

PACEM IN TERRIS

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

aint John's gospel recounts a very intimate experience between Mary Magdalene and the risen Lord Jesus. Early in the morning Mary had gone to the garden to tend the body of her crucified Lord, but the tomb was open! She ran to tell the disciples, and returned with Peter and John who looked to see the tomb was empty! They left wondering what had happened, but Mary stayed, weeping. She turned and saw the gardener, but did not recognize him, until he said her name, "Mary."

What love, what relief, what comfort, what delight must have flooded her heart at that sound, "Mary." She immediately recognized Jesus! She knew His voice.

Don't we long for those moments in our own heart? To hear His voice say our name? To have that reassurance—He is near! What inexpressible warmth as his love flows into us! What joy!!

We yearn for these moments but how often do they occur? What does this passage teach us?



Chapel painting at Pacem

First, Mary went early in the morning to tend to the Lord. It seems the Lord more often than not wants to greet us early in the morning. He seems to like that time of day to spend with us.

Notice Mary stayed behind when the disciples left. She was alone, waiting. She yearned so much for Him that she wept, and then He said her name. He spoke clearly and told her what was to happen and what she was to do.

We too can go to him early in the morning. At first it may seem that He is not there, but as we wait, alone, we hear a voice—His voice. Perhaps He simply reassures us He is near, or He gives us direction for the day. It can be an intimate moment like Mary Magdalene's—where Jesus simply says our name and we are immediately transported to a place of peace and love.

Pacem can be that garden place where we encounter the Risen Lord Jesus. There is no one else around. We enter the hermitage and experience Peace Himself. And then we hear His voice

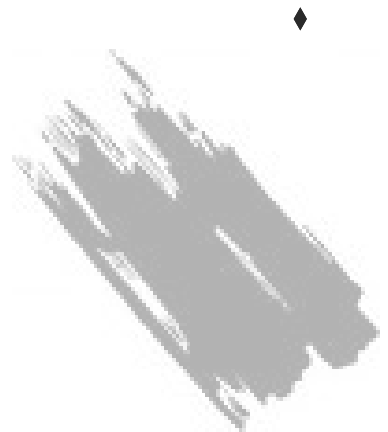
*“ . . .the sheep
hear his voice,
as he calls
his own sheep
by name
and leads them out.”*

John 10:3 (NAB)



To Know His Voice

S



Just a note . . .

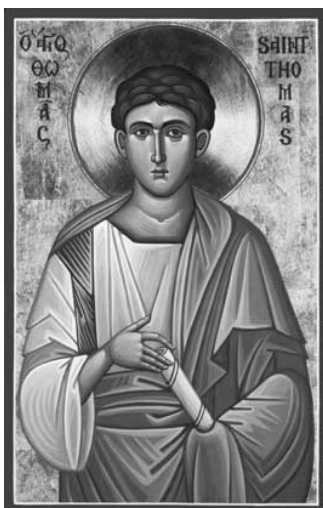
So often we look to external things in order to hear God's voice. We look for God to speak to us in sermons, books or teachings given at our churches. All of these are good things but how often do we quiet down our hearts and minds, and let God speak to us in the silence?

In our busy lives its difficult to find time to shut our minds off and let our hearts hear God's voice. To simply listen to God's voice during prayer is something that many people have difficulty with, but is so vitally important. To truly have a relationship with God our prayers must be a two-way conversation—both speaking and listening.

Mother Teresa said, "In silence He listens to us; in silence He speaks to our souls. In silence we are granted the privilege of listening to His voice." This Easter let us all give God the gift of our silent hearts that we might more clearly hear His voice.

Teresa

St. Thomas is one of the most vivid characters in the Gospels. He was likely a Galilean Jew of humble birth; his Syriac name means "twin." While Thomas is remembered mostly for his doubt, it is his



Pacem In Terris

faith that should reassure us. After that first Easter, Thomas insisted he would not believe the incredible news that Jesus had risen from the dead unless he could feel for himself the marks of the nails and place his hands in Jesus' wounded side (John 20:24-29). Eight days later, Christ appeared to the apostles in the Upper Room where they were hiding. When he invited Thomas to touch his wounds, Thomas simply exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas reportedly traveled as far as India where he was martyred.

The Church has set aside July 3rd to celebrate the holy life of St. Thomas.

New Life



In August a severe wind storm struck Pacem and destroyed hundreds of trees. Praise God - no buildings were touched! You will now see many stacks of logs throughout the property as the staff work to clean up the woods. However, this left empty spaces. A generous benefactor donated \$1000 for tree planting on the corner of Highway 47 and County 8, pictured above. This will help fill in our needed natural sound barrier and keep the woods growing and enjoyable for years to come.

We Appreciate You!



The annual Pacem Appreciation gathering for Prayer Partners and Volunteers was held on March 10. Guests first met in the chapel sharing some of their stories about Pacem. Here they are pictured in the Gathering Room enjoying a simple lunch and each others' company.

Just a note . . .

Teresa

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Hermit Notes

ohn the Baptist witnessed to his disciples about Jesus. Intrigued, two of John's disciples started following Jesus. Jesus saw them and asked what they were looking for. Andrew and John were curious and wondered where Jesus was staying. Jesus simply said "Come and See". And so the pattern was set.

