

**Saint Cyril and Methodius' Day in Czechia –
A Unity between Religious and Secular**

Irina Kolarska
(Summary)

The aim of the study is to trace the celebration of the feast of Saint Cyril and Methodius in Czechia, and particularly in Velehrad in diachrony. Traditions of this celebration are tracked out from the period of the Czech Renaissance in the context of its historical development. In the focus of the research are both the religious and secular manifestations of the feast.

Today the celebration of Cyril and Methodius' Day was developed as an extension of the Renaissance tradition, and the initiatives and activities in Velehrad are modernized and brought up-to-date. The solemn ceremonies on the occasion of St. Cyril and Methodius anniversary include four church services and in parallel – “Days of People of Good Will”, family entertainments, a concert, Bible copying by hand writing, sport competitions, an exhibition of childrens' drawings and photos.

All these activities are attractive to visitors, pilgrims and tourists who are happy to take part in the celebration. As a result a unity and synchrony between the secular and religious activities is achieved and they are simultaneously manifestations of Christian faith, symbolized by St. Cyril and Methodius, and of the ideas of charity, national pride and belonging to the European family of nations.