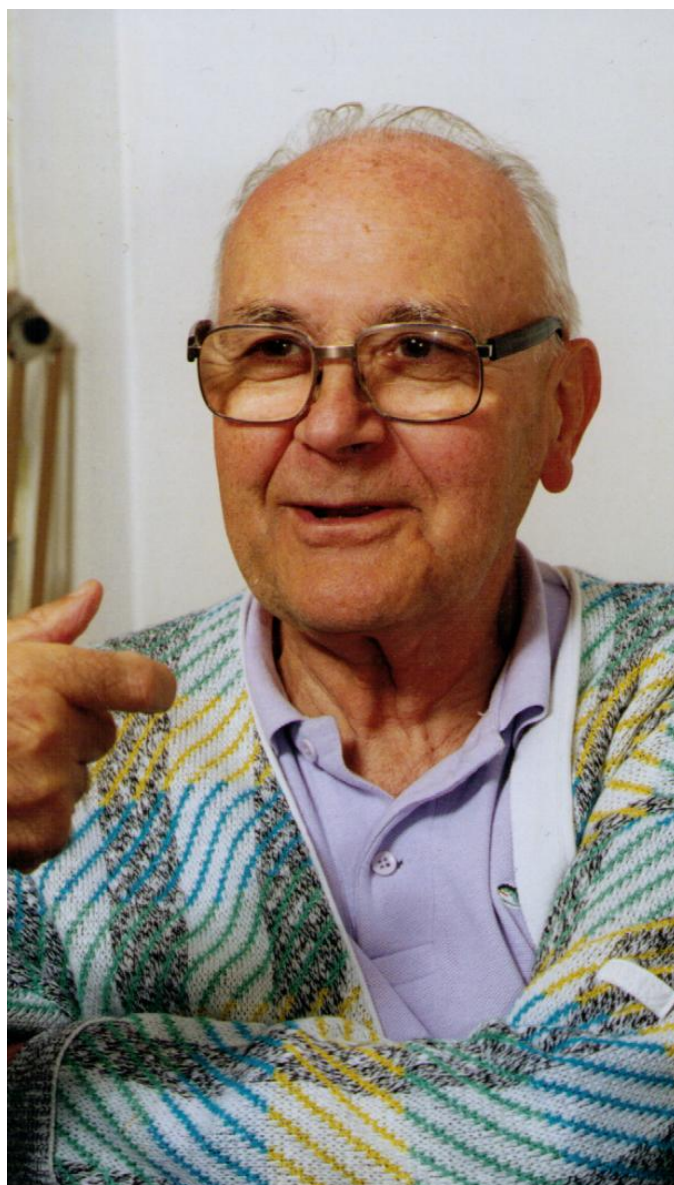




MUDr. SILVESTER KRČMÉRY SF
(1924 – 2013)

(story, prayer, songs, invitation)

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Civic association Nenápadní hrdinovia 2026

A quick word...

In December 2025, to mark the 20th anniversary of the priest and Jesuit Jozef Vateha SJ (1965 – 2005) going to heaven, a novena was put together. Several hundred young people took part – praying it, helping to prepare it, and sending in petitions and intentions.

Taking that novena as our model, we chose to prepare, on the “eve” of the anniversary of MUDr. Silvester Krčméry’s (1924 – 2013) going to the Father’s house, a similar novena. We’ve enriched it with a brief biographical sketch, and at the end we highlight the “invitation” from Civic association Nenápadní hrdinovia as well as favorite prayers and songs of Silvester, Vladimír Jukl and their friends.

We believe there will be at least one person whom Silvester Krčméry’s story will touch. We hope at least two or three of us will join in praying the novena in September. We trust the “three-day challenge” will inspire others this school year to see, judge, and act in the spirit of the great ones who showed us the way – who can inspire us and invite us to step out in trust to meet the Risen One. We hope, you may also enjoy the songs and the closing prayer.

Thank you all for your time and for your willingness to step out with us.

Prepared for the internal need of Civic Association Nenápadní hrdinovia

August 27, 2026

the compilers

I. STORY

A biographical sketch of Silvester Krčméry

Silvester Krčméry was born in Trnava on August 5, 1924. He was baptized on September 28 by Jesuit Father Vendelín Javorka. He grew up in a Slovak Catholic family in the city of Banská Bystrica, where he received the rest of the sacraments. In May 1937, Bishop Andrej Škrábik confirmed him there, and he took Andrej as his confirmation name.

His father, Ladislav Karol Krčméry (1894-1970), became director of the Municipal Power Plant in Banská Bystrica in 1938. His mother, Margita, née Jablonská (1901-1976), first worked as an office clerk and later stayed home. They had six children together (Karol, Silvester, Margita, Cyril, Vladimír and Gabriela).

After Roman Catholic elementary school in Banská Bystrica, he studied from 1934 to 1942 at the Czechoslovak State Real Gymnasium of Andrej Sládkovič. He excelled throughout and graduated in 1942. Active in Catholic Scouting, he joined scout camps and showed his budding gift as a writer – by age twelve he was already binding notebooks of memories from his summer vacations. He lived his youth by the Roman proverb “Nulla dies sine linea” (Not a day without a line/do not idle even for a day) and by his family’s principles: modesty, owning one’s mistakes, and truthfulness.

Silvester’s spiritual life was shaped by his family and by mentors like Professor Viliam Pavlovský, the theology student – later Jesuit – Father František Paňák and the Banská Bystrica priest Július Krébes. After making Jesuit spiritual exercises as a high-schooler, he felt called to the priesthood and religious life. He noted the moment in his diary. On May 1, 1942 – what he called a “*historic day*” – he wrote: “*I get up from studying and go to my Father. Father, I want to become a Jesuit.*” He later remembered that time this way: “*From that somewhat mischievous, scout-and-nature [character] stage, when I was going on campouts and all sorts of youth meetings (and perhaps with slightly national traits), I very quickly moved into this regeneration or revolution in the Church that Professor Kolakovič was leading among us.*” Silvester’s father, Ladislav, wanted him to have a secular profession first. So, following the example of his uncle Karol Krčméry (1887-1934), former director of the hospital in Trnava, he chose the path of medicine.

He began medical school at the Faculty of Medicine of the Slovak University in Bratislava in 1942/43. During those years he met the Croatian priest and sociologist Tomislav Kolakovič.

Looking back, he said: *“At last I met a saint. [...] He was a man who was evidently a saint. Who took things so seriously that he was ready to sacrifice his life and everything at once... He strove to rouse people the way Christ once roused them...”* Kolakovič deepened in him the spirit of the lay apostolate and urged him to aim high, not low. Even as a doctor, he could do a great deal. Krčméry chose dermatology, and his great dream was to defeat leprosy. His sister Gabriela remembered: *“Silvo chose to study medicine and planned then to go out into the world as a missionary. He very much wanted to go among lepers; that was his desire. He even prepared for it.”* With Vladimír Jukl and others, he joined Kolakovič’s community *Rodina (Family)*.



He pursued medical studies in Bratislava, Prague and Paris, spending part of his study and practice in Morocco. From mid-June 1945 he was in Prague, where he threw himself into apostolic work. The priest Josef Zvěřina later said: *“The two of them unleashed in Prague a real university Catholic Action... and we learned a great deal from them. Both should receive a papal decoration for their work here.”* In 1946 he traveled through France on a study tour, taking exams in bacteriology, parasitology, and tropical and internal medicine. The apostolate of the Franciscan Father Ján E. Urban made a deep impression on him.

He finished medical school in Prague and, on May 7, 1948, graduated as a “doctor of all medical sciences” MUC. His graduation announcement quoted the Gospel of Matthew: *“Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”*

Beginnings of his medical practice and the continuation of his lay apostolate

In Slovakia, 1946 brought the last free elections. Though Czechoslovakia was not yet a one-party state, the Ministry of the Interior was already in Communist hands, and they acted

like it. Many innocent people ended up on the defendants' bench – including Silvester Krčméry, early in 1946, even before his study trip to France. He was interrogated for collaborating with Kolakovič at what later became the secret police (ŠtB) headquarters in the “U dvoch levov” building in Bratislava. His first arrest stemmed from his work building up the lay apostolate, the so-called Catholic Action. He was sentenced to four weeks.

After his studies he served as a doctor in the Czech borderlands and then at the Dermatology Clinic in Košice. There he began publishing in the journal *Československá dermatológia* (*Czechoslovak dermatology*).

