

# The Tau Signature

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

July 2015



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## Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Please remember that our July meeting will be held at Christ the Redeemer (as it was last year). Our August meeting will revert back to the regular meeting room at St. Joseph's. I also wish to remind everyone that our fraternity picnic is scheduled for 1pm at Trailside Park in Herndon on 28 June. It promises to be another great social event to build inter-personal relationships outside our normal meeting format. Unfortunately, my schedule dictates that I will not be able to be with you; however, rest assured you are all part of my daily prayers.

Peace and blessings, Pamela Brooks, OFS

## Recap of Last 6/7/15 Meeting

### **Opening/Formation:**

We started with our opening prayer and grace was said before our meal/social time. At 2 o'clock, the Formation portion of our meeting began with a discussion of our reading assignment, Chapter 7 (Part IV) the Gospel of John and the Conclusion from Fr. Jude Winkler's book *The Gospels Simply Explained*. Upon finishing, Bob Calderon assigned chapters 1-3 in our new formation book *Catching Fire, Becoming Flame*.

### **Presentation:**

John Ata provided a presentation on Blessed Junipero Serra, who life spanned 1713-1784. Born on the island of Mallorca, Spain, Father Junipero is identified as a major figure in the early history of California. His founding of Mission San Diego de Alcalá on 16 July 1769 marked the introduction of a new civilization in California.

### **Business Meeting:**

- Bob asked the attendees of the May fraternity retreat at Priestfield to to briefly share their impressions. Irene Naveau noted that she enjoyed Father Julio's exercise to select a work to reflect upon overnight and share the fullness of what it means to you with the group the next day. Walter Gawlak stated that Father Julio helped him better understand the apparent disconnect between the verses from John's Gospel description of the Last Supper. In response to Walter's inquiry, Father Julio touched upon the possibility that John might not have been the only author in the compilation of that Gospel. Separately, Vicki Shanholtz commented on the many different perspectives from peoples all over the world, and how it better helps to understand the Bible by being exposed to the different versions in English, as well as those written in foreign languages. Vicki pointed out that every version of the Bible published in the world can be found at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). Bob shared the titles of the books that Father Julio suggested at the retreat for reading at a later time. They include Ancestral Grace by Thomas Keating, Richard Roth, and Anthony de Mello and History of the Church, which Bob said that he almost chose as our next book for Formation.
- Bill Bouffard is composing an outline for recruitment. The date of our Open House for recruitment is 4 October 2015.
- Our fraternity picnic is being held on Sunday, 28 June this year. The venue is the same as last year – Trailside Park in Herndon at the intersection of Crestview and Herndon Parkway. People should bring their food dishes by 12 noon. The picnic begins at 1pm. Veronica O'Donnell announce that Erik Larin volunteered to be our grill master. She added that meat is expensive, so everyone should be prepared to chip in \$4.00 at the picnic.

## St. Vincent de Paul

Keep up the good work in food donations – they are greatly appreciated. I drove by SVdP at St. Leo the Great Church in the City of Fairfax to see if the bulletin board contained any special requests – nada. If anyone possesses insider information, please feel free to forward it to me for inclusion in the newsletter. Note that I attempt to load up my vehicle with your donations before and after the opening prayer. I do check during breaks and after the meetings for late arrivals. If you have something that you can not bring in yourself, let me know and I will give you a hand. Thanks! Terry

## Poems by Helen Broxmeyer from her 2003 Pilgrimage to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan

With Helen's permission, I'm publishing the below for those fraternity active and inactive members who could not be present at the June meeting to receive her handout during her short visit. It was good seeing Helen again, if only for a brief time. In Helen's introduction she writes:

"While engaged in pilgrimage, the central thing for me was to discern the Holy Spirit's guidance as best I could, from preparation through the return home. The process of preparation was mostly prayer...but also included library preparation.

"Often, following the Holy Spirit on an organized group pilgrimage meant departing briefly, in large or small ways, from the group's planned activities. On the Japan trip, because I was alone, I was completely dependent on the Holy Spirit's guidance. Because of the language barrier, my time in Japan was basically a silent retreat, centered on prayer and visits to the Cathedral and the Ground Zero Park and museum in each city. It was the most meaningful and rewarding experience of my life.

