

The Tau Signature

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

August 2018



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Minister's Message

From Pam Brooks, OFS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope that each of you are enjoying your summer. It seems like summer just started and here we are approaching August already. Time sure does fly much faster the older I get. Maybe it is because as an adult there are always responsibilities to be addressed and schedules to be planned so far in advance. And in my house, I am the keeper of the master calendar for everyone, so I coordinate everyone's schedules as they share their events with me. As busy as calendars get, however, it is important to have down time. Our bodies certainly need time to rest and recover. More importantly, our souls need quiet time with our Lord - time for us to just abide in God's presence and hear whatever it is He wishes to share with us. I pray that each of you are able to have some quiet time with God this summer - whether it is on a beach or a mountain or a lake - whatever makes you happy. Contemplate God and His wonderful creation.

Peace and blessings, Pam

Recap of Last Meeting, 7/1/18

Bill Richey, OFS began the ongoing formation discussion On Chapter 6 "By Your Holy Cross, You Have Redeemed the World" from the formation book *Poverty & Joy, The Franciscan Tradition*, by William Short by discussing the Stigmata of St. Francis and reading a passage about the stigmata from *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*. He then asked the the group to ponder following questions and to share their thoughts.

1. Do you view the Passion as an exercise of the mind or, as the writers on the chapter, through an affective, mystical approach?
2. What do you do to become an 'alter Christus", or do you resist as unobtainable? Francis probably never thought of himself as such. Do we seek union with Christ? How do we seek this union?
3. Does this chapter with its stigmata, mystical union with Christ, and the effort to enter into the Passion, seem to you simply 'Franciscan history' or does it have relevance to our own time?
4. After reading this chapter, how do you review your approach to the Stations of the Cross this past Lent? Will you delve more deeply next time you pray the rosary or reflect on the Passion?



Following ongoing formation, Vera Stewart, OFS gave a presentation on the Precious Blood and Wounds of Christ. July is the Month of the Precious Blood of Our Lord, and July 1st is traditionally the Feast of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, but it is no longer on the Roman Calendar, and Corpus Christi has replaced it. Some believe that the blood of Christ is found on the Shroud of Turin and at the miracle of Lanciano. St. Francis wrote about the holy eucharist in the First Admonition, professing the firm belief that in the bread and wine is Christ's most holy Body and true and living Blood. Vera then mentioned the Stigmata of St. Francis and discussed the Stigmata of St. Padre Pio. She shared additional facts about St. Pio.

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.

Answered Prayers

Submitted by Sally White, OFS

For quite some time you have been praying for Mary Wood, daughter of Martha Ureke, OFS. Mary and her husband are both teachers in Georgia and now have a son, Hunter. During her illness and her pregnancy, you prayed for Mary. She is well now, and her son is very healthy. Your prayers were answered.



Cooking Hospice - Missionaries of Charity Apostolate

Our fraternity cooks for the Gift of Peace hospice on the second Saturday every other month. St. John Neumann Parish provides \$200 for us to buy groceries. Four or more of us meet at St. Joseph's parking lot at 7 a.m., drive to northeast D.C. and share our stories along the way. We cook for 60 people, including the other volunteers who work that day. Mother Teresa's nuns look in on us to make sure we know where kitchen wares can be found. They always express their gratitude to us with their great smiles. We're usually back at St. Joseph's parking lot by noon. Come and join us at least once. It's a heartwarming ministry.

The next Cooking Hospice Ministry trip will be on August 11th. 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 Apostolate

SVDP is hosted by St. Leo the Great in the City of Fairfax. Note that I attempt to load up my vehicle with your food donations before and after the opening prayer each month. I 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. After the meetings, I take the food collections and drop them off at the church for transfer to the SVDP pantry.

Whatever monetary donations I get, I deposit into the Tau bank account and write a check in the amount so that SVDP knows that the check is coming from Tau fraternity. Keep up the good work in SVDP donations – they are greatly appreciated. **The pantry is in need of tuna, vanilla glucerna, size 3 diapers, chocolate Ensure, Enfamil formula, disposable gloves, and sanitizing wipes. All checks should be made out to "St. Leo SVDP."**

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

July Opening Prayer

Submitted by Cynthia Filan-Kim

Lord Jesus, You became Man in order by your Passion and Death and the draining of your Blood on the Cross, might prove to us how much You, our God, love us. Protect us, dear Jesus, from ever running away from the sight of blood. Strengthen our weak human wills so that we will not only not run away from the cross, but welcome every opportunity to shed our blood in spirit in union with your Precious Blood, so that, dying to ourselves in time we might live with You in Eternity. Amen

Excerpted from [The Precious Blood of Christ](#), Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

News from Our Professed Excused

Submitted by Sally White, OFS

You probably already know Irene Naveau, OFS. Irene makes as many meetings and activities as her health allows. Irene is a trooper. She must have gotten her grit from her early days working as a runner in the Pittsburg steel mills. She must have developed her wonderful patience, reliability and concern for others from her career and apostolate as a nurse. She worked as a nurse all over the country and in various wards of hospitals, including working with mentally ill patients. Later she entered the Federal Service and served at the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration.

