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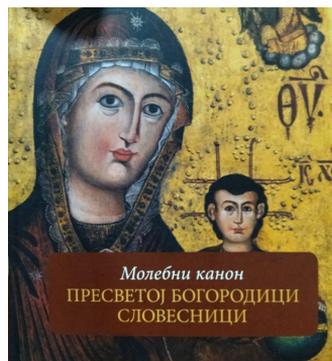
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Nicholai Studies Notices, November 2021 — July 2022

The musical version of the Prayer Canon to the Most Holy Theotokos Slovesnica (Vojlovica monastery, November 5, 2021) — A premiere of the musical arrangement of the Prayer Canon to the Most Holy Theotokos Slovesnica was held in the Vojlovica monastery on November 5, 2021. Canon to the Most Holy Theotokos Slovesnica is written by Saint Bishop Nicholai, during the days he and Patriarch Gavriilo spent in imprisonment in the Vojlovica monastery, from 1942–1944.

The Canon is sung by priest Vladimir Petković, deacon Milan Lazić, Nikola Božović, Nenad Mitrović and Mladen Vračar. The Canon is published as a printed musical, on CD: *Prayer Canon to the Most Holy Theotokos of Slovesnica*. Arranged and set to music by Milenko Mačak; notographed and edited by Slobodan Raicki. Belgrade: Čuvari; Pančevo: Vojlovica Monastery, 2021. 77 pp., 17 cm + 1 CD [provisional translation into English; original title in Serbian] / *Молебни канон Пресветејој Богородици Словесници*. Приредио и у ноте ставио Миленко Мачак; нотографисао и редиговао Слободан Раицки. Београд: Чуvari; Панчево: Манастир Војловица, 2021. 77 стр., 17 см + 1 CD. ISBN 978–86–80650–36–4. ISMN 979–0–802042–03–2.

A new book “**Prisoner of Vojlovica Monastery Saint Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich**” was published by the Vojlovica Monastery at the end of 2021. This book is actually a diary of Bishop Vasilije Kostić, focused on Bishop Nicholai and his two-year stay in the Vojlovica monastery (from December 16, 1942, to September 14, 1944 — according to the Foreword of the book). The diary consisted of 5 notebooks, of which the last one, which



covers the period from June to September 1944, was lost.

Kostić's diary is being reprinted in this book — previously it was published as a part of a rare book entitled *Vojlovica Records of Saint Bishop Nicolai of Serbia*, published by Historical Archive in Pančevo in 2006 [Војловачки записи Светиої Владике Николаја Српскої. Панчево: Историјски архив у Панчеву, 2006].



Source: Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Banat | <https://www.eparhijabanatska.rs/>

Exhibition “Saint Nicolai of Serbia — Sermons into Eternity” (Valjevo, December 1, 2021) — The opening of the exhibition “Saint Nicolai of Serbia — Sermons into Eternity,” presented in honor of Bishop Nicolai Velimirovich in the amphitheater of the Valjevo Department of the Western Serbia Academy of Applied Studies [Академија струковних студија Западна Србија], was held on December 1, 2021. The Committee for Religious Education of the Diocese of Valjevo and the Society for Nurturing the Tradition and Culture of the Valjevo Region organized this exhibition dedicated to the figure and work of Bishop Nicolai Velimirovich on the occasion of three important jubilees — 140 years since his birth, 65 years since his death and 30 years since the transfer of his relics to his native Lelić.

Source: Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Valjevo | <https://www.eparhijavaljevaska.rs/>

Bishop Lavrentije Trifunović fell asleep in the Lord (Belgrade, January 23, 2022) — Bishop Lavrentije Trifunović (Лаврентије Трифуновић, 1935–2022), the editor of the *Collected Works of Bishop Nicolai*, which he published as the Bishop of the Diocese of Western Europe from 1976–1985, fell asleep in the Lord on January 23, 2022. Bishop Lavrentije managed and supported many later editions of Velimirovich's works, and also established Saint Nicolai of Serbia Monastery — Soko. Memory eternal!

