

The presented thesis surveys the life and medieval cult of one of Bohemian patrons – St. Gunther. Gunther was a member of powerful Thuringian noble family named the Sizzons. He decided to be a monk under the influence of Abbot Gotthard of Hersfeld in 1005. After a novitiate in the Bavarian Abbey of Niederaltaich he became for a short time a provost in Thuringian Göllingen, but his local activity ended soon in fiasco. Therefore he returned to Niederaltaich and after that into a hermitage which he founded in Rinchnach in the Bavarian Forest. Here he lived with a small community until 1040. He engaged first of all in colonization of the surrounding lands and in building of roads. Besides these he took also diplomatical journeys in the service of Roman kings and emperors. He might also have been involved in a mission among the Lutici and a visit at the royal court in Hungary. In the spring 1040 he left Rinchnach, probably in context with the expedition of Henry III to Bohemia, to enter a hermitage high in the mountains in Dobrá Voda near Hartmanice. After Henry's debacle in the battle at Domažlice in August 1040 he ensured a safe departure of Saxonian army, which operated in the neighbourhood of the North-Bohemian Bílina. He died on 9th October 1045 in the reputation of sainthood. The contemporaneous Abbot Meginhart of Břevnov had him buried in his abbey, because he hoped to increase the prestige of his monastery. But Gunther's cult remained only in Břevnov and in its depended houses for a long time. For that reason Břevnov tried to achieve the papal canonization for Gunther in the middle of the 13th century. For this intention was written also the only medieval legend of Gunther – *Vita s. Guntheri*. Its new critical edition with a new Czech translation is a part of the presented thesis. But in spite of the support of the Bohemian King Přemysl Otakar II this canonization ended without success due to low interest of the papal court.