Irene has served on the Tau Council as secretary and currently serves as the Tau Infirmarian. Her apostolates include providing metals for the animals that are blessed each year at the St. Joseph's Blessing of the Animals. She is a Prayer Warrior for Mother of Mercy Clinic in Manassas. In the past Irene has worked tirelessly for the St. Joseph's Ladies Society and Homebound Outreach. Once as she was residing in her hospital bed, she dutifully took her assigned turn receiving calls for Homebound Outreach.



At the Cracker Barrel, Irene upholds the Franciscan tradition of a hearty lunch.

Irene has given us all the great gift of providing us with the opportunity to perform Acts of Mercy in helping her journey through her illnesses. She sets aside pride and grants us opportunities to serve and love her.

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 4 – Feast of St. Dominic, Priest, Cordbearer
- Aug 5 - Tau Monthly Meeting
- Aug 6 – Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- Aug 8 – Memorial of St. Jean-Marie Vianney, Third Order Secular
- Aug 11 – Feast of Blessed Innocent XI, Pope, Third Order Secular Missionaries of Charity Hospice Cooking Apostolate
- Aug 12 – Feast of St. Clare of Assisi, Foundress of the Poor Clares
- Aug 14 – Memorial of St. Maximilien-Marie Kolbe, Priest, Conventual Religious, Martyr
- Aug 15 – Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
Ed Geiger's Birthday
- Aug 19 – Clari Claus' Birthday
- Aug 20 – Heber Garcia's and Beena Job's Birthday
- Aug 22 – Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Aug 23 – Pam Brooks' Birthday
- Aug 24 – Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle
- Aug 27 – Memorial of St. Monica
- Aug 28 – Feast of St. Junipero Serra, Priest, Religious of the Franciscan 1st Order
- 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>

