

PACEM IN TERRIS

P E A C E O N E A R T H

Go to Your Inner Room

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray he said, “when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret.” Our “inner room” is a sacred space in our innermost being, a place of quiet where we meet the Lord.

God is everywhere, and wherever we find silence and solitude—in the car on our morning commute, in a favorite nature spot, in our home or church, in a garden, or on a morning jog—we can enter into our sacred place to have time alone with God.

Sometimes we get robbed of the freedom to choose to enter that intimate meeting place. The world is filled with noise from a variety of sources that overload us with information and numb our feelings. Long “to-do” lists make it difficult to simply be still. Our culture encourages us to identify ourselves

according to what we do instead of who we are. At times we need to leave the world behind.

It’s no wonder, then, that the call to establish Pacem in Terris was, “*Create an environment where my people can come and be alone with me.*” A hermitage retreat is an extended time to be immersed in the presence of God. With our body, soul, and spirit quiet and free from dis-



tractions, we are able to be fully attentive to the voice of God, to receive insight, wisdom, and needed direction for both the big and little things of life. By experiencing God’s love in this way, we are able to grow in giving and receiving love as God calls us to.

God is always in our inner room waiting for us there. He wants to be alone with *you!* This Easter season, may you receive all the gifts God has for you in that sacred place. ♦

Perfect Dwelling Place

“Practice prayer from the beginning. Paint your house with the colors of modesty and humility. Make it radiant with the light of justice. Decorate it with the finest gold leaf of good deeds. Adorn it with the walls and stones of faith and generosity. Crown it with the pinnacle of prayer. In this way you will make it a perfect dwelling place for the Lord. You will be able to receive him as in a splendid palace, and through his grace you will already possess him, his image enthroned in the temple of your spirit.”

—Excerpt from a homily by St John Chrysostom (347–407 AD)

“O God,
you are my God-
for you I long!
So I look to you
in the sanctuary
to see your power
and glory.”

Psalm 63:2-3 (NAB)

Just a note . . .

This note was recently written by one of our youngest helpers. Gabrielle Marin is the eleven year old daughter of Alain Marin and granddaughter of Susan Wanchena, both Pacem staff members. Gabrielle comes to help her grandmother in the kitchen on busy days. Her note touched our hearts—we hope it will touch yours also.

If you ever volunteer at Pacem you will have a great time. Being in the kitchen or outside or just in the office, you will have a good time. You are always welcome to come and help if they need you. And if you are not old enough to get a job yet, well it kind of gives you an idea of what a real job is like. Being a volunteer here at Pacem is an honor. Pacem is a great retreat center. If you come either to stay in a hermitage or to volunteer - well you would love it, the cooking and everything.

Gabrielle Marin

St. Catherine of Siena

Catherine was born in Siena, Italy in 1347. At six years of age she had her first spiritual experience. At age 12, she cut her hair to protest her mother's insistence that she be more attractive for marriage. Her father understood her need for quiet



prayer and provided a special room for her. She took a vow of virginity and followed the spiritual disciplines. At age 18 she entered the Dominican Third Order. She ministered to the poor and the sick and visited the jails. She was active in public and church affairs, including being credited with returning the Holy See to Rome after 74 years of exile in France.

Catherine's mystical experiences inspired the *Book of Divine Doctrine*, the greatest writings in Christian mysticism of the 14th century. She died in 1380, was canonized a saint in 1461 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970. *The Church celebrates her holy life on April 29.*

New Web Site!



We are excited to announce that the Pacem web site has been recently updated! Through the years so many of you have commented on how inspiring and informative the site was. That same spirit is still present – just with a fresh look. Enjoy!

There are several new features, too. The photo galleries display the beauty of God's creation to be found here. The Our Lady of Pacem Gallery has more photos of the main house facilities used by the guests.

We also placed several videos about Pacem that have been on television newscasts over the years, along with a new Pacem video about the Legacy Fund. This is further described under the charitable gifts tab. See the Question and Answer page about why the fund is needed and how it will be used. Check out the *Donate Now* button option.

In addition there is information about becoming an Ambassador for Pacem. (See article - page 3)

We invite you - enjoy a visit to the web site www.paceminterris.org. Tell your friends. Perhaps place a link to it on your own web site. Help us spread the word about Pacem in Terris because God continues to invite His people to "*Come, and be alone with Me.*"

Pacem Ambassadors

Did you know you might already be a Pacem ambassador? Ninety percent of our new guests tell us that a friend told them about Pacem. As they listened to their friend talk about meeting God in the silence and solitude of the hermitage, they became aware of a hunger deep within themselves—they, too, needed time alone with God. You see? That is the power of witnessing—we simply extend the invitation from God to “come and be alone with Him”—that is the work of an ambassador!

