



# PACEM IN TERRIS

## HERMITAGE RETREAT CENTER

### *New Hermitage Construction Update*

**P**rogress on the new hermitages of St. Juan Diego, St. Josephine Bakhita, and St. Maximilian Kolbe continues slowly and steadily. Cold weather, supply chain issues, and labor shortages have delayed the entire process. Yet, we continue to be amazed by God’s timing. The construction of the hermitage walls at St. Juan Diego began on the feast day of St. Juan Diego, and the construction of St. Josephine Bakhita’s porch began on her feast day.



*The hermitage of St. Maximilian Kolbe, March 2022.*

Thanks to our many benefactors, our fundraising campaign for the new hermitages surpassed its goal of \$125,000. A generous \$125,000 matching donation ensures that Pacem will have the necessary financing to complete the project and furnish the hermitages. We give thanks to the Lord and to all of you who contributed to the project with your prayers and charitable gifts! Thank you for your generosity.

We wish we could project a completion date, but given the delays that is impossible. We know not the day nor the hour. Only God knows when they’ll be habitable. It’s forcing us to rely ever more upon the Lord, who is the giver of all good gifts. You can keep track of the progress on Pacem’s Facebook page. We are considering a “Choose the Date When the Hermitages Will Be Available” contest, with prizes to include being the first to stay in the new hermitages once they are blessed. We hope to have an Open House so that all who donated in support of the project, as well as neighbors and community members, can see what God has built.



*The view out the large picture window at St. Josephine Bakhita hermitage.*

*“If we create space in which God can act and speak, something surprising will happen. You and I are called to these disciplines if we want to be disciples.”*

*- Henri Nouwen*

## New Faces at Pacem



*Julie Carnahan*

Pacem welcomes our newest board member, **Julie Carnahan**. Julie has worked in bookkeeping for her parish and school community – the Church of St. Augustine, and St. Mary’s Cathedral in St. Cloud – for 18 years.

Natives of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, she and her husband, Glenn, have three sons, and are thrilled to be welcoming their first grandchild in July. They most enjoy experiencing God’s creation by observing wildlife, and exploring area trails and woods with their German shepherd, Jax. As a grateful hermit, she is excited to see what the Lord has in store for Pacem.

**Oliver Statz** began working as a part-time guest care generalist/hospitality minister in November. Born and raised in St. Cloud, he attended the University of St. Thomas for two and half years as a seminarian for the Diocese of St. Cloud. He currently lives in St. Cloud, helping with St. Mary’s Cathedral youth group and confirmation for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hastings. Please join Pacem in welcoming Julie and Oliver.



*Oliver Statz*

## ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Accepting an Invitation



*Plein air artist Joshua Cunningham*

I don’t remember exactly when it happened. A friend of our family, Shirley Wanchena, invited me to come to Pacem in Terris whenever I’d like to stay and “just be with God.” Pacem was about three miles away from the farmstead of oak woods, pasture, marshes, and meadows where I grew up. “You’re going through so much. If you come, two nights is a good start. Then you have a day to just be,” said Shirley.

She was right – I had been through a lot. I was in my early 20’s, and I was hurting, inside and out. My heart was broken by the loss of my youngest brother, Ryan, at age 16, to a car accident. Six months after Ryan’s death, I seriously injured my back and over the next year was rarely not in pain.

Shirley was also right about two nights. I did three two-night hermitages over the next year, discerning my vocation. I was stuck. Having bought into the myth of talent being finite, I thought I had reached my limit and set aside my aspirations to be an artist. And with my back in terrible shape, I had reached the end of the practical and purposeful path of following my father’s footsteps into law enforcement. All I really

had was my faith, which, in the end, was all I needed.

If you had asked me then what I did during those hermitages, I would have said I rested, walked, prayed, and asked God what He wanted me to do. Looking back, I realize that I was never alone. I had invited God to be with me in my brokenness. If you ask me now what happened during those hermitages, I’d say He gave me rest, walked with me, prayed with me, and listened to me.

With the help of a talented Pacem staff person, Jan Senn, I wrote my story as an essay for my application to St. John’s University, where I went expecting to enroll as a theology major and proceed on to the seminary. The Benedictine monk who was discussing this with me had read my story and was looking over my transcripts. He set it all aside and said, “You’ve been through so much. You have all those old art credits – if you enroll here as an art major, you’ll be out of here a year sooner. That’s like putting \$30,000 in your pocket. And if God is calling you to the seminary, you’d come as an



artist. We don't have many of those." And just like that, art became the most practical path.

