

Canonization of the Hieromartyr Stanislav Nasadil in Košice (Slovakia)



Priest Stanislav Nasadil was canonized on Sunday, June 9 by the Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia.

Stanislav Nasadil was born on October 20, 1907 in Loštice, Moravia. He studied theology at Sremski Karlovci and Bitola, Yugoslavia (1923-1928). As an Orthodox priest, he ministered in Lička Jesenica, Croatia. In 1941, during World War II, and under the Ustasha regime, he refused to leave his parishioners and go to Moravia. He was thus arrested with his bishop, Hieromartyr Sava (Trlajić). He was arrested and tortured by the Ustashi criminal Josip Tomljenović, and then sent to the Gospić concentration camp in Herzegovina, where he was murdered. His body was thrown into the Šaran mass grave in Jadovno.

The holy martyr will be commemorated on June 20, the day when he was taken to

the concentration camp.

The liturgy with the ceremony of canonization took place on June 9 in Košice, Slovakia, in St. John the Merciful church.

The service was presided by Archbishop Rastislav of Prešov, the primate of the Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia, assisted by several bishops of his Church and of the Orthodox Churches of Serbia and Poland: Metropolitan Porfirije of Zagreb and Ljubljana, Archbishop Michael of Prague, Archbishop Paisios of Przemyśl and Gorlice, Bishop Irinej of Bačka, Bishop Ignatius of Braničevo, Bishop Kiril of Central America, Bishop Isihije of Mohacs, Bishop Isaias of Šumperk, and the diocesan Archbishop Juraj of Michalovce and Kosice , as well as many priests from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Serbia, Montenegro, and Croatia.

During the Divine Liturgy, in which a large number of faithful from Slovakia and Czechia took part, the solemn rite of the canonization of the holy hieromartyr took place. The decision of the Holy Synod related to it was read. It was signed by all the hierarchs and priests, as well as by the great-grandson of the saint, monk Paisios of Kovilj Monastery (Serbia).

The following homily was given by Bishop Irinej of Bačka:

“In the holy Gospel according to St. John, of which we have just read a passage, we hear how the Savior said to His faithful disciples: You are my friends! I no longer call you servants, but my friends. Then the Savior declares that if men of this world persecuted Him, His followers will be persecuted as well. These two messages by our Savior were realized in a wonderful saint of God, the holy hieromartyr Stanislav Nasadil, who is at the same time a friend of God by his virtues, and a martyr for Christ, who gave his life for his neighbor and for his spiritual flock. There is no greater love than that.

In our Orthodox Church, love and unity among all is the fundamental principle of existence and life. This springs forth from the Divine Liturgy, because we receive in the Divine Communion the one body of the Lord Christ, and we unite with the Lord. This unity is the source of all the unity of the Church in the world. The Liturgy is not a means by which we will attain the unity of the Church, but it is its goal and crowning achievement, because only in the Liturgy do we truly experience the unity of the Church. The Lord is one in the Holy Trinity, and all of us, though different, as peoples, but perhaps also in our culture, are nevertheless one in Christ, the God-man.

After the Lord who unites us, the saints of God, His friends, as He calls them, also unite us in His name and grace. The unity they show and grant us, concerns all the Orthodox. However, we notice some historical dimensions which give us particular feelings of joy and gratitude to the Lord. You all know the historical and spiritual

connections between the Serbian Church and your Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia [this Church was under the jurisdiction of the Serbian Church before World War II, TN.] Our spiritual leaders, and among them saints who are already glorified, were here the spiritual pastors of your ascendants, between the two world wars.

In the same way, many sons of your neighboring nations, Slovakia and Czechia, lived in our country and witnessed there to their Orthodox faith, as saints and martyrs, showing what it means to be a friend of Christ.

The greatest example is the Hieromartyr Stanislav, whom we glorify today as a saint. He was Czech by birth, but served as a priest in the Serbian Orthodox Church, in a diocese which is in Croatia. During World War II, a horrible regime was in power, a satellite of the Nazi regime, which persecuted among others Orthodox Serbs, Gypsies, Jews, and anti-Nazis Croats.

The result of this criminal government system is that three of our bishops were martyred, as well as hundreds of priests, and hundreds of thousands of faithful, who suffered for the sole reason that they were Orthodox.

Nevertheless, in all this inhumanity, rulers showed a small spark of humanity. To those who were not from these areas, they said they could leave, because they were foreigners. That's what they said to our bishops, but these refused, saying, We are here with our spiritual children and we cannot abandon them.

That's what the holy hieromartyr Stanislav did. He could have left his parish, his faithful, and survive. He could have said he was neither Serbian nor Jewish, but Czech, and leave. But he did not want to leave his spiritual children. So he paid with his life, witnessing what it means to be a true priest of the Church of Christ. That is why the Lord has glorified Him, so that today we may pray to him.

I will add something that causes joy and a strong feeling in me. The first reason is that my predecessor, the saint and great Bishop Irenaeus (Ćirić), ordained Father Stanislav to the diaconate and the priesthood. The other reason is that today, by Divine Providence, his great-grandson, monk Paisios of Kovilj Monastery, in our diocese of Bačka, is here with us.

Thus the Lord glorifies His true friends, and calls us all to do everything we can in our life to also become His friends, as are the saints, and as is the holy hieromartyr Stanislav. That is why the Lord came in the flesh, that is why He sent the Holy Spirit, and that is why His Church exists, so that we may all be deified by His grace.

Thus, the saints of God, the martyrs and others, are not a kind of superhuman beings for us, Orthodox Christians. They are like us, men and women of flesh and blood, but they loved the Lord Christ and have become one with Him, as He is one with the Father.

Thus the holy hieromartyr Stanislav, at first glance a mere and insignificant parish priest in a small province, will from today on be glorified throughout the world and

throughout the Orthodox Church as a saint. He, and others like him, are the true glory and praise of both your local Church and the whole Orthodox Church. Saint Hieromartyr Stanislav, pray to God for us!”.

You can watch [here](#) a video of the Liturgy and canonization in Košice.

– Source: orthodoxie.com