Arrest and imprisonment

On January 1, 1950, he entered compulsory military service and completed the officers' medical school in Ružomberok. In the night of July 26–27, 1951, he was arrested and charged with treason because of his lay apostolate. He was 26 years old.

After June 24, 1953, he flatly refused to give any statement, because: „*State Security does not care about the truth at all, but about destroying the Church.*” Krčméry endured cold, hunger, beatings, strangling, and kicks; they smashed his head against a wall; cracked two ribs and left them untreated; made him stand at attention for hours and march the cell day and night. The worst, he judged, were the so-called “glove methods”—isolation and spiritual torture. Solitary confinement was among the harshest torments: a cell with a cage inside, shut in all day like a cupboard; meager food, only every third day and just a third of a ration—starvation. Prisoners sometimes even welcomed a day of beatings or torture simply because it was a change. Prayer became the only way to keep from losing one's mind in prison. He spent three years in investigative custody, fourteen months of that in solitary.

At the Military Court in Trenčín, on June 24, 1954, he gave a now-legendary defense. The 29-year-old Silvester Krčméry declared: “*You have power in your hands, but we have the truth. We do not envy you that power and we do not desire it; the truth is enough for us. For it is greater and stronger than power. Yet whoever holds power in his hands thinks he can suppress the truth. Kill it. Or even crucify it. But the truth has always yet risen, and will rise, from the dead.*” After that, his whole family went to the nearest Church of St. Anne to pray that he would not be executed. He received a 14-year prison sentence. Altogether, members of Kolakovič's Family were given roughly 600 years in prison.

They convicted him of alleged high treason. The charge was that the small groups he founded were, so the court said, part of the Vatican's Catholic Action and, following the Vatican's political line, aimed to undermine the people's-democratic system. To survive solitary confinement, Krčmery built a strict daily framework. He kept a precise schedule so he could tell morning from midday and evening. He began with morning prayer, and since he wasn't a priest, he would simply recite the Mass in Latin.

In pre-trial detention and in prison he endured terrible torments. *"The screams from neighboring cells and the terrible cursing of tortured fellow prisoners testified that I was not alone in my suffering. The effect of energy was completely evident. If a finger joint touched a metal object, pain arose as with an electrical contact. The current changed its intensity: sometimes it was increased to the point of unbearableness, at other times it stopped entirely. For example, when the lights went out in the whole building. The pain was accompanied by severe shivering. A sharp drop in the body weight of electrified victims was characteristic. I myself lost about thirty kilograms from eighty in a short time."* He adds in his recollections of that time: *"I was for long months in the corridor of the Pankrác ropeworks. That means I looked daily into the faces of people who were going to their death. I know the heavy horror of those places. I was for long days and weeks in the cells of the insane, exposed to their raging. I was also a witness of how people, rendered unconscious by injections, were interrogated officially while in that state. And I know that on the basis of confessions obtained in this way people were sentenced to long terms. From the accounts of fellow prisoners I know that the illegalities described here are not the only ones that were perpetrated in pre-trial detentions. There is reasonable suspicion that psychopharmaceuticals were also used. The complete collapse of prisoners indicated that scopolamine, which has a narcotic, stupefying effect, was used. The luxuriant, colorful visions indicated that mescaline, which causes hallucinations and deranged states, was administered. I know other horrors as well; I know the horrors of returning to shattered homes. Although I was not directly at the front, I know the horrors of war up close. But what I experienced in Ruzyn was, in its own way, the worst. Because the torture there touched the innermost spheres of the human soul. Because there they were experimenting with something to which a person has no right."*

He often worked in the prison infirmary. He asked to be sent to the mines, to work alongside the laborers. The request was refused; he was declared to be a very dangerous prisoner.

During his imprisonment, Silvester even practiced dentist. He had studied the general branch of the medical faculty, but there was no dentistry. His desire to be helpful to fellow prisoners shows in this witness as well: *“He was sentenced to 14 years’ imprisonment, and when he was released from prison, he begged that they leave him there for at least one more month. And he gave the reason: ‘Because the convict in the next cell will hang himself out of despair.’”*

Of his 14-year sentence, he spent 10 years in various prisons (Banská Bystrica, Mírov, Ostrov nad Ohří) and in labor camps. Even after all he endured, his prison file records this characteristic line: *“I like people (all of them), work, and cheerfulness.”* He wrote letters from prison to encourage and cheer his family. For example, to his mother he wrote: *“Dear Mom! For your name day I wish you every gift and grace of God, and above all I have such great joy from the fact that to every prayer I so trustingly add that ‘thy will be done.’”* And he added: *“We must be very calm, for even God is very calm and does not need to explode, to talk much, or even to say anything.”*

After Release from Prison

A few months before his 14-year term ended, officials tried to grant Silvester clemency and release him. He refused, saying he hadn’t “reformed” and his views hadn’t changed. He maintained the court was unlawful and that he had never done what they accused him of as an anti-socialist element. However, he had to leave prison.

After his release in 1964, Silvester didn’t retreat into private life. Alongside his medical practice, and together with mathematician and later underground priest Vladimír Jukl, he engaged the communist machine in a carefully planned struggle – above all, a struggle for the inner freedom of the human person. In a time when no one trusted anyone, they formed small communities where people could trust one another. His flat at Košická 30 in Bratislava became a center for spiritual direction. Together with his closest companion, Vladimír Jukl, he focused first on evangelizing university students, then apprentices, drug addicts, alcoholics, and prisoners.

Recollections also shed light on Silvester Krčméry’s character. World fitness champion Daniel Medo said: *“When I was still a teenager, my mom sent me to Silvo so he could talk to me about spiritual things. [...] Today I consider him a spiritual world champion, and that’s far*

more than any of my own or anyone else's titles." A colleague, Dr. R. Rippel, recalled Krčméry, who practised medicine for 20 years in Bratislava – in Podunajské Biskupice – as follows: *"In an atmosphere of cringing, collaboration, and conformism – he was a light."*

In the 1980s, together with his longtime friend, he developed a lay apostolic movement that became the foundation for what later emerged as the Movement of Christian Families in Slovakia, the Movement of Christian Communities of Youth, and eRko – the Movement of Christian Communities of Children. This lay apostolate wasn't only about gathering; it also involved distributing religious literature and smuggling religious books into countries without freedom.

Fatima Community

"The whole life and work of the members of Spoločenstvo Fatima is rooted in a spiritual life that flows from the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is directed to serving his Church. For them, the model of a life devoted to God's will and to following Jesus Christ is the Virgin Mary. Because her call at Fatima spoke so directly to Christians of the 20th century, they chose her as their patron." Silvester Krčméry helped found this secular institute alongside another member of Kolakovič's Family – Vladimír Jukl, who would later be secretly ordained a priest.



After the Second Vatican Council, the Church experienced a real renewal. The bishops' aim was to bring the Church closer to the world and its problems, and to answer new challenges

while safeguarding the Church's tradition and teaching. In 1974 he co-founded the society Societa Fatima, helping publish samizdat literature and organize evangelizing communities—the so-called circles of the underground Church. They operated in the same “spirit of solidarity and friendship” as the authors of the Charter 77 manifesto, but on a far broader, popular scale. Personal encounter and concrete apostolate came first. Silvester Krčméry also played a decisive part in the writer Dominik Tatarka's return to the Catholic faith. Tatarka regarded him as his spiritual guide and called him “Apostle.” Shortly before he died, he asked Bishop Ján Chryzostom Korec to be received again into the Church. In a 1986 letter to Krčméry he wrote: “Silvo, I admit to you that I do not know how to be sufficiently penitent. I am still a Carpathian shepherd who... does not deserve God's blessing, BUT THE DAY WILL DAWN FOR US AND IS DAWNING – JESUS CHRIST, THE SUNSHINE OF THE HUMAN SOUL.”

Silvester Krčméry consistently lived the very things that still define the apostolic work of Spoločenstvo Fatima today:

- an apostolate of presence and a personal witness to an authentic Christian life;
- evangelization and catechesis for children, young people, and those who are troubled;
- priestly pastoral ministry;
- missionary and pastoral work in Russia.

Reception of his activity and work

On Voice of America in 1984, Anton Hlinka said of Silvester: “*Personalities like Silvester Krčméry, by their very existence – even without speaking of their activity – are a harbinger, indeed a guarantee, of better times for the nation!*”

In March 1988, Silvester Krčméry helped organize the Candle Demonstration in Bratislava. As people prayed and held candles, they were met with water cannons, batons, and even dogs. Police broke up the gathering, and 150 participants were arrested.

