

“DEVOTA CREATURA VESTRA GUILLELMUS”
HUNGARIAN BENEFICE OF CARDINAL WILLIAM OF ROME
(1342–1374)

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In the 14th century, the Kingdom of Hungary, under the reign of King Louis I, entered the political map of Europe in a significant way, which was also reflected in its greater openness to foreigners, providing them with new opportunities for the fulfilment of their ambitions. One such figure was the Roman Cardinal William de la Jugée (with the title of Cardinal Deacon of Sancta Maria in Cosmedin), who was the nephew of the Avignon Pope Clement VI.

The present study, based on research in the Vatican Apostolic Archives, thus analyses the action and influence of Cardinal William on the changes in the ecclesiastical administration and its staffing in the dioceses of Hungary, documenting one of the earliest cases of the commendation of ecclesiastical offices in our territory and their historical and social context. Keywords: Middle Ages. Kingdom of Hungary. Roman Curia. Ecclesiastical administration. Commendation of ecclesiastical offices.

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The accession of the new ruling dynasty of French-Italian origin, the Anjou dynasty, to the Hungarian throne meant not only the direct involvement of the Kingdom of Hungary in the important political and social changes in European politics in the 14th century, but also its greater openness to foreigners.¹ Those, especially those from the wider or closer circle of the Anjou family, found

1 The study was worked out within the framework of project APVV 22-0306: *Fiat ut petitur. Slovackical historical documents in the written agenda of the Roman Curia*.

On political situation in Hungarian kingdom see BREZOVÁKOVÁ. Politický zápas Anjouovcov o uhorskú korunu. In *Historický časopis*, 1991, 39, 6, pp. 569-587; BREZOVÁKOVÁ. Konsolidačné snahy Karola I. v Uhorsku po zvolení za kráľa (1310–1317). In *Historický časopis*, 1993, 41, 4, pp. 361-378; BREZOVÁKOVÁ. Postavenie Uhorska v stredoeurópskom priestore v prvej polovici 14. storočia. In *Historický časopis*, 1998, 46, 2, pp. 177-203; BREZOVÁKOVÁ. K pokusu o erigovanie biskupstva na Spiši v polovici 14. storočia. In *Historický časopis*, 2009, 57, 3, pp. 415-442. About foreigners from Latin countries in Hungarian kingdom see MAREK. Románske obyvatelstvo na Slovensku v stredoveku (Valóni, Francúzi, Taliani, Španieli). In *Historický časopis*, 2004, 52, 4, pp. 601-629.

new opportunities for career development and social advancement in Hungary. This concerned not only the profane sphere, about which we have a little more information from historical sources, but also the ecclesiastical environment. Many of the participants remained in the shadows of the unpreserved historical traces, even though their presence was important for the domestic Hungarian environment. One such figure is the person of the Roman cardinal deacon William with the title of Basilica of St. Mary in Cosmedin (*cardinalis diaconus tituli Sanctae Mariae in Cosmedin*), despite the fact that it is highly probable that the cardinal was not even personally present in the Kingdom of Hungary at all. He did, however, have close contact with the monarch's court, and the beginning of his career was linked precisely to diplomatic services on its behalf, which could not have been without its attendant rewards, although it should be noted at the outset that these were much more based on the fact that the cardinal was a close relative of Pope Clement VI (1342–1352).

The basic biographical details of Cardinal William are captured in previous writings and are also known to the professional literature. Probably all of them are based on the writings of Stephen Baluzius from 1693, devoted to the history of the Avignon popes². William with the predicate de la Jugée (Latin *Judicis* or *de Judice*) was born in 1317 at Eyrein in the French diocese of Limoges, the son of James de la Jugée and Guillaumette Rogeriere, daughter of one of the sisters of the later Pope Clement VI, i.e., the pope's niece. It was thus this kinship (the Pope referred to William in documents as a nephew) that predetermined his later top ecclesiastical career, placing him among the Pope's closest collaborators and advisers. William studied law in Paris and first became a canon of the cathedral seat of Rouen, where his "uncle" and patron was archbishop, in 1332, and shortly thereafter took up the office of canon and archdeacon of the archdiocese of Paris. His real career, however, did not start until his uncle, Cardinal Pierre de Rosières (*Rogerii*),³ was elected Pope Clement VI on 7 May 1342 (he was also

2 BALUZIUS. *Vitae paparum Avenionensium, hoc est historia pontificum Romanorum, qui in Gallia sederunt ab anno Christi MCCCIV usque ad annum MCCCXCIV. Tomus primus*. Parisiis MDCXCIII, s. 854–858. Porov. aj DUCHESNE. *Histoire de tous les cardinaux français de naissance*. [Livre second]. Paris MDCLX, p. 513. [2022-05-30]. Available online: <<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k914067/f536.table#>> Among the most recent titles, where there are also numerous references to other literature, cf. MIRANDA, ed. *La Jugé, Guillaume de*. In: *The Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church. A digital resource created and produced by Salvador Miranda, consisting of the biographical entries of the cardinals from 494 to 2021 and of the events and documents concerning the origin of the Roman cardinalate and its historical evolution*. Miami 2001. [2022-05-30]. Available online: <<https://cardinals.fiu.edu/cardinals.htm>>

3 He was promoted cardinal with the title of St. Nereus and Achilleus on 18 December 1338, cf. EUBEL. *Hierarchia catholica medii aevii sive summorum pontificum, S. R. E. Cardinalium*,

crowned on 19 May).⁴ The new Pope had already appointed ten new cardinals on 20 September, and among them was William, who was given the title of Cardinal Deacon of St. Mary in Cosmedin.⁵ In doing so, the Pope was quite open about his kinship with the new Cardinal and the special protection he was giving him, as one of his letters eloquently points out: “*For by a congenital bond he is also a nephew, bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. For the uncle, by natural right, has a sort of careful dominion over his nephew, so much so that he appears to have adopted him as a beloved son.*”⁶ Shortly thereafter, on 5 October, the Pope granted him extensive ecclesiastical benefices in the ecclesiastical provinces of Esztergom and Kalocsa in the Kingdom of Hungary and Gniezno in the Kingdom of Poland.⁷ On the very next day, 6 October, the Pope also issued a letter of protection for the Cardinal, ordering the Bishop of Châlons sur Marne, the Abbot of the monastery of St. Lucian at Beauvais, and the Prior of the Chapter of Artois to protect the new Cardinal in the possession of the benefices which the Pope had granted him as the new Cardinal. The same letter of protection was also addressed to the archbishops of Gniezno and Wrocław and the bishop of Kraków, then to the bishop of Olomouc, and finally to the abbot of Pannonhalma and the bishop of Eger.⁸ This was to ensure the financial support of the new cardinal, who – as can be seen from the previous lines – received several prebends in France, but in his subsequent tenure at the papal court was mainly devoted to diplomatic service and was also in the close presence of the Pope himself. As far as the Polish benefices of Cardinal William are concerned, only the Pope’s granting of

ecclesiarum antistitum series ab anno 1198 usque ad annum 1431 perducta. Vol I. Monasterii 1913, p. 17.

- 4 Città del Vaticano, Archivio Apostolico Vaticano (hereinafter referred to as AAV), Camera apostolica (hereinafter referred to as Cam. Ap.), Obligationes et solutiones (hereinafter referred to as Oblig. et sol.), Vol. 16, fol. 51r: “*Eodem anno die VII mensis Maii circa horam tercie sanctissimus pater dominus noster dominus Petrus tunc tt. Sanctorum Nerei et Achillei presbiter cardinalis concorditer in summum pontificem est electus et voluit vocari Clemens VIus.*” FRIEDRICH, *Rukověť křesťanské chronologie*. Praha; Litomyšl 1997, p. 233; BLÁHOVÁ, *Historická chronologie*. Praha 2001, p. 779.
- 5 EUBEL, *Hierarchia catholica I.*, p. 18.
- 6 BALUZIUS, *Vitae paparum Avenionensium*, p. 857: “*Ex vinculo quidem natura est is nepos, os ex ossibus meis et caro de carne mea. Avunculus autem iure naturo habet quoddam imperium in nepote, maxime quem sibi videtur in peculiarem filium adoptasse.*”
- 7 MAREK, ed. *Monumenta Vaticana Slovaciae. Tomus III. Registra Vaticana ex actis Clementis papae VI. res gestas Slovacas illustrantia. Volumen 2 (1342–1352)* (hereinafter referred to as MVS I III/2). Trnavae; Romae 2010, pp. 42–45, no. 10; SULKOWSKA-KURAS and KURAS, eds. *Bullarum Poloniae II. 1342–1378* (hereinafter referred to as Bullarium Poloniae II). Romae; Lublini 1985, p. 8, n. XXX.
- 8 KLICMAN, ed. *Monumenta vaticana res gestas Bohemicas illustrantia. Tomus I. Acta Clementis VI. 1342–1352* (hereinafter referred to as MVB I.). Pragae 1903, pp. 65–66, no. 115.

