek, M. – Bombera, J. – Filip, A. (1992). c. d., s. 239–240; *Kdo byl kdo v našich dějinách do roku 1918* (1999). Praha: Libri, p. 121; Mareš, V. (1979–1980). Dvousté výročí narození univ. prof. Františka Kassiána Halašky. *Studie a zprávy okresního muzea Praha – východ v Brandýse nad Labem – Staré Boleslavi*. Brandýs nad Labem – Stará Boleslav: East Prague District Museum, pp. 127–131.

<sup>32</sup> Svátek, J. (1972). Prof. Bonifác Buzek a jeho filozofický odkaz. *Věstník okresního muzea v Kroměříži*. Holešov: District Museum, pp. 20–29; Týž (1965). K učitelské činnosti Bonifáce Buzka na Moravě. *Zprávy vlastivědného ústavu v Olomouci*, č. 123, Olomouc: History Institut, pp. 12–15; Týž (1964). Dopisy pedagoga Bonifáce Buzka z let 1831–1837. *Slezský sborník 62*, pp. 92–100; Týž (1971). Filozof Bonifác Buzek jako profesor na gymnáziu v Příboře v letech 1826–1829. In P. Floss, *Sborník k dějinám moravského školství II*. Přerov: History Institut Přerov, pp. 37–59; Trapl, M. (1959). Bonifác Buzek a jeho žáci. In *Pocťa Zdeňku Nejedlému*: Praha: SPN, pp. 53–72; Bayerová, M. (1989). Bonifác Buzek – filozofický odkaz. *Studie muzea Kroměřížska '89*, pp. 100–104; Brandl, V. (1882). *Vzpomínky*. Velké Meziříčí: J. F. Šašek; Bošтик, M. (2004). Profesor Bonifác Buzek a jeho českořebovští žáci František Matouš Klácel, Emanuel Müller a František Rybička. In *I. ročenka městského muzea Česká Třebová 2*.

<sup>33</sup> Pohl, J. (1989). Piaristé jako učitelé neslyšících. *Studie muzea Kroměřížska '89*, pp. 79–80.

<sup>34</sup> Svátek, J. (1967). Octavianus Šofka a jeho pedagogická i vědecká práce. *Sborník vlastivědných prací z Podblanicka 8/1*, pp. 91–102; Víták, A. K. (1902 – Vol. 1., 1904 – Vol. 2.). *Paměti starého učitele – vlastence, perzekucí postiženého*. Praha: Fr. A. Urbánek.

<sup>35</sup> Svátek, J. (1981). Mikulovští profesori 19. století a jejich vědecká činnost. In *Pokrokové proudy ve výchově a vzdělávání na Jižní Moravě v uplynulých 350 letech*. Praha: TEPS, pp. 225–229.

<sup>36</sup> MZA, collection E 53 Piarists Mikulov, carton no. 6, book no. 14, sgn. A 14.

<sup>37</sup> MZA, collection E 53 Piarists Mikulov, carton no. 28, book nos. 85–93, sgn. B 20 – B 21/8.

number of pupils at Mikulov Grammar School ranged between 115 and 140. Mikulov Grammar School was expanded to form a six-year school in 1818, as were other grammar schools (see above). The number of pupils at the grammar school continued to rise until 1820, when the school was attended by 250 pupils – the largest number at any time in the century in question. The number of pupils then ranged between 150 and 220 until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Mikulov Grammar School could be described as a medium-large school, though it was a school of an excellent standard thanks to its excellent teachers. The number of pupils attending Mikulov's main school exceeded the number of pupils at the grammar school. In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it generally ranged between 150 and 300. The number of pupils at the local College of Philosophy, opened in 1807, also gradually increased. In 1830, it was attended by 155 pupils. The number of pupils at the College of Philosophy then gradually began to fall, however. In 1838, for example, the College of Philosophy was attended by just 49 pupils. Students of philosophy upheld new ideas, as is described by Alois Jirásek in his "Philosophical History" for the college of philosophy in Litomyšl which was the most illustrious of these Piarist institutions.<sup>38</sup> The number of pupils at the Piarist schools in Mikulov fell slightly following the reforms of 1848 (the College of Philosophy was abolished, and the grammar school expanded to form an eight-year school). In the 1850/1851 school year, the grammar school was attended by just 122 pupils. The number of pupils at the grammar school then again began to rise. In the 1864/1865 school year, for example, it was attended by 241 pupils. The number of pupils then gradually began to fall. The number of pupils attending the main school also fell, ranging between 80 and 140 in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The last year in which teaching was conducted at the main school (abolished by the School Act of 1869 and replaced by a junior secondary school) was the 1870/1871 school year, when it was attended by just 28 pupils. The Piarists opened a two-year lower secondary school in Mikulov in 1849 (which operated until 1872, when it became part of the junior secondary school). This school was attended by around 40–70 students. The largest number of pupils attended the secondary school in the 1863/1864 school year, when 68 pupils studied there. The order, however, also gradually ceased being able to fill all the teaching posts at the grammar school itself, and secular teachers gradually began teaching there. The culmination came in 1873 when the

