

The Tau Signature

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

July 2016



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Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Please remember that our meeting on July 3 is at Christ the Redeemer in Sterling at 1:30pm. I look forward to seeing you all - I missed seeing you last month when I was in Georgia. We will return to St. Joseph's in Herndon for our meeting on August 7. As I have been telling everyone since last fall, on August 7 we will be holding elections. It is important that ALL of our professed members be present for elections, and I hope that all of you have scheduled your vacations around this very important meeting. In order to conduct the elections, we must have a quorum of our professed members. All professed members and professed excused members have a vote in our elections. The elections will begin after we open our meeting at 1:30pm. Pursuant to the requirements of the election procedures, once the elections begin, the door will be closed and no one will be allowed to enter. So it is imperative that you arrive ON TIME for the August 7 meeting. Please plan accordingly. The elections will be run by our regional representative, Bob Longo. Many of you may remember that Bob visited us on November 1 for our regional visit. I hope you are enjoying the beginning of your summer. Unfortunately the beginning of summer has been marred by continuing acts of terrorism and violence all over the world. I ask that each of you pray for peace and pray for the victims. See you on July 3..

Peace and blessings, Pamela Brooks, OFS

Recap of Last 6/5/16 Meeting

Opening/Formation:

We continued our on-going formation book Catching Fire Becoming Flame with Chapter 11 *God and Suffering*. Bob Calderon began the session by asking "How many of you have never suffered?" It seemed that all acknowledged having suffered sometime in their lives. The book addresses the question, "Why is there suffering?" It offers the following scriptural answers with elaboration:

- God uses suffering as punishment for sin.
- God is not the cause.
- Suffering is good even though we cannot always see why.
- Suffering can be a source of God's discipline.
- Suffering can be character building.
- The devil causes suffering.

Bob provided four reasons as the source of people's suffering. They are as follows:

- Suffering from natural disasters.
- Man's inhumanity against his fellow man.
- The example offered in the Book of Job, i.e., testing one's faith in God.
- Suffering from one's erroneous actions.

Several pieces of literature were suggested to better comprehend suffering, such as Padre Pio and the Sacred Heart; Padre Pio's "Dark Night of the Soul"; and Father Jude Winkler's "I Cry to You, Oh Lord!" For July, Bob assigned Chapter 12, *The Examen* from Catching Fire Becoming Flame.

Presentation:

Walter Gawlak – Canticle of Creation – Walter began by providing a definition of the word canticle, which he explained was a song, poem, or hymn. Walter and his coterie of readers, including Gil, Vicky, and Bill Ritchey among others, read from a selection of poems by Billy Collins, Gil Donahue, Helen Broxmeyer, Marie Howe, Denise Levertov, etc. The first poem that Walter read, which was composed by Billy Collins, seemed to exact the most accolades. It was titled, "As if to Demonstrate an Eclipse."

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

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 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.

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:

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's 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, July 3. Please read chapter 12 in our 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

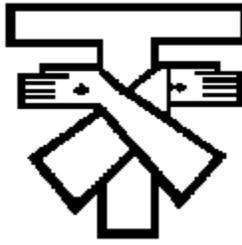
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Hymn: #32 – Now Thank We All Our God: pg. 1540

Gospel Canticle and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pgs. 618-619

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, or call (703) 383-0562.



1