After 1989 he was offered the post of ambassador to the Vatican, but he turned it down. “*Silvo, as a physician, at that time devoted himself more to drug addicts and the homeless.*”

Pope John Paul II. held Silvester in high esteem. They had first met back in 1973, when he was still the Archbishop of Kraków. Archbishop Wojtyła quickly recognized Krčméry's greatness. In 1987 he invited him to the Synod of Bishops – even though Silvester was not a priest – but the communists would not allow him to travel to Rome. Through his close friend

Wanda Póltavská, the Pope sent this message: *“At every private Holy Mass I explicitly remember you, and through you, Slovakia.”* After the communist regime fell, the two communicated personally several times. During his visit to Slovakia, in an address to consecrated persons, John Paul II highlighted the role of spiritual exercises in Silvester Krčméry’s life. The Pope’s personal secretary, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, summed up their friendship this way: *“Among Slovaks, the one I especially remember, and whom the Holy Father held in great affection, was Silvo, Silvo Krčméry!”* In 1991 Pope John Paul II honored him with the Order of St. Sylvester.

He spent his final years at Košická 30, cared for by a caregiver. Young people visited him often and, among doctors, especially his nephews and their families: Prof. Vladimír Krčméry and Prof. Stanislav Špánik. MUDr. Silvester Krčméry completed his earthly pilgrimage at the Hospital of the Brothers Hospitallers. There, just a few hours before his passing, he received the Anointing of the Sick from the hospital priest – MUDr. Ján Janok, a Redemptorist and physician. He died on September 10, 2013, at the University Hospital with Polyclinic Brothers Hospitallers in Bratislava.

Silvester Krčméry is a leading figure of the Catholic dissent who played an important role in bringing down the totalitarian regime. He was recognized and honored both at home and abroad. Alongside Vladimír Jukl, he was one of the founding figures and leaders of the Slovak dissent. He was awarded the Order of Ľudovít Štúr, 1st Class, and the Papal Order of St. Sylvester.

Text written by: František Neupauer, Angelika Šrámková

RECENTLY, YOU HAVE BEEN WRITING TO US ABOUT HOW YOU MET SILVESTER KRČMÉRY (August 31, 2026)

I knew Silvester. Every time we met, our conversation was focused on meditating on Scripture and exploring possibilities for how to share the Good News.

After his death, and around the time I joined the Scouts, a unit bearing his name was formed.

While I was studying at the University of Economics from 1974 to 1978, he was deeply involved with our underground student groups, including one for future economists. We went on unforgettable trips to the High and Low Tatras with our beloved ‘Silvo.’ After a heavy storm in the Roháče Mountains, he came down with severe chills—a violent shivering fit. Because all our belongings had become soaked (we didn’t have waterproof rucksacks back then), we had to abandon our plan to cross from the Roháče Mountains to the Lalia Saddle and descend into the Račková Valley. We managed to pitch our tents and spend the night. In the morning, his optimistic voice woke us up; despite the tough day before, he was in full swing, calling out: ‘Hot tea, hot sausages!’ We had no idea at the time that his shivering wasn’t just the result of the storm, but a lasting consequence of the brutal interrogation methods that had taken a permanent toll on his health.



I knew him well. I had the privilege of meeting him multiple times.

He was a wonderful man – humble, wise, cheerful, and strong in his faith, always working tirelessly on something... and he was afraid of nothing.

Despite the harassment he faced from the authorities, Dr. Silvester Krčméry radiated joy and a youthful spirit.

I loved his songs, his calmness, his humility and the boundless kindness that simply radiated from him, even though he was confined to a hospital bed.

■ DISKUSIA ■ KONFERENCIA ■ SEMINÁR ■ PREDNÁŠKA ■ WEBINÁR ■ DISKUSIA ■ KONFERENCIA ■

USTAV
PAMÄTI
NÁRODA

Fatima
INSTITUTE

Svoradov

10. 9. 2026 | 14.30 – 16.30 hod.
Študentský domov Svoradov, Svoradova 13, Bratislava

DISKUSIA

KOLAKOVIČOVA RODINA

Pri príležitosti spomienky na úmrtie Silvestra Krčméryho
a narodenie Stjepana Tomislava Poglajena

PROGRAM

František Neupauer | **Profesor Kolakovič vo svetle nových výskumov**

Viktor Jakubov | **V šľapajach Kolakoviča**

Diskusia s hosťami | **František Mikloško, Terézia Rončáková**

I personally accompanied him to all the public events he attended, and I even visited his apartment once when he was already bedridden. I was grateful to be able to be so close to this extraordinary, heroic, and faithful man. I've read everything that's been written about him, and I have everything that's been published about him at home.

I'm his niece. He taught us a lot about the spiritual life. We grew up in the midst of his "gatherings."

We met under the Red Bridge on our way to a day trip in 1972. I used to visit him regularly.

We attended one of the Holy Masses at Silvo's apartment about half a year before he passed away.

Once I met him at Mass. He had trouble walking; he had a cane that helped him get around.

I knew him only from documents and interviews.

Once, Ferko took me to his apartment. By then, he was already lying in bed. He had a beautiful smile. He was always humble, ready to serve at any time.

I did not know him personally, but I knew Vladimír Jukl.

After the revolution, I attended group meetings with Danka Kaššayová. Once, when our group was staying at a cottage, she surprised us by bringing Silvo Krčméry to spend an evening with us. It was a profound experience for us.



No, only through my research on the Young Christian Workers (JOC)

Yes, after 1989. I wrote about our encounter in articles, books and conferences in France.

Poznala, navštevovala som ho a jeho opatrovateľku Milku, keď bol pripútaný na lôžko. Poznala som ho dlho, v deväťdesiatych rokoch sme sa spolu učili taliansky aj s Vladom a ďalšími.

I knew him and used to visit him and his caregiver, Milka, when he was bedridden. I had known him for a long time. In the 1990s, we studied Italian together with Vlado and several others.

AUDIO:

https://www.nenapadnihrdinovia.sk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/01_uvodne_slovoOPR.mp3

II. NOVENA

Prayer is that aspect of life in which we are most fully human. Prayer must come from within, from the depths of our hearts. In prayer, we free ourselves from the loneliness that every human heart experiences. For there is a certain loneliness in life that no other person can fill. Only Jesus is always present – fully present – even when we are completely alone!

It's evening, August 25, 2026. I'm reflecting on the day. Maybe you've had days like this too. You silence the alarm, do your morning routine, take your blood-pressure meds. A prayer is just a brief sigh... Then it's right into tending to family and the house. Maybe what happened to me today has happened to you – someone blocked your car, the minutes slipped away, and it felt like forever. Front and center was: "I'm going to be late for work." "I'll get stuck in traffic."

Into your story and mine, other stories slip in without our even noticing – stories of friends, coworkers, people we know. And the questions... "Michal still hasn't been found. Maybe we should put up flyers..." You want to act, but you can't. You're preparing a discussion event, and that's the priority for work. "Lord, help!" – you shoot up a quick prayer. That evening you find yourself in church... and you're not ashamed of the tears in your eyes... because a friend – a husband and a father – has gone before us into eternity. You leave the church, and the words of Lazarus's sisters toll in your mind like a bell: "Lord, if you had been here... our brother would not have died."

Inside you, words of faith wrestle with the pain your closest loved ones are feeling.

And somewhere, faint but clear, you hear God's reply: "I am here. I am in you. You have received me... Be with others, with the others..."

It's August 25, 2026. With two religious sisters, I prayed at the grave where Silvester Krčméry is buried. His relatives did as well.

After we prayed, Sister Mária said: "Whenever I am here, I pray that we – and you writers, journalists, doctors... - will know how to stand firm today, which has its challenges. That we could stand as they did – Silvo, Vlado Jukl, Vladko Krčméry..."

+++

After a lot of thought about the shape of these reflections, I'm offering you – and myself – a path of prayer and reflection inspired by the readings of these days.

I'm praying to the Holy Spirit and I invite you to pray too: "Holy Spirit, lead my thoughts and reflections... let them be prayer. Prayer, dialogue, a discovery of what is needed for me, for us, for this time. Amen."

We'll pray the novena from September 1 to September 9. But if one thought grabs you, stay with it. A novena isn't a "challenge" (challenge) to start and complete; it's an invitation. It can even become a Way of the Cross. I don't have to be both Veronica and Simon on this way... Let's stand at the station that touches us deeply... Let's stay close and ready to serve God in the human person, and the human person in God.

