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**The History of the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School of Pécs
(1912–1948)**

Summary of PhD thesis

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1. The motivations and purposes of the research

'This building was erected by Count Gyula Zichy the Bishop of Pécs. Here functioned the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School, established by him, from 1914 to 1948 when the religious schools was secularized' – says a memorial tablet on the wall of the building of the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Pécs. And yet a lot of students and scholars of the Faculty do not know what was the original function of that imposing building in which their study and work. The Pius Secondary Grammar School slightly has sunk into oblivion.

This is a great loss because the Pius Secondary Grammar School was not only an average school but it was almost unparalleled in point of the standards of education and facilities. This institution had a boarding school, a sports centre and swimming pool, a botanical garden, a school theatre, an orchestra, libraries and other collections, and wide possibilities of self-education. The Jesuit teachers of the Pius were excellent educators thanks to their expertise. By its uniqueness the Pius Secondary Grammar School is worthy of the interest of the educational historians. Especially as the education of our days can get inspiration from the educational practice of this former school.

These motivations drove me to get acquainted with the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School. Since I observed that up to now only short papers was published about its history. A historical monography based on primary sources has not written so far. My thesis proposes to present the entire history of the Pius with monographic complexion based on primary sources which have not yet been investigated.

2. Research questions

During this historical research the following questions guided me:

- I. The first section of the questions are concerned to explore of the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School in a chronological aspect:
 1. *Which motivations led Bishop Gyula Zichy to establish the school? What was the bishop's point of view about questions of education?*
 2. *What were the steps of the process of the establishment of the school and the construction of its building?*
 3. *How did the school function and develop the school in the decades after its establishment?*

- II. It was an emphatically interesting question for me that the important episodes of the world history and the history of Hungary how influenced the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School therefore I paid special attention to this topic. With the investigation of this problem we can place the history of the Pius in a bigger historical context. By these considerations I examined the following questions:
How influenced the life of the school
4. – *the World War I?*
 5. – *the revolutions of 1918–1919?*
 6. – *the Serbian occupation of Pécs?*
 7. – *the World War II?*
 8. *How did the school function in the changed political circumstances after 1945?*
 9. *How did it take place the secularization of the Pius Secondary Grammar School and the elimination of the Jesuits from Pécs?*
- III. The third section of the questions refers to the educational work of the Pius Secondary Grammar School:
10. *Which principles define the educational work of the Pius?*
 11. *Which rules and regulations organised the life of the students in the boarding school?*
 12. *What were the special instruments of education in the Pius Secondary Grammar schools (boy scout, school orchestra, school theatre etc.)?*
- IV. Finally the fourth section of my questions is focused on comparative and analytic investigations about the education of the Pius Secondary Grammar School. In this way we can place the topic in a wider context.
13. *Are there traceable parallels between the Jesuit education of the 17–18th century and the education of the Pius Secondary Grammar School?*
 14. *Which parallels can be found between the Pius and its contemporary, the Jesuit secondary grammar school of Kalocsa?*
 15. *Can we detect the traces of institutional totality in the boarding school of the Pius?*

3. Former treatises about the Pius Secondary Grammar School

Evidently my research has its antecedents. Many papers have already been published about the Pius but most of them are brief and do not discuss this topic deeply. This means that the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar

School is mostly unfold despite the several papers published about the topic. Hereinafter I would like to present the main treatises published about the Pius.

Aranka Ponesz's monography on *The Population of the Secondary Schools of Pécs between 1900–1935* was published in 1936. Although this book is thematizes the secondary schools of Pécs in general and not only the Pius, we can get important sociological data about the Pius by this monography.¹

Former teacher of this school, János Kerling SJ wrote his memoir in 1949 under the title *My Memories from the Pius, 1912–1948*. Kerling was the teacher of the Pius during almost its entire history, therefore he possessed deep knowledge about the institution and its history. Thus Kerling's memoir is a precious historical source which contains important informations about the history of the Pius. The memoir was published only in 1993.²

The first historian who wrote about the Pius was Antal Petrich SJ Jesuit historian. His main opus is the three volumed *One Hundred Years from the Past of the Hungarian Jesuits* which presents the history of Hungarian Jesuits from 1853 to 1950. In this monography he mentioned the Pius Secondary School as well but he dedicated only 35 pages to the Pius. It is understandable because he investigated a widespread topic and he could not elaborated the history of this school.³

The Pius. A School below the Mecsek Hills written by László Hegedűs is the first and only book about the history of the Pius. It was published in 1991. However it cannot be called a real monography because its range is only 57 pages. Furthermore Hegedűs compiled his book mainly on the base of Kerling's memoir and Petrich's monography.⁴

In 2002 in his MA thesis titled *The Secularization of the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School of Pécs* Gábor Bánkuti discussed this topic

¹ PONESZ, Aranka: *Pécs város középiskoláinak népessége 1900-tól 1935-ig [The Population of the Secondary Schools of Pécs between 1900–1935]*. Dunántúl Pécsi Egyetemi Könyvkiadó és Nyomda, Pécs, 1936.