a canonry with prebend and archdeaconate in the Archdiocese of Wrocław on 19 April 1343 is specifically known.⁹ In 1345 William was one of the witnesses at the oath of the Moravian Margrave and later Emperor Charles IV that he would protect the rights of the Roman Church.¹⁰ In 1347 he was a conciliator in a dispute between the city council of Bologna and the family of the Cardinal Bishop Bertrand de Deucio (*Deux*) of Ostiense and Sabina. During the conflict between the papal court and the Hungarian monarch Louis I, Cardinal William was one of the Pope's closest advisers on how to proceed in the whole affair surrounding the Neapolitan succession and the dispute between the Anjou family. This was especially so after the violent death of Louis' younger brother Andrew in 1345, who briefly acquired the Neapolitan throne in the Kingdom of Naples. This was the event that eventually resulted in the war between the Kingdom of Hungary and the Kingdom of Naples, as is well known.¹¹ It was Cardinal William who in 1350 – as papal legate in Naples – also personally negotiated a truce between Louis I and Joanna I of Naples, thus ending the military phase of the whole conflict.¹² After the death of his patron, Pope Clement VI, and under the pontificate of the new Pope Innocent VI (1352–1362), Cardinal William's position was partly changed, although he still retained a high position in the Roman Curia. In 1355 he was appointed papal legate for the Spanish lands, and his involvement in Hungarian-papal relations more or less ended. This also had its consequences for William's own use of the Hungarian benefices granted to him, as we will see. On 22 September 1368 Pope Urban V elevated him to the rank of cardinal-presbyter with the title of St. Clement,¹³ and shortly before his death in 1373 he was appointed Protector of the Franciscan Order. He died in his own palace at Avignon on 28 April 1374, and at his explicit wish was buried in a simple tomb in the Avignon monastery of Chaise-Dieu (*Casae Dei*), following a pattern of his uncle Pope Clement VI.¹⁴

Even from this brief biographical sketch of Cardinal William it can be seen that, although he held extensive ecclesiastical estates, offices and benefices in

9 MVB I., pp. 101-102, no. 184.

10 BALUZIUS, *Vitae paparum Avenionensium*, pp. 857-858.

11 For more details on the events cf.. KRISTÓ. *Az Anjou-kor háborúi*. Budapest 1988, pp. 91-124; FRAKNÓI. *Magyarország egyházi és politikai összeköttetései a Római szent-székkal*. Budapest 1901, pp. 187-221; MISKOLCZY. A Magyar Anjouk trónigénye Nápolyra. In *Különlenyomat a Történeti Szemle 1928.évi 1-4-számából*, p. 58-64; MONTI. Nagy Lajos magyar király törvényhozási intézkedései a nápolyi királyságban. In *Történeti Szemle*, 1929, 14, pp. 79-99.

12 BALUZIUS, *Vitae paparum Avenionensium*, p. 858.

13 EUBEL, *Hierarchia catholica I.*, p. 18

14 BALUZIUS, *Vitae paparum Avenionensium*, p. 858.

the dioceses of Hungary, he was not actually present in the Kingdom of Hungary itself, and thus the administration of these estates was handled by special administrators and familiars, as we will indicate. How, then, did William’s possession of these Hungarian estates develop? It has already been mentioned that almost immediately after his appointment as cardinal and his accession to the papal curial ministry, the pope granted him extensive benefices in both Hungarian ecclesiastical provinces, and even in the Gniezno archdiocese in Poland. Their amount was to reach an aggregate income of 500 grivnas. Bishop Vitus of Nitra, Bishop James of Cenad, and the canon-cantor of the Chapter of Rouen, William de Albussac, were entrusted with the implementation of this papal commission.¹⁵ Although the individual benefices are not specifically mentioned in the papal document, it is the credentials of the bishops mentioned that indicate where they may have been located. When, on 10 June 1343, Pope Clement VI asked King Louis I of Hungary for protection and support for William’s official representatives and administrators of his Hungarian benefices and estates, he chose the canon lector of the Egers chapter and bachelor of law, John, son of Dominic, and the cleric of the French diocese of Limoges, Peter Begonis. It was especially emphasized that the king should help them to secure the administration of the magisterium of the crusader convent of St. Stephen the King in Esztergom and also in Hévíz (*Calidae aquae*).¹⁶ On 13 December 1343, the Pope also asked the Archbishop of Esztergom, Cenad, for the same protection.¹⁷ However, Cardinal William had already taken over the archdeaconate in Alba Iulia and on 21 October 1343 he tried to exchange it for the canonate of Vác with a prebend, held by Stephen, son of Lawrence and nephew of the Hungarian king’s envoy to the papal court, Comes Paul of Marcinkow.¹⁸ Although the Pope agreed to this exchange, William continued to hold the archdeaconate of Alba Iulia, as is evident from later data. The cleric Stephen was undoubtedly compensated with

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- 15 AAV, Registra Vaticana (hereinafter referred to as Reg. Vat.) 148, pars. 1, fol. 43r-44r, n. LXX. Bullarium Poloniae II., p. 8, no. XXX. MVS I III/2, pp. 42-45, no. 10.
- 16 AAV, Reg. Vat. 137, fol. 26v, n. LXXIII. THEINER, ed. *Vetera monumenta historica Hungariam sacram illustrantia. Tomus I. 1216–1352*. Romae 1859, p. 654, no. 979; DÉPREZ, ed. *Clément VI. (1342–1352). Lettres closes, patentes et curiales se rapportant a la France. Publiées ou analysées d’après les Registres du Vatican. Tome I. Premier Fascicule (I/1)*. Paris 1901, p. 71, no. 220. Bullarium Poloniae II, p. 14, no. 64. A similar recommendation in favour of William’s procurators was made by the Pope on 13 December 1343. DÉPREZ, *Clément VI., I/1*, p. 47, no. 355. MVS I III/2, p. 75, no. 32.
- 17 MVS I III/2, p. 75, no. 33; ALDÁSY. *Regesták a Vatikáni levéltárából*. Budapest 1895, p. 5; DÉPREZ, *Clément VI., I/1*, p. 47, no. 356.
- 18 BOSSÁNYI, ed. *Regesta supplicationum. A pápai kérvénykönyvek magyar vonatkozású okmányai. Avignoni korszak. I. VI. Kelemen pápa 1342–1352*. Budapest 1916, pp. 33-34, no. LVI.

the possession of another ecclesiastical prebend, probably the office of the provost of Old Buda and the canonry of Oradea, as is evident from his confirmation by the pope on 30 September 1345.¹⁹ We learn of William's possession of another specific Hungarian benefice on the occasion of its granting by the Pope on 21 February 1344, and it concerned an important and financially creditworthy parish in Bystrica (*Bistrita*) in Transylvania, in the diocese of Alba Iulia.²⁰ On 23 September 1345, the Pope expressed his agreement with William's possession of the office of archdeacon of Alba Iulia in the Diocese of Transylvania,²¹ which contradicted the ecclesiastical regulations on the accumulation of ecclesiastical offices and benefices, and two days later he also granted him the archdeaconate of Torontál in the Diocese of Cenad and the canonry with prebend of the Chapter of Oradea,²² events which still deserve special attention. However, such an accumulation of the benefices of Transylvania in favour of Cardinal William within a few days met with resistance from the Bishop of Transylvania, who made difficulties with their receipt by the Cardinal's people. The cardinal's official and plenipotentiary procurators therefore attempted to exchange at least the archdeaconate of Alba Iulia for the office of the canonry and lectureship in the Bácsa chapter, held by the newly appointed Provost of Buda, Stephen, and also the archdeaconate in Syrmia. Thus, on 30 September 1345, the Pope granted William the office of lectureship and canonry with prebend in the seat chapter in Bácsa, which were renounced by the aforementioned Stephen, son of Lawrence.²³ However, all this was done without the knowledge of the cardinal himself, who, as soon as he became aware of it, refused the exchange on the grounds that the archdeaconate had a much higher annual pension than the canonry of Bácsa and asked the Pope on 20 October 1345 to annul the whole transaction. William's request to the Pope shows that he did not renounce the canonry with the lectorate and the archdeaconate in the Bishopric of Bácsa, which he had acquired in the exchange, which is confirmed by later documents.²⁴ Finally, it should be noted

19 BOSSÁNYI, *Regesta supplicationum I.*, pp. 108-109, no. CCXXIII.

20 AAV, Camera Apostolica (hereinafter referred to as Cam. Ap.), *Collectoriae* (hereinafter referred to as Collect.), Vol. 281, fol. 78r: "*De canonicatu cum prebenda Scepusiensi, Strigoniensis diocesis, vacantibus per dimissionem domini G. sancte Marie in Cosmedin dyaconi cardinalis, facto pro Arnaldo de Lacaucina, V nonas Maii [Anno X domini Cle(mentis)].*"

21 THEINER, *Vetera monumenta historica I.*, pp. 686-687, no. 1037; DÉPREZ, *Clément VI., I/1*, p. 55, no. 1986; MVS I III/2, p. 137, no. 93.

