

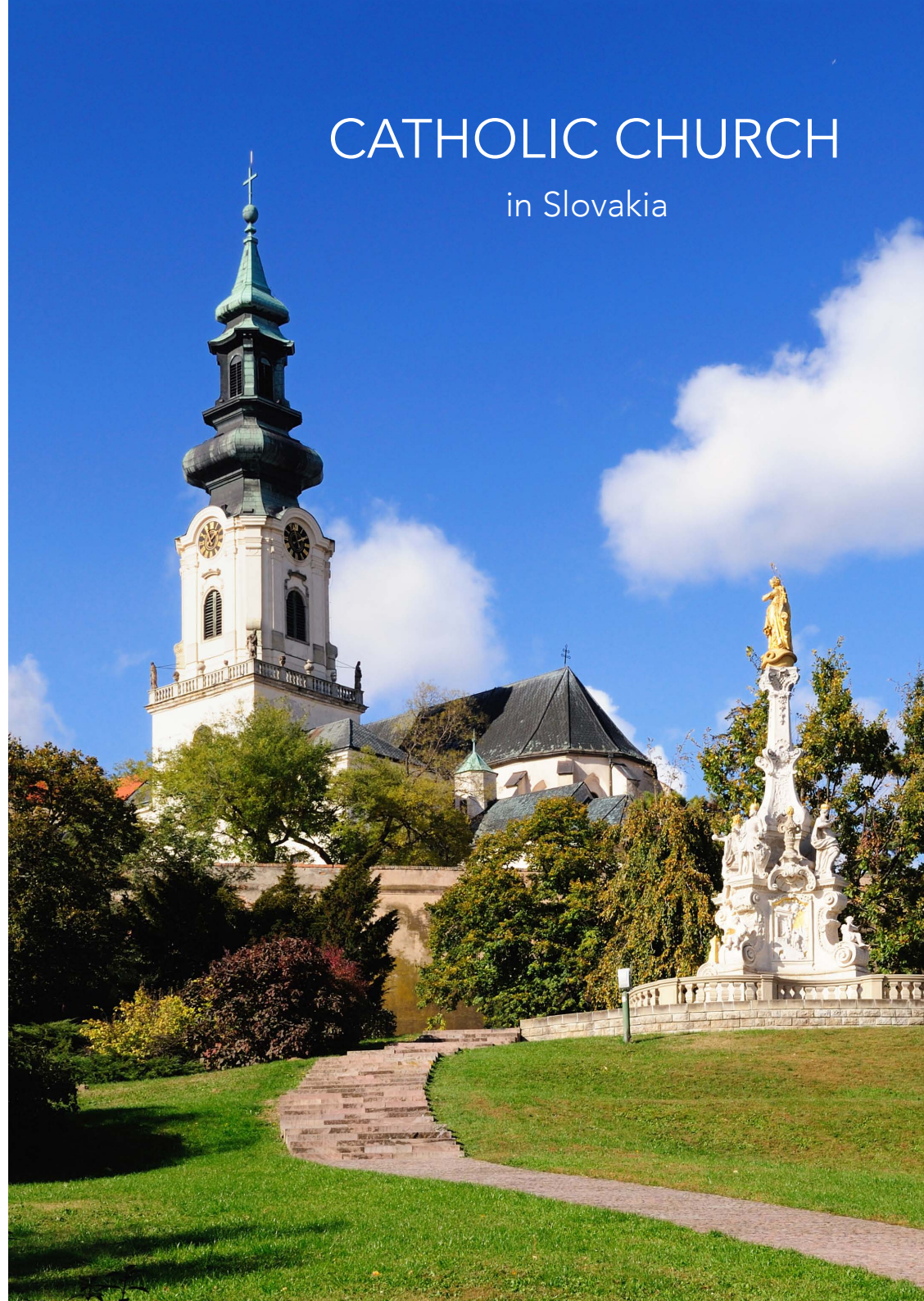


Pope Francis in Slovakia

With Mary and Joseph
on the way to Jesus
September 12 - 15th, 2021

Slovak Bishops' Conference 2021

CATHOLIC CHURCH in Slovakia



Catholic Church

in Slovakia

"I want to thank these priests for their concrete gesture of mercy and attentive care. In the perspective of a Church that continually reaches out to others to provide fervent closeness to the spiritual and material needs of all people, especially the most needy, the witness of priests who give themselves to others with the love of the Gospel and the spirit of sacrifice is of the utmost importance."

From the letter of appreciation written by the Holy Father Francis to the Archbishop of Košice Mons. Bernard Bober in time of the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2021).



Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bratislava

Preface

Jesus Christ entrusted to the Church the mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and making it known to all nations. We rejoice that since the time of the mission of the Thessalonian brothers, Sts. Cyril and Methodius (9th century), also the Church in Slovakia has been proclaiming the Gospel and bearing witness to it.

The glory of God is celebrated by the Church in the liturgy, which is important source of ecclesial life. At the same time, liturgy is not its only activity. Worship is preceded by evangelization, an invitation to faith and conversion. On this basis, the faithful can bear the fruit of a new life according to the Spirit and engage in the mission of the Church.

This publication describes the different areas of the Catholic Church in Slovakia. It begins by introducing the universal Church as an institution with a visible head - the Holy Father. It continues with a historical excursion into Slovak history. This is followed by chapters devoted to the structure of the Church in Slovakia. The publication presents the individual dioceses of the Latin and Byzantine-Slavic rite.

Slovak bishops are associated in the Slovak Bishops' Conference, eparchs in the Council of Hierarchs of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia. Within the Slovak Bishops' Conference, there are several commissions and councils whose aim is to coordinate joint pastoral effort in the various areas of the Church's activity (liturgy, catechesis, education, youth, family, bioethics, culture, etc.). Another part of this publication is devoted to consecrated life, movements and new ecclesial communities. These chapters capture how the Church fulfils its mission. In addition to education and training, it helps, serves, accompanies the sick and the imprisoned, promotes and protects life, seeks to shape culture and be present in the media. This booklet also includes several pieces of statistical data from various areas of the Church's activity. I hope this publication will be of interest not only to our faithful, but also to the entire civil society.

Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský
President of the Slovak Bishops' Conference

The Catholic Church in the World and in Slovakia

According to data from the Holy See's Central Statistical Office published in March 2021, there were nearly 1.345 billion Catholics in the world in 2019. Of the total number of Catholics in the world, 48.1% live in the Americas, 21.2%, in Europe, 18.7, in Africa, 11% in Asia and almost 0.8% in Oceania.

Slovakia is traditionally a Catholic country. Values such as family, marriage, children, respect for God are still strongly rooted in society. The Catholic Church is the most numerous church, although the number of believers is decreasing due to secularisation. According to the census in 2011 the number of Catholics in the Slovak Republic is 65.8%, with 62% belonging to the Roman Catholic Church and 3.8% to the Greek Catholic Church.

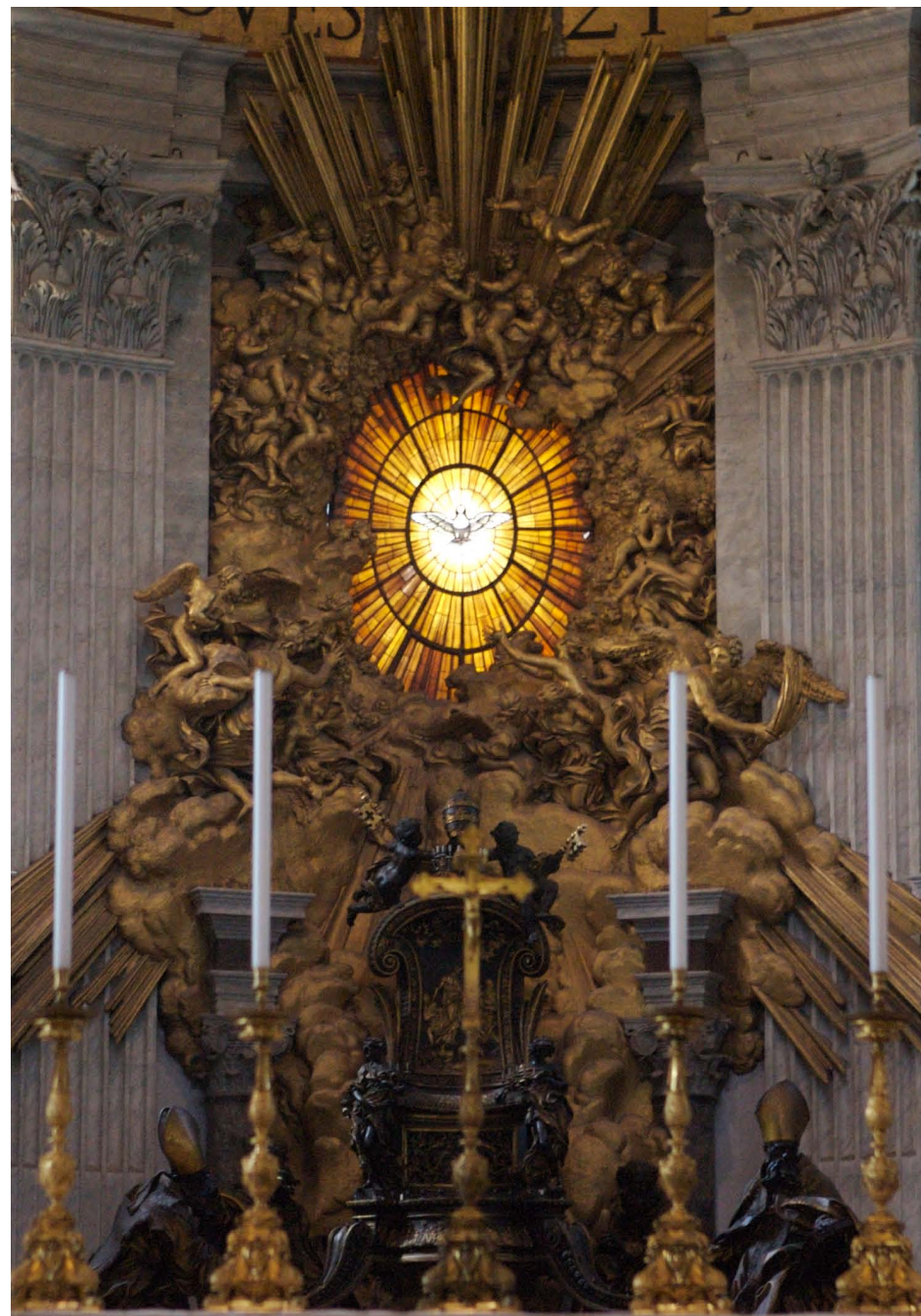
Out of the total population of the Slovak Republic of 5,397,036 inhabitants, 3,347,277 persons belonged to the Roman Catholic Church and 206,871 persons to the Greek Catholic Church.

The second largest Christian church in Slovakia is the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession, to which 5.9% of Slovak inhabitants are affiliated (316,250 faithful).

In addition to the Catholic and Evangelical Churches, there is also the Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia (the so-called Calvinist Church – 1.83% of about 100,000 faithful) and other Protestant churches, as well as the Orthodox Church (0.91% of about 50,000 faithful). A total of 18 churches and religious societies are registered in Slovakia.

There is also a Jewish community in Slovakia (about 4,000 believers), represented by the Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Slovak Republic.

In the spring of 2021, a new population census took place in Slovakia: however, the results were not yet available at the time of publication.



Stained glass above the altar in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City



The statue of St. Peter the Apostle in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican

The Universal Church



Francis

Holy Father

Jorge Mario Bergoglio S.I.

