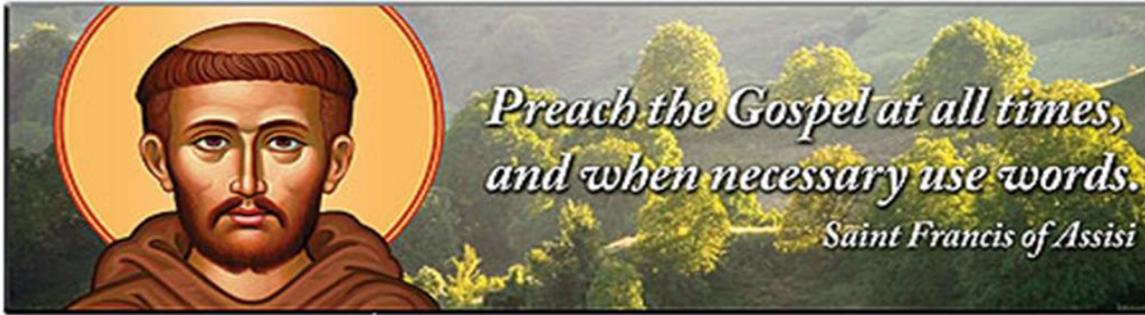


# The Tau Signature

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

**May 2017**



*Purchase this inspirational plaque at [www.monasteryicons.com](http://www.monasteryicons.com)*

## Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

He is risen! I wish each of you a glorious Easter season! A huge thank you to Vera, Terry, Kimberley and Fr. Alberto (who cantered for us) for helping to lead the Stations of the Cross! It was a very special evening that allowed us to be of service to St. Joseph's parish and allowed us to attend first Friday mass together after Stations. I also would like to thank Bill Richey, Pat and Joe who have worked so hard on getting us a retreat master (Fr. Stan) and getting the retreat organized. If you have not yet signed up for the retreat but would like to attend, please let me know asap. If you have signed up for the retreat but have not yet paid, please bring your payment to the May meeting or make arrangements to get your payment to Terry no later than the May meeting. Thank you to Cyndi and Pat for volunteering to co-chair our new apostolate committee. Please remember to bring your completed survey to the May meeting - this will be a big help to Cyndi and Pat. It is so wonderful to see our members stepping up to be of service! I am so blessed to have all of you as my sisters and brothers. Peace and blessings, Pam

Pamela L. Brooks, OFS

## Recap of Last Meeting 4/2/17

The Tau general meeting began with the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming from pages 9 – 10 of the Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order; the Fraternity welcomed Al Carroll and Denis Dunn as Inquirers. Following the ceremony and ritualistic opening, Vicki Shanholtz, OFS read the opening prayer. Walter Gawlak, OFS, began the ongoing formation discussion on the "I Am Pro Life" article by Father James Martin. The group divided into small groups to discuss the article using questions that Walter passed out. Walter announced that next month we would do an imagining exercise. After formation, Josh Goldberg gave a presentation in which he discussed 3 concepts that are important to him and his faith: Non-judgment, Non-resistance, and Non-attachment.

## Prayer Submissions

Please keep the following members, relatives, and friends in your prayers:

For physical and spiritual healing of Sally White, her husband Gary, 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 the Coptic Christians in Egypt and all peoples who suffer persecution. For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Please forward prayer requests to Vera Stewart by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month, so that they may be included in the newsletter.

## Cooking Hospice - Missionaries of Charity

The next Cooking Hospice trip will be in June. Look for details in the next newsletter!  
If you would like to participate, please contact Veronica O'Donnell, OFS.

## 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 low participation, we will discontinue organizing monthly Breakfast with Tau events. Please feel free to informally meet and fellowship with one another at your convenience.

Clari Claus, OFS and Irene Naveau, OFS

## Act of Mercy: Helping Professed Excused

Submitted by Sally White, OFS

As a true act of Mercy, Bill Bouffard, OFS, will visit with Sally White OFS, who is homebound on Saturday, May 13, 2017 to give his talk on The Rule which he presented at a Secular Franciscan Gathering in Charlottesville. The talk is on The Rule, focusing on the Prologue or as it is called "The Earlier Exhortation". This is the only part

of The Rule that Francis actually wrote! The discussion covers everyone from Francis and St. Mark, to contemporary Franciscan authors. It runs about 60 to 90 minutes depending on questions and discussion.

