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To Whom It May Concern:

With this letter, I am very pleased to offer my hearty endorsement for the mission of *Pacem in Terris*. This retreat ministry is focused on the hermitage experience which facilitates the conditions necessary for stillness of heart that allows the voice of God to be heard by those who visit them. It provides an invaluable sanctuary in our contemporary world.

I have been associated with *Pacem in Terris* for the past 16 years, almost since its inception, and have made my annual canonical retreat there as often as possible. I have been particularly impressed with the way in which the facility and staff have grown and developed without ever losing the original vision and focus that initially inspired founder Shirley Wanchena. The facilities are now quite extensive, warmly hospitable and convenient, and exceptionally clean and well-ordered, without in any way losing the spirit of simplicity and the intangible but real sense of sacredness. I have often said to people in recommending *Pacem in Terris*, and it remains true today, that this is truly holy ground, and the place is enlivened with the personal encounter with God that the setting fosters.

*Pacem in Terris* has always offered a non-coercive, gentle, discreet, and healing presence, and the deep respect that all the staff shows to visitors and guests is unflinching. While the ministry has its origins in the Catholic Christian tradition, it is in no way proselytizing or negative towards anyone who comes seeking an experience of the divine and transcendent. Further, I have found *Pacem in Terris* to be careful, prudent, and conservative good stewards of the resources entrusted to them for this mission. As noted above, the spirit of an ordered simplicity and spare elegance that leads to inner peace and quiets the heart remains intact and indeed has grown.

I am honored to be able to offer this endorsement for the work of *Pacem in Terris*, and I pray that their ministry will continue to bless our communities.

Sincerely,



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