² KERLING SJ, János: *Piusi emlékeim 1912–1948 [My Memories from the Pius, 1912–1948]*. In: Arany–Ezüst, 1993, volume 2., no. 2., appendix, 1–19. pp.

³ PETRICH SJ, Antal: *Száz év a magyar jezsuiták múltjából (1853–1950). Az önálló magyar rendtartomány (1909–1950) [One Hundred Years from the Past of the Hungarian Jesuits (1853–1950). The Independent Hungarian Jesuit Province (1909–1950)]*. Korda Kiadó, Kecskemét, 1994, 53–87. pp.

⁴ HEGEDŰS, László: *A „Pius”. Kollégium a Mecsek alján [The Pius. A School below the Mecsek Hills]*. Pécs, 1991.

profoundly.⁵ The main issues of the thesis was published in 2007.⁶ In addition Bánkuti summarized the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School excellently in a brief paper.⁷ In 2012 on the centenary of the Pius Bánkuti published another succinct summary on the history of the school.⁸

In 2005 Adrienn Tengely published a paper under the title *A Forgotten Source from the Age of Revolutions. On the 'Piety and Literacy' and 'Better Future' Series Published by the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School of Pécs in 1918–1919*. In this paper Tengely investigated those two series which was published by the Jesuits of Pécs in an ideologically ambiguous era to help the Catholic laymen preserve their Christian worldview.⁹

In 2015 Andrea Pásztor published a paper on *The History of the Garden of the Pius Secondary Grammar School of Pécs*. In this paper she discusses about the botanical garden and sports centre of the Pius.¹⁰

Some further brief papers was also published on the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School but a profound monography has not been written on this topic so far.

4. The sources and methods of the research

The history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School is an undiscovered area of the history of education in several aspects. There are many uninvestigated source which can provide new informations on the history of this

⁵ BÁNKUTI, Gábor: *A pécsi Jézus Társasági Pius Kollégium államosítása [The Secularization of the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School of Pécs]*. MA thesis. University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities, Pécs, 2002.

⁶ BÁNKUTI, Gábor: *A pécsi Pius Kollégium államosítása [The Secularization of the Pius Secondary Grammar School of Pécs]*. In: Horváth, István – Kikindai, András (eds.): *Emlékkötet Zichy Gyula tiszteletére [Memorial Volume in Honor of Gyula Zichy]*. *Historia Ecclesiastica Hungarica Alapítvány – Pécsi Püspökség*, Budapest – Pécs, 2007, 165–179. pp.

⁷ BÁNKUTI, Gábor: *A pécsi Jézus Társasági Pius Kollégium története [The History of the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School of Pécs]*. <https://jezsuita.hu/a-pecsi-jezus-tarsasagi-pius-kollegium-tortenete/> [Downloaded on the 1st of August 2021.]

⁸ BÁNKUTI, Gábor: *A pécsi Jézus Társasági Pius-Alapítványi Katolikus Főgimnázium és Internátus története [The History of the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar and Boarding School of Pécs]*. In: *Pécsi Szemle*, 2012, volume 15., no. 4., 74–81. pp.

⁹ TENGYELY, Adrienn: *Elfeledett forrás a forradalmak korából. A pécsi Jézus-társasági Pius Kollégium Vallásosság és Műveltség s Szébb Jövő című füzet sorozata 1918–19-ben [A Forgotten Source from the Age of Revolutions. On the 'Piety and Literacy' and 'Better Future' Series Published by the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School of Pécs in 1918–1919]*. In: *Pécsi Szemle*, 2005, volume 8., no. 4., 93–99. pp.

¹⁰ PÁSZTOR, Andrea: *A pécsi Pius Kollégium kertjének története [The History of the Garden of the Pius Secondary Grammar School of Pécs]*. In: Gál, Éva (ed.): *A Janus Pannonius Múzeum Évkönyve 53. [The Annual of the Janus Pannonius Museum 53]*. *Janus Pannonius Múzeum*, Pécs, 2015, 231–243. pp.

school. The most important primary sources are the following: 1. archives; 2. brochures and publications of the school itself; 3. memoirs; 4. contemporary press.

