



The Tau Signature

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

October 2015



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Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I want to thank Vicky, Bill Bouffard, and Gil for staffing the recruitment table at the St. Joseph's BBQ on September 12, and Gill for recruiting at his parish's stewardship Sunday the next day. Please prayerfully consider inviting people that you know who may have a vocation to the Secular Franciscans to join us at our Open House on October 4 at 1:30pm. And please pray for an increase in vocations to our fraternity. I look forward to celebrating the Feast of St. Francis with each of you, as well as with potential sisters and brothers. I also encourage each of you to join us at the Transitus on October 3 at 8pm at St. Joseph's Parish. These are meaningful times for Franciscans and are wonderful opportunities for us to gather together.

Peace and blessings, Pamela Brooks, OFS

Recap of Last 9/6/15 Meeting

Opening/Formation:

We started with our opening prayer, followed with an opening reflection by Veronica O'Donnell who read selections from St. Theresa d'Avila and St. Francis de Sales. Thereafter, grace was said before our meal/social time. At 2 o'clock, just prior to on-going formation, we watched a recruitment video brought to Clari Claus' attention by Victoria Spalding of Mt. St. Sepulcher fraternity. Bob Calderon began the formation discussion by asking, "Who is Jesus to us?" Members shared their perceptions of Jesus. Bob then broke us up into groups of 3-4 persons to discuss chapter three of our on-going formation book Catching Fire Becoming Flame. Bob passed out a slip of paper to each group labeled "Question 1." It contained the following text:

"How are we living out the purgative practices of community, prayer, and repentance in our daily lives right now? Which of the three needs greatest attention? Is it easier for us as secular Franciscans, and if yes or no, why?" After discussing the above questions in our individual groups, a representative was selected from each group to present the group's points of view. The majority of the groups felt that "community" needed the

greatest attention, because it is so fluid and subject to change. Community includes work, family, church, friends, fraternity members, neighbors, etc. Gail noted that as Franciscans, we have a tool box of ways to confront problems and seek solutions

Presentation:

Vera gave a two-part presentation. The first part was titled "Marian Apparitions"; the second was "Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal." Vera passed out several articles. For those who could not attend the meeting, below is a list of articles and web addresses that might be useful for searching on the Internet:

"Marian Apparitions in the Americas" by Brian J. Walsh

"Those Who Saw Her; Apparitions of Mary" by Catherine M. Odell

http://miraclehunter.com/marian_apparitions/approved_apparitions/apparitions_1200-1299.html

<https://avemariascircle.com//zencart/Chapletpix/StMaxMKolbe.htm>

"What are the approved apparitions of Mary in the Roman Catholic Church?" by Matt Slick

Healing Prayer

The following submission is a prayer used by our brother Bill (Brewster), who finds solace and courage in it during hospital stays and times when he is not feeling well. Bill commented that during his recent hospital stay several members of the nursing staff saw it on his breviary. They asked to read the prayer. After doing so, they remarked that it deeply moved them, so much so, that they asked to copy it. As such, we feel obliged to share this prayer with our active and inactive members, who might need their spirits lifted in times of illness or need. It follows:

HEALING PRAYER

HEAVENLY FATHER YOU HAVE PROMISED,
"I AM THE GOD WHO HEALS YOU (EXODUS 15:26)
I PLACE IN YOUR LOVING CARE MY SICK BODY, WORRIED MIND,
MY EMOTIONAL WOUNDS AND SINFUL NATURE.
I BELIEVE THAT ONLY YOU HAVE THE POWER
TO HEAL ME COMPLETELY.
LOVING FATHER, I TRUST IN YOUR LOVE FOR ME,
HELP ME TO INCREASE MY FAITH IN YOU
I SURRENDER TO YOUR DIVINE WILL
CLEANSE ME WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS,
PURIFY ME AND SET ME FREE FROM ANGER,
RESENTMENT, HATRED, UNRESOLVED HURTS AND GREED.
HELP ME TO REMEMBER
THAT THE POWER OF THE HOLY TRINITY DWELLS WITHIN ME
AND ALL POWER TO FORGIVE AND OVERCOME SIN IS IN ME.
FILL ME WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AND YOUR PEACE. AMEN
SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY,
PLEASE PROTECT US.

Recruitment Table at St. Joseph's Parish Day Picnic



Prayer Submissions

Please forward prayer requests to me (Terry Rinker) by the 14th 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, Sally's sister, and Sally's friend Rene; Mary McCarthy; Richard & Carole Clarke and their son Liam; William Brewster; Helen Broxmeyer; Fr. Alberto's father; Kimberley Heatherington; Ed Geiger; for the soul of Marty Kirwan, Mary Jo and their daughter Barbara; and for 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, October 4. There will be no On-Going Formation. As such, there is no reading assignment in Catching Fire, Becoming Flame, by Albert Haase, OFM.

St. Joseph's – Room 210 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm and Room 209 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation

1:30 - Opening Prayer

1:35 - 2:10 Social time with meal

2:10 - 3:00 No on-going formation

3:00 - 3:10 Break

3:10 - 3:30 Bill Richey's presentation on Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment

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

Readings for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Hymn: #45 – Let All Things Now Living

Pg 861 – Psalter, Week III/Evening Prayer II

Pg 633 - Gospel Canticle and Concluding Prayer

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