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<sup>38</sup> Jirásek, A.: (2010). *Filosofská historie*. Brno: Tribun EU.

grammar school was taken into the hands of the state (just four Piarists worked as teachers there at that time). The school wing of the Piarist complex became state property. Following the nationalisation of the grammar school, the Piarists in Mikulov ran just the Loretan Seminary which was generally attended by around ten students. Twenty-two students studied there in 1890. The Piarists operated in Mikulov until 1950, when their work was ended by force.

We can also find a number of distinguished figures among the pupils of Piarist schools. The distinguished doctor, scholar and propounder of the Czech National Revival Jan Evangelista Purkyně (1787–1869, in Mikulov 1798–1804), who decided to join the order here (and who was given the name Silverius), was a pupil at Piarist schools in Mikulov at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>39</sup> Of the other students here, we might mention, for example, Josef Rupert Maria Přecechtěl, priest, propounder of the Czech National Revival, artist and writer.<sup>40</sup>

### Strážnice

There were as many as 17 Piarists at the monastery in Strážnice at the time of the Josephine Reforms. Their number slowly began to fall from this time onwards. The instruction of novices fell behind at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, for which reason the preparation of novices also took place in other places, including Strážnice, in addition to the noviciate in Lipník nad Bečvou.<sup>41</sup> The number of Piarists in Strážnice ranged between 11 and 14 throughout the whole of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after which the number of Piarists in Strážnice also began to fall rapidly in the 1860s and particularly in the 1870s. There were again ten Piarists in Strážnice for a time in 1869. Just a few years later in 1873, there were only four Piarists in the town. Their number increased to five the next year. The number of Piarists in Strážnice never reached this figure again in the years to come. There were just two or three members of the order here in the 1880s and 1890s.

<sup>39</sup> Sajner, J. (1969). Jan Evangelista Purkyně a Mikulov. K 100. výročí smrti Purkyně. *Jižní Morava* 5/1, pp. 45–51; Sajner, J. (1955). Purkyňova moravská léta. Léta učení a zrání. In Jan Evangelista Purkyně. Badatel a národní buditel. Praha: Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, pp. 19–35; Sajner, J. (1952). Purkyně a Morava. *Lékařské listy* 7/1, pp. 84–88, 117–120.

<sup>40</sup> Svátek, J. (1972). Nad dílem prof. Dra Ruperta M. J. Přecechtěla. *Jižní Morava* 8/1, pp. 115–119.

<sup>41</sup> Bombera, J. (1984). Výchova a vzdělávání piaristů v našich zemích. *Jižní Morava* 20/23, pp. 113–121.

The post of chancellor at the head of Strážnice Monastery was held during the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Bartoloměj Křepelka (until 1805), Štefan Novotný (1805–1810), Methud Gerle (1810–1812), Mansuet Tomáš Hiller (1812–1814), Mansuet Pabst (1814–1815), Julián Hiller (1815–1817), Matouš Grossmann (1817–1832), Bonifác Buzek (1832–1836), Cyril Košťál (1837–1842), Jiří Guth (1843–1855), Bonifác Langer (1855–1863), Wilhelm Bachmann (1863–1865), Gracián Kautzký (1865–1867), Florenc Vybíral (1867–1872), Michal Liška (1872–1878) and Václav Wilfinger (1878–1917).