4.1. Archives

Sources on the Pius Secondary Grammar School can be found in three different archives. The first is the Archive of the Diocese of Pécs (Pécsi Egyházmegyei Levéltár, PEL). In this archive sources on the Pius can be found in three different fonds. The first is the records of the Pius Secondary Grammar School (PEL IV. 6.). The second is the statements of the Pius Secondary Grammar School (PEL I. 1. e. 74.) where mostly financial documents can be found. The third occurrence is the records of episcopacy (PEL I. 1. a) because the Pius was founded by Gyula Zichy, the bishop of Pécs, therefore it connected to the Diocese of Pécs with tight bonds.

The Hungarian National Archive's Archive of Baranya County (Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár Baranya Megyei Levéltára, MNL BaML) also possesses relevant sources on the Pius Secondary Grammar School which can be found in two different fonds. The VIII. 61. fond contains the documents of the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School and the XII. 6. fond contains the documents of Jesuit friary of Pécs.

The third occurrence of the sources on the Pius Secondary Grammar School is the Jesuit Archive and Library (Jezuita Levéltár és Rendtörténeti Könyvtár, JTMRL) in Budapest. The II. 4. 4. fond contains the records of the Jesuits of Pécs. In this fond there are four different files: a) the documents of the friary; b) the documents of the secondary grammar school; c) the documents of the boarding school; d) other documents.

4.2. Brochures and publications of the school itself

The Pius Secondary Grammar School's own brochures and publications are remarkably valuable sources, especially the annuals of the school in which the most important data regarding the actual school year was recorded and published.

The school magazines and periodicals are also important sections of the sources. Since in these periodicals mostly students published papers, we have to sort out critically the essential informations among the irrelevant ones. The Pius Secondary Grammar School had several school periodicals. The most important is the *Mecsek Alján [Below the Mecsek Hills]* which was issued between 1920 and 1943.

4.3 Memoirs

Among the several memoirs on the Pius Secondary School two manuscripts excel. One of them is the memoir of the first school director, Gábor Jablonkay SJ. It is an inestimable source on the establishment and the early years of the school.¹¹ The other is János Kerling's memoir mentioned above under the title *My Memories from the Pius 1912 1948*.¹²

4.4 Contemporary press

With the investigation of the contemporary press we can estimate what did the contemporary people know and think about the school. The Catholic *Dunántúl [Transdanubia]* local newspaper wrote frequently about the also Catholic Pius. To get a multiperspective view it is useful to also investigate the rival local newspaper's, the liberal *Pécsi Napló's [Pécs Daily]* articles on the Pius.

5. Methodology of the research

The aim of this thesis is to overview the entire history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School with the demand of academic standards. During this project the research questions mentioned above guided me. My intention was to reconstruct the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School based on unexamined historical sources of different archives. Beside the documents of archives I substantially used the annuals of the Pius which provide important data about the life and work of the school. Finally I made an attempt to picture the historical facts and data, which I had extracted from the archives and annuals, more colourful and life-like with applying the reports of school magazines, the press and the memoirs. Thus the three different types of historical sources I used in this examination are 1) archives, 2) annuals and 3) school magazines, contemporary press and memoirs. I examined these sources with the method of historical critique of sources.

Next I compared and completed the observations which I had extracted from these sources with the statements of the literature referring to the Pius. (The most essential publications regarding to the Pius are mentioned above.) By this method I could synthesize of the former and the new results of historical research.

Therefore my thesis presents the results of a basically descriptive historical research. However I aimed to enrich my treatise with comparative and

¹¹ Jesuit Archive and Library (henceforward JTMRL) II. 4. 4. a. Initia Collegii Quinqueecclesiensis S. J.

¹² KERLING: *Piusi emlékeim*, op. cit.

analytic perspectives as well. I made comparison between the Pius and other Jesuits secondary grammar schools of different ages in search of the continuity and/or mutation of the elements of Jesuit pedagogy. In addition as an analytic unit of my research I examined the presence of the institutional totality in the boarding school of the Pius.

As the result of this research the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School could be summarized as follows.

