Mary's Route

Welcome to the virtual pilgrimage to the holy wells of the Mary's Route (also known as the Way of Mary, or Via Mariae).

We invite you to try to get out of the life situation you are in right now; let the pictures and inspirations speak to you. Imagine you are standing in front of a holy well in hiking boots with a backpack! Feel either the sun-

shine or the raindrops and believe that the Good God brought you here today to recognize the gift of love in your life and on your journey. Go, follow the waymarker signposts along the Mary's Route to find your own path! The Mary's Route is more than a tourist route, more than a pilgrimage route, more than a collection of cultural and natural heritage, more than a journey of self-knowledge... more than 2,200 km...

Find your way!

The Mary's Route is the Pilgrimage of Central Europe, connecting the sacred sites of the region that can be linked to the Virgin Mary. Along the way, following Mary's example, we can approach the source of our faith.

The route is open to anyone who wants to break out of everyday life, who wants to draw strength from the natural and cultural beauties they see, or who wants to be a member of a community.

www.marysroute.org













Gencsapáti

According to the descriptions, Mihály Török and his wife, Katalin László, had a chapel built over the spring in Gencsapáti near Szombathely, out of gratitude, in memory of the fact that their blind child regained his sight after washing his face in the water from the spring. The chapel was dedicated in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows. The faithful of Gencsapáti organize pilgrimages to the Holy Well several times a year.

Be aware that you are a pilgrim and do as Father Zoltán Miszori's poem says:

The one who is on pilgrimage does not flee.

The one who is on pilgrimage does not march.

The one who is on pilgrimage does not hike.

The one who is on pilgrimage does not make a trip.

The one who is on pilgrimage does not take a walk.

The one who is on pilgrimage does not go around.

The one who is in a hurry is feeling pressed for time,

For the one on pilgrimage, the mind is broadened over time.

The one who flees runs away from oneself,

The one on pilgrimage is on a journey towards the inner self.

The one who marches aligns with others,

Yet, each pilgrim follows their own pace and rhythm.

The one who hikes accomplishes,

The one on pilgrimage restores and completes.

The one who goes on a trip relaxes and disconnects,

The one who is on pilgrimage participates and (re)connects.

To take a walk is looking around, watching the outside world,

To make a pilgrimage is gazing inwards to self listening to the inner voice.

One who wanders (like sheep without a shepherd), lives an aimless life,

The one who advances on the pilgrimage of faith finds purpose in life.

For the one who walks a pilgrimage, is on the way.

Truly, one who remains on pilgrimage is on the right way.

What is the difference between a pilgrimage and a hike for you?

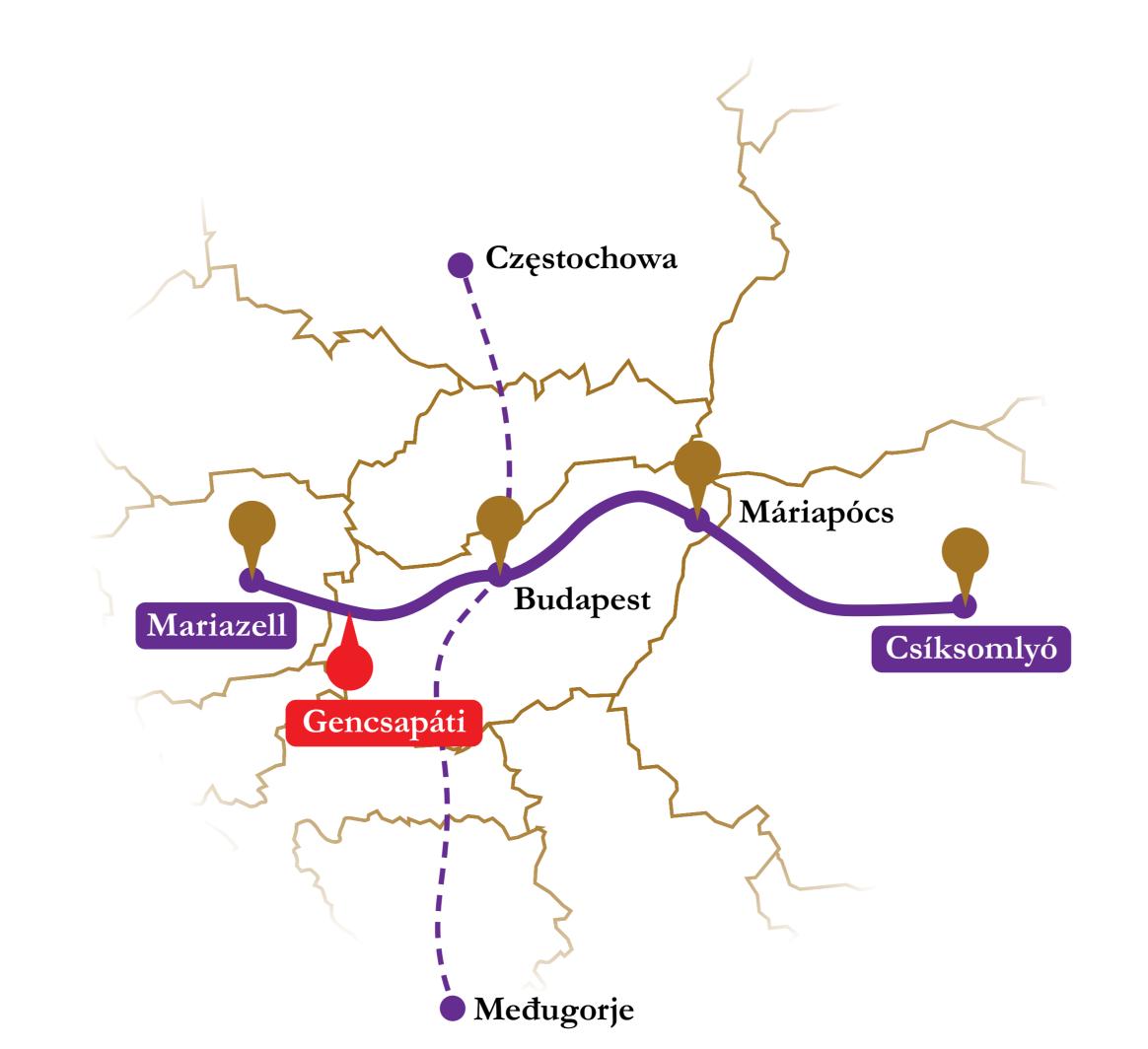
Please, read the poem several times and take the time to look at the pictures and study them carefully.















Búcsúszentlászló

IN BÚCSÚSZENTLÁSZLÓ, the Saint László (Saint Ladislaus) spring is located at the northern foot of the Calvary Hill, below the statue of Saint László, its water has a pleasant taste, containing iron and other minerals. Oral tradition has it that several miraculous healings can be linked to this spring water. The custom of pilgrim baptism is also associated with the Holy Well of Búcsúszentlászló. It is an initiation rite in the

Hungarian catholic paraliturgy, which means that the returning pilgrims sprinkle water from the sacred well on the faithful who are on their first pilgrimage to this holy place (who are being baptised). This was called the ritual washing.

Be still.

Bishop János Székely expressed the following thoughts on the inner way of the pilgrim in his book titled "Mary's Route – The path of the spirit":

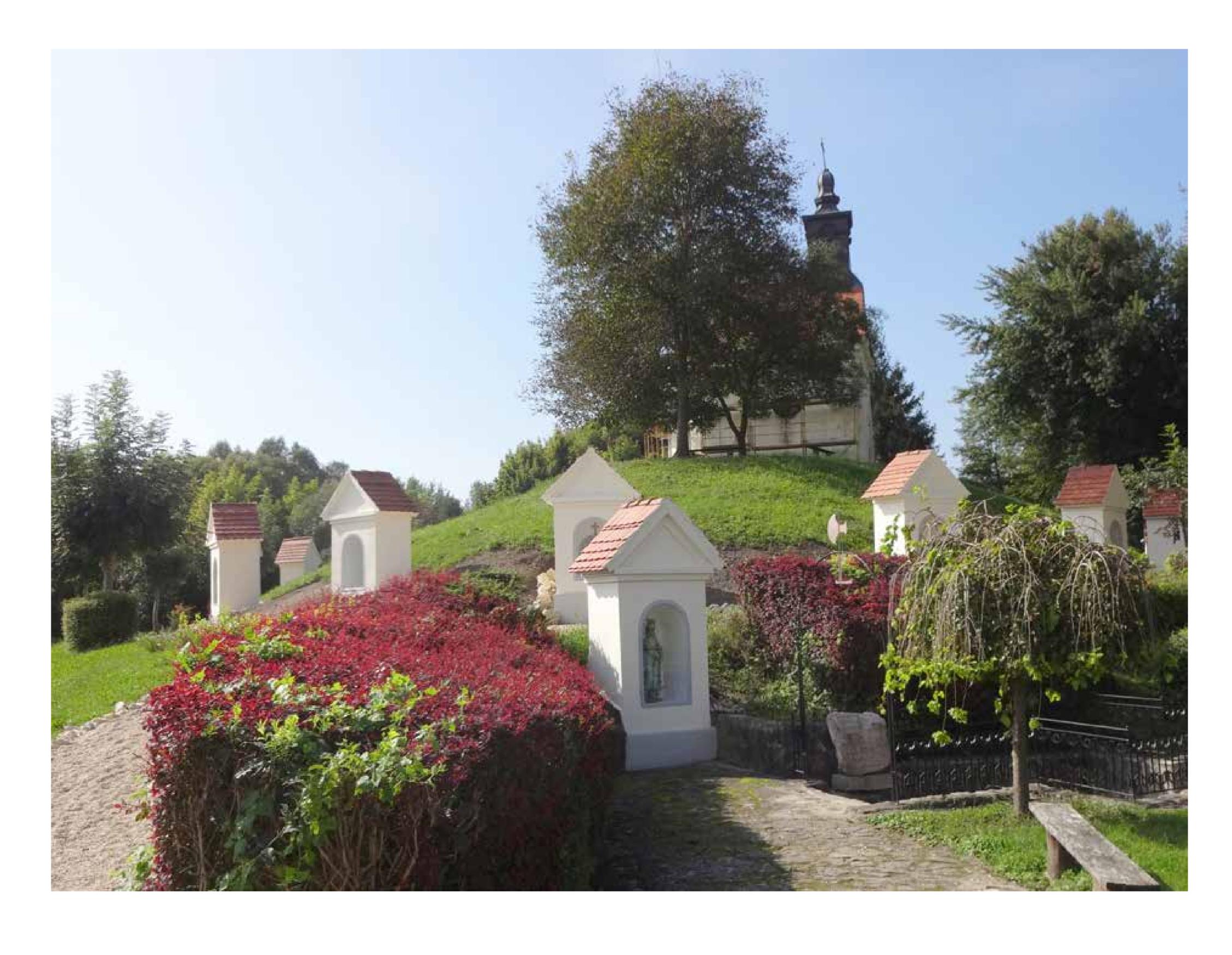
"As I climb up the mountain, I am filled with the feeling that everything God has created is all perfect and immaculate. The clouds, the mountains, the trees, the

streams are all crystal clear and perfect.

The beauty of the world is like a wonderful symphony.

Listen in the silence, the pure harmony: this mute, perfect symphony of the world!

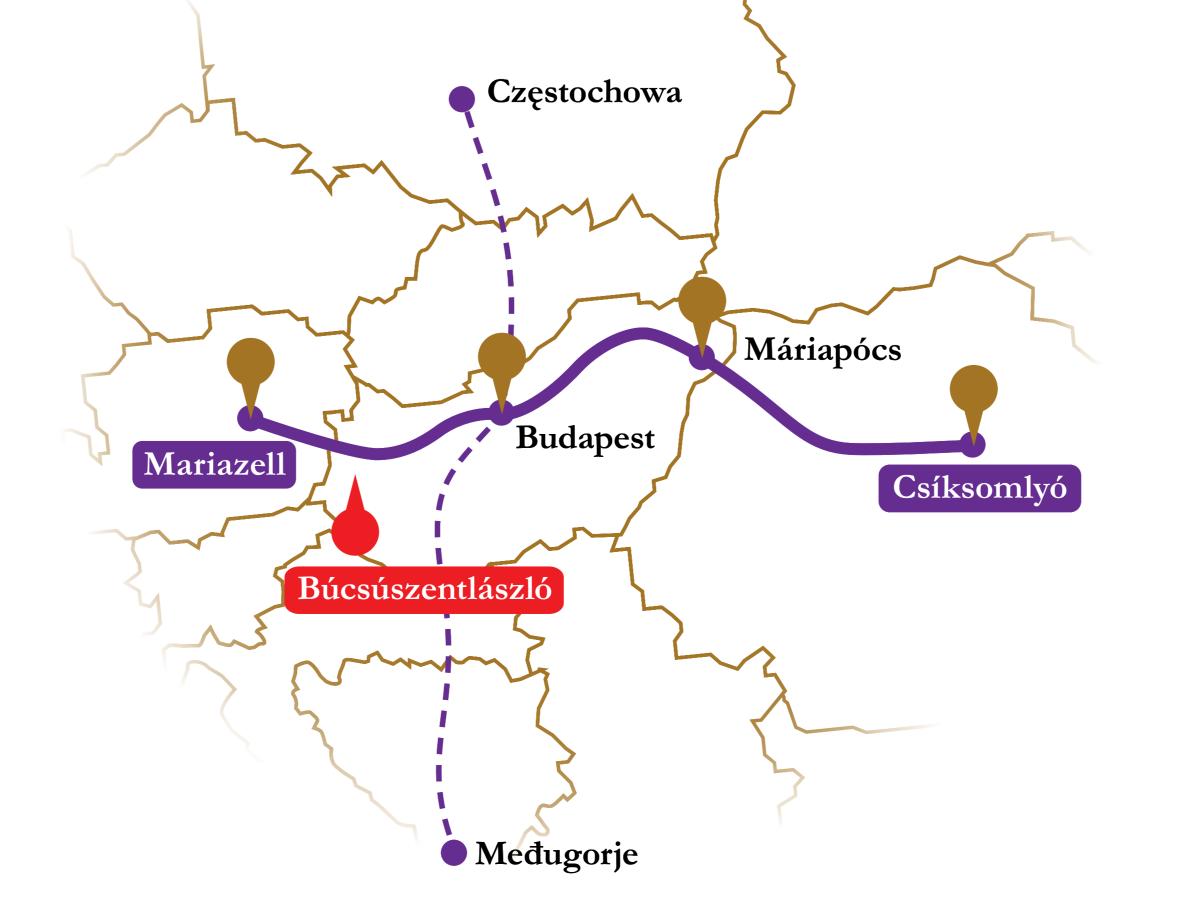
Ask yourself where and when there are false notes in your life."















Bakonybél

A site called Borostyán-kő (i.e., literally Ivy Rock) can be found at the border of Bakonybél. Three springs flow at its base, called Borostyán-kút (meaning "Ivy Well") or Szentkút (meaning "Holy Well"), which collect the water from the springs at the

foot of the hill. A charter dated 1397 also mentions the Monastery of Saint Maurice as follows: "abbatia trium fontium de Beél" (monastery where three springs meet). According to a 19th-century newspaper article, the large boulders at the foot of the Ivy Rock were called the tears of St. Gunther. In the 11th century, here, near the springs, lived two hermits: Saint Gunther and Saint Gerard of Cenad.

