

Patris Corde

HERMITAGE RETREAT CENTER

"The most generous choices,
especially the persevering, are the
fruit of profound and prolonged
union with God in prayerful
silence."

- SAINT JOHN PAUL II



Progress and Plan for Public Opening

As we near the completion of this year, it's hard to adequately express our thanks: to God, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, for opening every door in His timing. We are also so thankful to Archbishop Aquila for his spiritual fatherhood and support of this mission from the start. Thank you as well to so many priests who have expressed to us the great need for Patris Corde and who have walked with us these past years. Thank you for the ardent prayers and financial support of so many who share this vision, for the builders who have given and donated their time and skill, and for our children who have worked side by side with us.

On September 23rd, 2023, Archbishop Aquila blessed the Chapel of Saint Joseph, the heart of Patris Corde Hermitage and the central place for prayer before the reserved Blessed Sacrament as well as reception of the Eucharist when a priest is present. Within two weeks of this time, we received our commercial well permit and were issued our final special use permit by Grand County, an answer to so many prayers. Beginning in October, many priests and others have come to pray and retreat as we are now open privately during construction.



As we look forward, we ask for your continued prayers and support. Our plan for 2024 involves our most ambitious year of building yet, and would allow us to finally open Patris Corde to the public. In this final building phase before opening, we plan to complete infrastructure as well as the final four hermitages of Phase I & II, construct a small welcome and shower hut, and finish final chapel items. Completion of the four final hermitages in this area would provide silence from construction noise to all retreatants after we open (please see the map on page 13). Thank you again for sharing this mission with us, and we look forward to welcoming you for a retreat in the near future!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John and Ashleigh Ryan

“Contemplative prayer is silence, the ‘symbol of the world to come’ or ‘silent love.’ Words in this kind of prayer are not speeches; they are like kindling that feeds the fire of love. In this silence, unbearable to the ‘outer’ man, the Father speaks to us His incarnate Word.”

- THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2717



The Hermitage of St. Francis of Assisi, built in memory of Monsignor Michael Glenn, was blessed by Archbishop Aquila on September 23, 2023.

“The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls.”

- SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Hermitage Retreat at Patris Corde

“Often, before his greatest acts of ministry, Jesus would withdraw to the wilderness, to the mountains, to pray. Going to the wilderness, away from the constant noise of the world and into the spiritual desert, has made me a better husband, a better father, and a better teacher. The gift of silence at Patris Corde, a place surrounded by stunning beauty, is one of the Archdiocese of Denver’s greatest resources. In the quiet, we can hear Jesus speak to us. It is here that He is able to reintroduce us to ourselves.”

Scott Powell - Retreatant
PhD, Assistant Professor of
Theology at St. John Vianney
Theological Seminary, Co-founder
of Camp Wojtyla

Silence and Solitude: A Privileged Place of Encounter

“Silence and solitude can be unnerving, especially in our age of noise and constant distraction. There can be fear in thinking about not having someone else to talk to. In many ways, this is precisely the privileged place of encounter with the Lord in the secrecy of our soul. Jesus not only frequently goes to pray alone with the Father, but he also desires that we do the same. I think of Moses and Elijah on Mount Sinai, how they were invited to be alone in their prayer which opened up for them a profound intimacy with the Lord, so much so that Moses's face became radiant in splendor. But it must also be lamented how easy it is to forget that we are also surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, of angels and saints who are with us, actively interceding for us. This retreat into solitude sensitizes our hearts to the reality of the spiritual and the eternal.”

- Fr. Brady Wagner, Director of the Spirituality Year at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary

Solitude: Not an Absence but a Deeper Presence

“Silence, stillness, and solitude - these are the conditions of what the Russians call *poustinia*- the inner hermitage where God is to be rediscovered. The spirituality of *poustinia*, or hermitage retreat, descends from the most ancient days of the Church, when Christians fled a godless world to rediscover the world of God. The lonely place, *eremo* in the original Greek language, is where we derive the word hermitage - a solitary moment of retreat from the cares of self and into the care of God. In hermitage we learn again a basic truth: solitude is not an absence, but a deeper presence... In a church deeply committed to the activity of the new evangelization, we need a complementary *contemplation*; and this requires a physical place where, heeding the words of Christ, we 'come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while' (Mk. 6:31). We may do many things for God; but we will only be fruitful if those things flow from the life of prayer.”

