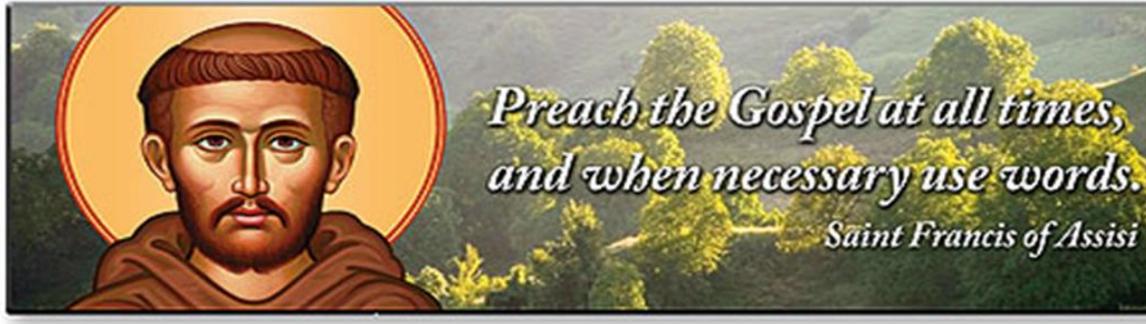


The Tau Signature

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

February 2017



Purchase this inspirational plaque at www.monasteryicons.com

Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We as Tau Fraternity have been blessed with two aspirants (Dennis and Al) for the 2017 class. Please introduce yourselves to our new aspirants if you have not already done so. God truly is amazing! In my personal life, I have recently experienced a huge blessing and answer to a prayer. I have been blessed to see God at work around me. Despite the negative things that we observe in the world, we need to remember that we are not "of" the world - we are God's children and in our secular lives we are called to live our lives in a way that others can see Christ through us. It is so important that we continue to pray - for peace, for each other, for others, for conversion of our country, etc. And it is important that we demonstrate peace in our daily lives. There are many people with whom we come in contact with whom we may not agree about a variety of issues. This is a perfect opportunity to respond with a peaceful heart and demonstrate love. We cannot change others - but we can set a good example. I look forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting on February 5. Peace and blessings, Pam

Pamela Brooks, OFS

Recap of Last Meeting 1/8/17

The meeting began with an opening prayer by Bill Richey, OFS. Walter Gawlak, OFS led our on-going formation by reviewing the purpose of the on-going formation - to support everyone's charism and strengthen our individual as well as our group-commitment via daily conversion. Walter then led a group discussion on Chapter 16 – 'Wonder-ing With Creation' from our formation book Catching Fire Becoming Flame by Albert Haase. He led an exercise in which everyone stood and held hands for a moment of reflection. Josh Goldberg read some passages out of a book Guardian of Being, written by Patrick McDonnell, that he felt were relevant to the session. Walter then explained that next month we will share our experience with the Chapter 17 "Praying the Stations of the Cross." Although this might not be a natural prayer method for everyone you, he encouraged everyone to try it even once so that we will have common ground for sharing our experience. Also for next month, we will review the Reflections. We will also discuss the prayer method for next month contained in Chapter 18, "The Lord's Prayer Anew." Following Ongoing Formation, Terry Rinker, OFS gave a presentation on the origin and evolution of Catholicism in the Indian Subcontinent.

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

Our Individual Apostolates

Clari Claus, OFS teaches Faith Formation (CCD) to young children at St. Joseph Parish. She began teaching second grade, and now she teaches fourth grade!

St. Margaret of Cortona

"After 23 years of rigorous penance, in the 50th year of her life, God called the great penitent to the Beatific Vision on February 22, 1297. Her body is preserved in a precious shrine in the Franciscan church at Cortona which bears her name. It is incorrupt even at the present day and frequently emits a pleasant perfume. Several

popes have confirmed the public veneration accorded her. Pope Benedict XIII canonized her amid great solemnity in 1728.” Read more about the patron saint of our region at <http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-margaret-of-cortona.html>.

Coming up in February

February is the Month of the Holy Family *

Feb.3 – Feast of the Martyrs of Japan
Feb 5 – Tau Fraternity Meeting
Feb.7 – Terry Rinker’s birthday
Feb 8 – Bill Brewster’s & Vicki Shanholtz’ Profession
Feb.10 – Bill Bouffard’s birthday
Feb. 11 – Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes
Feb. 14 – Feast of St. Valentine
Feb 16 – Tau Council Meeting
Feb.17 – Liz Welborn’s birthday
Feb.21 – Feast of St. Margaret of Cortona

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



A Valentine Prayer



From Catholic Online <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=2973>

Dearest Heavenly Father,

I want to thank you for the precious gift of love you have given to the world and to me. Thank you for blessing me every day with this love and the power and strength that I get from you every single day. Without your love for me I can't be....I can't function....I can't even breathe...because I NEED your love to sustain me. It's like food and medicine for my soul Lord.

Please continue to let me feel your comforting love in my life and Lord I give myself over to you to perfect in me this gift of love...that I may be able to express it and share it with others. Lord...I have not always been good at this...forgive me. Lord...some people are harder to love than others...but I want to be like your Son Jesus...so please continue the work you are doing in my heart so my heart will be like yours. In Jesus name I pray.

Father I love you so much!

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, February 5 at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church

- 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Gail Dowling, 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 – **John Ata, OFS**
- 3:30 - 4:00 Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

Initial Formation discussion:

Candidates: Chapter 14 of The Franciscan Journey

Aspirants: Chapters 1 and 2 of The Franciscan Journey

Ongoing Formation discussion: We will be sharing our experience with last month's prayer, "Praying the Stations of the Cross," Chapter 17 of Catching Fire, Becoming Flame, by Albert Haase, OFM and discussing Chapter 18, "The Lord's Prayer Anew."

Liturgy of the Hours:

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Reader: **Frank Bowen, OFS**

Hymn: #33 – O Christ, You Are the Light and Day: pg. 1541

Canticle of Mary Antiphon and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pg. 249

Everything else: Sunday, Week I Evening Prayer II: pg. 712

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.

