

ređa i djevojka. Njegov sluha odgovori: "Kve svdji njesinog oca." Tada sam otac ode i svoju kizax koez govade iz tennice pred pogana... A ona kada je došla pred ovog strašnog poglavara, čekala je ne znajući što su joj hoće. Tada joj prokleti dano pomešu vrazjom počeo govoriti. O plemenita djevojko, slušaj me sada, ostavi šarelije, inaberu si slobodu, te imaj djeću sabi prikladnu. - A djevojka silim glasom, puna svetoga Daha reče: "Nva majke ovoga svijeta svaki dan žive u strahu, jer znada da su porodile d djeću, a ne znaju u koju svrhu im služi duša i tijelo. A ona koja je načela po Srou Isusova radja neuzo leat, po kojoj smo svi vječno živi u raju." Kad je on čuo ove riječi, veoma se razardi i zapovijedi usta joj rasbiti i u silom nemilosrdno izbiti sve zube i tako bijesu privesti pred svoje bogove.

Kad se sve ovo pročulo po gradu, ljudi su trčali da vide to strašno mučenje. Kad ona pristupi pred poganske idole, počeo velikim glasom govoriti: "O, ljudi prevareni i luđi, kako ste mogli doći do tolike nepametnosti, da se klanjate ovim idolima. Svi ovu prisutni, slušajte riječi koje ću reći ovom poganskom kipu i dobro pasite, što će se dogoditi. O, ti davi, koji stanaješ u ovom idolu, što ga svi luđaci štiju izidi iz ovoga kipa i renbi ga krapešću našega Gospodina Isusa, Sina pravoga i vječnoga Boga." - I prekrativši ga Apolonija svetim krišom, davao jauchdi rasbije ovaj kip i postavši veliki smrad ode govore: "Djevojko Apolonije, ni prijeti i smetat' a poganišax šuvši ovo, zapovijedi da ja vešu za jedan stup i da joj se svi zubi izvade iz usta. Tada djevojka Apolonija undignuvši sree k Bogu reče: "Gospodine moj Isuse, Kriste, sa svđu ljubav pošaljela sam ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ veliku muku, zato te molim da budeš milostiv osima, koji se budu moje muke spominjali." I tada jedan glas s neba reče: "Apolonija, što si tražila bit će ti ualjšane." Latin nemilosrdni pogani dano zapovijedi da se sagali kao lomada velikax vatru. Tada joj reči "ako se ne pokloniš našim bogovima i ne pogrđiš tvoje laukrsta, zapovijedit ću da te bace u ovaj ogranj.

A ona veselom licom reče: "Dragovoljno gubim sadašnji život, da dobijem vječni i prekršivši se udje u vatru i ondje svoju dušu preda Bogu vječnoga da može uživati uvijek u raju.

Ovo se dogodilo na deset mjeseca veljače ili februara, godine dvjesta pedeset i druge od rođenja Gospodina Isusa Krista. Tada bijahu u Rimu papa sveti Fabijan, a cesar Filip prvi. I sveta Crkva sv ovaj isti dan svetkuje velikom svetkovinom. Ova je svetica zagovornica i liječnica onima, koji joj se preporučuju, kada ih bole zubi. A također po njezinim molitvama Gospodin Bog daje druge različite milostevina onima, koji je bogoljubno i vjerno mole.

A TI GOSPODINE POMILUJ NAS!  
BOGU HVALA!

**IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 325TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALTAR PALA OF ST. APOLLONIA IN ST. CATHERINE'S ACADEMIC CHURCH IN ZAGREB**

