



The Tau Signature

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

October 2016



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Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It seems to me that September is flying by. Next week the first day of fall arrives, though you wouldn't know it from the temperatures outside. As I approach this time of transition, before the craziness of the official holiday season arrives (which will be here before we know it - there are only 102 days until Christmas as I write this), I am taking time to reflect on what transitions mean and examining priorities in my life. We have talked about the Examen in the past couple of meetings - and we all have different ways that we engage in that exercise. Perhaps an extension of that exercise is to look at our priorities and making sure that as we continue on our journey of conversion, we are doing what God is calling us to do. I read a reflection this morning on simplicity, and it said that simplicity comes from obeying God. That makes so much sense to me because His way is so much better than my way. Yet, being an imperfect human, I confess there are times I still try to do things my way. One of my goals this fall is to transition to more simplicity and hopefully doing a better job of obeying God's direction to me. Just some thoughts that I felt called to share. I look forward to seeing you all at our Open House on October 2. I will let you know details about the Transitus as soon as I hear from Fr. Tom. Peace and blessings, Pam

Pamela Brooks, OFS

Recap of Last 9/4/16 Meeting

Tau Fraternity Council Election:

Father Alberto joined us for the early part of the meeting! The meeting began with an opening prayer read by Jim Haynes. We continued our on-going formation book Catching Fire Becoming Flame with a recap of the 5 steps Examen prayer from Chapter 12 "Examen." Then Bill Richey lead us through Chapter 13 "Meditation and Contemplation," noting the Christian Meditation method of using a word to stay focused. He mentioned the fruits of the spirit, noting that the benefits are not necessarily experienced during the prayer period. Contemplation and Meditation are centered on listening to God.

Vera Stewart gave the presentation, sharing her faith journey with everyone. During the presentation, she asked everyone to write down personal information pertaining to their faith journey. At the end of the presentation, each person exchanged his/her information with someone else.

St. Vincent de Paul

Keep up the good work in food donations – they are greatly appreciated. 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 cannot bring in yourself, let me know and I will give you a hand.
Thanks!

Terry Rinker, OFS

Breakfast with Tau



Picture taken September 16, 2016. Join us next time!

Prayer Submissions

Please forward prayer requests to Vera Stewart 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 Kimberley Heatherington's father James. For physical and spiritual healing of Sally White and her sister; Mary Wood, daughter of one of the Tau Fraternity Founders Martha Ureke, OFS; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; William Brewster; Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan; Fr. Alberto's father; Irene Naveau; Ron Kauffman; Ed Geiger; and Pam Brook's foster sister Kelly. Thanksgiving for the birth of Kelly's son. For the safety of the citizens of Aleppo, Syria during the civil war. For the people of Italy who suffer loss from the earthquake. For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Transitus of St. Francis



Transitus – Saint Francis of Assisi

Monday, October 3, 2016 at 7:00 pm St. Joseph Parish Church

Peace and good! On the evening of October 3rd, members of the Franciscan family will gather at the Portiuncula (Assisi, Italy) to celebrate the Transitus (the passing of Francis of Assisi). Francis desired that this should be the place of death.

Then dwelt in the Holy palace of the bishop of Assisi, and begged the friars to carry it in a hurry to St. Mary of the Portiuncula, wanting to make the soul to God where, as we said, for the first time clearly had known the way of truth. (FF 507)

It was at the Portiuncula on the evening of October 3, 1226 that Francis embraced Sister Death and the friars sang:

Coming up in September

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary and the Holy Angels *

Oct. 1 – Blessing of the Animals at St. Joseph Parish starting at noon

Ron Kauffman's birthday

Oct. 2 – Tau Fraternity Open House at St. Joseph Parish starting at 1:30 pm

Oct. 3 – Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi (see notice above for local celebration)

Oct. 4 – Solemnity of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis of Assisi

Oct. 5 – Commemoration of the establishment of the 3 Orders

Profession Anniversary Clari Claus and Gail Dowling (13 yrs!)

Oct. 6 – Profession Anniversary for Sally White (30 yrs!) and for Pam Brooks and Helen Broxmeyer (14 yrs!)

- Oct. 7 – Feast of the Holy Rosary
Profession Anniversary for Carole Clarke (15 yrs!)
- Oct. 9 – Cyndy Filan-Kim's birthday
- Oct. 24 – Vera Stewart's birthday
- Oct. 29 – Bill Brewster's birthday
- Oct. 31 – Bill Richey's birthday

* See the Franciscan Calendar for more dates: <http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/traditional-franciscan-calendar.html>



Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

Tau Fraternity General Meeting:

Sunday, October 2 at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church

- 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – Walter Gawlak
- 1:35 – 2:10 Open House and Social time with meal
- 2:10 - 3:00 On-going formation
- 3:00 - 3:10 Break
- 3:30 - 4:00 Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

Initial Formation discussion: Chapter 10 of The Franciscan Journey

Ongoing Formation discussion: Chapter 14 of Catching Fire, Becoming Flame, by Albert Haase, OFM.

Liturgy of the Hours:

- Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time:
- Reader: Bill Brewster
- Hymn: #33 – O Christ, You Are the Light and Day: pg. 1541
- Gospel Canticle and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pgs. 633
- Everything else: Sunday, Week III Evening Prayer II: pg. 861

For the next newsletter, please send your prayer requests and submissions to Vera Stewart at thevastewarts@gmail.com, or call or text (703) 459-6958.



