

The twenty-nine buttons on the traditional miners' uniform

Kurt Thomanek to Vera Frenkel, e-mail excerpt, August 20, 2018:-

“ ... But now to the story with the 29 buttons on the miners' uniform:

According to legend, Saint Barbara had to die when she was only 29 years old. Because of her conversion to Catholicism, she was beheaded by her own father.

Because Barbara had been locked in a dark tower, she became the safety patron of all miners.

The 29 buttons on the miners' uniform symbolize the 29 years of the life of Barbara. The three buttons at the top of the miners'-cape are never closed.

**These open buttons symbolize the Trinity:
God the father, Jesus Christ his Son, and the holy Ghost.**

In a few days I'll send you a short handy video from the chapel of Saint Barbara. A guide from the salt mine in Altaussee explains the miners' uniform with its 29 buttons”

The video arrived shortly after this email and was most helpful.

Note:

Regarding the symbolism of the three open buttons at the top of the uniform, additional folk wisdom sources suggest that the open buttons may also represent :

- 1 - The three years when Barbara was locked in a dark tower by her father**
- 2 - Faith, Hope and Love**