

Jacob's Creek Family Retreat

July 23 – 26, 2026

Use: The Soul & Life of All Heavenly Joy



Dear Friends,

This year's Jacob's Creek Family Retreat will be running from July 23 through 26 (Thursday to Sunday). Every year we have a theme that helps us focus on specific teachings from the Lord's Word and on how we can actively make them a part of our lives. Two years ago, our theme was "Charity." Last year, our theme was "Faith." We thought it only fitting this year to finish the trifold and focus on, "Use."

Throughout the Heavenly Doctrine we are taught that heaven is a kingdom of uses. (HH 219) The delight of ALL heavenly joys spring from the delight of use! To help us appreciate this, we're invited to think about heaven as being in the form of a single human body. Each part of this body or "Grand Human" performs a use that benefits the whole. This year at Jacob's Creek, we will be exploring various teachings about Use, as we focus on a vital question for us all: How do we allow the Lord to prepare us for our own special and unique use in His heavenly kingdom? Topics will include:

- ✓ The trine of love, wisdom and use.
- ✓ Gradually becoming a form of use.
- ✓ Being useful verses loving being useful (even evil people are useful!)
- ✓ Shunning evils as sins: The only way to make sure your love of use is heavenly.
- ✓ What if I hate my job?
- ✓ Becoming one angel: Use and marriage.
- ✓ Uses in heaven: Are there garbage men? Plumbers? Midwives? Veterinarians?
- ✓ Does the Lord really need us? Can't HE just do all these uses?

This year's pastoral staff will include myself, Reverend Justin Schorran, Reverend Pearse Frazier and others. This year's retreat directors are Jamie and Julie Uber. With the help of MANY other dedicated volunteers as well, this promises to be another great year! We urge you to register early, because we are capping attendance at 150. If you know of friends who would enjoy Jacob's Creek, please invite them. We look forward to welcoming one and all!

Rev. Matthew Genzlinger
(Jacob's Creek Family Retreat Pastor)

USE: THE SOUL & LIFE OF ALL HEAVENLY JOY

"In My Father's house are many abodes; and if not, I would have told you; I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2)

"The delight of use springing from love by means of wisdom is the soul and life of all heavenly joys." (Conjugal Love 5)

"A person does not know whether he is led by the devil or by the Lord. He that is led by the devil performs uses for the sake of self and the world; but he that is led by the Lord performs uses for the sake of the Lord and heaven. All who shun evils as sins perform uses from the Lord, while all who do not shun evils as sins perform uses from the devil....In this and in no other way is the difference recognized. In external form they appear alike, but in internal form they are wholly unlike. One is like gold within which is dross, the other is like gold with pure gold within." (Divine Providence 215)