In view of the fact that individual Piarists frequently spent time at various of the order's monasteries, some of the distinguished individuals at Mikulov Monastery mentioned above also worked at the order's other monasteries. Halaška (who began his career in Strážnice and worked here in the years 1801–1802), Jan Evangelista Purkyně (who worked here in the 1805/1806 school year<sup>42</sup>), chancellor of the monastery here Bonifác Buzek (in Strážnice in the years 1832–1836) and Anastazius John (in Strážnice in the years 1847–1850) all also worked in Strážnice.

Strážnice Grammar School was a smaller institute than the grammar school in Mikulov. While German children predominated among the pupils in Mikulov, there were more children of Czech nationality in Strážnice, though there was also a fairly large number of pupils from the nearby territory of what is now Slovakia. The number of Jewish pupils also gradually rose. There were around 60 pupils in all five years of the grammar school up until 1810. As in previous times, classes with fewer pupils were merged. The number of pupils rose to as many as 90 after 1810. This does not, however, include the school's private students, of which there was a relatively large number (the names of many aristocrats can be found among them). The grammar school exceeded the figure of a hundred pupils for the first time in 1819, i.e. at the time it became a six-year school. The number of pupils reached 205 in 1825, this being the largest number of pupils at the Piarist grammar school at any time during its existence. A gradual decline in the number of pupils followed. Until 1848, when the grammar school was reduced to four years (i.e. a lower school – there were neither the staff nor the finances to allow for the creation of a higher eight-year grammar school in Strážnice), there were

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<sup>42</sup> Jebavý, J. (1938). Buditelská a národní činnost J. E. Purkyně. Jeho pobyt ve Strážnici. In XXXIV. *Výroční zpráva státního čsl. reálného gymnasia ve Strážnici na konci školního roku 1937/1938*. Strážnice, pp. 5–12; Šimšíková, J. (1992). Jan Evangelista Purkyně. In *95. výročí trvání českého gymnázia ve Strážnici*. Strážnice: The Society of Friends of Purkyně Grammar School, p. 28.

always around 150 pupils studying at the grammar school. The number of pupils then fell again. Just 87 pupils attended the grammar school in the 1854/1855 school year. The number of pupils at Strážnice Grammar School was not particularly high in the following years either. In the 1860s, more than a hundred pupils again studied at the grammar school, though this was again followed by another perceptible fall towards the end of the school's existence. There were just 59 pupils studying here in the 1869/1870 school year. The number of pupils at the "main school" in Strážnice generally exceeded the number of pupils at the grammar school, though it was not particularly high either. In the 1838/1839 school year, for example, it was attended by 270 pupils. The number of pupils at the "main school" fell markedly in the years to come. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was attended by the largest number of pupils (168) in the 1865/1866 school year. In the 1871/1872 school year, the final year in which the main school was run by the Piarists, it was attended by only 68 pupils. The Piarists had continually increasing difficulty maintaining the schools in Strážnice, and the Piarist Order was confronted by ever greater problems (see below). The first secular professor appeared at Strážnice Grammar School in the 1863/1864 school year, and the number of secular professors then gradually increased. In 1870, there were just two Piarists teaching here (of five teachers). The institute was nationalised in 1874. The Piarists then continued to work here according to the possibilities open to the order, and later worked at least as auxiliary teachers.

Of the pupils who attended the Piarist grammar school in Strážnice we might mention at least the Counts Leopold and Jaroslav von Sternberk<sup>43</sup> (both members of the Upper House), Professor of Ecclesiastic History in Vienna Antonín Horný, future Archbishop of Olomouc Theodor Kohn,<sup>44</sup> scientist, archaeologist and historian František Dvorský, and the distinguished educator Josef Úlehla. The most important pupil of Strážnice Grammar School was, however, undoubtedly future president Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk who was a private student in the first year at Strážnice Grammar School in the 1864/1865 school year.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Ježek E. (1933–1934). *Idem*, p. 12.

<sup>44</sup> Pajer, J. (1999). Olomoucký arcibiskup Theodor Kohn. In *Sto let trvání budovy gymnázia ve Strážnici*. Strážnice: pp. 17–21; Pajer, J. (2007). Olomoucký arcibiskup Kohn a Strážnice. In *Okolo Strážnice. Sborník městského muzea ve Strážnici*. Strážnice: The Museum and History Society in Strážnice 2007, pp. 54–56.

