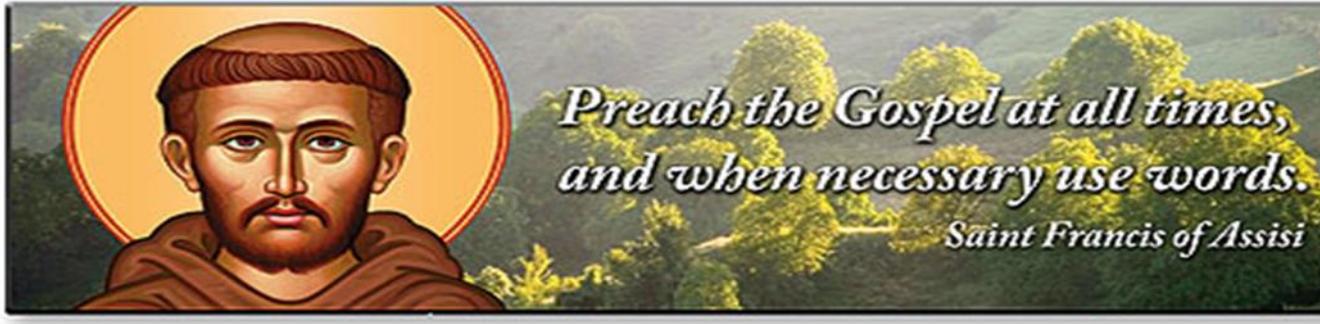


The Tau Signature

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

May 2016



Purchase this inspirational plaque at www.monasteryicons.com

Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God has blessed us with spring weather finally (and a preview of summer). I hope each of you are able to take some time to get outside and appreciate God's wonderful creation. This is my favorite time of year (and it's not just because it's baseball season). There are several items that I ask that each of you prayerfully consider. First of all, I hope you plan to attend our retreat in May. Payments are due May 1 (at our next meeting). Second, I ask that each of you prayerfully consider being a servant leader for Tau and running for the next council. You can nominate yourself or someone else for any of the council positions (minister, vice minister, formation, secretary or treasurer). A person can be nominated for more than one position. All nominations should be sent to John Ata. Finally, it is not too early to begin reaching out to those with whom you come into contact who may have a vocation to the Secular Franciscan fraternity. Our Open House is in October. That sounds like a long way away, but it will be here before you know it. So please prayerfully consider what you can do to increase interest in the SFO and Tau fraternity. I look forward to seeing each of you on May 1 at our regular meeting. Peace and blessings, Pamela Brooks, OFS

Recap of 3 April Meeting

Opening/Formation: Bob Calderon opened the on-going formation discussion on Chapter 9, *The Divine Milieu* from Catching Fire Becoming Flame. Bob began by asking several questions. Where have you seen the grace of God in someone? Who was it? Where else have people found God? People see God while visiting the cemetery, during reconciliation, etc. Bob referred to the text of Chapter 9, noting that one feels the presence of God in the Holy Sacraments. Gil Donahue injected that God is felt in the church of the family, where members interact in religious life in the home. Bob observed that the movie "Greek Wedding 2" showed how important family life is and how God is ever

present. Bill Richey stated he found the website www.giveusthisday.org very inspirational in that it offers a rich collection of experiences that lay witnesses, church fathers, saints, and holy people have shared in recounting a world infused with the grace of God. Subsequently, Bob divided the members into three separate groups, with each to focus on a different question:

Group 1 was to address the question, “Where do you typically talk or listen to God?”

Group 2 was to focus on, “Where do you typically find God?”

Group 3 was asked to share their views on “Where have you felt the closeness of God?”

Answers included the following: in Confession, Adoration, eldercare, Good Friday services, life or death situations, the aftermath of the death of a close person and grieving process etc. Lastly, Bob assigned Chapter 10 *Me, Myself, and I: True or False?*

Presentation Veronica O’Donnell – *St. Maria Faustina Kowalska and the Divine Mercy Message*: Veronica opened by noting that her presentation was appropriately timed for the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration falling on 3 April 2016. She began by giving everyone a brief introduction in Polish language pronunciation, i.e., the “w” is equal to a “v” sound in English, and the Polish “L” (with a strike through it) is pronounced like a “w” in English. Veronica shared details on St. Faustina’s life, noting that she was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. St. Faustina came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. Veronica advised that St. Faustina received extraordinary revelations from our Lord Jesus who asked her to record these experiences. As such, she compiled them into notebooks known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God’s loving message of Divine Mercy. The chaplet of Divine Mercy recitation is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina.

Veronica also passed around Chaplet of the Divine Mercy cards that depict St. Faustina’s vision of Christ showing the blue and red beams of light that symbolize blood and water. Noteworthy is that Faustina saw the vision of Christ in her dark convent cell.



Upcoming Events

- 20-22 May – Annual Fraternity Retreat at Priestfield. The cost is \$225 per person. Payments are due by May 1.
- 26 June – Annual Fraternity Picnic at Trailside Park in Herndon from 12 noon to 4pm.
- 7 August – Fraternity Elections. We need a quorum for the election to be valid. The positions of vice minister and formation director will be vacant. All professed members are asked to prayerfully consider running for an office, even for one of the three wherein the incumbents have chosen to remain. We still need someone to step forward to perform the role as administrator in receiving nominations.

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 White and Sally's sister; Mary McCarthy; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; William Brewster; Helen Broxmeyer's daughter Susan; Fr. Alberto's father; Irene Naveau; Ron Kauffman; Kimberley Heatherington and her father; Ed Geiger; Pam Brook's daughter Rachel; for the repose of the soul of Patricia Boye's mother Florence; 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, May 1: The On-Going Formation will include discussions on chapter 10 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 Formation

1:30 - Opening Reflection – (Walter)

1:35 - 2:10 Social time with meal

2:10 - 3:00 On-going formation

3:00 - 3:10 Break

3:10 - 3:30 Presentation – (Josh)

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter:

Hymn: #116 – At the Lamb's High Feast (verses 1-2): pgs. 1631-32

Psalms and Canticle from the Psalter: Sunday, Week II: pg. 786

Everything else: pg. 545

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

