

PACEM IN TERRIS

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

God's Economy

What is God's Economy? Investment is necessary in any economy and we constantly invest in life to meet the needs and hungers for body, soul and spirit. Our Amazing God has made available a variety of goods in his *Stock Market* to satisfy our every need and hunger. God chose to give us the freedom to invest in and choose our own *Portfolio* so that in His Economy we might live the abundant life!

There are times when we feel as though our spiritual life is *in recession*: value plummeting, zero interest, imminent foreclosure. What can we do at times like this? If we think of our spiritual lives in terms of God's economy the good news is there is a guaranteed *recovery plan* including *fail-safe bailouts* to get us back on track with our full spiritual *credit* restored!

You see, God has the best

FDIC Faith Deposit Insurance Corporation one could ever hope for. Jesus has arranged in advance to cover all our interests. Our investments with Him are safe. He has paid all the *premiums*. What is more, God's economy provides a spiritual expert, the Holy Spirit, who stands ready 24/7 as *our supernatural broker* to answer our



call (without being put on hold!) and gives us divine spiritual guidance. He is available to advise us each step of the way to the spiritual security which extends all the way to eternity!

To access this heavenly assurance and rebalance our *Portfolio* all we need to do is seek regular time of

quiet to be alone with the Lord. It may be sitting in a little corner at home, walking in the park, quietly driving a distance or a *HERMITAGE* where we have the solitude and the freedom to be fully present to God. In the leisure of this "time away" we allow distractions to recede into the background. We enter into the silence and prayerfully listen to the Lord. There, free from all the usual preoccupations, we rest quietly in the secure presence of the ONE who loves us unconditionally and has *paid for us in full*.

In holy times like this we discover again that God's economy is always strong, never in *depression* or even *recession*. God is not short on *cash* and is a great Father who is ever-faithful in taking care of His children.. Glory to God! ♦

"My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."
[Phil 4:19]

Just a note . . .

The birds at my new birdfeeder have shown me the different ways we turn to the Lord to be fed.

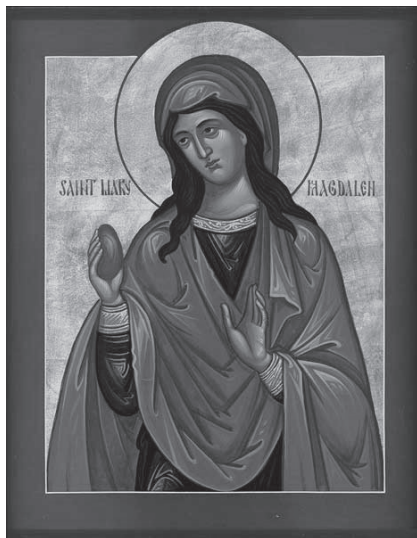
The chickadees are the frequent flyers that come often throughout the day. My cardinals seem to prefer coming only morning and evening. The nuthatches steal a seed and go quickly away to hide it for another time. But my gold finches stay to savor their time, camping out and taking it all in. The red-breasted grosbeak brings the whole family, showing her young where to eat. The jonquils don't get right in there – they stay on the ground, but they still get some morsels.

Sometimes I forget to fill my feeder but in God's economy, the Lord's grace feeder is always full – even overflowing (at times some squirrels get in on the action!) I pray we all learn from our feathered friends that no matter what may be our style, that we come regularly to the Soul Feeder, our loving God. His supply is endless. He is always ready to fill us with all we need.

Julie

St. Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene knew Jesus, listened to him, talked to him, touched him, and loved him. A loyal follower of Jesus, she was present at the foot of the cross with Mary, his mother, and John, his friend, as they



witnessed Jesus' suffering and death.

According to the account in the gospel of John, early Sunday morning after the crucifixion, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus and found it empty. She ran to tell Peter and John, who ran back and saw the empty tomb.

After they left, Mary remained behind. As she looked into the tomb, she saw two angels who asked why she was weeping. She replied, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." She turned and saw Jesus, but she didn't recognize him at first, mistaking him for the gardener. Then he called her by her name and she responded "Rabboni!" The first person to see the risen Lord, Mary Magdalene announced to the disciples what Jesus had told her—that he would be returning to his Father, God (John 20:1-18).

Missionary Retreat



Steiger International is a missionary group with members from around the world. They use music and theatre to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. This group had a retreat at Pacem before a 30-day European tour.

Friendly Fox



A "friendly fox" has been spotted around Our Lady of Pacem Community House this summer. What a joy to see this "passer-through" up close!

Mary Magdalene's encounter with the risen Lord shows us what can happen as we quiet our hearts and listen for his voice. He wants to make himself known to us just as intimately as he revealed himself to Mary. As we experience his presence, we too can say, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18).

The Church has set aside July 22 to celebrate the holy life of St. Mary Magdalene. ♦

Whoever loses his life . . .

He doesn't literally mean lose *everything*, does he? Most of us have worked hard for what we have; houses and cars, education, jobs, or simply food on the table. Moreover, most of us want to hang on to what we have and do and love.

And yet this is precisely what Jesus does mean. "Whoever wishes to save his life" means whoever lives and strives entirely for comfort, possessions, and worldly achievements will end up losing it all.

But isn't it right to want these things? What's wrong with a comfortable, successful life? Absolutely nothing! The real question that Jesus' words should raise in us is whether that's *all* we're striving for. What is the passion in our lives? God wants so much more for us. He knows exactly what we need and he will take care of our needs, freeing us to concern ourselves with what he wants—living for his kingdom.

