



# PACEM IN TERRIS

HERMITAGE RETREAT CENTER

## *Pacem Gains Another Heavenly Board Member*

**A** note discovered in Fr. Tim Nolan's pocket calendar reads: "Let us give thanks for unknown blessings already on the way." It was shared with him by his sister and became a favorite of his in the weeks leading up to his unexpected passing on August 20, 2021.

Fr. Tim had served Pacem faithfully from its beginning, helping founder Shirley Wanchena in a myriad of ways. In recent years, he celebrated Mass, led the Board, prayed with and for staff and hermit guests, and took regular retreats at Pacem in Terris himself. It was no secret that St. Cloud was his favorite hermitage, as it was one he helped build.



*Fr. Tim Nolan pictured in his prayer room at Pacem in Terris. Photo by David Hrbacek, The Catholic Spirit.*



*Fr. Tim in front of St. Anthony hermitage, 1988.*

Fr. Tim frequently told friends and staff that he was very "ready to meet the Lord," and he had shared with others his desire to pass in his sleep. God, in His goodness, granted him that desire. Pacem in Terris' Board, staff and hermits, the Church of St. Paul in Ham Lake, MN (where he served as founding pastor for 23 years), and his two surviving sisters, Sister Pat and Sister Mary will miss him tremendously. While it is a time of great sadness for us, it is a time of great rejoicing in Heaven for the arrival of Fr. Timothy Nolan, good and faithful servant of the Lord.

Fr. Tim requested that memorials be made to either the Pacem in Terris Legacy Fund or the Fr. Tim Nolan Vocation Fund at the Church of St. Paul.

"Let us give thanks for unknown blessings already on the way." Photos highlighting Fr.'s life at Pacem in Terris can be found on pages 4-5. Fr. Tim leaves a lasting impression upon Pacem. We are confident in his continued Heavenly intercession. Fr. Tim, pray for us!

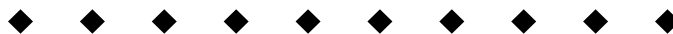
## Update on Hermitage Building Campaign



This new spiffy biffy will serve the 3 new hermitages.

**W**e are praying that ground can be broken soon for the three new hermitages. Hermit counts have continued to be high, so demand is pressing for the new hermitages. Two factors out of our control have prevented construction from beginning: labor and material shortages; and waiting for the construction permit from the county.

As of publication, \$137,980 has been raised toward the \$250,000 goal. Please remember that **all charitable gifts made toward the building campaign are being matched dollar-for-dollar** by a generous benefactor. We invite you to follow Pacem's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PacemInTerrisMN/>) to see the latest construction photos and updates.



## Evening Meal Ministry Suspended

**P**acem's Board of Directors prayerfully made the difficult decision at their May meeting to suspend the evening meal ministry. This tradition was started by founder Shirley Wanchena as an extension of her own family meal, and was offered for the purpose of Pacem guests to join her and her family for dinner. After the founding family was no longer involved, the facilitating of the meal was dependent upon Pacem's paid staff. More recently, additional circumstances, (COVID-19, for one), and other factors have added to the ultimate decision to suspend this tradition.

While the dinner was a much-loved part of the Pacem experience and we are sad to see it go, staff, Board members and guests have questioned whether the meal was actually a departure from Pacem's mission.

Many guests spoke of feeling as if the dinner took them out of their hermitage time with God, and thrust them back into the "world" and "worldly conversation." A guest shared her thoughts. "I feel that my experience would have been interrupted by a communal meal," she wrote. "For me a meal would have detracted from the experience." The results of a survey conducted in March, 2021, showed that between 80-90 percent of guests said that they preferred the food basket as is, an enhanced basket, or a simple soup supper delivered to the hermitage rather than a communal meal.

As Pacem moves forward we will be discerning and praying how best to serve hermit guests in keeping with Pacem's overall mission, which is to "provide an environment where God's people come to be alone with Him." Meanwhile, Pacem will continue to provide its hearty food basket to each of our guests.



Pacem continues to provide a hearty food basket to guests.

## St. Joseph House Update

For just over a year now, Pacem in Terris has been utilizing St. Joseph House, the first house located on Pacem's property, as an additional lodging option for guests. To date, approximately 55 guests have stayed in St. Joseph House for a total of 187 nights.

Guests have included pastors, priests, individuals, leadership of a women's book club, religious sisters, Church and school staffs. The house accommodates up to five individuals, has three bathrooms, a kitchen, dining area, living space, and a breezeway. We invite you to consider it as an option for your next day-long or overnight small group gathering.



A view of the downstairs living room in St. Joseph House.

## Damage to Our Lady of Pacem



A work crew removes the oak from the roof of Our Lady of Pacem, July 18, 2021.