Date of birth: 17. 12. 1936

Ordained priest: 13. 12. 1969

Consecrated bishop: 27. 6. 1992

Created cardinal: 21. 2. 2001

Elected pope: 13. 3. 2013



Mons. Giacomo Guido Ottonello

Apostolic Nuncio in Slovakia

Date of birth: 29. 8. 1946

Ordained priest: 29. 6. 1971

Consecrated bishop: 6. 1. 2000

Nomination to Slovakia: 1. 4. 2017

Apostolic nunciature

Nekrasovova 17

811 04 Bratislava

nunziatura@nunziatura.sk

Diplomatic relations since: 1920

The Basic Treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Holy See

24. 11. 2000

The Treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Holy See on Catholic Upbringing and Education

9. 7. 2004

The Treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Holy See on the pastoral care for Catholics in the armed forces and armed units of Slovak Republic

21. 8. 2002



Apostles to the Slavs at the College of St. Cyril and Methodius in Rome

Slovak Representation at the Holy See



Jozef Cardinal Tomko

Prefect emeritus of the Congregation

For the Evangelization of Peoples

Date of birth: 11. 3. 1924

Ordained priest: 12. 3. 1949

Ordained bishop: 15. 9. 1979

Created cardinal: 25. 5. 1985

Retired: 2007

Pontifical Slovak College of St. Cyril and Methodius in Rome

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Tel.: +39 06 30310778, cirillo.metodio@libero.it, www.kolegiumrim.kbs.sk

Rector: PaeDr. SLLic. Pavol Zvara, PhD.



Bishop Judák at the liturgy in the ancient Basilica of St. Emeram in Nitra

History of the Catholic Church in Slovakia

Jesus Christ entrusted his apostles and their successors with the mission of teaching, sanctifying and governing – *munus docendi, sanctificandi et regendi* – in his name and with his authority. He himself is the origin of this mission in the Church, diverse in services, but united in mission. He founded her and gave her the necessary power, purpose, focus and goal, as one can read in the dogmatic constitution *Lumen gentium* „For the nurturing and constant growth of the People of God, Christ the Lord instituted in His Church a variety of ministries, which work for the good of the whole body. For those ministers, who are endowed with sacred power, serve their brethren, so that all who are of the People of God, and therefore enjoy a true Christian dignity, working toward a common goal freely and in an orderly way, may arrive at salvation...” (LG 18).

Historical Milestones

The Church in Slovakia has had its special place in the society for more than 1100 years. In 880, after some missionary initiatives that came to Great Moravia from Aquileia, especially from the land of Franks, and following the arrival of the Byzantine mission, pope John VIII, responding to the petition of prince Svätopluk, established a Diocese

in Nitra: its bishop was suffragan to the Metropolitan archbishop Methodius. When it was established, the Diocese of Nitra, and beyond every doubt also the locality of the present-day Slovakia, was under the jurisdiction of st. Methodius: this fact is confirmed in the bull *Industriae tuae*. After Methodius' death (885), the Diocese of Nitra was most probably lead by st. Gorazd, chosen by st. Methodius himself. Even though the Catholic Church in Slovakia was - for more than thousand years - dependent on the bishops residing on the territory of the present-day Hungary, many bishops were of Slovak origin.

The territory of western and central Slovakia (including Spiš an Gemer) belonged to the Archdiocese of Esztergom. The Eastern Slovakia then belonged to the Diocese of Eger. This situation continued almost without any change until the second half of the 18th century. Peter Pázmaň (1570 – 1637) attempted to institute three dioceses in Slovakia; however, his endeavor was unsuccessful. The status quo persisted and was just occasionally disrupted by changes in foreign politics. The only significant exception was the case of Spiš – conferred to Poland in 1412 by king Sigismund of Luxemburg: it then

belonged to the jurisdiction of Krakow – until the times of Maria Therese.

On March 15th, 1776, pope Pius VI, responding to the request of Maria Therese, established three new dioceses on the territory of present-day Slovakia: Banská Bystrica, Spiš and Rožňava. At the same time, the borders of Nitra Diocese were modified. The Archdiocese of Košice was established on August 10th, 1804. The Greek Catholic Diocese of Prešov was set up in 1818, excerpted from the Mukačevo Diocese. It was instituted in consequence of the Uzhorod process, started in 1646, in course of which the Orthodox Christians (mainly Russins, but also Slovaks, Serbians and Hungarians) living in the northeastern Hungary were united with the Greek Catholic Church. This union followed the model of Metropolia in Kyjev, which joined the Catholic Church after the Brest-Litovsk synod of 1596.

Beginning of the 20th Century

After the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy fell apart and new states came into existence in 1918, several changes occurred in the ecclesiastic territorial jurisdiction. The conditions were consolidated in 1920, through new bishops' nominations: the candidates were chosen from Slovak priests. The Holy See entrusted the new apostolic administrators of Trnava, Rožňava and Košice with rights equal to those of residential bishops. The bishops in Nitra, Banská Bystrica and Spišská Kapitula were detached from the jurisdiction of Metropolitan bishops in Esztergom and Eger: they started to

respond directly to Rome. This way, the Slovak ecclesiastic province was de facto established: its bishops united themselves in the „Biskupský zbor Slovenska“ (Slovak Bishops' Assembly) and were represented by bishop senior – *primus inter pares*. The first bishop senior was Marián Blaha; after 1943, Karol Kmeťko was elected. In 1927, the Holy See and Czechoslovakia signed the treaty known as „*Modus vivendi*“. This treaty specified the borders of all dioceses and abrogated the forced state administration of Church properties. Thereafter, voices asking for independent Slovak Church Province continued to rise (one of the first attempts of its establishment was in 1919). The Delimitation Bull of 1937, which settled the Slovak Church territory, gave hopes for institution of new archdiocese and for nomination of new archbishop. The same document presupposed an early institution of Greek Catholic Metropolia. However, all these hopes were interrupted by World War II.

After 1939, only the Diocese of Spiš' territory was slightly alternated. Spiš gained jurisdiction over the areas of Orava and Spiš detached from the Diocese of Krakow and given to Slovakia after Germany invaded Poland in autumn 1939. The exclusion of the Slovak dioceses from the jurisdiction of the Hungarian archbishops and their direct subordination to Rome continued.

On May 20th, 1944, Karol Kmeťko, the senior bishop of the Bishops' Assembly, was nominated Archbishop *ad personam* by pope Pius XII: through this nomination, hopes for



Deacon carries the so-called Codex of Nitra (11th century)



Blessed Titus Zeman, salesian priest tortured by the communist regime

new ecclesiastical province rose again. However, the Holy See waited for the conclusion of World War II, because it expected changes of borders. On November 2nd, 1938, the Vienna Arbitration decided that bishops' residences in Košice and Rožňava, together with great parts of the Trnava Apostolic Administration, were to be handed over to Hungary. Uniting multiple territories previously belonging to the dioceses of Košice, Rožňava and Szatmary, the Holy See established a special Apostolic Administration with main seat in Prešov. Following the 1939 German intervention, Slovakia, dispossessed of its southern territories, became an independent state. On October 26th, 1939, Catholic priest Mons. Jozef Tiso became President of the Slovak Republic. In 1940, the Vatican sent to Slovakia its chargé d'affaires Mons. Jozef Burzio. Slovakia was subsequently acknowledged by 29 countries (the Soviet Union being one of them).

After World War II

In 1945, the World War II finally ended, which brought liberation to many countries. Unfortunately, Slovakia continued to suffer. The war's end brought several new difficulties. In 1948, the Slovaks fell victims of the communist „palace revolution“. Attacks aimed at the Catholic Church, her hierarchy and individual faithful in Slovakia, were motivated by identification of religious faith with Slovak patriotism. This unfavorable situation continued until 1989 – with the exception of

one brief period (1968 – 69). The Church was drastically deprived of her most important vital institutions. Several bishops were imprisoned and the rest of them isolated in their residences, with limited access to the world. More than 300 diocesan priests were forbidden to perform their pastoral service (many of them were isolated or sent to concentration camps and prisons). In 1950, there were 16 male orders with 1,019 members living in 96 monasteries and 24 female orders with 4,253 members running 168 monasteries. However, all their activities were banned by the government: the consecrated men and women were sent to concentration monasteries and the religious orders were forbidden to accept novices. In times of atheistic persecution that violated numerous human rights, several bishops, priests and lay people gave heroic testimonies of their faith.

On November 30th, 1977, following extensive negotiations between the Holy See and the communist Czechoslovak government, pope Paul VI, in the constitution *Praescriptum sacrosancti*, separated the territory of Trnava Apostolic Administration from the Archdiocese of Esztergom and defined the borders of all Slovak dioceses, as well as the borders of the Olomouc Diocese. In his Apostolic constitution *Qui Divino*, the pope established an independent Church Province in Slovakia: he elevated the Apostolic Administration of Trnava to archdiocese.

Fall of the Communist Regime

The situation after the so-called “velvet revolution” (November 1989) influenced the relationship between Church and state in several ways. One of the first positive signs was the unhindered appointment of new bishops for all vacant dioceses. At the same time, the cardinal nomination of John Chryzostom Korec – “the bishop in work clothes” who had been hindered in his service ever since his bishop’s ordination (1951) – was a special sign of pope’s loving attention and also great appreciation of Korec’s faithfulness to the Church and Christian values. Towards the end of the 20th century, the Church in Slovakia had two cardinals (Jozef Tomko in Rome and Ján Chryzostom Korec in Nitra), four archbishops (Ján Sokol and Alojz Tkáč in Slovakia and Dominik Hrušovský and Ján Bukovský in the Vatican diplomatic services) and 16 bishops (i.e. more than ever in the entire precedent history).

For the first time in the history, the Holy Father visited the Czechoslovak Republic on 21st and 22nd April, 1990. After the ceremonies held in Prague and Velehrad, John Paul II visited Bratislava: there, he presided the celebration at the airport of Vajnory. Shortly before his arrival, in March 1990, the Bishops’ Conference of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic was instituted. Mons. Giovanni Coppa was nominated nuncio in Czechoslovakia on June 30th, 1990.

Slovak Bishops’ Conference Established

On January 1st, 1993, the independent Slovak Republic was founded.

Subsequently, the Slovak bishops, led by their representative cardinal Korec, asked the Holy See for the approval of an independent Slovak Bishops’ Conference. The bishops saw the differences in pastoral problems and felt that Slovakia had other priorities than the Czech Republic.

The Holy See did approve of this petition: on March 23rd, 1993, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, cardinal Bernardinus Gantin, established the Slovak Bishops’ Conference. Apostolic nuncio Giovanni Coppa announced it to cardinal Korec in his letter from April 2nd, 1993. In his explanation of reasons resulting in the institution of new, independent bishops’ conference, Coppa stated: “It is for the good of the Church in our beloved Slovak nation... and for her further development.” Mons. František Tondra was elected the first President of the Conference. It is worth mentioning that the first independent assembly of the Slovak bishops (who at that time yet belonged to the Czechoslovak Bishops’ Conference) took place on January 19th – 20th, 1993 in Nitra: nuncio Giovanni Coppa and all 14 Slovak bishops participated in the session.

