Patris Corde

Hermitage Retreat Center



"Let us leave aside words. Let there remain just great silence before God. The silence that becomes prayer."

- Saint John Paul II








First Year of Full Operations

Greetings from Patris Corde Hermitage! We are most grateful for your generosity in helping us to fully open our doors at the beginning of the year. Your prayers and encouragement in this work are felt every day.

Now that we are fully open, our numbers have greatly increased compared to last year; we have been blessed to provide for more than 450 nights of retreat - more than 165 of these nights have been hosted for priests. Over this past year, many priests and lay disciples continue to confirm the indispensable need to come away with Jesus into total silence and solitude as the doorway for renewal and strengthening of their vocations. Our continued desire is to build up the active works of the Church through devotion to prayer and contemplation. This July, we were very grateful to host a visit from Archbishop Golka. He shared with us that "God's presence was truly palpable" and encouraged us in this work and mission.

2026 also marked the completion of many small construction projects that will allow us to streamline operations with the first group of hermitages. This October 15th, on the feast day of St. Teresa of Avila, the deeding of the first 200 acres of land to Patris Corde Hermitage was completed, meaning that all hermitages, the chapel, and the welcome building are now permanently owned by Patris Corde. We feel very blessed to reach this milestone with you, and a map showing this land can be found on page 13.

Looking forward, as God provides, we plan to continue to scale operations while adding 150 additional nights of retreat for priests and laity every year, hosting more than 900 nights annually in 2031. Almost all of our growth in retreat numbers has been through word of mouth, and the feedback from retreatants is very powerful. Every priest and disciple brings this deep connection with Jesus back to their parish, family and ministry.

During this time of fully opening, we remember and ask for the continued prayers of the late Monsignor Michael Glenn, who was instrumental in the development of this retreat center and who wanted to retreat as the leaves change in the fall. He charged us to pray, saying that many things that begin in the Spirit can end in the flesh. Please walk with us in daily prayer - that the Lord will continue to provide His protection and that through St. Joseph, He will continue to call and fill with receptivity those whom He invites to leave everything for a time and be filled by Him in the wilderness.

We would be blessed to connect with you. Please reach out to us, pay us a visit, and join us in providing for this mission as you feel called. You are in our prayers.

John and Ashleigh Ryan

Nov 2025 - Oct 2026
Construction Projects

- Welcome Building
- Shower House
- Employee Housing Project
- Spiritual direction Meeting Room
- Land clearing for stations
- Laundry and hermitage cleaning room
- Clearing of dead and dangerous trees






NOW FULLY OPEN

2026 Highlights

450+
Total Nights of Retreats Hosted

165+
Nights of Retreat Hosted for Priests

80+
Nights Hosted for Out of State Retreatants

100+
Masses Offered in the Chapel of St. Joseph

"God did not create us as robots; we are not meant to 'power through' life. Jesus sent out his disciples two-by-two and, when they returned, he invited them to "come away and rest awhile." The chaos of modern life can steal our inner peace and we need to actively seek silence and rest so that we can hear the 'still, small voice' of God."

- Fr. Tom Scherer, Retreatant and Parochial Vicar of St. Thomas Moore Parish, Centennial CO

2026 Funds Received and Building Progress

Total Donor Funds Received from November, 2025 - October, 2026:	$	409,104
Total Funds Received from Retreat Donations:	$	52,610

Expenses During 2026 Building and Operating Season

Construction Costs: Welcome House, Shower Building, Hermitage Appliances, Employee Housing	$	134,508
Labor and Newly Hired Staff	$	115,334
Insurance, Administrative, Engineering, Legal	$	51,691
Chapel Finishes - Provided by a Special Donation	$	36,908
Maintenance Equipment Funding - Provided by a Special Donation	$	36,232
Clearing of Dead and Dangerous Trees, Road and Trail Upkeep	$	22,096
Promotional and Fundraising	$	17,913
Equipment Costs: Plowing, Fuel, Repair, Purchase, Rental	$	16,786
Retreat Operational Costs Including Perishables	$	15,463
Power, Gas, Water, and Hermitage Infrastructure and Upkeep	$	14,802
Total 2026 Building Season Expenses	$	458,733

"The silent soul is capable of attaining the closest union with God. It lives almost always under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God works in a silent soul without hindrance."

