



The Tau Signature

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

December 2016



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Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Happy Thanksgiving to you all! By the time you read this we will be moving from ordinary time and into Advent. As we enter Advent, it is a good time to pause and reflect on what we need to do to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord. Not just lighting Advent candles, Christmas shopping, putting out the creche or decorating the tree. What preparations do we need to do internally? Are there things we can do externally? This has been such a divisive election season and I know many people who supported various candidates (not just one or the other of the two main candidates) who are hurting. I read my Facebook feed and twitter feed and my heart breaks for my friends. Unfortunately, this election has caused family members to have heated disagreements, and some are barely talking. This election has caused people to set aside friendships. People make assumptions about people because they supported one candidate or the other. Perhaps something we all can do is something we are called to do anyway - be peacemakers, bring love and compassion, to demonstrate to those around us that they are important (despite disagreements over politics), to show understanding, to take care of those who are suffering, and most importantly, to continue to pray. It's time for us, as Franciscans to be present in the world and to help bring healing. The world needs us - so let's spend this time of Advent preparing our small parts of the world (our circles of influence) for the coming of Jesus - so that He sees our love for our brothers and sisters. Know that each of you are in my prayers and on my heart! Peace and blessings, Pam

Pamela Brooks, OFS

Recap of Last Meeting 11/6/16

The meeting began with an opening prayer read by Cynthia Filan-Kim. We held the Rite of Admission, advancing our four inquirers to candidates. We also welcomed four visitors who were provided applications. After a short break, we continued our on-going formation book Catching Fire Becoming Flame with small group discussion on

Chapter 14 "Lectio Divina". Then Walter Gawlak, OFS lead us through Chapter 15 "Imaginative Prayer," highlighting how we were to put ourselves into the story in the scripture readings. Following ongoing formation, Bill Richey, OFS gave a presentation about spiritual biographies. He told us how he interviewed Helen Broxmeyer, OFS and worked with her to create her autobiography. The members present were very receptive to the idea of developing spiritual biographies of all of the members, especially those who have been Franciscan the longest.

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

Due to cold and possibly inclement weather, Breakfast with Tau will be postponed and will resume in March or April. Please check back in March.

Clari Claus, OFS and Irene Naveau, OFS



We follow Fairfax City School policy. If schools are closed, our meeting will be cancelled. Safety is a priority; if you do not feel safe during a snowfall, please stay home!

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 physical and spiritual healing of Terry Rinker's mother, 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; and Ed Geiger; For the safety of the citizens of Aleppo, Syria during the civil war. For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Coming up in December

December is the Month of The Incarnation *

Dec. 3 – Dick Clarke's Profession

Dec. 4 – Tau Fraternity Meeting

Dec. 5 – Bill Bouffard's and Liz Welborn's Profession

Dec. 6 – Ron Kauffman's Profession

Dec. 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Seraphic Order (holy day of oblig.)

Dec. 12 – Discovery of the Tomb of St. Francis, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec. 25 – Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (holy day of obligation)

Dec. 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents



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

Our Individual Apostolates

Bill Richey's apostolate is volunteering as a GED teacher at the Fairfax County jail for the inmates who will take the GED in Spanish. He is also a religious volunteer at the jail for the Liturgy of the Word service in Spanish that laypeople lead on Saturdays.



Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

Tau Fraternity General Meeting: Sunday, December 4 at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church

- 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – Vicki Shanholtz, OFS
- 1:35 – 2:05 On-going formation
- 2:05 - 3:30 Christmas Party
- 3:30 - 4:00 Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

Initial Formation discussion: Chapter 12 of The Franciscan Journey

Ongoing Formation discussion: We will be sharing our experience with last month's prayer, Imaginative Prayer, Chapter 15 of Catching Fire, Becoming Flame, by Albert Haase, OFM and discussing Chapter 16, Wonder-ing with Creation.

Presentation: We will have our Christmas party in lieu of a presentation.

Liturgy of the Hours:

Second Sunday of Advent:

Reader: Terry Rinker, OFS

Hymn: #63 – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*: pg. 1577

Psalms: Week 2 Evening Prayer II: pgs. 787

Everything else: Second Sunday of Advent, Evening Prayer II: pg. 68

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.



