

# PACEM in TERRIS

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

## THE PACEM PACE

*Where reflection is wanting, zeal is not good; he who goes too quickly misses his way.* Proverbs 19:2 (JB)

**H**ave you ever “moved too quickly?” Have you ever “missed your way?” Most of us do so in little and big ways. The pace of life in our society is to go fast—and even faster if you can. Do more, keep going, press on . . . if only there were more hours in the day, I could accomplish so much, but there just isn’t enough time!

Take a moment right now to consider “where reflection is wanting” in your life. Reflect, ponder: Who are you? What are you about? Where are you going? How do you define success? God made us for love and created us to share in the humanity of his son, Jesus. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we can become fully human and blend our lives with Jesus. We can learn to love as he loves, to think as he thinks and speak his words, to see what he sees and to hear what he hears, to let our

hands be his hands and to faithfully walk in his footsteps. When we begin to look like Jesus, then—as the song says “they will know we are Christians by our love!”

WWJD? What would Jesus do if he found himself immersed in the hectic pace of our society,



*A Path of Peace*

with an overloaded calendar and not enough time for prayer or reflection? In the accounts of his earthly life in the New Testament, it’s obvious that he regularly went away to the silence and solitude of the desert so that he could be alone and listen to his Father.

If we follow the example of our Lord, going to the “desert” can mean making time to be alone with God in the silence and solitude of a hermitage. Time to slow down and find rest for body, soul, and spirit. Time to be still in the presence of God, to reflect, to listen, and to receive his love and mercy. Time to find our way through life, and to have a “spiritual pacemaker” implanted in our soul!

The “Pacem Pace” means your spiritual pacemaker is working so that wherever you are, whatever you are doing, you can move at a peaceful pace. It means that if an unexpected need arises, you can willingly and gracefully attend to the person or event involved. It means you are listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. It means living in peace. ♦

*“Martha, Martha,  
you are anxious  
about many things . . .  
Mary has chosen  
the better part.”*

*Luke 10: 41-42*

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## Just a note . . .

Some might wonder how we keep the *Pacem* pace, even in our work here at *Pacem*. It is sometimes difficult. We live in a society, which measures you by what you produce. Here, at *Pacem*, God produces the outcome. Of course, He needs the hands and the hearts willing to work, but at His pace; and we are blessed to have staff that have responded to that call. The pilgrims who come here are already burdened by the standards of this world, so we attempt to convey a more relaxed pace in which one is not measured on what is produced but encouraged to respond to God's ever gentle voice and direction. We strive to keep God central in all that we do, and to remember that all things we do here are for His greater glory. If it does not get done today, we will get it done in God's time.

Alain

## Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Blessed Kateri was born in 1656, the daughter of a great Mohawk chief and an Algonquin Christian mother. At the age of four, she survived a smallpox epidemic that killed her family and left her with a scarred face and weak eyes. She was



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given the name *Tekakwitha*, meaning "moving forward slowly."

Although she was raised by her uncle, the new chief, who wanted no part of the Christian faith, Kateri believed that the French missionary priests had brought to her village the message of the one true God. She repeated her mother's prayers to *Rawaniiio*, the white man's God, and when she was eleven years old she was baptized "Kateri" (Catherine).

Kateri was persecuted and ostracized for her refusal to conform to traditional Iroquois ways. A Jesuit priest arranged for her escape to Canada to live with other Christians. There, Kateri lived a life of virtue and charity, caring for the sick and weak.

### Now There Are *Two!*



A delightful path through the marsh was cleared to the water's edge in August and now the second boardwalk is ready for Hermits to enjoy!

### A Flourishing Prairie!



While walking the Prairie trail, hermits and guests enjoyed the spectacular beauty of flowers and Indian grasses nourished by abundant summer rains.



Her constant prayer was for her people to come to know the one true God. She became very ill and died on April 17, 1680. A few minutes after her death, it is said her face radiated a heavenly beauty and the smallpox scars completely disappeared.

Blessed Kateri is a great witness for us in living our faith with courage, and trusting in God's plan against overwhelming odds.

*The Church has set aside July 14th to celebrate the holy life of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.* ♦

# All who are thirsty ...

The Good Shepherd knows where water can be found, where the best drinking places are, and to these spots he leads his flock.

Thirst indicates the body's need to have its water supply replenished from a source outside itself. Just as the physical body has a capacity and need for water, so the human soul has a capacity and need for the water of the Spirit of the eternal God.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, makes it clear that the thirsty souls of men and women can only be satisfied when their capacity and thirst for spiritual life is fully quenched by drawing on Christ himself.