The following twenty years of Slovak Bishops’ Conference existence have been very intense. The bishops and their collaborators had to resolve several difficulties regarding the unfortunate heritage of communistic regime lasting 40 years: it had had the liquidation of Church and suppression of religious life among its main priorities. The intense activities of the Bishops’ Conference



Ján Chryzostom Card. Korec (1924-2015), imprisoned for faith by communists

were carried out according to the 10-year plan of spiritual renewal, designed as distant preparation for the Great Jubilee 2000. The Slovak bishops have been addressing the people through their pastoral letters – issued on regular basis (e.g. at the beginning of the Church year, on the World Communication Day, in times of governmental elections, etc.) The pastoral letter regarding the European integration published in 2002 is especially worth mentioning in this context. Within the Bishops' Conference, several commissions and councils have been established: they work on the intensification of Church life, on the promotion of understanding between Church and civil society and on the dissemination of Christian values in every sphere of life.

The relationship of the Slovak republic with the Holy See has been delineated by the Basic Agreement signed on November 24th, 2000 and by two more consecutive partial agreements. In 2003, the visit of John Paul II (11th – 14th September 2003) was arguably the most important public event held in Slovakia. The Holy Father visited Trnava on September 11th, Banská Bystrica on September 12th, Rožňava on September 13th and celebrated the holy mass in Bratislava on September 14th: on this occasion, he beatified two communist regime victims: bishop Vasil Hopko and sister Zdenka Schelingová. On February 14th – 15th, 2004, the Slovak National Pilgrimage to Rome took place, thanking John Paul II for his visit.

On May 2nd, 2004, two auxiliary bishops were ordained in the St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Trnava: Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský and Mons. Ján Orosch. On March 14th, 2005, based on the Treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Holy See on Catholic Upbringing and Education, the Slovak Bishops' Conference founded the Catholic pedagogical and catechetical centre. On September 11th – 18th, 2005, the third National Eucharistic Congress took place in Bratislava. On this occasion, cardinal Jozef Tomko came to Slovakia as the Pontifical legate of Benedict XVI. The celebrations culminated on September 18th: more than 80,000 faithful participated in the holy mass and procession organized in Bratislava-Petržalka and several more people followed the event through mass media. The Slovak bishops, according to the agreement with cardinal Macharski, archbishop of Krakow, launched the project of Slovak National Chapel – constructed in the Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Krakow-Lagiewniki. On July 16th, 2005, Mons. Viliam Judák was ordained and became the new residential bishop of the Nitra diocese.

On June 11th – 16th, 2007, the Slovak bishops went to Rome for the Ad limina visit: they surveyed several Vatican congregations and pontifical dicasteries. At the end of their visit, all the bishops encountered pope Benedict XVI and presented him a summary of religious life in their dioceses.



Bishop of Žilina Tomáš Gális consecrating new church



Litmanová, Mount Zvir, pilgrimage site of the Greek Catholic Church

Reorganization of Slovak Dioceses and the appointment of new bishops

The Decree of the Congregation for Bishops of 14 February 2008 modified the boundaries of the Western Province of Latin dioceses with the creation of the Archdiocese of Bratislava, whose parishes were previously part of the Archdiocese of Bratislava and Trnava. The first archbishop - metropolitan became Mons. S. Zvolenský. At the same time, the Diocese of Žilina was established with the Bishop Mons. T. Galis. The diocese was formed from the original Diocese of Nitra and partly from the Diocese of Banská Bystrica. The modification of the diocesan boundaries was officially announced on 14 February 2008 in Bratislava by Joseph Cardinal Tomko on behalf of the Holy See.

The Decree of January 30th, 2008, settled the territory of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia and established the residence of the Metropolitan bishop and the ecclesiastic province sui iuris in Prešov: Mons. Ján Babjak became the new Metropolitan bishop. The Eparchy of Košice with bishop Mons. Milan Chatur and the Eparchy of Bratislava with bishop Peter Rusnák (ordained on February 16th, 2008 in Prešov) belong to the province. The Decree of the Congregation for bishops signed on February 14th, 2008, modified the borders of the Latin dioceses belonging to the Western Slovak Ecclesiastic Province and gave life to the Bratislava Archdiocese, based on the territory previously belonging to the Archdiocese of Bratislava-Trnava. At the same time, the Diocese of Žilina was established, and Mons. Tomáš Galis

was named its first diocesan bishop. The Diocese of Žilina was formed on the territories previously belonging to the dioceses of Nitra and Banská Bystrica. The alteration of the dioceses' borders was officially announced by the Holy See official envoy, cardinal Jozef Tomko, on February 14th, 2008.

At the beginning of 2008, the first Catholic television TV LUX (partially owned by the Slovak Bishops' Conference) received its broadcast license. On March 18th, 2008, Mons. Mario Giordana was appointed Apostolic nuncio in Slovakia. On December 27th, 2008, Mons. Vladimír Filo was named diocesan bishop of Rožňava. On June 6th, 2009, Mons. Róbert Bezák was ordained bishop in the St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Trnava and became the new archbishop of Trnava. On July 2nd, 2012, however, Mons. Bezák was removed from the office by pope Benedict XVI.

On October 28th – 29th, 2009, the Slovak Bishops' Conference introduced the Fides et ratio prize, which is annually awarded to exceptional people fostering dialogue between religion and science. The Council for the Social Communications annually awards the prize of A. Radlinský to journalists. The Slovak Bishops' Conference declared 2010 as Year of Christian Culture in Slovakia – in preparation for the 1150th anniversary of St. Cyril and Methodius arrival in Slovakia.

The Catholic Church in Slovakia promptly reacted to the Haiti earthquake (January 2010) and offered financial help to 16 projects (orphanages, schools,

etc.) – run by the Slovak Catholic Charity in Haiti. The Slovak Church invested more than 1,3 million euros raised by collections of money among the faithful. When severe floods hit Slovakia in 2010, the Slovak Catholic Charity actively collaborated with other humanitarian organizations, especially with „Človek v ohrození“ (Man in danger). The Charity aided 1140 households and allocated 401,760 €.

On July 10th, 2010, Mons. Bernard Bober became the Metropolitan archbishop of Košice; two months later, Mons. Štefan Sečka was solemnly inaugurated into the office of the Spiš diocesan bishop. On March 17th, 2012, in the St. Martin Cathedral in Bratislava, Mons. Jozef Haľko was ordained, becoming auxiliary bishop for the Bratislava Archdiocese. On December 15th, 2012, Mons. Marián Chovanec was inaugurated into the office of diocesan bishop of Banská Bystrica. On June 1st, 2013, Mons. Milan Lach was ordained and became auxiliary bishop for the Greek Catholic Diocese of Prešov. On July 11th, 2013, Mons. Ján Orosch was appointed Archbishop of Trnava.

Significant events of the last decade

On February 25th – 28th, 2013, another Slovak National Pilgrimage to Rome took place. In its conclusion, cardinal Jozef Tomko celebrated a solemn mass in the St. Peter Basilica. Slovak pilgrims with their priests and bishops, together with President of the Slovak Republic Ivan Gašparovič, were also present at the last General audience of pope Benedict XVI, who decided to resign from his office.

On July 5th, 2013, the celebration of St. Cyril and Methodius Jubilee reached its culmination with the Slovak National Pilgrimage to Nitra: H. Em. Cardinal Franc Rode, Prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Institutes of the Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, was sent as Pontifical legate of His Holiness to celebrate the final holy mass in Nitra. On this occasion, Holy Father Francis sent the President of the Slovak republic and the Slovak people a congratulatory letter.

On the basis of the decision of the Slovak bishops, the year 2014 has been declared the Year of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows. The reason for this was the 450th anniversary of the first miracle at the intercession of Our Lady in Šaštín and the 50th anniversary of the recognition of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows as the patroness of Slovakia by Pope Paul VI, who also elevated the church in Šaštín to the status of basilica minor.

In November 2015, the Slovak bishops made ad Limina apostolorum visit to the Vatican, during which they visited the Vatican offices and met with the Holy Father Francis for a special audience.

Following the regular celebration of the World Youth Day at the level of the universal Church, national youth gatherings began to be organized in Slovakia, which from the very beginning registered a great interest among young people. In July 2013 in Ružomberok, 3,000 young people attended the meeting, and similarly successful meetings were held in Poprad (2015) and Prešov (2018).



Bratislava, Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

In addition to these national events focused on youth, the Church's attention in recent years has also focused on marriage and the family, as well as on life promotion in general. In this context, National Marches for Life have been held: the first edition took place in Košice in September 2013 with the participation of approx. 80,000 participants. The second and third edition took place in Bratislava (2015 – 85,000 participants; 2019 – 50,000 participants). The aim of these marches was to mobilise the faithful and to stress the need to protect life from conception to natural death. These manifestations also contributed to the approval of the constitutional law defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

Following the letter of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith *Iuvenescit Ecclesia*, regarding the relationship between hierarchical and charismatic gifts for life and mission of the Church, the Slovak Bishops' Conference initiated regular colloquia with new communities operating within the Catholic Church in Slovakia. The first such meeting was held in May 2017 in Badín (with over 60 participants, including seven bishops); such colloquia have been held once or twice a year since then.

Since 2015, the Slovak Bishops' Conference has launched a new project – meetings of bishops with laity, consecrated persons and clergy, which is organized on an annual basis. The aim of the event is to create a platform within the Church where bishops, delegates of dioceses/eparchies, ecclesiastical institutions, communities,

societies, associations and movements, representatives of religious orders, consecrated persons and committed lay people could meet on a national level to reflect together on a certain topic that is currently resonating across the whole community of the Church. The impulses and suggestions from the event should then be applied in pastoral ministry or taken into account in setting pastoral priorities in the particular churches. The Church in Slovakia has also participated in helping persecuted Christians, not only through several collections (e.g. on Divine Mercy Sunday 2016, 470,000 Euros were collected), but also by welcoming 149 Iraqi Christians and supporting specific projects (the establishment of a trauma centre in Erbil, support for the Blessed Zdenka Clinic in Iraq, and educational programmes for refugee children in Jordan and Lebanon).

Since 2013, the relations with other Christian churches and religious communities associated in the Ecumenical Council of Churches and with representatives of the Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Slovakia have also developed positively thanks to the regular meetings of representatives of these churches held since 2013.

Relations between the Catholic Church and the Government of the Slovak Republic also moved forward when, at the conclusion of the Synod of the Ordinariate of the Armed Forces and the Armed Units of Slovak Republic, which culminated on 2 March 2017, Bishop Mons. F. Rábek and the Minister



Portrait of Blessed Sister Zdenka Cecília Schelingová (1910 - 1955)



Beatification of Don Titus Zeman in Petržalka, 30 September 2017

of Justice of the Slovak Republic, Lucia Žitňanská, signed an agreement on the implementation of the Treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Holy See on the pastoral care, which clarified the existing rights and obligations.

At its 91st Plenary Session on 23 November 2018, the KBS responded to the situation regarding cases of sexual abuse of minors and established a special commission of the KBS to deal with these cases, and the Centre for the Protection of Minors at the Faculty of Theology in Košice, which belongs to the Catholic University in Ružomberok (established on 28 February 2019), which mainly organises lecture events of a preventive character.

The Church in Slovakia was also enriched with new modern-day beatified: on 30 September 2017, the Salesian priest Titus Zeman (1915 – 1969), a martyr for spiritual vocations, was beatified in Bratislava; on 1 September 2018, Anka Kolesárová (1928 – 1944), a martyr of chastity and a victim of a crime committed by a soldier during the Second World War, was beatified in Košice.