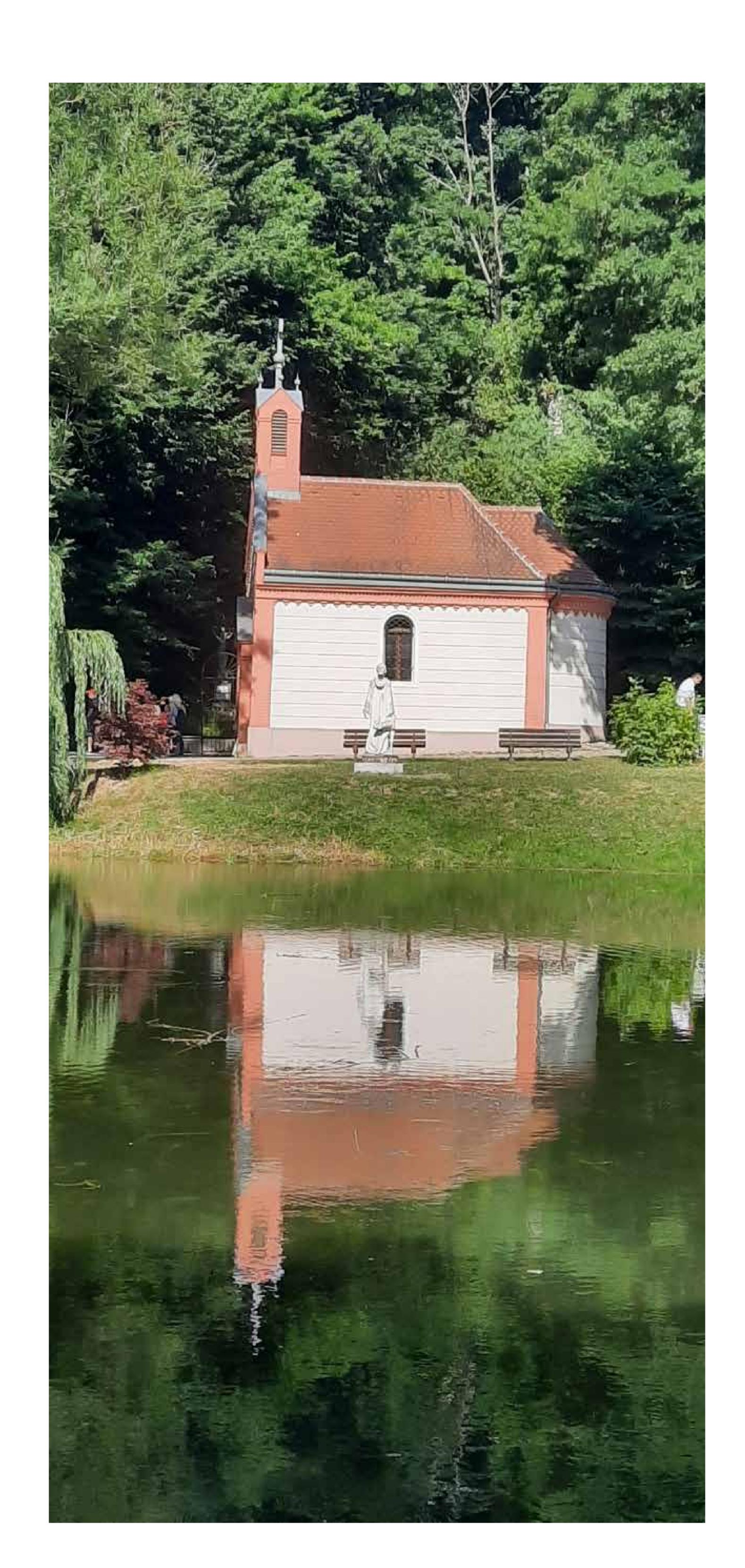
Focus on the essential things of life

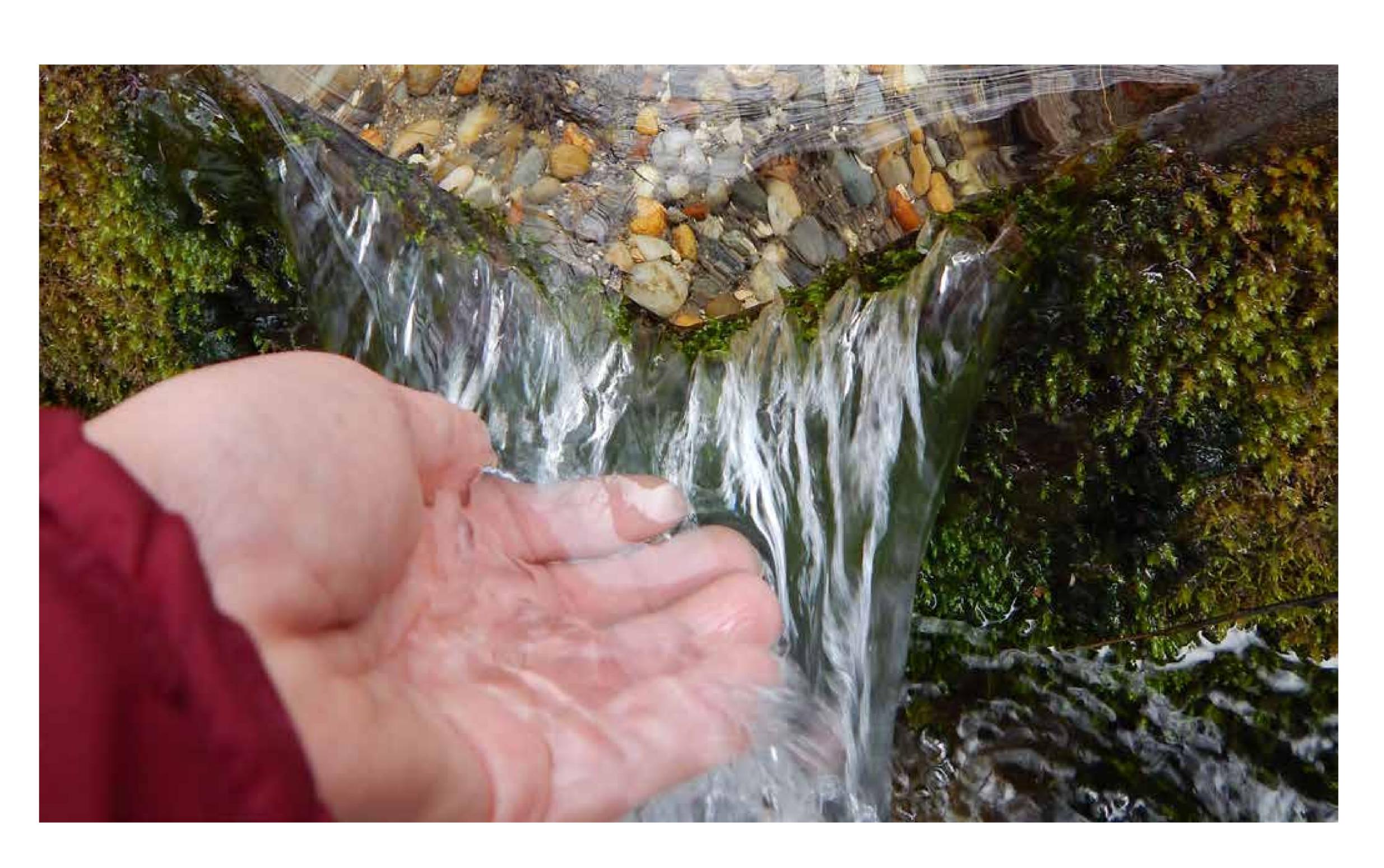
Please, receive a pilgrim's testimony on pilgrimage with an open heart:

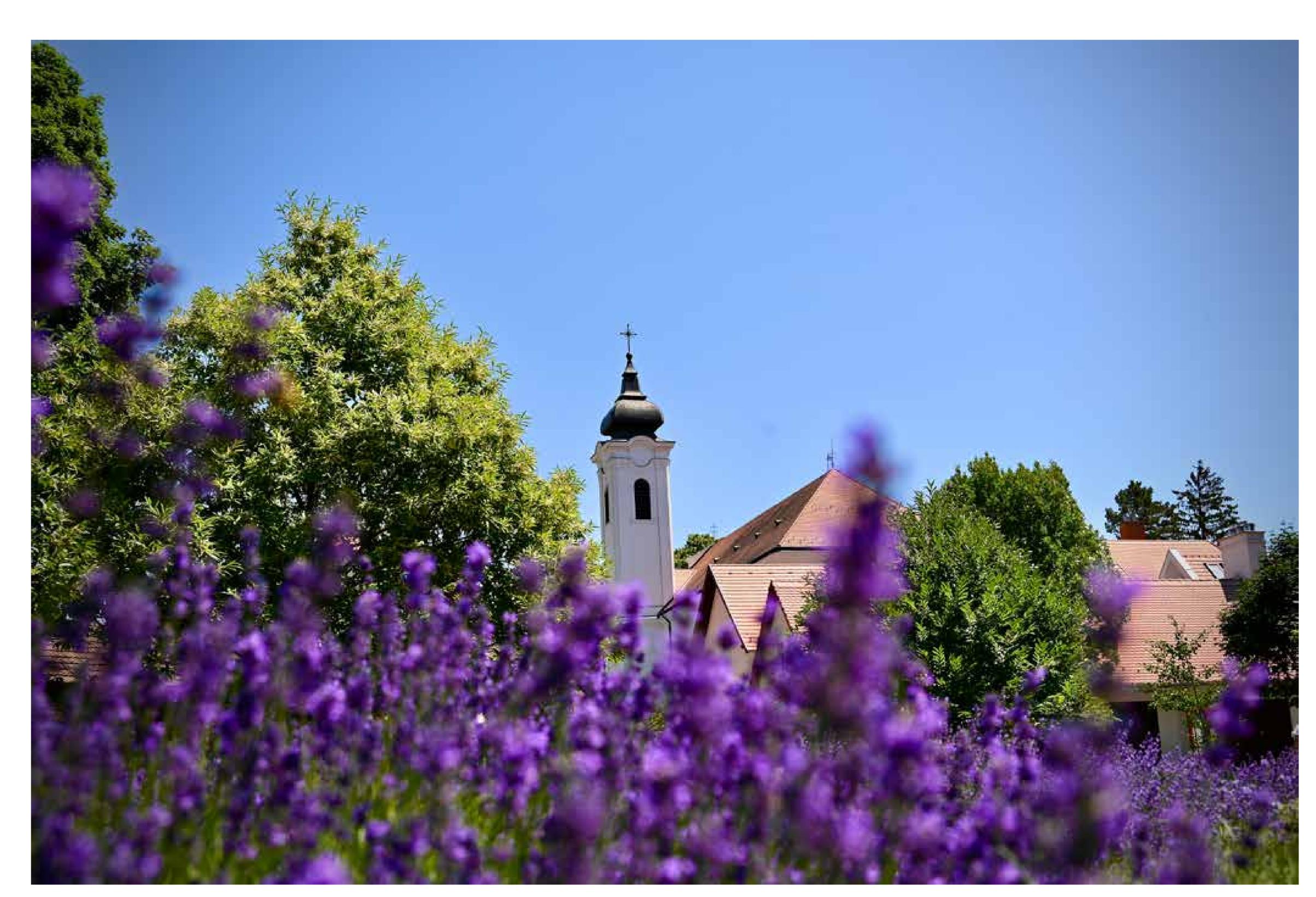
"A pilgrimage is not so idyllic as I imagined it to be. As I kept going on day after day, no matter whether it was raining or hot, moving on despite the fatigue, persevering on the steep sec-

tions, day after day; then getting excited about not knowing where I would find a place to sleep in the evening - all of which almost forced me to let go of all the unnecessary thoughts and concentrate on what is needed to complete the journey. And finally I was faced with the question: what do I need most to get through my life, to live it right?"

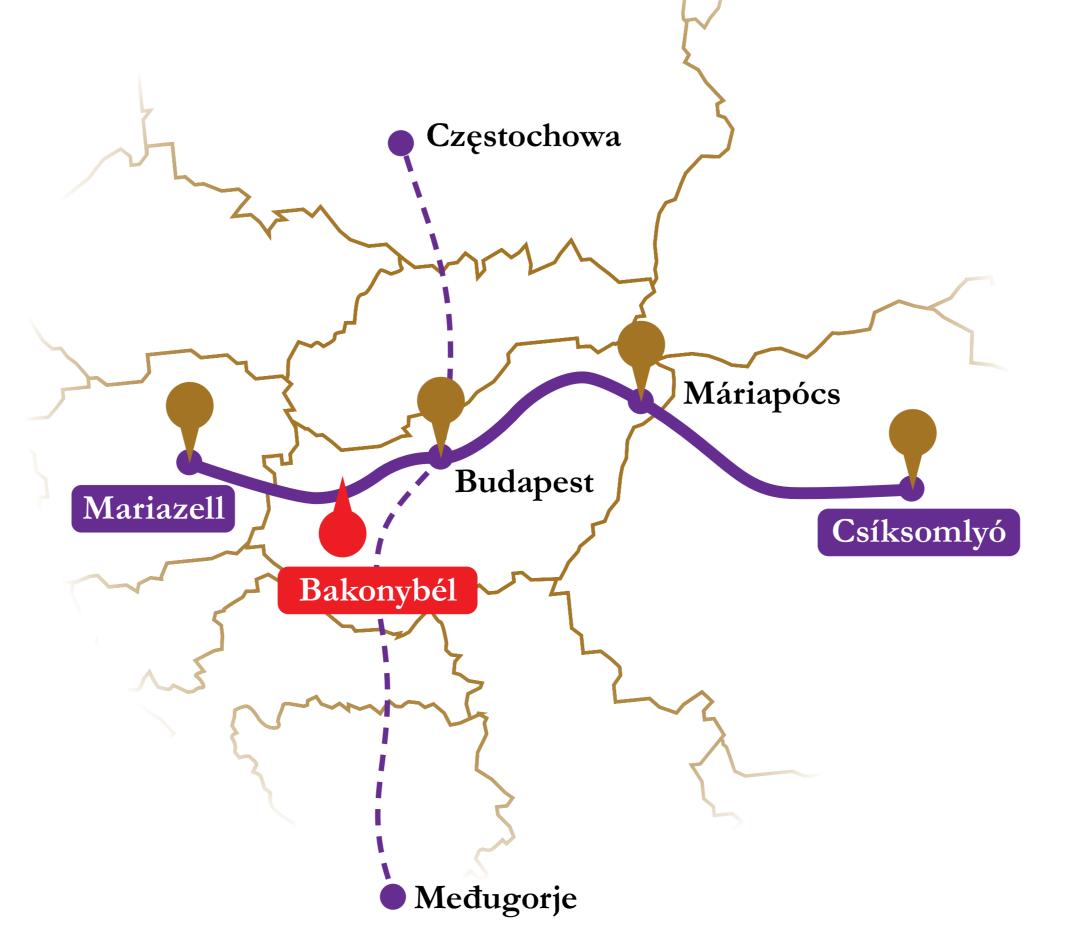
Ask yourself this question!















Jasch

The Christian holy well is more than 600 years old, and it is one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in Hungary.

Its Baroque-Rococo style chapel was

built between 1825 and 1837 on the site of the former wooden chapel, and its frescoes were painted by the painter Gyula Károly. The 6-meter tall statue of the Virgin Mary, made of Bulgarian limestone, was created by the sculptor János Braun.

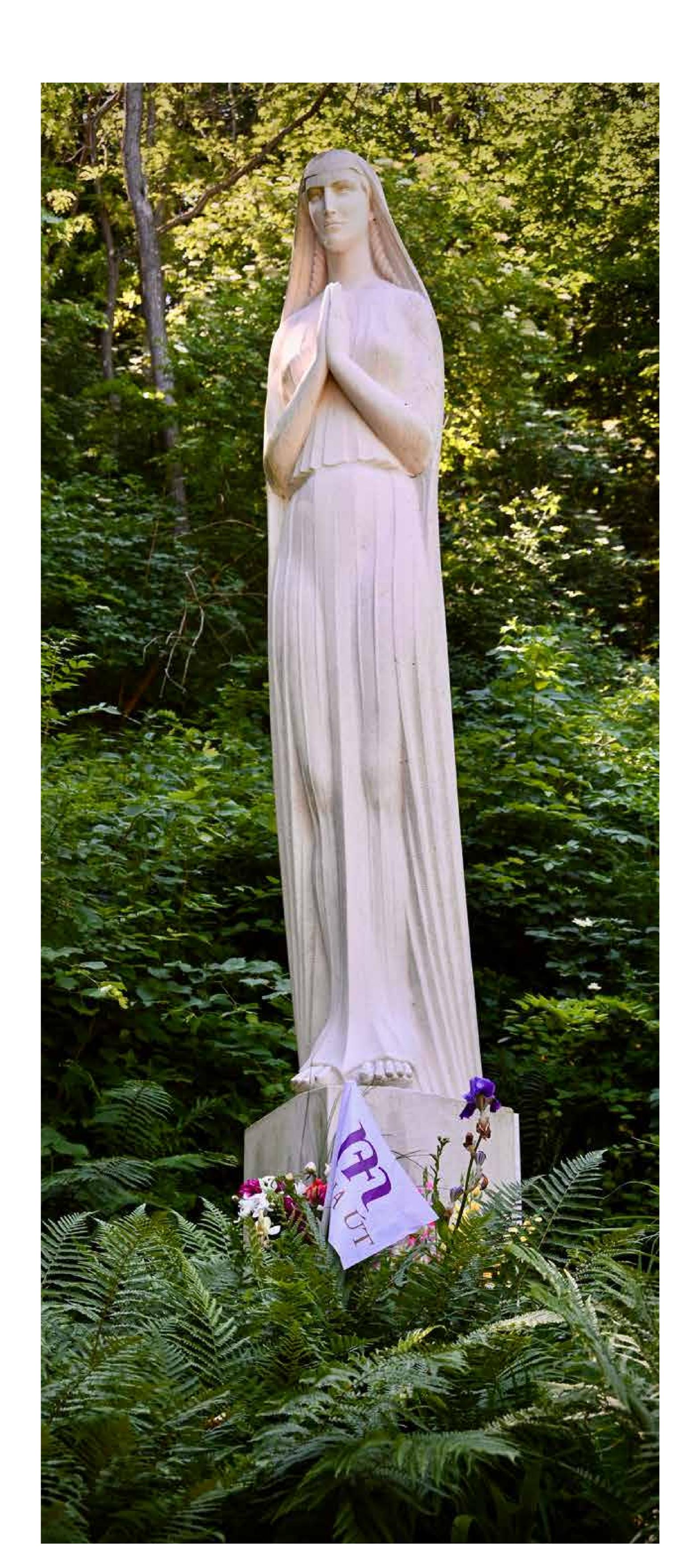
Experience the encounters on your journey

You can come across a lot of things on a pilgrimage. You can discover the natural values, cultural treasures and be amazed by them. You can meet new people or old acquaintances.

However, these encounters can be not only horizontal, but also vertical. In your imagination, look up at the huge

statue of Mary, seen in the picture, and ask yourself: why did a sculptor create such a large statue of Mary? Why did God place this sculpture in someone's heart and mind, if not to put you on your path upwards?

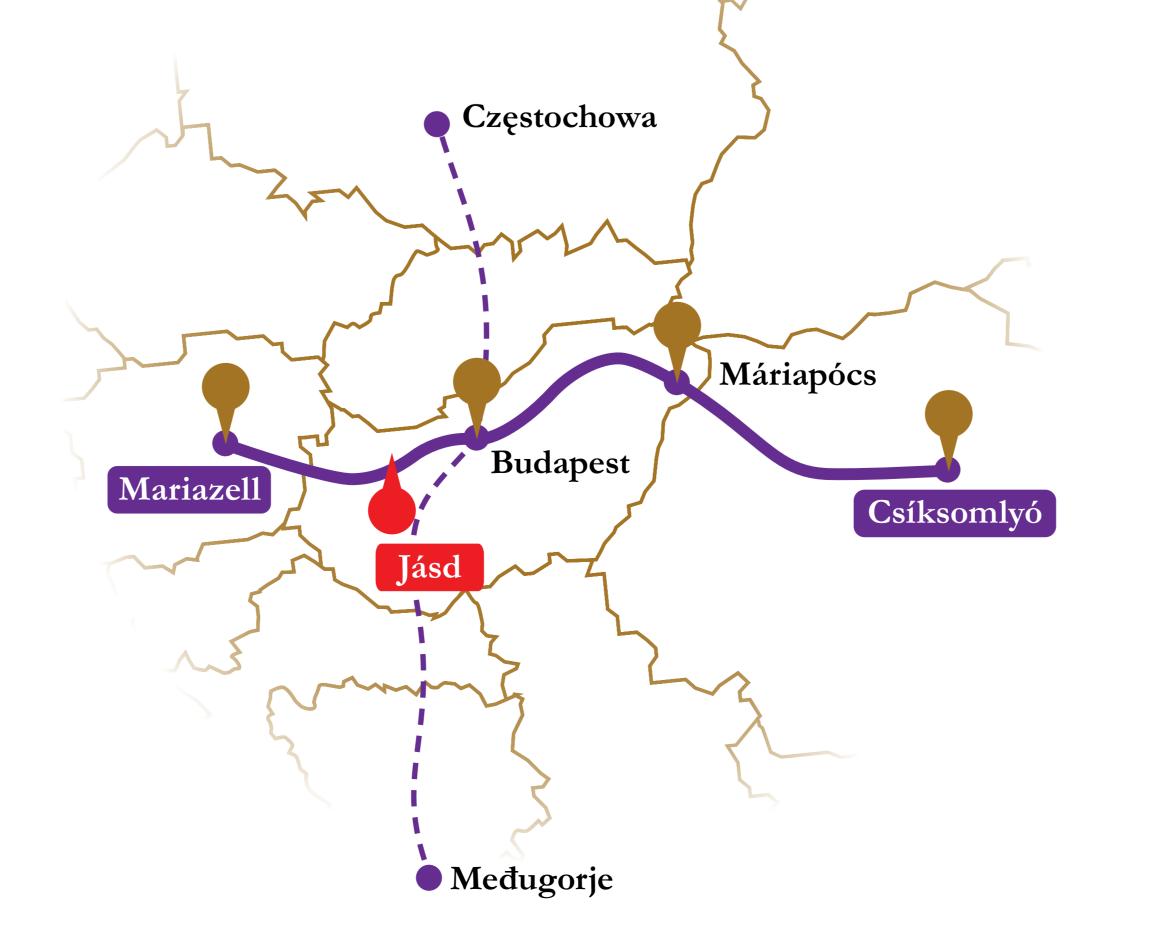
Start walking towards God, and let Mary guide your gaze and your steps towards Him!















