

## Our Lady of Tenderness Hermitage

Our Lady of Tenderness Hermitage is the "desert space" of a diocesan anchoress (hermit) of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen. I am a Sister living the eremitic/anchoritic life; an ancient form of consecrated life devoted to the praise of God and the conversion of hearts.

As a publicly professed anchoress (hermit), I live within the silence and solitude of the hermitage,. My primary ministry of prayer and penance is offered for Our Holy Father, all bishops and clergy, especially for Bishop James F. Checchio, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, the universal Church and every societal culture throughout the world.

Within the hermitage of Our Lady, I support myself through the work of my hands.



### Each of us is called . . .

Each of us is called, within our personal vocations, to live intimately with God. We live in the world, yet our hearts yearn and stretch beyond; seeking the fullness of a life the world cannot give. We are reaching for Love. Whether we know it or not, we are reaching for the Lord of Life.

Each vocation is unique, yet each must focus upon Christ, spend time with Christ in prayer, and come to learn and live the life of inner freedom Christ came to give.

The Eremitic Life is a call that leads one into the silence of solitude to pray and work; offering oneself to God for God's purpose as a missionary of Divine Love.

Each of us, within our uniquely personal vocation, is called to fall in love with God and then to share the love of God received. You, too, have the mission of being God's missionary of Divine Love.

## Canon 603 (Church Law)

*1-Besides institutes of consecrated life, the Church recognizes the eremitic or anchoritic life by which the Christian faithful devote their life to the praise of God and salvation of the world through a stricter separation from the world, the silence of solitude and assiduous prayer and penance.*

*2-A hermit is recognized in the law as one dedicated to God in a consecrated life if he or she publicly professes the three evangelical counsels, confirmed by a vow or other sacred bond, in the hands of the diocesan bishop and observes his or her own plan of life under his direction.*

The Eremitic Life is a call many outside the Church as well as within struggle to understand. It is not a life of self-centered living. It is a call to deeply love God, oneself, and others through the progressive journey of the desert; a journey of continual conversion through prayer and sacrifice for the spiritual benefit of all, including self.

***"Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Have faith in God  
and faith in Me."  
(Jn 14:1)***

Mary,  
tenderly place me  
near the  
Heart of your Son ~  
Christ Jesus.

Help me hear His words of love  
whispered for my heart alone.  
Teach me to thirst for His words  
and to  
hunger for His Food and Drink;  
joining my brothers and sisters  
around the Altar of His Love.

Mary,  
ask Jesus to increase my longing  
to be satisfied in Him alone.  
*Amen.*



*Our Lady of Vladimir,  
also known as  
Our Lady of Tenderness,*

is a famous Russian icon dating back to the 12th century. Our Lady allows her Son to tenderly draw her cheek to His. He caresses her with the full embrace of His left arm and gently touches her cheek. He leans His body close to hers and directs His gaze devotedly upon her. Mary's body and heart respond to her Son. She leans into the face of Christ while looking out to us.

Discerning His suffering, her face speaks the profound compassion of her heart. Mother and Child are intimately one. Mary directs us to look to Jesus and to follow Him in trust; to follow His Way. She will be for us, as she is for Him, a Mother full of tenderness and compassion. Jesus invites us to know Mary as He knows her; to love her with the same depth of love with which He loves her.

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You have the promise of my daily prayer  
for you and all whom you love.



*Our Lady of Tenderness Hermitage  
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Piscataway, NJ 08854  
[www.ourladyoftenderness.com](http://www.ourladyoftenderness.com)*

**Our Lady  
of  
Tenderness Hermitage**



*O Lord,  
to You I call;  
hasten to me;  
hearken to my voice  
when I call upon You.*

*Let my prayer  
come like incense  
before You;  
the lifting  
of my hands,  
like an evening  
sacrifice.  
~ Psalm 141:1,2*