The academic church of St. Catherine (the building of which was started on 20 May 1620) on Catherine's Square in Zagreb also includes a chapel called St. Apollonia, which according to tradition was built in the year 1670, and the altar in 1675. The altar pala consecrated to St. Apollonia originates from the workshop of Hans Georg Geigerfeld, from Novo Mesto. In her paper "Hans Georg Geigerfeld in Croatia", Mirjana Repanić-Braun describes the work as follows. "On the painting of St. Apollonia, which is situated in the lower middle part of the altar retabla the saint is presented frontally and occupies almost the entire height of the canvas. The painted area, which on the left of the composition shows an architectural scene and on the right opens up a landscape with a low horizon, is typically manneristic, as also is the sculptured coldness of the faces, modelled with soft blue shadows. The surface of the dresses and capes are linearly broken up with a medley of narrow folds which lack finesse. There is also a lack of a subtle feeling for colour and light effect on the material, and the large bony hands with the long, thin fingers are quite different from the firm, anatomic hands on other Geigerfeld paintings. Because of the structure of the painted surface and the thickness of the oil paint, which has multiple cracks, the painting of St. Apollonia may have been partially painted over".

We are proud to present this restored painting of St. Apollonia to the readers of Acta Stomatologica Croatia. If sources of information are correct, this year marks its 325th anniversary (1675-2000).

"Lessons of St. Apollonia, Virgin and Martyr" containing facts about her life and martyrdom, are read before her altar in some churches in Dalmatia on 9 February, St. Apollonia's Day. Thus in his article "Iconographic presentations of St. Apollonia in Dalmatia" Šime Kordić presents the results of his investigation or study of two manuscripts of the lessons, of which one represents the "old lessons" and the other "new lessons". The old lessons were written in Slovic script ('schiavetto') (Ova Sveticza odvitniczaje, i likaricza, onnim kojse gnoj piporucuju, kadaje bole zubi) and according to the manuscript and style of writing and paper used it can be concluded that it originates from the middle of the 18th century. It appears to be a kind of translation of a manuscript from the town of Brag in Portugal. However, thirty years after Šime Kordić's investigation no traces of the above lessons were found in St. Ivan's Church in Šibenik. However, this was not the case in Kruševo, a village 17 km from Primošten. Thus, with the help of a colleague, Dr. Jere Gašperov from Šibenik and the Vicar in St. Martin's Church in Kruševo, don Ivo Babičić, we are above to present to our readers the text of the Lessons "The Life of Saint Apollonia, Virgin and Martyr". At a time when there were few physician-dentists the people turned to St. Apollonia for help.<sup>9</sup> Later, with the development of dental care, the practical role of St. Apollonia gradually diminished.

Today an interesting record remains of the spreading of St. Apollonia's cult from Alexandria in Africa to our coastal and later continental regions. Therefore, on 9 February, St. Apollonia's Day, the fifth anniversary of her becoming the patroness of patients, students and teachers at the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb, we have attempted to present to our readers these two centres, the urban centre in Zagreb, when her residence was associated with St. Catherine's Academic Church, and the rural centre in Kruševac, in the Dalmatian coastal area, in which St. Apollonia's Day has been the votive day for its inhabitants since 1941.

#### Sources:

1. M. Vanino, *Jesuits and the Croatian People*, p. 442, *Vrela i prinosi*, Zagreb, 1969.
2. M. Repanić-Braun, *Hans Georg Geigerfeld in Croatia*, *Peristil*, Zagreb, 33, 33, 85-94, 1990.

### THE LIFE OF ST. APOLLONIA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

#### I. Lesson

In the town of Alexandria there lived a heathen man and woman, very rich and aristocratic. They constantly prayed to their gods for the blessing of a son or daughter, as they did not know to whom to leave their wealth. However, they were unable to obtain this blessing. One day three followers of Christ came to the town as travellers and, forced by hunger, they begged for alms in the name of God. The three travellers found themselves before the palace of this woman who wished to have children, and when she heard them begging for alms she asked them to come to her so that she could ask them about their faith. They freely answered and said: "Our faith is in professing to be Christian servants of Jesus Christ, who is as one with the Holy Father for ever, and who was born of the immaculate Virgin Mary and who, because of our great sins, was crucified.

