

Hungarian Saints

Saint Bystrík (Szent Beszteréd) (? – 1046)



He was a martyr and the bishop of the diocese of Nitra of probably Slavic or Hungarian origin. Bystrík lived at the times when the first King of Hungary, Stephen I, undertook the Christianization of the Hungarian clans. Bystrík was appointed the bishop of Nitra, Kingdom of Hungary by him around the year 1034. According to the Legend, Mayor on Gerard Sagredo, Bystrík was murdered during the Vatha pagan rising of 1046 near the Danube in present-day Budapest with Bishop Gerard Sagredo (Gellért) and bishop Buldus (Bőd), who were en route to Budapest for the coronation of the future king, Andrew I of Hungary. On September 24, the bishops were attacked by Vatha's mob, which began stoning the bishops. Buldus died immediately. Bystrík, together with bishop Beneta, managed to flee on a boat across the Danube River. Bystrík was mortally wounded by a sword on the Pest river bank by the pagans before they could be rescued by the incoming Andrew I.

Bystrík died on September 27, on the third day after the attack. Bystrík was canonised during the reign of King Ladislaus I of Hungary in 1083.

The remembrance day of Saint Bystrík falls on September 24.