

OUR LADY OF THE SIERRAS SHRINE

The Shrine of Our Lady of the Sierras is located on the eastern slopes of the Huachuca Mountains near the entrance to Ash Canyon. The shrine is the result of the dreams and vision of Gerald and Patricia Chouinard. The couple had purchased the site for their retirement home and prior to commencing construction, made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Yugoslavia in 1990 where there had been reports of children seeing visions of the Virgin Mary. The couple were especially impressed by the view of the valley below while standing beside a large stone cross on Mt. Krsicivac. After returning to Arizona and working on the construction of their home on the hillside, the expansive views of the San Pedro Valley from the site reminded them of their experience on Mt Krsicivac and they thought that it would be nice to have a cross on their property. This vision of a cross and a statue of the Virgin Mary was gradually expanded to include a Chapel as they encountered county zoning permit requirements. A permit was issued in 1994 but organized opposition stopped the project while the various legal actions worked their way through the courts.

Construction of the project finally started in March of 1997 and the Chapel was completed in March of 1998. Over the next several years, the project was gradually expanded. In 2002, a trail was completed that starts from the lower parking lot and meanders up the side of the hill and incorporates the fourteen Stations of the Cross. A ten foot high Angel of Revelation was completed in 2004. A small grotto (Our Lady of Guadalupe) high up on the hillside was also completed in 2004.

The shrine was heavily damaged by the Monument Fire of June 2011 that started in Mexico and swept across the eastern slopes of the Huachuca Mountains but was completely restored in 2012.

The primary access route to the Shrine is via SR-92 and Stone Ridge Road. Stone Ridge turns to the right onto Prince Placer Road a short distance from SR-92. Take Prince Placer to the entrance road to the Shrine on the left. Stone Ridge intersects SR-92 just south of Ash Canyon Road. This route is black-top the whole way.

For a more complete summary of the history of the Shrine, click on the following link:

<http://www.ourladyofthesierras.org>

Summary prepared by T.Johnson from the Our Lady of the Sierras web site, the Wikipedia web site, an article from the Examiner web site and the Visitors Brochure from the Shrine.

The following pictures were taken by T. Johnson in January 2016

Additional Material: GVRHC Library File 31



Entrance Sign to the Shrine Property



75 Foot Celtic Cross & Chapel



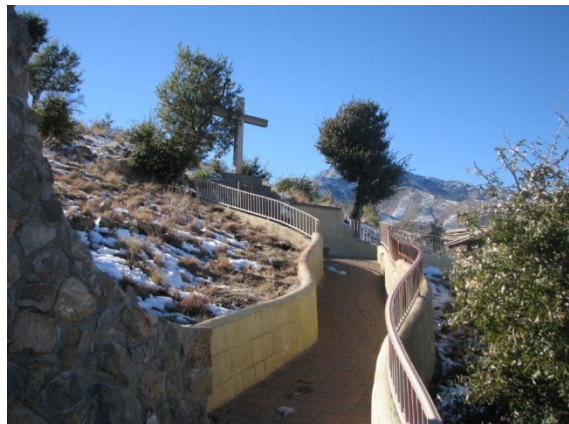
Celtic Cross & Statue of Mary



Chapel Interior



Our Lady of Guadalupe Grotto



Path leading to the Stations of the Cross