The woman, on hearing their words sighed and said: "You truly speak strange things. But, tell me, can this Virgin, who gave birth to the Son of God, help my husband and I to have a son or daughter, and to be content". When the holy people heard this they said: "Woman, we do not doubt that the Blessed Virgin Mary, who gave birth to the eternal word remained a virgin. She can show you mercy, if, with reverence and trust, you hail her with a holy salutation. Be aware that her son esteems her more than all creation and that she always prays for those who come to her for comfort."

The woman then said: "You are devoted people, because you talk so. Stay in my house and I will give you everything you need, and I will pray to the Virgin you speak of, and I will never cease to appeal to her, until I die". She then began to pray: "Oh, Virgin Mary, if you allow me to have a son or daughter, I will do anything you command. And the Virgin Mary heard her as she is a very good advocate. After some time the woman gave birth with great joy to a daughter. The townsfolk then discussed among themselves what name to

3. Š. Kordić, *Iconographic presentation of St. Apollonia in Dalmatia*, Report, XIV, 1, Zagreb, 35-43, 1971.
4. Anonymous, *The life of St. Apollonia, Virgin and Martyr*, Archive of the Parish and Brotherhood of St. Martin in Kruševac, near Primošten, 6 typewritten pages.

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give to her. However, the father, who was a heathen said: "Our god, who showed this mercy, is called Apollo, and thus it is right that she should be called Apollonia". In spite of this the mother fed her with the milk of the Catholic faith and told her that she was born by the grace of Mary, Mother of God.

#### II Lesson

When Apollonia had grown up she began to pray to Christ to allow her to be christened. At that time an angel appeared to her, saying: "Go to St. Leoni, pupil of St. Antun, and he will christen you". And she prayed and went to St. Leonin and after telling him all she begged for a holy christening. When St. Leonin perceived in this virgin so many good qualities, with the grace of God he christened her. Later a second angel appeared before her in white clothes and covering her body said to her: "Virgin Apollonia, servant of Christ, now that you have been christened go to Alexandria and preach freely the Christian faith. When she heard the holy voice she went at once to Alexandria and preached the Catholic faith in the words of the Holy Spirit.

At the time many who heard her preaching went to her father and said: "Take care noble man, that the laws of the Roman Empire do not turn against you. Why does your daughter Apollonia not only preach against the Roman laws but also against our gods, by preaching of the crucified Christ?" When her father heard this he sent his servant to bring her to him. When the girl saw them coming in the distance she realised what they wanted and kneeling down she raised her eyes to the Heavenly Father and said: "Already the fianc( comes to the fianc(e. I see that servants are coming to take me to heaven". The servants came and bound her and took her to her father. When he saw his daughter so young (but old in wisdom) he said in wonderment: "By the order of our gods it is forbidden for a daughter to go anywhere without the consent of the father. You have broken the law and regulations and deserve to be punished. Although you went on your own accord, it would have been tolerated had you refrained from preaching of the

crucified Christ and had not shown such madness. Therefore, you must renounce Jesus Christ and offer sacrifice to our gods, otherwise you will be killed.” And the virgin spoke gently to her father:

“Father, if you had spoken those words with understanding I would not fear any danger. But tell me, father, how can one be alone as you say, if he follows the truth. If my Lord Jesus is with me how can you say that I am alone and that I do not obey God, nature, the law and your orders. Know that the God of Gods said: ‘Whosoever does not forsake his father, mother, brothers and sisters for His love, is not worthy of Him’ and also promised to unite his followers and said: ‘If you are in me then I shall be in you’. Because, he who knows me shall not go into the darkness but into the light of life’. Therefore, father I abide by the commandments of the true God, because they are the commandments of salvation”.

On hearing this the father ordered her to be thrown into the dungeon. In the meantime one of the governors came - an enemy of God - called Dano. The sight of Christian blood being shed always infuriated him. He was born in Alexandria where he allowed many bad things to occur. However, he could not tolerate those who believed in Jesus Christ, and he tortured and killed them, of which he never tired. Once a holy man was brought before him of great virtue and wisdom, by the name of Veteran. He said to him “Oh, Veteran, why do you revile the help of our gods? Is it not difficult for you to be condemned alone. Imagine the harm, when because of your transgression and delusion many will die. I have, therefore, decided to punish you for your transgressions each time, and therefore you must revile Jesus Christ and worship our gods.