August 25, 2026

Brother Augustín

PLEASE PRAY FOR US

as of 31 August – we will add further intentions in the days to come

- pray for the gift of peace: for peace in the hearts of individuals, within families, within nations, and between nations,
- pray for the gift of true statesmanlike wisdom and humility for all political leaders, both at home and abroad
- pray for the gift and blessing of a life partner for Terezka, Anka, Kika, and myself,
- pray for my personal relationships, but also for my professional ones, and for society as a whole
- pray for the gift of discernment, that we may know God's will for our lives and our life paths
- pray for abundance of new vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life and for a zealous ministry
- pray for the spiritual renewal of the parish – including children, young ones, and the elderly
- since it is September, pray for our church schools, that they may guide our children toward a living faith
- pray for peace and justice, both within the Church and throughout the entire world
- pray for the gift of gratitude not only for ourselves but also for our entire society
- pray for a peaceful and fulfilling school year, both for the children and for myself
- pray for a change of heart of my 95 – year – old father
- pray that my classmates, friends, family and acquaintances may they come to know true life and God
- pray for my late brother Joseph
- pray for new beatifications in Slovakia
- I give thanks for the blessings of my wife and my children, and for the daily grace to live in harmony with others
- pray for the salvation of my grandmother Irenka's soul, who, despite her difficult life, sustained my family and me through her prayers during hard times and trials right up until her death today.
- pray that the Lord will use our decision to foster two little boys and grant us wise hearts on this journey, so that everything we do may be good both for the boys and for our marriage
- pray for health and strength for parents
- pray for families in the midst of crisis
- pray for Veronika and her family
- pray for recovery from all kinds of addictions
- pray for new vocations to the priesthood and religious life
- for a fresh start

Prayers we received by 8:00 p.m. on September 1:

- for health, peace of mind during perimenopause, and for work
- for children at school and for aid to Nepal and Tibet
- for peace in the world, in Slovakia, and in our families
- for peace in the world
- for conversion in the family and for peace of heart
- for help with our grandson Lukáš's studies, and for the healing of Peter and Maria
- for the family, especially for our mother, who will turn 90, and for the salvation of souls
- for peace in the world
- for the conversion of Russia
- for more people like Dr. Silvester Krčmery
- for our grandchildren, for the gift of faith, and for God's help for them
- for the health of our grandson Edko
- for reconciliation in society, for clarity regarding values, and for people to be able to live a Christian life every day and consistently
- for our children
- for a solution to our housing situation
- for the renewal of the educational system in Slovakia, so that it may more effectively develop the full potential of the human person
- for those struggling with addiction and their families
- for young people, that they may long for the truth, have the courage and strength to defend it, and find meaning in life
- for God's blessing, forgiveness, love, physical and spiritual blessings, and the protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Michael the Archangel for Mária and Stanislav and all their close relatives
- for my husband, that he may receive the Lord in the sacraments
- for my mother and my 92-year-old ailing grandmother
- for truth and peace within us, in the Church, and in the world
- for my children, that they may be able and willing to have children; especially for my youngest son Adam, for a complete recovery from drug addiction, and for his future wife
- for families, and especially for the children in our family community—for marriage and the healing of relationships
- for the pro-life pharmacy and for new staff
- for health and family
- that as many people as possible may come to know Jesus
- for non-believing relatives, that they may find the truth and meaning of life in Jesus Christ, and for health and God's blessing for the entire family

- for peace in the world and a life of faith in families
- for the Krčméry family and its living members, that they may remain worthy of their name
- for children and young people, that they may choose the narrow path, develop their talents, and build their lives on a solid foundation
- for a second-grade teacher at the elementary school, since the school has not yet found a teacher for the second graders
- for our children
- for the conversion of my loved ones, that they may believe that the Lord is above all
- for prayer and perseverance
- for Slovakia, Europe, and the world, and for the Holy Father's intentions
- for the renewal of faith in families
- for Andrej and Lenka
- for family and a good marriage
- for wisdom for politicians
- for the SLH community
- for Vladko and Paulinka
- Let us pray for the renewal of the JOC
- For young people, that they may discover the living and loving God to whom Dr. Silvester dedicated his whole life
- For my ailing wife
- for the conversion of Slovakia and Russia
- for peace, justice, and freedom for Ukraine and for all who feel overlooked or unheard and who struggle with mental illness
- for healing



Please, before you pray, choose a few intentions (or at least one) and pray for that intention throughout the day, offering up your illnesses and hardships. “With you and for you, brothers and sisters!”

Currently, 70 people have officially joined the “Nine Days.” You can join too. Please fill out the questionnaire with your request (we’ll add it in 3 days and send you an update).

LINK:

<https://forms.gle/znjrNTaEEFYx4sU39>

I. DAY - JUSTICE

"Jesus said to the scribes and the Pharisees: 'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint, dill, and cumin, but you've neglected the weightier matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness. These you should have done without neglecting the others. Blind guides! You strain out the gnat and swallow the camel.' (Mt, 23, 23 -24)"

JUSTICE

On August 25, 2026, a priest preached at the Salesian church in Trnávka in this vein. "He talked about how he had never missed praying the breviary. But he forgot to mention that he had been an agent of the State Security."

The priest went on, pointing to the importance of justice, mercy, and faithfulness—to the force of those other Gospel words: "I was hungry and you gave me food..."

Silvester knew how to call out injustice clearly and firmly, to take a stand when needed, to defend others, and to stress the importance of truth, law, and freedom.

PRAYER

Lord, help us recognize what is "more important in the law." The first attribute revealed in today's Gospel is justice.

Teach us to demand this first of ourselves and to live justly – in our families, our vocations, our work, our communities, and our nation. Make the questions of law and justice our concern. Keep us from running away when it is time to seek justice for ourselves and for others. We know that if we twist our stance – by clouding things over, minimizing, or hiding – we build a kingdom of deceit and lies.

Lord, give us the grace and strength to build a kingdom of truth, justice, and true peace and concord. Amen.

INVITATION

I will consider whether I have ever treated someone unjustly – by condemning their behavior in my mind, exaggerating their fault, or ignoring the counsel of others – and I will try to make it right.

Our Father...

Mirror of Justice, pray for us

Saints, our friends in heaven, pray for us.

Justice is the foundation of human rights. Let us grant justice to every human being! Let us fight for the rights of humanity... We need justice to the point of heroism! Only when we consistently apply Christian principles of justice in our lives will people believe that our faith is still alive!

Justice would be cold were it not for love. Love is capable of sacrifice. Love is the proof that we have understood what good is. It knows how to give; it can make life beautiful and warm. Love means that we have discovered Christ in our neighbor: just as Christ gave himself to us, we give ourselves to Him, in our neighbor.

We must mobilise all our best resources, tackle social problems and set about re-educating ourselves for the apostolate. Providence will not bring about anything without our cooperation. Therefore, we must not presumptuously rely on extraordinary interventions by God, wait for miracles, or indulge in inactivity. We must Christianise all of life – all vocations, and all industry.

II. DAY - MERCY

"Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees: 'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you pay tithes of mint and dill and cumin, but you have neglected the weightier matters of the law— justice, mercy, and faithfulness. These you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel!'" (Mt, 23, 23 -24)

MERCY

Years back, Don Ján preached at Miletičova in Bratislava on Divine Mercy Sunday. He said, "In an Italian parish, a group of young people came into the church. They threw the candles around, desecrated the Eucharist, and trampled it. One young woman – she was expecting – shouted, 'If there's any God, let him take revenge on me!' Everyone fell silent. Even the guys realized she had gone too far..."

History tells of a state official who kicked a priest – an imprisoned priest – and then that very leg became paralyzed. A religious sister from the order of the Redeemer Sisters remembers a school principal in the Tatras who did everything he could to keep religion from being taught. He said, "As long as I'm here, religion will not be taught!" The sister recalls, "In September, we were teaching religion at the school. In August, comrade principal suddenly died..."

It's as if these true, real stories from the totalitarian era were meant to show us that we must not trifle with the Word (with God) or with our own word. We need to reflect on how we act and what we do... Is that what matters most?

The Italian story continued: "That group of young people couldn't shake their friend's words. Expectations varied. Some were sorry for what they'd done and did penance... but not this girl. So the questions kept circling in their minds: 'What kind of child will she have?' 'Will it have hands and feet?' 'Will it be mentally impaired?' The first news from the hospital surprised everyone. It was good. A healthy baby boy was born—good weight, no outward issues. He grew up, very bright... and when it came time to decide after high school, he told his mom, 'Mom, I want to be a priest!' And that's what

happened." The priest ended his homily, "Such is God's justice. It's called mercy." When the homily ended, the church fell silent. Many were in tears.

