

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



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Christianity appears in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH), probably, just couple of decades after its foundation; namely, St. Paul in his second Letter to Timothy (2 Tim 4:10) writes: “Titus went to Dalmatia”, which was the name for the Roman province that included the most part of territory of today's BiH.

According to the historical ecclesiastical documents the acts of Salona synode in 6th century we know that at least four dioceses existed and they were suffragans of Salona (today's Solin near Split, Croatia) at that time on the territory of today's BiH.

After the invasion of barbarian tribes, this old christian culture, for the most part, disappears, but after christianization of these tribes, christian faith and church revived. At the beginning, this regional Church was administrated by bishops whose seats were in neighboring cities and only later the popes established the diocese of Trebinje (before 1022), the diocese of Bosnia (Vrhbosna, probably around 1067), while the diocese of Duvno was revived around 1300.

Dominican fathers moved to this region very soon after their Order was founded, and in 1291 Franciscan fathers came in order to assist domestic priests called “glagolashi” in their fight against Bosnian heretics pataren-dualistic sect so called “Bosnian christians”. Afterwards, Franciscans took over leadership of this regional church because in 14th century Bosnian bishop was forced to move in Djakovo - today's Croatia, bishop of Trebinje moved to Dubrovnik and the last bishop of Duvno was appointed in 1653. Dominican fathers left Bosnia in 14th century and domestic clergy “glagolashi” disappeared by the middle of 19th century.

After Ottoman Turks took control and occupied Bosnia (1463) and Herzegovina (1482), general situation of the Church worsened. Therefore, in order to resolve the hard situation of this Church province without its bishops, the Holy See established Bosnian Apostolic Vicariate in 1735 and began assigning as its apostolic vicars Bosnian franciscans.

Middle age Bosnian Franciscan Province was divided several times and later in 1757 the Province was reduced to so called “Turkish Bosnia”, embracing today's territory of BiH. Franciscans of Herzegovina formed their own new custody in 1852 which was transformed into a province in 1892.

During Ottoman rule catholics were discriminated and very often persecuted. Many inhabitants of BiH accepted the religion of the new rulers and Ottoman authorities purposely kept bringing Orthodox population to this region to serve as their defenders along new borders that contributed toward decreasing catholic population and changing confessional identity of inhabitants.

When Ottoman rulers left Bosnia and Austria-Hungarian empire was entrusted with administration of BiH (1878), the Holy See was enabled to establish the new church province. In 1881 the pope Leo XIII renewed the regular church hierarchy, establishing Vrhbosna metropolitan archdiocese with its seat in Sarajevo and dioceses Mostar-Duvno and Banja Luka. In 1890 Trebinje diocese was included into this church province and from that time on it has been administrated by bishop of Mostar-Duvno as its Apostolic Administrator. After international recognition of

BiH, the Holy See established (1994) the new Bishop Conference in this church province.

On the territory of BiH, until the recent war, there were 10 Greek catholic parishes (about 5000 Greek catholics) served by its own priests and they were included into Krizevci eparchy.

In BiH there are two Franciscan provinces (OFM) with their seats in Sarajevo and Mostar and four provinces of women religious: Franciscan School Sisters (Mostar and Sarajevo), Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul (Sarajevo) and Sisters Servants of Infant Jesus (Sarajevo). Members of several other women religious congregations have also their convents and houses in this church province.

Croatian is the language of liturgical celebrations and catholic religious education.

Diocesan priests and Franciscans serve most of the parishes, while Trappists, Jesuits and Dominicans serve one parish each. Along with them, members of different women religious congregations are active and take part in pastoral ministry, religious education, secular education and health care.

