

GLORY TO GOD

PACEM IN TERRIS

June 2006

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A time for praise. . .

Summer is traditionally a time to relax, refresh, and renew. Here at Pacem, it's also a time for us to step back and take a look at where we've been and where we're going. We're thankful for some dear friends of Pacem who are helping us plan the future of the ministry.

Fr. Tim Nolan, who is chairman of our board and has been affiliated with Pacem since its inception, is helping determine the present needs of the ministry.

Julie Taube, a pastoral coordinator at a local

parish and a resident of Pacem, is helping define staff roles, determine our future needs, and schedule guest visits.

Staff and volunteers are busy deep cleaning the hermitages and community house, and doing our usual outdoor maintenance.

We want to share with you many of the things we're praising God for now. New hermit guests continue to come and experience the love God has for them in the silence of the hermitage! Join us as we give God the glory for all he is doing at Pacem.

Pacem Staff

Director

Shirley Wanchena

Property Manager

Alain Marin

Kitchen Manager

Susan Wanchena

Gifts Coordinator

Carol Bishop

General Staff

Ann Marie Croteau

Brenda Cameron

Karen Bendix

Amanda Cameron

Property Assistant

Ian Marin

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Glory to God . . . For deep cleaning!

"Preparing the hermitage" is part of the cycle of love that keeps a hermitage ready for the next guest. "Deep cleaning" comes once a year when everything inside and out is thoroughly cleaned. To realize the size of this task, think about spring

cleaning the hermitages without running water and electricity. If you were around during the last six weeks, you may have witnessed our worker bees (Karen, Amanda, Catherine, and Brenda) as they carried water, filled teakettles to

heat on the gas burner, brushed and swept, cleaned draperies, hauled laundry, polished windows and furniture and much more. All to provide a place of order and dignity where God can be alone with his people...so they can be refreshed and cleansed as well!



Karen Bendix headed up our cleaning efforts.

Glory to God... For prayer partners!

Circles do not have a beginning or an end—they are constant. And so are the prayers for our hermits, benefactors, staff, and volunteers. Our Prayer Partners join a circle of prayer that covers our hermit guests and all of Pacem with an ever-increasing source of spiritual power and protection.

Pacem is blessed to have more than 300 individuals who have commit-

ted to pray daily, not only for Pacem as a whole, but for each person who comes to Pacem for a hermitage retreat.

Imagine hermits entering the hermitage with their hearts full of prayer—then add to that the prayers of their family and friends, the prayers of the Pacem staff, the prayers of the saints in heaven, and the prayers of our many prayer part-

ners. That's a lot of prayer, and we are deeply grateful for every prayer offered for all the people of Pacem! And our hermit guests are grateful for the circle of prayer surrounding them while they are in the hermitage.

At our last Prayer Partner gathering (featured in our Spring newsletter) one of those Prayer Partners shared about her daily prayer with us:

Each morning I take out my Pacem Prayer Card (it's getting a little ragged...I need a new one!) and as I pray I see the hermitage in front of me as though I

had just walked up to it. I visualize the different pilgrims inside who come to this place of peace and rest.

I see the **mourning souls**, weeping in grief at the feet of Jesus and craving God's quiet love enfolded around them. And I reach out in prayer to **support** them.

I see the **searching souls** who wrestle with God like Jacob; who can't seem to find their way; who need a path of direction. And I reach out in prayer to help **sustain** them in their struggle.

I see the **needy souls** who lack a job or money or have a spiritual need that exists in an empty space in the heart. And I reach out in prayer and empathy, to ask that the God of all goodness and blessing will **fill that space**, whatever it might be.

I see the **exhausted bodies and minds** of those who feel disconnected from God and their own spirit, who need physical and emotional rest. And I reach out in prayer to hold them close as they **sleep**.

*Would you like to be a Prayer Partner?
Call us to sign up.*

Glory to God... For our web master!

More and more hermit guests are finding their way to Pacem in Terris Retreat Center by way of the internet. Glory to God that we have a wonderful web site that helps them discover who we are and what they can experience when they come.

Our web master is a volunteer, Steve Boswell, who has truly captured the spirit of Pacem. We are grateful for

his generous support. It is gifts of talents such as his that permits our ministry to go out into the world and spread the Good News.

We want to alert you to watch for some new additions that should be on the site by late summer or early fall. These include our 15 minute DVD; Seeds of Faith—a brochure of our giving opportunities; and the original

Star Tribune article written in 1991 by Chuck Haga, that still draws many guests to visit Pacem. (Thank you to Chuck Haga and the Star Tribune for permission to run the article.)

