



# PACEM IN TERRIS

HERMITAGE RETREAT CENTER

## THE STAGES OF RETREAT

The pastor had been to Pacem numerous times. Seeking to gain some wisdom about his repeated experiences alone with the Lord, I asked him, “Do you find that your retreats at Pacem are more similar or more dissimilar each time?”

His response carried great wisdom.

“There are three stages to each of my retreats,” he told me. “First, there’s the initial excitement – getting ready to be alone with God, packing, anticipating the silence, being away from work, obligations, the phone. I drive to Pacem, and there is that physical feeling of peace when I turn into the driveway and pass through the prairie.”

The second stage he described as “a time of self-loathing.”

The hermitage offers a unique time where we stand alone before God. In the silence and the solitude, there is no pretense. We are revealed, faced with all our individual strengths and weaknesses, our virtues and our sins. We see ourselves quite clearly during a retreat.

Finally, the pastor described the third stage as experiencing the “overwhelming love of God.” He went on to share that during one of his retreats, on the day of his departure he was still in the “self-loathing” stage, so he asked Pacem staff if he might stay another day.

“I didn’t want to leave in that state,” he recounted. “So I stayed another night so I could leave with that tremendous sense of God’s love.”

*“This small spot on the map... it’s changed quite a few lives. It’s amazing what God has accomplished at Pacem.” - Board member Babs Koch*



## PACEM'S NEW RESERVATION POLICY

Between September 2023 and January 2024, Pacem experienced upwards of 25 cancellations and/or no-shows per month. On many occasions, reserved spaces could not be re-booked, especially when cancellations occurred close to the expected arrival dates. The process of taking reservations and preparing hermitages requires significant time and effort on the part of Pacem's staff, and has monetary value in addition to the revenue losses that occur with rooms going empty.

Pacem estimates that the cancellations and no-shows from September through January have cost Pacem approximately \$30,000.

In October, Pacem’s board agreed to implement a \$50 cancellation fee.

Starting April 1, individuals who make reservations will be required to use a debit or credit card to hold their booking.

Guests who cancel reservations within 14 days of their scheduled arrival, or who do not show for their reservation, will be charged the \$50 cancellation fee on their card. A guest who cancels a reservation earlier than 14 days before their scheduled arrival date will not be charged.

Thank you for your understanding as we implement this policy change.

# CONTEMPLATING THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The idea of a Way of the Cross at Pacem in Terris was first mentioned in Pacem's 1998 fall newsletter. It was a dream of Pacem's founder, Shirley Wanchena.

"Our future Way of the Cross will keep the prayers flowing," the newsletter stated.

In the ensuing years, other priorities took precedence. Last year, Pacem's Board of Directors approved an outdoor Way of the Cross to be added as a stand-alone trail in Pacem's woods.

Pacem is now taking steps toward that plan. A trail has been cleared through the woods on Pacem's southern side, adjacent to the prairie at Pacem's entrance.

The next major step in the process is selecting appropriate pictorial depictions of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

As a devotion, the Way of the Cross

will help hermit guests to reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus Christ has made for each one of us. The experience of walking the Way of the Cross originated with those who visited Old Jerusalem to follow along the Via Dolorosa, the path that Jesus Christ walked, leading to his Crucifixion and death.

This devotion was further developed by St. Francis. The Way of the Cross will enhance the hermitage experience by helping draw hermit guests closer to Jesus Christ, whom they encounter in the hermitage.

For continuity, one possible Way of the Cross being considered are buff-colored boulders of Minnesota Kasota stone, similar to the stone used in Pacem's chapel for the altar, lectern, and tabernacle stand.



One style that Pacem is considering for the Way of the Cross.

The natural material would fit beautifully into the wooded environment, and withstand Minnesota's weather conditions without need for maintenance.

As part of a larger forthcoming campaign, individuals will have the opportunity to contribute directly to the Way of the Cross. Contact Tim Drake at 763-444-6408 if you have ideas or would like to sponsor a stone or contribute to the project.

## SOLAR LIGHTING ADDED

For hermit safety, new motion-activated solar lights were installed on trees along the back walkway leading into Our Lady of Pacem.

These lights allow for easier navigating to the bathrooms, especially during the fall and winter when the days are shorter.

## YEAR-END STATEMENTS

As a cost-savings measure, Pacem is considering sending out the 2024 year-end tax statements electronically to those for whom we have email addresses. If you prefer to receive your statement via snail mail, please let Monica know at [monica@paceminterris.org](mailto:monica@paceminterris.org).