### III Lesson

Veteran answered him, saying: “You are completely insane, because you conduct an insane court. Oh unhappy man, how foolish you are to command me again to denounce the name of Christ the true god, who is the source of salvation and holiness. How can you command us to praise the devils of hell. Because wherever you denounce Christ I shall always praise him. May our lord always be blessed and may all nations of the Earth be blessed in him. Jesus Christ was blessed, who was sent in the name of God”. The heathen then commanded that he be lashed and tortured mercilessly, and his eyes gouged out. This was done and after much torture Veteran was thrown out of the building, and as he was still alive they stoned him until he gave up his spirit to God.

Later a virgin of noble birth called Kojonta was brought before him and when he saw her he said: Oh Kojonta, what madness possessed you to abandon our gods and worship the man who was crucified. Change your decision, be wise and worship our gods. Remember Veteran, may he be a lesson to you, and now join us in renouncing your Christ”. She answered: “Be silent, servant of the devil, because I do take Veteran as an example and I thank and praise my God for ever”. Then in a courageous voice she said: “May your gods be cursed and Jesus Christ blessed for ever”. The heathen then ordered her legs to be tied and for her to be dragged through the town and tortured. When his appetite for blood had been satisfied he went to supper. After he had eaten he

continued to threaten the Christians and said that he would continue to persecute them. One of the servants then said: “What use is Dano to our gods? True, he killed Veteran and Kojonta, while we were won over by the virgin called Apollonia”. When Dano - the devil’s servant - heard this he asked whose daughter she was and the servant answered: “Her father is here”. The father then went and brought his daughter from the dungeon to the heathen. When she was brought before this terrible governor she did not know what he wanted. Then the diabolic Dano began to talk with the help of the devil: “Oh virtuous girl, listen to me now, forget sorcery, choose freedom, and have children in your own image.” The virgin answered softly, full of the Holy Spirit: “All mothers of this World live in fear every day, because they know that they have given birth to children but do not know to what purpose their body and soul serve. She who conceived by the love of Jesus fell from grace, for which we all eternally live in heaven.” When he heard these words he was very angry and commanded that she be struck in the mouth and her teeth broken mercilessly with a whip, and thus taken before their gods.

When the townsfolk heard this they hurried to see the terrible torture. When she was brought before the heathen idols she spoke with a loud voice, saying: “Oh, people deceived and infatuated, how can you be so foolish to worship these idols. Listen to what I will say to this heathen statue and mark well what will happen. Oh, you devil, living in this idol, which these madmen worship, come out from this statue and shatter it in the name of our Lord Jesus, Son of the true and everlasting God”. Apollonia then crossed herself with the holy cross and the devil broke out of the statue, howling and with a great stench, and left saying “The virgin Apollonia threatens and troubles me”. When the heathen heard this he ordered her to be tied to a post and for all her teeth to be extracted. The virgin Apollonia then gave up her heart to God saying: “My Lord Jesus Christ, for your love I have suffered great pain, and I therefore beg you to be merciful to those who will talk of my pain”. Then a voice answered from the sky, saying: “Apollonia, what you have asked will be granted”. The heathen Dano then ordered her to be burned at the stake and said to her “If you will not worship our gods and renounce your Jesus Christ, I will order you to be thrown into this fire”. She answered with a joyful face: “I happily lose today’s life to gain eternal life”. And so crossing herself she went into the fire and gave up her spirit to God to be eternally in heaven.

This took place on the ninth day of February, 252 years after the birth of Jesus Christ. At that time the Pope in Rome was St. Fabijan and Cesar Filip I. On the same day the holy Church celebrate a great church festival. She is the patron saint and physician for all those who seek her help when they suffer from toothache. With the help of her prayers the Lord God shows mercy to all those who devoutly and faithfully pray.

Lord have mercy upon us!  
Thanks be to God!