<sup>45</sup> Kříž, A. (1930/1931). Masaryk privatistou na gymnasiu ve Strážnici. In *XXVII. výroční zpráva státního reálného gymnasia ve Strážnici za školní rok 1930/1931*. Strážnice.

## Hustopeče

The number of members of the Piarist residence in Hustopeče was never very high. Four Piarists lived in Hustopeče in 1802, though there were just two members of the order here in 1805. The number of Piarists in the town later rose again and six Piarists generally lived in the residence here. According to surviving catalogues, the largest number of members of the order working at the residence was seen in 1823, when seven Piarists lived here. Only one of them, however, was a priest, the others being merely clerics. In the years to come, between three and five Piarists generally worked in Hustopeče.

There was an extremely frequent turnover in the Piarists here. This applied not just to rank and file members of the order (who were generally here for just a year or two), but also to the superiors of the residence. This frequent turnover undoubtedly lowered the standard of the Piarist schools. The position of superior in Hustopeče in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was held by Engelbert Resch (1786–1804), Inocenc Hoffmann (1804–1805), Christofor Tomaschek (1805–1806), Zikmund Kraus (1806–1808), Julián Hiller (1808–1815), Joachim Hölzel (1815–1816), Mikuláš Gyrovetz (Jírovec) (1817–1821), Sebald Fiala (1821–1823), Domascus Kaubek (1823–1833), Jan Nepomuk Maurer (1833–1838), Emerich Goenner (1838–1840), Lambert Thomma (Homa) (1840–1850), Maxmilián Thomma (1850–1854), Rudbert Salat (1854–1860) and Caesar Riss (1861–1866).

On the whole, it should be said that rather less distinguished members of the order worked at the residences in Hustopeče and Kyjov, principally as a result of the absence of a grammar school. Of the people working at the Piarist residence in Hustopeče, we might note at least the aforementioned Bertold Winter (in Hustopeče briefly as a cleric) and Anastazius John. Celestýn Janáček, uncle of the composer Leoš Janáček, also worked here (he also worked at the monasteries in Mikulov and Strážnice) and was renowned for his liberal opinions.<sup>46</sup>

While the monasteries in Mikulov and Strážnice were frequently visited by the provincial superior at the beginning of the century, the residences in Hustopeče and Kyjov were not visited particularly often. The residence in Hustopeče was visited for the first time in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in 1814,

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<sup>46</sup> Svátek, J. (1969). Čeští kulturní pracovníci 19. století jako učitelé na piaristické škole ve Staré Vodě. *Oderské vrchy. Vlastivědný zpravodaj 1/3–4*, pp. 45–60.

when visitations were made to all the monasteries and residences in Moravia.<sup>47</sup> The first visitation in Kyjov in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was made in 1801, when visitations were made to the majority of the Moravian monasteries.<sup>48</sup> No other visitation to it was made until 1814.

The Piarists had just the main school in Hustopeče in their hands at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The number of pupils at the school ranged between 150 and 285 during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The main school had its largest number of pupils in the 1831/1832 school year. The Piarists themselves were aware of the fact that a residence cannot fulfil its mission without a grammar school, for which reason the then provincial superior of the order and the superior in Hustopeče requested the closure of the residence in 1834. The town managed to retain the Piarists, however. In 1848, the existing three-year main school became a four-year school for a time. A lower secondary school was established here in 1852, and the main school again shortened. The number of pupils at the secondary school ranged between 30 and 50. The main school was again expanded into a four-year school in the 1856/1857 school year. The number of pupils at the school continued to rise until it amounted to 265 in the 1865/1866 school year. This was, however, the last year in which the school was in the hands of the Piarist Order. The shortages in the number of members of the order also began to become apparent very quickly in Hustopeče. The last Piarists left the town in 1866. Both schools were transferred to state administration and were joined by secular teachers. The most distinguished pupil of the Piarist lower secondary school in Hustopeče was undoubtedly future president Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (who had relatives in the town<sup>49</sup>). He attended the school in the years 1861–1863.

### Kyjov

The number of Piarists at the residence in Kyjov ranged between two and five throughout the whole of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After 1815, however, there were generally only two or three members of the order here. The grammar school in Kyjov was successfully revived in 1868 (see below). This was quite unique at a time when the order's schools in other towns were slowly heading towards their end. The

<sup>47</sup> MZA, collection E 53 Piarists Mikulov, carton no. 6, book no. 14, sgn. A 14.

