

Pacem in TeRRis

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

Weavings of Love

We were recently privileged to see the “St. John’s Bible” exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The insight and talent of the Artistic Director, Donald Jackson, has brought the Word of God alive in a new and dramatic visual presentation. It was truly an inspiring and life giving experience.

The illustration of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes brings the miracle before you. The loaves and fish literally cover all the margins of a double page, as if there wasn’t enough room for all of it. Amidst the loaves and fish were the baskets used to distribute them and collect all that was left over. The commentary read:

“The baskets symbolize the multiplying effect of any act of love, such as sharing. The arithmetic of love is exponential. One act of love begets another.”

It caused me to reflect on our baskets at Pacem. Baskets come

from natural elements; grasses, reeds, wooden strips, all gifts of God’s love. The basket weaver, the artisan, takes up this gift of God’s creation, and forms the basket. The strips are woven into one by the loving hand of the basket weaver.



“The arithmetic of love is exponential. One act of love begets another.”

Each hermit receives a basket when they come to Pacem. These particular baskets were a gift from a generous, loving benefactor. They contain our simple offering; fruit from the growers, cheese from a small organic farm and the bread and muffin made from scratch at Pacem. All of these are placed in the basket with prayers and love for the hermit, who receives it and much more—God’s love woven into their stay at Pacem.

Our little basket is given, so that God can multiply and provide for each one’s needs. And provide so abundantly that they may leave with a new measure of peace and love...to share...for *love begets love.* ♦

Act of Love

O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You. I forgive all who have injured me, and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.



“With great love, let us respond to the love of Him who loved us so greatly.”

St. Francis of Assisi

Just a note...

About 30 years ago I was sharing with a priest friend about a great retreat I had just made when he challenged me with, “well that’s wonderful, but now tell me how it is going to change your life, because if it doesn’t, it’s just a nice experience”. I reflected on this as I approached the end of my sabbatical. I asked myself, “so what is different, how will my life change? Number one, I am rested and determined to stay that way. I am determined to *Keep Holy* a Sabbath day each week. It is so easy to let our *Sabbath day* turn into a *getting caught up day*. It may be just laundry or yard work, but it’s not *rest*. If I do not have time to take a day of rest as the Lord commands, I need to review my priorities. How many of us if our employer said “You rest at home tomorrow and I’ll take care of everything” would reply, “I can’t, I have too much to do”? If I am faithful to this I will stay more deeply connected to God and self. I will bring to my week a freshness and energy of body and soul that will help me deal with the professional and personal challenges that await me. I need to *fall on my knees more than fall on my sword*...I would encourage you my friends to do the same.

God bless you,

Jeffrey Wanchena

Behind the Scenes...



Another new burro! Alain holds Judah alongside Judah’s mother Carmella.



Hardworking volunteers put up wood for the upcoming winter.

Meet Saint Michael the Archangel

Archangels are mentioned throughout sacred Scripture in their unique role as God’s messengers to people at critical times in the salvation process (Jude 9; 1Thess. 4:16; Dan. 10:13, 21;12:1).

The archangel Michael is introduced as the leader of the faithful angels in their struggle against the rebel angels led by Lucifer, or Satan, who made war in heaven against the will of God (Rev. 12:7-9).

St. Michael, whose Hebrew name translates into “Who is like God?”, is the champion of the faithful in their strife with the powers of evil. All throughout history, he is the special protector of those who love Jesus Christ. He has guarded the chosen people of Israel, and will defend God’s holy Church



against the battle of the Antichrist.

In a vision, Pope Leo XIII was shown the fearful battle to be waged between Satan and St. Michael over the Church of the future. He composed the following prayer, which you may use as a defense against Satan and all evil spirits:

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell, Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl through the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

The Church has set aside September 29th to celebrate the holy archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. ♦

Thoughts on Prayer

from our hermits' hearts

from C.S. Lewis:

I have a notion that what seems our worst prayers may really be, in God's eyes, our best. Those, I mean, which are least supported by devotional feeling and contend with the greatest disinclination. For these, perhaps, being nearly all *will*, come from a deeper level than feeling. In feeling there is so much that is really not ours—so much comes from weather and health or from the last book read.

One thing seems certain. It is no good angling for the rich moments. God sometimes seems to speak to us most intimately when He catches us, as it were, off our guard. Our preparations to receive Him sometimes have the opposite effect.