During the last few years, new auxiliary bishops have been added to the episcopal congregation: Msgr. Marek Forgáč for the Archdiocese of Košice (11 June 2016), Mons. Ján Kuboš for the diocese of Spiš (24th June 2020) and Mons. Peter Beňo for the Diocese of Nitra (24th April 2021). After a serious illness, the diocesan bishop of Spiš, Mons. Štefan Sečka passed away (28th October 2020). A new bishop has been appointed for the Košice diocese –

Mons. Cyril Vasil; first as Apostolic Administrator sede plena (20th January 2020) and later as Eparchial Bishop (24th June 2021).

Written by Mons. Viliam Judák

(Updated by Slovak Bishops' Conference Secretariat in 2021)

The Slovak Bishops' Conference

The Slovak Bishops' Conference, established by the Holy See on 23 March 1993, is an assembly of Slovak Catholic bishops who cooperatively exercise determined pastoral duties for the good of faithful living in Slovakia, in order to make grow the benefits the Church provides to the people.

The Slovak Bishops' Conference is composed of the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, the Economic Council and other commissions and councils established by the Slovak Bishops' Conference for various special purposes. The Conference members are: all diocesan bishops, eparchial bishops and other bishops of the same standing according to the Canon law, bishops-coadjutors and auxiliary bishops, including those of the Byzantine rite (if not members of

any other Bishops' Conference). The emeriti bishops are not members of the Conference.

The Slovak Bishops' Conference meets at least twice a year. During the intervening periods, the Permanent Council decides all necessary matters: this council is composed of the President, the Vice President, the General Secretary and two elected bishops. The Permanent Council prepares the plenary sessions and decides their program.

The General Secretariat is composed of the General Secretary, the Executive Secretary and his collaborators. It provides contacts with the offices of the Holy See in Rome, as well as contacts with bishops' conferences in other countries and with the state organs of the Slovak Republic.



Plenary Session of the Slovak Bishops' Conference at Spišská Kapitula, 2019



Plenary Session of the Slovak Bishops' Conference at Spišská Kapitula, 2019

Permanent Council

Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský

Mons. Bernard Bober

Mons. Marián Chovanec

Mons. Ján Orosch

Mons. Stanislav Stolárík

General Secretariat

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Tel.: +421 2 59 20 65 01,

Email: kbs@kbs.sk

Web: www.kbs.sk

Executive secretary:

Ivan Ružička

Email: tajomnik@kbs.sk

Press Office

Kapitulská 11

P.O.BOX 113

814 99 Bratislava

E-mail: tkkbs@kbs.sk

Web: www.tkkbs.sk

Spokesperson:

Martin Kramara

Email: hovorca@kbs.sk

Mobil: +421 910 842 642



Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský

President



Mons. Bernard Bober

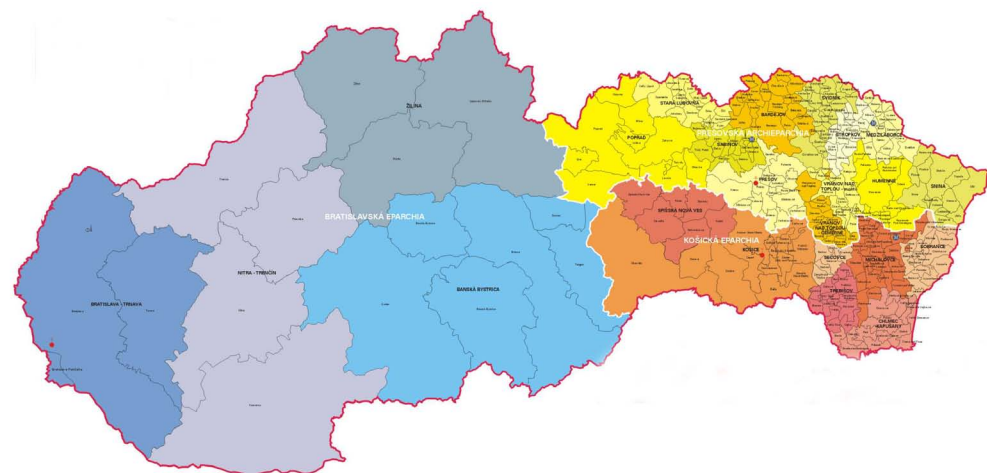
Vice President



Mons. Marián Chovanec

General Secretary

Structure of the Catholic Church in Slovakia



In Slovakia, there are Catholics of both Latin and Byzantine rite. The Roman-Catholic Church in Slovakia has two provinces – the Western province with its headquarters in Bratislava, and the Eastern one residing in Košice. The Greek Catholic Church has one “metropolia” with its seat in Prešov. The Western province consists of the Archdiocese of Bratislava, the Archdiocese of Trnava, the Diocese of Banská Bystrica, the Diocese of Nitra and the Diocese of Žilina. The Eastern province embraces the Archdiocese of Košice, the Diocese of Rožňava and the Diocese of Spiš.

The Greek-Catholic metropolia sui iuris, encompasses the Archeparchy of Prešov, the Eparchy of Bratislava and the Eparchy of Košice.

There is also one personal diocese in Slovakia, which covers the whole territory and includes the faithful of both rites: it is the Ordinariate of the Armed Forces and Armed Units of the Slovak Republic.

Statistical data as of December 31, 2020.

Number of Roman Catholics

Bratislava archdiocese	443 097
Trnava archdiocese	451 174
Nitra diocese	570 135
Žilina diocese	409 253
Banská Bystrica diocese	366 258
Košice archdiocese	522 008
Spiš diocese	452 310
Rožňava diocese	208 233
Military ordinariate	160 000

Number of Greek Catholics

Prešov archeparchy	117 915
Košice eparchy	72 593
Bratislava eparchy	17 609

Commissions and Councils of the Slovak Bishops' Conference

Commission for Clergy

President: Mons. Viliam Judák

Permanent Diaconate Subcommission:

Mons. Viliam Judák

Subcommission for Pastoral Care of
Vocations and Seminaries:

Mons. Tomáš Galis

Theological Commission

President: Mons. Peter Rusnák

Subcommission for the Doctrine of Faith:

Mons. M. Chovanec

Bioethical Subcommission:

Mons. Peter Rusnák

Environmental Subcommission:

Mons. Ján Babjak

Social Subcommission:

Mons. Peter Rusnák

Liturgical Commission

President: Mons. Stanislav Stolárik

Music Subcommission: Mons. Ján Kuboš

Catechesis and Education Commission

President: Mons. Bernard Bober

Subcommission for School
Catechesis:

Mons. Bernard Bober

Subcommission for Parish Catechesis:

Mons. Marek Forgáč

Subcommission for Catholic Schools:

Mons. Bernard Bober

Subcommission for Catechesis of the
Hungarian faithful:

Mons. Ján Orosch

Subcommission for Catholic University
in Ružomberok:

Mons. Bernard Bober

Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews

President: Mons. Ján Orosch

Commission for cases of sexual abuse of minors

President: Mons. Marek Forgáč



Bishop Haľko during ordination of priests in St. Martin's Cathedral, Bratislava

Council for Youth and Universities

Mons. Tomáš Galis

Council for the Missions

Mons. Ján Orosch

Council for Ecumenism

Mons. Ján Orosch

Council *Iustitia et pax*

Mons. Peter Rusnák

Council for the Slovaks living abroad

Mons. Jozef Hal'ko

Council for Social Communications

Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský

Council for Science, Education, Culture

Mons. František Rábek

**Council for Institutes of
Consecrated Life and Societies of
Apostolic Life**

Mons. Cyril Vasil'

Council for the Roma and Minorities

Mons. Bernard Bober

Council for Family

Mons. Cyril Vasil'

**Council for the Laity and Apostolic
Movements**

Mons. Peter Rusnák

**Council for Health Pastoral Care
and Charity**

Mons. Cyril Vasil'

**Council for Migrants, Refugees and
Itinerant People**Mons. Jozef Hal'ko / Mons. Ján
Orosch**Council for treaties between the
Holy See and the Slovak Republic**

Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský

Council for History

Mons. Viliam Judák

Economic Council

Mons. Peter Beňo

Bishops emeriti

**Mons. Ján Sokol**

archbishop of Bratislava-Trnava



Date of birth:

9. 10. 1933

Ordained priest:

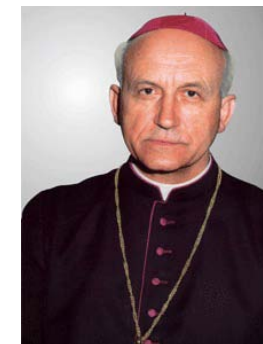
23. 6. 1957

Consecrated bishop:

12. 6. 1988

Retired:

18. 4. 2009

**Mons. Alojz Tkáč**

archbishop of Košice



Born:

2. 3. 1934

Ordained priest:

25. 6. 1961

Consecrated bishop:

17. 3. 1990

Retired:

10. 7. 2010



Mons. Róbert Bezák
archbishop of Trnava



Mons. Andrej Imrich
auxiliary bishop of Spiš
titular bishop of Castellum titulianum



Mons. Marián Andrej Pacák
bishop of Toronto
for Slovak Greek Catholics



Mons. Milan Chatur
eparchial bishop of Košice



Date of birth:
1. 3. 1960
Ordained priest:
17. 6. 1984
Consecrated bishop:
6. 6. 2009
Retired:
2. 7. 2012



Date of birth:
9. 1. 1948
Ordained priest:
8. 6. 1974
Consecrated bishop:
11. 7. 1992
Retired:
15. 10. 2015



Date of birth:
24. 4. 1973
Ordained priest:
12. 7. 1998
Consecrated bishop:
2. 9. 2018
Retired:
20. 10. 2020

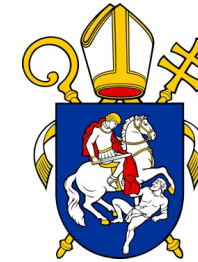


Date of birth:
4. 9. 1957
Ordained priest:
14. 6. 1981
Consecrated bishop:
29. 2. 1992
Retired:
24. 6. 2021



Basilica of the Holy Virgin of Seven Sorrows, Šaštín-Stráže

Archdiocese of Bratislava



Foundation: 14. 2. 2008

Patron saint: Sv. Martin z Tours

Area:	3 759 km ²
Inhabitants:	774 618
Roman Catholics:	443 097
Deaneries:	10
Parishes:	123
Diocesan priests:	176
Seminarians:	15
Religious sisters:	418
Religious brothers:	195
Churches:	210





Address:

Špitálska 7
814 92 Bratislava 1

Contact:

Tel.: +421 2 572 006 11
Email: sekretariat@abuba.sk
Web: <http://abu-bratislava.sk>

Diocesan Seminary:

Seminary of st. Cyril
and Methodius
Kapitulská 26
811 01 Bratislava 1
Tel.: + 421 2 544 323 96
Email: seminar@kscm.sk
Web: <http://kscm.sk>

Cathedral:

Cathedral of
St. Martin
in Bratislava



Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský

metropolitan archbishop
of Bratislava



Date of birth:
19. 11. 1958

Ordained priest:
13. 6. 1982

Consecrated bishop:
2. 5. 2004



Mons. Jozef Halko

auxiliary bishop of Bratislava
titular bishop of Serre



Date of birth:
10. 5. 1964

Ordained priest:
4. 7. 1994

Consecrated bishop:
17. 3. 2012



Traditional procession with the portrait of Holy Virgin Mary of Trnava

Archdiocese of Trnava



Foundation: 30. 12. 1977

Patron saint: St. John Baptist

Area:	4 833 km ²
Inhabitants:	623 155
Roman Catholics:	451 174
Deaniers:	11
Parishes:	144
Diocesan priests:	185
Seminarians:	14
Religious sisters:	218
Religious brothers:	54
Churches:	400