<sup>48</sup> Ibidem, p. 335.

<sup>49</sup> Nezhodová, S. – Janšta, A. (2006). *Masaryk a Hustopeče*. Hustopeče: Town Museum and Gallery.

increase in the number of Piarists in the town (at a time at which their number was falling rapidly in other towns) was also associated with this. After long years in which there were just two Piarists here, their number rose with the gradual opening of additional forms at the grammar school which reached ten form years in 1871. The Kyjov residence began to be known as a monastery, and the superior of the monastery to be known as the chancellor. In 1878, Kyjov became (along with Kroměříž) the order's third largest monastery after Prague and Lipník in terms of the number of members of the order there. It even overtook the monasteries in Mikulov and Strážnice which had been far more successful up until that time. The number of Piarists in Kyjov then began to fall rapidly, and in 1886 there were again just two members of the order here. The last Piarist in the town died in 1900.

There was also an extremely rapid turnover among the Piarists (both ordinary members of the order and superiors of the residence) at the residence in Kyjov. The position of superior here during the 19<sup>th</sup> century was held by Rochus Selisko, Chrysostomus Tomaschek, Blasius Paukert and Glycerius Peikert, none of whom were here for very long. Later, however, there was a period of greater stability as far as the superiors of the residence were concerned. The position was then held by Burchardus Răphael (1818–1826), Gilbert Galusek (1827–1839), Celsus Tollich (1840–1868) and Otto Štika (1868–1900).

The Piarist residence in Kyjov was damaged in a great fire in 1807, though it was soon repaired.<sup>50</sup> The number of pupils at the Piarist main school in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century generally ranged between 130 and 170. A ruling was made in 1825 to expand the main school to take in a fourth year, though this ruling was not implemented due to a lack of finances (a fourth year was finally introduced in 1855 by a state decree, with the town having to subsidise two secular teachers). Two years were merged into a single class in Kyjov for the same reason.<sup>51</sup> Kyjov Council endeavoured to negotiate the staffing of all positions with teachers from among the members of the order, though it proved unable to provide a sufficient number of qualified teachers during the coming crisis within the order. The Piarists even tried to further restrict or even completely end their work in Kyjov, though this was prevented by a deputation of the people of Kyjov to the provincial superior of the order.<sup>52</sup> The people of Kyjov also succeeded in forcing the revival of the grammar school, with

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<sup>50</sup> Hlavinka, K. (1947). *O starém Kyjovu*. Kyjov: District Public Education Board, p. 165.

<sup>51</sup> Hurt, R. (1938). *O střední škole...*, p. 14.

<sup>52</sup> Idem.



the Piarists having to guarantee that teaching posts would be filled only by a sufficient number of qualified teachers.<sup>53</sup> A grammar school teaching in the German language was opened in 1868. A new school building was established for it at great expense to the town council, and the residence building was also partially converted. The new Chapel of Saint Jan Calasanz was also built.<sup>54</sup> The number of students at the grammar school also rose with the gradually opening of additional forms. In its first year it had just 34 students, while in the 1871/1872 school year, when all four forms were already operating, the grammar school was attended by 109 pupils. The grammar school had a similar number of pupils for the whole time it was run by the Piarists.<sup>55</sup> The number of pupils at the main school in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century generally ranged between 140 and 210. The 1856/1857 school year, when the main school was attended by just 83 pupils, was an exception to this. From the 1872/1873 school year, the grammar school had two branches – classical and practical (the practical branch was abolished from the 1878/1879 school year onwards due to a lack of interest). The order's teaching staff in Kyjov soon also ceased to suffice, with the majority of the Piarists already being of great age, for which reason secular teachers had to be taken on in place of deceased Piarists. From 1872 onwards, the Piarists no longer ran the elementary school (created from the “main school”), though the order continued to run the grammar school until the middle of the 1884/1885 school year, after which time the grammar school was run by the town. In summary, it can be said that by the time Kyjov obtained its grammar school, the Piarist Order was already facing such a crisis that its rapid fall was merely a matter of time.

