



# Klatovy Catacombs

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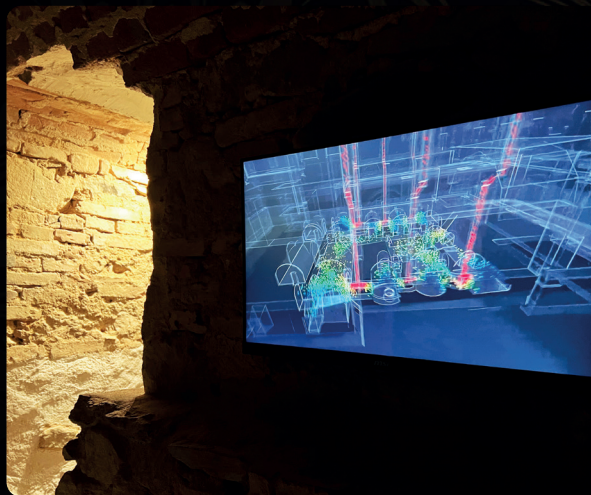
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# Klatovy Catacombs

...ti věčné, dej jim, Pane,  
...to věčné ať jim svítí,  
...dopocívají v pokoji.  
Amen.

...grant unto them, O Lord,  
...and light shine upon them,  
...they rest in peace.  
Amen.

Requiem aeternam de  
Et lux perpetua  
Requiescant  
Amen.

Herr, gib ihnen die  
Und das ewige Licht  
Lass sie ruhen  
Amen.

The crypts under the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary and St. Ignatius were built in 1656–1676 as part of the church.

They became a burial place for members of the Jesuit order and its benefactors from among the local nobility and townspeople. Between 1676 and 1783, over 200 dead were buried there. In 1784, Joseph II banned burials in the crypts. One of those buried there is priest Vojtěch (Adalbert) Chanovský of Dlouhá Ves, a missionary active in Southwest Bohemia in the first half of the 17th century. This man was instrumental in building a Jesuit college and grammar school in Klatovy.



The ingenious ventilation system of the church contributed to the fact that the bodies of the deceased gradually dried up and turned into natural mummies. The mummified bodies have preserved remnants of internal tissues, hair and nails. Many of them even have parts of their clothing preserved. The improper modifications of the crypts in the early 20th century and interference with the natural ventilation system led to the damage and decay of numerous bodies. In 1937, 140 damaged mummies had to be buried in the St. Jacob cemetery in Klatovy. In 2011, the natural ventilation system was fully restored, and the last 38 mummified bodies are regularly cared for by conservators.



The museum part of the exposition is dedicated to the activities of the Jesuit order in Klatovy. The first Jesuits came to Klatovy in 1636 and worked there until 1773, when the order was dissolved. They built a large college, grammar school, seminary, and magnificent church. In its time, the Klatovy grammar school was one of the largest in the country, with up to 300 students in the first half of the 18th century. The seminary was designed to accommodate gifted, non-wealthy students whose studies were paid for with foundation funds. The contemporary documents, books, and historical items, as well as modern multimedia elements in the exhibition show the life of people in the 17th and 18th centuries.