6. A brief summary of the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School

6.1. The establishment and the first years of the school

Count Gyula Zichy, the Bishop of Pécs (1905–1926) was a committed proponent of culture and education. On 10th November 1908 in his episcopal circular letter he announced that he wanted to establish a Catholic boarding school in Pécs for boys. The bishop wanted to name this school after Pope Pius X and he offered 100.000 Koronas for the aim of the school from his private property. Gyula Zichy's purpose was to enhance the position of the Christianity through the support of Catholic education.¹³ The bishop wanted to entrust the school to the Society of Jesus therefore he made the contact with the Jesuit provincial of Austro-Hungary who did not give a definite answer to the bishop's offer.¹⁴

On 7th September 1909 the Austro-Hungarian Jesuit Province was split and the independent Hungarian Province was established. Jakab Bús SJ became its first provincial. In the spring of 1910 Bishop Zichy informed the provincial of his plans about the establishment of a Jesuit secondary school in Pécs. Both Father Bús and Franz Wernz SJ, the Superior General of the Jesuits supported the bishop's plan.¹⁵

The plot for the school and the Jesuit friary was provided by Gyula Zichy from the immovable of the diocese. Among the possible sites the bishop's winery in Csoronika quarter was proved the most suitable because it was spacious, airy and restful.¹⁶

In 1911 Gyula Zichy made a contract with the Hungarian Royal Ministry of Religion and Education about the establishment of the secondary

¹³ Archive of the Diocese of Pécs (henceforward PEL) I. 1. a. Records of episcopacy, 4148/1908.

¹⁴ PEL IV. 6. Acta foundationis, 1/fund. PETRUCH: *Száz év a magyar jezsuiták múltjából*, op. cit., 54–55. pp.

¹⁵ PEL IV. 6. Acta foundationis, 1/fund.; 2/fund.

¹⁶ PEL IV. 6. Acta foundationis, 1/fund.; 2/fund.

school. The ministry convenanted annual financial support of the prospective school and granted 550.000 Koronas for the building operations.¹⁷

Thus the process of the establishment of the Pius Secondray Grammar School went smooth. But in the spring of 1912 the Superior General unexpectedly directed the Hungarian Jesuits to withdraw from the involvement of the establishment of the school. Gyula Zichy did not relinquish his plans. He tried to convince the Superior General. He was successful and on 22th March 1912 Franz Wernz granted permission for the Hungarian Jesuits to teach in the Pius Secondray Grammar School.¹⁸

The Superior General appointed Gábor Jablonkay SJ as the first rector of the new Jesuit friary of Pécs and he became the first director of the school as well. In June 1912 Jablonkay went to Pécs and started the preparations for the upcoming opening of the new school. The provisional building of the school was a tenement house at 19 József Street.¹⁹

In September 1912 the Pius Secondary Grammar School was opened. The 'Veni Sancte' was on 5th September. In the first class 51 students began their studies. Among them 20 lived in the boarding school of the Pius.²⁰

Andor Pilch, a remarkable architect of his age, was entrusted with designing the consummative building of the Pius. After several modifications the plans and the estimate were finished in the spring of 1913. The anticipatory expentidure of the construction was more than 2.5 million Koronas. For reducing the expenses Gyula Zichy and Jablonkay decided to build up only the most important and most necessary parts of the building.²¹

The construction started in the June of 1913. Despite the numerous setbacks the eastern wing (for the secondary school), the northern wing (for the boarding school), and half of the western wing (for the friary) was finished by the summer of 1914. The facilities of the building were modern and outstanding. In the September of 1914 the teachers and pupils of the school started the academic year already in the new building.²²

However in the summer of 1914 World War I was broken out. The Austro-Hungarian army established a claim to the building of the Pius where

¹⁷ PEL IV. 6. Acta foundationis, 7/fund.

¹⁸ KERLING: *Piusi emlékeim*, op. cit., 2. p. HEGEDŰS: *A „Pius”*, op. cit., 6. o. PEL IV. 6. Acta foundationis, 4/fund.; 5/fund. PEL I. 1. e. 74. Statements of the Pius Secondary Grammar School, 1652/1912.

¹⁹ JTMRL II. 4. 4. a. Initia Collegii Quinqueecclesiensis S. J.

²⁰ *A Jézus-társasága vezetése alatt álló pécsi Pius-alapítványi kath. főgimnázium értesítője az 1912–1913-iki iskolai évről [Annual of the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School of Pécs from the Academic Year of 1912–1913]* (henceforward *Annual*). Pécs, 1913, 3–4. pp.

²¹ JTMRL II. 4. 4. a. Initia Collegii Quinqueecclesiensis S. J.