22 MVS I III/2, pp. 137-141, no. 94 and 95.

23 AAV, Collect., Vol. 282, fol. 155r: "*De lectoratu ac cum prebenda ecclesie Bachiensis vacabit per dimissionem dicti Stephani, fuit provisum domino cardinali Guillelmo, II kalendas Octobris.*"

24 BOSSÁNYI, *Regesta supplicationum I.*, pp. 133-135, no. CCLIX.

that when on 9 October 1345 the Pope granted indulgences to the Chapter of Pécs in order to raise its status and income, it is mentioned that Cardinal William was its provost.²⁵

The Pope's generosity, however, did not meet with much understanding among the Hungarian nobility and clergy, but rather the opposite, when it caused a wave of resistance, which sometimes took the form of rebellion and revolt. As a result, ecclesiastical penalties and sanctions were imposed on many such opponents, which stopped them, but in order to calm the situation surrounding the granting of benefices to William, on 23 December 1344 the Pope authorized Archbishop Ladislaus of Kalocsa, Bishop Ladislaus of Pécs, and the papal nuncio Arnald de Chaussin to finally absolve the guilty ones of all ecclesiastical penalties imposed on them.²⁶ The rebellion against William also had wider political support, even from King Louis I of Hungary himself, who by special mandate banished all the cardinal procurators from the country, and they remained outside the kingdom and without the ability to administer William's benefices for allegedly up to seven months. This information is given in the cardinal's petition regarding the granting of the archidiaconate of Torontál and the canonry of Oradea, dated to 25 September 1345. However, other remarkable details are also mentioned in this petition, which confirm that Cardinal William had enemies not only in the Kingdom of Hungary, but also in the Roman Curia itself and in the Cardinalate, which was probably related to him being a protégé and his enormous influence on the Pope. In fact, Cardinal William mentions in the petition that the Pope was forced to revoke his new general grant of any benefices and offices in the Kingdom of Hungary that he had granted to William sometime earlier (it must have been in 1344), because the cardinal's committee disagreed, and the matter dragged on for several months. It was this that William took advantage of, and called upon his procurators to cast suitable prebends in the dioceses of Hungary promptly in his favour. The archdeaconate of Torontál and the canonry of Oradea with prebend became that. Their granting, despite the revocation of the papal donation, was thus justified by William on the very grounds of the aforementioned revolt against him in Hungary and the expulsion of his procurators, as have already been mentioned above.²⁷

Finally, another overview of William's Hungarian benefices is provided by their new redistribution, which took place on 4 June 1350. Pope Clement VI, in a

25 AAV, Registra supplicationum (hereinafter referred to as Reg. suppl.) Vol. 23, fol. 259v; BOSSÁNYI, *Regesta supplicationum I.*, p. 118, no. CCXXV.

26 THEINER, *Vetera monumenta historica I.*, pp. 678-679, no. 1021; DÉPREZ, *Clément VI., I/1*, p. 333, no. 1347; MVS I III/2, pp. 122-123, no. 78.

27 BOSSÁNYI, *Regesta supplicationum I.*, pp. 108-109, no. CCVII.

special *Motu proprio* decision (undoubtedly at his personal request), decided to grant the canonry of the Esztergom chapter with prebend and the office of prebend of the same chapter to Cardinal William. These benefices were to become vacant after the then Provost Thomas assumed the office of Bishop of Cenad, to which he had been elected. Consequently, Cardinal William was to relinquish some of his other benefices and offices which he had held until then. Namely, the canonry with prebend of the Vác Chapter, the canonry with prebend and lectureship of the Kalocsa Chapter, the canonry with prebend and cantorship of the Nitra Chapter, the canonry with prebend of the Zagreb Chapter and finally the canonry with prebend of the Spiš Chapter. The Pope also exempted Cardinal William from the payment of the obligatory so-called anatta fees,²⁸ which were collected by the Apostolic Chamber on account of the possession of new benefices and so-called non-consistorial offices exceeding the amount of 25 chamber gold florins per year.²⁹ Finally, we learn of William's last benefices, shortly after his death, when Pope Gregory XI granted them to other holders of this title as vacated. These were then the office of provost of Esztergom, granted on 15 July 1374 to John, son of John; next, the canonry with prebend, and the archdeaconate of Pápa in the diocese of Győr, granted on 14 July to an unspecified cleric; the canonry of Eger with prebend, which on 8 July 1374 was granted to cleric Pankrác, son of Peter of Malá Ida and finally, the archdeaconate of Abaúj, granted on 28 August 1374 to the Provost of Alba Regia, Imrich Zudar.³⁰ Exactly when William obtained

- 28 RÁBIK, ed. *Monumenta Vaticana Slovaciae. Tomus II. Registra supplicationum ex actis pontificum Romanorum et gestas Slovacas illustrantia. Volumen I (1342–1415)* (hereinafter referred to as MVS I II/1). Trnavae; Romae 2009, p. 136, no. 204; BOSSÁNYI, Á, *Regesta supplicationum I.*, pp. 215–216, no. CDXLIV.
- 29 KIRSCH. *Die Finanzverwaltung des Kardinalkollegiums im XIII und XIV Jahrhundert.* Münster i. W. 1895, p. 5, pp. 86–87; KIRSCH. *Die päpstlichen Annaten in Deutschland während des XIV. Jahrhunderts.* Paderborn 1903, p. 306; HITZBLECK. *Exekutoren. Die außerordentliche Kollatur von Benefizien im Pontifikat Johannes' XXII.* Tübingen 2009, p. 37; KOWALSKI. *Proventus camerae apostolicae debiti. Oplaty duchowieństwa polskiego na rzecz papieżstwa w latach 1417–1484.* Kraków 2010, pp. 48–49; RÁBIK. *Camera apostolica a jej význam pre slovenské stredoveké cirkevné dejiny.* In *Studia historica Tyrnaviensia XVIII.* Kraków; Trnava 2016, pp. 43–51; RÁBIK and LOPATKOVÁ. *Visitatio liminum of Hungarian bishops at the Roman Curia in the Middle Ages.* In *Historický časopis [Historical journal]*, 2021, 69, 5, pp. 785–814. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31577/histcaso.2021.69.5.1>; RÁBIK. „Episcopus Nitriensis solvit pro complemento sui communis servicii.“ *Obligation of commune servitium of the bishops of Nitra towards the Roman Curia in the late Middle Ages.* In *Historický časopis [Historical journal]*, 2022, 70, 5, pp. 825–851. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31577/histcaso.2022.70.5.2>.
- 30 AAV, Collect., Vol. 182, fol. 64v: “*Johanni Johannis de prepositura ecclesie Strigoniensis, vacante per obitum cardinalis Guillelmi, idus Julii,*” fol. 69r: “*De canonicatu, prebenda ac archidiaconatu Papensi in ecclesia Jauriensi, vacantibus per obitum domini cardinalis Guillelmi, pridie idus Julii*”, fol. 74r: “*Panratio clerico Agriensis diocesis mandatur provideri*

them (with the exception of the Provostry of Esztergom) is unknown, but they all came from Pope Clement VI, as the brief notes point out that this was under Clement VI (before 6 December 1352). The annual income from the possession of the Provostry of Esztergom and the local canonry alone amounted to 400 florins for William.³¹

Thus, if we summarize all the data presented so far, it is clear that Cardinal William held profitable ecclesiastical prebends in a total of ten Hungarian dioceses (Esztergom, Kalocsa, Eger, Alba Iulia, Cenad, Vác, Nitra, Győr, Pécs and Zagreb).

