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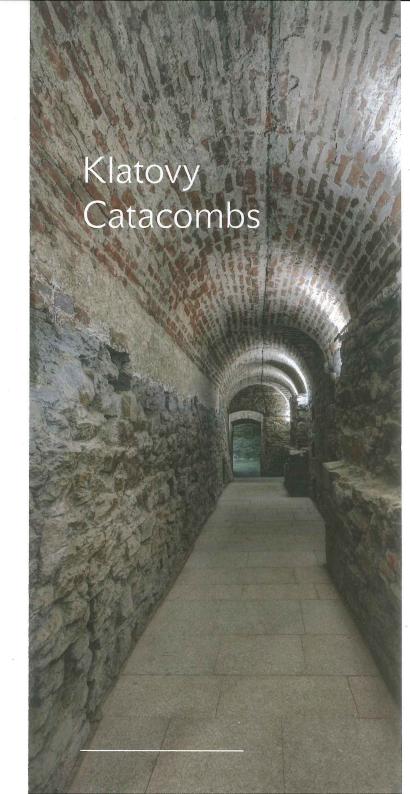
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PODPOŘENO Z EVROPSKÉHO FONDU PRO REGIONÁLNÍ ROZVOJ Směr budoucnost - cíl prosperita







Klatovy Catacombs

The crypts below the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Virgin Mary and St. Ignatius were built as a part of the church and gymnasium between 1656 and 1676. They became the burial site of the members of the Jesuit order and benefactors such as the local noblemen, burghers, and soldiers. More than 200 deceased were entombed in the crypts between 1676 and 1783. In 1784, Joseph II outlawed the burials in the crypts. Adalbert Chanovský from Dlouhá Ves, a missionary who was active in Southwest Bohemia in the mid-17th century, is the most prominent person buried.

Ventilation System and Mummification

The process of natural mummification of the bodies was supported by an ingenious ventilation system. Unfortunately, in the early 20th century the system was damaged and 140 mummified bodies disintegrated. The impaired mummies were buried at St. James Cemetery in Klatovy in 1937. Today the ventilation system is fully restored and preservers take care of the remaining 38 mummified bodies. The end points of the holes of the original Baroque ventilation system are visible at several places.

Current Exposition

The exposition is installed in the original crypts, today called catacombs, and in the Jesuit gymnasium. The story of Klatovy from the Baroque Jesuit era is presented to the visitors. There are historical charters and objects on display as well as models of buildings and documentary films. Multimedia elements are also used in the exposition. The newly opened sections reveal the tomb of the family of Koc of Dobrš, a water cistern and the system of casting the coffins in the previously inaccessible crypts. A list of the buried persons and a panel with the ventilation system design are posted in the sacred areas near the mummified bodies.