

## **Djokovic, Halep: Two devoted Orthodox Christians who also engage in charitable work**



Two of the world's most renowned tennis champions, Serbia's Novak Djokovic, and Romania's Simona Halep, are also well-known Orthodox Christians, with both athletes expressing their deep faith and with prolific charity work to their credit.

Halep, 27, a devoted member of the Church, was recently received by the Romanian Patriarch, His Beatitude Daniel, who awarded her the PA-triarchal Cross, the highest honor that can be bestowed by the Romanian Orthodox Church to a member of the laity.

Djokovic, the world's highest ranked men's singles player, belongs to the Serbian Orthodox Church, having been previously been awarded the Medal of the Order of St. Sava for his numerous religious and social initiatives.

In 2015, a foundation established by the superstar athlete to help children in need partnered with the World Bank to offer vocational training to young Serbians, while in 2017 he opened a restaurant in Belgrade that offers free meals to the homeless and the needy.

The Novak Djokovic Foundation recently provided 94,000 euros to renovate a school in the country.