With regard to the granting of ecclesiastical prebends in the Esztergom Chapter in 1350, the whole situation is illustrative of William’s position both in Hungarian ecclesiastical affairs and at the papal court itself. The assumption of the new benefices in the Esztergom Chapter, conditional on the renunciation of other offices, was in fact protracted, and did not actually take place until nearly two years later. Cardinal William, however, took care that those prebends which, according to the papal decree, he was obliged to renounce because of the newly granted benefices, should not fall into foreign hands, but that they should be acquired by the cardinal’s familiars, which was actually done. Already on 3 May 1352, therefore, William asked the Pope to grant the Spiš benefices to Magister Arnald de Chaussin, the Zagreb benefices went to Peter de Montélimar, the Vác benefices to Peter Biseti de Le Puy-en-Velay, the Kalocsa benefices were given to Magister Thomas Dorboš, and finally Nicholas of Levoča received the benefices in the Chapter of Nitra. According to the Pope’s decision, this was to be done in all cases (*Fiat pro omnibus*) and without any further discussion of the matter in the Curia (*et quod transeat sine alia lectione*).³² These grants were also confirmed on 21 January 1353 by the new Pope Inocent VI,³³ thus legalizing them in the terms of the new pontificate. On this occasion, however, an interesting fact is also mentioned, which seems to have been the main reason

de canonicatu et prebenda ecclesie Agriensis, vacantibus per obitum cardinalis Guillelmi, VIII idus Julii,” fol. 74v: “*Pongracio nato Petri Kisice (!) de canonicatu et prebenda ecclesie Agriensis, vacantibus per obitum domini cardinalis Guillelmi. Idem est, ut supra scriptus,*” fol. 74v: “*Emerico Zudar preposito Alberegalis, Vesprimiensis diocesis, de archidiaconatu de Wywar in ecclesia Agriensi, vacante per obitum domini cardinalis Guillelmi, V kalendas Septembris.*”

- 31 AAV, Cam. Ap., Collect., Vol. 182, fol. 61r: “*Provisum fuit tempore domini Clementis pape Guillelmo sancte Marie in Cosmedin diacono cardinali de canonicatu, prebenda ac prepositura Strigoniensi. Debet pro mediis fructibus unius anni IIC florenos.*”
- 32 AAV, Reg. suppl., Vol. 23, fol. 260v; BOSSÁNYI, *Regesta supplicationum I.*, pp. 236-237, no. CDXCIII. MVS I II/1, pp. 152-153, no. 236; *Bullarium Poloniae. II.*, p. 99, no. 605.
- 33 THEINER, ed. *Vetera monumenta historica Hungariam sacram illustrantia. Tomus II. 1352–1526.* Romae 1860, pp. 6-7, no. XII.

for obtaining confirmation from the new Pope, namely that these donations were actually made by an independent decision of Cardinal William. This corresponds exactly with what other transactions attest, and points out that at the end of the pontificate of Clement VI, Cardinal William had the Hungarian benefices already at his disposal quite independently, and the decisions of the Pope were thus made only on a formal level. However, in order for Cardinal William's dispositions to have the necessary legal force, he was (automatically) granted special papal authority by the papal curia to deal with benefices and ecclesiastical offices. For example, when, on 8 July 1352, a request was submitted to the Roman Curia for the granting of canonries with prebends in the Chapters of Esztergom and Győr for John, son of Henry of Svibno, which the cleric Ladislaus of Vilémovo intended to renounce, the request was formulated in such a way that all the relevant acts were to be carried out by Cardinal William himself. This involved accepting the formal resignation of the original holder into the cardinal's hands, then granting the benefices thus released to the new holder, and also effecting his investiture (bringing him into possession), with no objections or protests of any kind to be taken into account. All this was supported by the grant of special papal authority to Cardinal William.³⁴ Such a position of Cardinal William in the Kingdom of Hungary lasted also at the beginning of the pontificate of the following Pope Innocent VI, which in turn is confirmed by the case of the exchange of ecclesiastical prebends between William's familiar Peter Begonis, the archdeacon of Zemplín, and the canon of Esztergom, Ondrej, the son of Demeter, shortly before 26 April 1353. The whole transaction was carried out through Cardinal William, who received papal authority to do so (*in manibus domini G., sancte Marie in Cosmedin diaconi cardinalis apud Sanctitatis Vestre potestatem habentis*). However, on 26 April 1353, a request was made to the Curia that the exchange should still be officially approved, also by due process and with the issuance of an appropriate document containing all the necessary particulars (*in cancellaria exprimendis*).³⁵

A major reversal of William's direct involvement in Hungarian affairs came in 1355, when he was gracefully "recalled" from the Curia by the new Pope Innocent VI, with his appointment as papal legate for the Spanish lands. This happened on 22 July, and on that very day William, as the new legate, left Avignon for Castile.³⁶ This happened only a few days after the Cardinal and

34 AAV, Reg. suppl., Vol. 24, fol. 46v. MVSI II/1, pp. 158-159, no. 252; MVB I., p. 773, no. 1503.

35 AAV, Reg. suppl., Vol. 25, fol. 144r. MVSI II/1, pp. 163-164, no. 260.

36 AAV, Obligat. et sol., Vol. 29, fol. 3v: "Anno Domini Mo CCCo LVo die XII mensis Iulii recessit de curia legatus ad partes Hispanie dominus Guillelmus cardinalis." EUBEL, *Hierarchia catholica I.*, p. 18.

the Bishop of Wrocław asked the Pope to confirm the conclusions of the synod, which had been convened by Cardinal Gentilis in Bratislava on 10 November 1309 and which confirmed the ancient privileges and political independence of the Hungarian and Polish Church.³⁷ The conclusions of the Bratislava synod were confirmed by the bull of 2 September 1346 by Inocent’s predecessor, Pope Clement VI. The request was submitted to the papal court on 17 July.³⁸ In spite of the above, William nevertheless kept a protective hand over the Hungarian benefices of his familiars, as we shall see. However, no new acquisitions were made for his own benefit.

The administration of the Hungarian (and other) estates could not have been carried out without the personal presence of Cardinal William, unless it was based on a sophisticated network of protectors, administrators and familiars, whom the Cardinal appointed to these tasks. It is clear from preserved records that there was also an elaborate and functional hierarchy among them, which ultimately appealed to the authority of the cardinal himself and his sovereign position at the papal court. The whole network rested, as it were, on two pillars – one providing the practical side and the concrete exercise of the (mainly proprietary) administration of the various prebends (*procuratores super prosecutione gratiarum*), and the other giving it all domestic ecclesiastical authority and protection. This was the special role of Bishop **Nicholas** of Eger (1330–1361),³⁹ who, when on 15 February 1344 he petitioned the pope to grant some greater office in the diocese of Eger to John, son of Demeter, his nephew and one of William’s chief familiars. He was thus described as “*executor of the Pope’s will and protector of the prebends given to the worthy in Christ Father William, by the grace of Saint Mary in Cosmedin, cardinal deacon in the provinces of Esztergom and Kalocsa*”.⁴⁰ The position of

37 Conclusions of the Synod cf. PÉTERFFY, ed. *Sacra concilia ecclesiae Romano-catholicae in regno Hungariae celebrata. Pars prima*. Viennae Austriae 1742, pp. 137-143. *Monumenta Vaticana historiam regni Hungariae illustrantia. Series prima. Tomus secundus. Vatikáni Magyar Okirattár. Acta legationis cardinalis Gentilis 1307–1311*. Budapest 1885, pp. 365-369, no. 72; SEDLÁK, ed. *Regesta diplomatica nec non epistolaria Slovaciae. Tomus I. Bratislaviae* 1980, p. 308, no. 697; KRISTÓ, ed. *Anjou-kori oklevéltár. Documenta res Hungaricas tempore regum Andegavensium illustrantia II. 1306–1310. II*. Budapest; Szeged 1992, p. 335, no. 761. On the mission of Cardinal Gentilis in the Kingdom of Hungary cf. MAREK. Uhorské kráľovstvo na začiatku 14. storočia a misia pápežského legáta kardinála Gentilisa. In ULIČNÝ and MAGDOŠKO, eds. *Bitka pri Rozhanovciach v kontexte slovenských a uhorských dejín. Collection of Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference*. Košice 2012, pp. 34-52.

38 MVS I II/1, pp. 182-183, no. 301.

39 ENGEL. *Magyarország világi archontológiája 1301–1457. Tom. I*. Budapest 1996, p. 68.

40 MVS I II/1, pp. 75-76, no. 73: “*devotus orator vester Nicolaus, episcopus Agriensis, executor et conservator gratiarum reverendo in Christo patri domino Guillelmo Dei gracia sancte Marie in Cosmedin diacono cardinali in Strigoniensi et Colocensi provinciis concessarum*”.

the Bishop of Eger here corresponded to the mandate he had received from Pope Clement VI on this matter as early as 5 October 1342, as mentioned above. The further hierarchy was structured as follows: a chief administrator with province-wide jurisdiction – the administrator of a particular benefice – a familiar and a chaplain (within this, however, it was still carefully distinguished whether these were court (belonging directly to the household, the so-called *commensalis*, or “rural” familiars and chaplains). These are the positions held by the cardinal’s circle of people in the Kingdom of Hungary. It was a kind of coherent and elaborate system of ecclesiastical patronage, for the cardinal, in turn, was also greatly concerned with the security of all those who constituted his power and property base in the country.