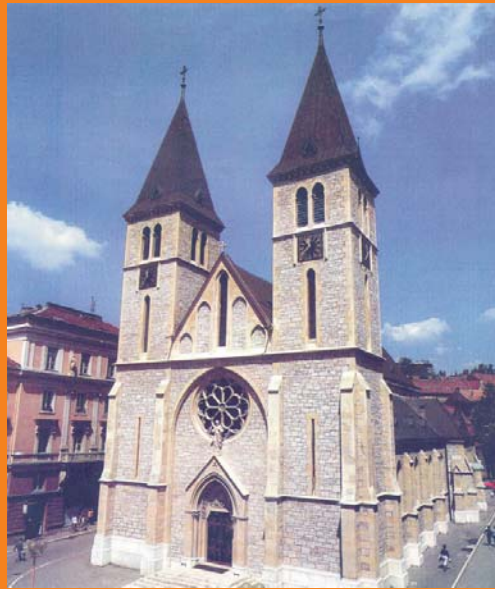
During the last 600 years, numbers and percentage of catholic population in BiH has been constantly changing and diminishing. In 1991 there were nearly 800 000 catholics, that is 18 % of total population, and right now there is about 450 000-500 000 catholics in entire BiH. Almost all Catholics are ethnic Croats, but there is also catholic minority of ethnic Slovenians, Italians, Ukrainians, Poles and others. Only after the first democratic election (1991) diocesan caritas has been revived and reestablished in each diocese and caritas organized and provided all kinds of different help during the recent war, such as food, medicine and other articles. Caritas still plays very important role in helping and contributing to heal the past war wounds and problems.

Year	Number of catholics in BiH	Percentage of catholics in BiH
1400-1450	cca 750.000	cca 87,21%
1879	209.391	18,08%
1885	265.788	19,88%
1895	334.142	21,31%
1910	434.061	22,87%
1921	440.431	23,48%
1931	557.836	24,01%
1948	614.123	23,9%
1953	654.227	23,0%
1961	711.665	21,7%
1971	772.491	20,6%
1981	758.140	18,4%
1991	760.852	17,4%
2001	cca 450-500.000	cca 10-12%

SARAJEVO ARCHDIOCESE

was founded in 1881. Before the last war there were around 528 000 catholics and right now around 215 000. Diocesan priests and Franciscans serve all parishes except two. There are also two minor seminaries (Franciscan in Visoko and diocesan in Travnik); two major seminaries, (Franciscan and diocesan) both of them in Sarajevo; five Catholic School Centers (Sarajevo, Travnik, Zenica, Tuzla, Zepce). During the last war, around 50 % of total number of catholics were expelled-displaced, and many of them were killed. The seat of Franciscan Province OFM and the provincial seats of three women religious congregations are in Sarajevo. Both major seminaries publish different specialized publications while Franciscan Province

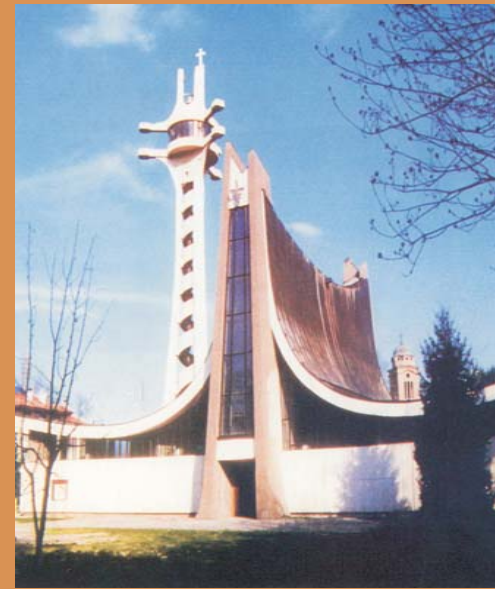
Cathedral of Sacred Heart in Sarajevo



War damages in Archdiocese of Sarajevo

	TOTALLY DESTROYED			SEVERELY DAMAGED			DAMAGED			TOTALLY DESTROYED		
	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally
Par. churches	1	43	44	14	20	34	22	21	43	37	84	121
Oth. churches	7	28	35	13	22	35	17	11	28	37	61	98
Chapels	19	35	54	23	21	44	52	27	79	94	83	177
Rectories and other buildings	9	44	53	19	33	52	21	27	48	49	104	153
Monasteries		5	5	3	6	9	2	2	4	5	13	18
Cemeteries	8		8	26	14	40	34	41	75	68	55	123
TOTALLY:	44	155	199	98	116	214	148	129	277	290	400	690

Cathedral of St. Bonaventure in Banja Luka



publishes a monthly magazine “Svjetlo rijeci”. The archbishop is Vinko cardinal Puljic and the auxiliary bishop is Pero Sudar.

