

## ***St. Nikolai Velimirovich***

*March 18*



Nikolai Velimirović was born in the small village of Lelich in Western Serbia. He attended the Seminary of St. Sava in Belgrade, and obtained doctorates in theology and philosophy. He entered a monastic order and was ordained a priest the same day. He received the title of archimandrite and was named an assistant professor at St. Sava Seminary in Belgrade. In 1919, he was consecrated Bishop of Žiča.

During WWI, he was delegated to England and America, where he held numerous lectures, fighting for the unison of the Serbs and South Slavic peoples. He returned to Serbia, and was posted to the Ohrid archbishopric in Macedonia.

During the Second World War, Bishop Nikolai was arrested by the Nazis in the Monastery of Žiča and then confined in the Monastery of Ljubostinja. Later, he was transferred to the Monastery of Vojlovica in which he was confined together with the Serbian patriarch, Gavriilo, until the end of 1944.

After, he was sent to Dachau, together with Serbian Patriarch Gavriilo, where he suffered both imprisonment and torture. After the war, he left Communist Yugoslavia and immigrated as a refugee to the United States in 1946, where he taught at several Orthodox Christian seminaries, including St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Seminary in Libertyville, Illinois and St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary and Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania (where he was rector and also where he died), and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary now in Crestwood, New York. During his time teaching at St. Vladimir's, he was very involved with the life of St. Sava Cathedral in New York City. He died on March 18, 1956.

*Apolytikion: Golden-mouthed preacher of the Resurrected Christ, guide of the cross-bearing Serbian people through the ages, resonant lyre of the Holy Spirit, joy and glory of priests, teacher of repentance, Bishop of the whole nation, leader of the God-praying army of Christ, O Holy Nicholai of Serbia and all Orthodoxy; with the saints in Heavenly Serbia, pray the Only Lover of mankind to grant peace and unity to our people.*



**For further inquiries contact a member of the  
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