

CHURCH PHARMACIES ON THE TERRITORY OF SLOVAKIA IN THE 17th–20th CENTURIES



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Introduction

Throughout the history of pharmacy we can distinguish three relatively independent lines of development: a secular line, a church line, and a military line. Church pharmacy can be defined as the activity of facilities for pharmaceutical care (pharmacies) run by clerical orders, respectively by other church organizations.

Historical development of church pharmacies was influenced, apart from the development of pharmacy and healthcare, especially by the history of the Church and clerical orders, and by general as well as political history of the observed territory (state formation).

Origins of church pharmacies in Europe date back to the Middle Ages to 529 AD when St. Benedict of Nursia established the Order of St. Benedict and the Monte Cassino Monastery with facilities designed for treating the ill.

On territory of Slovakia, the beginnings of church medical care date back as far as the 10th and 11th centuries. Table I presents evolutionary periods of the history of church pharmacies.

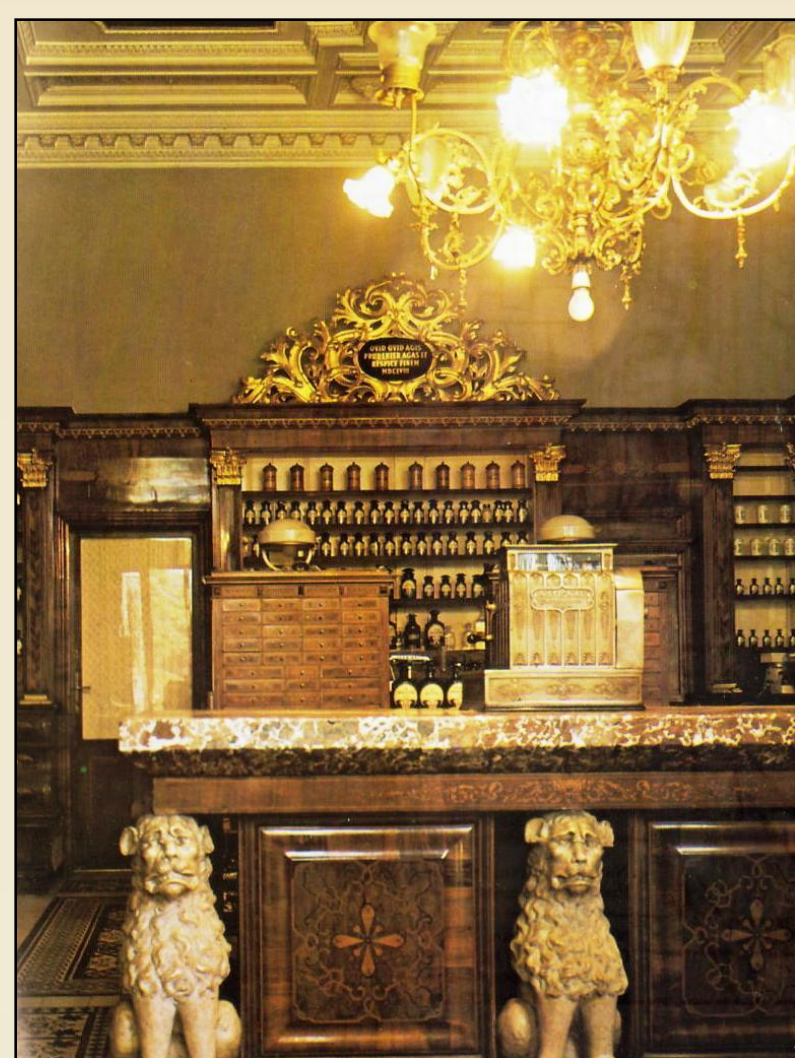
Table I: Evolutionary periods of the history of church pharmacies on the territory of Slovakia

11–14 century	Church pharmacy integrated into the monastic medicine
14–16 century	Decline period of church pharmacy
17–18 century	Prosperity period of church pharmacy (Era of Counter-Reformation)
18 th century to 1950	Church pharmacy integrated into the centralized state healthcare system
1950–1989	Church pharmacy existence interrupted (Socialist Era)
After 1989	Church pharmacies as private healthcare facilities (after transformation of the former socialist healthcare system)

Pharmacies of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

Society of Jesus was founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1540. This religious order became the largest male religious order of the Roman Catholic Church in the era of Counter-Reformation. The Jesuits worked actively for the public, especially in the field of education and pastoral service.