- St. Faustina - Diary, 477

"In a world filled with noise, distractions, and constant activity, God invites us to withdraw into silence, where we can rediscover His presence and action in our lives and listen to His voice as we contemplate the beauty of His creation.

It is very hard to hear God's voice in the noise of the world. Silence creates the interior space in which we can recognize God's voice and allow His Word to penetrate our hearts. In fact, silence is not merely the absence of noise; it is an openness to God's transforming grace.

Jesus Himself frequently withdrew from the crowds to spend time alone with His Father. By setting aside our ordinary activities for a few days, we imitate Christ's example, allowing prayer and communion with the Father to become the center of our lifetimes.

My own experience at Patris Corde Hermitage has been one marked by a profound presence of God. Surrounded by the majestic beauty of the mountains and immersed in silence, the Lord made himself very present not only during the times dedicated to mental prayer but also during walks and moments of rest. As a priest and formator at the Seminary, I have found that those days of retreat have greatly influenced my mission as a spiritual father to our future priests. I am still profiting from the graces received and am already looking forward to the next time when I will follow Jesus 'into the wilderness.'"

- Fr. John Ezratty, S.B.T., Retreatant, Professor of Theology, and Formation Advisor at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary.

"The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace."

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta



"In fact, silence is not merely the absence of noise; it is an openness to God's transforming grace."

2026 Highlights

- Visit From Archbishop Golka
- Statues of Mary and St Joseph coming in November (funded by a special donation)
- Land permanently deeded to Patris Corde on October 15th, 2026
- Simple Stations of the Cross Completed with Pictures
- Lower valley trail nearing completion



"God's presence was truly palpable."

Archbishop Golka

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

— St. John Paul II

> At Patris Corde I experienced the most healing retreat of my life.

"I have made many retreats and done numerous days of recollection, but my time of silence and retreat at Patris Corde was a unique moment of grace in my spiritual life.

This beautiful place, surrounded by God's majesty in the Rocky Mountains, allowed for a stillness and quiet that I will forever be grateful for, and the solitude gave me a deeper unity with our Triune God than I had ever experienced before. Patris Corde gave me a setting where I could dialogue with God "cor ad cor loquitur" (heart speaks to heart). At Patris Corde I experienced the most healing retreat of my life.

By God's strength, I have sought to maintain that deeper unity and intimacy with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in my daily life as a priest of Jesus Christ."

- Fr. Adam Cesarek

Please scan to watch a video that will help visualize a retreat at Patris Corde. To learn more, please call (970) 557-7077 or visit patriscorde.org/retreats.

"...There is need of only one thing." Luke 10:42

"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, who suffered, died, and rose; in this silence the Spirit of adoption enables us to share in the prayer of Jesus."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2717



"It had been 2 years since my dear wife Evelyn passed away, and Patris Corde provided me a quiet and holy place to just sit with God and to sit with the pain of losing her. It gave me a physical and mental space to experience in a wonderful and tangible way God's grace and mercy, and allowed me to regain a posture and orientation toward the supernatural and gratitude for God's love."

Michael Lipic - Retreatant

Prayer Partnership

The Lord has worked in so many miraculous ways through prayer - both in calling and moving retreatants and in providing all funding for workers, maintenance, and building materials. We are seeking prayer partners to join us in praying for those who have or who will leave everything to be with Jesus alone - and take Him back to their parishes, families, and ministries. Would you consider praying for the person in a specific hermitage, or for the entire retreat center - for protection and an increase in openness to the Holy Spirit for all retreatants, donors, and staff?

The attached envelope contains the following options:

- ☐ I will pray weekly for all retreatants, donors, and staff. For protection and docility to God's will.
- ☐ I will pray weekly for the retreatant in the below hermitage. That they may clearly hear and receive the Voice of God:
  - ☐ St. John Paul II
  - ☐ St. Faustina
  - ☐ St. Ignatius of Loyola
  - ☐ St. Mary Magdalene
  - ☐ St. Francis of Assisi

We pray daily for the community that makes this mission possible through prayer and generosity. How can we pray for you? Please let us know on the attached envelope.

Your information will not be shared with other prayer partners, and Patris Corde will provide periodic updates with prayer requests and answers to prayer.

"And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him."

1 John 5:14–15

Patris Corde Building Phases

Phase I - Private Opening

✓ Completed September 23, 2023

- 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.