- Fr. John Nepil, Vice-Rector and Professor of Theology at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary

The Hermitage Retreat

"No matter what vocation the Lord has called us to, it is easy to get swept away by the distractions of work, technology and the tasks that make up our daily lives. Intentional time of solitude and silence allows us to reconnect with Christ in a way that is hard while in the world. The simplicity of Patris Corde offers an opportunity to be in conversation with our Lord in the midst of God's natural beauty. "

~ Lisa Marie Hunt - Retreatant - Consecrated Virgin and Campus Minister at St. John Henry Newman Center and Chapel in Colorado Springs



"Our apostolic leaders have an urgent need for hermitage retreat... The Father longs to refresh every corner of their spirit with his light, love, peace, comfort, and strength so they are renewed to persevere in their work for souls."

~ Jason Simon - President of the Evangelical Catholic



"Patris Corde is a little place of deep prayer tucked in the aspen groves and also in the Heart of God the Father. To venture into this beautiful wilderness is to venture into the Heart: both His and ours. "

~ Fr. Daniel Ciucci, Pastor of Most Precious Blood Catholic Church in Denver, CO

"Jesus often withdrew to
lonely places and prayed."

- LUKE 5:16



Archbishop Aquila Blesses the Chapel
of Saint Joseph and Hermitages



“It was a joy to come to Patris Corde to bless the new chapel and the hermitages. I am delighted with the progress that you have made and your vision going forward. It will be a great service to the Archdiocese by giving priests and others a place to encounter the Divine Word in a place of beauty and silence. Know of my gratitude and be assured of my prayers for you and for what you are doing.”

- Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L., Archbishop of Denver



“ In many respects, the chapel could be described as ‘God’s hermitage.’ ”

The Chapel of Saint Joseph

“At the heart of retreat is the presence of God. So too, the heart of every retreat center is the chapel, the privileged place where God dwells in the Most Holy Eucharist. At Patris Corde, the chapel is the central place around which all other hermitages orbit; for within it lies the source and summit of our Catholic faith. In many respects, the chapel could be described as ‘God’s hermitage.’

The chapel is the spiritual hallmark of Patris Corde, as well as its most iconic architectural feature. Modeled after the Portiuncula in Assisi, Italy, the chapel takes its inspiration from the spiritual life of St. Francis - the patron saint of Colorado and the builder of that particular chapel. Under his intercession, as well as St. Joseph's and Our Lady's, we pray that the poverty of interior silence in this place may translate into the outpouring of God's spiritual riches in the life of holiness and grace.”

- Fr. John Nepil

2023 Funds Received and Building Progress

Total Donor Funds Received from Nov 1st, 2022 - Oct 31st, 2023:	\$ 653,220.00
Funds Saved for 2023 Building Season:	\$ 215,866.00
Spending During 2023 Building Season:	
St. Joseph's Chapel	\$ 622,761.00
Equipment Costs	\$ 73,921.00
Infrastructure and Utilities	\$ 63,570.00
Legal, Administrative, and Planning Expenses	\$ 39,867.00
Hermitages 1 and 2 Completion	\$ 25,113.00
Hermitages 3-6 Foundations	\$ 23,413.00
Total 2023 Building Season Expenses	\$ 848,645.00
Total Set Aside for 2024 Building Season	\$ 20,441.00

Patris Corde Building Phases



Phase I - Private Opening

Completed September 23, 2023

- (Private retreats in progress)
- Completion of roads, utilities, and power systems
- Completion of first two hermitages
- Near completion of chapel
- Blessing of chapel by Archbishop Aquila and reservation of Blessed Sacrament