Doesn't Charles Williams say somewhere that "the altar must often be built on one place in order that the fire from heaven may descend somewhere else?"♦

From *Letters to Malcom*, by C.S. Lewis, (Harcourt Brace & Co.)

from Thomas Merton:

Why do we think of the gift of infused contemplation and mystical prayer, as something essentially strange and esoteric reserved for a small class of almost unnatural beings and prohibited to everyone else? It is perhaps because we have forgotten that contemplation is the work of the Holy Spirit acting on our souls through His gifts of wisdom and understanding with special intensity to increase and perfect our love for Him. These gifts are part of the normal equipment of Christian sanctity...But there is only one condition. If you desire intimate union with God you must be willing to pay the price for it. We find it difficult to give up our desire for things that can never satisfy us in order to purchase the One Good in Whom is all our joy!♦

From *What is Contemplation?* by Thomas Merton, (Templegate).

♥ "Thank you for your prayers! God revealed much this weekend and renewed my strength and spirit."

♥ "As an English teacher I am always finding elaborate ways to express myself. And yet I find it impossible to put my experience here at Pacem into words. Thank you. This place is truly a gift to the children of God."

♥ "This has been a most exhilarating, insightful, prayerful, restful, reflective and peaceful week. It is one I will treasure in the weeks and months to come. This wonderful hermitage experience has indeed fulfilled its purposes which were and are to restore peace to my soul, discern God's way for me in the future, and fill my heart with joy and gratitude for God's boundless love and for all creation. It enabled me to empty myself out and then let myself be refilled with the love and graces which came freely and abundantly from heaven once I surrendered myself to their care."

♥ "Thank you for the gift and privilege of these nights in hermitage. The depth of holy silence here offers each of us a rare gift."

In Memoriam

When Father Ebner first heard the idea of building hermitages he listened with interest and reverence and promised personal prayer support. He was visibly delighted when he attended and participated in the formal dedication of Pacem in Terris some years later. Father Ebner's presence added a



Rev. Frank Ebner
1922-2005

great blessing for this holy event.

When he retired as pastor of St. Andrews Church in Elk River, he presented Pacem with a treasured gift that will *keep on giving* for years to come. Our new building was almost complete when we received a call from Fr. Ebner asking if we could use his 55 year collection

of books for our library. The 6,000 volume collection reflected his love of God, all people, his priesthood, the wonders of creation, and much more. We are deeply grateful for his prayers, friendship and generous gift.

We join the people of God and pray "May the angels lead you to paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem. Amen."♦

Pacem Profile

After nearly six years it has come time for me to leave Pacem. As some of you know I recently returned to school and I now feel called to devote more of my energies there. Pacem has been an incredible blessing and gift in my life, giving me great opportunities to love and serve and grow in my faith. I have been honored to take part in such an incredible ministry and to have met so many wonderful people of God. I will continue to volunteer and, of course, will keep all of you in my prayers. ♦



Catherine will be leaving Pacem as of January 1, 2006

Thank You

We are deeply grateful for the many generous ways you continue to give to Pacem in Terris. It is your support that makes it possible for others like yourself to be restored and transformed through the sacred quiet and solitude of the hermitage.

In this quiet union with God, hearts are inspired, inner wounds are healed, prayers are offered, burdens are laid down, and souls are lifted on wings of joy. Thank you!

Note...

Pacem is now prepared to receive electronic donations. More and more people prefer this method when giving charitable donations. Contact Carol at (763) 444-6408 if you would like more information

Thank you also for your faithful prayers. They are truly our greatest treasure!

Dear friends,

Katrina. We have learned so many things. One of the people interviewed was passionately describing the dramatic changes in his life. Flinging both arms in great wide circles he described losing everything - *everything!* Home, car, all the “stuff” of his life was gone and yet he went on to say, as he was beating his chest, “but I am alive, I am alive! I am blessed that I did not lose my life and I will start over again!”. I wondered, what would it feel like to lose everything? Would I be able to count my blessings so quickly? After hearing him and lifting him up in prayer, I remembered having listened to a variety of hermits throughout the years, hermits who have been eager to share their experience of living in the simplicity of the hermitage. They come out proclaiming the freedom they felt without all the “stuff” we live with. I wondered about the man. Would he, in the midst of such tragedy, experience a glimpse of that “freedom” as he re-establishes his life again? It leaves me pondering, “What would I say if I lost everything?”. “Who am I without my stuff?”

Shirley Wanchena

Silence is God's first language, everything else is a poor translation. In order to hear that language, we must learn to be still and to rest in God.

Thomas Keating