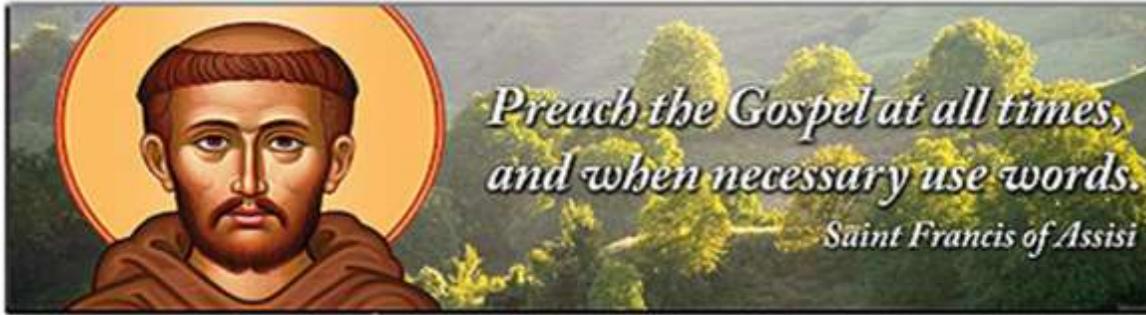


# The Tau Signature

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

**August 2017**



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

## Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Recently I have been reminded that storms come and storms pass, but that God is always with me during the storms. Some people question why the storms come (or more specifically why does God allow bad things to happen). I have chosen to take a page from Job "The Lord giveth and the Lord taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." And also to remind myself and the people with whom I have conversed about my storms that God doesn't cause bad things to happen - but He will allow them to happen and will use those situations to help us grow. It's much better to become prayerful and to seek God during the storms than to get angry or to show self pity. I'm not saying that is easy - but then again, we can look at many of the Saints to see that being a child of God is not always easy. Despite the storms, I have been blessed with feeling closer to God, and for that I am eternally grateful. All of us have storms going on in our lives - and even though we are a Franciscan family, not all of us are as open to sharing those personal challenges. That is okay. Just remember that God loves us and He will get us through the storm and soon we will be blessed with seeing a beautiful rainbow. For all of you, I pray that the rainbows come sooner than later! You all remain in my daily prayers. Peace and blessings, Pam

Pamela L. Brooks, OFS

## Recap of Last Meeting 7/2/17

The Tau general meeting began with an opening prayer read by Vicki Shanholtz, OFS. Walter Gawlak, OFS, began Ongoing Formation with an overview of Chapter 29 "Reveal Everything to God" of our formation book *Catching Fire Becoming Flame*. He noted that journaling is not meant to record facts but our thoughts, feelings, and reflections. It is a way of revealing ourselves to God and transforming ourselves spiritually. Members discussed answers to spiritual direction questions and shared their differing experiences. Next month we will discuss "Developing a Rule of Life," Chapter 24. After Formation, Gail Dowling, OFS gave a presentation on Our Lady of Kibelo. She discussed the book *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwanda Holocaust* by Immaculee Ilibagiza. It focuses on two areas – the survival of the people and the apparitions of Our Lady in

Rwanda. The apparitions began in 1981. Mary told them to pray the rosary every day to ward off war. Not everyone prayed the rosary, and in 1994 the genocide began. From this story, Gail learned that there is no peace unless you let go of things and forgive. Also, the spiritual journey of many is to find peace.

## Prayer Submissions

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

For physical and spiritual healing of Steve Connair; Sally White, her husband Gary, and her sister; Mary Wood, daughter of one of the Tau Fraternity Founders Martha Ureke; 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 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 Ministry trip will be on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Join us every other month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday for the Cooking Hospice Ministry at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Hope Home in Washington, DC. We will meet at St. Joseph's school parking lot at 7am and will return by noon. All are welcome to lend a hand! 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

## Tau Fraternity Committees

If you are interested in participating actively in one of our Committees, take a moment to chat with the chair:

Apostolate Committee – Cyndy Filan-Kim and Pat B.

Hospitality Committee – Veronica O'Donnell, OFS

Infirmarian Committee – Irene Naveau, OFS

Recruitment Committee – Bill Bouffard, OFS

Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

# A Franciscan Moment

## Through the Lyrics of the Moody Blues

Submitted by Bill Bouffard, OFS

### Question of Balance

The Balance

By Graeme Edge and Ray Thomas

After he had journeyed  
And his feet were sore  
And he was tired  
He came upon an orange grove  
And he rested  
And he lay in the cool  
And while he rested, he took to himself  
an orange and tasted it  
And it was good  
And he felt the earth to his spine  
And he asked, and he saw the tree above  
him, and the stars  
And the veins in the leaf  
And the light, and the balance  
And he saw magnificent perfection  
Whereon, he thought of himself in  
balance  
And he knew who he was

And he thought of those he angered  
For he was not a violent man  
And he thought of those he hurt  
For he was not a cruel man  
And he thought of those he frightened  
For he was not an evil man

