



The Tau Signature

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

November 2015



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Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I want to thank everyone for your help with the Open House (especially) the recruitment committee. So far we have received one application to join our fraternity. I ask that everyone continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order and especially to Tau Fraternity. Please remember that we are expecting our regional visitor on November 1. The meeting format will not change. I look forward to seeing everyone on November 1.

Peace and blessings, Pamela Brooks, OFS

Recap of Last 10/4/15 Meeting

Opening/Formation:

Due to the holding of our annual Open House, there was no on-going formation at this meeting. Pam Brooks opened with a speech to welcome the 17 visitors. She then introduced Father Alberto who provided background on St. Francis and the Secular Franciscan Order. Thereafter, the video on St. Francis' life and the Secular Franciscan Order was shown for the benefit of the visitors, followed by a question and answer session with the visitors to provide greater insight into SFO, the application process, and formation expectations.

Presentation

Bill Richey – *Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si' of the Holy Father Francis on Care of Our Common Home.*

Bill advised that the complete article on the Pope's Encyclical on Climate Change can be purchased in book form or found on the Internet for free via a Google search on "Laudato Si."

The Angelus

The following submission is from our fraternal sister Helen Broxmeyer who suggested that we might want to consider adding the Angelus prayer to our meetings. She added that at a moderate pace, it takes only two minutes at most. Helen noted that the Angelus is an incarnational prayer and so is in harmony with Franciscan spirituality. It would also bring the Blessed Mother into the meeting atmosphere – Francis had a great devotion to her -- and she is largely not mentioned at meetings. Through incorporation of this communal prayer at our meetings, Helen feels that Mother Mary's intercession may benefit our group in unforeseen ways.

Helen shared that her little Catholic encyclopedia contains the following history on the Angelus:

"The origin of this prayer is obscure. Historians seem to agree, however, that the custom began with the practice of the evening of the tolling of the bell for Compline in monasteries, or the tolling of the bell for curfew. The practice may go back as far as the 10th century in England. By the 13th century people were being exhorted to follow the Franciscan custom of reciting three Hail Marys at the ringing of the evening bell. Indulgences were attached to the practice in the 14th century. The devotion was finalized as we know it during the 16th century."

The Angelus prayer follows:

--The Angel of the LORD declared unto Mary.
--And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the LORD is with thee: blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

--Behold the handmaid of the LORD.
--Be it done to me according to thy word.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the LORD is with thee: blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

--And the Word was made flesh.
--And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the LORD is with thee: blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, That we might be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech Thee, LORD, Thy grace into our hearts; that, we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our LORD. Amen.

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 grandsons Liam and Rory; William Brewster; Helen Broxmeyer; Fr. Alberto's father; Kimberley Heatherington; Ed Geiger; for the soul of Marty Kirwan, Mary Jo and their daughter Barbara; for the repose of John Ata's



mother's soul; Gail Dowling (leg injury); Terry Rinker (Achilles tendon reconstruction surgery); 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, November 1. The On-Going Formation will include discussions on chapters 4-6 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 Council Meeting with the Regional visitors

1:30 - Opening Prayer - Paola

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 Presentation - Walter

3:30 - 4:00 Liturgy of Hours (reading-Veronica), business meeting, and closing prayer

Readings for All Saints (Solemnity):

Hymn: #172 – For All Saints (verses 1 & 2)

Pages 1306 – 1309 (Everything)

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

