



# The Tau Signature

Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order – Herndon, Virginia  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region

May 2015



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## Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Spring is finally here! Praise God! I, for one, was beginning to wonder if the cold weather would ever end. However, God is good, and He has blessed us with a beautiful spring. Tau has a lot going on this spring, and I hope that all of you plan to participate in as many activities as you can. Profession is scheduled for Friday, April 24, at 7pm. Our monthly meeting for May is scheduled for May 3. Our annual retreat is May 15-17. The retreat is open to everyone, and if you plan to attend, please let me or Bob Calderon know asap so we can make sure you have a spot at Priestfield.

As I mentioned in an e-mail, the fraternity needs a volunteer to take over organizing the Dining with Tau events. This is an important ministry for our members. Anyone (professed or not) can volunteer for this ministry, so if you are interested, please let me know. This is one additional way to build on our connections to each other as members of our Franciscan community.

Sadly, our list of inactive members seems to be increasing as some of our sisters and brothers are suffering from health concerns and serious family situations. Please continue to remember these sisters and brothers in your daily prayers, and reach out to them. Though they are not able to always be with us, they need to know

that we still value them and they remain an important part of our community. In this vein, if you are interested in Serving on the Infirmarian committee, please let me or Vera know.

It is not too soon to begin thinking about our Open House in October. Please begin thinking about those with whom you have contact and who might have a vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each of our members was able to bring at least one person to the Open House? Also, if you are interested in serving on the recruitment committee (and possibly as recruitment chairman), please let me know as soon as possible. Again, this is a huge ministry to our fraternity and I pray that some of you are willing to serve your fraternity.

Peace and blessings, Pamela Brooks, OFS

## Recap of Last 4/12/15 Meeting

We started with our opening prayer and grace was said before our meal/social time. At 2 o'clock, we began discussing our reading assignments, Chapter 1-3 (Part IV) the Gospel of John from Fr. Jude Winkler's book *The Gospels Simply Explained*. At the conclusion Bob Calderon asked again for a count of people who would like a copy of *Catching Fire, Becoming Flame*, which will be our next book for reading starting in June. Afterwards, Erik gave a presentation on St. Anne Holy Mother of Mary. During the business portion of the meeting, Pam Brooks reminded all that Erik and Walter will be professed on Friday, 24 April, at 7 PM at St. Joseph's and that attendance was mandatory. Veronica O'Donnell polled people for items to bring along to the party after profession. Pam passed around two sheets seeking volunteers for leading the liturgy of the hour, performing readings after the opening prayer, and the 30-minute presentation on a saint or other topic of choice. She also extended her thanks to Veronica and Vera Stewart for stepping up to help out with the Palm Sunday celebration at St. Joseph's and to Bill Bouffard and Terry Rinker for volunteering to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday.

## St. Vincent de Paul

Last week when I dropped off the food donations right inside the church lobby of St Leo the Great (in the City of Fairfax) before the 5 o'clock Mass, I decided to swing around back to the pantry and take a look at the notice board to see what items the poor need most, according to the volunteers who work the SVP pantry. The list had not changed much from the previous weeks. Tissues, toilet paper, powdered milk, and glucerna are in greatest need. That's not to say that everyone should focus on bringing these items. We already do a very nice job donating, and the SVP volunteers are very appreciative of this apostolate. On their behalf, I'd like to express thanks for your ongoing support and encourage you to keep up the good work! Terry



## Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

### Tau Fraternity General Meeting:

Sunday, May 2. **Please read chapters 4-6 (part IV) the Gospel of John** from the book *The Gospels Simply Explained*, by Rev. Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

St. Joseph Parish Facility (room 205)

12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation

1:30 - Opening Prayer

1:35 - 2:10 Social time with meal

2:10 - 3:00 On going formation

3:00 - 3:10 Break

3:10 - 3:30 Saint presentation or other

3:30 - 4:00 Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter:

Pg. 523, Psalms pg. 712

Song #114 I am the Bread of Life

*For the next newsletter, please send your prayer requests and submissions to Terry Rinker at [reknir12@yahoo.com](mailto:reknir12@yahoo.com), or call (703) 383-0562.*

