

Obverse

The obverse depicts a pair of hands joined in prayer and holding a rosary. They are placed on top of an open book and behind them is a cross adorned with a crown of thorns. The open book rests on a closed book, below which is a ribbon bearing the inscription 'UT OMNES UNUM SINT', the cardinal's episcopal motto expressing his desire for the unity of all. On the left side of the design is the Slovak coat of arms, and inscribed along the upper edge are the name of the issuing country 'SLOVAKIA' and the year of issuance '2024'. On the right side appear the coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO', one above the other. Below them are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies, and the stylised letters 'TL', referring to the obverse designer Tomáš Lamač.

Reverse

The reverse shows a portrait of Cardinal Korec. On the left side are the stylised letters 'PV', referring to the reverse designer Peter Valach. Inscribed along the edge from the upper left to the centre right are the name 'JÁN CHRYZOSTOM KOREC' and, after a medial dot, the dates of his birth and death '1924-2015'. A semicircular line separates the inscription and portrait.

Coin details

Denomination:	€10
Composition:	.900 silver, .100 copper
Weight:	18 g
Diameter:	34 mm
Edge lettering:	• TRPITEĽ ZA VIERU • JÁN CHRYZOSTOM KARDINÁL KOREC (Sufferer for the Faith • JÁN CHRYZOSTOM CARDINAL KOREC)
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 15,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designers:	Tomáš Lamač (obverse) Peter Valach (reverse)
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



Published by Národná banka Slovenska, January 2024

© Národná banka Slovenska 2024

Original Slovak text based on information published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nitra

Translated by Národná banka Slovenska

Photographs from the archives of the Press Office of the Slovak Bishops' Conference, and Wikimedia (Ingo Mehling)

www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins



www.nbs.sk



100th anniversary
of the birth of

Ján Chryzostom Korec

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

Ján Chryzostom Cardinal Korec (22 January 1924 – 24 October 2015) was born in Bošany, a village in western Slovakia. He attended primary school there and secondary school in nearby Chynorany. In 1939 he entered the Jesuit Order in Ružomberok. After graduating from the gymnasium at Kláštor pod Znievom, which he attended as an external student, Korec studied at the Philosophical Institute of the Society of Jesus in Brno. From there he went to Trnava, where he studied theology and assisted at the editorial office of the religious magazine *Posol* (Messenger).

Following the suppression of religious orders under the communist regime in Czechoslovakia, he was interned in Jasov, Podolíneč, and Pezinok, before being forced to return to secular life. In 1950 he was ordained a priest in secret in Rožňava. After the imprisonment and internment of almost all the official bishops, he was secretly consecrated as a bishop at the age of just 27. Unable to publicly exercise his episcopal ministry, he worked in manual occupations while serving as a leader of the underground Church



Korec at a liturgical celebration at St Gorazd's Church on Nitra's Klokočina housing estate



Korec being presented with his episcopal insignia by Pope Paul VI during a private audience on 8 July 1969

In May 1960 he was sentenced to 12 years in prison as a traitor for his religious activities among students. Released in 1968, he was in poor health but nevertheless became involved in an enthusiastic revival of religious life. On 8 July 1969 Pope Paul VI received Bishop Korec in a private audience and, to the surprise of many, presented him with his episcopal insignia. On returning to his homeland, however, Korec was barred by the authorities from performing his pastoral duties, so he continued to work manually.

Despite such circumstances, Korec persevered in his apostolic work in various ways, engaging extensively with young people and maintaining a prolific literary output in which he demonstrated his qualities as a theologian, philosopher, historian, ethicist and sociologist. Of particular note is his three-volume work *From the Barbaric Night*, which describes the persecution of the Church in Slovakia during the communist era and has been translated into Polish, German, Italian, English and French.

The Velvet Revolution that transformed the social system in Czechoslovakia also had a major impact on the life of Korec. In January 1990 he became rector of the Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Bratislava. The following month he was appointed Bishop of Nitra by Pope John Paul II, with his installation taking place on 22 February 1990. The next year Korec was elevated to the cardinalate, as one of 22 cardinals created by the Pope at a consistory held on 28 June 1991.

In recognition of his writings, personal courage, and unwavering defence of human dignity, freedom, and the Slovak nation's identity and Christian foundations and traditions, Korec received several honorary doctorates, including three from US universities and one in 1998 from Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. In 1993 he was awarded France's Legion of Honour.

He died in Nitra and is buried in the city at St Emmeram's Cathedral.



Korec during a celebration of the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius at Nitra Castle