



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 26, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I would like to inform you about a new apostolate called *Patris Corde Hermitage*, which is dedicated to providing a place for silent prayer and encounter with God.

The organizers, John and Ashleigh Ryan, plan to build sixteen small, simple retreat huts on their property near Parshall, Colorado. These huts are referred to as *poustinias*, a word that comes from the Russian word for desert and is rooted in the Eastern Christian tradition of going to a deserted place to pray. The Hermitage grounds will also feature a small, stone chapel for the celebration of Mass and prayer.

The Ryans first experienced the beauty and depth of silent retreat at a retreat center in Minnesota called *Pacem in Terris*. For the last 10 years they have heard a call to establish a similar retreat center in the Archdiocese of Denver and have been encouraged in their efforts by the late Monsignor Michael Glenn, numerous other priests and lay people.

After meeting with the Ryans and reviewing their plans, I would like to offer my support as Archbishop of Denver to this effort, as it has the potential to bear great spiritual fruit in the lives of many of the faithful and clergy in our archdiocese and beyond. Thank you for any support you can provide this worthy apostolate.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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