So how do we get to this point? To start, use your *head*. List everything you know about your Father who is asking you to lose your life for his sake. He is all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, wise, compassionate, merciful and forgiving. When memory runs dry turn to

scripture to find more. List what God has done, like creating the world, delivering the Hebrews from Egypt, and raising Jesus from the dead. Next use your *heart*. Spend some quiet time recalling what God has done for *you*, and ask the Holy Spirit to



give you a deep gratitude for all of this. Recall these powerful acts often and let them stir your heart with love. We simply cannot tell ourselves too often, "This is what God has done!" This is the One for whose sake I am willing to lose my life."

"Jesus, I trust your love, your kindness, and your wisdom for me. I want to give you my life today, so that I might live for your kingdom and with you forever. Amen" ♦

Hermit Notes

♥ I want to thank all of you for providing me (and the world) with this special place. While there, I did not experience the exhilaration of the "mountain top" but rather the deep peace and contentment that comes from spending quiet time with the Loved One.

I believe that God use this time to strengthen me for what lies ahead in my life. I learned to appreciate the many small spans of solitude and silence that are in my life. I can use them as I used my time at Pacem.

♥ Thank you for the gift of this time and place to be nurtured in body and spirit. How good to come away from the distractions of life. Even the ones I enjoy. (Maybe especially to be away from the distractions I enjoy!)

God was here. I was here. And we had a great time together!

♥ My first time at Pacem was such a blessing . . .the prairie and the trees surrounding the prairie were breathtaking . . . The hospitality marvelous . . . And my time with God was beyond words.

♥ Every year I come to Pacem in Terris around my birthday, giving myself the gift of quiet and reflection.

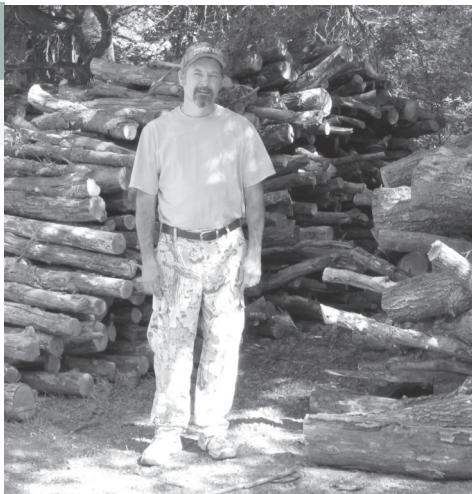
It is such a wonderful time to step out of the frenzy of the world and instead to experience the beauty of the natural world and my place in it.

This is the sixth year of my annual retreat and when I turn off the road and enter Pacem in Terris I feel that, in a way, I am coming home to a place that has been created and preserved with such exquisite intention to nourish my soul. Thank you.

Pacem Profile

Jamie Cameron is no stranger to the woodpile! And well for Pacem, he is a willing hand in helping control our oak wilt and restore our forest.

He helped clear several sections during our summer maintenance week, and has continued coming regularly. He is a proud father of two, grandfather of one, and husband to Brenda who is on staff. Thanks, Jamie!



How much wood can Jamie cut?

Dear friends,

As I know little about stocks, bonds, portfolios, brokers, bailouts and even less about stock market reports, I decided to look up *economy* in the dictionary. To my joy, in the seventh listed meaning I found: Part A—the divine plan for man and Part B—any method of divine administration. So, *God's economy*: How well this fits my Pacem story!

God's plan called for a time and place for his children to be alone with him. God noticed that Shirley was available and he called her to invest. Shirley said, "Yes!" Eagerly, she spent an entire year telling many generous people about the land she found, the plans for site development and hermitages, and the need for funding only to discover that, though people listened and sympathized, they really did not understand the mission. What to do? One whole year and no funds! In God's method of administration, Shirley knew he would show the way (after all, this was his idea!) She had to fast and pray. That done, God revealed an image of a cupboard with open doors filled with groceries. God said, "You don't pray for groceries when you have a full cupboard." Shirley said, "Thanks, but what about Pacem?" That question was answered as God gently revealed that Shirley's mortgage-free home was the cupboard full of groceries and needed to be sold, that is, *the cupboard emptied*, before reaping God's abundant harvest.

My Pacem story reveals that, in *God's economy*, God's plan and his way of administering it call for our openness and listening. God's capital gains and dividends will be always reflected in his unconditional love, mercy, and peace—meeting our every need, including Pacem in Terris. Glory to God!

Shirley Wanchena

The Pacem Economy

Let's explore the *Pacem Economy*! It is not a stock market, a farmers market, or the gold market! It is a Spiritual market! The investment is time - time for solitude and silence with the Lord. You, who have invested that time, know God's incredible return on your investment. Spiritual Riches no portfolio could ever hold!

The freedom of the Hermitage allows you to enter into God's cycle of love with your whole body, mind and spirit. Imagine God's delight and your Capital Gain!

For all of our hermits and would-be hermits, the *Pacem Economy* depends upon the hermitages being available 24/7, year around, so with only a few exceptions, this Spiritual market never closes!

Together, we believe and share in God's desire for his people. With God moving in our hearts, yours and ours, we each say our daily "Yes!" That means we need your faithful prayer support and faithful dollar support to fill our monthly "gap."

We promise to be here and do our part to faithfully care for the guest/hermits. We are committed to steward with reverence and respect the Pacem land, buildings, equipment and all the dollars God provides through you.

Remember, every dollar you send God multiplies paying huge dividends in the lives of our hermits. Thank you for helping us keep the *Pacem Economy* booming. ♦

*"Whoever
loses his life
for my sake
will find it."*

Mat 16:25