

Patris Corde

HERMITAGE RETREAT CENTER



"Listen in Silence, because if your heart is full of other things, you cannot hear the voice of God."

- St. Theresa of Calcutta

Progress and Plan for Full Opening

Greetings from Patris Corde Hermitage!

With your help we have completed our most successful building year, moving us much closer to our full opening. We have also been blessed to be able to provide retreats for priests, religious, and laity on a limited basis during construction – more than 15 retreats have been hosted in the past two months.

Now more than ever, we are renewed in our passion for this apostolate. In the letters that have been written to us (some shared with permission on pages 4 and 5), retreatants have confirmed that they are able to connect with God in a special way and that “prayer is different” in this desert place. We are also confirmed in our commitment to provide every retreatant with the gift of complete silence while on retreat, a “good” that St. John Paul II says is “ever more rare” and that helps retreatants experience a greater emptiness and removal from the world and a greater place for God to fill with Himself. Our mission is to strengthen all vocations and renew those who are pouring themselves out for the Church – THANK YOU for making this apostolate a reality through your prayers and support!



Chapel Septic System

As we look toward 2025, we are finally in the home stretch of building before our full opening and are within striking range of doing so in late 2025.

St. Joseph, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
John and Ashleigh Ryan



Water Infrastructure

“ The deeper the secularization of the world, the greater the call into the spiritual wilderness of the hermitage. ”

“It is not a coincidence that the movement to bring hermitage-style retreats to the West was the initiative of the lay faithful. Yet in practice, many people think these places are for more qualified Christians, like priests and religious. But if the fundamental call of the lay vocation is the sanctification of the world, all the more do they need places of repose, true islands of contemplation, in order to be restored and deepened in their identity and mission. The deeper the secularization of the world, the greater the call into the spiritual wilderness of the hermitage. For this reason, we invite all Christians, in every state in life, to heed the words of Christ: ‘Come away with me and rest awhile’ (Mk. 6:31).”

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

“If we are to witness to Christ in today’s marketplaces where there are constant demands on our whole person, we need silence. If we are to be always available, not only physically, but by empathy, sympathy, friendship, understanding, and boundless *caritas*, we need silence. To be able to give joyous, unflagging hospitality, not only of house and food, but of mind, heart, body and soul, we need silence.”

- Servant of God Catherine Doherty, *Poustinia*

"Numquam minus solus quam cum solus!"

Never am I less alone, than when alone!"

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux

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"What a special gift it was to come pray at Patris Corde! This is truly sacred ground. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go on retreat. It was without a doubt a personal gift from Jesus." - Retreatant

"This is my new favorite place to retreat - truly a little piece of heaven! I could have easily spent a few more days here, but even in this short time, in the silence and solitude, the Lord has brought needed healing and clarity and spoke powerfully through the beauty of this place." - Retreatant

"May Christ our King give success to the work of your hands and bring it to fulfillment! Your project is one of the most important things happening in our local Church. Colorado is not entirely God-less, you are proof of that." - Retreatant

"Taking a regular desert day away from the constant hum and movement of the city has become an essential need to regenerate the interior life. Distractions and noise abound, drawing me from the external peace which aids prayer. Patris Corde has proved, time and again, to be the perfect setting to fulfill this longing and need. The thoughtful and loving work on the hermitages, chapel, and property has resulted in a beautiful simplicity provided for the retreatant. While in poustinia, it is with ease that I am able to slow down, approach silence, and enter His rest." - Retreatant

We have been blessed to remain open privately during construction with two hermitages.

