

Секція «Історія»

**Between East and West. The Greek Catholic Church in the interwar Poland
1918-1939**

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For the Greek Catholic Church in Poland the interwar period was time of difficult changes and searching for their own identity. At the beginning of 1918, the Greek Catholic Church in Austrian Galicia had been still regaining strength after World War I, and at the end of the same year, it had to confront with a new armed conflict - the Polish-Ukrainian War. Greek Catholic clergy actively involved in building of the new Ukrainian state [7]. After Galicia was defeat and turned into the Polish state, it had to answer the question: how to arrange its relations with the Polish state and how to get involved in building an Ukrainian national identity? [2, 4] At the beginning of the 20's great emotions in the Ukrainian society in Poland led to disputes over mandatory celibacy of Greek Catholic priests. Opponents stressed the unique role of celibate of clergy and claimed that their families in the Ukrainian national life had been playing an important social role. Supporters advocated the need for a modern ministry in Greek Catholic Churches [1, 8]. Talk about celibacy was not the only one element of the debate, which Greek Catholic Church needed to face at that time. Supporters of latinisation emphasized the need of assimilation to the Roman Catholic Church. The opposite view expressed Metropolitan of Lviv Andriy Sheptytsky, who believed that the Greek Catholic Church must draw on primarily from the Byzantine tradition, and thus he influenced the Orthodox in order to attract them to the Catholic Church [3, 6, 9].

The speech shows how the Greek Catholic Church functioned as the link between the Catholic West and the Orthodox East. Whether it was closer to the Latin of Rome, or rather to the Byzantine tradition? The speech will also answer the questions about the role of Greek Catholic Church in the Ukrainian national movement during the inwerwar period.

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