Historical documents show that the chief administrator (*procurator principalis proventuum*) of William’s benefices in the Kingdom of Hungary (and Poland) was **Peter Begonis**, a cleric of the French diocese of Castres and a very close associate and *familiaris commensalis*, belonging to the cardinal’s court. He was a bachelor of law, and it is telling that most of William’s familiars had – like him – a legal education. Peter Begonis was one of the two first ever cardinal’s administrators and familiars, whose protection was requested by Pope Clement VI from King Louis I of Hungary in his letter of 10 June 1343, as already mentioned. On 20 October 1345, the cardinal applied to the pope for the reservation of the canonry and prebend in the diocese of Wrocław for Peter Begonis,⁴¹ which he eventually did receive. Several other ecclesiastical prebends were then obtained during June 1348, again at the cardinal’s intervention. Specifically, on 14 June 1348, the Pope granted Begonis the vacant canonry of Kraków with prebend following the election of the then canon Bodzanta of Jankow as bishop of Kraków.⁴² On 25 June he also received the canonry with prebend in the diocese of Wrocław⁴³ and finally, on 27 June, the office of Chancellor of the Bishopric of Wrocław.⁴⁴ All these papal collations were made at the direct request of Cardinal William. However, this was not the end of the list of Begonis’s benefices. Still

41 AAV, Reg. Suppl., Vol. 10, fol. 72r. MVS I II/1, no. 122: “*in personam dilecti capellani et familiaris sui commensalis Petri Begonis, clerici Castrensis, baquallari in legibus, procuratoris sui in regnis Ungarie et Polonie*”; MVB I., pp. 320-321, no. 532-533; *Bullarium Poloniae II.*, p. 35, no. 196.

42 AAV, Reg. Suppl., Vol. 17, pars 1, fol. 51r. MVS I II/1, pp. 116-117, no. 157; MVB I., pp. 565-566, no. 998; *Bullarium Poloniae II.*, p. 63, no. 369.

43 AAV, Reg. Suppl., Vol. 17, pars 1, fol. 85r. Another record can also be found in the AAV, Reg. Suppl., Vol. vol. 17, pars 1, fol. 98r (under the date 27 June 1348); MVS I II/1, p. 118, no. 161; MVB I., p. 567, no. 1005.

44 AAV, Reg. Suppl., Vol. 17, pars 1, fol. 98r. Same record can also be found in the AAV, Reg. Suppl., Vol. vol. 17, pars 1, fol. 85r, under the date 25 June 1348; MVS I II/1, pp. 118-119, no. 162; MVB I., p. 567, no. 1005

on 25 February 1349, at the request of Cardinal William, the Pope granted a new benefice to Peter Begonis – the Zemplín Archdeaconate in the Eger Diocese. This office was to be vacated by the previous holder, John, son of Demeter, who in turn received from the pope the office of provost of Spiš.⁴⁵ However, the whole affair surrounding this new prebend was eventually prolonged until the end of 1351, or even longer, because its original holder, John, the son of Demeter, died unexpectedly even before he assumed the new office of the provost of Spiš. This John, son of Demeter, was also one of William’s familiars and a relative of Bishop Nicholas of Eger, as will be mentioned. Peter Begonis therefore tried to regain the Zemplín archdeaconate immediately after John’s death, and on 27 December 1351 he obtained papal confirmation for it,⁴⁶ but in fact he did not get to take it over after all. Later data tell us that Pope Clement VI had sometime earlier reserved any benefice in the bishopric of Eger, should it become vacant in the future, also for the Eger canon Peter, son of Demeter (presumably the brother of the aforementioned John, son of Demeter, and thus also a relative of the bishop of Eger). It was therefore the bishop of Eger who, after the death of his nephew, on the basis of a papal reservation, granted the Zemplín archdeaconate to Peter, son of Demeter, but who immediately exchanged it for another archdeaconate in the Eger bishopric of Pâncote, which was apparently also held by another of his brothers, by Ondrej, son of Demeter. All this was done with the consent and authority of the Ordinary of the Bishop of Eger, who was the uncle of all the participants. Peter Begonis, however, objected to this and instigated an ecclesiastical process, which was settled only in the Roman Curia. Before the whole affair was over, however, Pope Clement VI died on 6 December 1352, and at the court of the new Pope Innocent VI, Begonis’s patron, William, no longer had the influence he had enjoyed until then. He was, however, commissioned by the Pope to finalize the whole situation. As a result, and apparently in the form of some compensation, the Zemplín archdeacon Ondrej, son of Demeter, relinquished to Peter Begonis his canonry with prebend in the Esztergom chapter, and Begonis renounced his claims to the Zemplín archdeaconate. Formally, the whole operation was presented as an exchange of ecclesiastical prebends, which was carried out by Cardinal William himself on the authority of the new pope and confirmed on 26 April 1353 by Pope Innocent VI himself.⁴⁷ Eventually, the possession of the Zemplín archdeaconate obtained in this way for Peter, the son

45 AAV, Reg. Suppl., Vol. 19, fol. 158r. MVS I II/1, pp. 120-121, no. 166; BOSSÁNYI, *Regesta supplicationum I.*, pp. 194-195, no. CCCXCVI; MVB I., p. 605, no. 1096; *Bullarium Poloniae II.*, pp. 69-70, no. 419.

46 MVS I II/1, pp. 145-146, no. 224.

47 AAV, Reg. Suppl., Vol. 25, fol. 144r.; MVS I II/1, pp. 163-164, no. 260.

of Demeter, at the request of Queen Elizabeth of Hungary, was confirmed by the Pope once more on 9 December 1353,⁴⁸ and it is only from this request that we learn the whole basic storyline of the above story.

It should also be noted that Peter Begonis also had a brother **Vincent**, who on 22 March 1349, at the intercession of Cardinal William (and his brother Peter behind him), received from the Pope the office of canon with prebend in the French diocese of Alby.⁴⁹ However, we have no information that he also received any of the ecclesiastical prebends in the Kingdom of Hungary.

It has already been mentioned that in addition to Peter Begonis, the papal letter of 10 June 1343 also named **John**, son of Dominic of Uzsa, a cleric of the bishopric of Eger and canon lector of the local cathedral chapter, as the administrator of William's Hungarian benefices. Only a day before (9 June) Clement VI at William's request, reserved some suitable benefice in the diocese of Veszprém, and on this occasion we learn that, in addition to the lectorate in the Eger chapter, he also held the canonate and lectorate with the corresponding benefices in the Esztergom and Veszprém chapters, and in the Esztergom archdiocese he also held some revenues of the Tekov archdeaconate, called "quarters" (*quartas*) from the parishes and their branches in Lehotské Ďarmoty, Veľký Ďur, Tekovský Hrádek and Tekovské Lužany. It was these quarters that John was obliged to renounce in order to obtain the desired new benefice.⁵⁰ At that time, he was not only appointed as the administrator of William's ecclesiastical prebends in the Kingdom of Hungary, but also as his personal chaplain. However, other remarkable information about his person is also given. John was a bachelor of law and for one year rector at the University of Bologna, so he was highly educated. He was undoubtedly one of the people whom the Cardinal personally trusted, and he also had the confidence of the Cardinal's chief protector of his possessions, Bishop Nicholas of Eger. That is why it is remarkable that we do not learn any further details about the further property or career progress of this William's familiars. It is possible, however, that he is identical with the person of John, son of Dominic, who in 1348 and then in 1359 was described in the Roman Curia as not only a well-known and very loyal cleric of the archbishops of Kalocsa, but also of the Pope himself, and was granted a canonry with prebend in the Chapter of Eger (vacated after the death of William Giberti, Archbishop of Béziers).⁵¹

48 MVS I II/1, p. 172, no. 227.

49 MVB I, p. 606, no. 1100-1101.

50 MVS I II/1, pp. 53-54, no. 29.

51 AAV, Reg. Suppl., Vol. 17, pars 1, fol. 31v a Vol. 32, fol. 285r.; MVS I II/1, p. 116, no. 155, p. 221, no. 390: "*in personam Iohannis Domini, Sanctitatis Vestre noti ac fidelissimi clerici archiepiscopi Colocensis*".

The two main administrators of Cardinal William’s benefices in the Kingdom of Hungary were subordinated to administrators of a lower rank, who – as can be read between the lines – were already in charge of the administration of William’s specific benefices in specific dioceses.

Chronologically, the earliest mentioned is **John**, son of Henrich of **Svibno** (in Slovenia), a cleric from the Archdiocese of Esztergom, who was a canon lector of the Spiš Chapter and holder of a benefice in the German diocese of Lübeck. This was granted to him by the papal court at the request of the envoys of the King of Hungary, Komes Paul of Marcinków and the Cenad Bishop Gregory (1345–1350), which is important information because in other documents John also appears as a chaplain of the King of Hungary. However, he was also the chaplain of the Polish king Casimir III and the administrator-curator of Cardinal William “in those parts” (*in illis partibus*).

