

Vision and Mission Statement

'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; Matthew 25:35

When Mother Theresa was asked what was the poorest place in the world she had ever visited, she responded, "North America." Clearly, referring to the deep spiritual poverty of our Western Culture.

In this sense, Sanctum Retreat is quite literally in mission territory. The Retreat ministry is here to give food to the spiritually hungry, to give drink to the spiritually thirsty.

As in true Benedictine fashion, we believe strongly in the spirituality of hospitality. We believe that every person, regardless of race or religious affiliation, is a child of God. It is this unifying spirit that makes Sanctum a modern sign of true ecumenism and inter-religious harmony.

The following describes the theological underpinnings of our vision for Sanctum.

*Then the Lord God
formed a man
from the dust
of the ground
and breathed
into his nostrils
the breath of life,
and the man became
a living being...*

Gn 2:7

*God created man
in His own image,
in the image of God
He created him;
male and female
He created them.*

Gn 1:27

Vision<><



“The glory of God is a person fully alive.”

(St Irenaeus of Lyons)

Dignity of the Person is at the heart of a vision of Sanctum as a Spiritual Destination, a Pilgrimage in which to reflect upon the call that echoes in the human heart to honour the dignity of all persons as created in the image and likeness of the Most High God, and to heed the cry of those whose dignity is compromised, honouring all peoples and reflecting on ways to respond to that cry.

In the footwashing before Jesus suffers and dies, He himself invites us to a life of service to one another, service rooted in love. With the anointing of His Spirit, we are sent forth to witness by our lives:

*Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which he looks,
Compassion on this world...
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world...*