As we approach our 25th anniversary in 2013, we want to shout the “good news” of how our Lord is ministering to His people in the freedom of a hermitage experience.

We are asking you to multiply the effect of your witness and become an Ambassador—with a capital A—for Pacem.

Here are a few ideas: have a gathering for family and friends; witness at your church service; host a table at an event; or write an article for publication about your experience at Pacem.

We will help in any way possible by providing an outline, pertinent facts, a video, flyers, brochures, or whatever would support your efforts. Please call us at 763-444-6408.

Remember, being a Pacem Ambassador has no term of duty—it is simply being an available instrument to proclaim God’s love. ♦



The Glory of the Risen Lord

*Holy Spirit,
empower all your people
to be witnesses
to the kingdom.
Help us to take you
at your word and to
receive all the grace you offer.
Make us ambassadors
of your love.*

Hermit Notes

♥ For 48 hours I have been a child nestled in the lap of God, feeling the loving, divine arms wrapped around me, telling me over and over again, “I love you.”

♥ I don’t think I have ever had the pleasure of being at a more peaceful place in my entire life. This weekend was exactly what I needed to refocus and be refreshed before the next leg of my journey.

♥ It was a wonderful time of focus on our Risen Lord for me. I had become quite poured out after 16 months of service in a difficult place and with little support.

The Lord has used this time, I believe, to re-align, refocus and reenergize my direction and affections.

♥ Thank you, for a delightful time away with the Lord, he has provided a precious place to be in solitude with him alone.

♥ Thoughts of loving and discovering my Lord in moments of silence, flood me with joy!

♥ I had a wonderful time communing with God in my hermitage. This is such a needed place - where my soul is restored and I can talk and listen to my God.

♥ Thank you, for the hermitage, it is a ministry that is so needed in a busy cluttered world. I truly got to slow down and be reminded of the promises of God and begin the journey of returning to my first love.

Pacem Profile

On busy guest days one often finds Gabrielle Marin in the kitchen lending a helping hand to Grandma Susan. You can tell by her note on page 2 that she enjoys coming, and Susan appreciates her help.

Gabrielle says her favorite thing to do when she comes is to bake something. However, she ends up doing a lot of dishes!



Grandma Susan and helper Gabrielle

Dear friends,

When I was growing up, being a best friend meant you could be trusted with a secret. Even though it could be difficult to keep such important information to myself, it made me feel special—and, in turn, I learned to trust my secrets to a friend.

As I grew older, my friends and I no longer called the confidences we shared our “secrets,” but it was always a treasured gift to have a listening friend.

With the joy of motherhood came the desire to know what was happening inside the heads and hearts of my children. When they were little, everything spilled out—the excitement of turning a somersault, the adventure of catching a frog, the pain of being called names. Listening and giving lots of hugs healed most things and restored hope.

As my children grew older, it was pure joy to have them continue to trust me with their private concerns, but in our family of eight, privacy was hard to come by. The bathroom was the only space where we could lock the door and not be invaded. So when someone said, “Mom, could we have a bathroom talk?” I was being invited to listen to a loved one’s heart.

These life experiences have given me a glimpse of what Jesus was talking about when he told his disciples to go into their inner room, close the door, and pray to the Father in secret—and why Jesus often felt the need to be alone and pray. Now he invites us to be alone with him and tell him our innermost thoughts. What a blessing to have such a friend!

Shirley Wanchena

Pacem in Terris—An Oasis of Peace!

Over the past 23 years we’ve been able to provide hermitage retreats for those seeking to be alone with God because of the faithful generosity of our Pacem supporters.

Our Prayer Partners offer daily prayers for the spiritual health and strength of Pacem in Terris. We are blessed as they pray for our hermits, staff, benefactors, and everyone who is part of Pacem. Our Financial Partners help provide for Pacem’s ever-increasing operational costs. We understand that dollars are often hard to come by, but we also know that God returns blessings for sacrifice.

Both our Prayer and Financial Partners are a vital part our ministry and we are grateful for their continued support. Now we must look to the future and ensure that Pacem in Terris will continue to be available for you, your children, family, and friends.

Please consider becoming part of the legacy of Pacem—through endowment funds, stocks, wills, insurance policies, or whatever fits your financial situation and planning.

With your generosity and partnership, together we can provide this oasis of peace for generations to come. ♦

‘Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap . . . because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.’

Luke 6:38 (JB)