The first Jesuit College on the territory of Slovakia was founded in 1561 in Trnava. In 1635 the Archbishop of Esztergom P. Pázmány founded the Jesuit University there.



Picture I: The interior of the former Jesuit pharmacy in Bratislava

On the territory of the former Kingdom of Hungary there were fifteen Jesuit pharmacies, six of which were located on Slovakian territory (table II).

College based Jesuit pharmacies were separated from the seclusion. The pharmacy was usually administrated by a lay brother qualified in pharmacy. Running a pharmacy represented significant economic benefit for the colleges. After 1773 when pope Clement XIV suppressed the order and their pharmacies were auctioned off.

Table II: Jesuit pharmacies on the territory of Slovakia

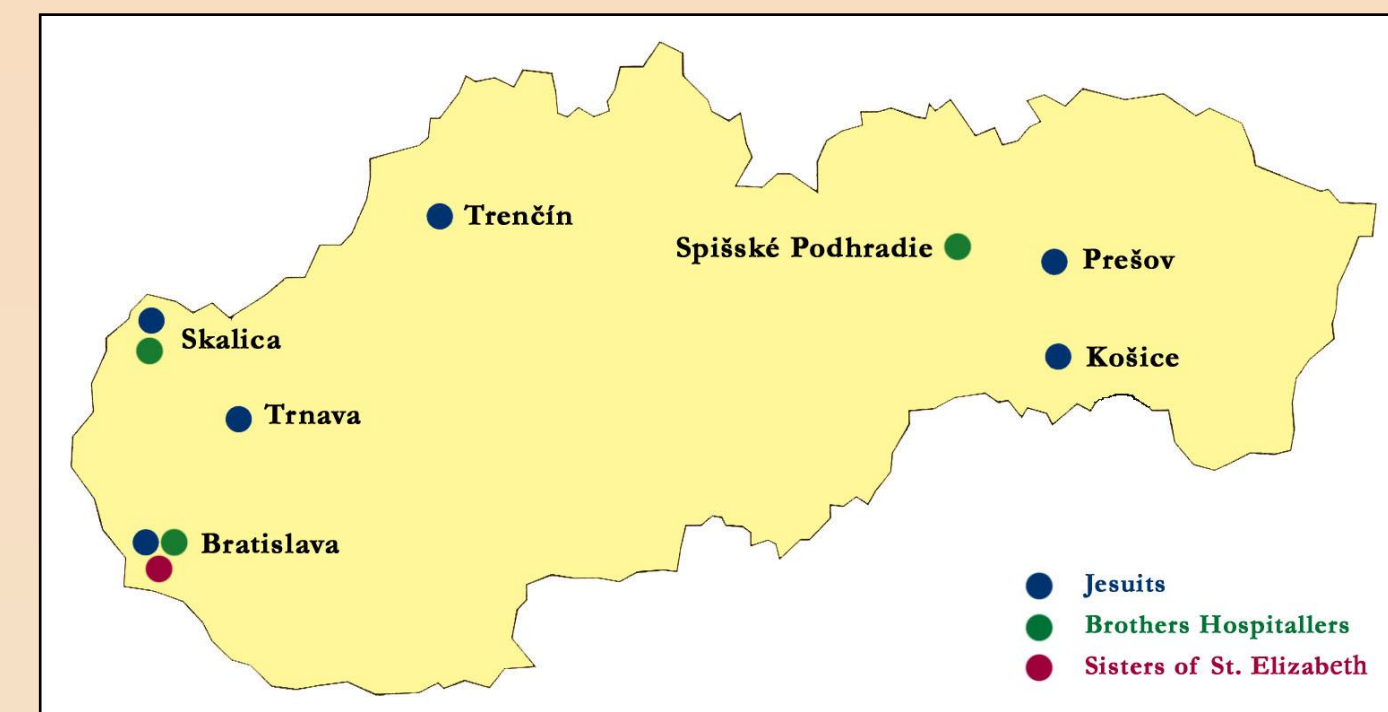
City	Existence of pharmacy
Trnava	1635/36–1773
Bratislava	1658–1773
Košice	1660/62–1773
Trenčín	1668/69–1773
Skalica	1740/41–1773
Prešov	1753–1766

