

RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN SLOVAKIA ON THE WAY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING

NÁBOŽENSKÉ RÁDY NA SLOVENSKU NA CESTE K ROZVOJU PROFESIONÁLNEHO OŠETROVATEĽSTVA

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Abstract

This article summarizes current and past Slovak church institutions involved in nursing work. The core of this article is about nursing as a charity work, which is still alive and even helps in the development of the professional nursing.

Key words: nursing, religious orders, charity work

Introduction

Religious orders have played significant role in charitable nursing ever since the 8th century. Today, there are 60 religious orders, congregations, and societies from among which 34 are male ones and 23 are female ones (Šimončíč, 1994, p. 40). However, not all religious orders and similar formations are involved in charitable nursing. The ones that are involved in charitable nursing are for example.

The Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God

This religious order was founded in Spain in 1537 by St. John of God. The mission of this order is to serve the sick, the old, and the lonely in the hospitals (Farkašová, 2010, p. 91). The Brothers Hospitallers came to the land of current Slovakia in 1650 upon the request of Polish Earl Stanislav Subomírsky (Kvasničková, 1995, p. 141). The brothers first settled in Spišské Podhradie. Later, they branched out to Bratislava and Skalica. In 1941, Hospitallers started to

build a hospital with 300 beds in Skalica. The order as well as their hospitals were closed when the communist regime was established in Slovakia. After the restitution in 1994, the Brothers Hospitallers reacquired a hospital this time in Bratislava. Ever since then they have successfully run this institution under the name: the Hospital with Polyclinic of the Brothers Hospitallers in Bratislava (Farkašová, 2010, p. 91 – 92).

The Camillians

This religious order was founded in 1591 by St. Camillus de Lellis. He perceived the man as a complex being. Therefore, the mission of his order is to care for the spiritual, physical, and emotional well being of the sick and the dying. Today, the Camillians are in 28 countries around the world where they work as nurses and doctors (Babjak, 1998, p. 71 – 73). The first Camillians came to Slovakia on September 15th 1992. At first, they worked only in Bratislava. Since 1994 they became active also in Kremnica, mainly at the local house for the elderly (Kvasničková, 1995, p. 179).

The Order of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth

This religious order was founded in 1622 by Apollonia Radermecher in Aachen. The sisters focused on spreading the ideals of christian love, good works, and care for one another. They started their work in Slovakia in 1738 with emphasis on the care for the sick in hospitals. All social classes highly appreciated their work. They played a significant role during the World War 1 and 2. In the 1950s the order, just like any other order, went through a crisis due to the oppression by the communist regime. After 1989, the government returned the Hospital of St. Elizabeth to the sisters but back then the hospital mainly served as an oncological institute (Farkašová, 2010, p. 95 – 96).

The Sisters of the Holy Redeemer

This religious order was founded in 1849 by Elizabeth Eppinger in Niederbronne, Alsace, France. The mission of this order is to care for the sick and the old in homes, hospitals, or the houses for the elderly. In addition, they have been educating the youth. They came to Austrian-Hungarian Empire in 1886 and created a separate province. The first sisters came to Nové Zámky, Slovakia 150 years ago. Later, they spread to Tvrdošovce, Prešov, Bardejov, Dobšinná, and Rožňava. Until 1949, the congregation had 32 institutions from among which 13 were monasteries. Nowadays, the congregation has approximately 300 sisters who are primarily active in the hospitals of the following cities: Topoľčany, Košice, Žilina, and Rožňava. In

Trstenice they are also involved in home healthcare along with the teaching the youth (Kvasničková, 1995, p. 147).

The Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Cross

This congregation was founded by Theodosius Florentini and Mary-Therese Sherer. Their mission was to serve the poor, the lonely, the sick, and the wounded in wars. The sisters came to Slovakia in 1865 and established a hospital in Chyzerovce, which is a part of Zlaté Moravce today. Later, some of the sisters started the home healthcare services in Bratislava. Eventually, they expanded to other cities such as Levoča, Skalica, Trnava, Vyšné Hágy (Farkašová, 2010, p.97). Similarly to the other religious orders, their activities were prohibited in 1950s. Today, there are approximately 350 sisters who take care of the lonely and the sick in hospitals as well as in the patients' homes (Kvasničková, 1995, p. 149).

The Secular Franciscan Apostolates

This apostolate whose roots date back to 1927 emphasizes the service to the poor and the sick. The sisters of this apostolate came to Bratislava, Slovakia after the World War 2. Later, they became active also in Žilina and in Trnava (Babjak, 1998, p. 173).

The Missionaries of Charity

This order was founded in 1949 by Mother Teresa in Calcutta. The sisters of this order wear white sari with blue border and a cross. Their daily routine is to teach the children in the morning and then take care of the sick in the afternoon in many countries around the world (Farkašová, 2012, p. 97 – 98). In 1990 Mother Teresa established the first house of the Missionaries of Charity in Čadca, Slovakia and later also in Bratislava (Kvasnicová, 1995, p. 177).

Conclusion

Charitable nursing represented the second stage in the development of nursing. This stage was also associated with the spread of Christianity. It was a transitional period from the non-professional to the professional nursing, which ended in the 19th century when nursing became scientifically backed up field.

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