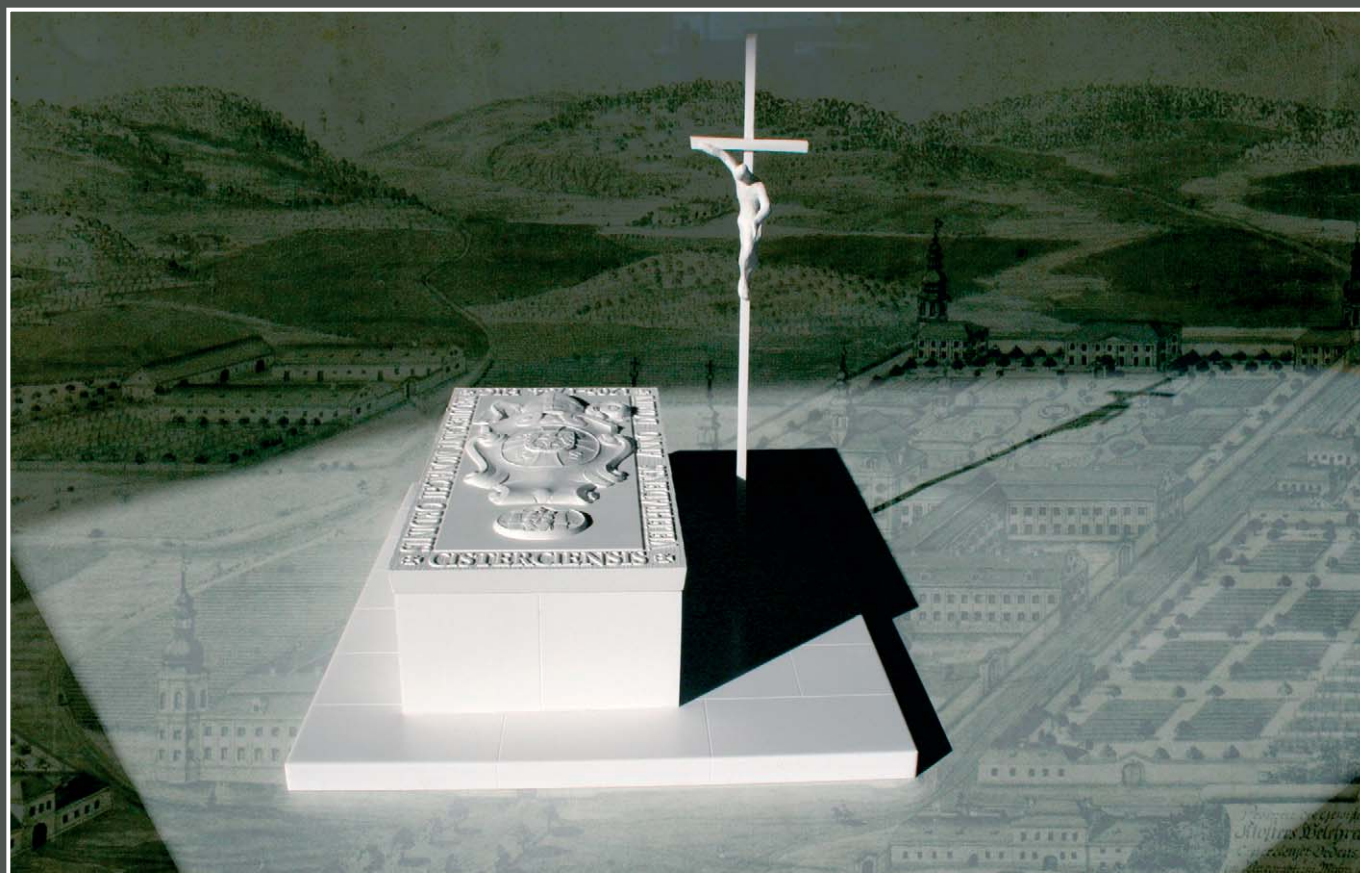


Cistercian tombstone - Velehrad



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Velehrad is a meeting point between the cultures of the West and East. According to tradition it is linked to the activities of saints Cyrillus and Methodius, who came to Moravia from the East. The Order of Cistercians, which was active there between the period from 1205 to 1784, imprinted Velehrad with a western character.

During the general reconstruction of the Basilica of the Assumption of Mary and St. Cyrillus and Methodius in Velehrad the crypts, containing the skeletal remains of monks and benefactors of the Cistercian monastery, were opened and explored to assure structural safety and dry out the walls. Following completion of the repairs the underground crypts, with numerous archaeological findings of fragments of Romanesque architecture and the newly interconnected crypts, were open to the public. The skeletal remains were re-grouped and piously arranged. 40 years later most of the remains were transferred to the grounds of the local cemetery. Their tombstone is the most pitiful in the cemetery. That is why this enterprise was initiated to express proper respect to the Cistercians, who created admirable spiritual and material works in Velehrad, through a dignified tombstone. At the same time this enterprise is an expression of the dynamic renewal of Velehrad as a place of pilgrimage. This is a paradox established by the stone that had been rolled away from Christ's tomb!

The appearance of the tombstone represents a fragment of the church area containing the sarcophagus and the pilgrimage cross. Its simple form and stone-masonry work refer to the spiritualism of the Order of Cistercians and its constructive activities. The slab of the tombstone is decorated with a relief of the symbol and seal of the Cistercian monastery and a border made up of the inscription: HIC REQUIESCANT MONACHI ORDINIS CISTERCIENSIS VELEHRADENSIS ANNO DOMINI 1205 - 1784. Fine stone-masonry marks are inscribed on some parts of foundation as symbolic signatures by the stone-masonry masters. The tombstone is made of the same coarse-grained sandstone that is used to construct the monastery.

The posture of the figure of Christ on the bronze pilgrimage cross evokes the gesture of mystic assumption from St. Bernard's visions. The tombstone is orientated towards the Basilica.

The price of this work: 660.000 CZK (25.000 EUR)

We would like to ask you to help us co-finance this work.

Contact information:
Civic Association Matice Velehradská,
Stojanovo nábřeží 206
Velehrad 687 06

Phone: (+420) 572 420 144
e-mail: info@maticevelehradska.cz
Bank account 1419526399/0800
IBAN: CZ73 0800 0000 0014 1952 6399

The variable symbol 1205 must be given so as to determine that the purpose of the payment is for acquisition of the tombstone.



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„The Cistercian Abbey in Vyšší Brod welcomes the intention to create the venerable tombstone to the Cistercians from Velehrad, who blessed the Good by way of work and prayer in the Velehrad monastery for centuries. We give many thanks to Matice velehradská, which assumes the patronage over this meritable act.“

Prior P. Justin Jan Berka, OCist.
Vyšší Brod Cistercian Monastery

