

Summary

Physician and surgeon FR. MIHOVIL SUČIĆ (1820–1865) – from a Paduan perspective

The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic or epidemic prompted the introduction of the Franciscan pastoral and healthcare initiatives (pastoral medicine) in the Bosnian province of Bosna Srebrena, alongside the most renowned practitioner of Franciscan pastoral medicine in the 19th century, Fr. Mihovil (Mijo) Sučić, a physician and surgeon. Based on available archival data from Venice, Padua, and Rome, readers are afforded fundamental scientific insights into Fr. Mihovil Sučić and his stay in Italy from a Venetian perspective but primarily from a Paduan one. The title of this study emphasizes the *Paduan perspective* of Fr. Mihovil Sučić due to his notable achievement of completing his medical and surgical education in Padua.

There are five chapters in the study. The introductory chapter outlines the historical, social, cultural, and religious context during the life, study, and work of Fr. Mihovil Sučić, a physician and surgeon. The second chapter details his time in Venice, where he studied philosophy and theology at the Franciscan convent of St. Francis in Vigna from 1839 to 1845. Between 1845 and 1851, Fr. Mihovil resided in Padua with the Hospitaller Order of the Brothers of Saint John of God. During this period, he pursued studies in medicine and surgery, obtaining all necessary approvals from the Bosnian and/or Venetian provincial, the Minister General, and the Propaganda Fide. After completing his medical studies, he returned to his province, dedicating himself to helping his fellow Franciscan brothers, as well as the impoverished and uneducated people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who lived in substandard medical conditions and needed the medical

care that Fr. Mihovil provided in their homes. The fourth chapter covers the commemorations of the 140th anniversary of his death and the 200th anniversary of his birth. Among other topics, it explores Fr. Mihovil's mission in the contemporary context, focusing on the philosophy of the body, healing, illness, modern medical education, the Franciscan apostolate, and the healthcare and medical mission within the Franciscan Province of Bosnia Srebrena. The study's final section presents Fr. Mihovil Sučić in the light of recent findings, particularly his time at the Franciscan residence in Istanbul, where he established a hospital and a guesthouse and renovated the monastery complex including the Church of St. George in Galata. He built a hospital and a guesthouse that, together with the monastery complex, formed a unified whole with the Church of St. George in Galata. In addition to establishing a spiritual and medical facility, Fr. Mihovil also took steps to settle the province's debt by collecting alms and financial contributions to cover the costs of renovating the complex.

Fr. Mihovil Sučić, a physician and surgeon, stands as a unique figure in 19th-century Franciscan pastoral healthcare. Influenced by rational pastoral theology, the natural sciences, and technology, he devoted his private and professional life to caring for and protecting the sick, personally visiting patients in their homes.

In light of the current coronavirus pandemic, which has left people feeling worried, insecure, anxious, and depressed, and when humans in (post)modernity are drained of Christian metaphysics and the meaning of life and death, man needs healing – and more than ever – he needs a doctor like Fr. Mihovil, who healed the body and saved the soul.