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SACRAL WORKS BY DULČIĆ IN SILVER BOSNIA

Abstract

Franciscans have left indelible tracks in more than seven centuries of their pastoral work in Bosnian areas (Silver Bosnia). Preaching Gospel successfully and taking care of the Christian doctrine and all the other people's needs, they were not only their spiritual shepherds but also wise teachers, reliable protectors of language, customs and all homeland virtues. There are many written documents which testify about that, as well as historical problems which thoroughly thinned out cultural-artistic heritage composed mostly of book volumes and church artefacts, while there was relatively small number of fine art works, which was not that rich till modern times. That state was started to be changed around 1960 when a couple of educated Franciscans initiated supplying Bosnian Franciscan sacral areas with contemporary artists' works, among which the most numerous ones were those from Croatia.

Ivo Dulčić, painter from Dubrovnik, was one of the first Croatian artists who started to work in Bosnia. In fifteen years of his work he successfully ornamented couple of Bosnian churches with stained-glass windows, mosaics and paintings. In his work Dulčić did not follow wishes of the orderer, but defending his artistic attitudes and the art itself, he formed all the sacral scenes by modern artistic language in which color, form, light and handwriting were the true interpreters of not only the topics and contents covered but also his painting genius. That is why his stained-glass windows made in the Churches in Sarajevo (Church of St. Anthony in Bistrič, Sarajevo, 1969), Banja Luka (Church of St. Bonaventura, 1973) and Podmilačje (Church of John the Baptist, 1974 which was completely destroyed during the war 1991-1995) as well as mosaics placed in the Churches in Guča Gora (Church of St. Francis of Assisi, 1972),

Kreševo (Church of the Holy Mary Apparition, 1974) and Kotor Varoš (Parish Church of the Holy Mary Birth, 1974, which was also destroyed during the Homeland War 1991-1995) are not just the usual decoration of the church: they are works of art of the highest quality which go beyond the sacral frameworks.

Key words: Silver Bosnia, Ivo Dulčić, stained-glass window, mosaic, colorism, modern sacral art