Pharmacy of Sisters of St. Elizabeth

The Order of Sisters of St Elizabeth was founded by Apollonia Radermecher in Aachen in 1622. The order was named after St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Sisters of St. Elizabeth have a tradition of caring for sick and poor women. They founded several hospitals especially in Central Europe.

The place of work of Sisters of St. Elizabeth on Slovakian territory was in Bratislava where they came from Wien in 1732 upon the initiative of I. Eszterházy, Archbishop of Esztergom. The development of the cloister and hospital facilities, according to the plans of architect F. A. Pilgramm, was finished in 1744. The cloister pharmacy was established in 1753 and served only for the needs of the cloister and the hospital.

In 1950 the hospital was nationalized. In 1996, following the restitution of church possessions of 1989, the Order of Sisters St. Elizabeth started the Oncology Institute of St. Elizabeth in the hospital building.



Map I: Pharmacies of the Jesuits, Brothers Hospitallers and Sisters of St. Elizabeth on the territory of Slovakia

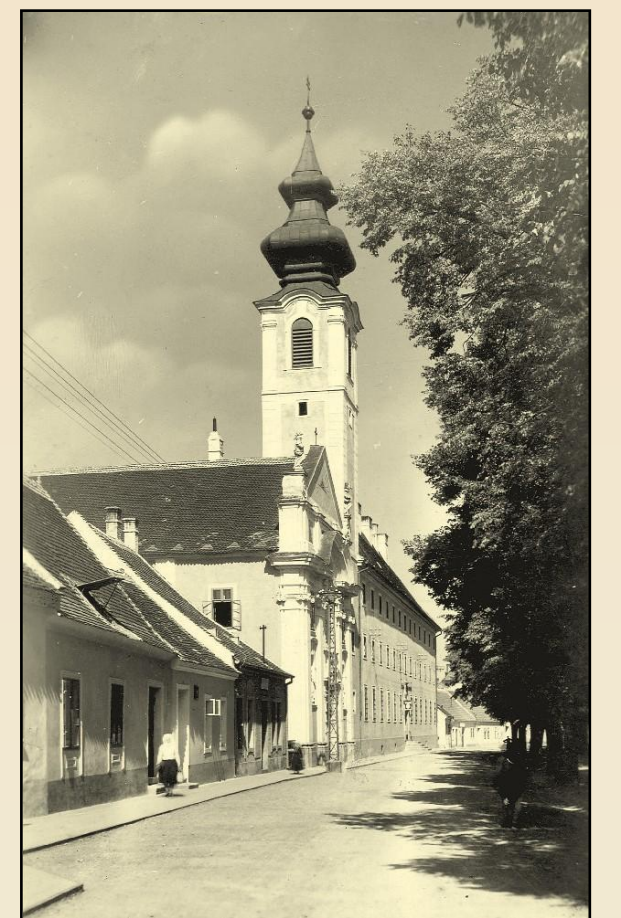
Pharmacies of Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God

The Order of Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God was founded by Juan Ciudad in 1537 in Granada, Spain. The main mission of this order was to care of the sick and the needy. Some of the brothers were educated in medicine, pharmacy or surgery. The Brothers founded hospitals with pharmacies throughout the whole of Europe and also attended war-wounded people.

The Brothers at first settled on the territory of Slovakia (also the former Kingdom of Hungary) in 1650 in Spišské Podhradie (table III).

In the former Kingdom of Hungary they operated in thirteen towns. In each of them they ran a hospital and a pharmacy and played an important role in the development of healthcare. Before the establishment of a state directed centralized healthcare system in the second half of the 18th century they were the only to provide qualified hospital care in their facilities.