Csatka

The current chapel, dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Mercy, was built near the Holy Well in 1862, by the donations of Baroness Ágnes Fiáth.

Although written records preserve the memory of group pilgrimages only from the end of the last century, yet we do know about the miraculous healing of a blind man named Vilmos Meizler that took place in 1792. According to the pilgrims, the water of the Holy Well of Csatka

is mainly used to cure leg pain and against paralysis. Long ago (and still today), the pilgrims would take jars and bottles home filled with spring water to those who remained at home. Csatka has become a place of national significance for the Hungarian Gypsies, Hungarian citizens of Romani descent, (the holy masses are also celebrated in Romani).

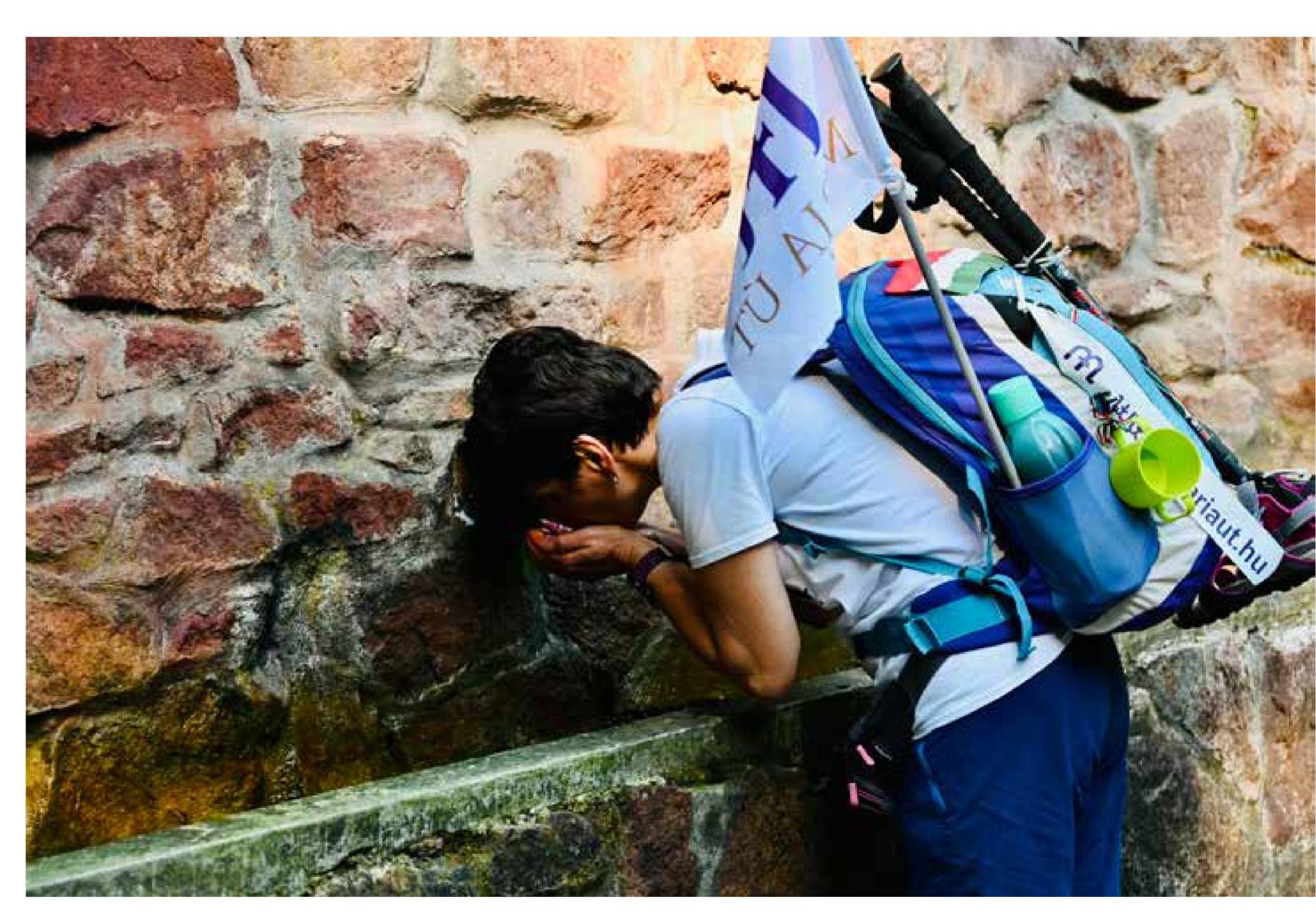
"Europe's conscience developed through pilgrimages." (Goethe)

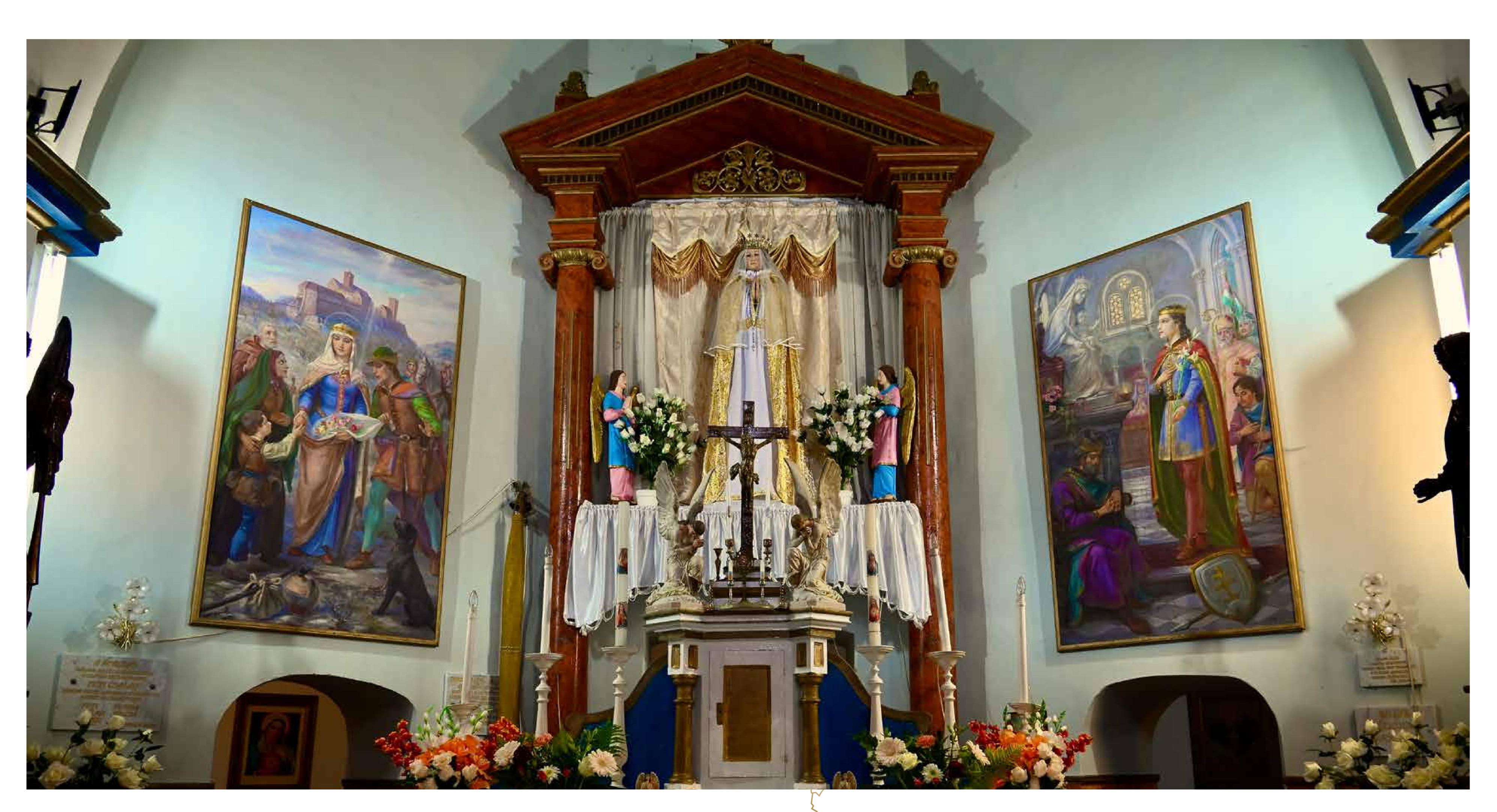
Pope saint John Paul II. reminds us that the pilgrimage effectively connects, brings together and unites the peoples who have received the gospel from century to century through proclamation of the faith by the witnesses of Christ.

We are all pilgrims in this earthly existence.

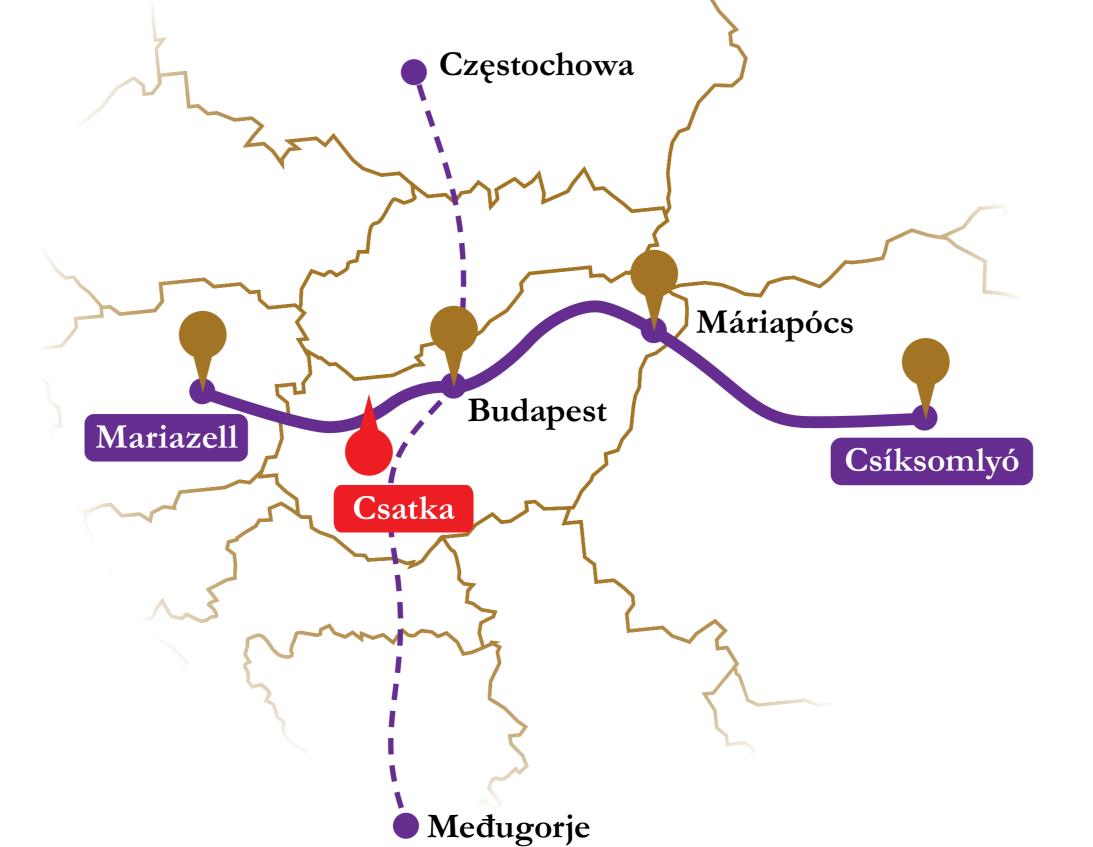
And the destination is the journey itself. What do these words mean to you?















Bodajk

Bodajk, description

The Holy Well in Bodajk was surrounded by legends already in the time of King St. Stephen, it is believed that its water dries up every seven years and then flows again. Religious reverence is paid to the place, a special healing power

has been attributed to it, just as to the popular Lake Bodajk, which is fed by healing springs, and thus its water is perfect for treating rheumatic diseases.

It's time to stop for a short prayer

In spirit, you are now standing in the pilgrims' yard of the beautifully restored Bodajk shrine, in front of the holy well. The Bodajk shrine is the Shrine of the Helping Virgin Mary. Now look at the hardships in your life and dare to ask for help.

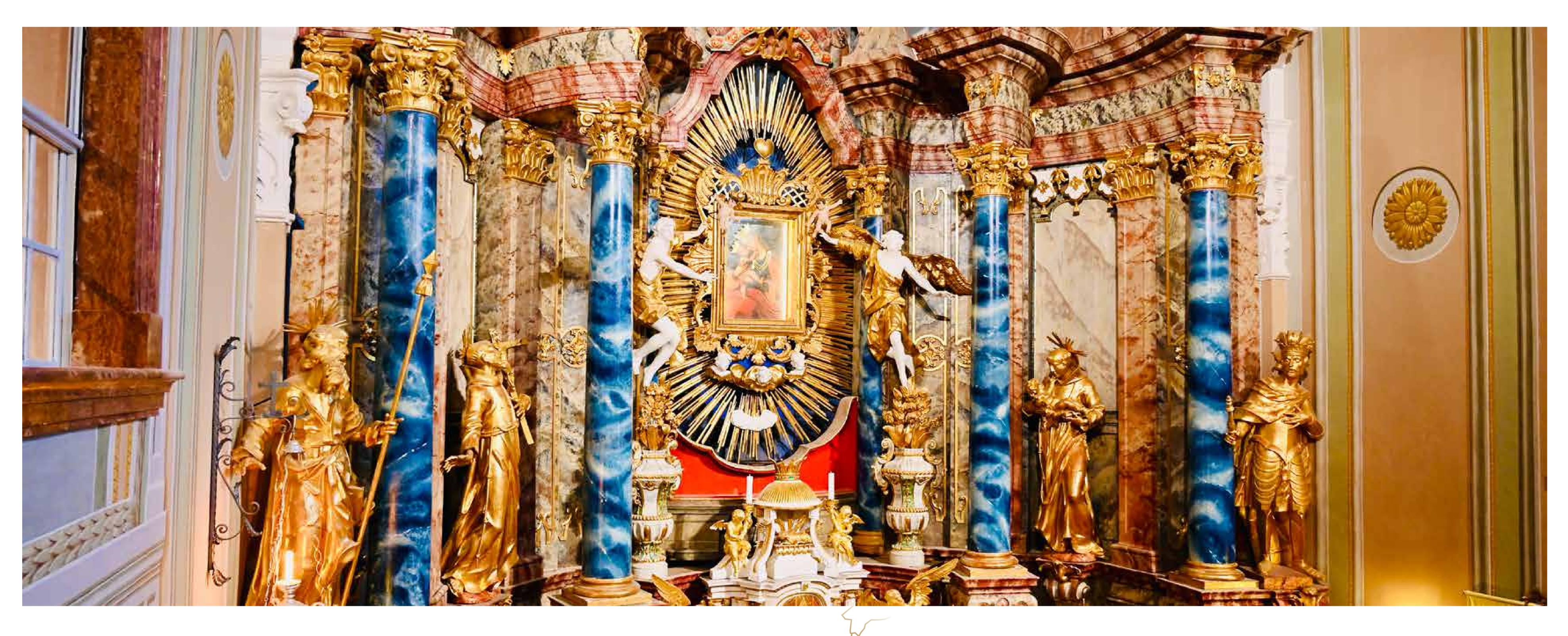
Help me now Mary, O, merciful Virgin!
Thou hast the power to dispel the bitterness of sorrow and trouble.

Where no man can help,
Thy strength will not be broken.
Thou wilt never despise the prayer
of thy children.
Where the anguish of need is great, show us
that thou art our mother!
Help me now Mary,
O, merciful Virgin!

