



Bulgaria celebrated the founders of the Cyrillic alphabet

The name Kiril has the meaning of „lordly” (from Old Greek), while Metodi means “the one who studies, who follows a method”. The church feastday of the Holy brothers, St. Cyril and St. Methodius, is on May 11th, but under the influence of the day of Slavic Literacy and Culture on May 24th, people very often celebrate on this day as well.

The day of the two brothers was first commemorated in 1851.

Cyril and Methodius (or Constantine and Methodius), known as the Apostles of the Slavs, were born in Thessalonica, in 827 and 826 respectively. In preparation for a mission in Moravia, Cyril invented a new alphabet and, with the help of Methodius, translated the Gospels and the necessary liturgical books into that new South Slavonic language.

Cyril died in Rome, 4 Feb., 869. Methodius went to Constantinople and with the assistance of several priests he completed the translation of the Bible and ecclesiastical books into Slavonic. Methodius followed his brother on 6 April, 885.

Their alphabet, known as the Cyrillic alphabet is still the liturgical language of the Slavonic Orthodox churches. The canonical recognition of the Slavonic alphabet came in 879 when the Slavonic books were sanctified by Pope Johann VIII. Pope John Paul II proclaimed the creators of the Slavonic alphabet, the Bulgarian Sts Cyril and Methodius, to become the Patrons of Europe.

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