**ARTIST'S WEEKEND**

Fri., June 7 -  
Sun., June 9, 2024  
Pacem in Terris  
Hermitage Retreat Center



Enjoy the silence of a hermitage, replenishing your creative spirit or creating. Weekend culminates in a time to share what you've created or experienced. Call 763-444-6408.



**PACEM IN TERRIS**  
HERMITAGE RETREAT CENTER



Near St. Josephine Bakhita hermitage, the immediate aftermath of the removal of diseased oaks that threatened the hermitage.

## OAK WILT AT PACEM

Over the winter, Pacem's property maintenance staff have removed nearly 100 dying, diseased, and dead oak trees. Oak wilt continues to take Pacem oaks, as it has for more than thirty years.

Pacem has planted a variety of evergreens, fruit trees, and others to replace the oaks and provide food and nests for wildlife and birds. In areas where the oaks have been removed in the past, the maple trees have established themselves.

Pacem received a \$1,500 grant from the Little Falls' Franciscan Sisters' One Planet Fund for work in front of the new hermitages.

Your generous donations of talent, time, and treasure ensure we can keep Pacem's grounds beautiful.

## HEARTFELT NOTE FROM A HERMIT

*I am an oncology nurse of 24 years. Every day my job entails telling patients the results of their biopsy... I then help navigate them through their cancer journey. I have been told by patients that I must never quit doing my job because my care meant so much to them. This means the world to me! I love my job. However, as a caregiver, at times I feel overwhelmed, exhausted, drained and like I have very little left to give to my own self, family and friends.*

*Coming here to this beautiful, Holy, nurturing and peaceful place has allowed me to recharge. Many times I've longed for someone to take care of me, take some of the burden off my shoulders. Being here I feel the strong energy of God, the Holy Spirit's love and peace. I feel the loving prayers of those praying for me now surrounding me like a warm blanket. I am so grateful for this peace, calm, stillness, and all of the beauty in nature and in all of God's creations. I leave Pacem in Terris fully charged with faith, hope, and God's love! Thank you to all who make this experience possible. It is encouraging to know I have a special place to visit and spend some silent time with our Creator, who gives me strength.*

## PACEM BY FIRELIGHT

Pacem hosted its second annual Pacem by Firelight, Feb. 2-4. More than a dozen fires burned on the property, along with luminaries on the front and back paths to the main building. Guests enjoyed warm hot cocoa and a variety of homemade cookies prior to the fires being lit. One guest described the evening as "beautiful... incredibly powerful and moving." Another said, "It was amazing. Such a memorable evening."



## THRIVENT CHOICE ADDS PACEM

If you are a member of Thrivent, there's a new way to support Pacem in Terris. Thrivent has included Pacem in Terris as a non-profit as part of its Thrivent Choice program. Through Thrivent Choice, members can contribute to Pacem in Terris through their personal donations, and can also recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its outreach funding by directing Choice Dollars to Pacem. Thrivent pays any processing fees, so 100 percent of any donation goes to Pacem. If you're a member of Thrivent and would like to learn more, visit: <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>.

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**HERMIT MAKES 100 HERMITAGES**

**B**oard member and hermit guest Tom Klein, affectionately known as the “frequent friar,” recently experienced his 100th hermitage retreat at Pacem in Terris. He has stayed in each of the hermitages five times, and is currently working on his sixth round.

An educator and hockey coach, Klein began attending Pacem during his first wife, Catherine’s, illness with cancer, in October 2000. As her caregiver, he found peace and respite at Pacem through several years of caregiving, and has continued coming to Pacem regularly after her death.

“I began to learn the retreat is never about what I need to take care of,” said Klein. “It truly is a time and a place for God to take care of me.”



he may write a book entitled “100 Spiritual Retreats.”



Tom Klein and Tim Drake enjoy key lime pie before Tom’s 100th hermitage.

On his momentous milestones, of completing each round, Tom brought key lime pie to share with staff and guests. On his 100th retreat, Executive Director Tim Drake made a key lime pie (pictured at left) to share with Tom and staff.

Tom prayed in thanksgiving to God for the opportunity to make these retreats and suggested



Yes, I want to support Pacem’s Mission.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (MM) \_\_\_\_\_ (YY) \_\_\_\_\_



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

Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

To contribute towards Pacem online, visit: <https://www.givemn.org/donate/Pacem-In-Terris-1>

**When it comes time for you to prepare your will or estate plan, please remember Pacem in Terris in your will.**