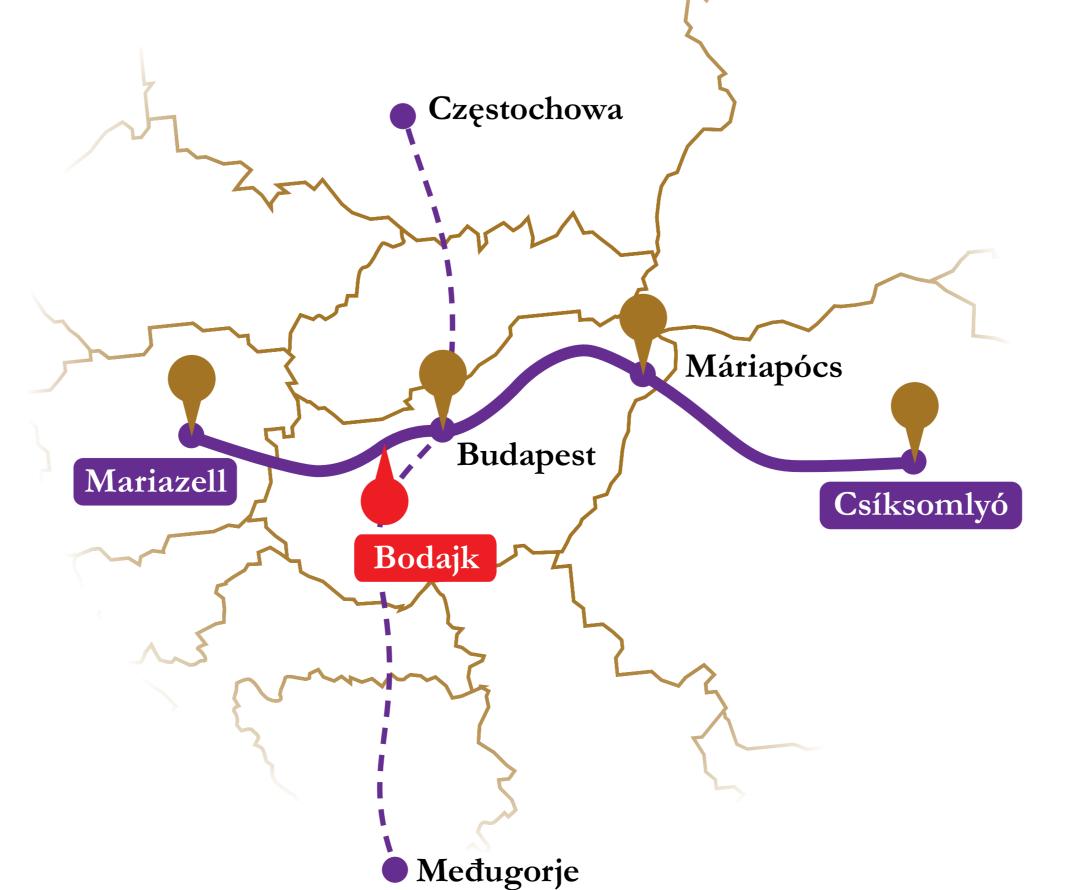
Amen















Péliföldszentkereszt

First a chapel, and later a Baroque church (the Great Church) was built around the well, which was consecrated in 1744, in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Péliföldszentkereszt is an ancient pilgrimage site located in the northeastern part of Komárom-Esztergom County, on the eastern spur of the Gerecse Mountain, and is situated in the area between the settlements of Tát, Bajna, Nyergesújfalu, and Bajót.

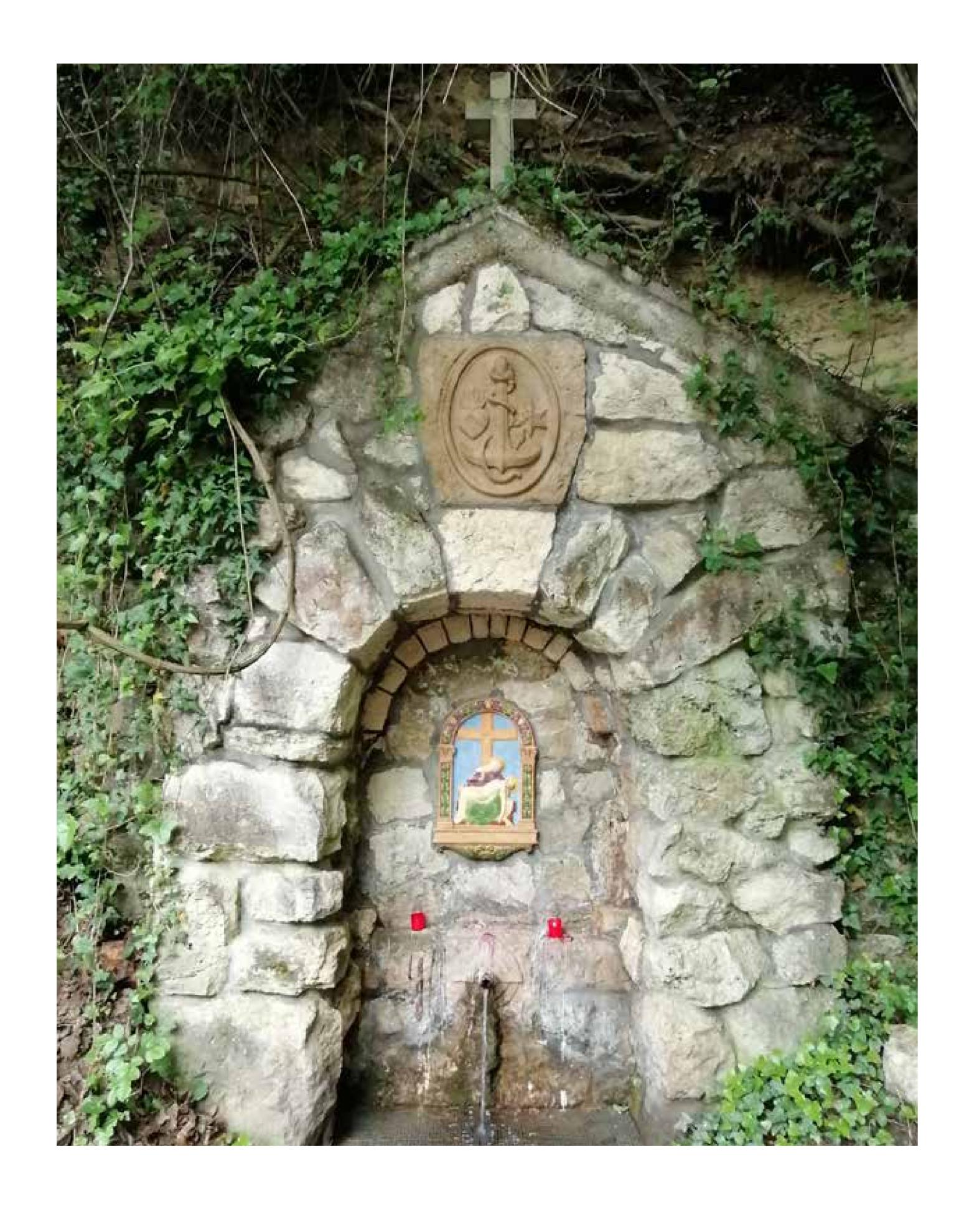
The Lourdes cave is nestled in a clearing belonging to the shrine where the Salesians have settled in Hungary. At the side of the cave, an abundant fountain springs up from the loess wall, called the Holy Well, to which the pilgrims attributed healing power since ancient times.

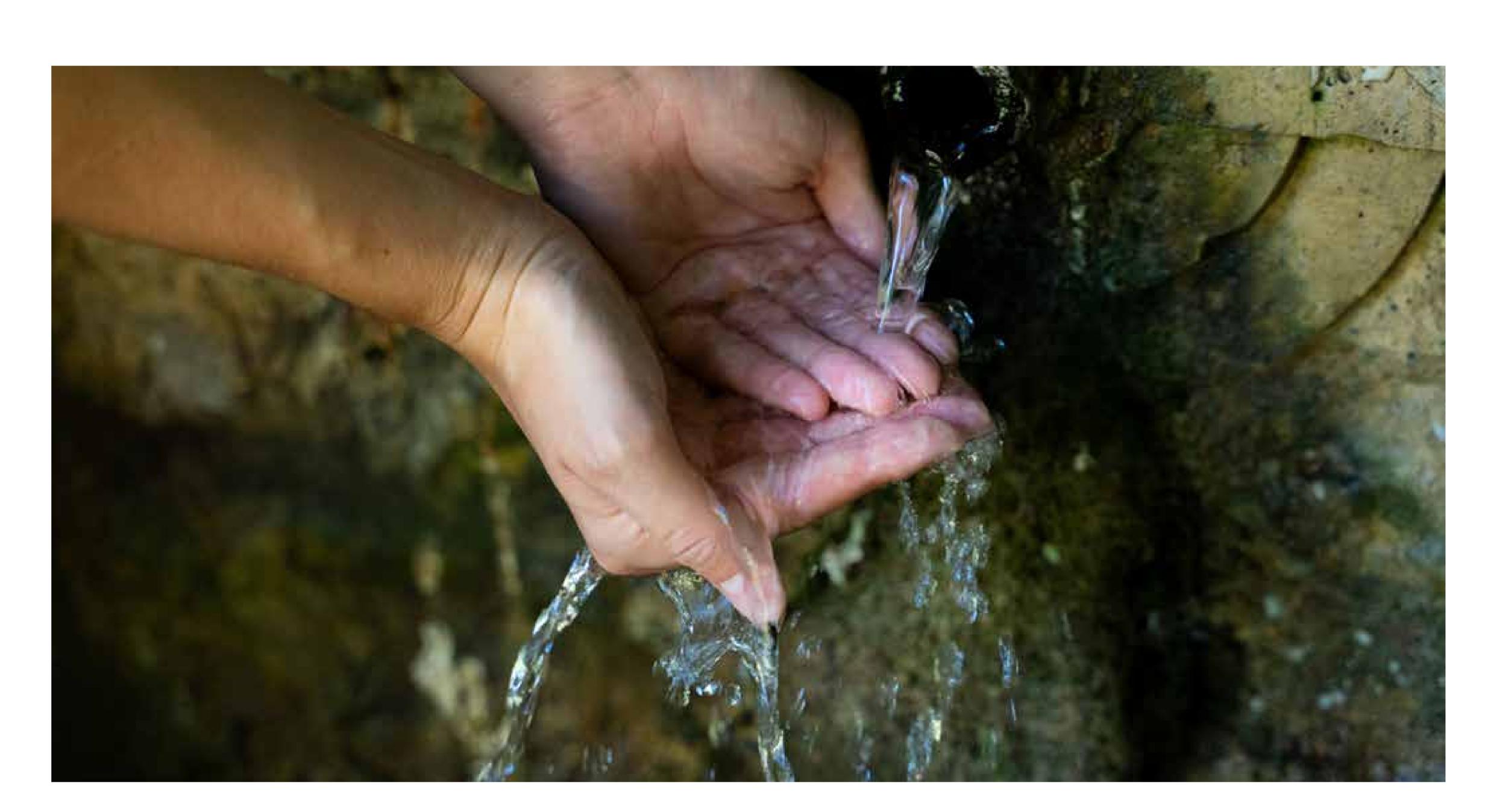
Dig deep, look up!

We can often feel that our lives are like going up a mountain, but we never reach the top, our goals, because along the way we get tired, give up, and turn back for some reason. But let's look at these failures as the very things that serve our development, our spiritual

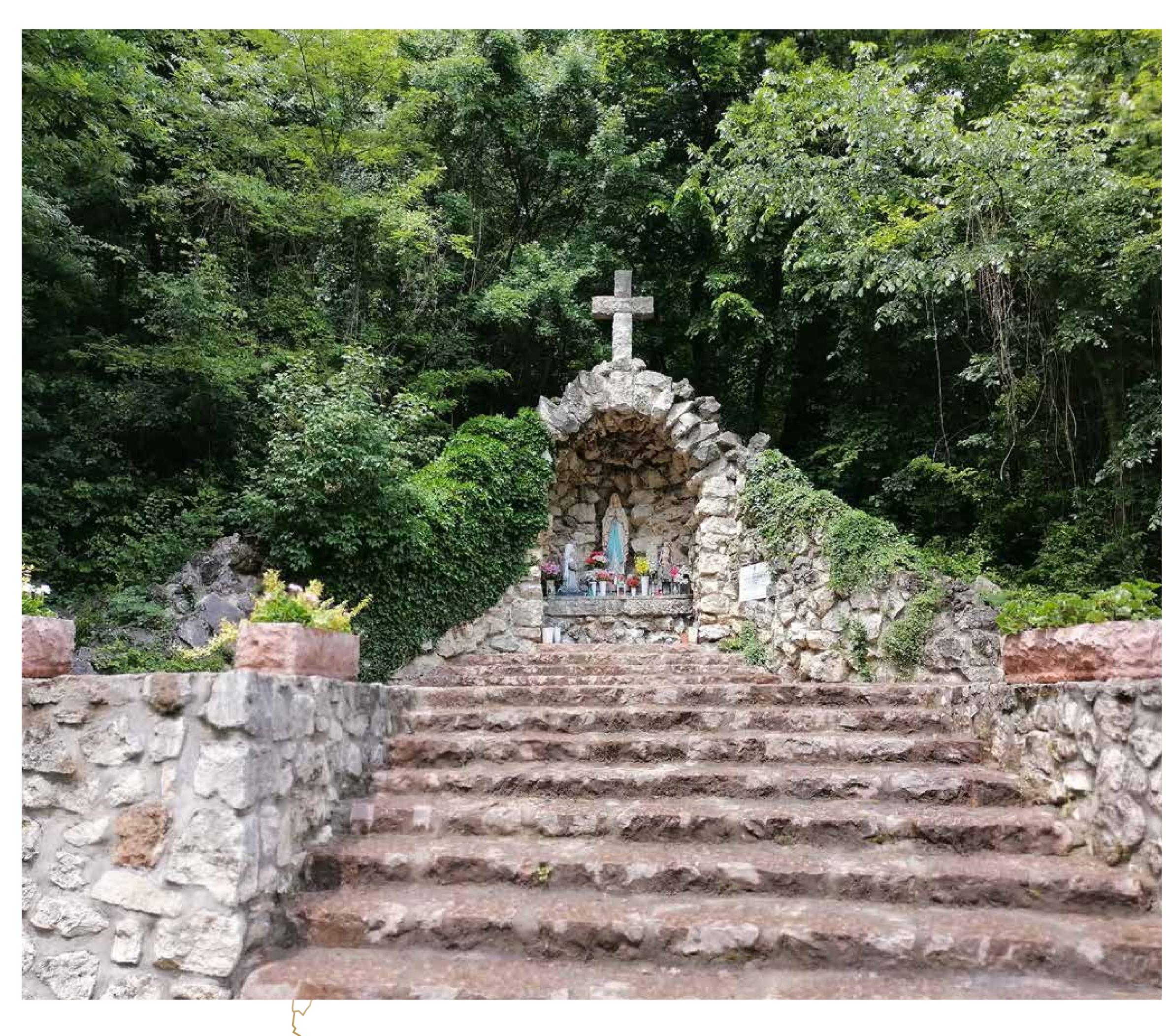
growth through exercising the virtues. If we start climbing the mountain again and again, the path will be familiar, our legs will be stronger and we will always get higher and higher, stretching our limits and capabilities.

All that matters is to keep your eyes always on the top, on the goal ahead. What hinders you from keeping your eyes on Christ all the time?



