

The Tau Signature

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

November 2017



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Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Transitus so special, who invited guests to the Open House, who greeted people during the various parish stewardship events, who support the fraternity apostolates, and who serve on our committees. We very much appreciate your service to the fraternity and to those outside of our fraternity. I am blessed to witness each of you living your faith - thank you for inspiring me by all that you do! Please continue to pray for peace. My heart, like yours, has been hurting over the senseless acts of violence and terrorism (foreign and domestic) that keep occurring in our world. There have been some amazing stories of heroism and I choose to focus on those stories - it reminds me that God is present in the horrors of hatred that exist in our world - God is present in the heroes who help the innocent find ways out of the terror attacks, God is present in the first and second responders who help the injured, and God is present in those of us who continue to pray for peace. I don't know about you but I sometimes feel very frustrated that I cannot do more - and then I remember that I can pray, and prayer is huge. Thank you for your continued prayers. Peace and blessings, Pam

Pamela L. Brooks, OFS

Recap of Last Meeting 10/1/17

The Tau general meeting began with an opening prayer read by Bill Brewster, OFS. Father Alberto Bueno, TOR greeted everyone at our Open House. Bill Bouffard, OFS welcomed our guests to the open house. He gave them a brief introduction to the Secular Franciscan Order and the Tau Fraternity. Then Pat B. shared her experience as a Candidate and Vicky Shanholtz, OFS shared her experience as a professed member.

Walter Gawlak, OFS, informed the Fraternity that the St. Margaret of Cortona Region gave the Fraternities an assignment to look at the theme “Caring of Frailties – Mercy and Discernment.” He referred to our Constitution and Pope Francis’ letter “Amoris Laetitia” or “The Joy of Love”. He said that the region suggests we use the process of see, judge, and act. Walter asked what problems are our families facing. He said that next time we will discuss judging and what we should do about it. Walter divided everyone into groups of 4 to 6 people and tasked them to discuss a number of modern day issues affecting families.

Prayer Submissions

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

For physical and spiritual healing of Pam Brooks and her son; 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; Irene Naveau; Ron Kauffman; Kay Flynn; and Ed Geiger. For the safety of the citizens of Aleppo, Syria during the civil war. For all peoples who suffer persecution. For the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the wildfires in the western states, and the earthquake in Mexico. 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 14th 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 December 9th. Join us every other month on the 2nd Saturday for the Cooking Hospice Ministry at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace 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

Apostolate Committee News



A metal sculpture of St. Francis, residing on the hospice grounds

Thanks to all who participated in the group apostolate on Saturday, October 14, at the Gift of Peace hospice in Washington, DC run by the Missionaries of Charity. 10 volunteers, including some family members, spent the morning at the hospice – five inside, preparing a meal under the direction of chef extraordinaire Veronica O'Donnell, while another five volunteers worked outside in the garden under the watchful direction of Mother Superior. It was a beautiful day, a joyful experience, and much appreciated by the Sisters.

Also on October 14, we took to the Sisters 19 bottles of laundry detergent, for which Mother Superior again sends her sincere thanks. Great job to everyone who donated detergent! If we hear that there is some item like this that they request in the future, we will let the Fraternity know what they need.

The Sisters also run a shelter for homeless pregnant women. As you may recall, the Committee hopes to see Fraternity members donate nightgowns for these young women to wear this winter. According to the Sisters, the young women who come to the shelter typically do so with just the “clothes on their backs.” How “lovely it would be,” said one of the Sisters, “to have these young women have a nice warm, long-sleeved nightgown to wear on a cold winter night in the shelter.” When we realized that there were 20 beds at the facility, we thought that there may be Fraternity members willing to come together to make this gift at Christmastime. Everyone need not participate, just enough to buy 20 gowns. If we pool our funds, we should be able to purchase the nightgowns altogether, at a good price and in the styles and

sizes requested by Mother Superior.

We will share more details regarding the nightgowns gift at the next Fraternity gathering. If members wish to make donations at that time, they may do so in cash or with a check payable to “Cynthia Filan-Kim” on behalf of the Apostolate Committee. If we buy the nightgowns in bulk, we believe that we will be able to purchase them (nightgowns typically valued at approximately \$40 each) at a discounted price of \$20 per nightgown. But there is no set donation amount, just whatever anyone is moved to give as a holiday gift to these mothers-to-be at Christmastime!

Finally, the Apostolate Committee met again in October, and is making progress towards providing some recommendations to the Council this winter on longer term group apostolate ideas. Please keep this effort in your prayers, as we discern a number of thoughtful suggestions from members of the Fraternity.



