



# PACEM in TERRIS

HERMITAGE RETREAT CENTER

## RESTORATION OF PACEM CONTINUES

**C**lean up, recovery, and restoration continues at Pacem in Terris following the devastating storms of August 26th.

Thanks to many of you, who donated your time as volunteers, and your treasure in the form of donations, Pacem has been able to enjoy nearly full capacity throughout the fall season.

All of Pacem's roads and trails are cleared. Your generosity led to Pacem surpassing its disaster relief fundraising goal, with \$223,000 raised for continued tree cutting and removal, and building repairs. Insurance estimates for repairs to the hermitages and St. Joseph House are estimated between \$120,000—\$150,000. While insurance is covering some of the building repair costs, it isn't covering them completely.

Pacem's responsibility will include fencing, outdoor electrical panels, some roof replacements, and possibly St. Joseph House's chimney. The contractor is still negotiating with insurance on these costs. In addition, Pacem plans to replace the destroyed dump truck with a dump trailer.

Hermitage and St. Joseph repairs began mid-October. We are hopeful that many of the repairs will be completed before the arrival of winter.

Tree cutting and debris removal in October included the homes south of Lake Tamarack. Further clean-up and tree removal will take place throughout the winter months. Please continue to pray for Pacem during the restoration process.



*St. Therese of Lisieux hermitage undergoes repairs after sustaining damage from August 26th's straight-line wind storm.*

## FEASIBILITY STUDY RESULTS

**O**ver the summer, Pacem engaged Mark Davy & Associates, a fundraising consulting firm, to conduct a feasibility study. The study's purpose was to determine Pacem's capacity for moving forward with a capital campaign to fund various initiatives to provide stability for Pacem's future.

Twenty-eight individuals were interviewed and 88 households were surveyed as part of the study. Ninety-three percent of participants indicated that Pacem's proposed plans were very clear or clear.

Respondents felt that hermitage and main building maintenance and environment and campus care were most important (See insert). Eighty-five percent of participants indicated that they would or would consider giving towards a capital campaign. Participants identified Pacem's top strengths as: staff, silence/quiet, hermitages and facilities, and the beautiful, peaceful environment.

Pacem's Board of Directors is considering next steps. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the campaign contact Tim Drake at 763-444-6408.

# HERMIT TESTIMONIAL FROM THE STORM



**D**uring the storm, when things were really getting bad, I felt the floor of my hermitage shake as trees came down all around me. I rushed to close all the windows and prepared to get to a safe place as instructed by the severe weather info sheet.

I was frightened. Terribly frightened.

Then I reached out to the Lord.

"Have mercy, Lord!" I cried out as the storm raged on, "Lord, have mercy on me!"

I thought of all of the people who were praying for me and I began to pray for them. I prayed for the other guests, the staff. I prayed for their safety and for the peace of Jesus to be with them.

The Lord Almighty heard me in my moments of fear. Just as He heard me while I prayed. He kept me safe. He showed mercy to me.

Thousands of downed trees but not a single hair on my head or any other guest's head was harmed. No one can convince me that that is not the work of God.

While I wish I could have stayed longer, I do believe that I received what I had come with an open heart to receive; the

assurance of the Lord's hand over me and my life. His unfailing love and mercy. His goodness. His kindness.

I see what I received from God as part of the good in this tragedy. Even in the midst of the storm, He was listening and answering prayers. In chaos, the Lord was a calm, still presence. He was in control.

My continued prayers for Pacem, the staff, and all of the volunteers. May the Lord continue to provide and assist.

Perhaps more people will be drawn to Pacem after hearing of the devastation. The Lord can bring good out of any situation. He will bring much good from this one.

- Testimony submitted by Samantha who was staying in St. Kateri during the August 26, 2024 wind storm.

Photos by Debbie Trunk and Tim Drake.



## PACEM VOTED BEST CATHOLIC SILENT RETREAT CENTER

In April, Midwest readers voted Pacem in Terris Hermitage Retreat Center the best Catholic place to make a silent retreat. Pacem is grateful to be recognized in this way.