And he understood  
He understood himself  
Upon this he saw that when he was of  
anger or knew hurt or felt fear  
It was because he was not understanding  
And he learned compassion  
And with his eye of compassion  
He saw his enemies like unto himself  
And he learned love  
Then, he was answered

Just open your eyes  
And realize the way it's always been  
Just open your mind  
And you will find  
The way it's always been  
Just open your heart  
And that's a start

# Franciscan Mission to the Americas

Submitted by Walter M Gawlak, OFS



In the Dunbarton Oaks Museum in Washington, DC, you will find an extraordinary collection of artifacts created by the Native Peoples who populated Mexico and Central America and parts of South America in the era before the arrival of Columbus. One curiosity among the beautiful works of art is a gold-rimmed onyx portable altar that Franciscan Missionaries carried with them to celebrate the Mass in the remote parts of the New World (see picture). The altar shown displays a Franciscan image on the reverse, which cannot be captured in my iPhone photo.

This discovery at the Museum coincides closely with the July 1<sup>st</sup> Feast of our Franciscan Saint Junipero Serra. Father Serra is known for his tireless missionary work in Mexico and California. In Mexico, he taught the fierce Indian worshippers of the sun the way of civilization together with the truth and the life of the Faith. For ten years he criss-crossed Mexico for Christ, preaching missions in seaports, mining camps, and cities, recalling innumerable sinners to repentance.

At the age of fifty-six, Father Serra began his greatest work, founding the first of many missions along the coast of the State of California. The first mission founded after the 900-mile journey north was San Diego de Alcalá. At San Diego, he confirmed nearly 6,000 Indian converts. Combining a deep spirituality and joy in the service of God with a down-to-earth practicality, he laid the foundations of California's present-day agriculture and stock-raising. Other missions followed: San Carlos Borromeo; Monterey/Carmel; San Antonio and San Gabriel; San Luís Obispo; San Francisco; San Juan Capistrano; Santa Clara; San Buenaventura; and Mission Santa Barbara. The State's great coastal cities grew out of the missions he established.

In many ways, Father Serra was an unlikely missionary to the New World in that he was highly learned, receiving a doctorate in theology even before his ordination, and taught philosophy for eleven years in the Lullian University at Palma, Majorca, his home island. In addition, Father Serra was a renowned pulpit orator. Yet, he longed to be a missionary to the Indians of the New World and eventually persuaded his superiors to allow him to join a band of missionaries who were setting off for Mexico. To follow his calling, he left his beloved mother, father and family, knowing that he would never see them again. [Note: much of this text on the life of Father Serra is taken from *Franciscan Book of Saints* by Marion Habig, OFS.]

In thirty-five years as a missionary, Father Serra walked 10,000 miles despite an ulcerated leg. His was a life-long martyrdom of labor, loneliness, and sacrifice. Through all this, he considered himself to be the greatest of sinners. Yet, Father Serra's experience was likely similar to that of other missionaries. At what are now charming missions, the missionaries lived in spartan rooms holding not much more than a bed, a chair, a table, some books and a fireplace, if that. Often, the missionary had no fraternal companions and was subject to loneliness and isolation. They had already renounced the consolation of family and friends when they sailed for the New World.

Don Talafous, OSB, makes this comment about these faith-filled missionaries in his June 22<sup>nd</sup> reflection: "They believed strongly that the salvation of human beings, including those in the New World, depended on faith in Jesus Christ. For this, they did not simply spend a few hours a week preaching and teaching. They quite literally turned their backs on all that was familiar, comforting, homey, even civilized, to bring faith to this newly-found people." [<http://www.saintjohnsabbey.org/your-visit/praying-us/todays-reflection/>]

We Catholics are in the era of the New Evangelization. What does that mean for our stepping out in faith? While there are souls that do not know Christ, there are likely more that are tepid or ignorant about their faith. Then there are the fallen away or lapsed. What are the needs in our Parish of St. Mark? As Don Talafous urges, "we do need to pray for strength in our faith, not take it for granted, not suppose it is more profound than it is. We might ask ourselves: where and how does our faith

become practical in our daily lives? Are there situations where it really makes the difference?"

Although I came across no evidence of Father Serra's use of a portable altar, the missions he established were permanent testimony to his love of the Lord and his desire to bring souls into the Church.

## Reflection

Submitted by Sally White, OFS

Recently Bishop Barron reflected in his post "Daily Gospel Reflections", July 5, 2017, on the Gospels on the meaning of Mathew 8:28-34. In his reflection, he mentioned an interesting book on miracles that you might want to read.

"Friends, in today's Gospel we see Jesus, the miracle worker, healing two demoniacs. I think it's hard to deny that the first Christians were intensely interested in the miracles of Jesus and that they didn't see them as mere literary symbols. Anglican theologian N.T. Wright argues that it's hard to explain the enormous popularity of Jesus apart from this fascination with his wonder-working.

Though God typically lets the universe run according to its natural rhythms and patterns, what is to prevent God from shaping it or influencing it occasionally in remarkable ways in order to signal his purpose and his presence?

