

# PACEM in TERRIS

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

A FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY

## *Interior Hermitage*



I knew it was sacred ground when I awoke. Sleep had pushed back tiredness with holy rest. Sunlight streamed through the large window. I settled into the rocker and sipped my coffee. There was nothing I had to do. No schedule, no agenda but only the delight of simply being. A quiet sense of the Holy Spirit shone on me, surrounding me with comforting warmth and presence. I've been here before but each

time I come to the hermitage it's like the first time – always new and a wonderful and mysterious adventure. My eyes moved to the little altar with the open Bible, promising fresh inspiration. What would the message be this time? The plain cross on the wall above the altar reminded me of the great love and sacrifice of the one who called me here. This would be a time to know and experience once again that He did it for me, that I was included in His saving plan! I felt the love begin to seep in.

Through the window the grandeur of God's creation appeared as another altar celebrating life in the beauty of sun and sky, trees and flowers and all living creatures. With the window open I listened to the gentle rustle of the leaves and the sounds of nature. All were singing a hymn praising God.

It struck me as I was leaving the hermitage that the interplay of the two altars provided a mysterious path of life that would carry me. They combined in the altar of my heart. God's inspired word plus the beauty and wonder of God's creation together become the source of life nourishing me until my next hermitage visit.

*“silence magnifies  
what is in the human heart”*

# Pacem Spotlight

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## Board Selects New Executive Director

It is with great pleasure and excitement that the Pacem in Terris Board of Directors announce the selection of Tim Drake as its new executive director. Tim's knowledge and experience in marketing, communications, and management in non-profit organizations are tremendous assets to this position and to the future growth of Pacem in Terris.



In 1995, Tim converted from the Lutheran faith to the Catholic Church. Since 1998, he has served Christ and His Church through a variety of faith-based organizations, including Catholic Charities, the National Catholic Register, and AM-1180 KYES Catholic Radio. His seventh book, an illustrated children's book, will be published in 2018 by Emmaus Road Publishing-St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

In addition to his work experience, Tim brings to his new role a love for Pacem, a love grown from his regular retreats here since 2009 and from the opportunity, when host of "Voice from the Cloud" on AM-1180 KYES, he interviewed Pacem's founder Shirley Wanchena.

He looks forward to meeting the many hermits and benefactors whom God calls to Pacem. He is dedicated to preserving the original mission the Holy Spirit gave to Shirley, of "providing a place where people can be alone with God," and looks forward to working with the dedicated staff to ensure that Pacem remains a place of silence, peace, and prayer for many years to come.

"The peace that I've found at Pacem attracted me to the position," said Tim. "That peace overflows into one's family and work life, and allows us to be instruments of peace in the world. Our world desperately needs peace."

Tim and his wife Mary live on a farm in St. Joseph, Minnesota. They are the parents of six children, five of whom are living. They range in age from 15 to 21.

Please join us in welcoming and praying for Tim as he begins to lead Pacem into the future.

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Pacem's boardwalk calls to our hermits,  
"Come, sit in silence and solitude with  
the beauty and sounds of nature."

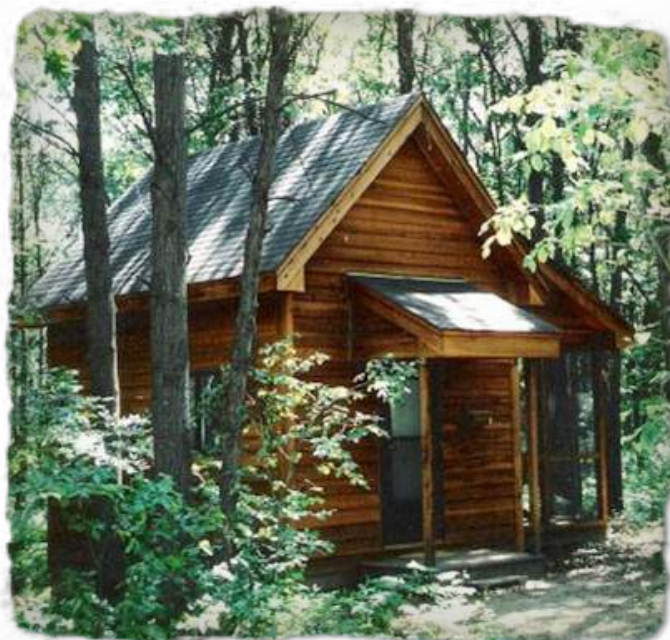
# The Pacem Hermitage

When and where was the last time and place that you walked through the door and let out a sigh of relief, hope flooded your heart, and the tension tightening your neck and shoulders melted away?