Total Building Costs During Phase I **\$1,731,214.00**

Phase II - Public Opening (Currently in Progress)

Planned Completion Date of December 31st, 2024
(Provided Funding is Received)

- (Construction currently in progress)
- Completion of hermitages 3-6 with shower house
- Completion of water and septic system at chapel
- Construction of interim welcome building
- Hire grounds/maintenance staff member
- Hire part-time administrative/phone support staff member

Phase III - Move Toward Sustainability and Expand Awareness of Patris Corde's Mission

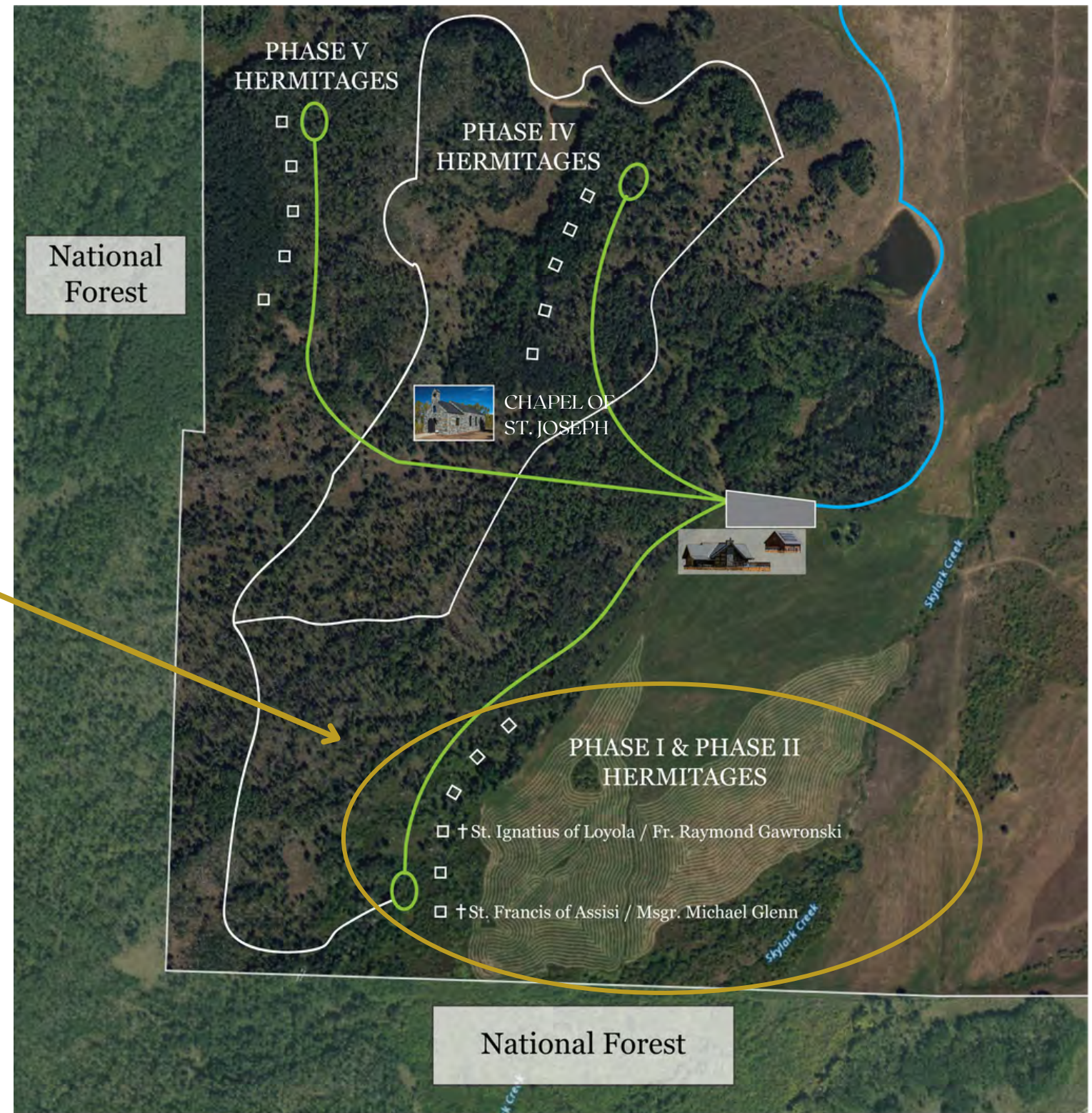
- Hire consultant or director of advancement to broaden benefactor base
- Build nationwide awareness of Patris Corde Hermitage to near 50% capacity annually