Upcoming Events

National Geographic Museum Exhibit

Theme: Tomb of Christ

When: Now through January 2, 2019

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

Tau Fraternity Rite of Profession

When: September 21st, 7pm

Where: St. Joseph Church

Transitus of St. Francis

When: October 3, 2018, Time TBD

Where: St. Joseph Church

Tau Fraternity Open House

When: October 7, 2018 at Tau meeting

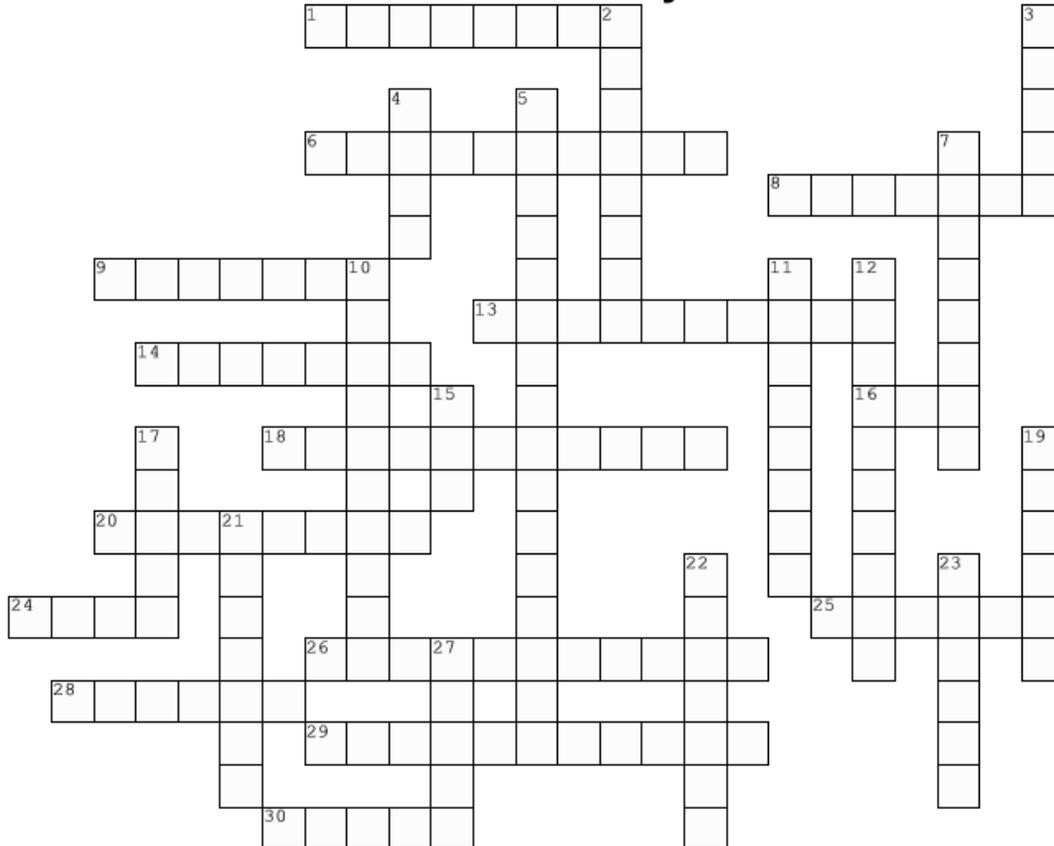
Where: St. Joseph Parish School

Stay tuned for brochures to distribute!!

Family Fun Puzzle

Submitted by Cyndy Filan-Kim

Franciscan Family Fun



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Crossword Puzzle Generator](#)

Across

1. Secular Franciscan Saint and Penitent who founded a hospital in Cortona for the poor
6. Name of the Order St. Clare founded
8. Based on good relationships that seek the good of the other person
9. This Saint said, 'Nothing should upset a servant of God except sin'
13. 15th Century Franciscan Saint of Siena who preached devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus
14. This Saint, a Franciscan Friar & Doctor of the Church was given the title, 'Hammer of Heretics'
16. External sign of the SFO in the U.S.
18. Will be called 'Children of God'
20. This Saint said, 'Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve The Lord with laughter.'
24. This Rule calls us to express our ardent love for the Virgin Mary
25. Saint who said, 'Ignorance of Scriptures is ignorance of Christ'
26. Saint, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, known as 'the seraphic doctor'
28. City where Francis tamed the wolf that was terrorizing the people
29. Spirituality which colors our Franciscan Spirit
30. Francis called this brother, 'The Knight of our Round Table'

Down

2. This Rule call us to 'accept all people as as gift of the Lord and an image of Christ'
3. Catholic Priest and Franciscan Martyr who said, 'The most deadly poison of our time is indifference'
4. This Rule entails going from, 'gospel to life, and life to gospel'
5. St. Clare carried this to the walls of the convent to ward off attackers
7. A way to seek out ways of unity and fraternity
10. Church where Francis received direction for his way of life
11. This Rule states, 'they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which bear the imprint of the Most High'
12. Secular Franciscans should pledge themselves to live the spirit of these
15. One of the 2 brothers with Francis when he received the stigmata
17. Founder of the Poor Clares
19. The number of followers of Francis by the end of the 1st year
21. One of the 2 brothers with Francis when he received the stigmata
22. Name of the first follower of St. Francis
23. Saint of Cupertino who is known for his many ecstasies most notably levitation
27. Name of the younger sister of St. Clare

Santiago de Compostela

Submitted by Walter Gawlak, OFS



In 1214, St Francis is reputed to have taken the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in the western part of Spain to venerate the remains of the Apostle James. Along the way, Francis founded monasteries and convents and, in Santiago, he requested a plot of land from the Archbishop to build a Franciscan home. The Benedictines gave Francis a small garden at the rear of their massive building in which he constructed the Monastery de San Francisco. A few years ago, the monastery was converted to an upscale hotel, but as part of the transaction, the Franciscans required the owners to set aside a number of rooms for the homeless. In addition, the Hotel de San Francisco is a sort of shrine to St Francis through the stained-glass windows, names of common rooms and in the glass panels throughout the hotel that give access to the original walls set by Francis's hand. The lovely Church that was built alongside the monastery continues to serve residents and pilgrims alike.

How fitting that Francis would visit the shrine to St James, the cousin of Our Lord, who professed in his epistles that faith without deeds was empty?