Can you recall?

This isn't an uncommon reaction for those who come to Pacem to encounter Our Lord in a hermitage. What is it about entering a hermitage that evokes this respite, hope, and healing? And would you have these same reactions walking, say, into the desert? Probably not, but the hermitage is, in a spiritual sense, a desert. Its simple décor, containing only the essentials, is inspired by God. There's nothing flashy in the hermitage, for God desires to strip away all distractions in order to meet you there and have all of your attention.

Like the desert, the hermitage is a place of fasting. The bodily fasting is accepting the simple fare provided in the food basket each hermit receives upon arrival. The sensual fasting is resting in the austere, yet comfortable furnishings: a bed, a chair, and a table. The spiritual fasting is putting aside various books in order to find Him in the only book in which He is fully accessible: the Bible.



Why fast? Because fasting opens wide our senses to the true hunger inside that only our Creator can satiate. As He satiates our hunger, we fall deeper in love with our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We can then look upon the bare, rough cross hanging over the Bible in the hermitage and place ourselves on it, desiring to imitate Jesus' self-immolation so that we, too, can die to self and enjoy His resurrection.

Is our Lord inviting you to retreat with Him into the desert? Is He calling you to come away with Him to a simple, silent space so that He can speak to your heart?

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## **Pacem's Begging Box...You Can Make a Difference**

St. Francis provided for his needs, those of his religious brothers and those they served by begging. We at Pacem rely exclusively on our hermits, donors, and benefactors to provide for the hermitage retreat center's needs. At this time, Pacem is in need of the following. Prayerfully consider whether you might be able to assist Pacem in meeting these needs. We would be most grateful.

- Refrigerator for St. Joseph House ( est. \$500)
- Road signage for Hwy. 47 ( est. \$1,986)
- Boiler for Studio (est. \$7,000)
- Dependable vehicle for hermit transportation



## Franciscan Hermitage of the Heart

Pacem in Terris  
Board of Directors

Chairman  
Fr. Timothy Nolan

Vice Chair  
Hank French

Julie Bruns

Barbara Koch

Bill Mori

George Sjogren

Kelly Wahlquist

Executive Director  
Tim Drake

Preserve the Vision  
Continue the Mission

Franciscan spirituality permits one to appreciate, accept, and with a passionate desire, bring about God's plan with a great love for Jesus Christ. St. Francis of Assisi desired to become more like Christ by following the Gospel, living the Gospel life, loving like Jesus, knowing it was God's love flowing through his veins.

People were drawn to Francis by his lack of pretense and his humility. His genuineness and simplicity were irresistible. All he desired was to imitate Christ. Francis was a man of God, preaching, teaching, and joyfully living the Gospel, bringing Gospel to life, life to Gospel.

Francis wanted as many people, as possible, to be led by the Holy Spirit as He breathed new life into "the people of God," the Church. The Holy Spirit gave them the courage to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, allowing Him to transform their lives. Francis believed, that it is not enough to read the Bible, but that we must also see the word of God as a map by which we lead our lives. The Bible is God's living word and just one of the instruments He uses to speak to us today.

Francis was a man of contemplation as well as action. He found contemplation prepared him to re-enter the secular world; that one needs to be silent and alone in God's presence to bring together the things of heaven and earth.

Action led to contemplation and in contemplation God revealed Francis' call to action. Hearing and listening to God's voice in the 'hermitage of his heart' he was able to discern what God's voice was calling him to do.

Come...experience Pacem in winter



*"We are called to withdraw at certain intervals into deeper **SILENCE** and aloneness with **GOD**...to be alone with Him~not with our books, thoughts, and memories but completely stripped of everything~to dwell lovingly in His presence~silent, empty, expectant, and motionless. We cannot find **GOD** in noise or agitation."*

*St. Teresa of Calcutta*