

Very Reverend Radomir M. Cutilo

V. Rev. Fr. Radomir Cutilo was born near Donji Vakuf, Bosnia. He was the 4th of 5 children (Jordanka, Slobodanka, +Andja, and Jefa). Their mother, +Jovanka, died at the young age of 33, when Fr Rade was only 4. Life on the farm was difficult, but the family worked together and prayed nightly. After a few years, Fr. Rade's father, +Mitar, married Mitra Milovac. Upon joining the family, Mitra helped raise the children and taught them all they needed to know on the farm: cooking, crocheting, dyeing wool and weaving rugs (cilims). She was also a good example of an Orthodox Christian to them. Soon, baby brother Boro arrived.

Fr. Rade was influenced by the family's strong dedication to prayer and his visits to church. When he was 14, he made the decision to leave home and enter Monastery Krka in Dalmatia to attend the seminary. Upon graduating, he served a mandatory year in the Yugoslav army. After that year was completed, he contacted His Grace, Bishop Mitrofan, to ask if he could accompany him to the US to further his education at St. Sava Theological College. His Grace had recently been elevated to Vicar Bishop of the Midwestern Diocese. Fr. Rade received the blessing of his bishop, Jefrem of Banja Luka, and arrived in Libertyville in September, 1988.

Through mutual friends, Fr. Rade met Protinica Kelly in the latter half of his first year at St. Sava Theological College. During the summers, he stayed with families in our Milwaukee parish and worked on the church grounds and in the Milwaukee area. After graduating with his BA in Theology, Fr. Rade and Protinica Kelly were married at St. Sava Cathedral in 1992. The next year, Fr. Rade was ordained to the diaconate on September 26th, 1993. He volunteered his services on Sundays while Kelly attended UW-Milwaukee to complete her BS in Mechanical Engineering.

His Grace, Bishop Mitrofan, ordained Fr. Rade to the priesthood on the parish's St. Sava Day Celebration, January 29th, 1995. As our +Fr. Milan Markovina had recently retired, Fr. Rade was offered the position of parish priest. At that time, there was a great influx of Serbs to the parish after the war in Bosnia, echoing the large immigrations to the parish after World War II. Among many in the parish, Fr. Rade's parents and several sisters and their families lost their farms and homes. Fr. Rade and Protinica Kelly worked to bring his family members, 20 in all, over to the U.S. to start anew. Along with his family, Fr. Rade helped many new families join the community and get acclimated to the Milwaukee area.

In 1998, son Jovan Mitar was born. He was the first child born to a parish priest while assigned to St. Sava's. Little Jovan was a healthy 9lbs. 5 oz. and grew quickly. Kum V. Rev. Fr. Rajko Kotic had his hands full on Jovan's baptism day, February 14th, 1999. Three years later, Stefan Vladimir was born in 2001. Both boys were baptized by +His Eminence, Metropolitan Christopher, accompanied by Bishop Mitrofan.

Fr. Rade's service to St. Sava's spans across the parish but has focused on ministering to the ill and on children's activities – teaching and guiding them in their faith. In 1996, the parish opened the St. Sava Orthodox (Parochial) School. Since its inception, Fr. Rade has taught weekly religious lessons to its students and has taught a weekly night class to the St. Sava Junior Dancers since 1995. A few years ago, he added 2 weekly religious classes for adults. Jovan and Stefan attended St. Sava Orthodox and Church Sunday School, were regular altar boys, danced in Jr. Dancers, and participated in the United Serbian Youth Soccer Club. In addition to being an assistant director for the SSS Stevan Sijacki Choir, Protinica

Kelly has directed the English Liturgical Singers since 2001. She is a Sunday School Teacher and a member of the Circle of Serbian Sisters.

V. Rev. Frs. +Milan and Dragan were great spiritual fathers to the Cutilo family in their early years at the parish. Countless families in the parish have also opened their hearts to Fr. Rade and his family and shared and helped Protinica Kelly learn traditions in Serbian culture. The whole of Fr. Rade's and Protinica Kelly's adult lives have been spent at St. Sava's; the happiest and most important moments occurring in our church.

Words cannot express our love and devotion to the church community and we look forward to making more memories with you in the future.