

The Tau Signature

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

June 2018



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Minister's Message

From Pam Brooks, OFS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thanks be to God! Spring (or should I say early summer - lol) has finally arrived in Northern Virginia! As most of you know, this is my favorite time of year because baseball and softball season is in full swing. I trust that each of you have interests that are season specific. Two things, though, that we are blessed to have through all four seasons are our Catholic faith and our Franciscan spirituality. I try to carry these parts of me into everything that I do. And yes, I believe that God is a baseball fan! I encourage each of us to remember the words of St. Francis - Preach the Gospel always. When necessary, use words. We are all called to be missionaries of our faith in our secular lives - and it is more about the example that we set than the words that we use.

Peace and blessings, Pam

Recap of Last Meeting, 5/6/18

Walter Gawlak, OFS began discussion On Chapter 4 "The Lord Led Me Among Them" from the formation book *Poverty & Joy, The Franciscan Tradition*, by William Short by recapping that it is about the lepers and St. Francis and about the Franciscans and the lepers. He had the members divide into the small groups for discussion, and he asked the following questions:

1. Lepers are thought of as repulsive, and people want them out of sight and out of mind. What lepers do you see in your neighborhood and/or community?
2. The "other" is someone different than ourselves. Who is the "other"? Pew research found that we have a great political divide in our country. People don't want to live with those who don't share the same ideological beliefs and don't want their families to marry the "other". How do you deal with the "other"?
3. What are we as Secular Franciscans supposed to do as a result of this chapter's message?

Following Ongoing Formation, we held a ceremony from pages 9-10 of the Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order to welcome our new inquirers. Nellie Aston, Myrna Medina, and Beena Job moved from aspirants to inquirers.

Recap of Tau Fraternity Retreat



Priestfield Retreat Center



Group Picture! Not pictured: Veronica and Gil



Father Bernie Tickerhoof, TOR

Father Bernie led our retreat with the theme “Breaking Free – The Transformation of Daily Life”. In his message, freedom means that God is freely loving us through is invitational love, and we must respond freely. Thank you Gil for taking pictures! More details of the sessions will be provided later for your reflection.

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; Helen Broxmeyer; 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 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 June 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:

Hospitality Committee – Veronica O'Donnell, OFS

Infirmarian Committee – Irene Naveau, OFS

Recruitment Committee – Bill Bouffard, OFS

Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

April Opening Prayer

Submitted by Pat B.

Prayer to Mary, Mother of our Faith, by Pope Francis

Mother Mary, help our faith:

Open our ears to hear God's word and to recognize his voice and call.

Awaken in us a desire to follow in His footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive His promise.

Help us to be touched by His love, that we may touch Him in faith.

Help us to entrust ourselves fully to Him and to believe in His love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature.

Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One.

Remind us that those who believe are never alone.

Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that He may be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!

Amen

News from Our Professed Excused

Submitted by Sally White, OFS

The Professed Excused may not be able to participate in all TAU events and apostolates, but they are participating as Prayer Warriors for the Arlington Diocese's Mother of Mercy Free Clinic in Manassas, Virginia.

The Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic opened on December 6, 2017 and has already served hundreds of

clients with their complicated needs and financial struggles. Manassas has the highest rate of uninsured in the Diocese. This clinic is a first step to help fill the gap for an estimated 8000 uninsured individuals in need of medical service.

Bill Brewster, Irene Naveau, Kay Flynn, Gil Donahue, Sally White and Helen Broxmeyer pray at least one hour a week for the clinic and its clients' intentions. As Prayer Warriors, they receive their assignments weekly and are able to devote time to an apostolate whether they are away or unable to leave their homes.

A Note from Bob Calderon, OFS

Today I was officially transferred from Tau Fraternity to St. John Capistrano Secular Franciscan Fraternity.

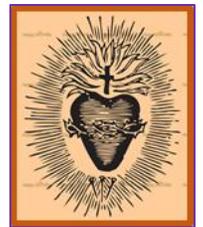
Tau fraternity will always have a special place in my heart. Each sister and brother have been instrumental in my formation and I thank you all for that.

Bob Calderon, OFS

Coming up in June

June is the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus *

Jun 3 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ; Tau Monthly Meeting
Jun 6 – Anniversary of John Ata's & Bill Richey's profession
Jun 8 – Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Jun 9 – Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Cooking Hospice
Jun 11 – Memorial of St. Barnabas, Apostle; Fr. Alberto's birthday
Jun 13 – Feast of St. Anthony of Padua
Jun 15 – Anniversary of Fr. Alberto's profession
Jun 18 – Corpus Christi
Jun 21 – Tau Fraternity Anniversary; Jim Haynes' birthday
Jun 22 – Feast of St. Thomas More
Jun 24 – Nativity of St. John the Baptist; Tau Picnic at Trailside Park
Jun 29 – Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul



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

Happy 26th Anniversary Tau Fraternity!

