



# The Tau Signature

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

**April 2018**



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

## Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope you have had a blessed Lent. A huge thank you to Kimberley for leading the Lenten Day of Spirituality! Easter will be here in two weeks - for me Lent has flown by. I remember as a teenager feeling Lent would never end. Now that I have a deeper understanding of the gift of Lent it goes by much quicker. Lent is a wonderful time to contemplate and bring ourselves closer to Christ. Please remember that our April meeting will be April 8 because of Easter falling on April 1. Because I won't see most of you before Easter, I will wish you an early Happy and Blessed Easter.

Peace and blessings, Pam Brooks, OFS

## Meeting Scheduled for 3/4/18

The Tau general meeting was canceled due to school closings.

## March 17, 2018 Lenten Day of Spirituality Recap

The Tau Lenten Day of Spirituality focused on the seven last words of Christ and was based on the book *Seven Last Words: An Invitation to a Deeper Friendship with Jesus* by Father James Martin, SJ. The discussion of the seven last words demonstrate that Christ fully human and fully divine understands us:

1. Jesus Understands the Challenge of Forgiveness: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."
2. Jesus Understands Doubts About the Afterlife: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

3. Jesus Understands a Parent's Love: "Woman, here is your son . . . Here is your mother."
4. Jesus Understands Feelings of Abandonment: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
5. Jesus Understands Physical Pain: "I am thirsty."
6. Jesus Understands Disappointment: "It is Finished."
7. Jesus Understands Self-Offering: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

## 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 and her sister; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; William Brewster; Irene Naveau; Ron Kauffman; Kay Flynn; Ed Geiger; and Bob Calderon. For the safety of the citizens of Aleppo, Syria during the civil war. For all peoples who suffer persecution. For the victims of natural disasters. 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 April 14<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 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

## Caring for Professed Excused



Bill Brewster, OFS, and his wife, Linda, find time to visit other Professed Excused Brothers and Sisters who are ill or homebound. They just finished visiting Sally White OFS where they watched a video on Lourdes.

## Coming up in April

April is the Month of the Holy Face and Redemption \*

- Apr 1 – Easter
- Apr 3 – St. Benedict the Moor
- Apr 4 – Frank Bowen's birthday
- Apr 7 – Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates
- Apr 8 – Tau Monthly Meeting
- Apr 11 – Myrna Medina's birthday
- Apr 14 – Hospice Cooking Ministry
- Apr 24 – Walter Gawlak's & Erik Larin's profession
- Apr 25 – Gil Donahue's birthday



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

## Five Faces of Christ

Excerpt from <http://www.ncregister.com/blog/longenecker/these-are-the-five-faces-of-christ>

The five ways to see the face of Christ:

The first way is through the community of believers. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name there I am in the midst of them." Good. So I experience Christ therefore within and through the Church. It is in my fellow believers and in our worship together that Christ is known. My own personal subjective experience must be validated by the corporate reality of Christ in the Church.

The second way is through the Eucharistic species. The bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. "This is my body" he taught. It's pretty simple. We know Christ through communion and through Eucharistic adoration. In that action we move out of ourselves and into communion with the objective reality of Christ in the Eucharist — made present in and through his Body the Church.

The third way is joined with the first two. We know Christ in the person of the priest. He said to his apostles, "Those who hear you hear me, and those who hear me hear the one who sent me." and "As the Father has sent me I am sending you." By direct commission Christ not only sends the apostles, but is present in and through them through the miracle of ordination and apostolic succession. "What!" I hear you gasp "I am to see Christ in old Father Layabout who has a drink problem?" That's right. "I am to see Christ in Father Volcanic who blows his top at every little problem?" Uh-huh. It's a mystery, but there it is. Most of all, of course, we see Christ when that frail and human priest is celebrating Mass, hearing confessions and doing what only a priest can do.

The fourth way is through the sacred Scriptures. "The Word was made flesh." We therefore come to know Christ through the study of Scripture and the hearing of the word of God. Here is another "mystery of Godliness" that God speaks to me through meditating on his Word.

The final way is in the face of the poor. Do you want to experience the mystery of an encounter with Christ? Do you want to know that it really is Jesus? Then see his face in the face of the poor. Don't just write a check to your favorite charity. Get out and meet them and you will meet Christ. He said that too didn't he? "Inasmuch as you did this for the least of my brethren you did it for me."

## Upcoming Events

### National Gallery of Art Exhibit

Theme: Heavenly Earth: Images of St. Francis at La Verna

When: February 25 – July 8, 2018

See <https://www.nga.gov/exhibitions.html>

### Tau Fraternity Retreat

Theme: Breaking Free: The Transformation of Daily Life

Retreat Master: Father Bernard Tickerhoof, TOR

When: May 18 – 20, 2018

Where: Priestfield Retreat Center

Fee: \$250

### Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates

Theme: Beholding the Face of Christ in Others

When: April 7, 2018

Where: Shrine of St. Anthony, Ellicott City, MD

Fee: \$50

### Short-Term Mission & Global Awareness Trip for Secular Franciscans

When: Summer 2018

Where: Bolivia

Contact FMS Executive Director, Liz Hughes:

[liz@franciscanmissionservice.org](mailto:liz@franciscanmissionservice.org) or 202-832-1762 ext. 3

## Regina Coeli

During Easter, we will precede the Liturgy of the Hours with the Regina Coeli in English.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

Has risen, as he said, alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.



## Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

### **Tau Fraternity General Meeting: Sunday, April 8 at St. Joseph Catholic Church**

- 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Vicki Shanholtz, 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 – **Veronica O'Donnell, 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:**

Candidates: Chapter 27 in The Franciscan Journey  
New Candidates: Chapter 14 in The Franciscan Journey  
Aspirants: Chapters 3 & 4 in The Franciscan Journey

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

Come prepared to discuss Chapter 3 in Poverty and Joy, *The Poverty and Humility of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, in small groups.

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

Second Sunday of Easter:  
Hymn: #112 – Alleluia! The Strife is O'er : pg. 1627  
Psalms and Canticle: Easter Sunday: Evening Prayer: ph. 429  
Everything Else: Second Sunday of Easter: Evening Prayer II: pg. 455  
Reader: **Gail Dowling, OFS**

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



**PACE E BENE**  
TAU FRATERNITY