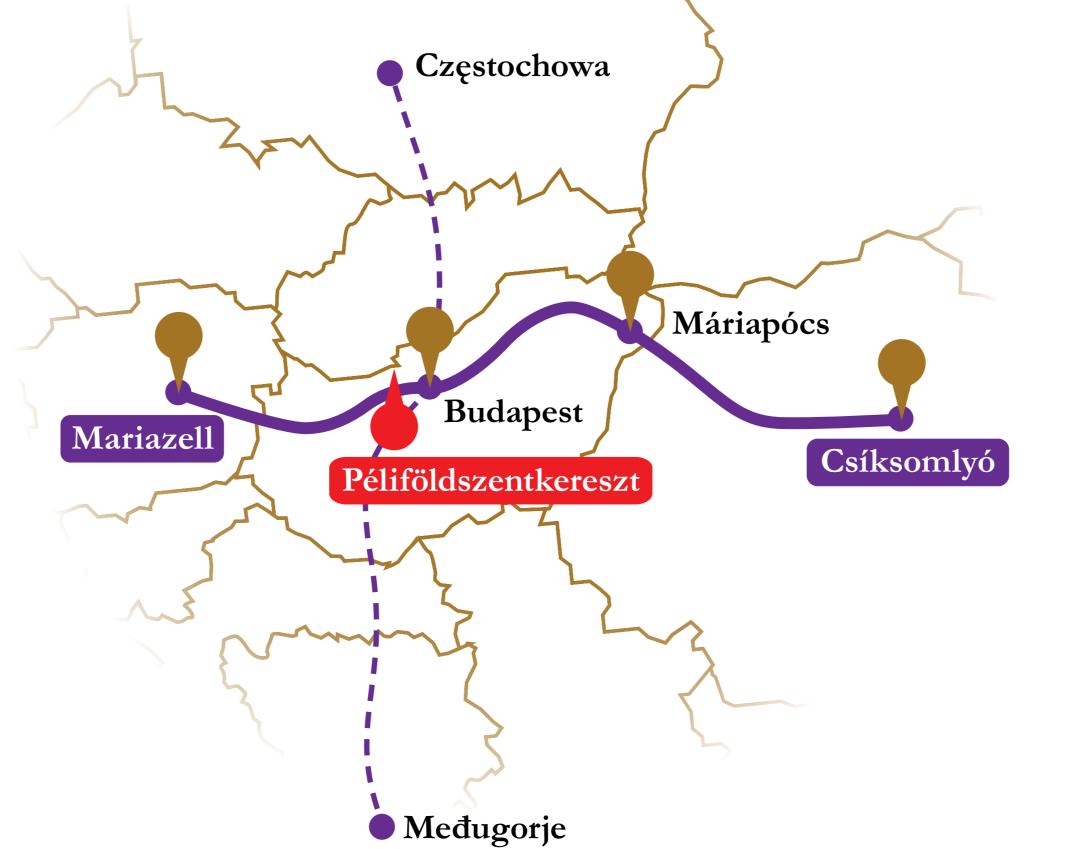
















Mátraverebély-Szentkút

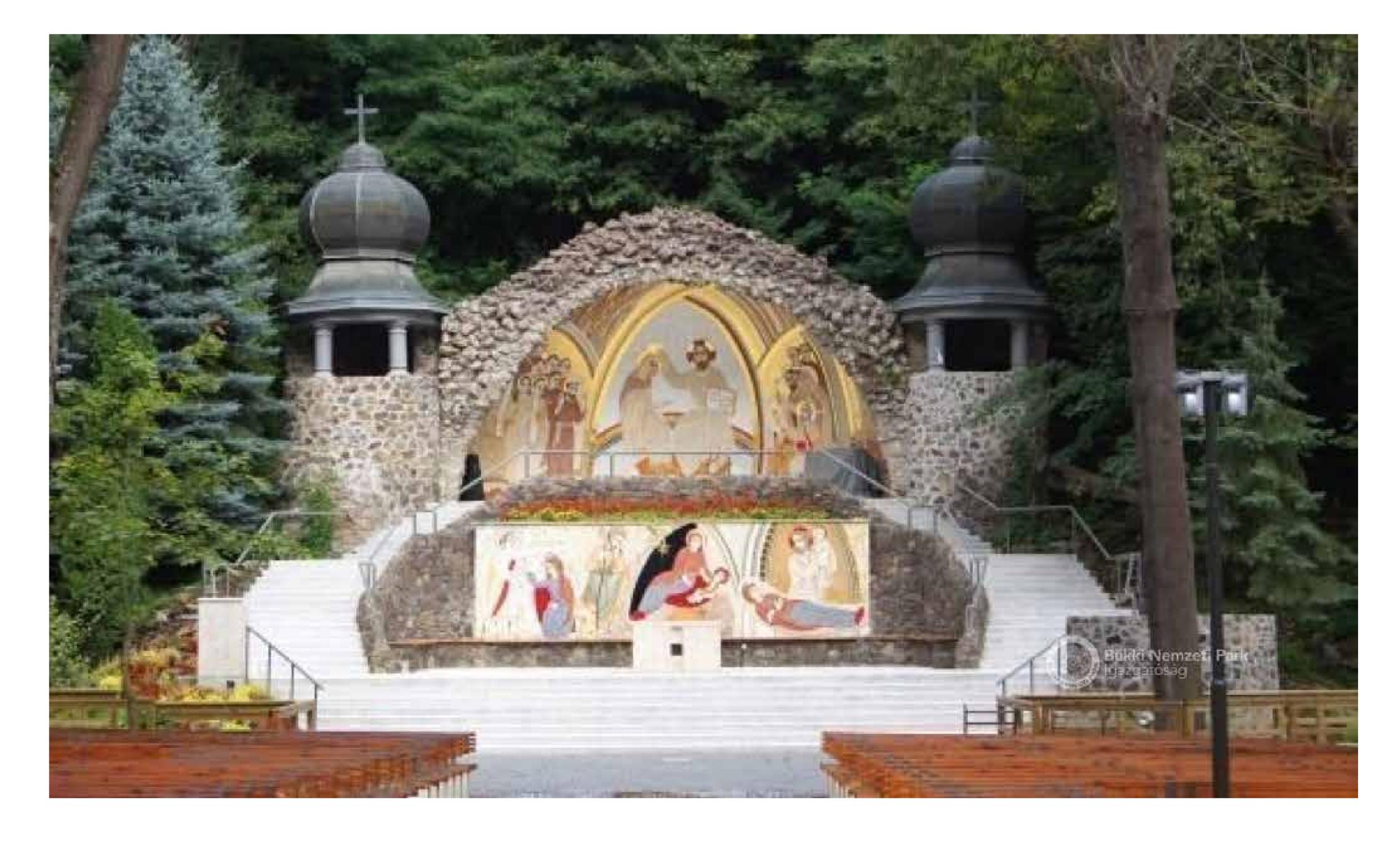
The first miraculous healing may have happened in the 13th century when the Virgin Mary, holding the child Jesus in her arms, appeared to a dumb shepherd of Verebély and commanded him to dig into the ground and drink of the water that bubbled up. The boy obeyed and suddenly regained the gift of speech.

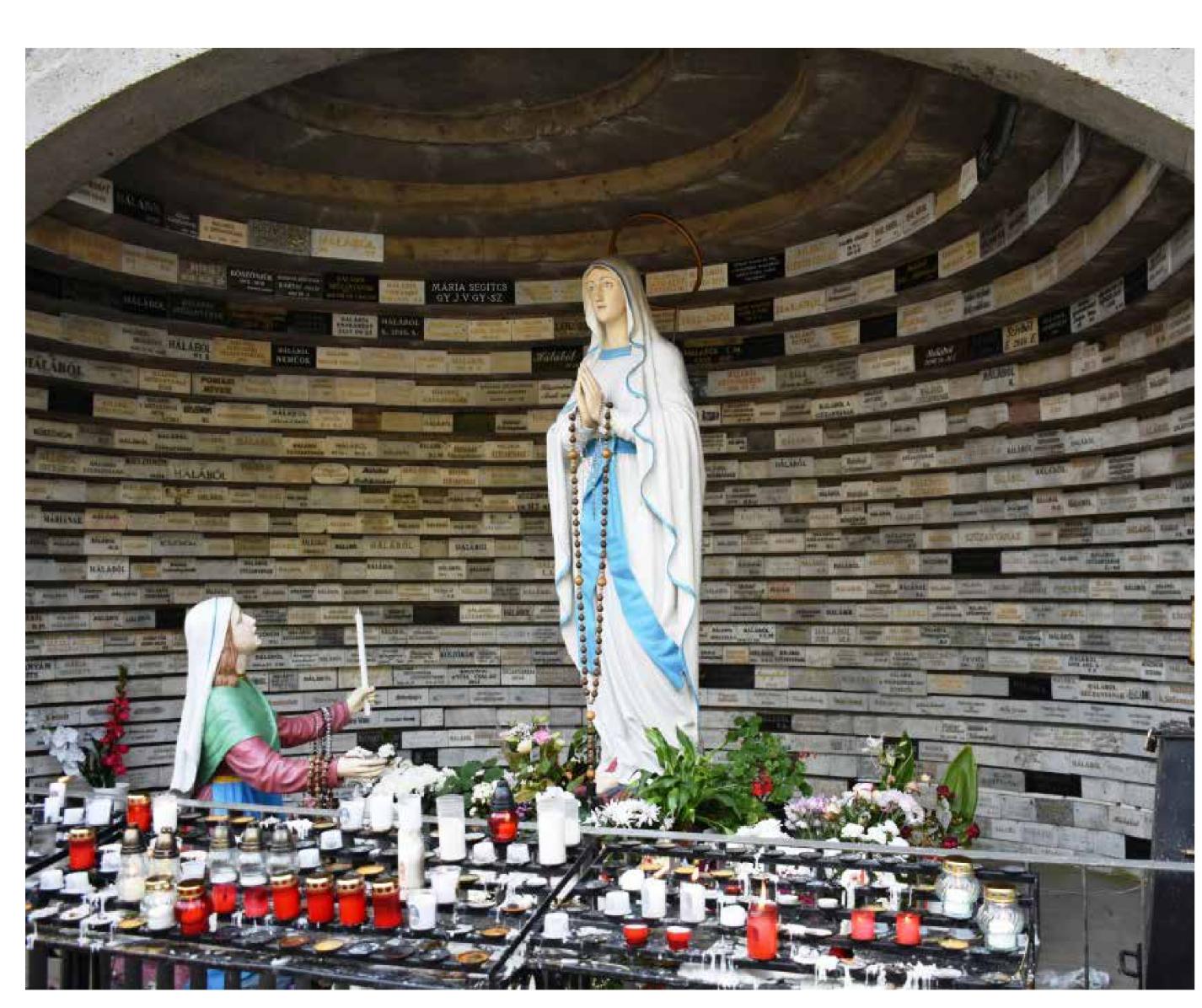
Mátraverebély-Szentkút National Shrine (Holy Well of Mátraverebély): In 1210, due to the great number of pilgrims, a church had to be built in the village of Mátraverebély, from where they walked in procession to the miraculous spring in the valley of Szentkút. In 1258, this church already had the privilege to grant a plenary indulgence. From the 1400s, this pilgrimage site already possessed the privileges granted only to the greatest pilgrimage destinations. In 1700, Pope Clement XI had a few miraculous healings from Szentkút examined, and he recognized them all.

"...all my springs are in you."
(New King James Version & English Standard Version of the Bible, Psalms 87:7); "Within you is my true home." (The New American Bible, Psalms 87:7)

Let us discover the act of God in our lives. Let us see in the good things, but let us also see in the supposed bad things. Is that really bad? Let us remember these words of wisdom: "What does not kill you makes you stronger". Be assured that if you walk in the way of God, you are on the right path, since everything you have comes from Him, from His love.

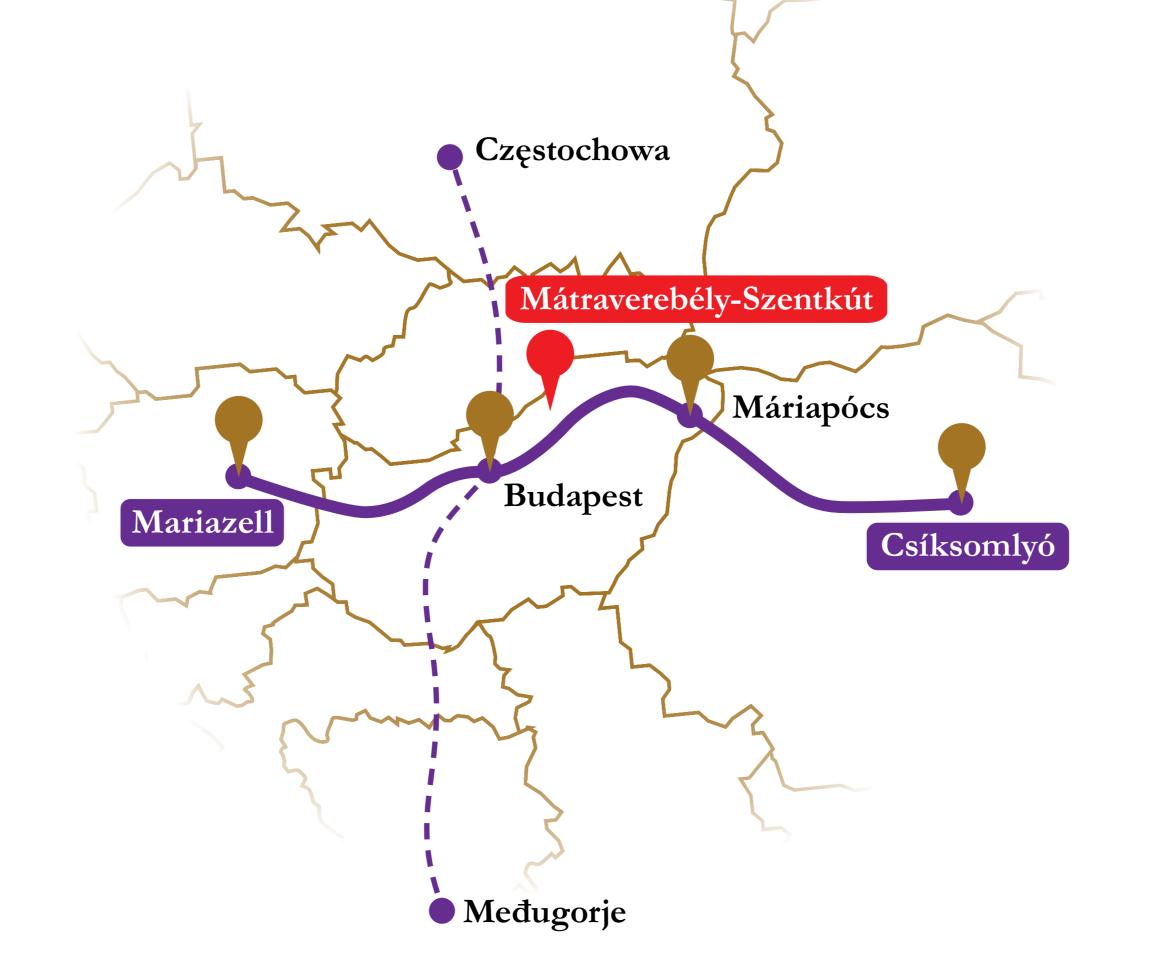
















Jászberény

According to tradition, the holy well sprung up during a hail in 1747. Legend has it that the surface of the Holy Well's water reflected the mirror image

of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in whose honor a votive chapel was built in this place. In 1892, an octagonal chapel was built over the fountain, in which a Pietà statue is kept. Its water is still used and consumed by many people today.

With Mary to Christ

You are standing in front of a statue of Pieta. Mary is holding in her arms the body of Christ, who has just been taken down from the cross. Christ is Dead... the suffering is over. What might Mary have felt? She, who knew

that she was holding not only her son, but the Savior himself in her arms...Where do we go from here? Is there any point in going on? What drove Mary forward?

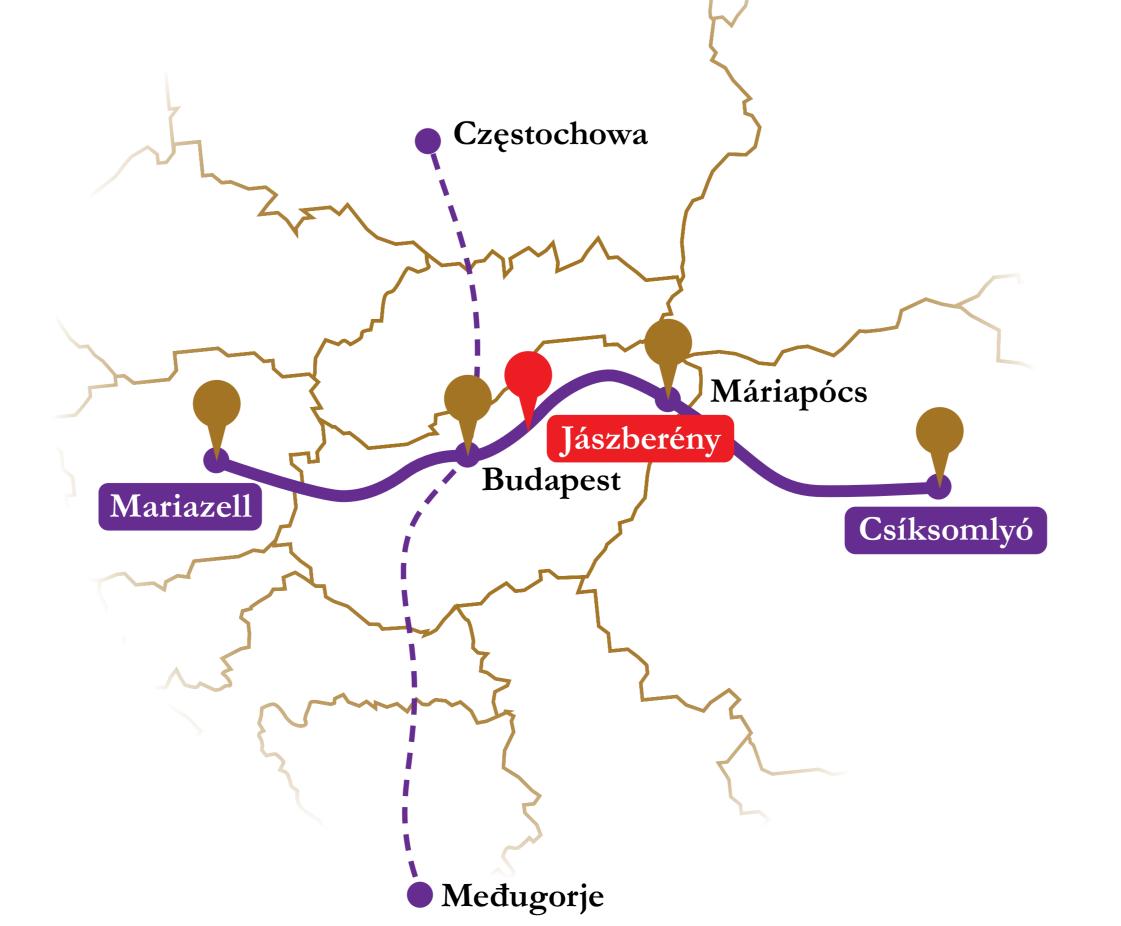
It was her faith that this is not the end of everything here. She believed that God's love would overcome the darkness. Believe in it yourself, too!















Pálosszentkút

According to legend, the year was 1791, when a shepherd, grazing his flock at night, came across an unknown spring, in the water of which he saw the figure of the Virgin Mary shining with great light. The news spread quickly in the area and many people came to the spring well to see the miracle and took bottles of its water home with them to their sick brothers and sisters. Tradition

has explained the event by the fact that at that time the village priest hid the Holy Eucharist from the invading Turkish troops in the fountain in front of the church so that it would not be desecrated by the Turks.

Another wonderful story says that in the late 1700s, a lame beggar came to the Holy Well. He drank from its water, washed himself, and was healed, that is, his legs regained their strength. He stabbed his crutches into the ground by the spring, and they sprouted roots and grew into large, living trees. The trees were later broken down into wood chips and taken away by the pilgrims.