Josh and Bill work in the hospice garden



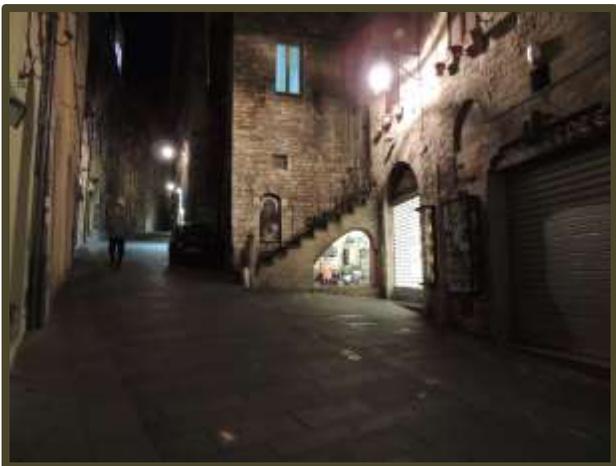
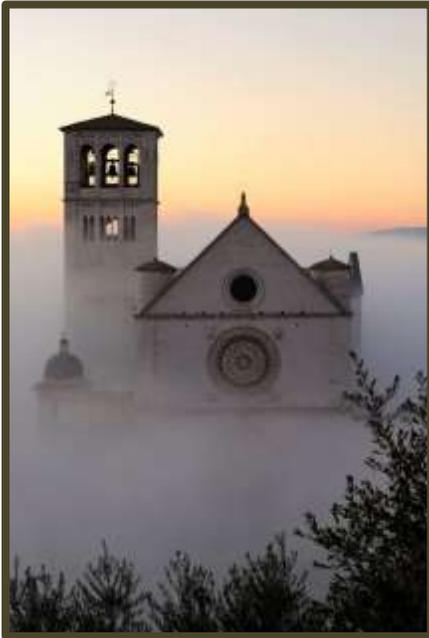
Together representing a total of 39 professed years, Bill and Frank are still smiling after a long morning's work at the hospice.

Our New Logo

As a gift to the Fraternity, Vera Stewart, OFS commissioned her daughter Macie Stewart to design a logo. The design depicts our desire for peace and holiness. The logo may be used on materials such as invitations, brochures, letters and other documents, webpages or other social media sites. Please let Vera know if you need a soft copy of the logo.



Pilgrimage to Assisi



We came as pilgrims not tourists to walk in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare. Twenty-four strong yet each walking alone in our journey. Mine was an internal journey to deepen my Secular Franciscan life. In the evenings on the dark and quiet streets I could imagine St. Francis just ahead of me. Returning to our hotel near the Church of San Pietro I could see in my mind St. Clare escaping her life of nobility to follow the teachings and life of St. Francis. This journey has had a profound impact on my life's direction. In my daily prayers I return often to the peace and joy I found.

Pace e bene
Gail OFS

Coming up in November

November is the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory *

- Nov 1 – Feast of All Saints – Holy Day of Obligation
- Nov 2 – All Souls Day
- Nov 4 – Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop & Secular Franciscan
- Nov 10 – Kay Flynn's birthday
- Nov 12 – Joe M's birthday
- Nov 19 – Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary,
- Nov 21 – Feast of the Presentation of the Holy Virgin Mary
- Nov 22 – Memorial of St. Cecilia
- Nov 23 – Erik Larin's birthday
- Nov 27 – Apostolate Committee Meeting, 7pm
- Nov 29 – Feast of the Saints of the Seraphic Order
- Nov 30 – Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle

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

Prayers

Prayer of St. Gertude

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

<http://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/prayers-for-souls-in-purgatory.html>

St. Monica Prayer

St. Monica,
I need your prayers.
You know exactly how I'm feeling because
you once felt it yourself.

I'm hurting, hopeless, and in despair.
I desperately want my child to return to
Christ in his Church but I can't do it alone.

I need God's help.
Please join me in begging the Lord's
powerful grace to flow into my child's life.

Ask the Lord Jesus to soften his heart,
prepare a path for his conversion, and
activate the Holy Spirit in his life.

Amen.

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=1

Prayer for All Saints Day

Dear God, thank you for the example of the
Saints.

I desire to join in their company, worshipping
you forever in Heaven.

Please help me follow their footsteps, and
yours, Jesus Christ.

Please help me to conform myself to Your
image, seeking Your will in all things, as the
Saints did.

Please help me to devote myself, and all
that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of
my neighbors.

Amen.

<http://www.praymorenovenas.com/prayer-saints-day/>



Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

Tau Fraternity General Meeting: Sunday, November 5 at St. Joseph Catholic Church

12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation

1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Cyndy Filan-Kim**

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 – **Kimberley Heatherington, 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 23 in The Franciscan Journey

Inquirers: Chapter 10 of The Franciscan Journey

On-going Formation:

Consider the family issues that your group raised last meeting as well as others that come to mind and heart. We will sort through the many problems faced by families and begin to consider solutions that we as individuals, parishes and a Franciscan Fraternity might propose and implement.

Liturgy of the Hours:

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Canticle of Mary Antiphon and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pg. 638 and 637

Hymn: #182 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past (Verses 1 and 2): pg. 1704

Everything else: Sunday, Week III Evening Prayer II: pg.

Reader: **Josh Goldberg**

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, or call or text (703) 459-6958.



PACE E BENE
TAU FRATERNITY

