

The Monastery Mekinje has in its history three important periods: the Poor Clares period (1300 – 1782), the period without monastic communities (1782 – 1902/03), and the Ursulines period (1902/03 – 2016). Throughout its history, the monastery played an important role in the cultural, religious, administrative, and economic life of Mekinje and the wider local area. With this exhibition, we present a fragment of this rich history as an intertwining of the contemplative order of the Poor Clares spanning almost 500 years and later more than 100 years of educational work of the Ursuline Order.

The difference between the two orders is symbolically presented by the placement of the exhibits in two rooms. In the first room, the strict environment of the Poor Clares is recreated, where the visitor can notice the riches and the luxurious life inside the cloister, despite the orders commitment to poverty, while the second room illustrates the educational and apostolic activity of the Ursuline Sisters.

By using modern interactive approaches to the presentation of historical facts, the exhibition introduces both orders to the visitor and offers a unique insight into the interesting life of nuns.

The exhibition was created within the project Monastery – A Meeting Place, co-financed by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development of the European Union, the Republic of Slovenia within Slovenia's Rural Development Programme 2014–2020, and the Municipality of Kamnik.



**Doroteja Sidonija Gallenberg**, abbess at Mekinje Monastery, unknown author, first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> c., National Gallery of Slovenia, Ljubljana

**Javni zavod za kulturo  
Mekinjski samostan**

Polčeva pot 10  
1241 Kamnik

<https://samostanmekinje.si>

GROUP BOOKING AND INFORMATION:  
031 392 158

The exhibition is open to visitors Monday to Friday  
from 10.00 to 14.00.



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PROGRAM  
RAZVOJA  
PODEŽELJA



Evropski kmetijski sklad za razvoj podeželja: Evropa investira v podeželje

OBČINA KAMNIK  
JAVNI ZAVOD ZA KULTURO KAMNIK

# Life Behind the Monastery Gates

Poor Clares and Ursuline Sisters in Mekinje







**Candlesticks,**  
1722, restored by  
Anton Marolt



**Crown** worn by nuns at their perpetual vows' ceremony,  
Ursuline Monastery in Ljubljana

**The frontlet** worn by the postulants as part of their religious  
habit, Ursuline Monastery in Ljubljana