The Tau Fraternity was established on 21 June 1992 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Herndon, VA. The fraternity is affiliated with the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. At the time of establishment, fraternity's officers were:

- Minister – Anthony DelPopolo, Sr.
- Vice-Minister – William Obenauer
- Formation Director – Sally Stratmoen (White)
- Secretary – Martha Ureke
- Treasurer – Edna Henke
- Spiritual Assistant – Deacon James Sheehan

Because the fraternity was small, the meetings were initially held in the St. Joseph Church Cry Room. Today Sally is the only founding officer still living.

TAU FRATERNITY ACT OF MERCY SPRING 2003

Submitted by Sally White, OFS



Volunteers planting the garden. Besides Veronica O'Donnell OFS, who else do you see?



Is this Sister Karen?



Garden is completed.

Jon Stratmoen, Sally White's husband, was dying of cancer in 2003. With only a few months to live, he talked about how much he missed gardening and his flowers. He was able to sit in a wheelchair a few hours a day but was mostly confined to a hospital bed as the cancer had spread to all of his bones.

Tau Fraternity members along with members of Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus, Sally's office staff, Bishop O'Connell rowing team and neighbors organized a surprise garden raising, much like a barn raising in the Midwest. The event was to take place on Saturday, April, 2003. Friday before the event, all of the plants and bushes were delivered and were hidden behind the garage.

On Saturday morning it was raining, and Sally was wondering if people would show up. Sally remembers people calling and asking if the surprise garden raising was going to happen. She said, "yes it will stop raining." That week the Ladies Society, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, had brought the traveling statue of Mary and placed her on the fireplace mantle across from Jon's hospital bed. Sally stood in front of Mary and asked her to pray to her Son and ask Him to stop the rain. When the first group of volunteers arrived, the rain stopped and did not begin again until the last volunteer left.

Jon was rolled out in his wheelchair on the porch overlooking the garden raising and sat and watched his flowers being planted. For several months, until he was completely bedridden he would spend a few minutes each day looking at the completed garden. When he passed away in September, his casket was set in front of his garden for the Rosary and Visitation. Two Fourth Degree Knights flanked his casket while TAU Fraternity members recited the Rosary. Then the family said their final goodbyes in the garden and the casket was closed.

Today you can see the garden which flourishes with azaleas in the Spring and hostas and lilies in the summer. It is a permanent reminder of how TAU Fraternity members ministered to one of their members and their family during a difficult time in their lives. For Sally it is also a reminder of the power of Mary's prayers. Mary had her Son stop the rain.

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>

National Geographic Museum Exhibit

Theme: Tomb of Christ

When: Now through January 2, 2019

See

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/dc/exhibitions/tomb-of-christ/>

8th Annual St. Anthony Festival

Speaker: Dr. Scott Hahn

When: June 9, 2018 11am – 6pm

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

Free Admission; bring blanket or lawn chair

Short-Term Mission & Global Awareness Trip for Secular Franciscans

When: Summer 2018

Where: **Bolivia**

Contact FMS Executive Director, Liz Hughes:

liz@franciscanmissionservice.org or 202-832-1762 ext. 3

Chapter of Mats

When: June 29 - July 1, 2018

Where: Priestfield Retreat Center, Kearneysville, WV

Register by June 15

<http://saintmargaretofcortona.com/2017/11/10/2397/>

9th Summer Seminar for Secular Franciscans

When: July 12 – 15, 2018

Where: Franciscan University, Loretto, PA

Register by June 1 (discount) or June 25 (final)

<https://sites.google.com/francis.edu/2018-ofs-summer-seminar/home?authuser=0>

Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

Tau Fraternity General Meeting: Sunday, June 3 at St. Joseph Catholic Church



- 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Beena Job**
- 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 – **Walter Gawlak, OFS**
- 3:30 - 4:00 The Angelus, Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

* BYOB - Please bring your own beverages to the meetings.

Initial Formation:

Candidates: Chapter 28 in The Franciscan Journey, *Fraternities Gathering as One*

New Candidates: Chapter 16 in The Franciscan Journey, *When You Pray*

Inquirers: Chapter 5 in The Franciscan Journey, *Lay Secular Spirituality*

All are welcome to join the Initial Formation groups.

On-going Formation:

Chapter 5 in Poverty and Joy, *The Spirit of Joy and Holy Devotion*.

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.

Liturgy of the Hours:

Corpus Christi:

Hymn: #114 – I Am the Bread of Life (verses 1 & 2) : pg. 1629

Everything else: Corpus Christi: Evening Prayer II: pg. 658

Reader: **Veronica O'Donnell, OFS**

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. If you call and do not get an answer, please leave a voicemail message.



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TAU FRATERNITY