On November 3, 1345, when he appeared at the papal court as an envoy of the Polish king and presented to the pope on his behalf the Polish royal petitions, he also asked for the conferment for himself of some higher ecclesiastical office and benefice, falling under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Kraków.⁵² On 2 July 1352, the King of Hungary asked John, already designated as his chaplain, to be granted the canonry of the Čazma chapter in the Zagreb bishopric.⁵³ A few days later, on 8 July, Cardinal William himself petitioned in favour of John for the canonry and archdeaconate in the diocese of Oradea, who at that time referred to John as a chaplain of both his own and the King of Hungary.⁵⁴ In addition, the cardinal demanded that the Pope accepted the resignation of Ladislaus of Vilémov for the possession of the canonries and prebends in the chapters of Esztergom and Győr, and also granted these vacant benefices to John. In this case, too, the requests were granted.⁵⁵ John of Svibno actually acted in the service of King Louis I of Hungary. At the beginning of 1353, he was sent to the papal court on this account, and one of the requests that the cleric John interpreted on behalf of his lord and the king was a request for the office of Provost of St. Adalbert in Győr and the prebendary canonry in the same chapter to be granted again to his person.⁵⁶

52 MVS I II/1, p. 103, no. 129.

53 MVS I II/1, p. 155, no. 242.

54 MVS I II/1, p. 158, no. 251.

55 MVS I II/1, pp. 158-159, no. 252; MVB I., p. 773, no. 1503.

56 MVS I II/1, pp. 162-163, no. 258; NOVÁK, ed. *Monumenta Vaticana res gestas Bohemicas illustrantia. Tomus I. Acta Innocentii VI. 1352–1362* (hereinafter referred to as MVB II.). Prague 1907, p. 21, no. 47; BOSSÁNYI, ed. *Regesta supplicationum. A pápai kérvénykönyvek magyar vonatkozású okmányai. Avignoni korszak. II. VI. Ince pápa 1352–1362. V. Orbán pápa 1362–1370. VII. Kelemen ellen-pápa 1378–1394*. Budapest 1918, p. 264, no. VI.

Another of the cardinal's familiars and procurators in the Kingdom of Hungary was a cleric of the French diocese of Alby, **John Pelros**, holder of a canonry in the bishopric of Wrocław and an unspecified benefice in the French Benedictine abbey of Ambialet. On 28 January 1350, at the request of Cardinal William, the Pope granted him a canonry with prebend in the bishopric of Zagreb, which had previously been held by the prelate of Esztergom, Nicholas, but which he had to renounce after his appointment as bishop of Nitra.⁵⁷

Another of William's Hungarian procurators, the canon of the Chapter of Titel, Magister Thomas Dorbos, had a quite special commission, and on 12 November 1359, at the cardinal's request, he was granted by Inocent VI the canonry of the seat chapter in Cenad. In William's request he was introduced as his "*beloved vicar in the parts of Hungary*".⁵⁸ What exactly this designation meant is not known, but it occurred at a time when Cardinal William's position in Hungarian affairs was already significantly limited. However, as early as 1352 (2 May), Thomas Dorbos, at the request of Cardinal William, was given the office of canon lector with prebend in the Kalocsa chapter, and this was a benefice which had previously been held by William.⁵⁹

The existence of Cardinal William's ecclesiastical and property rights in the Kingdom of Hungary even after his forced retreat in 1355 is evidenced by the still functioning procuratorial commission for William's court chaplain, Peter de Le Monastère, a cleric of the French diocese of Limoges. He held several Hungarian ecclesiastical offices and prebends – canonries with prebends of the Eger and Kalocsa chapters, and also held a benefice in the French archdiocese of Rouen. On 24 August 1361, at the request of Cardinal William, the Pope also granted him the canonry with prebend and the archdeaconate of Szabolcs in the diocese of Eger, which had become vacant after the death of William's familiar and chaplain, Nicholas, son of Arnold.⁶⁰ This decree actually belongs to Cardinal William's last Hungarian activities and testifies that, despite his other curial assignments, he still maintained contact with the remnants of his Hungarian familiarity and the local dependent prebends up to this period.

Finally, when enumerating William's procurators, we should also mention the Polish cleric **Peter of Gostyń**, who had a special commission from the Roman Curia as collector of a special three-year tithe in the bishopric of Wrocław, intended for the fight against the Turks, because of which – as contemporary documents point out – "*in the service of the Roman Church and the Cardinal he endured many hardships and exposed himself to many and various dangers*".

57 MVS I II/1, pp. 132-133, no. 196.

58 MVS I II/1, p. 224, no. 399.

59 MVS I II/1, pp. 152-153, no. 236.

60 MVS I II/1, pp. 251-252, no. 465.

On 22 May 1349, therefore, Cardinal William requested the Pope to grant him a benefice in the bishopric of Kraków.⁶¹ However, there are no reports that he was also involved in Hungarian affairs, so his trusteeship is to be understood only for William’s ecclesiastical benefices in the Polish dioceses.

Finally, the lowest level of Cardinal William’s familiarity was already represented by specific clerics with a personal connection to their patron, who also took good care of his people. Foremost among them was **John, son of Demeter**, described by William as a familiar and chaplain, who was the nephew of the bishop of Eger, Nicholas, and who, as already mentioned, was the pope’s appointed chief protector of Cardinal William’s property and other rights in the Kingdom of Hungary. Cleric John was a prebendary canon in the seat chapter of Eger and in the seat chapter of Veszprém, but he also held the office of Zemplín archdeacon in the diocese of Eger, which he obtained on 16 September 1347, at the expressed request of Cardinal William.⁶² On 23 February 1349 he personally asked the papal curia to reserve the office of provost of Spiš, with the condition of renouncing the Zemplín archdeaconate⁶³. He subsequently (on 25 February), as has already been said, asked Cardinal William to grant the Zemplín archdeaconate to Peter Begonis.⁶⁴ This case clearly shows how the various prebends shifted within William’s familiarity. The transactions in question, however, did not ultimately take place, or their fate moved into a completely different direction. The original provost of Spiš, John (i.e. the namesake of the new contender for the office, John, son of Demeter), died suddenly in the same year, and the archbishop of Esztergom, Nicholas of Vásvár, ignored the papal reservation by appointing Nicholas, the royal chaplain and until then parish priest of Buda, as provost of Spiš. In doing so, he invoked the ancient patronage right of the Hungarian kings, which existed in relation to the Provostry of Spiš and according to which all provosts were subject to royal approval (presentation). King Louis I of Hungary, therefore, actually confirmed the new provost Nicholas thus appointed. William’s familiar John, the son of Demeter, did not get to the reserved office of provost of Spiš, also because in the midst of this affair, he himself died suddenly at the end of 1351 (before 27 December). And in order to remove even the doubts surrounding the installation of Nicholas as Provost of Spiš, as early as 10 January 1352, King Louis I personally asked the Pope to approve the whole process of Nicholas’s appointment, again emphasizing the special royal patronage over the Spiš Provostry.⁶⁵

61 MVS I II/1, p. 123, no. 172.

62 MVS I III/2, pp. 193-194, no. 142.

63 MVS I II/1, pp. 119-120, no. 165; MVS I III/2, pp. 259-261, no. 233.

64 MVS I II/1, pp. 120-121, no. 166; MVB I, p. 605, no. 1095.

65 MVS I II/1, pp. 146-147, no. 225. On the whole situation and its protagonists (despite several

As has already been mentioned, John, the son of Demeter, apparently had two other brothers – Peter and Ondrej, who (as nephews of Bishop Nicholas of Eger) held church prebends in both the Eger and the Cenad bishopric. However, the surviving reports do not show that they were also part of Cardinal William’s familiarity. Rather, on the contrary, we find them in dispute with Peter Begonis, William’s chief courtier and Hungarian administrator.

Another of William’s familiars, **Nicholas, son of John of Levoča**, had a similarly interesting ecclesiastical career, and in 1349 he appears with the quite extraordinary title of William’s “*beloved cleric and servant*”. On 22 March of that year, he requested the Pope to grant him the canonry of the Spiš Chapter and the prebend attached to it, and possibly another office or rank in that Chapter.⁶⁶ The Pope granted William’s intercession in favour of Nicholas and on the same day granted him the requested office.⁶⁷ Already as a canon of Spiš, on 3 May 1352, at William’s intercession, he should have been given the position of canon cantor in the Nitra Chapter.⁶⁸ Nicholas, however, did not get this benefice until sometime in 1360, but handled it until his death in 1368.⁶⁹ His last acquisition was the reservation of the canonry with prebend in the Esztergom chapter, which was granted to him by Pope Innocent VI at the intercession of King Louis I of Hungary on 29 July 1360.⁷⁰

When, on 3 May 1352, Cardinal William renounced several of his Hungarian benefices and asked the Pope to grant them to his familiars, the interesting figure of Magister **Arnald de Chaussin**, a canon of Kraków and a papal collector, who on this occasion also identifies himself as the papal nuncio to Poland and Hungary, stands out among them. At the intercession of William, he was to receive a canonry with prebend in the chapter of Spiš.⁷¹ His prebends, however, were much more numerous, and when in 1355 he applied for the canonry of

inaccuracies) cf. LABANC. *Spišskí prepošti do roku 1405*. Trnava; Kraków 2011, pp. 120-138.