After spending a whole day with Jesus, Andrew was so deeply touched he couldn't wait to share the good news that he had experienced. The first thing he did was to seek out his brother, Peter, and proclaim the startling news that he had indeed found the long awaited Messiah! Then, after witnessing to him, Andrew brought Peter to Jesus!

A day in the hermitage encountering Jesus our Risen Lord has compelled many to share the Good News that He is alive and longs for all to "come and see" and experience His loving, forgiving, healing presence in special places like a Pacem hermitage.

An age old truth declares: "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ." Pacem in Terris is hosting several timely opportunities for you to do just that.

Four dates have been scheduled for 2012:

Spring

- + Thursday, May 17
- + Saturday, May 19

Autumn

- + Thursday, September 20
- + Saturday, September 22

All times are 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.



A Meeting Place of the Risen Christ

What a great way for you to carry out your "Andrew mission" by Bringing a Friend to Pacem - a place God has called for that He might be alone with his people. Can we ever imagine the eternal gratitude Peter had for Andrew? Please pray and think about who and how many you could witness to and invite to come with you to one of these Pacem days. It could be a life changing experience. What a friend you would be! Simply call 763 444-6408 for reservations.

The snowfall this morning was incredible as was the sunrise! I had a wonderful and thoughtful and emptying experience in the silence which is hard for me—so much silence. I labored with it on and off yesterday, much better today.

Thanks for your hospitality. It is a true sign of God's kingdom and creates a space for folks like me to enter the silence where God's one word can be heard—love.

Thank you for making my stay here so peaceful, so serene. Even in the dead of winter, the warmth of this place brought rays of God's sunshine into my heart! I came here with my own expectations and agendas (I had a list of them!) but God had other plans and spoke clearly to me regarding things that were at the crux of my broken life. Today is my birthday and a new beginning for me in my walk with God. His mercies are new every morning! I will leave this place today with renewed spiritual vitality and focus. I'll be back!

I ate the silence like bread and it fed my soul. Jesus was here with me and we had a great time together. I took 3 delicious walks at night and felt safe. I focused on Proverbs 31 (which always used to make me feel bad because I am not a good housekeeper) but the Lord showed me it is not about being a good housekeeper, rather it is about being clothed with strength and dignity and about being devoted to one's family and working hard!.

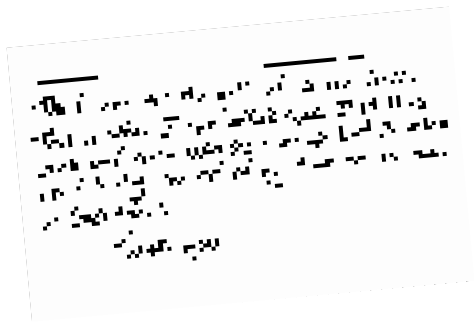
“Come and See . . .” John 1: 35-42



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*In these economic times we appreciate the sacrificial choices you make to support Pacem in Terris. It is very important to us and to our guests, since we trustingly ask a free will offering for any stay. About a third of our hermit guests are not able to offer the \$90 a night it costs Pacem to provide their retreat. Yet, it is vital to the mission of Pacem that **all would be welcome to come away and be alone with God.***



A note from a recent guest

Dear friends,

Jesus appears to us in many ways and when we least expect it! In December, 1977, I visited my son, Jeffrey, and his family in Zambia, Africa, where they were missionaries. Preparing for a three-month stay, I packed items they'd requested and treats for the children and others. I also prayed, "Lord, please share with me your love for the Zambian people."

Once there, I found life delightfully simple. Of course, staying with my son's family I did not personally experience the hardships of the local people—until I had an encounter that challenged me to look closer.

One morning I was walking down the road to go to Mass, and coming towards me was what I guessed to be a ten-year-old girl carrying her little brother on her back. We both slowed to a stop and greeted each other with a smile. Not sharing a common language, I made motions to convey how precious her little one was. She understood, stepped closer, and turned sideways so I could see him better.

As I gently touched his head, my heart skipped a beat; he was blistering hot with fever and flies swarmed his face. He opened his eyes—the most beautiful, huge brown eyes I have ever seen—and in them I saw Jesus looking back at me saying, "Here I am." I was filled with a great love for that little boy, his sister, and all the Zambian people. My prayer was answered.

And over the years, God has continued to show me that Jesus is present in all people everywhere—whether in Zambia or walking in the door at Pacem in Terris!

With peace and prayers,
Shirley Wanchena

Your donations help keep the hermitage experience available to all.

Looking ahead through 2012—we make this humble plea: Would you consider a regular donation to Pacem in Terris to assist in our budgeting process? Your "yes" might look like one of these examples:

\$1 a day = \$30 a month

or

\$1 a day = \$120 every 3 months

or

\$1 a day = \$365 a year

Or

\$5 a day = \$1825 a year.

Donations may be made by check, cash, automatic deposit (we can mail you the form) or on-line at www.givemn.org. We also ask your continued prayers for the Pacem ministry and our fundraising efforts with trust in God.

Again, with our hearts full of gratitude for you and your continuing part in the mission of Pacem, we wish you every blessing, but especially the Peace of Pacem!

*"How shall I make
a return to the Lord
for all the good
He has done
for me?"*

Psalm 116:12

A humble plea



Dear friends,