On July 18, half of a massive oak fell on Our Lady of Pacem's main retreat building, damaging the steel shingles, a fireplace, siding, gutter, and shattering a window. The repair work should be completed by December. To prevent further damage, the other half of the oak was removed by a tree removal service. While most of the repair work was covered by Pacem's insurance policy, there was a \$5,000 deductible, and Pacem paid for the removal of the other half of the tree. Please consider making a donation to offset these unexpected costs. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity. Your gifts make operating Pacem possible!

### Experiencing True Rest

Edith Stein (now St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), discovered the importance of "resting in God, an absolute break from all intellectual activity, when one forms no plans, makes no decisions and for the first time really ceases to act, when one simply hands over the future to God's will..."

Stein wrote, "God is there in these moments of rest and can give us in a single instant exactly what we need. Then the rest of the day can take its course under the same effort and strain, perhaps, but in peace. And when night looks back and you see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that has gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed: just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it to Him – really rest – and start the next day as a new life."



St. Teresa Benedicta



# Memories of Fr. Tim at Pacem



Fr. Tim before the Cross on the prairie after the land for Pacem in Terris was obtained. Left to right: Fr. Tim Nolan, Fr. Paul Schaaf, Viktor Wanchena, Jeffrey Wanchena.



Fr. Tim vesting for the dedication of Pacem in Terris with Mass on the prairie. September 10, 1989



Fr. Tim practices riding a donkey in preparation for Palm Sunday at the Church of St. Paul, Ham Lake.







**Clockwise:** Fr. Tim with his sisters, Sr. Peggy, Sister Pat, and Sister Mary at Pacem in Terris; 30th Anniversary Celebration with Diocese of St. Cloud Bishop Donald Kettler; Visiting with former Prayer Partner volunteer coordinator Helen Stordahl; blessing each of the hermitages before re-opening after the COVID-19 shutdown, May 2020; Fr. Tim celebrating his 81st birthday with Pacem staff.



**Previous page:** Right hand middle: Diocese of St. Cloud Bishop George Speltz, Pacem founder Shirley Wanchena, Fr. Tim, and Fr. Urban Wagner; Bottom right: Board member and benefactor Barbara "Babs" Koch, Jeffrey Wanchena, and Fr. Tim during the construction of Our Lady of Pacem main retreat center building, 1999.



# *Pacem Saved My Life*

I had gone through a hard few years with my mental health and struggling with how I felt in this world and surviving in it. A friend described Pacem in Terris to me. She said it's where she [went] to take care of herself. I had never heard of it before.

I had grown up in a very spiritual home. After my grandfather passed away we had a hard time. I didn't understand the grieving process, and couldn't understand why God would take my grandfather. I couldn't understand why someone like me - who lived a good life and tried to do the right thing - was being tested and going through tough things. I was lost for a while.

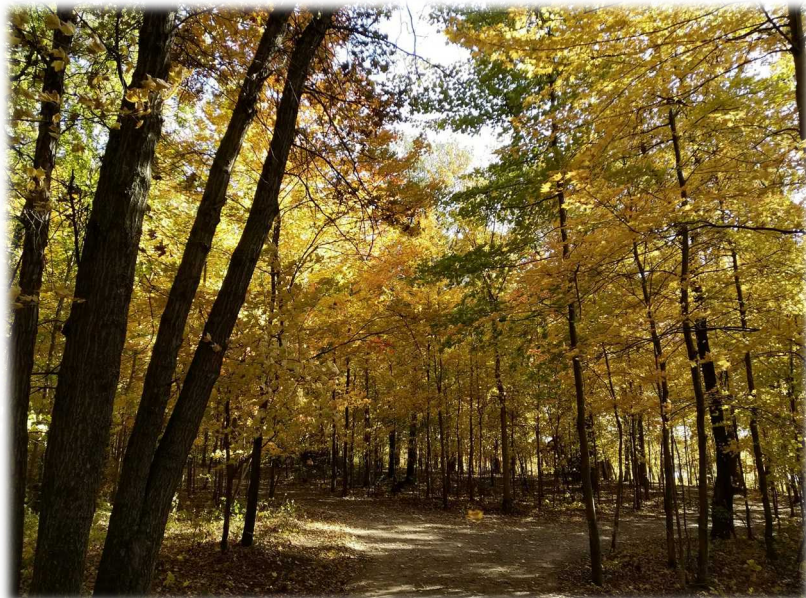
I was without work, was struggling with my family and my mental health, was in a very abusive relationship, felt shunned by my spiritual community, and nearly lost my life.

I needed time. I needed the world to stop and slow down and to be away from my every day life. I had tried medication, the doctor, and therapy. When I found Pacem in Terris three years ago, it was my last effort. I needed something to give me a break.

I spent two nights at Pacem. It's what I needed, and it saved my life. I needed prayer and to disconnect from the world and be alone with God. I was able to leave Pacem completely rejuvenated.