### Brno

There were first five, and from 1809 always six, Piarists at the Episcopal College of Philosophy in Brno for the whole time the Piarists taught here (from 1807 until the end of the 1820/1821 school year). Anselm Wirkner held the post of chancellor in Brno for the whole time

<sup>53</sup> Pokorná, B. (1996/1997). Dějiny německého gymnasia v Kyjově. In *42. výroční zpráva Klvaňova gymnázia v Kyjově za školní rok 1996/1997*. Kyjov: Klvaňovo gymnázium, p. 10.

<sup>54</sup> Hurt, R. (1938). *O střední škole...*, p. 17.

<sup>55</sup> Kotlík, V. (1997). Ředitelé, profesori a žáci německého gymnasia v Kyjově. In *42. výroční zpráva Klvaňova gymnázia v Kyjově za školní rok 1996/1997*. Kyjov: Klvaňovo gymnázium, pp. 21–25.

during which the Piarists worked here. The order sent eminent figures to the Episcopal College of Philosophy. Of those mentioned above, Dominik Kinský and Kassián Halaška (from 1808 until 1814 when he left for Prague University) both worked here. We might also give a particular mention to the philosopher Joseph Calasanz Likawetz,<sup>56</sup> who worked here until the end of the 1814/1815 school year when he also left for Prague University.

### The Crisis in the Piarist Order and its Causes

It is clear from the above that the Piarist Order suffered a significant crisis during the 19<sup>th</sup> century which led to the fall of the Piarist schools and, therefore, the loss of the main purpose of the existence of the order. We will attempt to summarise the causes of this crisis. We can, for the sake of simplicity, divide them into internal (caused by the order itself) and external (not caused by the actions of the order's superiors).

The external causes included state intervention into the order's schooling which were already evident from the time of the Enlightenment reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph II. Areas in which this intervention had a significant impact included the expansion to the number of school years, which resulted in further staffing problems for the order, and later the filling of teaching posts by public tenders resulting in secular teachers joining these schools.<sup>57</sup> This intervention culminated in the abolition of church superiority at schools by the law of 1869 (the Piarist schools definitively lost their independence and were subject to state supervision). Further external factors certainly included the changing times associated with a departure from religion (an atmosphere of liberalism, new opportunities competing with a career in an ecclesiastical order), the financial crisis of 1811 and the fall in the value of the currency (devaluation resulting in a significant shortage of financial means),<sup>58</sup> higher salaries in other schools,<sup>59</sup> increasing demands on the length of the studies undertaken by teachers,<sup>60</sup> and the classification of Piarist

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<sup>56</sup> Svátek, J. (1992) Piarista PhDr. Josef Kalasanský Likavec (1733–1850) a jeho vědecké dílo. In *Studie muzea Kroměřížska '91*, pp. 87–97.

<sup>57</sup> Haas, A. (1948). Piaristé v našich zemích. *Časopis společnosti přátel starožitností* 56, pp. 1–13, 104–118.

<sup>58</sup> Idem, p. 113.

<sup>59</sup> Zemek, M. – Bombera, J. – Filip, A. (1992). Idem., p. 261.

<sup>60</sup> Dvorský, P. (1886). Příčiny, proč piaristických ústavů v Čechách a na Moravě ubylo. *Časopis katolického duchovenstva* 27/4, p. 235.

schools among private schools with no claim to maintenance from state means. Questions of nationality also came to the fore.<sup>61</sup>

The principal internal causes of the crisis in the Piarist Order included poor discipline within the order,<sup>62</sup> repeated cut backs to the novitiate and its later closure (indicating resignation and lost enthusiasm),<sup>63</sup> overstretched staffing (the order ran too many schools, resulting in an inability to provide all its schools with teachers and teaching aids; in this regard its takeover of the prestigious Theresian Academy in Vienna is indisputably contentious), significant turnover in the teaching staff at the order's individual schools and, perhaps, insufficient resolve at moments of crisis. The manifestations of the crisis could not be overcome even by visitations to the monasteries by the provincial superior or the visitations made by Bishop of České Budějovice J. V. Jirsík in the years 1854–1855 (these visitations were made on the basis of the order by Pope Pius IX to implement reforms to orders throughout the monarchy).<sup>64</sup> Not even the rules stipulated by the Provincial Synod in 1853 relating to the precise daily order, the prohibition of visits to inns and entertainments, the restriction of female visits to monasteries, etc. would help.<sup>65</sup>