66 MVSII/1, p. 123, no. 173.

67 MVSIII/2, pp. 264-265, no. 237.

68 MVSII/1, pp. 152-153, no. 236.

69 TÓTH. *A nyitrai székeskáptalan archontológiája 1111–1526*. Budapest 2019, p. 32. Before Nicholas, Kozmas is documented here as a canon lector.

70 MVSII/1, pp. 236-237, no. 429 (under the date 28 July 1360), p. 239, no. 435 (under the date 29 July 1360). On the person of Nicholas of Levoča as a canon of Esztergom. (1354–1360) cf. KOLLÁNYI. *Esztergomi kanonokok*. Esztergom 1900, p. 58; as canon of Nitra (1353–1360), cf. VAGNER, József. *Adalékok a Nyitrai székes-káptalan történetéhez*. Nyitra 1896, p. 97; HRADZSKY. *Initia progressus ac praesens status Capituli ad sanctum Martinum E. C. de Monte Scepusio olim collegiati sub jurisdictione archiepiscopi Strigoniensis nunc vero Cathedralis sub proprio episcopo Scepusiensi constitut*. Szepesváralja 1901, Nicholas of Levoča as a canon of Spiš is not mentioned.

71 MVSII/1, pp. 236-237, no. 236. Also AAV, Collect., Vol. 181, fol. 127v.

Gniezno, we learn that he already held one canonry there and, in addition to it, canonries in Kraków, Wrocław, and the chapters of Spiš and Titel.⁷² He was undoubtedly a very interesting and important figure of this time, who based part of his career on his service to Cardinal William.

Also acting as William’s chaplain and familiar was the cleric **Nicholas, son of Arnold**, who died in the Roman Curia sometime before 24 August 1361, because on that date the Pope granted the benefices vacated by his death (the canonry with prebend and the archdeaconate of Szabolc in the diocese of Eger) to another of William’s familiars, Peter de Le Monastère.⁷³ However, we know about Nicholas that he was not only William’s familiars, but he was also close to the Pope himself. He came from the diocese of Wrocław, from the local town of Sztrelcze Opolskie, and became a member of Clement VI’s original cardinal’s court before his election. There he probably also met William, so their collaboration had much older roots. On 15 July 1343, he asked for the reservation of the canonry and prebend in the bishopric of Eger, and by then he was also the holder of the canonry of Veszprém, which he had obtained by episcopal decision. Moreover, the Bishop of Eger, Nicholas, was to pay him an annual annuity equal to his future prebend from his own episcopal revenues until the desired canonry of Eger was vacated for him,⁷⁴ which was indeed quite an unusual solution, for which we have no other domestic parallel at the time. In his favour, and again requesting a reservation in the Eger chapter, Nicholas, komes of the royal chapel and royal secretary and chief chancellor, petitioned the Roman Curia on 11 September 1345.⁷⁵ Nicholas eventually became a royal chaplain and before 1359 he also received the archdeaconate of Szabolcs and the Bosnian canonry. On 2 June of that year, at the intercession of the King of Hungary, the canonry of the Oradea chapter was reserved for him.⁷⁶ Yet also on 14 August 1360, Bishop Paul of Freising asked in his favour for a canonry with prebend in the chapter of Meissen and the parish of Dresden, and according to the request he also held a canonry in the chapter of Poznań.⁷⁷ It was indeed a widely renowned familiar of William, which shows his extraordinary importance and contemporary influence.

72 MVS I II/1, p. 185-186, no. 305; MVB II., p. 151-152, no. 373, p. 155, no. 381; BOSSÁNYI, *Regesta supplicationum II.*, pp. 294-295, no. LXII; *Bullarium Poloniae II.*, p. 126, no. 774. On his person cf. Arnold de Caucina (de Lacaucina). In *Encyklopedia katolicka. Tom 1.* Lublin 1985, kol. 946.

73 MVS I II/1, p. 251, no. 465.

74 MVS I II/1, pp. 54-55, no. 31.

75 MVS I II/1, p. 90, no. 98.

76 MVS I II/1, p. 221, no. 392.

77 MVS I II/1, pp. 239-240, no. 437.

Conrad Sculteti of Kapellenberg, a lawyer and William's chaplain, held similarly numerous ecclesiastical prebends, and on 28 July 1360 he petitioned the Pope to reserve the canonry of the Spiš Chapter in his favour. It was to be vacated by the Provost of Spiš, Dominik Bubek, who had been appointed Bishop of Cenad. The fact that Conrad was already archdeacon of Nitra and canon of Spiš, but also canon of the chapters in Esztergom, Bácsa and Bonn (Cologne diocese), was not to be taken into account.⁷⁸ But that was not all. Already on 11 July 1351, the Hungarian monarch Louis I himself, who called him his "*beloved chaplain and expert in law*", asked for the division of the canonry in the collegiate chapter of Kamień (in the diocese of Gniezno) in his favour. It was noteworthy that on this occasion the king also requested that the relevant Church regulations and canons that were forbidding the acquisition of higher prebends for clerics with lower ordination, to be disregarded. Thus Conrad did not have priestly ordination, but a lower sacred clerical order. Even so, by this time he was already a canon of Bonn and Esztergom and held the archdeaconate of Tekov, which he was willing to give up in the event of obtaining the coveted canonry of Kamień.⁷⁹ Whether this happened is unknown, but when on 13 January 1352 the Pope granted him the office of Archdeacon of Nitra, the archdeaconate of Tekov, which Conrad was to relinquish by virtue of this title, was granted only to the fifteen-year-old Demeter, son of Thomas, at the request of the Bishop of Veszprém, John.⁸⁰ But Conrad also had his own familiars. On 12 May 1360, he himself petitioned the Holy See to reserve the canonry of Wrocław or Pécs for one of them, also Conrad, son of the late Hermann of Plauen of the diocese of Nuremberg.⁸¹ Another of his familiars was the deacon of the Esztergom archbishopric, Michael, the son of Stephen, whom Conrad described as his "*beloved companion*" when, as a special envoy of the King of Hungary, he petitioned on his behalf at the Roman Curia in July 1363 for the grant of the canonry of Esztergom. The Pope, however, transferred the whole request to the competence of the Archbishop of Esztergom.⁸²

In the aforementioned resignation of Cardinal William to several Hungarian prebends in favour of his familiars on 3 May 1352, the cleric Peter de Montélimar, holder of the canonry of Pécs, appears in this position and, according to William's appointment, was to receive his original benefices as canon cantor with prebend in the Zagreb chapter.

78 MVSI II/1, p. 235, no. 425.

79 MVSI II/1, p. 142-142, no. 218.

80 THEINER, A. *Vetera monumenta* II., p. 813, no. MCCXLV; MVSI II/1, p. 148, no. 227 (15 January 1352), pp. 149-150, no. 231 (31 January 152).

81 MVSI II/1, p. 234, no. 423.

82 MVSI II/1, pp. 259-260, no. 481,482.

Peter Biseti de Le Puy-en-Velay, a cleric of the French diocese of Le Puy, is mentioned as another of William’s familiars on this occasion, who in turn, at William’s request, was to be given the rank of canon cantor in the Vác chapter.⁸³ However, we do not find any further reports of either of them in the Kingdom of Hungary.

On 24 August 1361, Cardinal William presented a whole group of different requests to the Roman Curia via a special document entitled “*Rotulus domini cardinalis Guilelmi de familiaribus suis continuis*”. It was thus intended to cover the Cardinal’s permanent familiars and servants. In addition to the several already mentioned, the new name of Nicholas of Podvin, a cleric of the Diocese of Pécs, canon of the chapter of Požega and chaplain to the Queen of Hungary, who was then also personally present at the papal court, also appears here. On the basis of the cardinal’s request, he was to receive the canonry of Eger vacated by William.⁸⁴ The cleric Nicholas was the last of the Hungarian familiars to be so clearly defined in the sources. However, the person of Thomas Beken of Biel, a cleric of the Eger bishopric, who was a relative of the elected Bishop Nicholas of Nitra (1347–1348), at that time also appointed Bishop of Zagreb, is still uncertain. On 22 March 1349, as an envoy of the king, he asked Pope Clement VI to grant him the office of provost of the collegiate chapter of St. Thomas in Esztergom. The Pope granted the request, but with a remarkable remark: “*let it be verified whether this is also done at the request of Cardinal William*”.⁸⁵ This situation confirms what has already been stated earlier, namely that at the end of the pontificate of Clement VI, Cardinal William was the main figure in deciding on the granting of ecclesiastical prebends in the dioceses of Hungary, and at that time the Roman Curia always required his opinion on individual collations.