From the moment I was brought to my hermitage, I had the most incredible experience. On the day I left, my car wouldn't start because I had left my lights on. It was a test. What normally would have caused me to struggle was another opportunity for me to say, "it's okay." I left the last money I had and was upset I couldn't pay more. There was no judgment. My Dad made a donation to cover the remainder of the cost. Since then, I've been paying it forward, so this opportunity can be offered to others. Thank you Pacem!

- This inspiring testimony was shared with Pacem by a hermit guest in July 2021



## Hermit Guest Notes

- ◆ “The time I spent in my hermitage was life-changing. I remember when I got there I thought I’d probably catch up on my sleeping, but every morning at 6 a.m. my body was wide awake. My mind and my heart knew there was too much quiet time with the Lord to be had! The Lord met me there in a way that I hadn’t found possible in my own quiet time. Please allow this donation to open the door for someone who needs to find their way.”
- ◆ “Once again we are grateful for the provision of Pacem, offering refuge and sanity in a world gone mad. Our days and nights spent in silence helped restore perspective as God ministered to body, soul, and spirit. Thank you for remaining faithful to the vision and therefore the purpose of this holy place! It is such a blessing to so many and vital in times like these, especially.”
- ◆ “Thank you! Thank you for a time of healing and a time of reconnecting with God. This past year has been grueling as we all faced the pandemic, as I faced the death of my father, and as I faced the stress of my work. I was blessed to have received the perfect hermitage—on the edge of the forest and the lake. I loved the calls of the swans, the Sandhill Cranes, the Canada Geese. I was amused by the industrious chipmunks. Most of all, I was grateful for a time of prayerful peace and tranquility. Every aspect of Pacem in Terris is so well appointed. I love the tidiness. I am grateful to sit in open air and not face the bugs! The outhouses exceeded expectations. I am blessed to have had this stay. I feel closer than ever to God, and I will be back. Thank you for two days of peace.... Blessings to you - P.S. The bread... I love the bread.”
- ◆ “Thank you for all you do to allow such a clean, beautiful, sacred space to be alone with God. Each time I say “YES” to God’s invitation, my heart and soul get rest and renewal that I need to continue to be the daughter He wants me to be. The world can harden hearts, make it easy to turn our backs on God. Because of Pacem and what it provides, I know now how to rest rather than quit, pray rather than hurt back, forgive so I will be forgiven. The last few hours of the retreat is the BEST – the calm, stillness, joy, love, grace, mercy – it’s all there! With my whole heart – thank you for all your hard work! It is greatly needed & appreciated.”



An assortment of Pacem mugs available for purchase as a keepsake of one’s time spent on retreat.



## Board of Directors

### Chairman

Dan Jaeger

### Vice Chair

Hank French

### Secretary/Treasurer

Bill Mori

Barbara Koch

Phyllis Olson

Kelly Wahlquist

Aimee Bates

Mike Benda

### Executive Director

Tim Drake

## Why I Included Pacem in My Estate Plans

“Pacem has been a real gift of faith for me, personally, because of its simple, peaceful, yet powerful Mission to provide loving hospitality for all who come to be alone with God, in the quiet solitude of a Pacem hermitage.

Not very often does one find a Mission and Vision that is so worthy of preserving in perpetuity, ensuring the availability of this special place of spiritual rest and renewal.”

- Babs Koch, Board Member

## Other Ways to Provide for Pacem

One gift that continues giving even after you have passed is a bequest, or a gift to Pacem made through your will or estate plan. A bequest can be a gift of specific assets, a dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, a residue of your estate, property, or what is left after all gifts have been made to your heirs. You can also leave a bequest to Pacem in Terris Hermitage Retreat Center:

- in your will or revocable trust.
- by designating Pacem in Terris Hermitage Retreat Center as a full, partial, or contingent beneficiary of your retirement account IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or pension.
- by naming Pacem in Terris Hermitage Retreat Center as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.
- through donations of stocks, bonds, or property to Pacem in Terris.



Yes, I want to partner with Pacem through a charitable donation: Total Amount \$100  \$500  \$1,000  Other \$  OR \$  /month

### PAYMENT METHOD

- Personal check made payable to Pacem in Terris (for one-time gifts)  I would like to make a gift of stock or appreciated securities
- Credit card (for either one-time gifts or monthly gifts)  I would like to learn more about how to include Pacem in my estate plans.
- My employer has a matching gift program. Include a signed gift form.  I have included Pacem in Terris in my estate plans.

Please use this form for Credit Cards (please print and complete all information)

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

3 Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (MM) \_\_\_\_\_ (YY) \_\_\_\_\_



Signature \_\_\_\_\_ I authorize Pacem to debit my account for the above charges.

Pacem in Terris does not keep your credit card information on file.

To contribute towards the new hermitage building project online, visit: <https://www.givemn.org/story/2ho45g>

**All contributions made to the building fund will be matched 100%**