

## **The Cyrillo-Methodian anniversary as a UNESCO world anniversary**

In 2013, the Czech Republic, and with it the whole cultured world, will commemorate 1150 years since the arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius to the territory of Great Moravia. In November 2011, this significant anniversary was, based on the suggestion from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, announced by the 36<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO to be the world anniversary in the biennium of 2012 and 2013. (A regular meeting of the General Conference takes place once in two years, usually by the end of October. There the program and the budget of the organization till the following General Conference are discussed and passed.)

The Cyrillo-Methodian work has its important place also in the histories of other Slavonic nations and it has an impact on the creation of the unified Europe. The Cyrillo-Methodian tradition and its reception represent a religious, cultural and political prerequisite for the much needed discussions and reforms, which contemporary Europe should deal with seriously.

The present day east and west can be seen in a far broader context. And as in the period of Moravia at that time, eyes are fixed on the whole Europe these days. Europe should be the bridge of reconciliation. Unfortunately, she is not yet aware of her identity and is still culturally non-homogenous. On the scene of the world new nations of Asia, Africa, South America come and ask, which values from the thousands years old European culture should remain a legacy for the new world. Unfortunately, we ourselves have not created any synthesis of these common values yet. Is not this the opportune time for us to contribute to this on this very day?+Tomáz Špidlík: *Duchovní jednota nové Evropy* (Spiritual Unity of the New Europe), Olomouc 2007, pp. 72 - 73.

The jubilee year was festively launched on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in the Vatican by a festive concert of the Bohuslav Martin Philharmonic Orchestra and Hradiz an under the auspices and in presence of the Czech Prime Minister, Petr Ne as. The climax of the celebrations will take place during the Days of the People of Goodwill at Velehrad in 2013.

The Zlín region is a co-organizer of many events and it cooperates on the occasion of the celebrations of the 1150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saints Cyril and Methodius with many state and memory institutions on the organization of a project with a broad scope of activities on all levels. You will find a list of all important happenings on [www.velehrad.eu](http://www.velehrad.eu)

The celebrations of the Cyrillo-Methodian jubilee want to commemorate historical roots of the nation, the beginning of education, culture, writing and language, continuation and development of religious, ethical and cultural values and, last but not least, they present Velehrad as a place of meetings and dialogue.