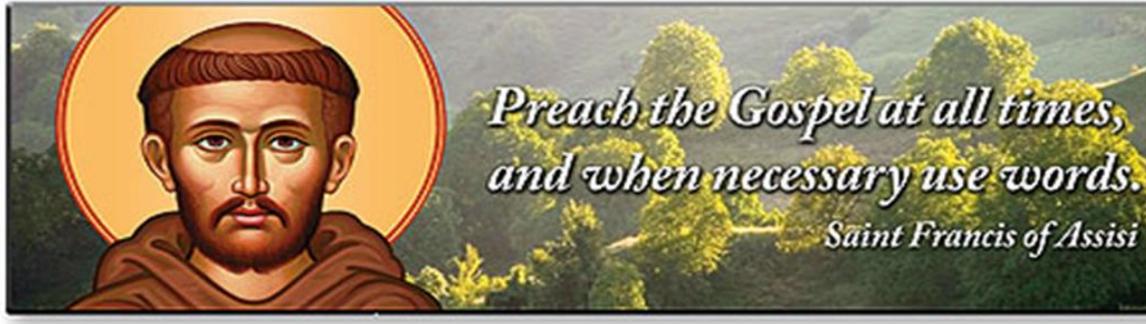


The Tau Signature

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

January 2017



Purchase this inspirational plaque at www.monasteryicons.com

Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I wish each of you a blessed and Merry Christmas! In 2017 I encourage you to pray for peace and for those who have no one else to pray for them. 2016 has been a year of transition and change - I suspect we will see more of that in 2017. The world needs our prayers. Please remember that we do not meet on January 1 - our next meeting is January 8, 2017. See everyone then. Peace and blessings! Pam

Pamela Brooks, OFS

Recap of Last Meeting 12/4/16

The meeting began with an opening prayer for priests read by Vicki Shanholtz, OFS. Walter Gawlak, OFS led our on-going formation with exercise to practice Imaginative Prayer from the book *Catching Fire Becoming Flame*. We used this prayer method and reflected on the Parable of the Healing of the Paralytic from the Gospel of Mark. Walter then explained that next month we will practice and discuss the Chapter 16 "Wonder-ing With Creation." Following ongoing formation, the fraternity gathered as a community in celebration of Christmas.

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.

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

Coming up in January

January is the Month of the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Childhood *

Jan. 1 – Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)

Jan. 2 – Vikci Shanholtz's birthday

Jan. 4 – Veraonica O'Donnell's Profession

Jan. 6 – Feast of the Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation)

Jan. 8 – Tau Fraternity Meeting

Jan. 11 – Bob Calderon's & Kimberley Heatherington's Profession

Jan. 12 – Gail Dowling's & Walter Gawlak's birthday

Jan. 13 – Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Jan. 23 – Feast of the Marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Jan. 24 – Paola Larin's, Terry Rinker's, & Vera Stewart's Profession

Jan. 25 – Carol Clarke's birthday

Jan. 27 – Irene Naveau's birthday

Jan. 28 – Bob Calderon's birthday

Jan. 29 – Gil Donahue's Profession

Jan. 31 – Dick Clarke's birthday

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

Our Individual Apostolates

Walter Gawlak, OFS has adopted his parish of St. Mark as the focus of his apostolate. He is a Catechist and is working toward Master Catechist status through the Diocesan program. He serves on the Education Committee to enhance parish youth and adult formation, and he acts as the Education Representative to the Parish Council.

Additionally, Walter is a lector and occasionally helps with distribution of hot meals to the homeless. As a co-facilitator in "Lord Teach me to Pray," he currently supports a men's group in their year of Ignatian Spirituality.

New Beatitudes Proposed by Pope Francis

On November 1, 2016, from Sweden, Pope Francis proposed six new Beatitudes for the modern era:

- Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others, and forgive them from their heart;
- Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized, and show them their closeness;
- Blessed are those who see God in every person, and strive to make others also discover him;
- Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home;
- Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others;
- Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.

“We are called to be blessed, to be followers of Jesus, to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus,” he continued, adding, “Thus we ought to be able to recognize and respond to new situations with fresh spiritual energy.” (Submitted by Walter Gawlak, 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!



Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

Tau Fraternity General Meeting: Sunday, January 8 at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church

- 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – Vera Stewart, OFS
- 1:35 – 2:05 Social time with meal
- 2:05 - 2:50 On-going formation
- 2:50 – 3:00 Break
- 3:00 - 3:30 Program – Terry Rinker, OFS
- 3:30 - 4:00 Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

Initial Formation discussion: Chapter 13 of The Franciscan Journey

Ongoing Formation discussion: We will be sharing our experience with last month's prayer, Wonder-ing with Creation, Chapter 16 of Catching Fire, Becoming Flame, by Albert Haase, OFM and discussing Chapter 17, Praying the Stations of the Cross.

Liturgy of the Hours:

Epiphany:

Reader: Walter Gawlak, OFS

Hymn: #81 – *As with Gladness Men of Old*: pg. 1596

Everything else: Epiphany, Evening Prayer II: pg. 214

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.

