

1.01 Izvirni znanstveni članek

UDK 27-76-051(737.647.4=163.6)"18"  
929Gross A.

Prejeto: 27. 5. 2020

**Bogdan Kolar**

prof. dr. v. p., Univerza v Ljubljani, Teološka fakulteta, Poljanska cesta 4, SI-1000 Ljubljana

E-pošta: bogdan.kolar@guest.arnes.si

## Tržičan Anton Gross: benediktinski menih v Ameriki

### IZVLEČEK

Po zgledu in v več primerih na osebno spodbudo misijonarja Friderika Ireneja Barage je v drugi polovici 19. stoletja v Združene države Amerike odšla skupina slovenskih bogoslovcev in duhovnikov, ki so nato službovali kot misijonarji ali duhovniki v slovenskih skupnostih. Nekateri so se vključili v tamkajšnje benediktinske meniške skupnosti in nato delovali med indijanskimi plemeni. Med njimi je bil Tržičan Anton Gross, ki je po več letih delovanja na Slovenskem odšel v Ameriko in tam postal benediktinec, misijonar in prior benediktinske opatije St. John's, Collegeville v Minnesoti. V zgodovino se je zapisal kot »pionir Minnesote«.

### KLJUČNE BESEDE

benediktinci, St. John's Abbey, Anton (Severin) Gross (1829–1893), Združene države Amerike, indijanski misijoni

### ABSTRACT

#### TRŽIČ NATIVE ANTON GROSS: A BENEDICTINE MONK IN AMERICA

Following the example and in some cases on the personal incentive of the missionary Frederick I. Baraga a group of Slovenian seminarians and priests left for the United States of America in the second half of the 19th century. They were working afterwards as missionaries or as pastors in the Slovenian communities. Some of them joined the Benedictine communities and became missionaries among the Indian tribes. Among these was Anton Gross, coming from Tržič, who after many years of pastoral activity in Slovenia decided to go to the States where he became a Benedictine monk, a missionary and prior of the Benedictine Abbey St. John's, Collegeville, Minnesota. Fr. Severin Gross is known as a 'pioneer of Minnesota'.

### KEY WORDS

Benedictine Monks, St. John's Abbey, Anton (Severin) Gross (1829–1893), United States of America, Indian Missions

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#### S U M M A R Y

#### Tržič native Anton Gross: a Benedictine monk in America

In the nineteenth century, there was no Benedictine monastery in the territory of present-day Slovenia. Those who wanted to join this monastic community could enter one of several abbeys in other Austrian provinces. However, a group of Slovenes joined the Benedictine order in the United States of America, where two abbeys played a central role in the second half of the nineteenth century: St. Vincent in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and St. John's in Collegeville, Minnesota. Slovenes became monks in both.

Anton Gross (fr. Severin on entering the monastery), a native of Tržič, became a priest of the Ljubljana Diocese. After having served for twenty years in parishes across the Slovenian territory, he decided to set out for the United States and become a missionary there. His decision was largely influenced by Slovenes who had already worked among the Indian tribes (Bishop Frederick Irenaeus Baraga, priests Franc Pirc, Ignacij Tomazin, and others). With the help of his acquaintances who had joined the monastic community of St. Benedict before him, Gross became a member of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. Too old to join the group of missionary monks active among the Indians, he devoted much of his time working among the European immigrants to the province of Stearns, Minnesota. For nearly twenty years, he provided pastoral care to German congregations while constantly also showing interest in his fellow Slovenian immigrants. In the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota, he served as a parish priest and bishops' associate. In the last years of his life, he was the prior of St. John's Abbey and the closest associate of Abbot fr. Bernard Ločnikar, the first Slovene to have carried out the tasks of a monastic superior in the American Catholic community.