Phase IV - Welcome Building Completion, Completion of Hermitages 7-11

- Convert current Ryan house to retreat center check-in/main building
- Complete hermitages 7-11

Phase V - Completion of Hermitages 12-16

- Complete hermitages 12-16
- Provide for more than 50% of all operating costs from suggested donations.



PATRIS CORDE HERMITAGE MAP

	Single Occupant Cabins		Trail/Snow Groom
	Garage / Maintenance Building		Existing Road
	Retreat Center		New Road
	Chapel		Parking Lot



Images Not Shown to Scale

Request

We are so blessed by all who have joined us in this critical work of creating a place of silence where Catholic religious and laity can retreat from the noise of the world to renew and strengthen their vocations and their work for souls. Many have expressed to us their deep need for a place where they can pray in solitude as Jesus did in order to make His active ministry fruitful, and priests and other lay leaders are already coming to retreat and pray at Patris Corde during construction.

We are currently laying the foundations for the final four hermitages of Phase I & II and have nearly completed the Chapel of St. Joseph, the central place of prayer before the reserved Blessed Sacrament. Before we open to the public, we need to complete infrastructure as well as the final four hermitages (shown on the map on the previous page), ensuring silence from building and construction noise.

In addition to what has been pledged, the total needed to complete these four hermitages and to open to the public is \$602,128. Our plan is to open Patris Corde Hermitage within 6 months of receiving these funds. Would you please consider a gift that will allow us to strengthen and empower vocations in the Archdiocese of Denver and beyond? We are so thankful for your consideration and your prayers.

