

The translation of Proglas into modern Slovak was created by the excellent translator and poet W. Turčány. Apart from his own works of poetry and many scientific studies Turčány enriched Slovak culture by his outstanding translation of Dante's magnificent masterpiece "Divine Comedy". This work of art also was and is a fruit of the faith in the Word, a fruit of the Gospels. Now we can enjoy his translation of "Proglas".

*from the letter of Ján Chryzostom Cardinal Korec Nitra, 16th May 1996*

---

*To the holy Gospels I am the Foreword  
for as it was promised by the prophets  
Christ comes to gather the nations  
for he sheds light on the world entire.  
That is what happened in our seventh millennium*

*As the promise was unto the blind to see  
and unto the deaf to hear the Word of the Gospels  
for man needs to know God.  
Verily I say unto you, Slovienes  
this precious gift of God and his love is yours*

*The gift from God, the gift of a right part  
is a gift to your souls that never perishes  
a gift to all the souls that accept it with gratitude.  
Matthew and Mark, Luke and John  
teach all the nations saying:*

*All you striving to make your souls beautiful  
all you, who long to rejoice in your hearts  
all you, longing to abandon the darkness of sins  
and cleanse yourselves from the corruption of this world,  
discover life in Paradise again*

*And escape the flames of fire,  
Hear! Listen to the voice of your reason,  
Hear you, the whole Slovien nation,  
Hear the Word, sent by the Lord  
the Word that feeds hungry human souls,*

*The Word that gives power to your mind and heart,  
the Word that will prepare you to accept the Lord.  
As there can be no joy without light  
that shines so we can see the world entire  
For not everything is clear or beautiful*

*So no soul, no soul without letters  
knows the law of God,  
the law of the book, the law of the spirit,  
the law through which we are led to God's Paradise.  
For how can an ear that does not hear the roar of thunder*

*Stand in fear in front of God?  
For how can a sense that does not perceive the smell of flowers  
understand the Divine Miracle?  
For the mouth that does not feel sweetness  
turns a man into a stone.*

*More dead than a man from stone is a soul,  
every soul without letters.  
Brethren we have contemplated this all.  
We now give you impeccable advice  
that will free all, all of you*

*From a beastly life and a sinful existence  
so that when your reason, your unreasonable reason  
hears the Word in a foreign tongue  
you will not hear the sound of the bell only, the bell made of copper.  
For St Paul our teacher said,*

*After he brought his plea to the Lord:  
I would rather speak just five words  
five words from my simple understanding  
that my brethren would understand  
than speak thousands of them incomprehensible.*

*For how could a man who himself does not understand,  
unable to add a wise parable,  
find the right words?  
For as decay looms over the body  
all-destroying and more putrid than pus,*

*When the body is ill-nourished  
likewise withers every soul,  
when it lives not the way of God,  
when it hears not the Word of God.  
Let us add another wise parable:*

*We who live in mutual love and concord  
and now long to grow in God's way  
who could ignore this truth so simple:  
As the seed that fell into the soil  
so every human heart on earth*

*Needs the rain of God's letters  
so that God's fruit will grow to its fullest.  
Who could count all the fables  
that rebuke a nation without books,  
that prove that its voice is not to be understood?*

*Even if this man knew all the tongues  
he could not spell out their infinite helplessness.  
Yet hear my parable,  
much meaning in few words expressed:  
Naked are nations without books*

*They cannot fight without a weapon  
against the enemy, who destroys our souls  
doomed to fall prey to eternal damnation.  
You, who do not love this enemy,  
the nations who long to fight him*

*Open the gates of your minds,  
carefully accept these weapons  
beautifully constructed in the books of the Lord  
that harshly bruise the head of the devil.  
For to the one who will accept these letters*

*Christ himself will reveal his wisdom.  
Your souls, too, he will strengthen with letters  
and through the prophets and the apostles.  
For those who will use their words  
will be able to destroy the enemy,*

*They will bring good victory to their Lord,  
escape the doom and decay of their bodies,  
bodies that live in sin as in a dream.  
They will not fall, they will stand strong  
and valiant in front of the Lord,*

*They will stand on the right hand of God  
when he comes to judge the nations with fire.  
Forever they will join the angels in their joy  
celebrating God all merciful forever  
with songs from these books.*

*They will celebrate their God who has mercy on the people  
to whom all glory is given.  
Honour and praise, Son of God,  
united with your Father and the Holy Spirit in one Trinity  
from all beings for ever and ever*

*Amen.*