Phase II - Full Opening

✓ Completed December 31st, 2025

- 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.

Phase III - Facilitate Growth in Retreat Numbers, Expand Awareness of Patris Corde's Mission, and Move Toward Sustainability

Planned Completion: 2031

Ministry Growth

- Ensure growth in retreat numbers through excellence in retreat operations with the following focuses:
  - Personal and warm connection throughout the retreat experience.
  - A detailed and professional planning and booking process.
  - A clean and well-maintained hermitage and grounds.
- Advance the mission of Patris Corde to renew and strengthen priests and laity in the Archdiocese of Denver and beyond.
- Fill first phase of hermitages with over 900 nights of retreat per year.

Ministry and Financial Sustainability

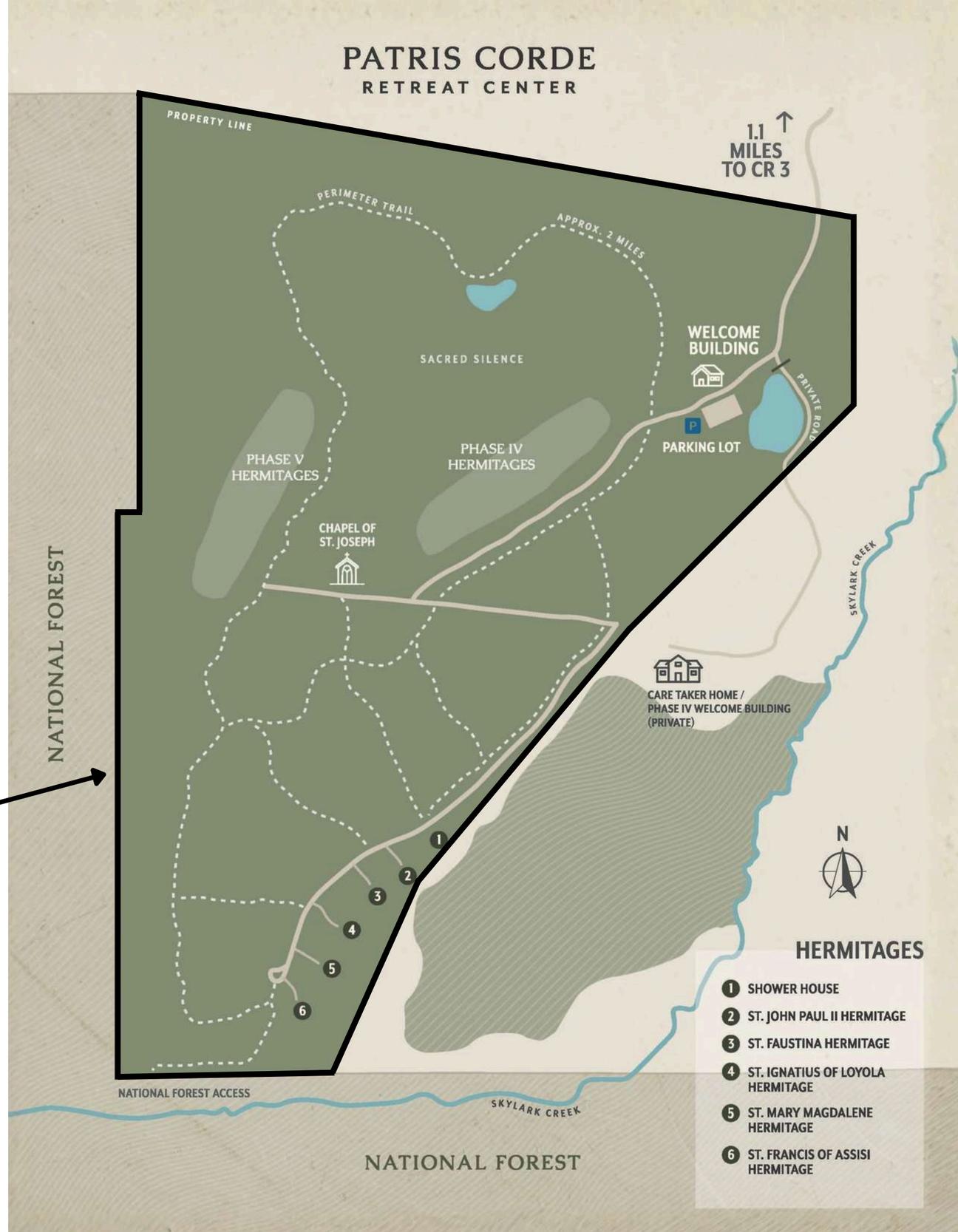
- Continue to scale operations as retreat numbers grow.
- Actively share the mission with partners who believe in the work of Patris Corde and who desire to help make it possible.
- Complete employee housing for one staff member to support retreatants on site (the majority of this cost has been covered by a special donation).
- Deed the first 200 acres of land to permanently secure the investment of hermitages, chapel, etc.