Address:

Jána Hollého 10

P. O. Box 78

917 66 Trnava

Contact:

Tel.: +421 33 5912 111

Email: abu@abu.sk

Web: <http://www.abu.sk>

Diocesan Seminary:

Seminary of st. Cyril

and Methodius

Kapitulská 26

811 01 Bratislava 1

Tel.: + 421 2 544 323 96

Email: seminar@kscm.sk

Web: <http://kscm.sk>

Cathedral:

Cathedral

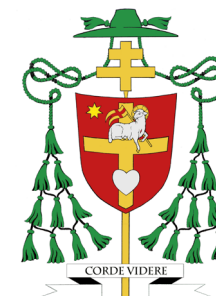
of st. John Baptist

Trnava



Mons. Ján Orosch

diocesan archbishop of Trnava



Date of birth:

28. 5. 1953

Ordained priest:

6. 6. 1976

Consecrated bishop:

2. 5. 2004



Pilgrim shrine Skalka nad Váhom, Consecration of bishop Peter Beňo

Diocese of Nitra



Foundation: 880

Patron saints: St. Saint Andrew Zorard and St. Benedict of Skalka

Area:	5 932 km ²
Inhabitants:	684 604
Roman Catholics:	570 135
Deaneries:	17
Parishes:	196
Diocesan priests:	272
Seminarians:	20
Religious sistes:	158
Religious brothers:	61
Churches:	384





Address:

Nám. Jána Pavla II. 7
P.O.Box 46 A
950 50 Nitra-Hrad

Contact:

Tel.: +421 37 772 17 47
Email: nitra@kbs.sk
Web: www.biskupstvo-nitra.sk

Diocesan seminary:

Seminary of st. Gorazd
Samova 14
949 01 Nitra
Tel.: +421 37 772 17 58
Email: rektorat@ksnr.sk
Web: www.ksnr.sk

Cathedral:

Basilica
of st. Emeram
in Nitra



Mons. Viliam Judák
diocesan bishop of Nitra



Date of birth:
9. 11. 1957

Ordained priest:
16. 6. 1985

Consecrated bishop:
16. 7. 2005



Mons. Peter Beňo
auxiliary bishop of Nitra



Date of birth:
2. 9. 1972

Ordained priest:
14. 9. 1996

Consecrated bishop:
24. 4. 2021



Pilgrim shrine of St. Mary Mother of the Church, Živčáková

Diocese of Žilina



Foundation: 14. 2. 2008

Patron saints: St. Cyril and Metod

Area:	3 487 km ²
Inhabitants	559 725
Roman Catholics:	409 253
Deaneries:	12
Parishes:	112
Diocesan priests:	209
Seminarians:	31
Religious sisters:	123
Religious brothers:	65
Churches:	192





Address:

Jána Kalinčiaka 1
P. O. Box B – 46
011 36 Žilina 1

Contact:

Tel.: +421 41 500 22 15
Mobil: 0904 738 524
Email: kuria@dcza.sk
Web: <https://dcza.sk>

Diocesan seminary:

Diocesan international
seminary for missions
Redemptoris Mater in Žilina
Mariánske námestie 23
010 01 Žilina
Email: rm.zilina@gmail.com

Cathedral:

Cathedral
of the Holy Trinity
in Žilina



Mons. Tomáš Galis
diocesan bishop of Žilina



Date of birth:
22. 12. 1950

Ordained priest:
6. 6. 1976

Consecrated bishop:
25. 9. 1999

Diocese of Banská Bystrica



Foundation: 13. 3. 1776

Patron Saint: St. Francis Xavier

Area:	6 675 km ²
Inhabitants:	594 124
Roman Catholics:	366 258
Deaneries:	16
Parishes:	155
Diocesan priests:	247
Seminarians:	12
Religious sisters:	179
Religious brothers:	80
Churches:	346



Basilica of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Staré Hory



Address:

Námestie SNP 19
975 90 Banská Bystrica

Contact:

Tel.: +421 48 47 208 00
Email: riaditel.bb@rcc.sk
Web: <http://bbdieceza.sk>

Diocesan seminary:

Seminary
of st. Francis Xavier
Banská 28
976 32 Badín
Tel.: +421 910 842 341
Email: spravca.ksfx@xaver.sk

House Xavier

Tel.: +421 903 256 532
Email: info@xaver.sk
Web: www.xaver.sk

Cathedral:

Cathedral
of st. Francis Xavier
in Banská Bystrica



Mons. Marián Chovanec

diocesan bishop of Banská Bystrica



Date of birth:
16. 9. 1957

Ordained priest:
17. 6. 1989

Consecrated bishop:
18. 9. 1999



Anna Kolesárová, martyr of castity, beatified on September 1, 2018 in Košice

Archdiocese of Košice



Foundation: 9. 8. 1804

Patron saint: St. Andrew

Area:	10 403 km ²
Inhabitants:	1 153 505
Roman Catholics:	522 008
Deaneries:	20
Parishes:	221
Diocesan priests:	442
Seminarians:	27
Religious sisters:	287
Religious brothers:	89
Churches:	592





Address:

Hlavná 28
Košice 041 83

Contac:

Tel.: +421 55 68 28 111
Email: abukosice@kbs.sk
Web: www.ke-arcidieceza.sk

Diocesan seminary:

Seminary
of st. Charles Borromeo
Hlavná 91
042 03 Košice
Tel.: +421 55 6836111
Email: predstaveni@ktfke.sk
Web: www.kske.sk

Cathedral:

Cathedral
of st. Elisabeth
in Košice



Mons. Bernard Bober

metropolitan archbishop of Košice



Date of birth:
3. 11. 1950

Ordained priest:
8. 6. 1974

Consecrated bishop:
30. 1. 1993



Mons. Marek Forgáč

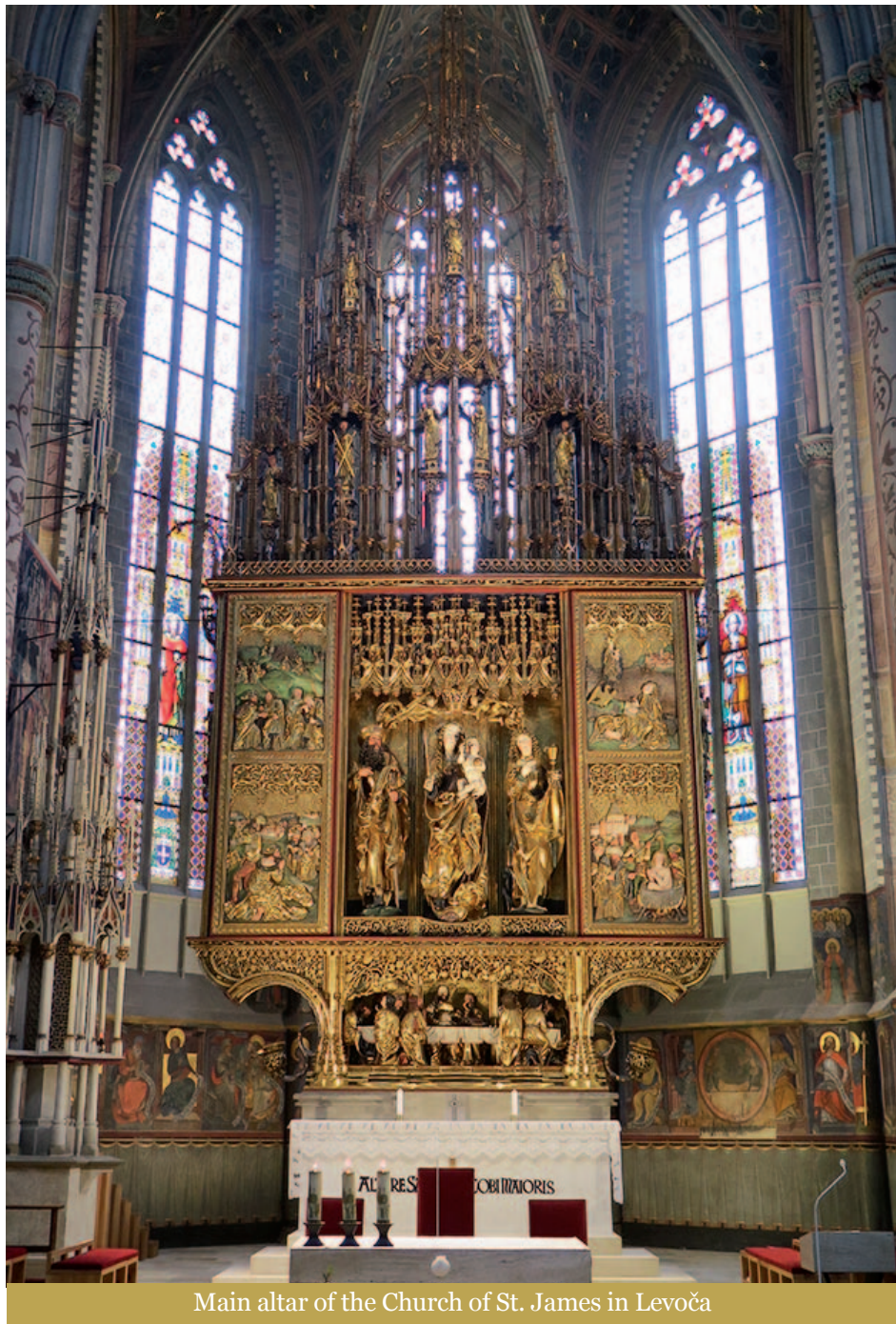
auxiliary bishop of Košice
titulary bishop of Seleucia



Date of birth:
21. 1. 1974

Ordained priest:
19. 6. 1999

Consecrated bishop:
1. 9. 2016



Main altar of the Church of St. James in Levoča

Diocese of Spiš



Foundation: 13. 3. 1776

Patron saint: St. Martin

Area:	7 802 km ²
Inhabitants:	610 040
Roman Catholics:	452 310
Deaneries:	14
Parishes:	179
Diocesan priests:	363
Seminarians:	34
Religious sisters:	247
Religious brothers:	54
Churches:	472





Address:

Spišská Kapitula 9
P.O. Box 22
053 04 Spišské Podhradie

Contact:

Tel.: +421 53 454 11 36
Email: biskupstvo@kapitula.sk
Web: <http://dieceza.kapitula.sk>

Diocesan seminary:

Seminary
of bishop Ján Vojtaššák
Spišská Kapitula 12
053 04 Spišské Podhradie
Tel.: +421 53 419 41 11
Web: <http://ks.kapitula.sk>

Cathedral:

Cathedral
of st. Martin
in Spišská Kapitula



Mons. Ján Kuboš

administrator of the diocese of Spiš



Date of births:

28. 2. 1966

Ordained priest:

18. 6. 1989

Consecrated bishop:

24. 6. 2020



Diocesan bishop of Rožňava, Mons. Stanislav Stolárik among the faithful

Diocese of Rožňava



Foundation: 13. 3. 1776

Patron Saint: St. John Nepomuk

Area:	7 753 km ²
Inhabitants:	441 139
Roman Catholics:	208 233
Deaneries:	9
Parishes:	113
Diocesan priests:	134
Seminarians:	4
Religious sisters:	66
Religious brothers:	30
Churches:	224





Address:

Námestie baníkov 20
048 01 Rožňava

Contact:

Tel.: +421 58 78 77 201
Email: kancelaria@burv.sk
Web: www.burv.sk

Diocesan seminary:

