

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Balázs Rétfalvi was born in Szombathely in 1985. He pursued his secondary school studies between 1999 and 2003 at Czuczor Gergely High School of the Benedictine Order in Győr. In 2003, he was admitted to the Faculty of Humanities of Pázmány Péter Catholic University, where he majored in Historical Studies. Besides this, he also majored in Pedagogy, and Hungarian Language and Literature, in addition, he accomplished one year in the Department of Latin. In 2003, he obtained intermediate language exam certificates in English and Latin. In 2009, his research paper in ecclesiastical history at the National Conference for Young Scholars was awarded as the second best. In 2009, he studied one semester at the Catholic University of Leuven under the Erasmus Program.

Between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011, he acted as a research assistant in the OTKA Project called „Hungary-Holy See Relations in 16th-20th centuries” based in the Department for Modern History of Pázmány Péter Catholic University, and he was also in charge of teaching a seminar on the history of the Catholic Church in Hungary between 1895 and 1993 in the spring semester. In June 2011, during his research fellowship at the Vatican Archives, his research focused on the documents of the Nunciature based in Budapest dated between 1920 and 1939. He also contributed to the lexicon of bishops, a project coordinated by Professor Erwin Gatz, by composing the Hungarian entries. Within the framework of the project of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences called 'Lendület', his responsibilities included the collection of nuncio reports on the coronations of Hungarian kings in the 17th century.

Since 1 September 2011, he has worked as the historian-archivist of the Bishopric Archives of Szombathely, where he – with shorter breaks – was already hired by the Center for Social Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences between 2008 and 2010. Between 2011 and 2016, as the member of the project team, he worked on the implementation of two EU projects aimed at familiarizing primary and secondary school students with the history of the Bishopric of Szombathely.

On 1 April 2016, Bishop András Veres PhD appointed Mr. Rétfalvi to be the head of the Bishopric Archives of Szombathely. He is also the editor of the publication series of the Archives, and has organized multiple exhibitions in the bishopric collections. He has also been involved in publishing several publications on local history.

As a part-time lecturer, he taught history at Szent Norbert High School of the Premonstratensian Order in Szombathely in the academic year 2016/2017.

Besides his regular work, he is also involved in scholarly research. His research focuses on the history of the Catholic Church in the 20th century, in particular, the pontificate of Pope Pius XII, the history of Vatican-Hungary relations, the history of the Bishopric of Szombathely, and that of the monastic orders.