



# The Tau Signature

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

June 2016



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## Recap of 1 May Meeting

**Opening/Formation:** We continued our on-going formation book Catching Fire Becoming Flame with Chapter 10 *ME, MYSELF, AND I: True or False?* Bob Calderon began by addressing the false self, which makes us do those things that one does not want to do. The false self is associated with acquiring “empty p’s” like power, possessions, pleasure, and popularity. But it is also insistent on avoiding pain, blame, criticism, disgrace, and loss. The book offers the Beatitudes of Jesus as an example in breaking free of the false self and preparing kindling for the spark of the Spirit and true self. For the next on-going formation, Bob assigned Chapter 11, *God and Suffering*.

**Presentation:** Josh Goldberg – *Materialism in Literature* – In his presentation, Josh walked us through examples of literature that contrasted the human inclination toward materialism with the need for spirituality. Josh’s presentation was anchored by everyone’s preparation in reading The Rocking Horse Winner by D.H. Lawrence in advance to facilitate discussion.

## 2016 Fraternity Retreat

This year’s retreat, held from 20 to 22 May at Priestfield in West Virginia, once again offered a fulfilling and gratifying experience to all those in attendance, despite the frequent downpours of rain that kept everyone indoors most of the time. Our retreatmaster, Fr. Jim Gardiner, asked us to keep mercy in our hearts and minds throughout the retreat. To ensure that we got off on the right foot, he re-introduced the Prodigal Son to us through a reading. Thereafter, he offered his interpretation and thoughts, and asked others to step forward in sharing their perspectives on this powerful teaching of Christ. Over the course of the remaining sessions, Fr. Jim focused mainly on the Sacraments of Initiation, explaining their significance and daily presence in our lives. Fr. Jim wrapped up the sessions by sharing the following top 10 list essentials for “Rediscovering Mercy.” The information

source is the August-September 2014 issue of Inside the Vatican. The list follows:

1. Live and let live
2. Be giving of yourself to others
3. Proceed calmly
4. A healthy sense of leisure
5. Sundays should be holidays
6. Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people
7. Respect and take care of nature
8. Stop being negative
9. Don't proselytize
10. Work for peace

Below is a group photo of most of this year's retreat attendees.



## SFO Constitution for Elections

It is the duty of the council of the local fraternity:

\* To promote the initiatives necessary for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members and for sustaining their witness and commitment in the world;

\* To make concrete and courageous choices, appropriate for the situation of the fraternity, from among the numerous activities possible in the field of the apostolate.

\* The duties of the council are also:

a) to decide on the acceptance and admission to Profession of new brothers and sisters;\*) \*) See Const. 39, 3 and 41,1.

b) to establish a fraternal dialogue with members in particular difficulties and to adopt consequent measures.

c) to receive the request for withdrawal and to decide on the suspension of a member from the fraternity; to decide on the establishment of sections or groups in conformity with the Constitutions and the statutes;

d) to decide on the destination of available funds and, in general, to deliberate on matters concerning the financial conduct and economic affairs of the fraternity;

e) to assign duties to the councilors and to the other professed members;

f) to request from the competent superiors of the First Order and the TOR suitable and prepared religious as assistants;

g) to perform such other duties as are required by these Constitutions or which are necessary to carry out its proper purposes.

The duties of the minister, who is the person primarily responsible in the fraternity, are to ensure that the directions and decisions of the fraternity and of the council are put into practice. He or she will keep the council informed concerning his or her activities.

**The minister also has the following duties:**

a) to call, to preside at, and to direct the meetings of the fraternity and council;

b) to convoke every three years the elective chapter of the fraternity;

c) to prepare the annual report to be sent to the council of the higher level after it has been approved by the council of the fraternity;

d) to request, with the consent of the council, the pastoral and fraternal visits, at least once every three years.

e) to put into effect those acts which the Constitutions refer to his or her competence. The minister represents the fraternity in all its relations with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. In addition, when the fraternity acquires a juridical personality in the civil order, the minister becomes, when possible, its legal representative.

**The vice-minister has the following duties:**

a) to collaborate with the minister in a fraternal spirit and to support him or her in carrying out the duties proper to him or her;

b) to exercise those functions which are entrusted to him or her by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter;

c) to take the place of the minister in both his or her competencies and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary incapacity; to assume the functions of the minister when the office remains vacant.\*)

**The secretary has the following duties:**

to compile the official acts of the fraternity and of the council and to assure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients; to see to the updating and preservation of the records and the registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from the fraternity;\*)

**The master, or the person responsible for formation, has the following duties:**

a) to coordinate the formative activities according to Arts.40 ff of these Constitutions;  
b) to instruct and animate the brothers and sisters in the period of formation ;\*) \*) See Const. 39 ff. Concerning the participation of the spiritual assistant in formation, see Art. 89,4 of the Constitutions. to inform the council of the fraternity concerning the suitability of the candidate, prior to admission and profession ;\*) \*) See Const. 41.

**The treasurer, or bursar, has the following duties:**

a) to guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected.

b) to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the fraternity council.

c) to render an account of his or her administration to the assembly and to the council of the fraternity according to the norms of the national statutes. The provisions regarding the vice-minister, the secretary and the treasurer apply, with the appropriate adaptations, to all levels.

## Upcoming Events

- 18 June – Franciscan Monastery Tour (POC is Bill Bouffard). We will meet at St. Joe's at 11 a.m.
- 26 June – Annual Fraternity Picnic at Trailside Park in Herndon from 12 noon to 4pm.
- 30 July—the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Virginia Gathering of the Order of Secular Franciscans will come together in Charlottesville, VA. For more information, please visit the St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity website: <http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/fraternity-bulletin-board/>
- 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.

## Cardinal Newman Prayer Submitted by Walter Gawlak

Teach me, my Lord, to be sweet and gentle in all the events of life – in disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those whom I trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied.

Let me put myself aside to think of the happiness of others, to hide my little pains and heartaches, so that I may be the only one to suffer from them.

Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes across my path. Let me so use it that it may mellow me, not harden me; that it may make me patient, not irritable; that it may make me broad in my forgiveness, not haughty and overbearing.

May no one be less good for having come within my influence, no one less pure, less kind, less noble for having been a fellow traveler in our journey toward eternal life.

As I go my rounds from one distraction to another, let me whisper from time to time a word of love for Thee. May my life be spent in the supernatural, full of power for good, strong in its purpose of sanctity. Amen.

## Prayer Submissions

Please forward prayer requests to me (Terry Rinker) 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:

for the repose of the soul of our sister Mary McCarthy; Sally White and Sally's sister; 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 foster sister Kelly and unborn son; for the safety of the diplomatic mission in Bangladesh; 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, June 5: The On-Going Formation will include discussions on chapter 11 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 – (Cynthia)**

**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 – (Walter)**

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

**Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

**Hymn: #4 – Morning Has Broken (verses 1-2): pgs. 1510**

**Gospel Canticle and prayer: Evening Prayer II: pg. 614**

**Everything else: Sunday, Week II Evening Prayer II: pg. 786**

*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.*

