

Summary

EPARCHY OF NIS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE XVIII CENTURY

Eparchy of Nis is one of the earliest Christian communities in the Balkans. On the basis of remained sources, its history can be followed since IV century, when the first bishops of antic Naissus were recorded. In the beginning of the XVIII century the eparchy was in desperate state. Just after the end of the Serbian-Turkish war, the territory of the eparchy was devastated, towns and villages burned down, population partly destroyed, partly exiled across the rivers Sava and Danube, and the rest of the population was very close to biological extermination. Churches, some of which were very old and valuable, mostly destroyed or with bad damages.

In such a bad situation, two extraordinary archpriests Joanikije I and Georgije Popovic for not complete four decades succeed in restoration of the eparchy, putting it in order and initiation its way toward progress. Their efforts are possible to reconstruct in the basis of remained notebooks, account books where they noted all incomes and expenses of the eparchy in period since 1727 – 1737. Out of these notebooks that are saved in archives of Sremski Karlovci, we can see building of churches, increased number of Christians and economic strengthening of the entire region. This great rise of previously devastated eparchy, was suddenly stopped in 1737 by new Austro – Turkish war.