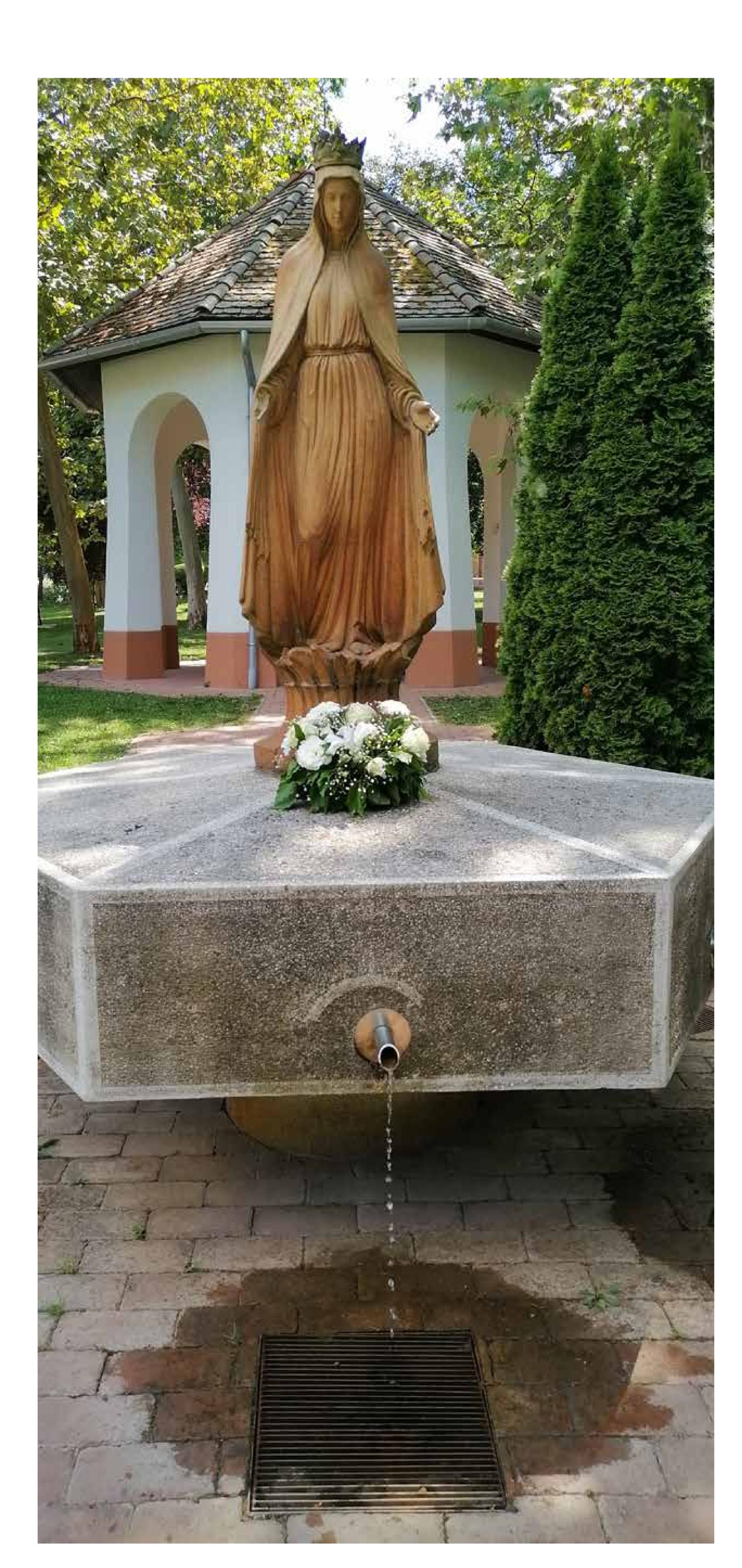
Move forward.

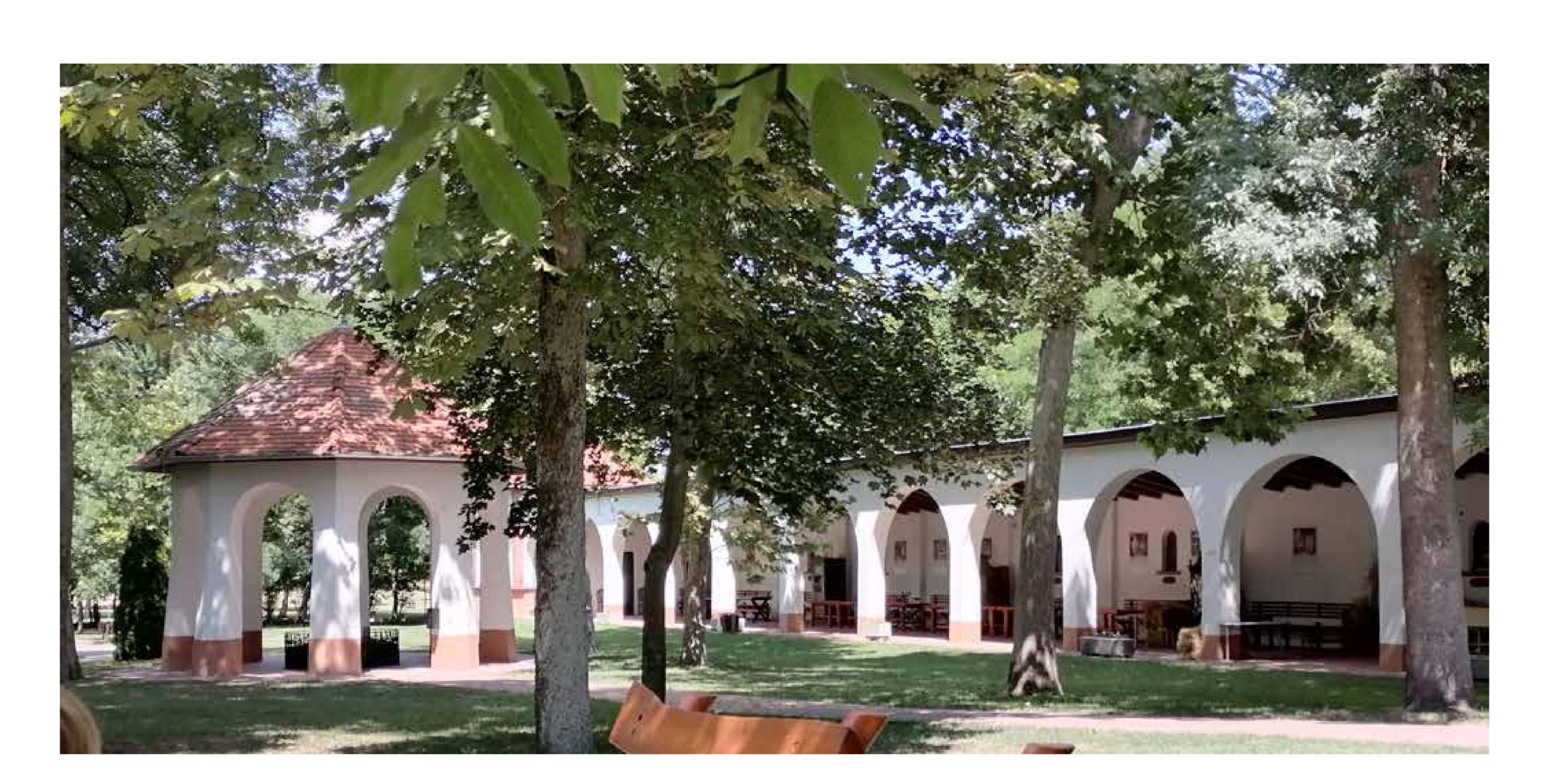
Even if you are no longer sure of yourself, go ahead: "God never abandons his children, but his purposes are unfathomable, and he builds the road with our own steps."

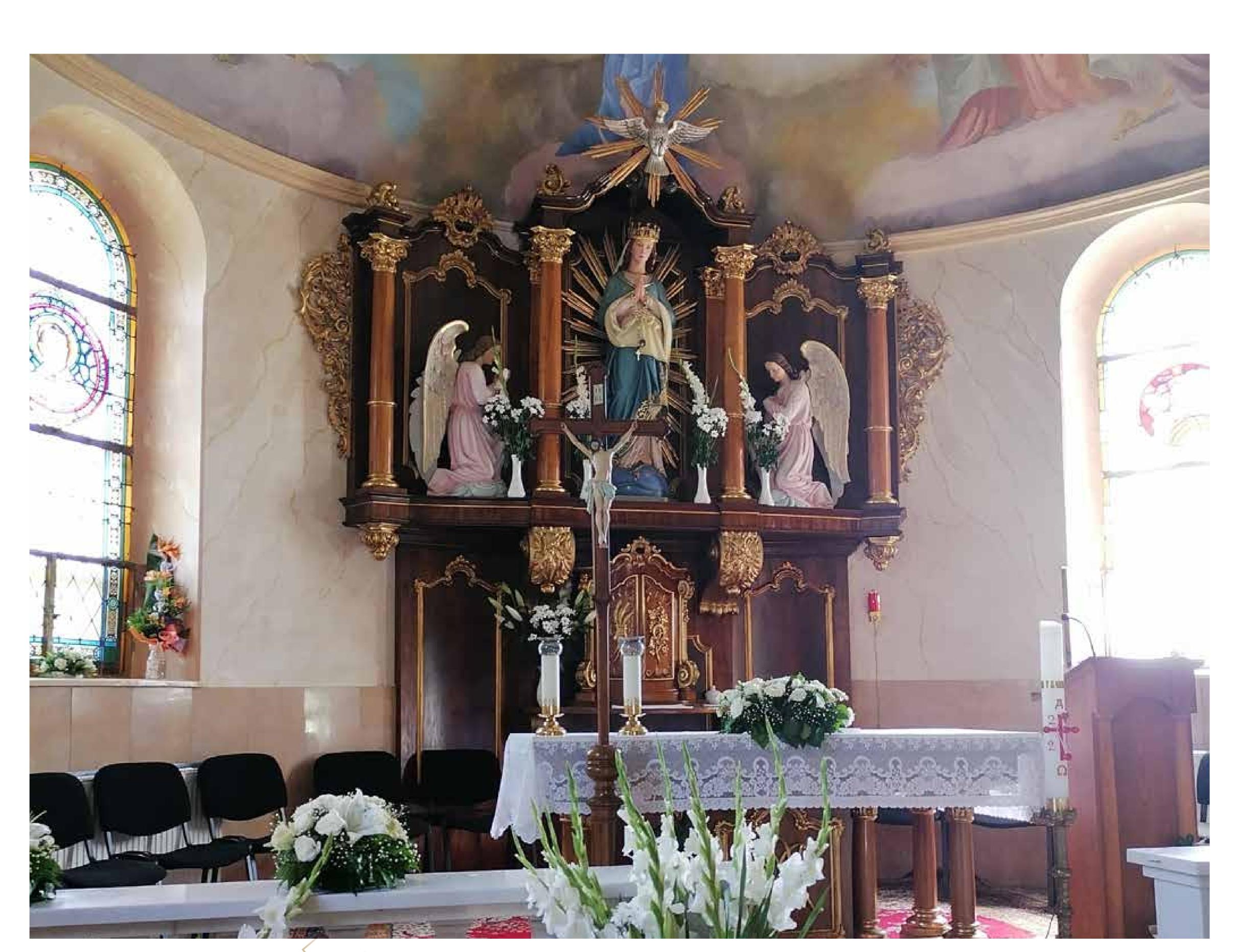
(Warrior of the Light, Paulo Coelho)

The story of Pálosszentkút is an example of how a desperate situation can carry a great gift. One man who did not give up hope, who tried to save values for future generations, obtained a real miracle.

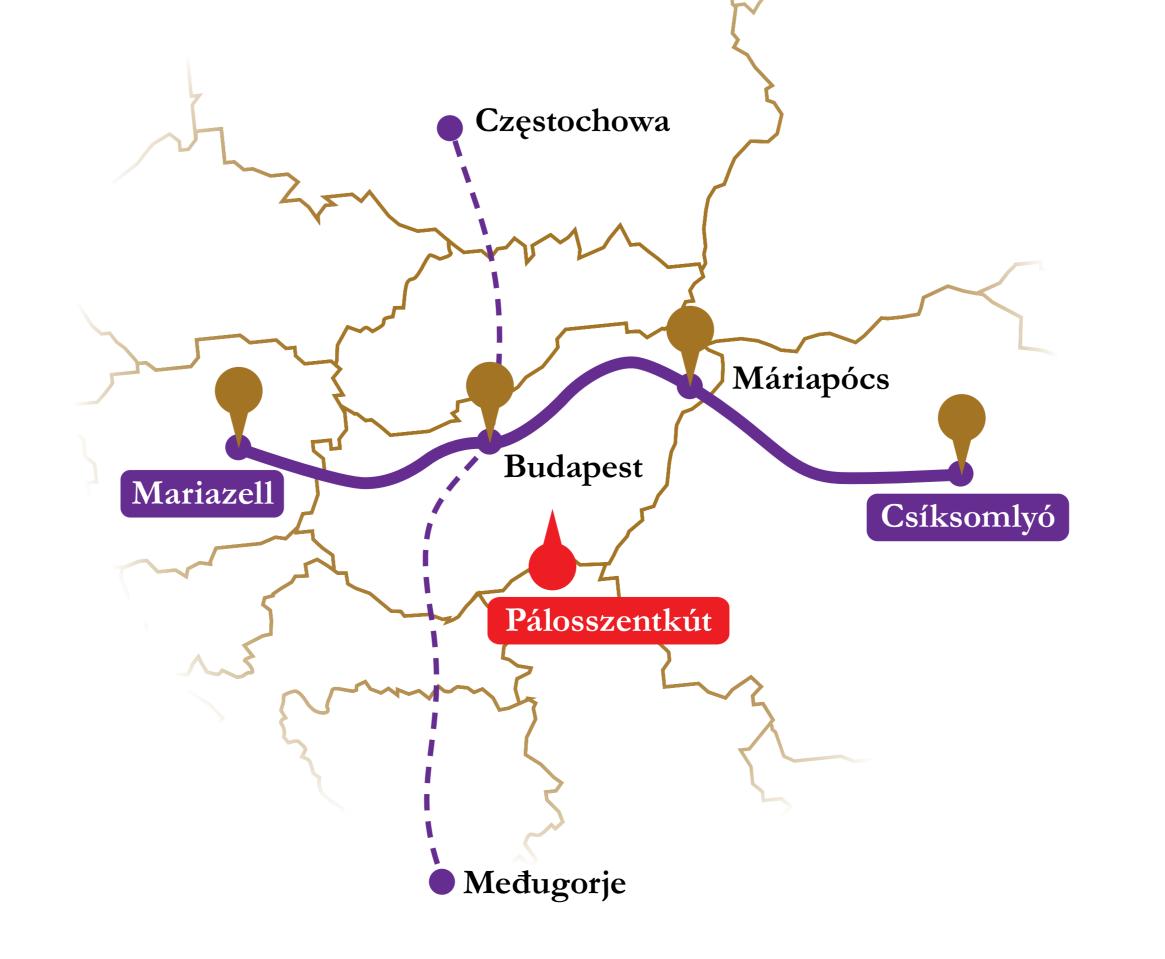
See your difficulties with this perspective, and act accordingly... keep going on your way.















Máriagyűd

The spring below the hill (Tenkes Hill) of today's Máriagyűd, already served as a natural resting place during the time of the Roman Empire, when the road connecting the Roman provincial town of Sopianae (the today's Pécs) and Mursa (the today's Osijek, in Hungarian: Eszék) passed by this place. Probably the Slavic Christians placed a Virgin Mary altar here. The water from the holy well was taken home in "Gyűd jars" by the pilgrims visiting here.

King St. Stephen of Hungary entrusted the land to the Benedictine monks settled in Pécsvárad around 1000 A.D., who found the enshrined statue of Mary in 1006 and they built a chapel over it. In 1148, King Géza II had a church built in this place.

During the Turkish occupation, the church could no longer function as a church: a mosque was established in the building. In 1687, the Christian armies won a great victory over the Turks at the battle of Harsány Hill. However, the building of the church was first taken over by the Greek Orthodox Church and then by the Calvinists before returning to the hands of the Catholics/Catholic Church.

Recognise your mistakes

A prayer of repentance is recited at every Mass. "I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask Blessed Mary ev-

er-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God."

Do you really admit to the world that you've done something wrong? Are you responsible for that mistake? How could you correct your mistake? Will you do everything to earn forgiveness?

Dare to ask for help! You are standing here at the feet of the Virgin Mary of Gyűd, in the shrine of Máriagyűd... "Take your burden out of your backpack and place it at Mary's feet"



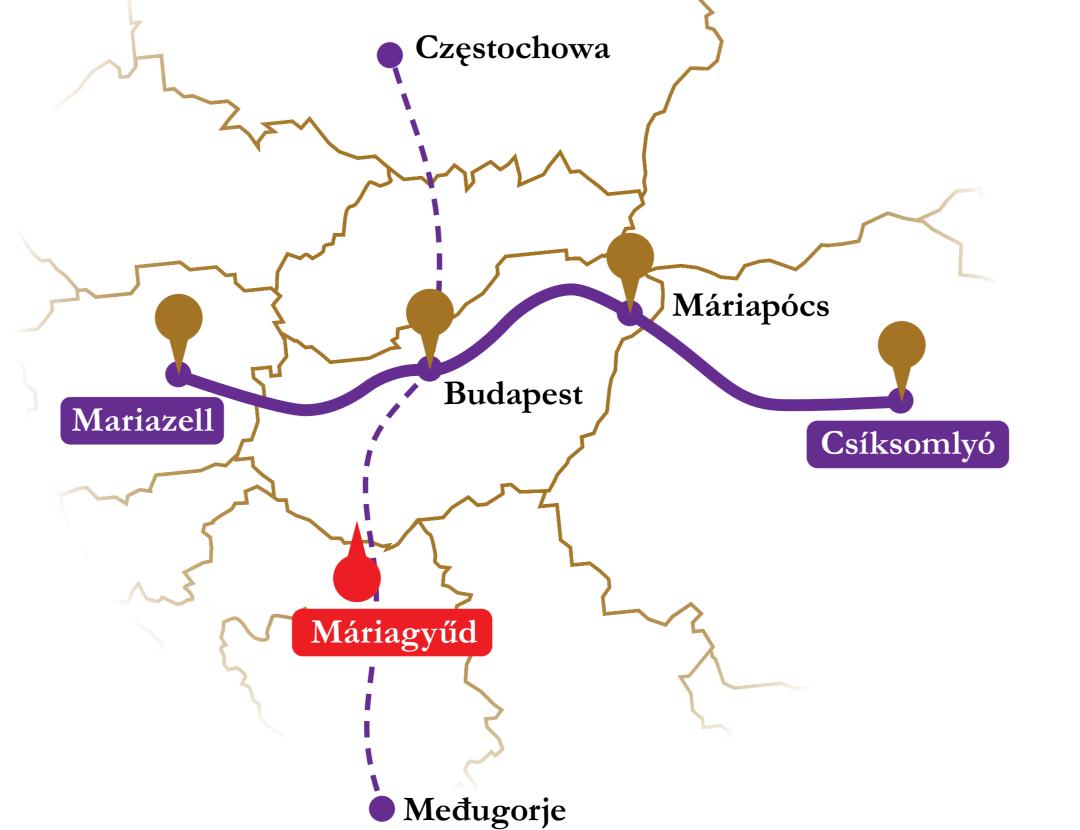
















Mecsekszentkút

Szentkút (Mecsekszentkút) (situated in the Central Mecsek Mountains) is a settlement belonging to the city of Pécs, which was built next to the road connecting Pécs with Abaliget. The Holy Well spring gushes forth at the northern end of the pilgrimage site. The small settlement dates back to the end of the 17th century. The late bishop Mátyás Ig-

nác Radonay used to visit here for a retreat with Zsigmond Somogyi, a Pauline monk (Order of St. Paul the first hermit), who was his chaplain. Later, the bishop gave the area to the Paulines, who built a church and small houses here.

