



PRESERVE THE VISION CONTINUE THE MISSION

Successful Transition

Shirley Wanchena, Foundress of Pacem in Terris, often spoke about Pacem's Heavenly Board made up of the many people who believed in and blessed Pacem while on earth and now cover Pacem with their holy prayers from the heavenly view.

She must have had in mind that her time would soon come to join the Heavenly Board when she called together the Pacem Board of Directors for a two day retreat. During that retreat, Shirley passed the baton of leadership and responsibility to the Board members, entrusting them to "Preserve the Vision and Continue the Mission of Pacem in Terris." The Board accepted that responsibility and, since Shirley's death in December 2014, has faithfully continued to oversee the fulfillment of God's call "to create an environment where my people can come and be alone with Me."

It has been a challenging time, learning to answer the call. The Board has discovered that, not unlike other non-profit corporations, when the founder is no longer present, what frequently follows is a period of turmoil and upheaval as the organization adjusts to a ministry no longer led by the founder but by a Board of Directors. In this, its roller-coaster time of adjustment, Pacem has experienced some turnover of staff as well as the

slow and careful process of acquiring and training new staff committed to "preserving the vision and continuing the mission" of Pacem in Terris.

We are grateful to our generous God who has helped us draw together a capable and spirit-filled staff that shares the vision and the mission. Some effects of this are visible in the large amount of woods clean-up and prairie restoration, in the successful Work Weeks where the staining and re-roofing of both Our Lady of Pacem main house and the hermitages took place, as well as in many necessary internal operational improvements. All the while, God has continued to call growing numbers of hermit guests and has inspired so many others to provide the necessary financial resources to fund that growth.

The blessings we have experienced during this time of transition demonstrate daily the absolute faithfulness of our God and his great desire for his people to come and be alone with him in the silence and solitude of the hermitage. We can imagine Shirley, now a member of the Heavenly Board, exclaiming "Glory to God!"



"A hermitage exists to remind the world that there is eternal life beyond the changing seasons of this earthly one." Mount Carmel

Pacem Stewardship

Clearing Pacem's Woods... Volunteers helped clear Pacem's wood and trails for all our Hermits!



New Roof for Pacem

Refreshing Stain For Our Lady of Pacem and Hermitages



“We (too) 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

Pacem in Terris
is pleased to announce the establishment of the



Barbara Koch Development Fund

*The purpose of this FUND is to **Preserve the Vision and Continue the Mission of Pacem in Terris** for years to come. We invite all who believe in Pacem and are grateful for the unique and amazing ways God blesses our hermit guests to join in providing for the future by contributing to this Development Fund.*

We have named this Fund in honor of Barbara Koch, or “Babs” as she is affectionately known within the Pacem community. Babs has been a faithful board member since the 1990’s and a loyal and active supporter of Pacem’s development for over 25 years. Pacem would not be the beautiful, thriving hermitage retreat center it is today without her love, her spiritual commitment, and her extraordinary financial generosity. We are so grateful!

When asked why she loves Pacem so much and continues giving to Pacem, Babs responded, “Of all the places I am asked to support, no place ‘mainlines God’ as directly and personally as Pacem does. Pacem’s sole purpose is to provide a place where people of all faiths who are hungry for God and want to pray can come and be alone with Him.”

*With the establishment of this Fund, we invite all who share Bab’s conviction to join her and all of us in contributing whatever you can to help **Preserve the Vision and Continue the Mission of Pacem in Terris.***

An Invitation to Rest

by Hermit Molly Milroy

Each one of us has our own journey. I arrived at Pacem in Terris, my soul longing for the peace only Christ can give.

I knew I needed a place to rest, I needed to ‘retreat’ from the busyness of life, to reconnect with the Lord. “Go to Pacem” the still, small voice in my spirit cried out. And so I went. Sometimes you just need to get away from it all and be in a place that cultivates silence. Pacem does just that.

The hermitage, a remote cabin secluded in the woods like an enclosed heart, allows a gentle space for meeting God in silence. The night I arrived, I closed the door to my hermitage, let out a sigh of relief, and opened the windows and listened to the slight breeze perform its way through the treetops like a symphony of love. I wanted to sit peacefully in the rocking chair situated so perfectly in the middle of the room, but my body said otherwise. Longing for sleep, I snuggled under the covers, exhausted after a week of work. I knew God was here. I fell asleep and slept the next 12 hours.

The next morning, I sat with God for a long time. With the large picturesque window and not another soul in sight, it’s the perfect breeding ground for silent, contemplative prayer. I told Him everything He already knew about me. And then I was still and listened. It had been a long time since I was able to have the quiet I was looking for. God came to me in that quiet and blessed me tremendously.

That afternoon I strolled out to the prairie and onto the boardwalk. I walked with God and He walked with me. I shared a little more, but mostly just tried to be with Him. I was enjoying feeling so refreshed.

One of my favorite things about this Pacem journey, was preparing the cabin, the heart, for the next pilgrim. As I swept the front porch, I asked God to bless those feet that would enter next. And as I closed the windows and filled the holy water font, I prayed for the next pilgrim to experience the same rest and peace that I did.

The hermitage is ready. Is He inviting you today to come and rest in Him?

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

