

PACEM IN TERRIS

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

“Come to Me . . .



. . . all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest “
Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me. Yes, you. You are exactly who I mean. . . . If you feel far away, come. If you have given in to temptation, harbored bitterness, or lashed out in anger, come. If you have felt the sting of despair or feel cloaked in guilt, come. . . . Believe that I want to give you a taste of my mercy and love, come. Come and see how much I can do in your heart.

Come, you who labor and are burdened. I will give you rest: rest

Fall 2011

from the weight of responsibility, the load of sorrow, the burden of fear you are carrying. I will give you rest from the uncertainty, doubt, and insecurity that slow your steps. I will give you rest from the constant activity, the exhausting demands of work and home, of caring for elderly parents or young children. I will give you rest from the faithful service that you give to me everyday. Come and rest with me, and I will restore your energy.

Take my yoke upon you. Come, bind yourself to me in love. I

promise it will be a joy, not a burden. Let me show you my love today. Let me surprise you with the weightlessness of it. Love, streaming from my Father’s heart, overflowing from the two of us, and pouring into your heart through my Holy Spirit. I have fashioned my yoke to fit you exactly. I have created you to wear it and learn under it in ways that are unique to you. I will not force it on you. Choose it and let it bring you relief.

Come, my yoke is easy and my burden is light. What makes it so easy? It’s my love and my life. You can carry it with you everywhere you go today, and it will give you strength and energy. I know what else you are carrying in your hands and in your heart. But come to me and let me show you how to carry it all. Don’t let anything hold you back. Come and embrace my meekness and humility. I promise you will find rest for yourself! ♦

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*“He remembers
His covenant
forever . . .”*

Psalm 105:8

Volume 23 Issue 2

Just a note . . .

When I was told that the theme of the newsletter was “Come To Me” I immediately thought of a sermon I recently heard.

The priest talked about how oxen are trained to plow fields. If not properly trained they would wander in all directions. He said that first they are tied to a tree until they become tired and hungry. Then, they are yoked to a well-trained ox. Because they are so weary they willingly follow the other ox, plowing in a straight line.

It is a good reminder that when we are properly yoked to the Lord our lives will be easier if we follow His lead. Jesus said that we are to take His yoke upon us and learn from Him, for He is gentle and lowly in heart. He will give us rest for our burdened souls.

Karen

Saint Peter

In Peter, faith and fear existed side-by-side. He courageously attempted to walk on water in response to Jesus’ invitation—yet began to sink when he was frightened by the force of the wind (Matt. 14:26-33). He valiantly proclaimed his faith in Christ as the Messiah to the rest of the



followers (Matt. 16:16-19, 26:31-34)—yet denied even knowing him after Jesus’ arrest (Luke 22:54-62).

With great sorrow, Peter repented of his betrayal, and in his despair after Jesus’ death, he returned to his old life of fishing (John 21:3). Then, miraculously, the resurrected Christ appeared and called him to embrace a new level of faith and commitment. In his forgiving mercy, Christ gave Peter (as he does us) the chance to reaffirm his love, asking him, “Do you love me”? (John 21:15-19). Jesus entrusted the fledgling Church to his proven servant as the first Pope.

The church has set aside June 29th to celebrate the holy lives of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Bring-a-Friend Days!

Pacem in Terris invites YOU to invite a friend—or 2-or more!—to “Come and See” Pacem! Introduce them to this holy place that made a difference in your life.

We have set aside three different days so you can choose what works best :

**Saturday September 24
Thursday October 20 or
Saturday October 29**

10:00am—2:00pm

We’ll begin with coffee and muffins; a presentation on the Mission of Pacem in Terris, some testimonies from our guests, a tour of the hermitages and a light lunch at Our Lady of Pacem House.

We’ll be drawing for a 2-night gift certificate, too!

**Please call and reserve your day by Monday September 20.
763-444-6408**

Due to the nature of the ministry, we ask that your guests must be 18 years or older.

Sand Hill Crane



You’ve heard them, but have you ever seen one.? A recent guest sent us this photo taken on the prairie!!

Soul Storms

This summer we have seen some incredible storms resulting in loss of hundreds of lives and devastation of property.

Sometimes we can experience storms within ourselves—"soul storms". They too can bring devastation and loss.

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is free will—the freedom to choose. And probably the most influential choice we make in life is to choose God's ways or our own.



A place of peace—a refuge in a storm.

Most of us would say, "Of course I choose God's way. I have given my life to Jesus. I go to church. I tell others about Him. I love the Lord."