"It was a gift to have silence as I made the first step in the discernment process - I feel I am making it much more intentionally than if I had written these letters in the midst of the chaos of daily life back home. He is Good!"
- Retreatant

"These last few days have been profound in encountering the Lord in the beauty and silence that Patris Corde offers. Thank you very much for building and ministering such a wonderful place where souls like me can come and wrestle with God in the silence of prayer."
- Retreatant

"I felt very welcome here from the moment I drove onto the property... I had a very peaceful few days here and enjoyed every minute of being surrounded by such natural beauty. Thank you for the sacrifices you make to foster such a sacred space."
- Retreatant

"Thank you, thank you, thank you! My story at Patris Corde was amazing. What a beautiful setting to be able to listen to and talk to God."
- Retreatant

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"A praise of glory is a soul of silence that remains like a lyre under the mysterious touch of the Holy Spirit so that He may draw from it divine harmonies."
-St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

2024 Funds Received and Building Progress

Total Donor Funds Received from Nov 1st, 2023 - Oct 31st, 2024:	\$ 678,900.00
Funds Saved for 2024 Building Season:	\$ 20,441.00
Spending During 2024 Building Season:	
Construction Costs: Hermitages and Chapel	\$ 478,326.00
Water Infrastructure and Equipment to serve Chapel, Welcome Building, and Future Hermitages	\$ 101,730.00
Equipment and Fuel Costs	\$ 32,402.00
Insurance/Promotional/Operational	\$ 26,501.00
Road and Trail Construction and Maintenance	\$ 22,445.00
Engineering and Planning	\$ 18,429.00
Construction of Small Welcome Building	\$ 10,303.00
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Total 2024 Building Season Expenses	\$ 690,137.00
Total Set Aside for 2025 Building Season	\$ 9,204.00

St. Francis of Assisi Hermitage

St. Mary Magdalene Hermitage - Under Construction

St. Ignatius Hermitage

St. Faustina Hermitage - Under Construction

St. John Paul II Hermitage - Under Construction

St. Augustine Hermitage/Temporary Shower House - Under Construction

Hermitage Interior

**“SILENCE IS THE
DOORKEEPER OF THE
INTERIOR LIFE.”
- ST. JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA**



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 Planned Completion Date Within 6 Months of Fundraising Completed (Currently in Progress) **Progress: \$690,137.00**

(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

Remaining Funds Needed to Open in 2025:
\$713,091.00

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 at least 50% of all operating costs from suggested donations



"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

Request

We feel more confirmed than ever that our Lord desires this retreat center to refresh and renew all vocations. Already, priests, religious, and lay men and women are contacting us to find refreshment in the Father's love through silence and solitude.

Although we have completed two hermitages, we are very limited until we are fully open. We long to fully open and fill this place with those who desire to seek God in the desert. As noted in the budget, the total amount needed to fully open in 2025 is \$713,091, which is within reach with God's continued blessing and moving of hearts. We are excited to open within six months of receiving these funds.

If you are already a supporter of Patris Corde, we sincerely thank you! The Lord has worked in so many miraculous ways through your support – both in calling and moving retreatants and in providing all workers and materials for building. Would you consider continuing to invest in this gift to His laborers?

If you are new to this project, we would love to share this mission with you. Please write or call us so that we can connect with you!

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.

Total Cost to Complete Phases I and II Hermitages and Fully Open in 2025

Building Costs: Phases I and II Completion	\$	385,005.00
Building and Admin Staff	\$	123,100.00
Hermitages 1-6 Landscaping and Final Grade	\$	75,250.00
Engineering / Planning / Systems and Materials for Opening	\$	37,085.00
Construction of Small Welcome Building	\$	33,450.00
Administrative / Insurance / Promotional	\$	35,175.00
Equipment Rental / Repair / Fuel	\$	19,580.00
Chapel Plumbing	\$	13,650.00
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Total Cost to Open in 2025	\$	722,295.00
Total Set Aside Toward 2025 Building Season	\$	(9,204.00)
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Total Needed for Public Opening in 2025	\$	713,091.00

Patris Corde Hermitage Employment Opportunity

As we move toward our full opening, Patris Corde is seeking a full-time maintenance staff member. This person would help with continued construction as well as the consistent maintenance needs of caring for buildings and 250 acres of grounds. A strong faith, skill working with hands, and a willingness to move to Grand or Summit County would be desired. If interested, please reach out to John at john@patriscorde.org.

"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



Address: 10200 County Road 3, Parshall, CO 80468
Email: john@patriscorde.org

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

www.patriscorde.org