PRAYER

Lord, let us trust your mercy. Let it penetrate us, light us up, and fill us. Make us full of mercy. Amen.

INVITATION

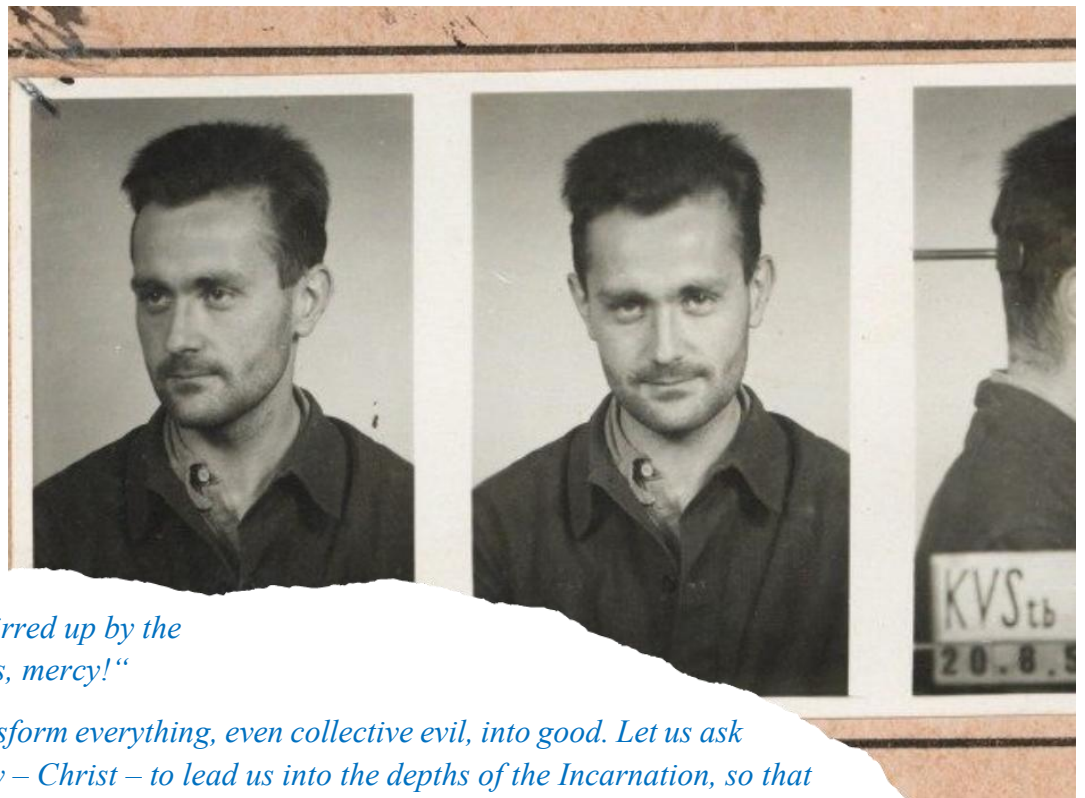
I will pray for the one who harmed me. If I can, I will give him a hug. If he has gone before me into eternity... I will let my tears change my/his/our merciless actions.

Our Father...

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope, hail.
To you we cry, sinful sons of Eve, sighing and weeping in this valley of tears.
Therefore, our Advocate, turn your most merciful eyes toward us,
and show us Jesus, the blessed fruit of your womb, there in eternity.
O gracious and above all devout, O most sweet Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Amen.*

Our holy friends in heaven, pray for us.

*The first condition
for us to be able
to stand firm
today is that we
should always
remain in
sanctifying grace
and accustom
ourselves to
stirring up perfect
contrition within
ourselves, every
single day. Perfect
contrition can be stirred up by the
exclamation: "Jesus, mercy!"*



*God's love can transform everything, even collective evil, into good. Let us ask
the Incarnate Mercy – Christ – to lead us into the depths of the Incarnation, so that
we may believe in Him completely, in His infinite mercy.*

III. DAY - FIDELITY

"Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees, 'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You pay tithes of mint, dill, and cumin, but you have neglected the weightier matters of the law—justice, mercy, and fidelity. These you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides! You strain out the gnat and swallow the camel.'" (Mt, 23, 23 -24)

FIDELITY

We often hear the phrase, "to be faithful to your vocation."

A captain in a specialized police unit was getting ready for an operation against an armed group in Humenné. He drew a sketch on the car and gave exact instructions about who would go where: "You go to the right!" "You to the left..." "You enter through these doors..."

Everything was set. Then the commander noticed one of his guys heading a completely different way. He was supposed to go left, but he went right. The captain had put his trust—his confidence—in this young man, so he sent him first. In the most critical moment, the young man panicked, went the wrong way, and others, almost by reflex, followed him, even though they were supposed to go elsewhere.

What he did put the whole unit in danger. The group they were moving against was armed. In the end, the operation succeeded, but because of one inattentive member of the specialized unit... everyone was at risk.

"What were you doing? Why didn't you listen when I was giving orders?!"

Years later, the captain remembered: the young man had gone through a conversion. He was reading the Bible all the time—at work and at home. I told him, "Kid, decide what you want to do... I respect that you're reading the Bible, but here you acted extremely unprofessionally... they could have shot us all..." The young man left the unit and became a priest.

I can't pray in church and steal from the state. I can't skimp on asphalt for the roads and chip in for protection money. I can't enrich myself at the expense of patients. Let's be faithful to what the Lord is calling us to – both in our secular professions and in our work and service to others.

We can't preach God's word and then run down the pope, or feed our minds with fantasies about ever new end-times theories. Nor can we feed hatred within and fail to seek the way of love.

PRAYER

Lord, how can I find you in every person? Help me, like St. Thomas, to cry out when I meet others, "My Lord and my God!" I want to recognize you in others with wonder, with respect, and with love. Amen.

INVITATION

I'll try to offer "honor"—to show esteem and respect—to someone who isn't asking for it. I'll be more courteous to the cashier, to the beggar, and to the person sitting next to me on the train.

Our Father...

Virgin most faithful, pray for us.

Our holy friends in heaven, pray for us.

A grave sin not only destroys a person, but also removes God from within them. ... When a person removes God from themselves, from their heart, they simultaneously remove their own humanity.

Joy exists only where there is no sin. A normal state exists only where sin does not reign.

The Church is not merely a hierarchy or the clergy; that is not the only form the Church takes. The Church is made up of all of us who, through baptism, have become members of the Mystical Body of Christ. ... The layperson must be aware that there is a sphere, an area of life, in which they have a special mission – where only they can embody, incarnate Christ.

IV. DAY - MY INTERIOR ATTITUDES

"Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees, 'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs that look beautiful on the outside but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of filth. So you also appear righteous on the outside, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.'" (Mt 23:27–28)

ON THE OUTSIDE YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL, BUT INSIDE

Father Juraj Semivan, a moral theologian, told how he was sitting on a bench with fellow priests, all of them smoking. Suddenly Cardinal Jozef Ratzinger walked by. One by one they stubbed out their cigarettes, pretending nothing was going on... one of them even snapped open a breviary.

The Cardinal - later Pope Benedict XIV - came over and said, "Boys, be more careful to avoid the vices inside than the ones outside."

Juraj Semivan often stressed the importance of conscience. He even said that even when our conscience is distorted, we should still follow it. (see: V SLOVE Juraja Semivana, 2026).

A tattoo on a young woman's body scandalizes us. A swear word in a discussion scandalizes us. Someone's clothing scandalizes us...

And then we have no time left for dialogue, for tears, for an embrace... for a friendly conversation.

There were four people in a train compartment: a young woman with prominently, artificially enhanced lips; a married couple—two Indians; and a believing young woman. The believer later said: "When it was time to order food, that girl—the one dressed provocatively—was the first to ask the Indians if they needed help with translation. Because she was willing to help, we all started talking. Those Indians I had looked at with prejudice... turned out to be Olympians. She had won an Olympic gold medal in the javelin throw. Without her openness we would have just kept traveling by train—at least I would have—with my prejudices in my head... without dialogue... only with thoughts full of judging and condemning."

PRAYER

Lord, how can I find you in every person? Help me, like St. Thomas, to cry out when I meet others, "My Lord and my God!" I want to recognize you in others with wonder, with respect, and with love. Amen.

INVITATION

I'll try to offer "honor" – to show esteem and respect – to someone who isn't asking for it. I'll be more courteous to the cashier, to the beggar, and to the person sitting next to me on the train.

Our Father...