Then the winds of life pick-up. We are faced with choices—soul choices: to hold a grudge, or even seek revenge; to be grateful for what we have been given, or dissatisfied and want more; to acknowledge a mistake or let someone else take the blame; to say, "I am sorry" or remain stubborn and proud.

Our soul is tossed about in the strong winds of these choices - blessing or misfortune, love or fear, forgiveness or anger, humility or pride. Which will it be?

The good news is that the Lord is with us in the storm—just like with the apostles in the boat.

Through the power of His Holy Spirit we have the wisdom to know and the courage to make the better choice - to choose God's way, calm the storm and bring peace to our soul again.

With each decision for God's way, we more and more reflect His presence in us. Each choice becomes easier, even "natural", as we are formed more and more into His image and likeness.

In the hermitage of our heart, we hear Jesus reassure us, "I am with you. You are mine." ♦

Hermit Notes

♥ "The three days I have spent here as a hermit have been the most fruitful of my many retreat experiences. God tenderly drew me into my heart---His heart."

♥ "Thank you for introducing me to the blessed ministry of Pacem. As a first time hermit I was not sure what to expect---especially when someone said it best if I left my books in the car. So.....I slept until I was no longer tired, prayed until there were no more words to say and walked until there was no where else to go, and then I sat, and was still.

From the silence came the best conversations with God! This desert journey has renewed the passion in my relationship with God.

Like the extra flashlight batteries in the closet---I am recharged and ready to share God's light in the world. Thank you for offering me this little glimpse of peace on earth. God's Blessings to all."

♥ "Thank you for hospitality and the care you have offered our missionaries. Thank you for providing a place of peace where the hearts of His people have permission to "Be Still and know that He is God."

Thank you for a place of rest and rejuvenation for our missionaries. We all receive many blessings."

♥ "Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to come away and drink in His Presence, ever so deeply. This time has been so holy and precious! I already long to come back."

Pacem Profile

Leon Ohman is one of our newest volunteers. Leon comes to us with not only a willing heart and hands, but also experience in the building trades. With 30 structures on Pacem property he is a valued advisor. He brings resourcefulness and a reassuring presence along with his good sense of humor and playful smile. He and his wife own Goose Lake Farm and Winery in Nowthen.



So good to know you, Leon!

Helping Pacem to Help Others

Do we need you? Is God's work finished? No-o-o-o—
YES, we need you all the time---our need for operational dollars, is constant, monthly and yearly! Pacem asks for a freewill offering to be a hermit---some are able to meet our \$90 cost while others do what they can. All are welcome! Please, if possible, fit us into your regular giving program. Remember, God counts on us to serve, and all who can, to help pay the bills! Thank you!

Special bulletin: The IRS has extended the IRA Charitable Rollover until December 31, 2011. For taxpayers age 70½ and older, federal law requires annual distributions from IRAs to be included in the taxpayer's adjusted gross income and taxed. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows taxpayers to directly transfer their contributions to Pacem in Terris without paying taxes on them.

Transfers must come directly from your Regular or Roth IRA to Pacem in Terris for our newly established Legacy Fund or for operational costs. Retirement assets in 401 (k), 403 (b), etc. must be rolled into an IRA before the IRA provider can transfer the gift directly to Pacem in Terris.

Thank you, friends, for your support. You are all a Blessing! ♦

Dear friends,

Oh, my, I do relate to being tired and weary of body, soul and spirit. It happens, once a week, sometimes every day and I testify that during my long life---it happens in all seasons.

Tired body? Yes, I remember the relief and comfort of slipping into bed after a busy day, giving my weary body that unspoken permission to "shut down." Then the feeling of relaxation with a wave of gratitude moving through me---knowing sleep would heal and renew my tired body. My body rests in the gift of sleep.

Tired soul? Everyday we collect information and experiences that need to be processed and decisions made that affect our lives and often our family and friends. Souls get weary and need to rest. My "soul rest" comes in many ways including beautiful music, inspiring nature walks, good conversations---all helping me "shut down," and letting my soul rest in peace and quiet.

Weary spirit? Our spirits are made to receive and give away the greatest power on earth, LOVE. Jesus tells us that our purpose in life is to love---love with our whole spirit, mind and body. Then why does my spirit get tired and weary? Because of the spiritual battle---of love against the sin of "un-love." Pride causes me to slip into God's place and "un-love" takes over, showing up as judgments, resentments, impatience, discouragement, etc., etc.. The Holy Spirit reminds me to repent and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Free once again, I rejoice knowing, "God loves me just as I am and I love God the best that I can." My spirit rests. *God is love!*

Shirley Wanchena

*"Contribute
to the needs
of the holy ones,
exercise
hospitality."*

Romans 12:13