Who is behind the unique place of faith, peace and well-being?

When Ing. Anton Barcík, the CEO of the Považská cementáreň cement plant was awarded the Golden Biatec for 2009 on 26 February 2010, he said in a quarry, in front of his friends, that he wanted to build a spiritual centre – a rock sanctuary – on the Butkov mountain at an altitude of 765 metres...

Now there a cross on the top of the mountain, which overlooks the Považie region and is lit at night. It has become a pilgrimage site with a unique Way of the Cross (www.krizbutkov.sk) and the Rock Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, a place of contemplation for every visitor.

The rock is over two hundred million years old and, from last year, it is home to one of the three largest statutes of the Virgin Mary in Europe. Every weekend, the site, conceived as an oasis of peace, is visited by three to five thousand believers coming here to renew their energy. Additional hundreds come during the workweek. The cultural and spiritual events organised at the Butkov mountain several times a year are attended by five to seven thousand people. The visitors to the site come not only from European countries but also from Asia, Africa, America and Australia.

The creation of this unique place of faith, peace and well-being is the work of Anton Barcík, a laureate of the ‘2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia’ for 2016.

The photographs were taken on 5 July 2019.

Photo captions:

Way of the Cross on the Butkov mountain.

On the Butkov mountain...