²² JTMRL II. 4. 4. a. Initia Collegii Quinqueecclesiensis S. J.

they wanted to set up a military hospital. In December 1914 a military hospital was settled in 32 rooms of the building until the summer of 1915. After the translocation of the hospital the entire building had to be renovated. That was the reason why the festive house-warming ceremony was held only on 22th December 1915.²³

Fortunately the difficulties of the wartime years did not diminished the high standards of education. In 1916 Jablonkay launched the Pázmány Self-Education Society, which became a workshop of the literary and scholarly work of the students. In 1914 the Congregation of St. Mary was initiated which was a society for the more intense spiritual and religious life.²⁴

Weary of the difficulties and struggles of the establishment of the school, finally Jablonkay requested for dismissal in 1916 which was accepted by the Superior General in 1917.²⁵ Sándor Riegl SJ became the new rector and school director who supplied these offices until 1922.

During the term of his office happend the occupation of Pécs by the Serbian troops (14th November 1918 – 22th August 1921). In that period the Pius functioned between very bad financial circumstances. A further problem was that the line of demarcation separated the Jesuits of Pécs form the Hungarian Jesuit Province and also many students from their family. Some students took very high risk and stepped across the boarder illegally.²⁶

Despite their diffiucult situation during the occupation the Jesuits of Pécs published two series in 1918–1919 to help the Catholic laymen to orient themselves in the ideological chaos of that revolutionary age. These were the *Piety and Literacy [Vallásosság és Műveltség]* and the *Better Future [Szebb Jövő]*. Both series discussed the most current philosophical, political and social issues of those days (e. g. communism, socialism, relation of the church and the state etc.) and attempted to give the Christian answer to those questions.²⁷

Despite every difficulties of the Serbian occupation, several positive event occured in the history of the Pius in this era. One of these were the establishment and first successes of the Pius' famous wind orchestra.²⁸ Further positive episode was the establishment of the Pius' second Congregation of St. Mary in 1919. Namely the membership of the congregation became so numerous that a second congregation should be organized for the pupils of the 1st–

²³ *Annual 1915–1916*, 3–7. pp. JTMRL II. 4. 4. a. Initia Collegii Quinqueecclesiensis S. J.

²⁴ *Annual 1914–1915*, 38. p. *Annual 1916–1917*, 10. p.

²⁵ KERLING: *Piusi emlékeim*, op. cit., 12–13.; 17. pp. PETRUCH: *Száz év a magyar jezsuiták múltjából*, op. cit., 71–73. pp.

²⁶ *Mecsek Alján [Below the Mecsek Hills]*, 1922, volume 3., no. 4., 3–8. pp.

²⁷ TENGELY: *Elfeledett forrás a forradalmak korából*, op. cit.

²⁸ *Annual 1918–1919*, 7–8. pp.

4th classes.²⁹ In the same year the Pázmány Philosophical Society was established for the students of the 8th class. In that society they could deepen their knowledge in philosophy, ethics, political ideas and social sciences.³⁰

The most important episode in the period of Serbian occupation was the first graduation in the school in May and June 1920. The academic year of 1919–1920 was an important milestone in the history of the Pius because the 8th class was opened in that year. The first pupils of the Pius who started their studies in 1912, graduated in 1920. For that reason the academic year of 1919–1920 and the first graduation signed the end of the process of the establishment of the Pius Secondary Grammar School. Therefore the speech-day on 11th June 1920 was more festive than the usual. On that day Gyula Zichy, the founder of the school ceremonially offered the Pius Secondary Grammar School into the protection of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.³¹ That symbolic act terminated an era in the history of the school and opened a new one.

6.2 The decades of prosperity and development: the 1920–1930s

On 22th August, 1921 Pécs was liberated from the Serbian occupation. With that event the era of prosperity and development had begun for the Pius Secondary Grammar School. It was manifested also in the number of enrolments. The attendance increased so much that the 1st–4th classes had to collimate (A and B classes). Interestingly, the citizens of Pécs 'discovered' the Pius only in these years. Previously the students from Pécs was in minority in the Pius and the students from other municipalities made the majority. The students came primarily from Baranya and Tolna counties but many of them has arrived from distant parts of the country. This was enabled by the boarding school of the Pius where the students could get accomodation and meal. The number of the students from Pécs increased only in the beginning of the 1920s, however they made only relative majority compared to the students came from other municipalities.³²

The Pius Secondary Grammar School was the most homogeneous secondary school of Pécs in respect of religion, because almost every student of the institution was Catholic. It is surprising, because the other Catholic schools of the town also had some percent Protestant and Israelite students, and of course the Pius did not reject non Catholic students too. The social status of the students of the Pius is also an interesting topic. The other secondary grammar school for boys in the town, the Louis the Great Cistercian Secondary

²⁹ *Annual 1919–1920*, 8. p.

³⁰ *Annual 1919–1920*, 5–6. p.

³¹ *Annual 1919–1920*, 10. p. *Mecsek Alján*, 1920, vol. 1., no. 1., 6–7. pp.