We already have many reservations for the fall months. Call early if you plan to come for a fall retreat!

Glory to God . . . For summer at Pacem!



The wonders of God's creation, await those who have a hermitage stay during the beauty of summer.



Is this chair waiting for you?



The Presence of God—Holy Rest

Mosquito Net Theology

Recent reflection from a hermit

If you have been to Pacem during the summer, you have probably seen, and hopefully worn, the hat and pillow-case-style mosquito net. You won't see it worn down any of the streets or in the shops for it is my veil of Pacem : God's grace and abundant love for me.

When I put on the hat it is like being under this secure and restful place of God. The veil is God's protection—barely visible, his loving presence surrounds all of me. The elastic around the bottom I see as my prayer life

When I put on the hat (allowing myself to feel his presence and protection in the netting), I can "see" my life through veiled eyes, and through drawing the elastic closer and closer, I'm drawn closer to him.

The net is always there. I can choose to put it on or not. Sometimes the netting feels awkward, and I try to fight it a bit. Sometimes the elastic is a bit loose, and some mosquitoes get in—I end up distracted from what God wants me to hear. Many distractions occupy our life instead of God.

Sometimes we need to adjust the hat; discard any mosquitoes that may have wandered inside, and adjust the elastic. Don't let the mosquitoes chew you up. Come to Pacem and mend your veil!

Glory to God . . . For benefactors!

Here we are, in summer 2006, with 16 hermitages on 240 beautiful acres, a main house with three special-need hermitages (making a total of 19!), and the space we need for our ministry. We can only say Glory to God in the highest! And peace to his people on earth!

An abbreviated timeline of our journey:

1980-82: The call, the land purchase (80 acres @\$575/acre), the miracle of a benefactor making it possible.

1987: Winning the bid on St. Joseph House and moving it onto the land.

1988: Building and opening the first three hermitages on May 1: St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Anthony the Hermit.

1991: Building and opening four more hermitages: St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Mary Magdalene, Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Michael the Archangel.

1996: Building and opening three more hermitages: St. Cloud, St. Margaret Mary, St. John the Beloved.

1999: Building and opening Our Lady of Pacem community house, the miracle of a benefactor making it possible.

2000: Building and opening six more hermitages: St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Dominic, St. Clare, St. Francis of Assisi.

Along the way, benefactors provided tractors for plowing, gravel for roads, barns for storage, insurance, propane, wages for staff—and many, many other needs throughout the past 18 years.

Did the revenue from the hermitages sustain us? No-o-o-o! Who provided for this journey? You and you and you and those before you! Glory to God for each one who has been a partner with God to establish and sustain our hermitages. You have reflected the generosity of God with your support—and God has provided abundantly through you!

God does not take time off and continues to shower his love and mercy on all who will receive. And God is not finished with his plans for Pacem in Terris. We have a “future full of hope,” and with faith and perseverance we can all be God’s instruments to grow and sustain this ministry.

We pray many of you will continue to work with us so the hermitages will be here now and into the next decades. For the children of the next generations will need *time alone with God*—a hermitage retreat—even more than we do, as the speed and decibel level of life grows ever greater. Please join with us to ensure the future of Pacem!

Glory to God . . . For Franciscan spirituality!



St. Francis of Assisi is one of the many pillars of spiritual strength and prayer for Pacem’s ministry. A strong man of faith, Francis overcame many worldly lures and temptations to find the freedom to love

God with his whole heart. Now, almost 800 years after his death, he is still a strong spiritual presence and teacher in our daily life. We need models as we live the gospel life. Our family and friends are companions and models on the journey, as are people like St. Francis, who have finished their earthly life and can companion us from heaven.

Pacem in Terris is officially a “Franciscan Center for Spirituality.” The founders chose to be personally committed to live the “Rule of Francis” (which is titled, *From Gospel to Life*), and to reflect that spirit in the mission and ministry of Pacem.

The first Sunday of each month, at 1 p.m., our Franciscan fraternity meets in the Pacem gathering room for 2 to 3 hours to pray, share our life experiences, and continue to learn about Francis and his love for Jesus and the Gospel. Anyone interested in learning more about St. Francis is welcome to visit (please call at 763-444-6408).

Summer Break!

Pacem in Terris Retreat Center will not receive guests from July 17—August 13, 2006. This is our time for outdoor maintenance and extra cleaning and care of the hermitages and the main house, Our Lady of Pacem. *Peace be with you!*