Seminary
of st. Charles Borromeo
Hlavná 91
042 03 Košice
Tel: +421 55 6836 111
Web: kske.sk

Cathedral:

Cathedral
of Assumption of the Virgin Mary
in Rožňava



Mons. Stanislav Stolárik
diocesan bishop of Rožňava



Date of birth:
27. 2. 1955

Ordained priest:
11. 6. 1978

Consecrated bishop:
20. 3. 2004

Ordinariate of the Armed Forces in Slovakia



Foundation: 20. 1. 2003

Patron saint: st. Sebastian

Area:	49 035 km ²
Members of the Armed Forces:	200 000
Catholics:	160 000
Deaneries:	10
Parishes:	65
Priests:	67
Religious sisters:	2
Religious brothers:	7
Churches:	1
Chapels:	58



Mons. Rábek, Armed Forces Ordinary, during procession in Bratislava



Address:

Ordinariát OS a OZ SR
Nám. 4. apríla 18
900 33 Marianka

Contact:

Tel.: +421 2 6593 6008
Email: rabek@kbs.sk
Web: www.ordinariat.sk

Cathedral:

Cathedral
of st. Sebastian
in Bratislava



Mons. František Rábek

ordinary of the Armed Forces



Date of births:

17. 2. 1949

Ordained priest:

17. 6. 1972

Consecrated bishop:

27. 7. 1991



Mons. Cyril Vasil' introduced in office

Council of Hierarchs

On 30 January 2008, the Holy Father Benedict XVI elevated the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia to the status of a Metropolitan Church *sui iuris*. The creation of the Council of Hierarchs follows from the metropolitan structure of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia. It consists of all the consecrated bishops of this Church, i.e. the Archbishop and Metropolitan of Prešov, Ján Babjak SJ, who convenes and chairs the Council of Hierarchs, the Eparchial Bishop of Košice, Cyril Vasil', and the Eparchial Bishop of Bratislava, Peter Rusnák.

An essential feature of eastern ecclesial identity is the principle of synodality, which is visibly realized in and through the Council of Hierarchs. It is the legislative body which, within the intentions of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, prepares the juridical norms for the particular law of the Metropolitan Church *sui iuris*, which come into force after approval by the Holy See.

Duly attending to the pastoral needs of the faithful of the local Church *sui iuris*, the Council provides what it deems necessary to promote the growth of their faith and greater zeal for pastoral activity, for the improvement of morals, for the faithful observance of their own rite and also of the common discipline.

The Metropolitan Archbishop of Prešov, Mons. Ján Babjak SJ, could convene the Council of Hierarchs for the first time after receiving the palio from the hands of the Holy Father Benedict XVI, which took place on 29 June 2008 in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. On October 1, 2008, on the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God, the first meeting of the Council of Hierarchs was held in Prešov. Three ordinary sessions are held during the year and, if necessary, the Council of Hierarchs may also meet in extraordinary session.

The Council of Hierarchs has a permanent secretary Mgr. Michal Onderko Jr., Protopresbyter of the Bardejov Protopresbyterate. With the establishment of the Greek Catholic Metropolis *sui iuris*, a structure uniting all Greek Catholics in Slovakia was essentially recreated. It is also evident through the work of the Council of Hierarchs that this was not just an administrative act, but a new quality of life for the Greek Catholic Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* in Slovakia.

Kontakt

Greek Catholic Archbishop's Office
Hlavná 1, P.O.Box 135
081 35 Prešov
Email: rada.hierarchov@greckokat.sk



Metropolitan archbishop Mons. Ján Babjak, SI during liturgy in Lutina

Archeparchy of Prešov



Foundation: 22. 9. 1818

Patron saint: St. John Baptist

Area:	8 973 km ²
Inhabitants:	825 022
Greek Catholics:	117 915
Protopresbyterates:	18
Parishes:	163
Priests:	318
Seminarians:	37
Religious sisters:	74
Religious brothers:	20
Churches:	362





Address:

Hlavná 1
P.O.Box 135
081 35 Prešov

Contact:

Tel.: +421 51 75 62 601
Email: abu@grkatpo.sk
Web: www.grkatpo.sk

Diocesan seminary:

Greek Catholic Seminary
of blessed bishop
Pavol Peter Gojdič
Sládkovičova 23
P.O.Box 176
080 01 Prešov
Tel.: +421 901 909 079
Web: <http://gojdic.zoe.sk>

Cathedral:

Cathedral
of st. John Baptist
in Prešov



Mons. Ján Babjak SJ

metropolitan archbishop of Prešov



Date of birth:
28. 10. 1953

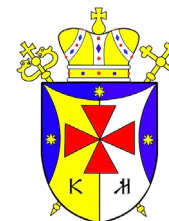
Ordained priest:
11. 6. 1978

Consecrated bishop:
6. 1. 2003



Icon of the Mother of God in Klokočov, pilgrim shrine of the Eparchy of Košice

Eparchy of Košice

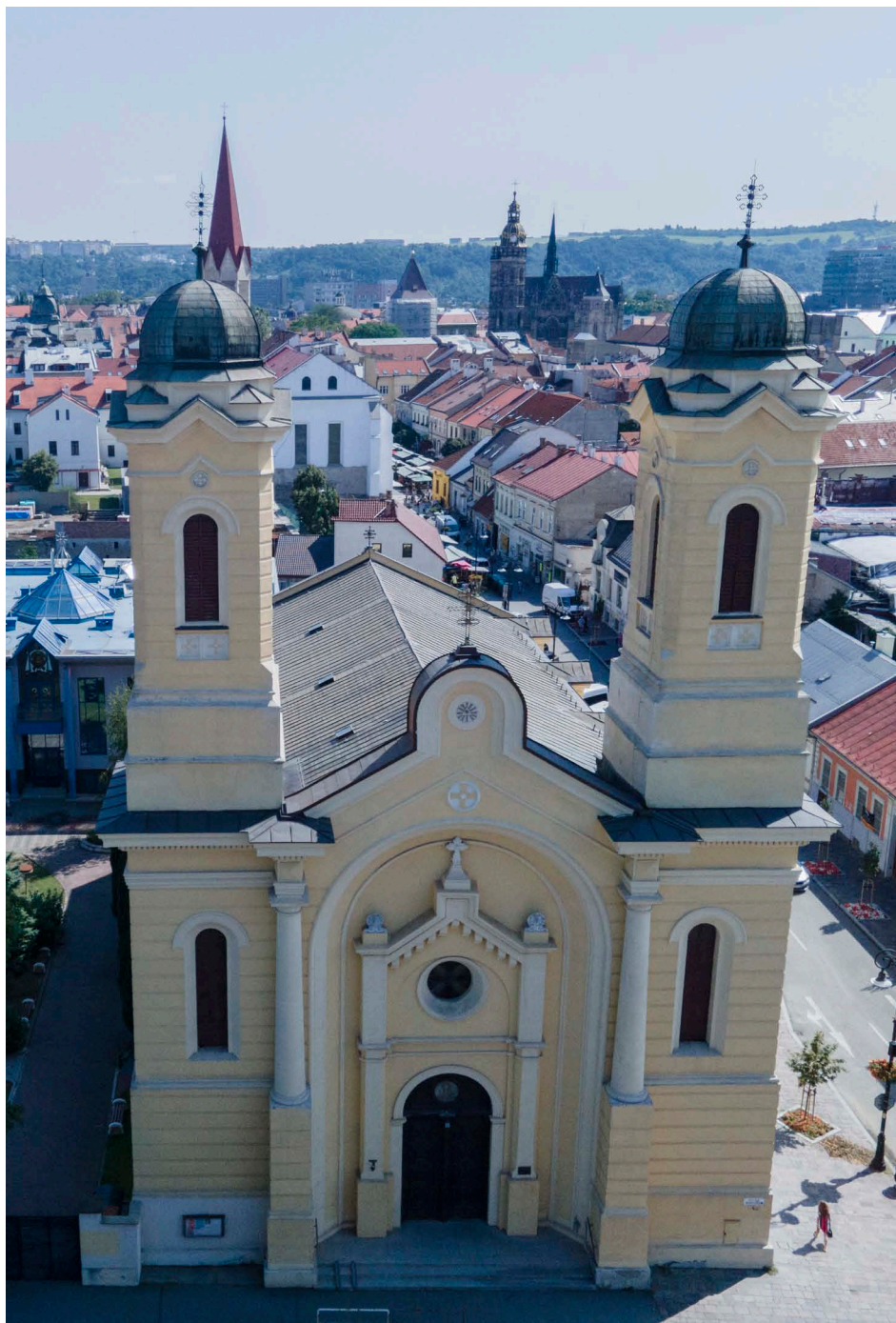


Foundation: 21. 2. 1997

Patron saints: St. Cyril and Methodius

Area:	6 753 km ²
Inhabitants:	684 346
Greek Catholics:	72 593
Protopresbyterates:	7
Parishes:	97
Priests:	161
Seminarians:	26
Religious sisters:	32
Religious brothers:	16
Churches:	158





Address:

Dominikánske nám. 2/A

040 01 Košice

Contact:

Tel.: +421 55 727 19 11

Email: eparchia@grkatke.sk

Web: <http://www.grkatke.sk>

Cathedral:

Cathedral
of Nativity of the Holy Mother of God
in Košice



Mons. Cyril Vasil' SJ

archbishop - eparchial bishop of Košice



Date of birth:

10. 4. 1965

Ordained priest:

14. 6. 1987

Consecrated bishop:

14. 6. 2009

Eparchy of Bratislava



Foundation: 30. 1. 2008

Patron saints: st. Peter and st. Paul

Area:	33 288 km ²
Inhabitants:	3 790 786
Greek Catholics:	17 609
Protopresbyterates:	4
Parishes:	15
Priests:	22
Seminarians:	2
Religious sisters:	6
Churches:	5



Eparchial bishop Peter Rusnák at the National Meeting of the Youth P18



Address:

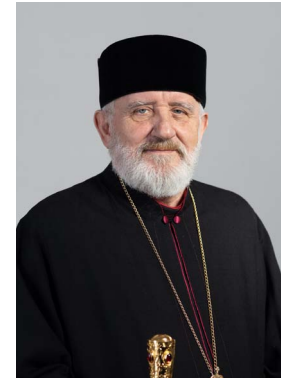
Ul. 29. augusta 7
811 08 Bratislava

Contact:

Tel.: +421 2 52 622 081
Email: eparchia@grkatba.sk
Web: <http://grkatba.sk>

Cathedral:

Cathedral
of Elevation of the Most Dignified
and Life-giving Cross
in Bratislava



Mons. Peter Rusnák

eparchial bishop of Bratislava



Date of birth:

6. 9. 1950

Ordained priest:

14. 6. 1987

Consecrated bishop:

16. 2. 2008

Overview of Sacraments celebrated in 2020

The Church accompanies her faithful throughout their lives, celebrating Sacraments, bringing them God's grace and blessing.