The total number of Piarists in the province gradually fell.<sup>66</sup> There were 343 Piarists in the province as a whole in 1824. There were still 305 members of the Piarist Order in our lands in 1844, though their number then began to fall extremely rapidly. There were still more than 200 members of the order in our lands up to 1871, the number in this year being 209. The following year, however, the number of Piarists in the province fell to 168. Only eight Piarists had died, however, in 1871. The cause of this rapid decline was the fact that the majority of the clerics were released from the order. It goes without saying that this was bound to cause problems in the future, and the order was only undermining itself. The decline in the number of Piarists continued extremely rapidly. In 1886, for example, there were just 85 Piarists in the province, and this number had fallen still further to 53 by the year 1900. It is interesting to

<sup>61</sup> Cekota, V. (1995). Lipničtí piaristé v polovině 19. století. In *Piaristé v Příboře. Sborník příspěvků z odborného symposia 300 let piaristického gymnázia v Příboře, konaného 1.–3. června 1994*. Nový Jičín: The State District Archive in Nový Jičín, p. 269.

<sup>62</sup> Cekota, V. (1995). *Idem.*, pp. 262–271; Kadlec, J. (1991). c. d., p. 224. Víták, A. K. (1902, 1904). c. d., pp. 324, 348, 377, 363 et. seq., 378–379.

<sup>63</sup> Zemek, M. – Bombera, J. – Filip, A. (1992). c. d., p. 260; Cekota, V. (1995), c. d., pp. 268–269.

<sup>64</sup> Zlámal, B. (1970). *Příručka českých církevních dějin, sv. IX*. Olomouc 1970, p. 50.

<sup>65</sup> Cekota, V. (1995). *Idem.*, p. 267.

<sup>66</sup> MZA, collection E 53 Piarists Mikulov, carton no. 28, book nos. 85–93, sgn. B 20 – B 21/8.

note that 40 of the total number of 112 Piarists lived elsewhere than in the Piarist monasteries in the 1879/1880 school year, for example, a fact that was certainly not easily reconciled with the life of the order. There was, to a certain extent, evidently a lack of will to retain at least a smaller number of Piarist schools. When certain monasteries were closed, the Piarists were not moved elsewhere to contribute towards the maintenance of other schools. The fact that a number of Piarists were already of extremely great age at this time, and were left to live out their remaining years in their monasteries, is merely a partial excuse for the order. Some of them could, nevertheless, have been used to rescue the Piarist schools. In 1879, for example, the monastery in Kroměříž was closed and all seven members of the order remained in retirement there.<sup>67</sup> The Piarist Order endeavoured to retain at least the most important of its schools, though unsuccessfully.<sup>68</sup> Following the nationalisation of their schools, the remaining Piarists continued to live in their monasteries until they were also closed. If their health permitted, they at least taught religion at primary schools. The remaining Piarist priests went into pastoral care or, if they had the necessary qualifications, continued to work at state grammar schools. Certain monasteries, including those in Mikulov and Strážnice, continued to exist for a relatively long time, though almost without new young arrivals. The monasteries in Mikulov and Strážnice were dissolved by the state in 1950. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Piarist Order proved unable to get itself out of the crisis into which it had fallen in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Strážnice is the only place in the country where the Piarists operate at the present time. All the order's roots connecting it to its past have, however, been torn, and it will be more than complicated to follow up from the order's glorious past.

### Conclusion

The Piarist Order performed its most fundamental work in these lands in the period up to the reforms of the Enlightenment. I would not, however, call the following period in the history of the Piarist Order merely a time of decline in the work and success of the order, as some publications do, in spite of the fact that I am aware of the size and achievements of the Piarist Order in our lands in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Piarist Order has an

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<sup>67</sup> MZA, collection E 53 Piarists Mikulov, carton no. 28, book no. 92, sgn. B 21/7.

<sup>68</sup> Dvorský, P. (1886). *Idem.*, p. 235.

indisputable place in our history and its achievements are enormous. Thousands of pupils attended the order's schools, of which many became distinguished figures. The specialist work of members of the order, as unique figures in a number of fields, also made an evident contribution. A number of the pupils of Piarist schools played a part in the Czech National Revival. They were shaped by their Piarist teachers, who must, therefore, also take significant credit in this area.