



## **Volyn regional authorities in Ukraine continue 'legalizing' captures of churches**

By the executive order issued on 22 May 2020 by the head of the Volyn regional public administration, Yu. Pogulyayko, two churches taken away earlier from the communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church have been transferred for permanent use to the communities of the schismatic 'Orthodox Church in Ukraine' which had captured them.

These are the church of the Trinity at the town of Berestechko and the church of the Nativity of the Mother of God in the village of Borovichi. The both are local architectural monuments. The communities of the captured churches have remained faithful of the canonical Church. According to reports of the church media, after the capture of the Trinity church in a raid on 5 February 2019, about one hundred parishioners who were deprived of their worship place assembled for the Liturgy at the Chapel of the Protecting Veil situated in the neighbouring village of Starye.

According to reports of the Union of Orthodox Journalists, the aggressive transfer of captured and re-registered churches – architectural monuments taken away from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has been carried out by the Volyn regional public authorities since September 2019. And this year this vicious practice seems to be resumed.

*DECR Communication Service*