Just before I left for St. John's, Shirley invited me to a special evening at Pacem. A new fresco artist friend of theirs, Mark Balma, was going to watch an early cut of a documentary about his creation of an incredible fresco for the University of St. Thomas. "You should stop by and meet Mark; he'd love to have another artist watch the program about his project." It was a lovely evening, and Shirley made sure Mark and I had a chance to connect.

Spring came, and I went home with some art projects to finish over break. I called my friends at Pacem, and offered to stop by with some of my art from St. John's, so they could see the fruit of their generosity. Shirley graciously accepted my offer and gushed over all I was doing. "You know, while you were away at St. John's, Mark was invited to become an artist-in-residence at Pacem. Here he could rest after his incredible project, and because he offered a new work for Pacem's soon-to-be-built chapel, we built him a studio. You should stop over there with this wonderful work and share it with him. I will call him, so he knows to expect you. And would you be so kind as to bring this box? It has some things I've been meaning to get to him," she said.

That summer, I became Mark's assistant. The summer apprenticeship became a year of classical art training, and I never returned to St. John's. Mark had opened a door to old-world art training and learning that was completely new to me. I spent the next seven years honing my eye, my hands, and my heart. That pursuit of art gave me everything I feared it couldn't. I met my wife, and we have a family. I continue to grow as an artist, and eventually specialized, in that which was the most difficult for me, landscape painting.

Those hermitages were over 20 years ago. But now, as a landscape painter, they feel much closer. Painting requires me to spend much of my time on my own, but I am no more alone out in the world than I was at Pacem. I often feel that each painting is the best answer I was able to offer to the invitation of the day. But more recently, I've come to understand that my willingness to paint, my willingness to accept the invitation the day has to offer is where it starts. Having seen my brother Ryan's days cut so short filled me with an appreciation for all of my life that has come since. That awareness, that urgency, the not knowing where or what is next all precede the peace that follows after I open my easel, set up my canvas, lay out my colors, hold my brush, and begin.

Shirley's invitation to "just be" still stands, in the hopes that in stillness, you will be moved by this place.

- by Joshua Cunningham



*"So Begins the Green" by Joshua Cunningham*

## *Our Lady of Pacem Furnace Campaign*

Since late November 2021, the geo-thermal heat pump serving the chapel in our main building, Our Lady of Pacem, has been inoperable. A second of eight heat pumps stopped working in December. Efforts are underway to replace them, beginning in June. Given that all the heat pumps in the building are 22 years old, they are overdue for replacement. One of the eight was previously replaced two years ago. In February, Pacem's Board of Directors approved replacing seven of the heat pumps at an estimated cost of \$141,000.

This challenging, but necessary, retrofit is required so that Pacem can continue to serve the hermit guests who come to utilize the main building. It's the entry point for every Pacem guest. To date, approximately \$60,000 has been raised toward the total goal.

We are asking Pacem's benefactors to prayerfully consider supporting this tremendous need. By replacing all of the heat pumps at the same time, it will reduce additional labor costs.

If you'd like to contribute toward this vital project, please use the enclosed envelope and the contribution form found on page 4. Thank you in advance for your generosity. God bless you!



*One of seven heat pumps that need replacing.*

## Board of Directors

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## Why I Support Pacem with My Tithing

“While tithing to the local church, I also saw how Pacem's ministry had blessed my mom, aunts, grandmother, as well as my own life. We were able to get away and... ‘know that I am God,’ (Psalms 46.10 CSV). We were forced (in a good way) to settle down and choose to listen to the voice of God and accept His peace and presence.

Also, the humble, gracious, and courteous staff makes it easy to give. Your staff truly cares about the needs of the hermits and serves them well. I've always been blessed when I've been commissioned to my hermitage, but not before the staff member asks, ‘Is there anything we can be praying for you during your stay here?’ It is a blessing knowing that I am cared for and being prayed over... even when I don't know what to pray for myself. Thank you for this love and tenderness!

Shirley Wanchena's vision for Pacem and its establishment was and is beautiful. It's Kingdom-minded and is worth investing in. And when we put our trust and treasure in Jesus, our investments last forever when they glorify Him. I believe that Pacem's mission and its staff glorify God. For that reason, I give to Pacem.”

- A grateful, anonymous donor



## New Roofs

As part of our continued renovations at Pacem, the hermitages of St. Cloud, St. John the Beloved, and St. Margaret Mary recently received metal roofs. As a result, they will last longer and require less maintenance.



Yes, I want to help 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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