"On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, 'Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink.'"  
Jn 7:37 (NAB)

"To drink" in spiritual terms simply means to take in, to accept, to assimilate the very life of God in Christ to the point where it becomes part of us.

The difficulty is that people who are thirsty for God—who have a deep inner sense of searching for that which will completely satisfy—often are

unsure where to look or even what they are looking for.

The tragic truth is that many seekers try to satisfy their thirst by pursuing almost every other sort of substitute. When they have drunk deeply from the wells of the world they come away unsatisfied, their souls' thirst unquenched.



*"Beside restful waters He leads me; He refreshes my soul." Ps*

St. Augustine summed it up at the start of his *Confessions* when he wrote, "God, you have made us for yourself, and *our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.*"

Some people have discovered Pacem in Terris to be one of those deep wells of God where, after hours or sometimes days of prayerful reflection, meditation, and communion with Christ, they come away refreshed in body, soul, and spirit. Their thirst is slaked and their hearts are quietly satisfied.

## Hermit Notes

♥ One note from a hermit named Bill

### Living Pacem time:

I rolled over and went back to sleep for an hour.

I didn't eat breakfast at 7:00, lunch at 11:30 nor supper at 6:00.

I prayed outside.

I had an all-day meeting that I thoroughly enjoyed.

I didn't shave and no one noticed.

I looked at no screens and did no digital communicating.

I got a glimpse at myself---without a mirror.

There was nothing to be on time for.

I watched the wind help the trees give praise.

I heard Him say "I love you".

When the sun went down, so did I.

I wet my pillow with a tear of joy, knowing I had spent the day in His perfect will.

*"I step out of time into the timelessness of God."*

Bishop George Speltz  
on entering a hermitage in 1989.

## Pacem Profile

Since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year we have been blessed to have Ian Marin come on as a full time staff member. Ian has been a part-time staff member since 2005, helping manage the property and what so ever needs to be done. He brings with him many gifts and talents, foremost his experience in carpentry which is quite beneficial to us here with all the hermitages and houses. He also has a gentle spirit and a gift of hospitality.



*Welcome aboard., Ian Marin!*

## Dear friends,

Grandpa Pete lived with our family the last three years of his life. My sister and I (ages 11 and 13) slept on the couch so he could have our bedroom. We felt blessed because he chose to live with us, and he unintentionally “home-schooled” us in the subjects of respect, reverence, and integrity. He raised the bar for the expectations we put on ourselves and everyone else. Each morning he asked our mom, “Anna, is there anything special I can do for you?” We picked up that good habit! We had just moved onto what had once been a large farm, and Grandpa Pete, an old railroad-man-turned-farmer, suggested that we get a cow and pigs and plant a garden and orchard. When he confessed that he could never take care of it all alone, we eagerly offered to help. We learned how to milk the cow, churn butter, water and feed the animals, shovel manure, clean the barn and pigpens, and weed the garden. We enjoyed fragrant apple and plum blossoms in the spring and were amazed at the abundant harvest of fruits and vegetables in the fall. Grandpa Pete reminded us regularly: “Now girls, remember, if a job is worth doing, it’s worth doing well,” and “Haste makes waste.”

Pondering this newsletter, I reflected on the scripture proverb, “Where reflection is wanting, zeal is not good, he who moves too quickly misses his way.” (*Prov 19:2 JB*) It brought back grateful memories of Grandpa Pete—the treasure of his presence and the gift of his wisdom. I think he would approve of our Pacem pace.

God bless us all!

*Shirley Wanchena*

## Closing the Gap

What Gap? The dollar “Gap” between hermitage revenue---and our ever-increasing operating costs. Our hermits do what they can. Many are able and give generously. Many cannot meet the cost---still it is our joy to welcome everyone!

Recently we announced our 3-year plan to establish a seven million dollar endowment to help close the Gap each year. It will take a few years of building before those funds are available to use.

In addition our hope is that you would continue your willingness to keep us a part of your giving program. When you give, please designate “donation” or “endowment.” Each will be a deeply appreciated treasure!

We promise to be here and faithfully care for our hermit guests. We steward with respect and reverence your dollars, the care of the land, buildings and all that supports the Pacem mission. Thank you for sharing this ministry.

We prayerfully searched for a way to honor 25 years (in 2013) of witnessing God’s never-ending love for His people---the answer was to help provide for the next generation. We will be eager to share with you the on-going response.

Thank you for your prayers as well as your heartfelt financial support!



*“Let us not grow tired  
of doing good . . .  
for in due time  
we shall  
reap our harvest.”*

Gal 6:9 NA