

## Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Lourdes church has a very interesting history.

A Swiss Catholic priest, Father Werner Ruittimann, who was also involved in founding the towns of Sublimity and Scio, founded the town of Jordan. By 1884 several young women were leading a semi-religious life in the Jordan colony. Archbishop William Gross would later invite these women to become a formal Religious community.

In 1885, due to a disagreement with their trustees, these young women left Jordan to move in with the Benedictine Sisters in Mount Angel.

However, that did not spell the end of the Jordan religious community. In late 1904 a half dozen exiled Trappist monks from France arrived in Oregon. By 1905 they had acquired roughly 400 acres of land on the plateau overlooking Thomas Creek. The monks struggled for a dozen or so years in "primitive and precarious" conditions before the monastery was closed by church elders.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish lives on. An interesting look at Oregon history can be had with a brief walk through the cemetery behind the church.