Dwelling worthy of honor, pray for us.

Our holy friends in heaven, pray for us.

"I did not come to be served, but to serve." We therefore have a great duty to serve. The more intelligent a person is, the sooner they realise that the light they have received is not meant to be hidden away, but must be shared with others, to liberate and uplift them.

It is meant to be the engine, the driving force that draws life towards Christ, in the face of all the turmoil caused by the self-centred outlook of today's intellectuals, who are amateurs when it comes to the most fundamental understanding of the human being and their longing for the Infinite.

At the moment of death, when the soul takes its leave of the body, it feels that profound longing – a longing with its whole being – for God. It wishes to fly to Him at once, for He draws it to Himself just as a magnet draws steel. The soul, freed from the body, wishes to surrender itself entirely to God.



V. DAY - VIGILANCE

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Stay awake, because you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the homeowner had known what hour of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect.

Who, then, is the faithful and wise servant whom the master set over his household to give them food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master finds doing so when he comes. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property.

But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' and starts beating his fellow servants and eating and drinking with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day he least expects and at an hour he does not know; he will separate him and assign him a place with the hypocrites; there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.'" (Mt 24,42 – 52)

BE READY

What am I ready for today? To pray? To go to church? Or, like Mary, am I ready to step into the unknown? Am I full of answers to everything, or can I still ask with Mary, "How will this happen?"

Am I willing to ask, "What really matters?!" Or do I assume I already know and try to force my version of the truth on myself and others?

"I forgot it like death!" Gabriela told her brother, Silvester Krčmery. Silvester, then a young university student, gave her an hour-long lesson: you can forget many things, but you must never forget death. Death is the most important moment of life.

Let's not forget those we think squandered that moment... who took their own lives... who were not in sanctifying grace. Remember St. Padre Pio, who said of one who died by suicide: "Before he hit the ground from the cliff... he repented of it."

PRAYER

Lord, make me ready to die at any moment. And grant me the grace to die to myself (to the sense of my own importance; the idea that I am the one who will save the world, the Church...) so that I may act freely and with zeal to serve Your will, not my fears and anxieties. Amen.

INVITATION

I'll pray for the souls in purgatory. I can even do it specifically at the cemetery in whatever town I'm in.

Our Father...

Mother of Good Counsel, pray for us.

Our holy friends in heaven, pray for us.

VI. DAY - DAY THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus told his disciples a parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five were foolish and five were wise. The foolish brought their lamps but no oil, while the wise brought flasks of oil along with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight a cry rang out: "The bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!"

Then all those virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish virgins said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out."

The wise replied, "Otherwise there might not be enough for us and for you. Go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."

While they were off buying oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding, and the door was shut.

Later the other virgins came and said, "Lord, Lord, open to us!"

But he answered, "Amen, I say to you, I do not know you."

So stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt 25, 1 – 13)

I BUILD THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"We wept when we saw our cousin in a segment on the evening news. Our cousin called him: 'How are you?!' 'I'm fine. Everything's okay...' The conversation went on... 'But we saw you with Father Gombita...' Tears flowed. Their cousin, kind to the core, had told them nothing—not about the accident, not about falling behind on payments, and not that he had signed a contract selling the house and land for a fraction of their value. He had become a man without a home. 'I send him a box of groceries once a month,' says a woman reflecting on the situation of elderly people who have lost their home. They were thrown out of a rental and ended up on the street."

As the horrors of the rising communist regime unfolded (1948–1950), Professor Mária Pecíková said, "The most important thing is that we build God's kingdom." What does that mean for us?

Later, after she returned from prison, when Vladimír Jukl and Silvester Krčméry asked her what she thought they should do, she told them, "It is important to carry out apostolate with priests, to encourage... and to take an interest in the young."

What is being asked of me today—in society, in this time, in my cultural "bubble"? How can I build God's kingdom right where I am?

PRAYER

Lord, give us stores of oil in the form of good works. Give us enough oil by welcoming the stranger and by sharing a meal—once a month—with a family that has lost a dad or a mom.

Let us give not old clothing, but buy someone something new—and keep the old for ourselves.

We want to live this way and keep alive our desire to enter the heavenly kingdom—concretely and with love. We want to be mindful of the words at the gate of heaven: "I was hungry and you did not give me food." Lord, help us not to neglect doing good. Amen.

INVITATION

In his prison records, Silvester Krčmery summed himself up: "I like people (everyone), work, and cheerfulness." What would I write about myself? Let me pause, reflect, and jot it down.

Our Father...

Queen of All Saints, pray for us.

Our holy friends in heaven, pray for us.

A Christian does not die alone. In its prayers for the dying, the Church speaks of the saints, martyrs and confessors, who are all present at the death of a Christian. The Virgin Mary, our Mother, is there; to her Christ Himself said: "Behold, your son!" She cannot forsake us, for from childhood we have prayed to her: "... now and at the hour of our death." The Mother who was present at the agony of the forsaken Christ on the cross is present at the agony of every Christian.

Let us therefore ask Christ to help us understand our true nature, that our purpose is to be another Christ. Let us ask Him for the grace to realise that preparing for death in Christ means daily detaching ourselves from created things for Christ's sake, renouncing, constantly dying to self, and offering ourselves as a sacrifice. Since death is our final sacrifice, the sacrifice of Christ, we shall accept any kind of death and offer it up to Him – pro nostra totiusque mundi salute – for our salvation and the salvation of the whole world.



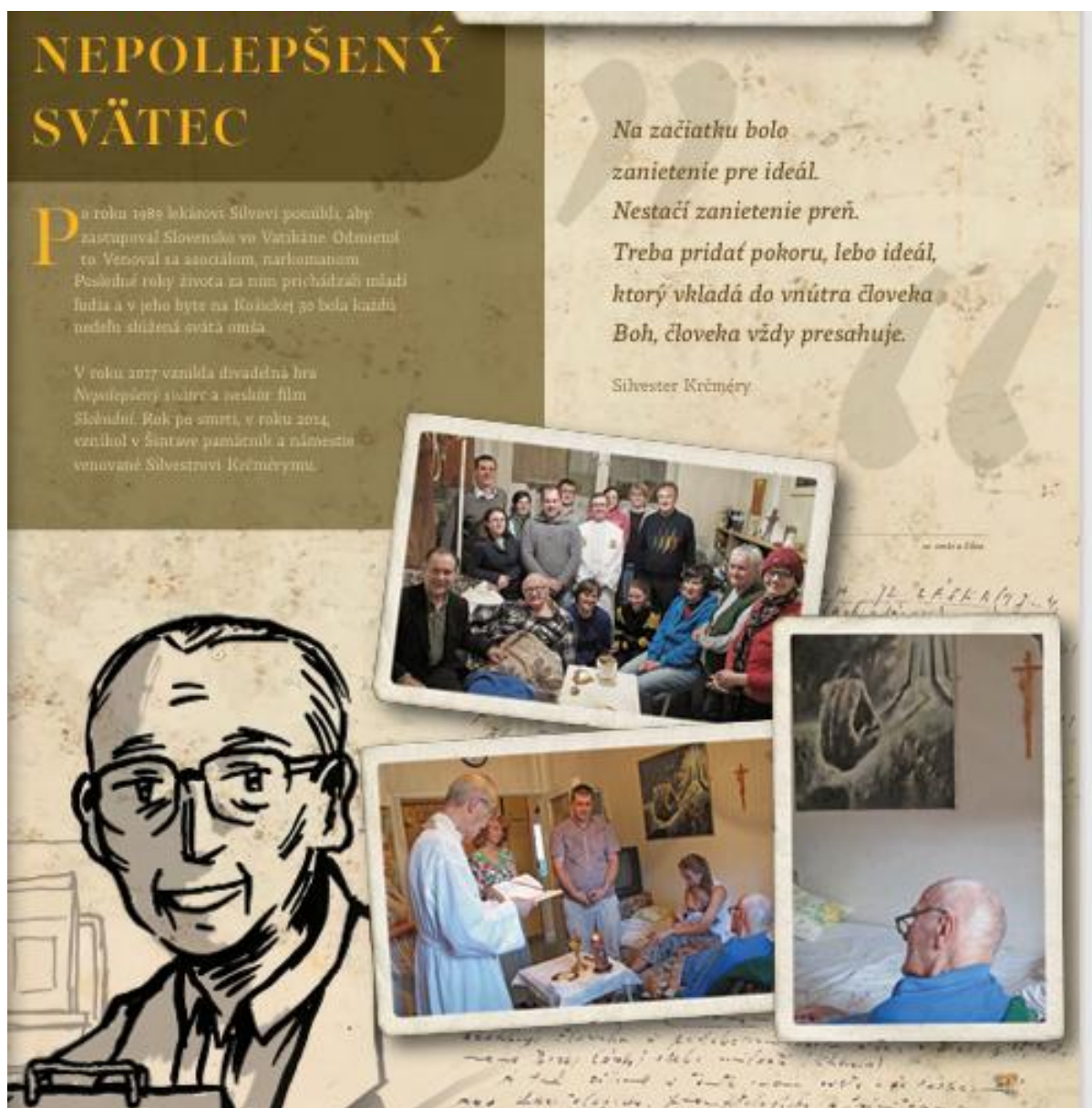
VII. DAY - MY BURDEN

Jesus began telling his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, be killed, and on the third day be raised. Peter took him aside and tried to dissuade him: "God be gracious to you, Lord! This must not happen to you!"