(Data as of December 31, 2020)

Diocese/Eparchy	Baptisms	Confirmations	First Holy Communions	Weddings	Funerals
Archdiocese of Bratislava	4,603	951	3,012	858	4,299
Archdiocese of Trnava	3,484	1,442	2,814	776	4,930
Diocese of Nitra	4,308	1,527	3,370	1,167	6,134
Diocese of Žilina	4,335	2,862	3,902	1,157	4,941
Diocese of Banská Bystrica	3,247	1,192	2,227	799	3,911
Archdiocese of Košice	7,023	4,441	5,119	2,050	6,736
Diocese of Spiš	5,381	2,937	4,745	1,788	4,106
Diocese of Rožňava	1,822	328	857	338	2,357
Military Ordinariat	280	134	38	60	37
Archeparchy of Prešov	1,474	1,508	836	401	1,422
Eparchy of Košice	909	118	531	206	981
Eparchy of Bratislava	145	146	79	22	57
TOTAL	37,011	17,586	27,530	9,622	39,911



Metropolitan archbishop of Bratislava with faithful at the Pilgrim shrine Šaštín

Consecrated Life and Ecclesial Movements

The consecrated life belongs to the life and holiness of the Church. This permanent state of life includes men and women who take vows based on the counsels of the Gospel: the vows of chastity for the kingdom of God, poverty and obedience. The state of consecrated life is thus one of the ways of a "deeper" consecration that has its roots in baptism.

Almost all forms of consecrated life are represented in Slovakia today. The greatest representation is given to institutes of consecrated life which develop the charism of their founders (25 male and 34 female religious orders). They are mainly "active religious orders" and are active in the fields of catechesis, missions, education and training, health, social care, youth work, family work and elsewhere.

There are also societies of apostolic life (3 male and 3 female) whose members, although they do not take religious vows, accept the Gospel counsels, live a common fraternal life and have their own apostolic goal by the commitment defined in their statutes.

In Slovakia, there are four women's contemplative monastic orders in six cloistered monasteries: the Benedictine nuns, the Carmelite nuns, the Capuchin Poor Clares, the Redemptorists (both Latin and Eastern Rite) and one contemplative congregation with cloistered communities (the Rose Sisters).

The superiors of the women's and men's religious institutes have been united since 1st January 2019 in a common Conference of Major Superiors of Religious Orders in Slovakia. The members of the Conference are the superiors of 44 women's and 28 men's religious orders. Until 31st December 2018, two separate conferences were functioning in Slovakia, with the Conference of Major Superiors of Women's Religious Orders established as a legal entity on 20th April 1995 and the Conference of Major Religious Superiors established on 25th April 1995. Previously, there was a joint Czechoslovak men's Conference, but also councils of men and women religious met regularly to jointly address current issues of both men's and women's religious orders.



Expo of spiritual vocations at the National Meeting of Youth in Prešov (P18)



Expo of spiritual vocations at the National Meeting of Youth in Prešov (P18)

Conference of Major Superiors of Religious Orders in Slovakia

President: Václav Hypius, CSsR
 Vice President: Agnesa Jenčíková, CJ
 Miletičova 7, 821 08 Bratislava
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Secular institutes

There are ten secular institutes in Slovakia, whose members (about 350 men and women) live a fully consecrated way of life in the world, although their consecration is not immediately visible. They sanctify the world from within "like heaven". They participate in the evangelizing role of the Church in the world and as if from the world. Since 2016, these institutes have been united in the Conference of Secular Institutes in Slovakia. More about the Secular Institutes: www.kbs.sk

Conference of Secular Institutes in Slovakia

President: Mária Čaputová
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Movements and new religious communities

After the Second Vatican Council (1962 – 1965), which brought great renewal and reform to the Church, many new ecclesial groupings were born. The rich variety of traditional ecclesial realities, as well as institutes of consecrated life and communities of apostolic life, were joined by newly formed groups that can be described as associations of the faithful, ecclesial movements and new communities. Ecclesial movements are characterised by being very dynamic, capable of arousing interest in the Gospel and offering a style of Christian life that embraces all aspects of human existence.

Movements and new ecclesial communities fall under the Council for Lay and Apostolic Movements of the Slovak Bishops' Conference. The Council seeks, among other things, to organize meetings of the representatives of these movements in each diocese with the local bishop in order to establish and strengthen cooperation between the movements and to offer their charisms in the service of the dioceses.

Church fulfils her mission

The mission of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel to all creation, based on the mandate received from its founder, Jesus Christ: 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature' (Mk 16:15). Evangelization, as John Paul II said, is to be the basis of all pastoral activity carried out in the various parishes. Neighbouring parishes together form deaneries, and these in turn form dioceses or eparchies.

In order to strengthen evangelization activities and to make pastoral care more effective, some specific areas of pastoral care are identified, such as: catechesis, charity, youth pastoral care, vocations pastoral care, pastoral care of families, care of the sick. These are pastoral ministries that are in the focus of attention both within dioceses/eparchies and at the national level, and involve all components of the People of God (clergy, consecrated persons and laity). Often these are related pastoral areas where coordination is needed (e.g. between youth pastoral, university pastoral and vocations pastoral).

Catechesis

In general, catechesis is the education of children, youth and adults in the faith, especially by teaching Christian doctrine. It is usually done in an organic and systematic way with the aim of bringing believers into the fullness of the Christian life.

The Catholic Pedagogical and Catechetical Centre was established to assist and coordinate the catechetical work of the Church in Slovakia. Its mission is to transmit the values of the Gospel and to communicate the living faith through education. In practice, this means that in cooperation with diocesan and religious school authorities and diocesan catechetical offices in Slovakia, it provides a methodological and advisory service and guides the teaching of Catholic religious education in schools. It also ensures the preparation of methodological materials, textbooks and publications of a national character. It organises catechetical conferences, seminars and methodological days for catechists; it provides accredited training for catechists as part of their professional development.



Mons. Ján Babjak, metropolitan archbishop of Prešov, blessing holy oils

Catholic Catechetical and Pedagogical Center

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Education

The Catholic Church in Slovakia is actively involved in the educational process at all levels and with different focuses. Catholic schools are open to all those interested in studying. With their values and professional approach, they contribute to the education of future generations, beneficial for the whole society. Through the Diocesan and Religious School Offices, the Church is the founder of kindergartens (78) and primary schools (100), 4-year grammar/high schools (36), 5-year grammar schools (5), 8-year grammar schools (21), secondary vocational schools (12), secondary medical schools (6), primary art schools (11), and one ecclesiastical conservatory and one language school. To this should also be added 269 school facilities (as at 31.12.2020) that include school children's clubs, school canteens, leisure centres, schools in nature and boarding schools.

Within the dioceses, all activities connected with religious education and catechesis in parish are in the competence of the Diocesan Catechetical Offices. The agenda of the Catholic Schools' administration belongs to the Diocesan School Offices or to the Religious School

Offices. The Catholic Pedagogical and Catechetical Center, established by the Slovak Bishops' Conference, plays another important role: it creates the educational guidelines, publishes the textbooks and takes care of the methodical, educational and counseling activities - always in cooperation with the Diocesan Catechetical Offices.

The quality of church education is evidenced by the fact that each year more pupils and students enroll than the church schools are able to accommodate. The Catholic Church in Slovakia also runs a Catholic University: it is located in Ružomberok and currently composed of four faculties: the pedagogical, the philosophical, the theological (in Košice - with an affiliated theological institute in Spišské Podhradie) and the medical one. In the academic year 2020/2021, the Catholic University in Ružomberok had 2479 students attending the regular study programs and 911 studying at a distance. Through the "University of third age" it also contributes to life-long learning.

There are also theological faculties affiliated to other universities in Slovakia, all of them under the Catholic Church supervision: seminarians and members of religious orders, but also several lay students attend these faculties - selecting various possible specializations (e.g. Catholic theology, social works, Christian philosophy, etc.): the Roman Catholic Faculty of St. Cyril and Methodius at the Comenius University in Bratislava (with affiliated theological institute in Nitra), the Theological Faculty of the Trnava



Building of the University Library at the Catholic University in Ružomberok



Third National March for Life, Bratislava 2019

University (in Bratislava) and the Greek-Catholic Faculty of the University of Prešov (in Prešov).

The Church strives to offer regular pastoral care and opportunities for spiritual growth to all university students, especially through pastoral centers staffed with chaplains and their collaborators. Next to the religious activities, these centers prepare several cultural and educational events. The list of the centers is at www.upc.rcc.sk.

Catholic University of Ružomberok
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Biblical Apostolate

The Catholic Biblical Work in Slovakia, based in Ružomberok, is also an important church organisation established by the Slovak Bishops' Conference. It is a member of the Catholic Biblical Federation and cooperates closely with its bodies. The main object of the Catholic Biblical Work is to carry out the biblical apostolate according to the documents of the Magisterium of the Church and to facilitate the biblical animation of the pastoral activity of the Church.

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Protection of life

Within the Slovak Bishops' Conference, the Bioethics Sub-Commission under the Theological Commission deals with the protection of life and ethical issues. It also emphasizes education and for this purpose it issues declarations on current topics. It points out the risks that some therapies may entail, unethical practices in therapy and human care. It draws attention to the proliferation of misinformation threatening human life, such as some about the vaccination, euthanasia, abortion, contraception, artificial insemination, genetic manipulation, and also responds to legislation that allows practices violating human dignity.

Once a year, the Bioethics Sub-Commission organizes conferences on various topics in the field of bioethics. It also deals with the preparation of specialized courses for priest-confessors. It organizes an annual meeting of hospital chaplains who are an essential part of the complex care of the sick. Last but not least, the Commission provides also individual advice on bioethical issues.

Family

The family and its care is a pastoral priority for the Catholic Church in Slovakia. It is coordinated at the national level by the Council for the Family of Slovak Bishops' Conference. It offers ways of renewing the pastoral care of families in the spirit of the new evangelization through family centers, pro-family movements, associations

and initiatives. These are programs for different groups of families according to their needs. For families who ask for the celebration of the sacraments, the Church offers a deeper preparation before receiving them, e.g. marriage preparation courses and also meetings of the parents before the baptism or the first Holy Communion of their child. As for the spiritual growth of spouses, there are programs of conjugal and family spirituality which encourage the creation of small family communities in the parish. In collaboration with a network of professionals, these communities also accompany spouses and families in difficulties in relationships, upbringing and other difficult situations.

For spouses, priests and those who minister to families, the Church offers formation programs both at the academic level – in studies focused on marriage and family issues – and through professional courses, seminars and conferences. The Church is also involved in civic initiatives to manifest and affirm the value of the family made up of dad, mom and children, such as the annual Family Day. In dialogue with legislators, it seeks laws protecting life, supporting demographic growth and a functional family.

The Council for the Family mediates the initiatives and activities of the Pontifical Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life. These include the World Meeting of Families every three years, or special activities such as the Synod on the Family, the Year of the Family *Amoris Laetitia*, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

The website www.rodina.kbs.sk provides information and links to important international, national and local activities and initiatives in the field of marriage and family.

Youth

Youth pastoral care seeks to use appropriate ways of approaching the young people, communicating with them in a language they understand, witnessing rather than talking, and giving them the space to make their own choices. The basic forms of youth pastoral care are small communities, which offer informal environment and provide acceptance and personal relationships, which are important factors in a young person's life.

In addition to the parish youth communities coordinated by the diocesan youth centres and present in all dioceses, there are also small communities among university youth in university pastoral centres. To support the spiritual life of young people, the Church offers events at deanery, diocesan, national and international level where they can experience the testimony of faith. These include festivals, concerts, workshops, lectures, catechesis, pilgrimages, prayer meetings organised by spiritual movements, religious orders, new communities and associations of young people. That way, they can meet the living Christ in the communion of the Church and open themselves to service in the various fields of proclamation of the Gospel. The aim of several projects is to encourage young people to serve and to participate in the life of their particular



Meeting of children in the Cathedral of st. Martin, Bratislava



Pilgrimage of children in Rajecká Lesná, diocese of Žilina

community (parish, municipality, town and society).