“The poems are set in Hiroshima, the larger and more disturbing site, which I visited second, on the advice of one of the travel books I consulted; but the feeling of the entire pilgrimage is reflected in the poems.”

I. An Unexpected Blessing

It's a hot September morning in Hiroshima,  
City of seven rivers, and another Visit  
To the park and museum is needed to comprehend  
What happened here in nineteen-forty-five.

The small Buddhist temple across from the park  
Seems like a good place to stop and pray,  
Open to the air, with fresh water for handwashing,  
And shade trees to cool a passing visitor.

The old priest is surprised, but accepts my presence;  
Although he speaks no English, he's seen so many  
Pilgrims walking by to fact the truth  
A few blocks away. He hesitates,

Then lifts a pole crowned with folded papers,  
Prayers that rustle softly as he raises them up,  
A bronze serpent to heal the eyes of the blind.  
And while the papers move slowly around my head,

Touching my hair, I pray for a blessing, and if it be  
Possible, an absolution. With a kind look  
The priest sets aside the prayer-pole, and bowing my thanks  
I move on to the park and museum across the street.

## II. The Twelve Tellers

Around the corner from the Buddhist temple is a new  
Museum of modern art, deserted in the heat  
Of a Monday noon-hour. Once a bank, it is not  
Yet fully a museum. The abandoned teller windows  
  
Are still there; one can imagine the faces  
Of the twelve tellers peering from behind the counter,  
With the bearing of honored persons serving the Emperor.  
Down in the cellar there is more unintentional art;  
  
Not part of the exhibition, but surreal,  
Is a windowless room with three walk-in bank vaults,  
Their open doors glimmering in the dark, their shrouded  
Emptiness a ghostly, impenetrable black. Frightened.  
  
I hurry out to the street, seeking the ordinary  
To drive away this unsolicited nightmare:  
Treasure cascading down into empty tombs,  
A trinity from which an elusive god has gone missing.

## III. Side Window, Hiroshima Cathedral

In the afternoon stillness, the image of Christ crowned  
With thorns is looking into my eyes in agony,  
Body and soul stretched taut as plucked wires  
On a musical instrument devised by the blindly creative.  
  
Breathing a silent grown that fills the cathedral,

He begins to speak, says something urgent—but his words  
Are soundless, and all I can do is stand before him,  
Listening as he unburdens the depths of his suffering;

While in the park the muffled temple bell  
Tolls out the memory of the dead in the afternoon heat.

#### IV. Hiroshima, Through the Bus Window

In the city of seven rivers, the granite memorials  
Stand quietly at their stations in the park,  
Remembering the past: how once the moon had risen  
As an opal chalice, filled with the ruby tears  
Of the Fisher King, who had mourned the waste land,  
Fires burning, and embers embracing everywhere in the dark.

O King of all, treasure of our hearts' desire,  
To whom the treasure of our own hearts is due,  
You are the Holy One for whom we have searched,  
Who opens our eyes, and makes all things new.  
Bread of life and Cup of eternal salvation,  
Betroth us to yourself in mercy, compassion and peace;

For though our inheritance be lost, yet do you long for us,  
Prepare us the gift of your heart, and welcome us home.

### Prayer Submissions

Please forward prayer requests to Terry by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month, so that they may be included in the newsletter. Please keep the following members, relatives, and friends in your prayers:

Sally & Gary White and Sally's sister

Mary McCarthy

Richard & Carole Clarke and their son Liam

William Brewster

Helen Broxmeyer

Fr. Alberto's father

Kimberley Heatherington

All those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.



## Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

### Tau Fraternity General Meeting:

**Sunday, July 5. Please read chapters 1-3** in our new Formation book Catching Fire, Becoming Flame, by Albert Haase, OFM.

**Christ the Redeemer (signs will be posted to direct you to the room)**

**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**

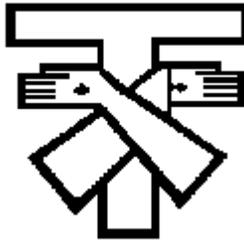
**Readings for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

**Hymn: #32 – Now Thank We All Our God**

**Pg 786 – Psalter, Week II/Evening Prayer II**

**Pg 619 - Gospel Canticle and Concluding Prayer**

*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.*



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