

RELIGIOUS BROTHERHOODS IN THE BAROQUE ERA,
AND THE RE-CATHOLICIZATION OF BOHEMIA

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This study acquaints the reader with the history of religious fraternities in Bohemia between 1620 and 1738. The author defines what constituted a religious brotherhood during the Baroque era in Bohemia, and presents a typology of the 878 fraternities founded in the Bohemian lands during that time. He also deals with the function of the fraternities in the process of re-Catholicization during the 17th century, which he describes as predominantly auxiliary. At the same time, however, he draws attention to the definitely active participation, in the re-Catholicization efforts, of the Maryan congregations founded by the Jesuits. Another subject of examination are the saints whose namesakes the Brotherhoods elected to be, the situation being compared to developments in the neighbouring countries. The final part of the study is devoted to sources containing information on privileges of indulgence awarded by the Holy See to brotherhoods in Bohemia and elsewhere in the 17th and 18th centuries.