For evidence of this, I would like to draw your attention to an extraordinary book. It bears the simple title *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts*, and it is written by the Protestant scholar Craig Keener. It is a truly exhaustive study of the theology and phenomenology of miracles, but the most surprising and exciting section of the book—at least for me—was his rehearsal of some of the literally millions of reports of miracles that come, even today, from every corner of the world. If you doubt God still works in the world today, pick up that book and think again."



## Coming up in August



August is the Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary \*

- Aug 2 – Our Lady of the Angels Portiuncula, Plenary Indulgence
- Aug 6 – Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ
  - Tau Monthly Meeting
- Aug 12 – Feast of St. Clare of Assisi
- Aug 14 – Memorial of St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Aug 15 – Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
  - Ed Geiger's Birthday
- Aug 19 – Clari Claus' Birthday
- Aug 22 – Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Aug 23 – Pam Brooks' Birthday
- Aug 24 – Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle
- Aug 29 – Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist

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

## Prayer to St. Clare of Assisi

From <http://www.yourcatholicguide.com/prayers-and-devotions/prayer-to-saint/powerful-prayer-to-st-clare-of-assisi.html>

O glorious Saint Clare!

God has given you the power of working miracles continually, and the favor of answering the prayers of those who invoke your assistance in misfortune, anxiety, and distress; we beseech you, obtain for us from Jesus, through Mary, His Blessed Mother, what we beg of you so fervently and hopefully, if it be for the greater honor and glory of God and for the good of our souls.

Saint Clare Pray For Us

Amen.



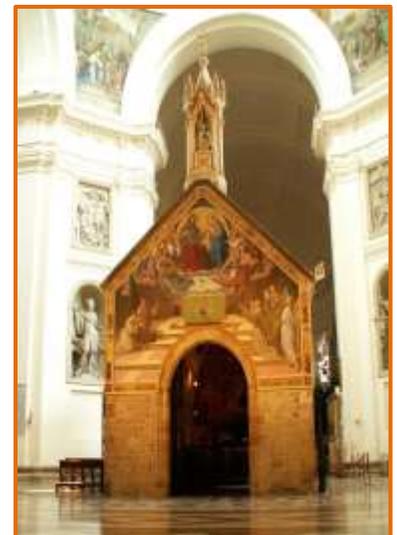
St. Francis and St. Clare  
Giotto di Bondone

## Our Lady of the Angels Portiuncula

Excerpts from <https://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2013/08/today-portiuncula-indulgence.html>



The Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli is built over the Portiuncula



Portiuncula Chapel

The Catholic Encyclopedia gives this history on the indulgence:

The Portiuncula Indulgence could at first be gained only in the Portiuncula chapel between the afternoon of 1 Aug. and sunset on 2 Aug. On 5 Aug., 1480 (or 1481), Sixtus IV extended it to all churches of the first and second orders of St. Francis for Franciscans; on 4 July, 1622, this privilege was further extended by Gregory XV to all the faithful, who, after confession and the reception of Holy Communion, visited such churches on the appointed day. On 12 Oct., 1622, Gregory granted the same privilege to all the churches of the Capuchins; Urban VIII granted it for all churches of the regular Third Order on 13 Jan., 1643, and Clement X for all churches of the Conventuals on 3 Oct., 1670. Later popes extended the privilege to all churches pertaining in any way to the Franciscan Order, even to churches in which the Third Order held its meetings (even parish churches, etc.), provided that there was no Franciscan church in the district, and that such a church was distant over an Italian mile (1000 paces, about 1640 yards). Some districts and countries have been granted special privileges. On 9 July, 1910, Pius X (only, however, for that year) granted the privilege that bishops could appoint any public churches whatsoever for the gaining of the Portiuncula Indulgence, whether on 2 Aug. or the Sunday following (Acta Apostolicae Sedis, II, 1910, 443 sq.; Acta Ord. Frat. Min., XXIX, 1910, 226). This privilege has been renewed for an indefinite time by a decree of the S. Cong. of Indul., 26 March, 1911 (Acta Apostolicae Sedis, III, 1911, 233-4). The Indulgence is *toties-quoties*, that is, it may be gained as often as one wishes (i.e. visits the church); it is also applicable to the souls in purgatory.



## Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

### **Tau Fraternity General Meeting: Sunday, August 6 at St. Joseph Catholic Church**

- 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Clari Claus, 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 – **Bill Richey, OFS**
- 3:30 - 4:00 The Angelus, Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

\* BYOB - Please bring your own beverages to the meetings. Due to low consumption, coffee, will no longer be provided.

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

Candidates: Chapter 20, “Freedom to Love,” in The Franciscan Journey

Inquirers: Chapter 8 of The Franciscan Journey

#### **On-going Formation:**

Chapter 24, “Developing a Rule of Life,” in Catching Fire Becoming Flame

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

The Transfiguration of Our Lord:

Hymn: #40 – Love Divine All Love Excelling: pg. 1548

Everything else: Transfiguration, Evening Prayer II: pg. 1215

Reader: **Terry Rinker, OFS**

## The Angelus

During Ordinary Time, we will precede the Liturgy of the Hours with the Angelus.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,

The Lord is with Thee;

Blessed art thou among women,

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

*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.*