Source: Diocese of Šabac | <https://www.eparhija-sabacka.com/>

The Second Annual St. Nicholai Lecture (St. Tikhon's Seminary, March 15, 2022) — Few people knew and worked with a now-canonized Saint. There are very few people alive today who have had an opportunity to speak and collaborate with Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich. One of them is Protinica Olga Sokich, who knew St. Bishop Nicholai.

At St. Tikhon's Seminary, on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, she shared her personal stories and memories of St. Nicholai. The husband of Protinica Olga Sokich, Fr. Dragolyub [Драгољуб Цоклић], served as Secretary to St. Nicholai in New York from 1950–1956. At the end of the 1940s, Ms. Olga attended St. Vladimir's Seminary as a non-matriculated student by recommendation of Bishop Nicholai. Later she was engaged as a catechist — after Velimirovich's blessing. When she got married to Dragolyub, she again had an opportunity to talk to Bishop Nicholai, see him, and maintain communication with him.

St. Nicholai taught Theology and Homiletics at St. Tikhon's from 1951–1956 and served as Seminary Rector from 1955–1956. St. Tikhon's Seminary's 2nd Annual St. Nicholai Lecture held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, was also live-streamed, and it is available for watching online (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsfojOK1uvg>).

Source: Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary | <https://www.stots.edu/>

Vidovdan Academy in honor of St. Bishop Nicholai (Valjevo, June 28, 2022) — On the occasion of Vidovdan, a holiday that was the inspiration for sermons and writings of Bishop Nicholai Velimirovich, and also the day of his famous sermon in St. Paul's Cathedral in London in 1916, the Valjevo Cultural Center hosted a Ceremonial Academy in honor of the triple jubilee of St. Bishop Nicholai — 140 years since his birth, 65 years since his death and 30 years from the transfer of his relics from Libertyville to Lelić.

In his address, Bishop Isihije (Rogić) of Valjevo underlined that the memory and cult of St. Bishop Nicholai were established and developed due to the efforts of certain clerics of the Diocese of Valjevo. He mentioned former bishops of the Diocese of blessed memory — going backward — from Bishop Milu-

tin Knežević (1949–2020), Lavrentije Trifunović (1935–2022), to Jovan Velimirović (1912–1989) — a nephew of Bishop Nicholai, — and to Fr. Justin Popović of Ćelije (1894–1979). According to Bishop Isihije's words, Popović, who was the first who ranked Velimirovich among the Saints of God, contributed significantly to the canonization and liturgical celebration of St. Nicholai.

On this occasion in Valjevo, Patriarch Porfirije of Serbia was also present, and he gave the sermon about Velimirovich as a great man. Patriarch Porfirije reflected on the time four decades ago, when as high school alumni he began his studies at the Faculty of Theology in Belgrade. He then saw, for the first time, books of Saint Bishop Nicholai, then printed in Germany by the efforts of the blessed Bishop Lavrentije, because Velimirovich's works were banned in Yugoslavia at the time, and he was declared a traitor, a collaborator of the occupiers, even a war criminal. Things changed after the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989), when the works of Bishop Nicholai became popular and began to be freely imported from Germany and printed in Serbia, stated Patriarch Porfirije.

Patriarch quoted Velimirovich's words: "We are waiting for Christ, not a better time;" by transforming ourselves through Christ and in Christ, we make our time and space better, as well as every thought, place we are in, and work. Everything of ours becomes a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. That's why Bishop Nicholai, as a saint, is a kind of our measure, our contemporary landmark in everything we are and do, concluded Patriarch Porfirije.

Source: Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Valjevo | <https://www.eparhijavaljevaska.rs/>

Protopresbytere Milan D. Janković reposed in the Lord (Belgrade, July 14, 2022) — On July 14, 2022, Very Rev. Milan D. Janković (1932–2022) fell asleep in the Lord. Janković was a retired secretary of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church. He published the 3–volume book on Bishop Nicholai in 2002–2003 (of around 2300 pages), and also Velimirovich's short biography in 2004, as well as a dozen of other books. *Vyechnaya pamyat!* Eternal memory!

Srećko Petrović