

Martin Scheutz, A „Lutheran“ on the Habsburg Throne. The Reforms of Joseph II and the Dissolution of Monasteries in the Habsburg Monarchy (p. 321–338)

Emperor Joseph II – denounced by his subjects as „Lutheran“ – dissolved nearly a third of all monasteries in the Habsburg monarchy. As a consequence the monastic routine in the surviving monasteries also changed fundamentally, with pastoral care increasing in response to repeated complaints concerning badly educated and negligent priests. The clergy during Joseph’s reign were to educate the subjects and proclaim Joseph’s regulations from the pulpit. Joseph’s dissolution of monasteries can be regarded as part of a long tradition of secularization of ecclesiastical property, beginning in the Reformation period and lasting until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the dissolved convent buildings were converted to prisons, almshouses, workhouses or factories.