³² PONESZ: *Pécs város középiskoláinak népessége 1900-tól 1935-ig*, op. cit.

Grammar School was preferred by the middle class: the citizens of Pécs. Contrarily the Pius was preferred by the lower and upper social classes: the farmers of Baranya and Tolna county and the Hungarian aristocracy as well. The high-toned, modern, well-equipped school, which could satisfy all needs, was popular among the aristocracy. On the other hand the school and other donors introduced many foundations and scholarships to enable the education for the children of the lower social classes too.³³

The boarding school was a very special tool of education in the Pius. The students of the boarding school wore uniform and they were divided into three (later four) sections according to their age. Every section had its own dormitory, schoolroom and recreation ground. The leader of a section was a Jesuit friar, the so called 'magister'. The magister spent most of his time with his section: he organised the program of the section and invigilated the students. The boarding school had a strict daily schedule in which study and recreation alternated. The recreation was not a free activity but the collective activity of the section, mostly team games. The students of the boarding school were allowed to travel home only for the Christmas, Easter and summer vacation. They could get exeat only once in a month under the supervision their parents or close relatives. In the boarding school the tuition was obligatory. The fee covered the costs of accomodation and meal.³⁴

Being a Catholic school, religious education played a very important role in the Pius. The aim of the Jesuit teachers was the internalization of the Catholic faith, morals and rituals in the soul and behaviour of their students. The following rituals were obligatory in the school: short prayers several times in a day, attending the Holy Mass every day, making a confession and attending the Holy Communion every month, attending to a retreat once in a year. The Congregation of St. Mary was also an efficient tool of religious education.³⁵

The self-education was an important element of the Jesuit pedagogy. The *Ratio studiorum* had already ordered to organize so called 'academies' for the students of Jesuit schools which were organizations for self-education. Three hundred years later the academies still existed in the Pius Secondary Grammar School as well. In the Pius the academies were the organizations of self-education for the pupils of the 1st–4th classes where they could practice primarily Latin language. The academies regularly held public events where the members could present their progress in Latin. The Pázmány Society for

³³ PONESZ: *Pécs város középiskoláinak népessége 1900-tól 1935-ig*, op. cit.

³⁴ *Annual 1914–1915*, 3–30. pp. Hungarian National Archive's Archive of Baranya County (henceforward MNL BaML), XII. 9. Directorium.

³⁵ *Annual 1914–1915*, 9–14. pp.

Self-Education was organized for the students of the 5th–8th classes. Furthermore the Pázmány Philosophical Society served the philosophical education of the students of the 8th class. Besides, a lot of voluntary subjects were available in the Pius: e. g. languages, astronomy, botany, aircraft modelling etc.

Libraries, laboratories and scholarly collections served the high-quality education of the school. In the Pius there were two libraries: a scholarly library for the teachers and another library for the students which contained school books, literature for youngsters etc. Both of them had a huge set of books and they were continuously broadened. The other collections of the school framed almost a museum because the Pius owned a zoological, mineral, numismatical, ethnographical collection, and also collection of fossils, insects etc.

Beside the intellectual education, art was also important in the Pius Secondary Grammar School. Especially the music education was outstanding. The Pius had a choir, a symphonic orchestra and a wind orchestra. The institution offered widespread opportunities for learning music. The recognised composer, Mihály Horváth was the music teacher of the school through many years. In the 1920s the wind orchestra enhanced its reputation. It performed frequently on school, ecclesiastic and municipal ceremonies. In 1925 the wind orchestra won surcharge on a national music competition in Budapest. In the same year they played in the Vatican to Pope Pius XI. The school theatre was a specific component of the Jesuit pedagogy. Since the Pius Secondary Grammar School was a Jesuit institution, the school drama played a very important role in its education. The Pius also had a suitable hall for concerts and plays.³⁶

Sports life was also intense in the Pius and the sports facilities of the school was excellent. It had a modern gymnasium and the first indoor swimming pool of the town was set up in the Pius. In the second half of the 1930s a sports centre was instituted in the park of the school where a football pitch and athletics track with spectator's terrace, a shooting range, tennis courts etc. was set up. Thanks to these institutions, the sports facilities were unique compared to other schools.³⁷ The health promotion was also an important part of the educational program of the Pius. The school has a school doctor as well.³⁸

In 1926 Gyula Zichy, the Bishop of Pécs and the founder and maintainer of the Pius Secondary Grammar School was appointed the Archbishop of

³⁶ KERLING: *Piusi emlékeim*, op. cit., 2–4.; 7–9. pp.

