

Biographical Profile of Honorable Servant of God Anna Kolesárová

Anna Kolesárová was born on 14 July 1928 in Vysoká nad Uhom. She was baptized in the parish church of St. John the Baptist in Pavlovce nad Uhom. When she was ten years old, her mother died. After her death, she took on herself all her chores which she had carried out dutifully. She continued to live in one household with her father and older brother. On May 14, 1938, she received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, shortly before the Sacrament of the Holy Communion. Anna regularly went to church and to prayers, received the sacraments. She liked to pray the Holy Rosary.

The Second World War has significantly affected the life of this girl. On Wednesday, November 22, 1944, the Red Army troops passed through their village. During home inspection, a drunken Soviet soldier came in to a cellar under the kitchen, where sixteen year old Anna was hiding with her family and other people.

Father asked daughter to prepare something to eat for the soldier, but he started to harass the young girl and urge her to give herself to him. But she, despite his threats to shoot her, refused it and choose the death instead. She broke free from his hands and ran back to the cellar. The angry soldier hurried after her, pointing the gun and yelling at her to say goodbye to her father. Immediately thereafter, he carried out this threat and fired two shots before her father's eyes. Anna died while calling the names of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Because of the endless fighting in the village, she was buried the next day late in the evening and without a priest. The funeral ceremony was later performed by the then parish priest Anton Lukáč only on 29 November 1944. After the church funeral, he wrote a note into the register of deaths: *hostia sanctae castitatis* (host of holy purity). He added in the parish chronicle in Pavlovce nad Uhom, that Anna, when boldly and without hesitation defending her purity, was strengthened by the Eucharistic Christ, because shortly before she had received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holly Communion.