

VASILE RUS, *Missio Dacica from tolerance to religious intolerance*

Abstract: At the end of the 16th century, more precisely in 1579, Christ's Society sent its first missionaries in Transylvania. According to time documents they were twelve, same as the apostles sent by Jesus in the world to teach faith in God, that is Christian belief. According to the Jesuit *Institutum*, missionaries that came from Poland, under command and protection of the Spanish provincial Campanus, depicted Jesus on the same line, yet in a changed social-historical context: apostolic spread of the Christian belief had to be accompanied and protected by ... defending faith, exactly against some social states which were also claimed from Jesus, but which in fact had torn his mystical body. Or, religious tension which finally even led to bloodshed was fought against by missionaries of the Jesuit Order by full use of reason, the only measure capable to quench the blind passion of the Protestants. In a dramatic scenario, Jesuit missionaries seemed defeated by the expulsion decree issued by the Diet from Mediaș. But the farewell speech of the Jesuit fathers transformed into a new testament that introduced again interhuman tolerance against and despite all intolerances (*homo homini lupus est*).

Keywords: Christian belief, Jesuit Order, faith, tolerance, intolerance.