

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the modern sarcophagus designed for cardinal Tomáš Špidlík SJ (1919-2010), located in the basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints Cyril and Methodius in Velehrad. The sarcophagus was created in the Atelier of Liturgical art of Centro Aletti in Rome in 2010. The main target of the thesis is to put in the creation and emplacement of the masterpiece into the wider spiritual and artistic context. In order to introduce the Centro Aletti's liturgical art, it is important to focus on Špidlík's thoughts about art on theological background. His theological direction and spiritual guidance were a resource for a painter and jesuit Marko Ivan Rupnik (\*1954) and Špidlík's disciple and the head of Centro Aletti in Rome. A significant part of the work is focused on the emplacement of the sarcophagus in the basilica of Velehrad, famous for the cult of saints Cyril and Methodius. The main part of the thesis deals with the formal analysis and iconographic interpretation of the topics depicted on the sides of the sarcophagus from a methodological point of view. This also applies to other attached pieces of art as the bronze inscription on the lid by the sculptor Otmar Oliva (\*1952) and the panel with Špidlík's motto, which is to be found behind the sarcophagus.

## **Keywords**

sarcophagus, mosaic, liturgical space, basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints Cyril and Methodius in Velehrad, Tomáš Špidlík, Marko Ivan Rupnik, Centro Aletti, sculptor Otmar Oliva, Velehrad.