Do you walk the way of the cross, or the path of light?

It happened in China. A man at one point in his life became extremely desperate. He saw that there was so much evil in the world, so many times worthlessness reigned, and unscrupulous people stayed on top. There are so many beautiful things in life that later end up getting destroyed. He decided to stop fighting and commit suicide. But before doing so, he visited an old Chinese sage whose house stood on top of a huge cliff by the ocean. The sage listened to him as he went into details explaining his pain and complaints for quite a long time. Then, when the man stopped talking, the old sage walked over to the stove, where the fire was not burning right then. He took a handful of ashes and sprinkled it into a glass of water. The water turned completely grey and became undrinkable. Then the wise old man took out a handful of

ashes again, went to his window overlooking the ocean, and threw the ashes into the sea. The ashes disappeared into the waves in a few seconds, as they fell into the deep sea and dissolved in it. The water became as crystal clear as it had been before. The old sage then said to the desperate man, "It is up to you whether your heart and soul will be as tight as this glass of water or as wide open as the sea."

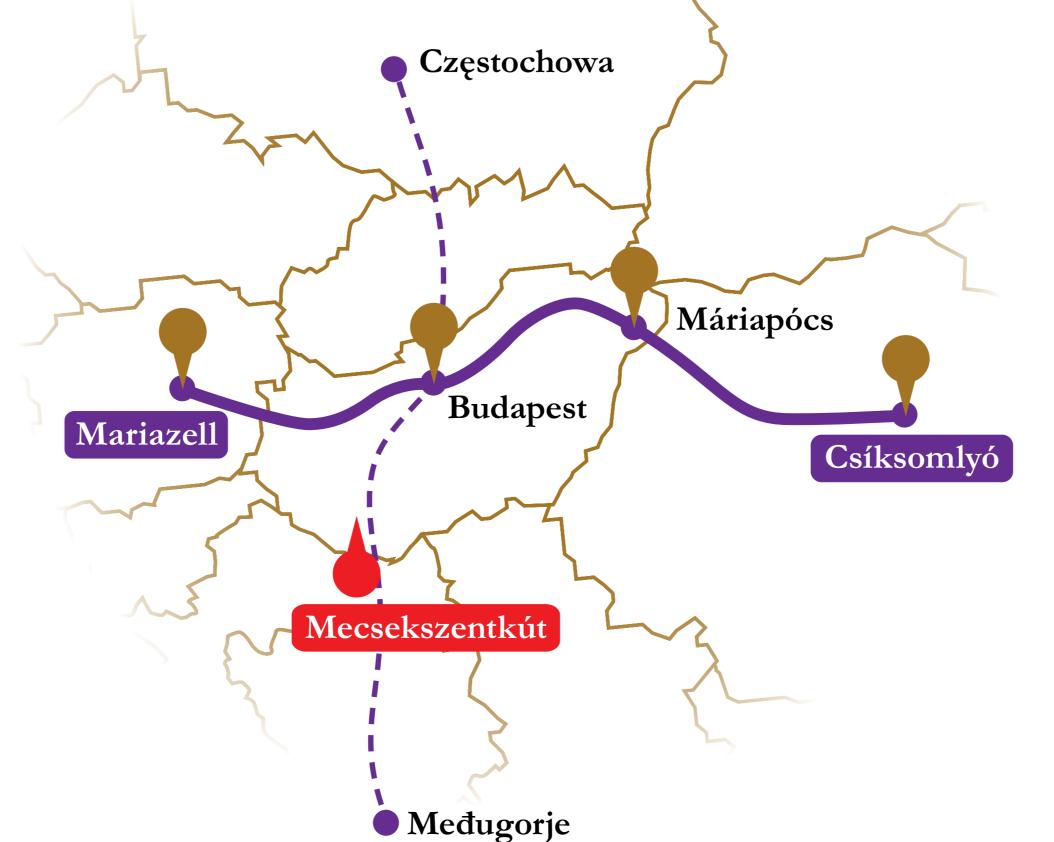
Eventually, the road ends, and your pilgrimage through life leads to the sea of God's mercy, and to its spring, which feeds it: the heart of Jesus as a living Fountain of Mercy - Can you draw from this inexhaustible Fountain of Life, Fountain of Divine Love? Immerse yourself in it.















Andocs

According to legend, one night around 1520, a great brightness filled the sky over Somogy County. In this heavenly splendor, angelic songs were heard, then the heavenly brightness and the resounding singing of wonderful hymns drew closer and closer to the sleeping village of Andocs. For it was on this night that the Virgin Mary and her angels descended from Heaven upon Andocs. When the villagers

left their homes to go to work the next morning, they were surprised to see that a small, tower chapel stood on the hitherto empty plot in the middle of the village.

Pilgrims attributed miraculous healing power to the holy fountain next to the church and often bathed in it.

Put down the cross

Purification is the liberation from the bondage of sin that drags us to the depths of despair. This means breaking the chains and fetters.

A hermit kept a strict fast in the desert. Then he thought to himself that it was easy to fast that way, for there was no meat within ten kilometers.

The real thing is when the meat is there in front of him and yet he refuses to eat it. He went to the town market, bought a big piece of meat and put it on the rock in front of himself.

Then he thought to himself: "Who wants to eat raw meat? The real thing is when it is cooked, and I don't eat any of it anyway." He cooked it.

But then he thought to himself, "The real thing is when it's in my mouth and yet I don't eat it." He put it in his mouth... and then he ate the whole plate.

The first important step in overcoming temptation is to avoid the occasions that lead to sin, the things that tempt us. In this way we also strengthen and protect our weak will.

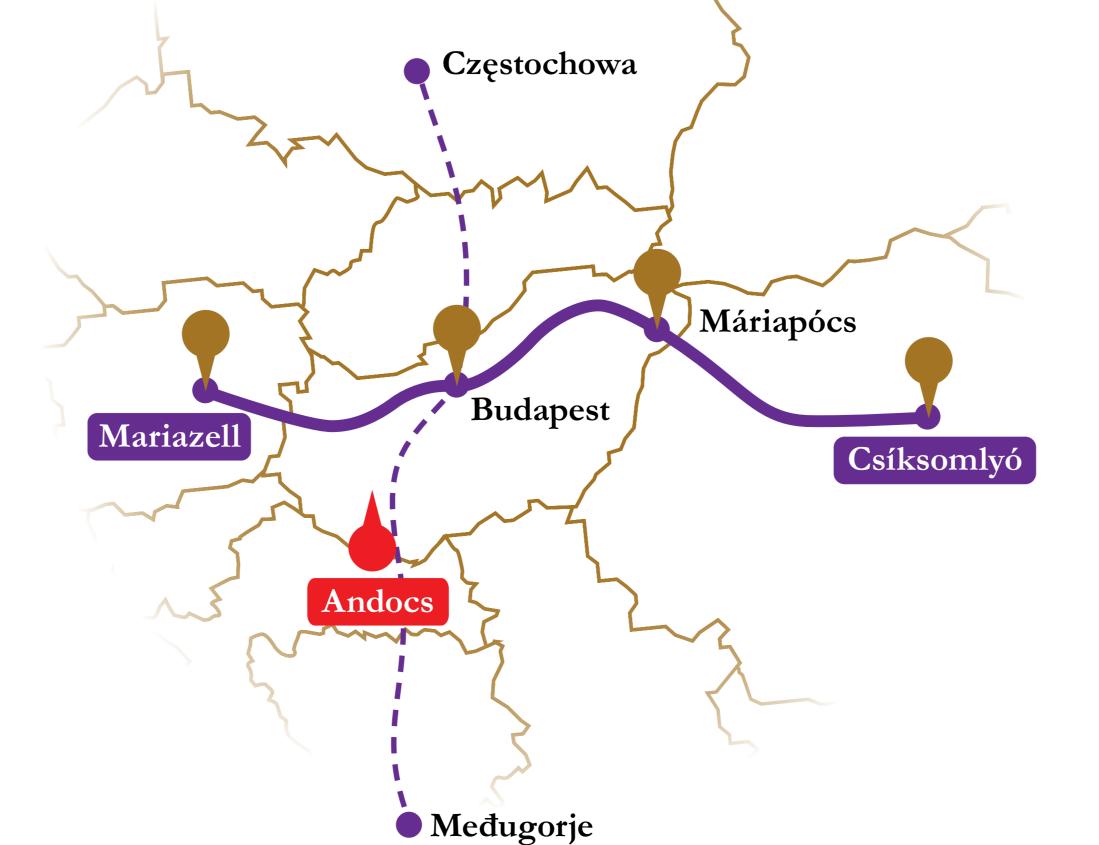
What do you need to do to avoid making the same mistakes or making new ones?















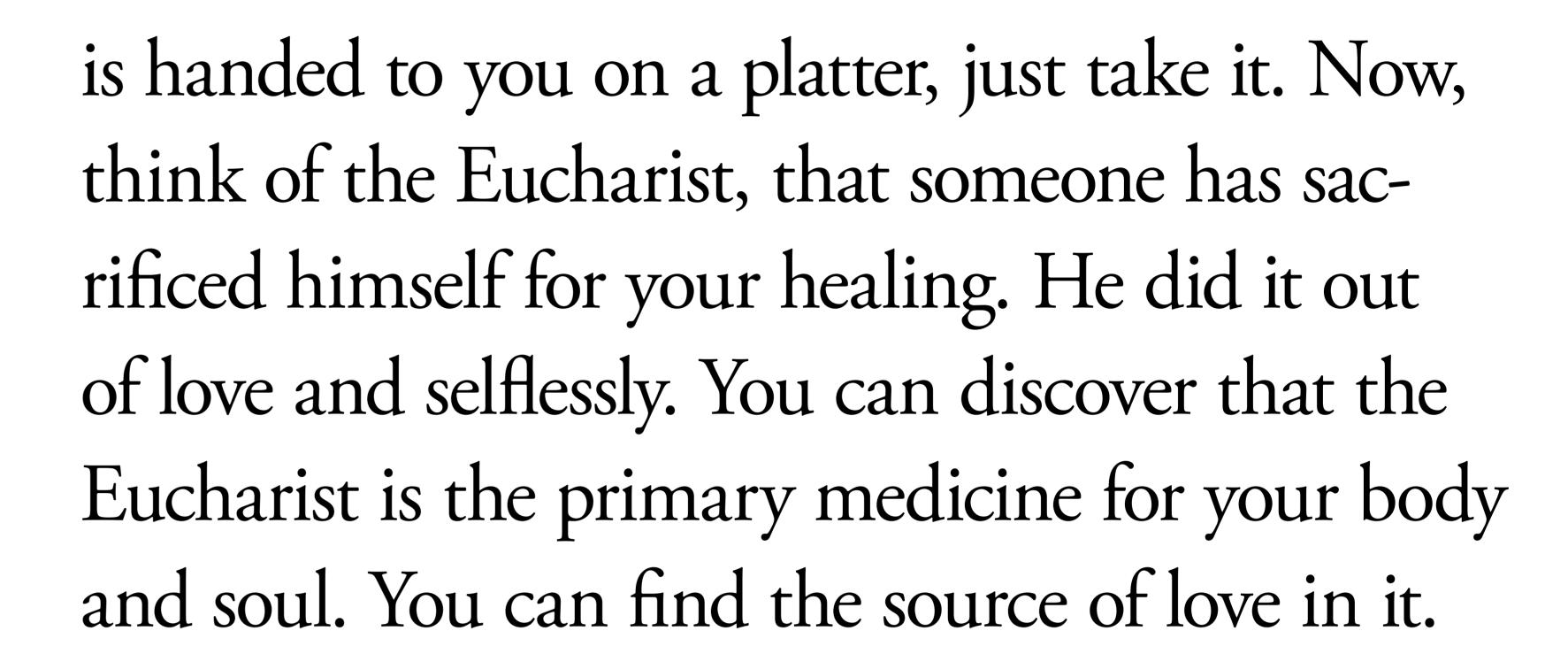
Segesd

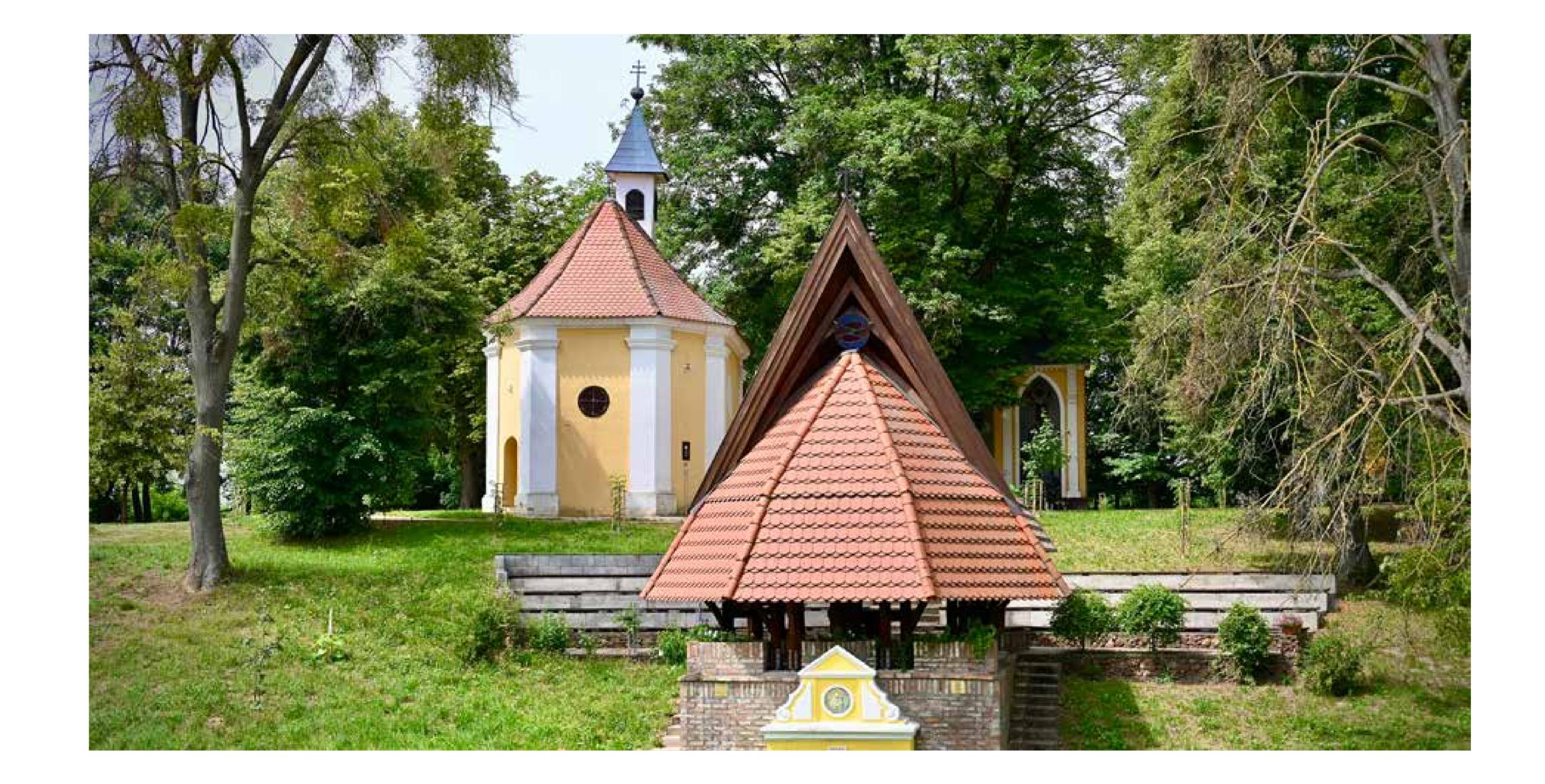
According to legendary tradition, many people regained their health already in Turkish times at the spring breaking forth at the foot of the vineyard hill of Segesd. Based on these reports, General Count Antal Széchenyi had a chapel built over it, where he placed a copy of the famous Pieta of the Pauline church in Sasvár (today located in Slovakia, Bratislava/ the former Pozsony County/, Diocese of Nitra).

