

## **Friar Dr. Jure Radić**

Friar Dr. Jure Radic was born on November 28, 1920 in Baška Voda near Makarska. After primary school in his hometown, he graduated at the Franciscan Classical Gymnasium in Sinj in 1940. He was ordained a priest in 1943 in Makarska. He earned his doctorate at the Catholic Theological Faculty in Zagreb in 1957 and defended his dissertation on the liturgical renewal in Croatia. He was a pastor in a short number of parishes, and most of his life was spent on Visovac, Makarska and Split as a teacher and professor (90 semesters) to seminarians. He was rector of the Franciscan guardian and High Seminary in Makarska.

Ever since childhood he has loved nature, especially the shells - shells of marine molluscs, which he collected on sandy beaches.

He is a world renowned expert in the field malacology, botany and ecology. He was the founder of the Malacological Museum, the Institute "Mountains and Sea" and the botanical garden Kotišina Biokovo in Makarska. He was the founder of scientific gatherings and the scientific collections "Acta Biokovica" about the nature of Biokovo. He has worked on many natural science journals and publications where he gave a number of scientific papers. He was the author, editor, publisher and translator of many professional and scientific papers in the liturgical and theological issues. He collaborated on numerous books and is the author of the book *Liturgical Renewal of Croats*, Zagreb, 1957. (c), 75, *My Missal, I-III* (review), Rijeka, 1957-58, 988, *Liturgical Renewal in Croatia, Makarska*, 1966, 224, *Treasure of the Sea, Makarska*, 1970, 116, *Biokovo Plants, Makarska*, 1977, 237, *Face of the Sea, Makarska*, 1991, 94.

Thanks to Friar Dr. Jure Radić - a great man, priest, theologian, scientist and naturalist, and all of his associates, Biokovo in 1981 was proclaimed a Nature Park in an area of 19,550 ha. Until the establishment of the Public Institution "Nature Park Biokovo" in 1998 or until its takeover of functions and activities for which it was founded (1999 – 2000), park management was entrusted to the then Forest Company Makarska (now the Croatian Forests, Forest Administration Split, Makarska Forestry). Care of the ongoing scientific research and protection of the newly established Nature Park was headed by the Institute "Mountains and Sea", located in the Franciscan convent in Makarska, whose construction started in 1975, and was scientifically inaugurated 1979 with the aim of scientific research, evaluation and conservation of nature on Biokovo and the wider area, the mountains and the sea. The Malacological museum which is located at the Franciscan monastery was open to the public in 1963 and is part of the "Mountains and Sea," which examines the flora and fauna of the Adriatic Sea and Biokovo. In addition to shells - shells of marine molluscs, the Institute also has a collection of "Herbs of the Biokovo area," indexed in the world database "Index Herbariorum" as MAKAR. It was established in 1963 and has approximately 25,000 copies. Spatially it is represented in the region of Dalmatia, a substantially contains plants and algae. Within the Institute there is a collection of fossils, lapidarian collection and a collection of living plants from this area. So far on the wider area of Biokovo there was numerous natural history research conducted in the Institute's "Mountains and Sea" where the results are stored.

Although for over 40 years in the Institute's "Mountains and Sea" and Malacological Museum there has been scientific research and museum activities, and they are actively working to preserve and protect the nature of the entire area, unfortunately, the formal-legal (administrative) status of the Institute, regardless of individual efforts, has not yet been resolved. Within the Institute is still working the perennial collaborator of Friar Dr. Jure Radić, the school Franciscan nun, PhD. Maria Edita Šolić, museum consultant and research associate, with associates. The greatest damage is actually the fact that on all administrative levels there is no legal possibility of joint action between the Institute "Mountains and Sea" and the public institution "Nature Park Biokovo" because such joint action based on years of scientific results and technical and scientific experience would be firm footing for effective protection and conservation of the Park and the harmony of the nature of the Makarska Riviera.

Friar Dr. Jure Radić died suddenly on July 25, 1990 in Split and was buried at the City Cemetery in Makarska. In honour of the anniversary of his death, a memorial plaque was placed on his house in Baška Voda, which is the first starting point of the Educational Ecological trail, square plates with the name of Friar Dr. Jure Radić outside his native home in Baška Voda and then the Promenade Friar Dr. Jure Radić in Makarska was opened in his name, the Educational Ecological Trail was named in honour of him and a booklet was published called "Educational Ecological Trail" (Journal and guide)". With the establishment of Educational Ecological Trail, Dr. Fra Jure Radic, the former Municipal Assembly Makarska, Institute "Mountains and Sea" and Mountaineering Club mountain nature lovers tried to point out the vast oeuvre of this lover of mountains and sea, and contribute to the universal efforts to preserve the environment in which man can and knows how to live, and which was behind the love of Natural History for Friar Dr. Jure Radić. On the trail there are 15 control points located at a distance of 33 km, and for their tour of 17 hours there are enjoyable and challenging walks along the shore and the slopes of Biokovo. Each point is marked with a number of special plates, and one thought of Friar Dr. Jure Radić. The control points of the first, that the Father Jura's native home in Baška Voda, the fifth can be found on the promenade along the coast to Makarska - Osejava and markings are not interconnected. Points 5-14 have markings leading from the belvedere "Gradac" the important landscape Osejava in Makarska over Biokovo botanical garden "Kotišina", Vošća, the Mountain huts under Jure, the St. Jure tip, Hoes, Šibenik, Mali Borovac, Miletinog bora and back to the Franciscan convent in Makarska or the front door of the Institute "Mountains and Sea," where there is the 15<sup>th</sup> and last checkpoint.

**All of this which Friar Dr. Jure Radić left us as a legacy obligates each of the residents of this area and deserves constant attention and care to preserve the harmony of nature and quality of coexistence of man and all that surrounds him, and never surrender to the ravages of time and oblivion!**

Literature:

RADIĆ N. (1998.): Friar Dr. Jure Radić: life and work: (1920 – 1990), Collection “Kačić”, 1998, Split – Makarska, 296.

RADIĆ J. (1991): Faces of the Sea, Malacological museum in Makarska, 1991, Makarska, 94.  
(notes from the writer)

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