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

- Deed an additional 80 acres to Patris Corde to protect views and provide welcome/maintenance buildings.
- Convert current family 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.



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 19th, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

I am pleased to offer my support for **Patris Corde Hermitage**, a truly beautiful place of silence and solitude for people who desire to encounter God. Rooted in the example of St. Joseph and inspired by Christ's invitation to "come away and rest awhile," the hermitage provides a sacred and peaceful environment where priests, religious, and lay faithful may encounter the Lord in the quiet of prayer and renew their relationship with Him.

I was blessed to visit Patris Corde this past July; founders John and Ashleigh Ryan have built a wonderful refuge from the noise and distractions of the modern world, a deserted place where souls can fast, pray, and encounter God. They have already completed construction of six hermitages—with plans to build several more—as well as a beautiful chapel.

Through its ministry of providing a space for silent retreat and contemplation, Patris Corde's mission is to foster spiritual renewal that will support the evangelizing mission of the Church. I hope that every person who visits the Hermitage will experience a personal encounter with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

I am glad to commend the mission and vision of the Ryans and Patris Corde Hermitage, and encourage support for their important work. May the Holy Spirit always lead us in truth and charity.

In Christ,

+ James R Golka

Most Reverend James R. Golka
Archbishop of Denver

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REQUEST

"Abide in me... apart from me, you can do nothing."
- John 15:5

Thank you most sincerely to all those who have already joined us in supporting this mission!

In a noisy and distracted world, Jesus beckons his disciples to come away with him to a deserted place. We believe that true fruitfulness in the Church—for clergy, religious, parents, and laity alike, begins when we abide in His presence. This need for hermitage retreat - to deeply empty oneself and hear the voice of God - has been confirmed by our Church leaders as well as many priests and disciples as being necessary and foundational for the active work of the Church.

Patris Corde exists to protect these spaces of silent connection where God's word takes root, transforms lives, and empowers vocations—a place where retreatants can listen to the voice of God, the "one thing necessary." (Lk 10:42).

This year, over three times as many retreat nights have been hosted now that we are fully open, yet retreat fees cover only part of the cost. We rely on generous supporters to bridge this gap.

Outside of expected retreat donations, the additional need to host retreats in 2027 is $269,290. If you are able, we humbly ask you to consider joining us in this mission. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

Patris Corde Hermitage is a registered public 501(c)(3) charity; our FEIN number is 88-0639678. God has continued to bless us to be able to volunteer as directors and primary caretakers/builders. Because of this, we are able to use all outside donations very efficiently.

Funds Needed to Provide Retreats in 2027

Labor and Staff Including Major Projects	$	168,550
Insurance, Administrative, Engineering, Legal	$	40,325
Power, Gas, Water, and Hermitage Infrastructure and Upkeep	$	31,610
Promotional and Fundraising	$	25,700
Clearing of Dead and Dangerous Trees, Road and Trail Upkeep	$	22,800
Equipment Costs: Plowing, Fuel, Repair, Purchase, Rental	$	20,980
Retreat Operational and Construction Costs Including Perishables	$	19,550
Total Planned Income from Retreat Donations:	($	60,225)
Total Needed to Provide Retreats in 2027	$	**269,290**

"Without a doubt, this work to create the space to encounter Him anew is the most crucial work in our time... I am convinced that the recovery of our humanity will only happen through an intentional choice to pursue the Lord in silence and solitude. The unique retreat experience that Patris Corde offers, the simplicity of a hermitage and the tranquil beauty of the mountain wilderness, is the remedy."

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

Patris Corde
HERMITAGE RETREAT CENTER

To learn more or to inquire about a retreat, please call (970) 557-7077.

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

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

www.patriscorde.org

PLEASE SCAN
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