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Pacem in Terris  
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I have made three retreats at *Pacem in Terris* over the past several years. Each retreat was a unique blessing. What I particularly enjoyed about all three experiences was the “sound of silence” which surrounded me from the first moment to the last.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta used to say that silence is the language God uses to speak to us. Truly I can say that in those days of quiet, in the fullness of the emptiness of the hermitage experience, I was able to listen more attentively to the whispering sound of the Lord’s voice within my heart. His word echoes more loudly in such surroundings.

I would also like to suggest that the simplicity of the accommodations – what some might consider “rough” conditions – was perfectly suited to my desire to draw closer to our Creator through a more intimate communion with His beautiful creation. Living in closer harmony with the rhythms of nature for a few days was not so much limiting as it was liberating.

Though now my schedule is more demanding, and the life of a bishop seems to have a “built-in” arrangement for annual retreats, I find myself looking for a chance to make my way back to *Pacem in Terris* as soon as possible, if only for a day or two.

Wishing you all the best in 2011.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Lee Piché

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