All Brothers and Sisters who would like to hear Bill's talk are welcome to attend. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please call or email Sally if you wish to attend. Her phone number is 703 994 5283 and her email is sallywhite1945@gmail.com

## Devotion to Saint Francis of Assisi

From <http://www.shrinesf.org/franciscan-prayer.html>

O beloved Saint Francis, gentle and poor, your obedience to God and your simple, deep love for all God's creatures led you to the heights of heavenly perfection and turned many hearts to follow God's will. Now, in our day, pray also for us, in our ministry to the many who come here searching for peace and intercede for us as we come before the Lord with our special requests.

[Mention your special intention.]

O blessed Saint of God, from your throne among the hosts of heaven present our petitions before our faithful Lord. May your prayers on our behalf be heard and may God grant us the grace to lead good and faithful lives. Amen.

Saint Francis of Assisi,  
Pray for us. Amen.

## Coming up in May

May is the Month of the Holy Virgin Mary \*

- May 3 – Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles
- May 7 – Tau Monthly Meeting
- May 18 – Tau Council Meeting
- May 19 – 21 – Tau Retreat
- May 30 – Feast of St. Joan of Arc, Secular Franciscan
- May 31 – Feast of the Queenship of Mary (Visitation)

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

## Annual Tau Retreat



Fr. Stan Fortuna CFR will be this year's retreat master, at the Tau Fraternity annual retreat on May 19 – 21, 2017. Fr. Stan is one of the eight founding members of the Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. "Joy" will be the theme of the retreat.

Prior to entering religious life, Fr. Stan was a professional jazz musician. Assigned to the work of preaching full-time, Fr. Stan travels extensively giving talks and concerts across the country and around the world with proceeds from bookings and sales going towards his work with poor and underprivileged families.

Fr. Stan has been involved with community development and the implementation of various social programs in his neighborhood of the South Bronx for more than 25 years. He founded Francesco

Productions mixing music and message, a non-profit organization that uses modern culture to evangelize and help improve the lives of communities around the world. In conjunction with the CFRs, it is committed to hands-on work and empowerment of the poor.

If you have not already registered for the retreat and would like to attend, please contact Pam Brooks as soon as possible.

## Religious Art

Submitted by Walter Gawlak, OFS



I photographed this sculpture of the Franciscan symbol by Luca Della Robbia at an exhibit at the National Gallery of Art. Luca della Robbia (1400–1482) was an Italian sculptor from Florence noted for his colorful, glazed terra-cotta statuary, a technique which he invented and passed on to his nephew Andrea della Robbia and great-nephew Giovanni della Robbia. The vibrant, polychrome glazes made his creations both more durable and expressive. As can be seen from the Franciscan tondo shown here, his work is noted for its charm. The show includes many world famous works of art, many religious. My camera wasn't able to capture St. Francis, but he's in the Gallery, too. Though a leading sculptor in stone, he worked primarily in terracotta after developing his technique in the early 1440s.



## Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

### **Tau Fraternity General Meeting: Sunday, May 7 at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church**

- 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Irene Naveau, OFS (Clari Claus, OFS is back up)**
- 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 – **Cyndy Filan-Kim**
- 3:30 - 4:00 Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

\* BYOD - Beginning with our May meeting, please bring your own cold drinks. Coffee, ice and cups will still be provided.

#### **Initial Formation discussion:**

Candidates: Chapter 17 of The Franciscan Journey

Inquirers: Chapter 5 of The Franciscan Journey

**Ongoing Formation discussion:** Try the Imagining Exercise handed out at the last meeting. Try to find common ground among the diverse group presented in the exercise. Alternatively, find common ground among an actual group of your friends, family, colleagues, neighbors, et al. Next, consider and record your real-world experiences with living the Gospel in a divided world. Did you encounter any hostility, anger (righteous or otherwise), labeling, or conflict in person or through the media during the month? Did you encounter the "other"? If your approach is simply to tune out hostility, how did that work this month? Did it help live a gospel-centered life?

#### **Liturgy of the Hours:**

Fourth Sunday of Easter:

Hymn: #112 – Alleluia! The Strife is O'er: pg. 1627

Psalms and Canticle: Sunday, Week IV Evening Prayer II: pg. 931

Everything Else: Fourth Sunday of Easter: Evening Prayer II: pg. 500

Reader: **Josh Goldberg**

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

