chaplain in Juršići

The real problems and the popular impression: Appointing Josip Velikanje for

Mihovil Dabo

Summary

Article based on a few surviving documents from the archives of the Diocese of Poreč-Pula complements previously known historical material of placing Josip Velikanje as chaplain in Juršići. Results achieved with effort through the years by Bishop Dobrila sometimes hide the difficulties he was facing. Similarly, stories about the peculiar priest, the so-called "outlaw friar", inevitably balanced on the verge between legend and verifiable facts. Better knowledge of the circumstances in which, after many decades of effort, the church and rectory in Juršići were built, inevitably uncovers the romantic notion of folklore and also points towards the very real problems in the implementation of the idea of improving church and spiritual circumstances of Roveria. Embedded in a broader context, the new facts facilitate better familiarization with problems which stood in the way of including Istrian-Croatian population in modernization process.

Bishop Dobrila found a loyal associate in Velikanje, who during decades of tireless work fully met and perhaps exceeded his expectations. Taken as a whole, the fruits of his activities are the undisputed fulfilments of bishop's wishes.