

Why

Stations of the Cross?



Why

Our Lady of Sorrows?

Despite all our efforts to reduce the suffering, we experience it everywhere in the world and in our lives. Almost every family lost a loved one during the wars or dictatorships of the 20th century, not to mention all the diseases. Our suffering or the suffering of innocent people deeply touches our souls. Seeing all the suffering, many people even question their faith in God.

Suffering, however, remains a secret. A mystery. And if instead of asking: “Why did God let this happen”, we rather ask: “Why did he suffer?”, everything changes. This is how we see that – even if the suffering remains a secret – God was suffering with us. Suffering together is *szünpathein* in Greek. This is where the word *sympathy* comes from. So when we say God was suffering with us, we can also say: *God feels sympathy for us*. A God that suffers with us is a sympathetic God, a God we wish to have.

This suffering is represented by the cross and the Stations of the Cross, while the eternal symbol of the human suffering with God is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Suffering remains a secret, but we see it differently, if we know that God is suffering with us

through the Stations of the Cross, and if we see someone, Mary, suffer together with God.

We established these stations and the chapel so that more people can carry their cross together with God’s suffering son, hence finding peace and hope. This is what makes this place a place for supplications: we want our heart, our family, our nation and the world to find their peace.

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Walking on the vineyard hill of Benczúrfalva, Antal Lipthay often had the feeling that the place brings people closer to God. As the hill elevates, people get higher, and this opens new horizons and perspectives to the eyes and the mind as well.

This is why he thought that climbing that hill is a great opportunity to experience the burden of suffering. He thought it is a perfect place for exhausted, worn-out, suffering people to climb to God while they are contemplating the questions and secrets of their and Christ’s suffering. Isn’t it an excellent opportunity to get closer to the reality of salvation?

[After this question from himself, he decided to establish the Stations of the Cross.]

(fr. Kapisztrán OFM)