Conclusion

The person of Cardinal William thus represents a remarkable personality in the history of our historical-geographical space, who significantly shaped the ecclesiastical and ecclesiastical-administrative conditions in the Kingdom of Hungary, without being personally present in the country. As was above spoken, the cardinal’s kinship with Clement VI. gave him considerable influence at the papal court, which was his political arena, but his economic background was provided by the numerous benefices and ecclesiastical prebends in the Hungarian dioceses. In total, he managed to obtain numerous commended offices in as many as ten local bishoprics, which he administered through an elaborate

83 MVS I II/1, pp. 152-153, no. 236.

84 MVS I II/1, p. 252, no. 466.

85 MVS I II/1, pp. 124-125, no. 176.

network of familiars reaching up to the highest ecclesiastical structures in the country. This special network of familiars and legal representatives created by him came not only from the ranks of his French familiarity, but also from his domestic background. However, Cardinal William's extensive activities without a personal presence also provoked opposition in the Kingdom of Hungary, which gradually grew into a revolt, supported by King Louis I of Hungary. The latter, by special mandate, even expelled all of William's familiarity from the country, and it was only by the intervention of the Pope himself that the situation turned once again in the Cardinal's favour. Although the new Pope Inocent VI gradually limited Cardinal William's influence over the Roman Curia, he retained several benefices in the Kingdom of Hungary until his death in 1374.

Appendix 1

Hungarian Benefice of William de la Jugée, Cardinal Deacon of Saint Mary in Cosmedin

<i>Benefice</i>	<i>Diocese</i>	<i>Year of acquisition</i>	<i>Year of revocation</i>	<i>New holder</i>
Magistrate of the Crusader Convent of St. Stephen the King in Esztergom	Esztergom	before 10. 6. 1343		
Magistrate of the Crusader Convent in Hévíz	Esztergom	before 10. 6. 1343		
The provostry of the cathedral chapter	Esztergom	4. 6. 1350	By death	John, son of John
The Bistrița parish	Alba Iulia	21. 2. 1344		
The Archdeaconate in Alba Iulia	Alba Iulia	before 21. 10. 1343		
The Archdeaconate in Torontál	Cenad	25. 9. 1345		
canonical office with prebend	Oradea	25. 9. 1345		
canonical office with prebend in Bácsa chapter	Bácsa/Kalocsa	30. 9. 1345	3. 5. 1352	
The Archdeaconate in Syrmia	Bácsa/Kalocsa	before 20. 9. 1345		
The provostry of the cathedral chapter	Pécs	before 9. 10. 1345		
canonical office with prebend, archdeaconate in Pápa	Győr		By death	
canonical office with prebend	Eger		By death	Pankrác, son of Peter of Malálda

The Archdeaconate of Abov	Eger		By death	Imrich Zudar
canonical office with prebend	Vác	21. 10. 1343	3. 5. 1352	Peter Biseti de Le Puy-en-Velay
canonical office with prebend and a lectorate	Kalocsa	before 4. 6. 1350	3. 5. 1352	magister Thomas Dorboš
canonical office with prebend and cantory	Nitra	before 4. 6. 1350	3. 5. 1352	Nicholas of Levoča
canonical office with prebend	Zágreb	before 4. 6. 1350	3. 5. 1352	Peter de Montélimar
canonical office with prebend of the Spiš chapter	Esztergom	before 4. 6. 1350	3. 5. 1352	Arnald de Chaussin

Annex 2

Familiarity of Cardinal William:

Bishop **Nicholas** of Eger (1330–1361), protector of the benefices granted by Pope Clement VI to Cardinal William in the Kingdom of Hungary.

Peter Begonis, cleric of the French diocese of Castres, bachelor of law, court familiar, chief administrator of William’s benefices in the Kingdom of Hungary and Poland (1343) – canon of Wrocław (1345 and 1348), canon of Kraków (1348), chancellor of the bishopric of Wrocław (1348), canon of Esztergom (1353),

Vincent Begonis, brother of Peter Begonis, canon of the chapter of Alba (1349).

John, son of Dominic of Uzsa, cleric of the diocese of Eger, bachelor of law and rector at the University of Bologna, familiar and personal chaplain, administrator of William’s benefices in the Kingdom of Hungary – (1343), canon lector of Eger (1343), Veszprém canon lector, canon lector of Esztergom (1343), holder of the “quarter” of the parishes and their branches in Lehotské Ďarmoty, Veľký Ďur, Tekovský Hrádek and Tekovské Lužany (1343), canon of Eger (1348).

John, son of Henry of **Svibno** (in Slovenia), cleric of the Archdiocese of Esztergom, canon lector of the Spiš Chapter, holder of a benefice in the diocese of Lübeck, chaplain to King Louis I of Hungary and King Casimir III of Poland, chaplain of Cardinal William – reserved benefice in the Bishopric of Kraków (1345), canon of the Chapter of Čazma and the Chapter of Zagreb (1352), canon of Esztergom, Győr and Oradea (1352), archdeacon of Oradea, provost of the Chapter of St. Vojtech in Győr and canon of Győr (1353).

John Pelros, cleric of the French diocese of Alba, familiar and William’s procurator in the Kingdom of Hungary – canon of Wrocław (1350), holder of an unspecified benefice in the French Benedictine abbey of Ambialet (1350), canon of Zagreb (1350).

Thomas Dorbos, magister, vicar of Cardinal William in the Kingdom of Hungary – canon lector of Kalocsa (1352), canon of Titel (1359), canon of Cenad (1359).

Peter de Le Monastère, cleric of the French diocese of Limoges, court chaplain – canon of Eger and Kalocsa (1361), holder of a benefice in the French archdiocese of Rouen (1361), canon of Eger (1361), archdeacon of Szabolcs (1361).

- Peter of Gostyň**, collector of the three-year tithes in the Wrocław bishopric, intended for the fight against the Turks, William's procurator for the Kingdom of Hungary – reservation of the benefice in the Kraków bishopric (1349).
- John, son of Demeter**, nephew of Bishop Nicholas of Eger, familiar and chaplain - canon of Eger and Veszprém (1349), archdeacon of Zemplín (1349), reservation of the office of Provost of Spiš (1349).
- Nicholas, son of John of Levoča**, cleric and servant of William – canon of Spiš (1349), canon cantor of Nitra (1360), canon of Esztergom (1360).
- Arnald de Chaussin**, magister, papal nuncio in Poland and Hungary, papal collector, familiar – canon of Kraków (1352), canon of Spiš (1352), two-time canon of Gniezno, canon of Kraków, Wrocław and Titel (1355).
- Nicholas, son of Arnold**, cleric of the Wrocław diocese from the small town of Sztrelcze Opolskie, a member of the personal cardinal's court of the later Pope Clement VI., chaplain and familiar, chaplain to King Louis I of Hungary. – Canon of Veszprém (1343), reservation of the canonry of Eger (1343, 1345), recipient of an annual annuity from the income of the Bishop of Eger in the amount of the future benefice (1343), Archdeacon of Szabolcs (before 1359), Bosnian canon (1359), reservation of the canonry of Oradea (1359), canon of Meissen (1360), canon of Poznań (1360), holder of the parish of Dresden (1360), canon of Eger (1361).
- Conrad Sculteti of Kapellenberg**, lawyer, chaplain to King Louis I of Hungary, chaplain – canon of Esztergom (1351), canon of Bácsa (1360), canon of Bonn (Cologne diocese) (1351), archdeacon of Tekov (1351), reservation of the canonry of Kamień (1351), archdeacon of Nitra (1352), reservation of the canonry of Spiš (1360), archdeacon of Nitra (1360), canon of Spiš (1360).
- Conrad, son of Hermann of Plauen** of the diocese of Nuremberg, familiar of Conrad Sculteti of Kapellenberg - reservation of the canonry of Wrocław or Pécs (1360).
- Michal, son of Stephen**, deacon of the Archbishopric of Esztergom, familiar and companion of Conrad Sculteti of Kapellenberg - reservation of the canonry of Esztergom (1363).
- Peter de Montélimar**, familiar – canon of Pécs (1352), Zagreb canon cantor (1352).
- Peter Biseti de Le Puy-en-Velay**, cleric of the French diocese of Le Puy, familiar – canon cantor of Vác (1352).
- Nicholas of Podvin**, cleric of the Pécs diocese, chaplain to the Queen of Hungary, familiar – canon of the chapter in Požega (1352), canon of Eger (1352).

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