He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me, for you are not thinking as God does but as people do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

"What profit would there be for someone to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?! Or what can anyone give in exchange for his life?! For the Son of Man will come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will repay each person according to his deeds." (Mt 16, 21 – 27)



TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

The political prisoner and Salesian, Don Anton Srholec, remembered: “Parents—a mother to whom a severely disabled child is given—accepts this cross...” She doesn’t ask why. She loves, and she keeps going.

So it was with the mother of Silvester Krčmery: two of her sons and her son-in-law were in prison; another son died, and another emigrated... She prayed for Silvo’s release and always added, “But your will be done, Lord.” The surrender of that loving mother formed a saint. Her suffering became the diamond in her son.

The same quiet courage unfolds in apartment buildings and in homes... where mothers, parents, and children carry the crosses of suffering. We never carry the cross alone. Jesus carries it with us.

PRAYER

Lord, give us tender hearts and a ready spirit to receive the cross of suffering, humiliation, and being misunderstood.

Lord, please keep me from becoming an unbearable cross for others—at home, at work, and in society. Amen.

INVITATION

Today I will try to help someone carry his or her cross. How? I will ask the Holy Spirit to help me serve someone with sensitivity and love—on the way to work, at the store; by starting a conversation on the train, with a smile, with an arrow prayer. I will think about how, on St. Nicholas Day, I could quietly pass something along to someone—in secret, with love.

Our Father...

Solace of migrants, pray for us.

Comfort of the sorrowful, pray for us.

Our holy friends in heaven, pray for us.

The first condition for us to be able to stand firm today is that we should always remain in sanctifying grace and accustom ourselves to stirring up perfect contrition within ourselves, every single day. Perfect contrition can be stirred up by the exclamation: “Jesus, have mercy!”

Christianity is not stagnant water; it is in motion – it either moves forward or stands still, flourishes or declines – and this is not possible without our cooperation. We must fully embody Christian principles. Through our spiritual life, we put prayer and the Eucharist into practice as doctors, lawyers, and professors. Christianity is not a mere phrase, but life itself. ... Christ is the essence and meaning of the spiritual life, its fulfilment.

VIII. DAY - SPIRIT OF THE LORD

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up. As was his custom, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read. They handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled it and found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to announce liberty for captives and recovery of sight for the blind; to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him.

And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

All of them spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words coming from his mouth, and they said, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?"

He said, "No doubt you will quote me the proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your own place what we heard you did in Capernaum.'"

And he went on, "Amen, I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."

"In truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the heavens were closed for three years and six months and a severe famine spread over the whole land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to a widow in Zarephath in Sidon.

"Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet none of them was cleansed, only Naaman the Syrian."

Hearing this, everyone in the synagogue was filled with anger. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built to throw him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away. (Lk 4, 16-30)

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME

Do we recognize the Spirit of the Lord in the life stories of those who have gone before us into eternity? Or are we quick to point out the speck in someone else's eye?

Didier Rance, a historian and former national director of the French organization Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), recalls speaking about Silvester Krčmery at conferences and symposia in France, Belgium, and Switzerland, and several times on the broadcasts of Catholic Radio Notre Dame. Although he met him only a few times, he wrote: "For more than thirty years Silvo was a great grace in my life. Meetings with him were moments of sharing faith and mercy. He was present in my thoughts, which I devoted to work with witnesses to the faith from 1990 until the present. He became one of the most impressive witnesses whom I met during my travels in Central and Eastern Europe. The entire trajectory of his life took its direction from the moment when he became a follower of the fascinating Father Kolakovič. It continued during the years of imprisonment and torture (here arose his fundamental reflections, views on evil and resistance to evil, his appearances before judges), in the camps. Also during the years of forming the underground Church, the Family, where he played the role of 'general.' I think these were the most significant events in the history of Christianity in Europe in the 20th century, as well as in the period after the fall of communism. His service in the streets and work with people addicted to drugs or alcohol—the whole of his life shows that Silvester Krčmery

was an authentic disciple and apostle of the Church, very creative and humble. And above all, he was completely devoted to Christ ('He is my whole life,' as he once told me). (...) I believe that the cause for the beatification of Doctor Silvester Krčmery will begin soon. Or perhaps it has already begun?"

PRAYER

Lord, grant that we may value ourselves and one another. Make us grateful for the gift of people of holy life and the martyrs in our land. Grant that we may uncover their stories for ourselves and for the world, and find in them the inspiration to love and to serve the poorest. Amen.

INVITATION

I will read, listen to, and discover the story of an unfamiliar musician or singer. I will try to find something in that story that touches my heart. (For older folks – I will ask my grandson or granddaughter to find me a song by the group Abba, the song Thank you for the music.... I will ask them what the song says. Whom does the singer thank for this gift.)

Our Father...

Dwelling of the Holy Spirit, Pray for us.

Our holy friends in heaven, Pray for us.

Out of love for Christ, we shall pray fervently, for it is only through prayer that we shall receive blessings and help for our work. The Holy Spirit will work with us; therefore, we must have our hearts prepared for Him, we must open our souls to Him and say: 'Lord, my God and my Light, here I am; tell me what I am to do!'

In prayer, we must not be lenient with ourselves, but utterly diligent. ... Without meditation, it is impossible to deepen our conviction. ... The transformation of the world is not a change of regimes! ... Only a strong, holy person can bring about the true transformation of the world. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon us in a special way through the sacrament of Confirmation, and through His special graces and gifts He has destined us for the apostolate, for the multiplication of Christ's divine life in the world, for the realisation and spread of Christ's kingdom in the world, so that we too may be witnesses of Christ.



IX. DAY - LET'S BE AMAZED

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee. On the sabbath he taught them, and they were astonished at his teaching because his word carried authority. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out in a loud voice, "Leave us alone! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God."

Jesus rebuked him: "Be silent, and come out of him!" The demon threw the man down in their midst, came out of him, and did him no harm.

Fear came upon everyone, and they said to one another, "What is there about his word? With authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out."

And news of him spread everywhere throughout the region. (Lk 4, 31-37)

LET'S BE AMAZED

"Light at least a bit of a candle... please... do not be afraid...", as a well-known Slovak song says.

Those two Slovak words – "žasni" and "zažni" – are very close to each other. Cavers could tell you about that. In thick darkness they discover the beauty of nature. We notice it too: in the dark we see the stars...

For one man named Michal, the two biggest surprises were these:

"One thing I still don't understand. An ordinary egg white turns into white snow. A huge mystery. I still don't understand it. And lately one more thing surprised me. With my fifteen-year-old son I measured the size of our feet. We found out we have the same shoe size. I can't figure out when his foot grew so fast. Less than a year ago, everything was different..."

PRAYER

Lord, teach us to marvel like a child – to rejoice like a child, to love like a child.

We want to carry a child's awareness within us: "At any time, I can run into my father's or my mother's arms."

We ask You to let every person experience this with You—especially those wounded by the people closest to them, those who have lost a dad or a mom. And if it is Your will, Lord, let us serve with open arms and a loving embrace for those who need it. Amen.

INVITATION

I'll take a moment to look at a baby and thank God for the gift of life – including my own.

Our Father...

Cause of our joy, pray for us.

Saints, our friends in heaven, pray for us.

The meaning and significance of our prayer lie in the fact that it unites our smallness with God's infinity. It gives us the opportunity to be close to God.

We must lay new foundations within ourselves, upon which Christ the King will build his kingdom. ... In our prayers, we remember all those who mobilise immense energy simply to sow death and destruction everywhere.