BANJA LUKA DIOCESE was founded in 1881. Diocesan priests, Franciscans and Trappists serve in pastoral ministry. In Banja Luka diocese there are neither seminaries nor provincial seats, but there is Theological Institute for religious education. The women religious are present in the diocese. During the last war almost 2/3 of total number of catholics were expelled from their homes and parishes and many of them are still prevented to return to their homes. There are around 50 000. The bulletin “Glasnik” is published periodically. The bishop is Franjo Komarica who is also the President of the Bishops Conference of BiH.

War damages in Diocese of Banja Luka

	TOTALLY DESTROYED			SEVERELY DAMAGED			DAMAGED			TOTALLY DESTROYED		
	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally
Par. churches		16	16		8	8			11	11		35
Oth. churches		23	23		14	14			11	11		48
Chapels		9	9		10	10			22	22		41
Rectories and other buildings		6	6		19	19			15	15		40
Monasteries		2	2		1	1			4	4		7
Cemeteries			0		13	13		1	19	20	1	32
TOTALLY:	0	56	56	0	65	65	1	82	83	1	203	204

MOSTAR-DUVNO DIOCESE was founded in 1881. Diocesan priests and Franciscans serve all parishes. On the territory of Mostar-Duvno diocese there are no seminaries, but there is Theological Institute for religious education and Catholic School Center in Konjic for secular education. The seat of Franciscan Province (OFM) is in Mostar as well as the provincial seat of one women religious congregation. There are around 200 000 catholics in the diocese right now. Two monthly magazi-

nes are published: "Nasa Ognjista" and "Crkva na kamenu". The bishop is Ratko Peric.

Cathedral of Mary the Mother of the Church and Bishop's Residence in Mostar



TREBINJE-MRKAN DIOCESE is the oldest and the smallest one in BiH. It was founded before 1022. Right now

its catholic population is 15-20 000 catholics. From the beginning of 19 century the diocese has no more its own bishop. From 1890 the Trebinje diocese is administrated by bishop of Mostar as its permanent Apostolic Administrator. On its territory there are neither seminaries nor provincial seats and all parishes are served only by diocesan priests. Apostolic Administrator of Trebinje diocese is Ratko Peric.

Cathedral of Birth of Mary in Trebinje



War damages in Dioceses in Mostar-Duvno and Trebinje-Mrkan

	TOTALLY DESTROYED			SEVERELY DAMAGED			DAMAGED			TOTALLY DESTROYED		
	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally	by Muslim forces	by Serb forces	Totally
Par. churches		5	5		12	12	1	11	12	1	28	29
Oth. churches		2	2		4	4		16	16		22	22
Chapels			0		1	1		8	8		9	9
Rectories and other buildings		6	6		13	13		14	14		33	33
Monasteries		1	1	2	2	4			0	2	3	5
Cemeteries			0			0		8	8		8	8
TOTALLY:	0	14	14	2	32	34	1	57	58	3	103	106

Reconstruction of destroyed and damaged church buildings in all dioceses

	Parish churches	Other churches	Chapels	Rectories and other buildings	Monasteries
reconstructed					
Sarajevo	13	-	8	17	5
Mostar-Trebinje	11	6	5	13	2
Banja Luka	12	12	8	18	5
reconstruction under way					
Sarajevo	54	-	9	59	8
Mostar-Trebinje	12	15	8	11	4
Banja Luka	6	6	-	4	2