"When they arrived there and spending the night in prayer and adoration in the Church of Saint James, God revealed to Saint Francis in that church that he should found many Places throughout the world, because his Order was destined to spread and grow to a large number of friars. Consequently, as a result of this divine command, he henceforth began to accept Places in various lands."
The Little Flowers of Saint Francis, Ch. 4



Tau Fraternity History

Submitted by Sally White, OFS

THE FIRST TAU COUNCIL

Martha Ureke, OFS, was the Treasurer on the first Tau Council. Martha was instrumental in the development of the Tau Fraternity and not only served on the first council, but also served on additional councils as secretary. She developed the first newsletter in which she wrote many formation articles. During the early years of the Tau Fraternity, there were few formation materials. Martha researched and included information on St. Francis and many of his traditions in the early editions of the newsletter. Martha worked for the Department of Justice in the Kennedy Administration. She also worked in the Defense Intelligence



Martha and her daughter
Mary

Agency and IBM. She loved to write Christian poetry and was a member of the Christian Author's Guild. Her apostolates included making rosaries for children making their first communion. She was a wonderful mother and was unselfish in her love of others, including her Tau Fraternity family. She moved with her husband to Atlanta, Georgia in 1993. She was unable to find a fraternity near her, but she continued in her apostolates until she became ill. She passed away at age 64 in 2010.

About the Tau Council

Next year Tau Fraternity will have our Council elections. All professed and professed excused members are eligible to vote. Discern whether you are called to servant leadership. The *General Constitutions 2000* describes the composition and duties of the local fraternity. This is what it says:

Article 49

1. The council of the local fraternity is composed of the following offices: minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer, and master of formation. Other offices may be added according to the needs of each fraternity. The spiritual assistant of the fraternity forms part of the council by right.
2. The fraternity, meeting in an assembly or chapter, discusses questions regarding its own life and organization. Every three years, in an elective assembly or chapter, the fraternity elects the minister and the council in the way established by the Constitutions and statutes.

Article 50

1. It is the duty of the council of the local fraternity:
 - to promote the initiatives necessary for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members and for sustaining their witness and commitment in the world;
 - to make concrete and courageous choices, appropriate for the situation of the fraternity, from among the numerous activities possible in the field of the apostolate.
2. The duties of the council are also:
 - a. to decide on the acceptance and admission to profession of new brothers and sisters;
 - b. to establish a fraternal dialogue with members in particular difficulties and to adopt consequent measures;
 - c. to receive the request for withdrawal and to decide on the suspension of a member from the fraternity;
 - d. to decide on the establishment of sections or groups in conformity with the Constitutions and the statutes;
 - e. to decide on the destination of available funds and, in general, to deliberate on matters concerning financial management and the economic affairs of the fraternity;
 - f. to assign duties to the councilors and to the other professed members;
 - g. to request from the competent superiors of the First Order and the TOR suitable and prepared religious as assistants;
 - h. to perform such other duties as are required by these Constitutions or which are necessary to carry out its proper purposes.



The *General Constitution* may be found on the Secular Franciscan USA website at <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/>.

The September issue of the Tau Signature will include descriptions of the roles of each council member. Stay tuned!!

Poetry from Helen

Submitted by Helen Broxmeyer, OFS

Identity Crisis, Good Friday

I. The Year 33

“Pilate entered the praetorium again, and called Jesus . . .” (John 18:33)

- Who are you, Jesus? I’m the one in control here,
But I’m thrown by your differentness. You certainly move within
A world completely unlike any that I’ve known.
Please tell me – who are you? An unbalanced rabbi?
Probably not; you elude easy definition.
No other answer suggests itself, so help me understand you.
 - “I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)
- Another riddle . . . I’ll try offering them Barabbas;
But if I have to crucify you, will you forgive me?

II. 2018

“Where shall I go from your spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me,
And your right hand shall hold me.” (Ps 139:7 and 9-10)

Who are you, Jesus? In company with Pontius Pilate,
I find you disquieting. The map of Israel on the wall
Brings you to mind, but your image is hazy, unfocused.
Who are you? Superman, insubstantial archetype,
Charismatic leader, or beyond all these?

I do not know. I only know that your way
Is the best, though far from another world, and not
What I had expected. But I beg you for some of your strength,
And a little light to guide me through each day,
Until at last I see you face to face.

- H, Broxmeyer
June 30, 2018

Scripture translations are from the Revised Standard Version.

Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

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



- 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Kimberley Heatherington, 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 – **Erik Larin, OFS**
- 3:30 - 4:00 The Angelus, Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

* Last names A-H bring sweets; I-Z bring savories. BYOB - Please bring your own beverages to the meetings.

Initial Formation:

Candidates: Chapters 29 & 30 in The Franciscan Journey

New Candidates: Chapter 18 in The Franciscan Journey,

Inquirers: Chapters 7 & 8 in The Franciscan Journey,

All are welcome to join the Initial Formation groups.

On-going Formation:

We will finish Poverty and Joy by reviewing Chapters 7 & 8

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:

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hymn: #9 – Sing with All the Sons of Glory : pg. 1516

Canticle of Mary Antiphon and Prayer: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Evening Prayer II: pg. 623

Everything else: Sunday, Week II Evening Prayer II: pg. 78

Reader: **Josh Goldberg**

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