³⁷ PETRUCH: *Száz év a magyar jezsuiták múltjából*, op. cit., 80–82. pp.

³⁸ *Annual 1940–1941*, 39–49. pp.

Kalocsa by the Pope, therefore he had to leave Pécs. Since then the Jesuit Province of Hungary became the maintainer of the Pius Secondary Grammar School.³⁹

The 1920–1930s decades were the era of the great constructions and infrastructural investments in the history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School. As it was mentioned above, in the 1920s the interest on the Pius was increased. Due to the increased number of the students, the building of the school proved too little, therefore the half of the western annex was built in 1926–1927. In 1927 the construction of the church of the school had begun. A suitable place for services was very necessary which would allow to Jesuits to participate in the pastoral ministry of the district. The foundation-stone was laid on 2nd October 1927. The church was built in Neoroman style according to the plan of Gáspár Fábíán, who was a recognised architect of that times. The church was offered to the veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and it was consecrated on the Whit Monday of 1930 (9th of June).⁴⁰

In 1933 Alajos Tüll SJ became the new rector of the school who took up his charge with big ambitions. First he renovated the building because since of its construction almost twenty years had passed. Then he started to accomplish his great conception: setting up a sports centre and a botanical garden for the school. In the middle of the 1930s a football pitch and an athletics track with a spectator's terrace, a shooting-range, tennis courts, a ski-truck etc. were constructed in the garden of the school. The remaining parts of the garden were designed as a botanical garden which served scientific and educational aims.⁴¹

The Pius Secondary Grammar School celebrated its 25th anniversary on the Whitsun and Whit Monday of 1937. The monumental celebration was in addition the demonstration of the development of the 'Tüll Era'.⁴²

6.3. The World War II and the secularization of the school

The World War II interrupted the dynamic development that characterized the Pius Secondary Grammar School in the 1920–1930s. The economic difficulties set back the completion of the project of sports centre. The army used the school building several times for quartering. The air-raid precautions and the labour service required more and more efforts from the students as well. The every day school life was rendered difficult by the frequent air-raid

³⁹ PEL I.1.a. Records of episcopacy, 1068/1926.

⁴⁰ KERLING: *Pius emlékeim*, op. cit., 10–11. pp. PETRUCH: *Száz év a magyar jezsuiták múltjából*, op. cit., 76–80. pp.

⁴¹ KERLING: *Pius emlékeim*, op. cit., 11–12. pp. PETRUCH: *Száz év a magyar jezsuiták múltjából*, op. cit., 80–81. pp.

⁴² *Mecsek Alján*, 1938, vol. 19., no. 27., 1–10. pp. KERLING: *Pius emlékeim*, op. cit., 13–15. pp. PETRUCH: *Száz év a magyar jezsuiták múltjából*, op. cit., 81–82. pp.

alarms. After the German occupation of Hungary, the German army settled in a military school in the building of the Pius. Between 27th October 1944 and 10th January 1945 the school year was intermitted because the front had reached the city of Pécs. In 7th December 1944 the Soviet army occupied the building of the school and they settled in a military hospital in it. Later the Bulgarian army used the building and after that, again the Soviets who left the building only in 1946. Thereafter the school building was in a terrible state because of the amortization and the injury caused by the soldiers.⁴³

After the World War II the Pius had a prosperous period again. The building and the garden was renovated with hard work. In the autumn of 1946 the Jesuits of Pécs established a new institution: the Pius Common Primary School. In 1945 the decree of the Provisional National Government set up the common primary school for the 6–14 years old pupils. That new type of school merged the preceding divers type of schools among the 1–4th classes of the secondary grammar school. Then the secondary grammar schools had only four grades for the 15–18 years old students. The Pius could continue the education of 10–14 years old pupils only if they establish a common primary school for the 6–14 years old children. Hence the establishment of the Pius Common Primary School was a compulsion on one hand, on the other hand it was also a great opportunity in the education because the Pius Common Primary School and the Pius Secondary Grammar School together formed a special institution which could educate children from age 6 to 18.⁴⁴

Sadly that prosperous period of the Pius was short. The Act No. XXXIII of 1948 secularized all the schools in Hungary. It means that the Pius was also secularized. In 15th June 1948 was held the last speech-day in the Jesuit school before it was secularized.⁴⁵ From September 1948 the school continued its work under the name Janus Pannonius Secondary Grammar School. Its director and most of its teachers were also replaced. The secularized school did not continue the specific Jesuit educational traditions therefore we could say that the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School in fact ended in 1948. The church and the fiary remained in the property of the Jesuits who could continue their pastoral ministry. However after the Communist takeover the ministry of the Jesuits (and other orders) became undiserable. In the night of 9–10th June 1950 the Jesuits of Pécs were deported.⁴⁶ That meant the end of presence and

⁴³ *Annual 1944–1945*, 1–2. pp. *Annual 1945–1946*, 2–3. pp. KERLING: *Pius emlékeim*, op. cit., 17–18. pp. PETRUCH: *Száz év a magyar jezsuiták múltjából*, op. cit., 82–84. pp.