Slovak youth is also actively involved in the organization and participation in the World Youth Day. In the same spirit, National Youth Meetings were created in Slovakia. Their aim is to have a personal encounter with Christ, united in prayer with their shepherds - bishops and priests, and to kindle in young people a desire for a new evangelization and volunteering. So far, more than 10 thousand participants have attended the National Meetings (2013 - Ružomberok, 2015 - Poprad, 2018 - Prešov).

To guide pastoral activities for youth at the national and diocesan level, the Bishops' Conference of Slovakia has established the Council for Youth and Universities (www.mladez.kbs.sk). The Council, in cooperation with non-profit organization KANET, seeks to respond flexibly to the needs of young people through its activities and actions. The entire pastoral orientation and all activities are directly aimed at the target groups and are implemented according to the pastoral priorities - spiritual growth, evangelisation, engagement, cooperation and promotion.

Missions

The missionary mandate is deeply rooted in the very essence of the Catholic Church and therefore it concerns all Christians. It is accomplished through testimony of life and proclamation of Gospel, through creation of new local churches and through the effort aimed at enculturation, through the interest for

the poor and through the service of charity. Since 1622, spreading the faith in the world has been the task of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. For this task, the Holy Father has endowed it with special power to coordinate all missionary activities, to guide the formation of the clergy and the local hierarchy, to encourage the establishment of new missionary institutes and to provide material support for missionary activity. This task is mainly carried out through the Pontifical Missionary Works, which also has a branch in Slovakia. The Pontifical Missionary Works assist the Holy Father in the management and administration of approx. 1,105 missionary dioceses.

The Pontifical Missionary Works (Pontifical Work for the Propagation of the Faith, Pontifical Work of St. Peter the Apostle, Pontifical Missionary Work for Children, Pontifical Missionary Union) are institutions of the universal Church and of each particular Church whose task is to stimulate the missionary awareness of the faithful. Since 1926, World Mission Day has been celebrated on the penultimate Sunday of October, which is dedicated to a special prayer and collection for the missions, to be paid into the Pontifical Solidarity Fund.

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Charity

Solidarity and assistance to the people in need is an essential part of the Church life and mission. On the institutional level, this assistance is offered through the facilities of diocesan charities and through parish charities. All the numerous diocesan charities in Slovakia are united under the roof of the Slovak Catholic Charity, which belongs to the international confederation Caritas Internationalis.

Slovak Catholic Charity is established by Slovak Bishops' Conference and aims to assist people living in other countries, especially in cases of life-threatening emergencies or natural disasters. This assistance is basically offered through collections of financial resources that enabled the realization of special projects designed for the needy and the provision of necessary material (e.g. Lenten Packet for Africa by the end of May – 34,000 €, project of the long distance adoption – more than 6,187 children, 21 humanitarian projects have been implemented since 2015 and 19 are ongoing).

Every year, the charities give hand to more than 60 thousand people - both in Slovakia and abroad. They run 318 facilities and homes (refuges, dormitories, homes of social care, canteens, hygiene centers, laundries, etc.), provide social and nursing care in people's homes, oversee hospices and mobile hospices, as well as foster homes and crisis and re-socialization centers. The parish charities also play an important role: they help people in their everyday struggles and sufferings

through counselling and through giving assistance to the weak, sick and elderly.

The Catholic Church, through her religious orders or through various other Church institutions, also provides medical and palliative care (e.g. the University Hospital of the Brothers of Mercy and the Oncology clinic of st. Elisabeth in Bratislava). Among other charity works, the "Good News" initiative of the Christian Children Communities Movement is certainly worth mentioning: every Christmas, children collect significant amounts of money for the development projects in Africa. In the 26th edition had been collected 569,445.50 €.

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Church in need

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN for short) is the only worldwide Catholic charitable and pastoral organization that helps Catholics in more than 140 countries. In 2011, pope Benedict XVI elevated it to the status of a Pontifical Foundation. Its mission is focused on providing material and spiritual assistance to the Church wherever it is persecuted, oppressed by terror and violence, or suffers material hardship.

ACN supports around 6,000 projects in more than 140 countries each year.



Lenten initiative "Let's Share" with Archbishop Stanislav Zvolenský

It has a presence in 24 countries where it encourages and calls for pastoral care. Organized assistance is provided through private donations; the Foundation is not funded by any public sources. Areas of assistance include: evangelization in the media, theological formation, biblical apostolate, pastoral care, catechesis, mass intentions, transportation, construction assistance.

It has been present in Slovakia since 25 March 2017 and has already organized several successful events, such as the Million Children Praying the Rosary, the Aid for Syria campaign (2019), the publication *Suffering and Forgotten* - a report on Christians persecuted for their faith in 2017-2019, the Lenten Calendar project (2020), the State of Religious Freedom in the World Report (2021). It also publishes the ACN magazine which provides information on current projects, challenges and specific needs of the suffering and persecuted Church from around the world.

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Christians in the society

In addition to movements and new religious communities, there are also many associations and institutionalized lay initiatives in Slovakia, whose aim is to bring the Christian spirit into specific areas of human society. The platform that has brought together these initiatives,

organizations and civil associations since 1996 (first informally and since 2004 as a civic association) is the Forum of Christian Institutions, which currently brings together almost 60 institutions and cooperates with over 50 institutions.

Committed lay people are aware of their co-responsibility for the world and want to fulfil their mission as Christians in unity with the Church. Thanks to better mutual knowledge and deepening unity, a more effective cooperation between the laity and the whole Church is achieved in shaping the Christian lifestyle and its positive perception by the Slovak public.

The Forum of Christian Institutions is a platform of cooperation and a carrier of impulses in civil society, the third sector, politics, the media, culture, science, education and the Church. It promotes values such as Christian faith, cooperation, dialogue, subsidiarity, commitment, solidarity, freedom, human rights, historical memory. It seeks to develop cooperation with religious institutions, the third sector, public administration, academic sphere and the world of politics.

Among the annual nationwide activities organized by the Forum are: commemoration of the Candlelight Manifestation (25 March); Family Day (May/June); Social Days - Social Activities Fair (17 October - Day for the Eradication of Poverty). The latest initiative is the Christian in the Countryside project and other events, an overview of which can be found at www.fki.sk.



Basilica minor of st. Benedict, Hronský Beňadik



Church of St. Elizabeth, the so-called "Blue Church" in Bratislava

Cultural heritage

The Catholic Church has been active in Slovakia for several centuries: her presence and work enriched the country in several ways. Thanks to her activities, several cultural monuments originated in the country. There are works of art ranging from architecture masterpieces, paintings, sculptures and pieces of handicraft to valuable literary works and musical opuses. The Catholic Church takes care of many of them and further develops their heritage.

Spiritual values spread by the Church in Slovakia also belong to the cultural heritage: decorated calligraphies and codices (Bratislava missal - after 1403; Bratislava antiphonary, 1487).

This also includes the support of education, the collection and also the transcription of rare books and other writings (the works of the monastery scriptoria Zobor r. 1111, Hronský Beňadik, Červený Kláštor), composing (Cantus catholici, 1655; Edmund Pascha, Harmonia pastoralis, 17th century; Ján Nepomuk Hummel, Missa in Es) and interpreting church musical works (Beethoven's Missa solemnis in the St. Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava as early as 1835).

The Catholic Church currently takes care of hundreds of churches, chapels and other sacred buildings of all architecture styles. There are several valuable monuments constructed in the early Middle Ages - e.g. Romanesque churches (Kostolány pod Tribečom), rotundas (Skalica), cathedrals (Bratislava, Košice, Spišská Kapitula), late Gothic chapels (Spišský Štvrtok, Spišská

Kapitula), Baroque monasteries with artworks authored by painters Galli Bibiena, František Maupertsch and sculptors Ján Kraus, Georg Raffael Donner (Bratislava, Jasov, Šaštín); several pieces of liturgical artwork have been also preserved up to date: goldsmith Gothic and Baroque masterpieces, chalices and monstrances of Ján Silaši, created in the 18th century. There are also genuine pieces of art created in the period of Classicism and Art Nouveau - e.g. Primaciálny palác (the Primate's Palace) and "Modrý kostol" (the "Blue Church") in Bratislava.

Quite specific for the Slovak Renaissance are the "solitary" campaniles (Kežmarok), Baroque Marian and Plague columns (D. Stanetti: Kremnica, Banská Štiavnica), the so-called "Božie muky" indicating boundaries between different regions and numerous places of pilgrimage. Very special and unique are the wooden churches built from the 15th to the 18th century: their specialty is that exclusively wood was permitted as construction material; no nails at all were used (Tvrdosín, Hervartov, Paludza - built by master Jozef Lang). The Calvaries and Ways of the Cross in Banská Štiavnica and Prešov also possess great historical and social value. The diocese of Nitra, with her main residence in the Nitra Castle, owns an antique library and runs a museum containing valuable monuments and pieces of art created in times when Christianity only started spreading in Slovakia (e.g. the Nitra Book of Gospels – 11th century).

The Archdiocese of Bratislava owns decorated calligraphies of the Bratislava Canonry (15th century), liturgical articles



Slovak Catholic Television Lux organizing event for its “Club of Friends”

and vestments (many of them exposed in the St. Martin's Cathedral). Spišská Kapitula is famous for its unique complex of historical buildings with the cathedral, representing one of the valuable jewels of eastern Slovakia. In Levoča, the world-famous winged altar - the masterpiece of Master Paul of Levoča - is located in the Church of St. James, which is one of the most important late Gothic monuments in the world with its sculptural manifestation and height of 18.62 m (1507-1518).

The Conference of Bishops of Slovakia annually awards the Fra Angelico Prize to leading artists, scientists and theoreticians. It is a token of appreciation of the representatives of the artistic community by the Catholic Church for not hesitating to promote Christian ideas and values in their work. It also honours personalities for their contribution to the dialogue between science and faith with the Fides et ratio Prize.

Media

Christ's message “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mc 16, 15) is fulfilled by the Catholic Church in Slovakia also through social means of communication. It seeks to spread the message of Christ through television, radio, the press, the Internet and new forms of media. To analyze the media space in Slovakia and to prepare, in the spirit of the Church's documents, proposals for the Church's mass media action outwards and inwards is the aim of the Council for Social Means of Communication of the Bishops' Conference of Slovakia. The

Council also recommends individual media projects, associations or other activities to the bishops for approval and, once approved, monitors their implementation. Each diocese is responsible for its own presentation; dioceses have their own spokesman who deal with the media. The spokesman of the Slovak Bishops' Conference is responsible for the communication of the Conference in relation to the media.

The Slovak Bishops' Conference has its own press office (www.tkkbs.sk), whose aim is to bring up-to-date information about the life of the Catholic Church in Slovakia and in the world. It is also a co-owner of the Television LUX (www.tvlux.sk), the first Catholic television in Slovakia. Catholic media in Slovakia include Radio Lumen (www.lumen.sk), owned by Catholic dioceses, Radio Maria (www.radiomaria.sk), the weekly Katolícke noviny (www.katolickenoviny.sk), published by the Society of St. Vojtech (www.ssv.sk); and the Greek-Catholic biweekly Slovo (casopisslovo.sk) and also internet TV LOGOS bring not only the news from Catholic Church.

All these media are also active in the field of social networks (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.). The websites of individual dioceses, councils, parishes and various religious organizations are also used for evangelization and pastoral work. They also actively use social networks and the new media. The Church in Slovakia is also active in the field of online pastoral care, with Holy Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, liturgical readings and the Liturgy of the Hours available online (www.breviar.sk).

Catholic Church in Slovakia

Bratislava 2021

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