## UPDATES AT PACEM

The wood floors inside the hermitages of St. Francis, St. Cloud, St. John the Beloved, and St. Margaret Mary hermitages were sanded and received new coats of polyurethane in late June (pictured below). The floors had not been resurfaced since their original construction, but now look new again.

In addition, the decking outside the front of Our Lady of Pacem had rotted and was replaced (photo at left).



## PACEM HIGHLIGHTED BY KARE 11

In addition to a variety of news reports following August's storm, KARE 11's news anchor Julie Nelson and chief meteorologist Belinda Jensen spent time in Pacem hermitages in April. They reported on their time in the hermitage as part of a story on the rise of silent retreats.

In addition, they interviewed Executive Director Tim Drake about the hermitage experience. Both segments are available on Pacem's website, as well as via YouTube. You can find them at: [https://youtu.be/IUz70rZGoGY?si=qSWi\\_pr2EFH3A23E](https://youtu.be/IUz70rZGoGY?si=qSWi_pr2EFH3A23E) and [https://youtu.be/\\_qqtCHigK0c?](https://youtu.be/_qqtCHigK0c?)

## HISTORIC HIGHS

May and June, 2024, saw historic high numbers of guests at Pacem. May had 129 guests; June had 122. This represents a 20% increase over the previous year, and our five-year average during those months.

In addition, Pacem saw a historic number of groups in 2024 with 18 groups utilizing Pacem for their day retreats or weekend group retreats.

Enjoy your hermitage and the trails in the warm glow of numerous bonfires on the Pacem property

For Guests staying the weekend of February 7-9, 2025

Hot cocoa and cookies will be served at the main building on Saturday, February 8 from 4-5:30 P.M.

# PACEM BY FIRELIGHT

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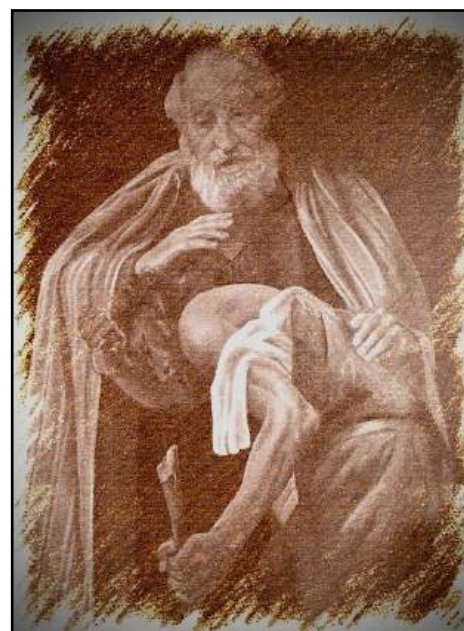
Tim Drake

## ART DONATIONS RECEIVED

Pacem received new artwork that now graces the interior of Our Lady of Pacem. Fresco artist Mark Balma, painter of the Risen Christ in Pacem's Chapel, donated a study of "The Prodigal Son" (pictured at right). The study was prepared for an original color painting he was commissioned to create for the Cathedral of St. Paul. The study is on display in Pacem's main entry.

Two artists who attended Pacem's Artist Weekend in June also donated work. Barbara Burkhardt donated three photographs taken at Pacem. They are in Our Lady of Pacem's lower level.

Fernanda Sequeiros donated a painting of a hermitage at night (pictured at right). That painting is also located in Our Lady of Pacem's lower-level. We give thanks to the artist's for sharing their talents to beautify Pacem's interior spaces. God bless you!



"The Prodigal Son" study by Mark Balma.



Hermitage at Night  
by Fernanda Sequeiros.

## 2024 YEAR END APPEAL



Fall at Pacem (photo by Dylan Moore).

In the interests of cost savings, and to reduce the mail that you receive, Pacem has enclosed a special donation envelope with this newsletter.

Pacem will not be sending an end-of-the-year letter this year. The enclosed envelope replaces that letter.

Please prayerfully consider using that envelope to send in your year-end charitable contribution. Your support in this way helps Pacem to cover the gap between hermitage stay contributions and our operating costs. Thank you for whatever you can give at this time. God bless you for your continued generosity! We are grateful for partnership.