After World War II their health care facilities were nationalized. The pharmacies were integrated to the national company Medika in 1950. In 1995 after 1989, the first private hospital with a pharmacy established by Brothers Hospitallers was opened in Bratislava, Slovakia.



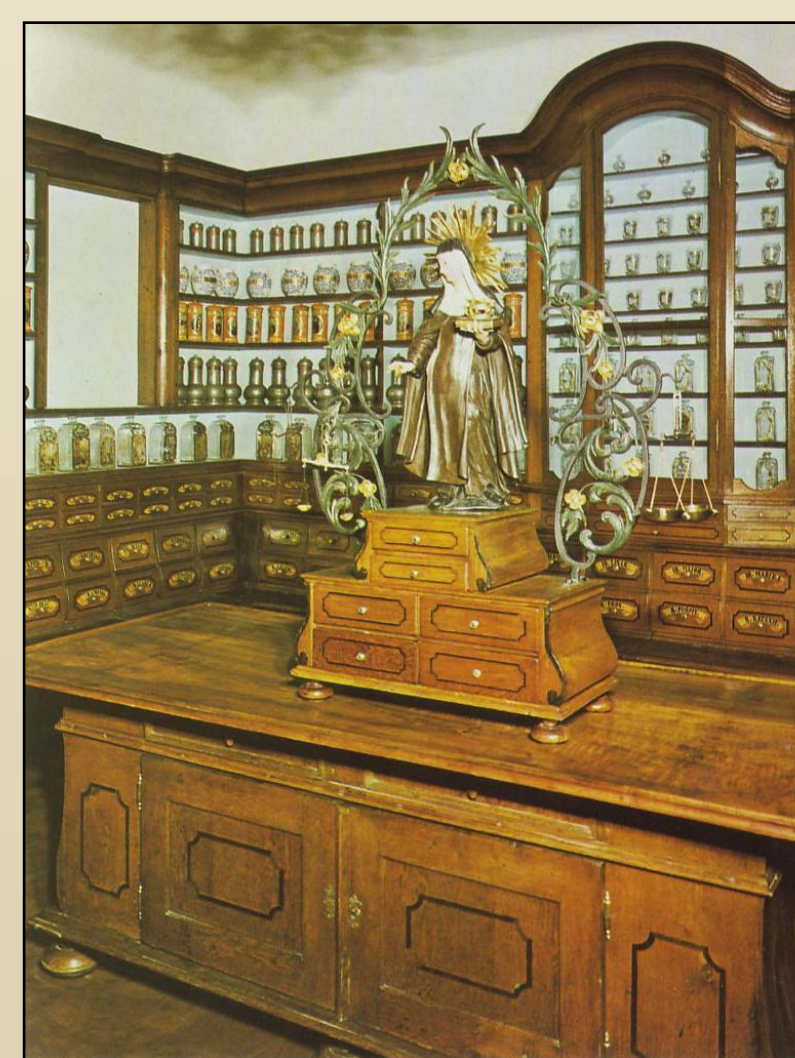
Picture II: The convent of Brothers Hospitallers in Skalica

Table III: Places and periods of working of Brothers Hospitallers on the territory of Slovakia

City	Period of working
Spišské Podhradie	1650–1950
Bratislava	1672–1950
Skalica	1796–1950



Picture III: Symbol of Brothers Hospitallers over the former entrance to the pharmacy in Skalica



Picture IV: The interior of the pharmacy of Sisters of St. Elizabeth in Bratislava

Typology of church pharmacies

1. Cloister pharmacies of religious orders specialized in health care. These pharmacies usually had a hospital as well as a public character.

E. g. **Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God, Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Borromaeon Sisters of Mercy, etc.**

2. Cloister pharmacies of religious orders not specialized in health care. These pharmacies originally served as home pharmacies for the needs of the cloisters themselves. Some of them received a privilege of publicity and became causes of disputes between the church and civil pharmacists.

E. g. **Jesuits, Franciscans, Capuchins, etc.**

Literature

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