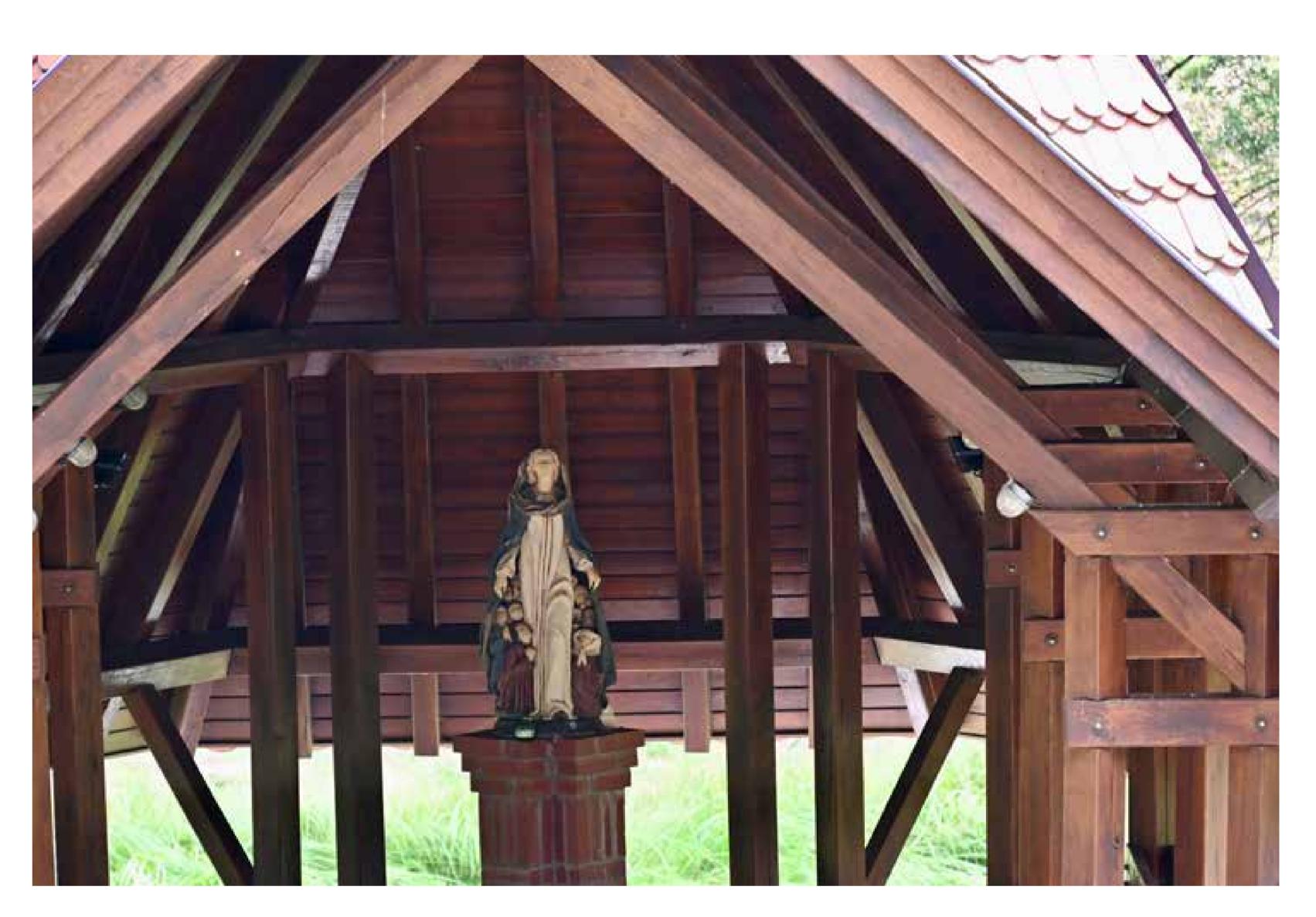
At the well, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, many prayers have been answered, many regained their health, and these cases were recorded by the fathers in the Franciscan monastery.

See the miracle and be healed!

Take a look around you now. In your imagination you are standing in a healing shrine. Many were healed from their physical and spiritual ailments by the love of Christ. Why couldn't it be you who is healed? Believe your eyes, trust your feelings. What have you got to lose? The most powerful instrument of healing, the Holy Eucharist, the healing presence,

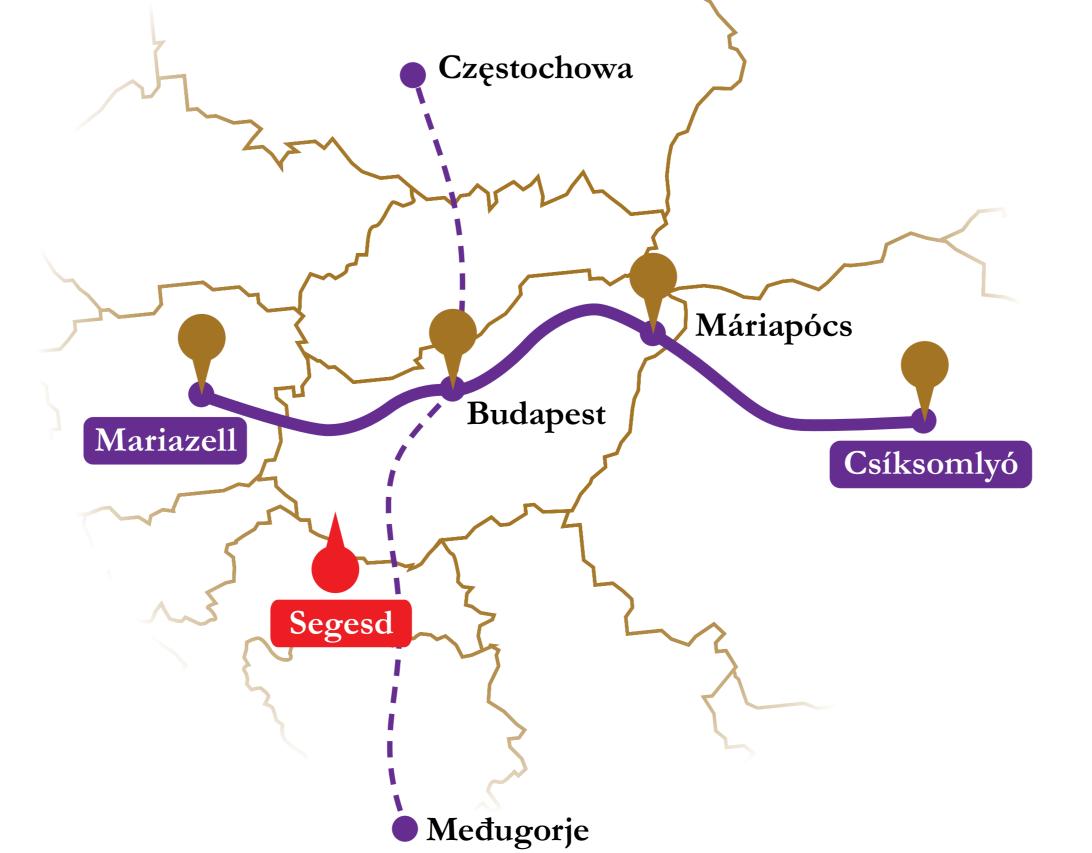
















According to historical tradition, an imperial soldier, Ailert Keresztély had a dream in 1715, according to which he would recover from his illness at the spring of the Tét forest. His dream came true. After his recovery, he had a small chapel built next to the spring, in which a copy of the altarpiece depicting Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Mariahilf) was placed.

The news of his miraculous healing drew many pilgrims to this place, which became the focal point of pilgrimages and through the continuously growing number of answered prayers, Tétszentkút has become a pilgrimage destination for the people of the Rábaköz region.

Peace be with you! Accept your mission, drawn from the fountain, Jesus Christ and proclaim the good news to others!

You are nearing the end of the road. You may sense that a pil-grimage is actually not only a horizontal but also a vertical path. A journey into your soul, a journey towards God. Pil-grimage is a tool in your hand that you can call on when you are in trouble, and it might have helped you this time, too.

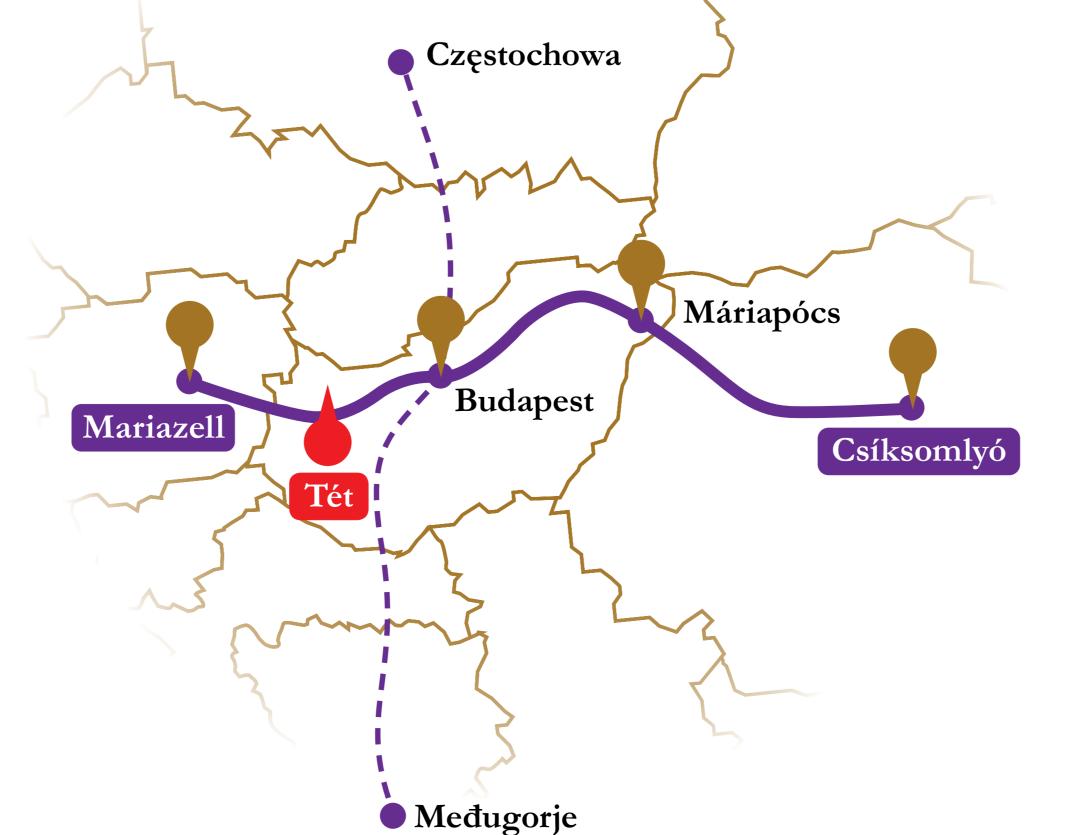
Rejoice in the peace you have found on your journey. Share this knowledge and faith with others. Walk the path of joy, be an instrument of the healing of others. Be the speaker of their faith, join them on Mary's Route.















Vasvát

According to a local legend, monks fleeing the Turks hid their beloved icon of the Virgin Mary in the hollow of an old tree in a nearby forest; on their return, however, they did not find the image, so they cut down the tree when a spring sprang up in its place and in its waters they believed to have seen the Holy Virgin Mary. According to tradition, pilgrims come to the Holy Well to see Our Lady themselves, with their own eyes. It was towards the end of the 18th century that first the

hermits visited the Holy Well, and then the pilgrims, who came in growing numbers on the news of the miraculous healings. The most famous healing is that of a hussar who had lost his eyesight in the army and then, settled as a hermit at the Holy Well, regained his sight when washing his face with spring water. He has built the first chapel near the spring of healing water.

The LORD bless you!

As a last thought, we, the staff and volunteers of the Mary's Route Public Benefit Association, ask God's blessing on you and your journey ahead as a "sign of

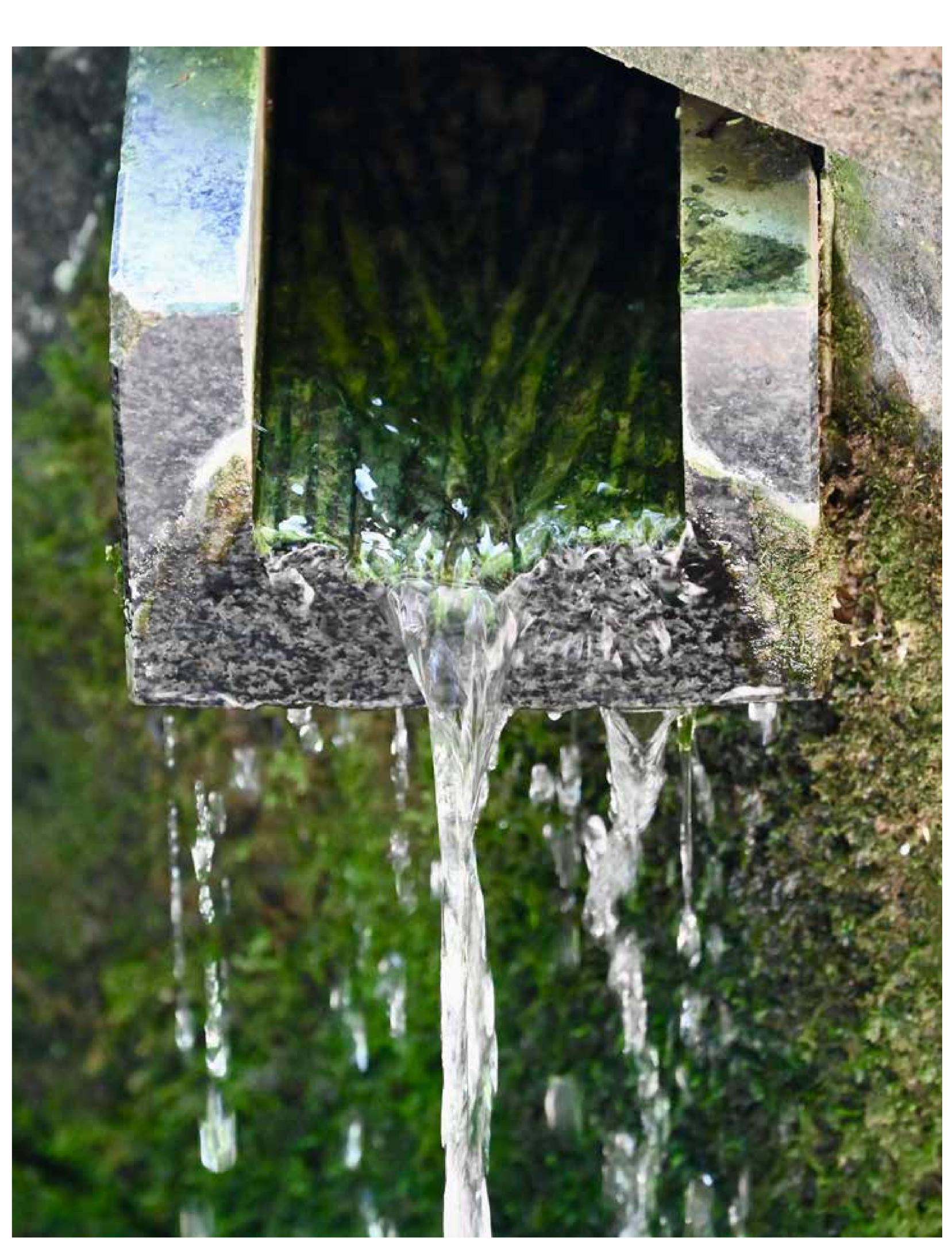
"The LORD bless you!
The LORD bless you
and keep you!
The LORD let his face
shine upon you,
and be gracious to you!
The LORD look upon you kindly!
The LORD look upon you kindly
and give you peace!"

(Aaronic blessing: Numbers 6:24-26)

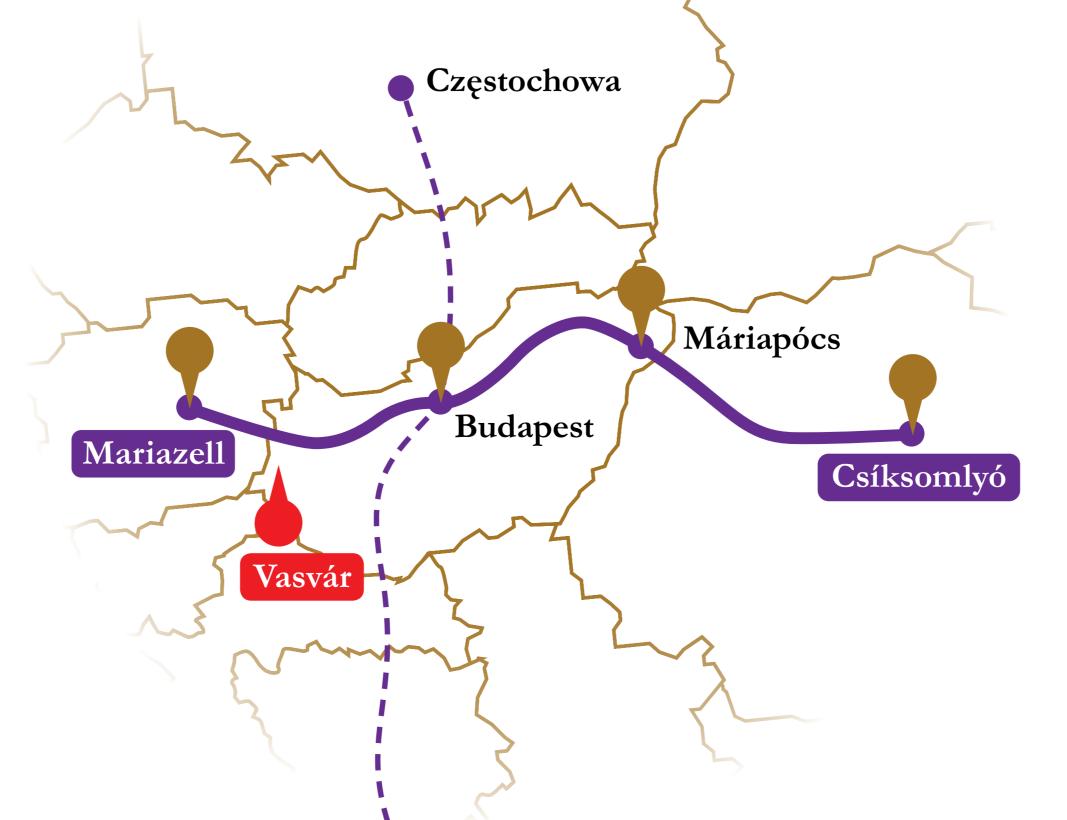
love". Put the knowledge in your backpack that someone is praying for you, accompanying your steps.











Međugorje





Mary's Route

Mary's Route is more than a pilgrim's way; moreover, a God-made living tissue that connects people

Thank you for taking the time to walk the holographic pilgrimage of Mary's Route with us. Certainly the journey holds much more than that. The Mary's Route comprises a West-East and a North-South route across 2,200 km in Central Europe, forming a shape of a Cross, which is more than a living network connecting the shrines (like the arteries run from the heart to all the organs), it is more than a jour-

ney presenting the natural and cultural heritage; more than a network of accommodations, restaurants, and information points; more than a community of pilgrims; more than an evangelisation tool; in fact, even more than a ministry of three hundred volunteers, forming a collective heartbeat of hope. A living tissue...that God has planted in their hearts.

We would like to emphasize our deepest gratitude to the volunteers network of the Mary's Route Public Benefit Association for their support. May God carry them!

We would like to thank Bishop János Székely, László Tégli, Katalin Sárosi, Borbála Cser, Katalin Horváthné Szabó, Zsuzsanna Juhász, Györgyi Barbarics, Edina Szente-Berecz, Nóra Gyebroczki, Balázs Zágorhidi Czigány, and Klára Piroska Szelényiné Nagy for the pictures and inspiration.