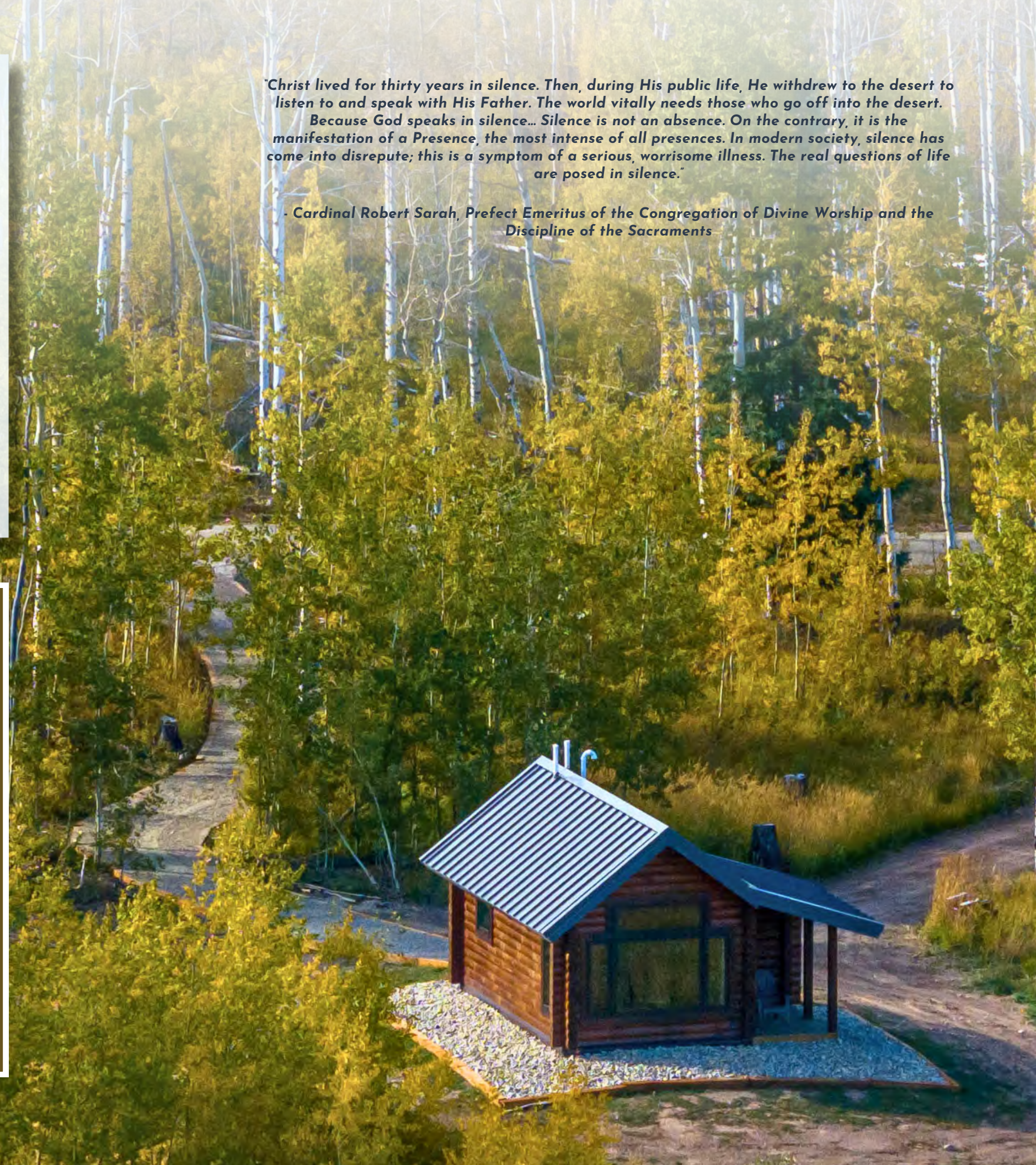
Patris Corde Hermitage is a registered public 501(c)(3) charity; our FEIN number is 88-0639678. God has blessed us to be able to cover the founders' time and labor in building and acting as general contractors. Because of this, we are able to use all outside donations very efficiently. To learn how to donate, please visit our website at www.patriscorde.org.

"Christ lived for thirty years in silence. Then, during His public life, He withdrew to the desert to listen to and speak with His Father. The world vitally needs those who go off into the desert. Because God speaks in silence... Silence is not an absence. On the contrary, it is the manifestation of a Presence, the most intense of all presences. In modern society, silence has come into disrepute; this is a symptom of a serious, worrisome illness. The real questions of life are posed in silence."

- Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments

Cost to Complete Hermitages #3-6 and Open to the Public

Completion of Hermitages #3-6	\$ 680,550.00
Hermitages #3-6 Foundations and Excavating	\$ 87,740.00
Staff Members Needed to Open to Public	\$ 68,862.00
Extension of Water Line to Serve Chapel and Future Hermitages	\$ 63,190.00
Construction of Small Welcome Building	\$ 37,980.00
Water Pumping and Treatment System	\$ 36,273.00
Rental Equipment, Tools, General Construction Materials	\$ 27,662.00
Hermitages #1-6 Landscaping	\$ 27,500.00
Promotional / Administrative / Operational	\$ 18,062.00
Chapel Septic System / Final Plumbing	\$ 14,750.00
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Total 2024 Fundraising Goal	\$ 1,062,569.00
Total Pledged and Set Aside Toward 2024 Building Season	\$ 460,441.00
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Total Needed for Public Opening	\$ 602,128.00



“What can help modern man find the answers to his own mystery and the mystery of Him in whose image he is created, is silence, solitude – in a word, the desert. Modern man needs these things more than the hermits of old.”

- Servant of God Catherine Doherty, Poustinia



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Patris Corde Hermitage is located 30 miles north of Silverthorne
on Ute Pass Road / Grand County Road 3.

www.patriscorde.org

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