⁴⁴ *Annual 1946–1947*, 2. p.

⁴⁵ *Annual 1947–1948*, 8. p.

⁴⁶ BÁNKUTI: *A pécsi Pius Kollégium államosítása*, op. cit.

activity of the Jesuits in the city. In the same year the Janus Pannonius Secondary Grammar School was also relocated to another building in Mária Street. In the former building of the Pius the College of Teacher Training of Pécs was moved which later became the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Pécs. The former church of the Jesuits became a parish church of the Diocese of Pécs.

7. Summary

In my thesis I made an attempt to present the complete history of the Pius Secondary Grammar School based on mostly unexplored historical sources. In the course of this research I was led by the the research questions mentioned in Chapter 2. According to the results of this research we could summarize the history of the school as follows.

The history of the school started in 1908 when Gyula Zichy, the Bishop of Pécs offered 100.000 Koronas from his private property for the aim of a secondary grammar school. Gyula Zichy was committed sponsor of education and culture. Actually he tried to reinforce the Catholicism through to the support of education. Of course this circumstance did not degrade the value of his activity as a Maecenas.

The Pius Secondary Grammar School started its educational activity in 1912. The school was led by the Society of Jesus, a religious order which had great experiences in education. The 1910s was the decade of the establishment of the school: at that time the monumental building of the school was built, the regulation of the boarding school was developed, the frames of religiosity and self-education was determined.

However, the critical period of formation was disturbed by the World War I and the Serbian occupation of Pécs. As it could be seen, in spite of the difficulties, the Pius tided over the hard period intact. The first graduation, which was an important milestone in the history of the school, was also fallen under that period (1920).

After the liberation from the Serbian occupation in the 1920s the reputation and the popularity of the school had grown which manifested in the increased number of matriculation. As a result of that the enlargement of the building proved necessary. Therefore in 1926–1927 a part of the western annex was built. In the next phase of the construction the church of the Pius was built between 1927–1930. In the 1930s there were further great developments. Alajos Tüll SJ, who had became rector in 1933, started ambitious projects. He renovated and modernized the building, after that he set up a sports centre and a botanical garden in the site of the school. Thanks to those developments the

Pius Secondary Grammar School became unique among Hungarian secondary schools in point of facilities.

During the World War II the Hungarian, later the German, and later the Soviet army frequently used the building of the Pius for quartering, which rendered the normal school work more difficult. Due to the economical difficulties caused by the war, the infrastructural developments interrupted. In the turn of 1944–1945 the school year was intermitted for two and a half months because the military operations had reached Pécs.

By the end of the war a controversial era started in the history of Hungary and in the history of the Pius. The liberation from the German occupation held out with a more democratic and more rightful era. However the Soviet occupation made that democracy fragile and ambiguous and it threatened with a potential Communist dictatorship in the future. The political atmosphere gradually became more and more hostile with the churches, the monks and the religious education. In June 1948 all the religious schools were secularized by the Communist state. The secularized Pius could not continue the traditions of Jesuit education therefore the secularization actually meant the end of the history of the Pius Jesuit Secondary Grammar School.

During its 36 years history the Pius' education was practiced in a very high level. It was based on the values of Christian moral and its main goal was to raise religious and virtuous youngsters. The education of the Pius kept the traditions of Jesuit pedagogy which had originated in the 16–18th centuries. The most specific area of education in the Pius was the boarding school. It was governed with strict rules and traces of institutional totality can be observed in the boarding school. The Pius Secondary Grammar School ensured various opportunities of voluntary courses and freetime activities: voluntary study groups, choir and orchestra, school theatre, scouting etc. The school had outstanding facilities for doing sports as well.

The Pius Secondary Grammar School was an outstanding institution in terms of both infrastructural facilities and the level of education. Hence it is the loss of the entire Hungarian education that the prominent school could not continue its mission. This loss is slightly abated by the fact that the University of Pécs inherited the building, the sports centre and the garden of the Pius thus the sometime Pius Secondary Grammar School, founded by Gyula Zichy and the Jesuits, nowadays still serves the cultural life of Hungary.

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