Holy Confession is a renewing act when, through our failings and our betrayal, we have once again destroyed the living members of His Body. Confession removes the obstacles to Christ's growth within us; in a sacramental way, it detaches us from sin and removes everything that separates us from Christ and His love.



AUDIO

https://www.nenapadnihrdinovia.sk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/krcmery_korekcie.mp3

In thanksgiving for the Holy Father and for his intentions:

Our Father...

Hail, Mary, ...

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit...

III. CHALLENGE

8 September – DAY OF CRITICAL THINKING

On this day a man was born whom we in Slovakia know as Professor Kolakovič. He taught generations before us to see Jesus in every person. This day is a chance for us to learn, too:

SEE + JUDGE + ACT

Today – or any day during the school year – let's take a deliberate step in the spirit of these principles. Don't close your eyes. Reflect on what we see and read. Share it with others. Try to make your surroundings more beautiful and to make life better for yourself and for others. Do the "MAGIS" – do a little something extra...

One day a year is enough.

September 9 – DAY OF CONCERN FOR THE DISCRIMINATED

On this day, our country's parliament adopted a "code" directed against its own citizens. People were punished simply for being of another nationality. And along with them, other citizens – Slovaks, whom this state claimed to protect by every means – were punished as well, simply because they helped, or because they lived out the story of their love or marriage with those whom the state discriminated against.

The adopted JEWISH CODE is our shame – the shame of the past. Let's not allow today's discrimination to become the shame of our own time. Let's find the courage to stand up for a classmate who is being bullied, and for an Indian neighbor who lives among us. Let's create space in our schools, towns, and regions for discussion about the issues that should trouble us – when we see someone being wronged, or when someone's behavior harms society.

September 10 – DAY OF GRATITUDE

On this day, MUDr. Silvester Krčméry went before us into eternity. Our hearts hold deep gratitude for his story. With him, at Košickej ulici 30, the project and even Civic association Nenápadní hrdinovia itself were born. His story continues to inspire us and give us courage to carry on in the spirit of his legacy: "Remember the poorest..."

Let's choose one day in the year – perhaps Your birthday, the dedication day of a church, the feast of Your school's patron, or a writer's birthday – when we show gratitude to someone who deserves it, who does not expect it, who serves and helps.

In this year 2026 – the YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING – let's begin a tradition for the decades ahead at our school, in our town, in our region by setting aside such a day. The day's symbol could be a lit candle on the grave of a notable person, handing a rose to the teacher who taught me in first grade... mowing a yard for elderly neighbors in our town, repairing a fence..

Friends, choose at least one day and join us. Only together can we make this world better. Only You, I... we. Do not be afraid—step out with courage.

For Civic association Nenápadní hrdinovia, as of September 8, 2026 – Dominika and František

A Call for the New School Year

8 September – CRITICAL THINKING DAY

Professor Tomislav Kolakovič (Poglajen), who had a significant influence on several generations of young people in Slovakia, was born on this day. He encouraged them to observe the world around them, to reflect on it and not to be afraid to take action.

SEE + EVALUATE + ACT

Let's try, during the school year, to choose a day when we deliberately pause to reflect on what we see, read and hear. Let's verify information, discuss, form our own opinions and try to do something concrete to improve our local community.

It's enough to start with just one day.

9 September – DAY OF CONCERN FOR THOSE SUBJECTED TO DISCRIMINATION

On 9 September 1941, the so-called 'Jewish Code' was adopted in Slovakia – a set of discriminatory regulations directed against the Jewish population. People were restricted and persecuted solely because of their origins.

The past reminds us how dangerous it is to remain silent in the face of discrimination and injustice. Let us therefore take notice today of those who are excluded, humiliated or bullied. Let us stand up for a classmate, a neighbour or anyone who needs help. Let us create a space at school for open discussion about prejudice, discrimination and respect for others.

10 September – GRATITUDE DAY

On 10 September 2013, Silvester Krčméry, a doctor and political prisoner, passed away. He was a man whose life was characterised by helping others, civic courage and resistance to the totalitarian regime. His story became one of the inspirations for the 'Unsung Heroes' project.

Let us choose a day during the year to express our gratitude to someone who helps others and often expects no recognition for their work. It could be a teacher, a volunteer, a neighbour, a grandparent or someone who looks after their local community.

Gratitude need not be limited to words. We can help someone, tidy up a neglected spot, visit a lonely person, or thank someone who is often overlooked.

All it takes is to choose one day and do something concrete. Even small acts can gradually change the environment in which we live.

Civic Association 'Unsung Heroes'

VÝZVA

/ challenge /



DEŇ KRITICKÉHO MYSLENIA

VIDIEŤ · POSÚDIŤ · KONAŤ

Všímaj si. Overuj informácie.
Premýšľaj. Diskutuj.
Urob niečo dobré pre svoje okolie.



DEŇ ZÁUJMU O DISKRIMINOVANÝCH

Postav sa proti šikane,
predsudkom a vylučovaniu.
Zastaň sa spolužiaka, spolužiačky, učiteľa...
Buď všímavý. Vytváraj rešpekt.



DEŇ VĎAČNOSTI

Poďakuj človeku, ktorý pomáha druhým.
Poďakuj spisovateľovi, trénerovi,
Tvojmu prvému učiteľovi.
Vďačnosť ukáž aj skutkom.



Stačí si vybrať **jeden deň** a urobiť niečo dobré.

www.nenapadnihrdinovia.sk

CHALLENGE

/ challenge /



CRITICAL THINKING DAY

SEE • JUDGE • ACT

Pay attention. Verify information.

Think. Discuss.

Do something good for your community.



DAY OF SUPPORT FOR THOSE FACING DISCRIMINATION

Stand up against bullying,
prejudice and exclusion.

Stand up for a classmate, a teacher,
or anyone who needs support.

Be attentive. Build respect.



GRATITUDE DAY

Thank someone who helps others.

Thank a writer, a coach,
your first teacher.

Show gratitude through action.



Just choose **one day** and do something good.

www.nenapadnihrdinovia.sk

IV. SONGS

Silvester Krčméry liked songs very much and enjoyed singing them. They are presented here as follows in a video form. They are either in Slovak or other languages, exactly how he used to sing them:

A SONG BY S. KRČMÉRY (composed in prison)

The lyrics go: ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ Prisoner Krčméry saw those who tortured him as future great converts. He loved them in a truly Christian way.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIVrkmyYqvI&list=RDKIVrkmyYqvI&start_radio=1



IN RUSSIAN:

The dog was pondering...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNmtiHszE90&list=RDMNmtiHszE90&start_radio=1



IN ITALIAN:

Mum

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7sixHRL1mQ&list=RDh7sixHRL1mQ&start_radio=1

SILVO'S FAVOURITE SONG (sung at the end of every Holy Mass and also as his body was being laid to rest). Jesus, King of heaven and earth...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rc_6DPJjfqs&list=RDrc_6DPJjfqs&start_radio=1

LET US PRAY FOR NEW VOCATIONS AND PERSEVERANCE IN DOING GOOD

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApXQ9otxB8c&list=RDrc_6DPJjfqs&index=2

In Polish (with gratitude for the gift of friendship between Dr Silvester Krčmery and Pope St John Paul II)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrejDpSuGGY&list=RDHrejDpSuGGY&start_radio=1



V. PRAYER and PETITION

Eternal Word,
only-begotten Son of God,
teach us true generosity.
Teach us to serve You
as You rightfully deserve:
that we may give without counting the cost,
that we may fight without heeding the wounds,
that we may work without longing for rest,
that we may sacrifice ourselves and expect no other
reward than the knowledge
that we have fulfilled
Your holy
will.
Amen.

Our holy friends in heaven, pray for us.
Mother of Good Counsel, pray for us.
Jesus, gentle and humble of heart,
touch our hearts and make them like your own. Amen.



If you'd like to get involved in one of our projects, please message us on the 'Nenápadní hrdinovia' Facebook page.

If you have the capacity to encourage young people to discover unsung heroes, please invite them to visit www.november89.eu.

If you'd like to join us in helping orphans and widows with a small contribution (the cost of skipping one lunch a month) on a regular basis over several years, please write to Marcelka (mzamecnikova@gmail.com).

If you would like to record your thoughts, share your experiences of meeting those who suffer for their faith (personal recollections), or express your gratitude for the blessings of the Novena, please write to Fero (frantisek.neupauer@gmail.com).

If you would like to support our activities or help us in any way, please contact Dominika (nhrdinovia@gmail.com).

NENÁPADNÍ HRDINOVIA

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Nenápadní hrdinovia Civic Association, 2026

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