



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

February 2019

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope you are enjoying a quiet snow day at home today as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It is hard to believe we are already starting ordinary time tomorrow - feels like we just started Advent. Time sure does fly as we get older, doesn't it? I think the older we get the more we appreciate the importance of time. And in appreciating the importance of time, we need to make sure that we make the most out of every moment with which we are blessed. Are we spending our time pointing others to Christ, as John the Baptist did? Or are we spending our time being negative or complaining? As we follow our Lord in the footsteps of St. Francis, I hope that we are all preaching the Gospel to others - and using our words only when necessary. Our Franciscan charism is a wonderful way for us to point others to Christ, without using words - simply by doing the right and loving thing. Peace and blessings to you all!

Pam

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

OPENING PRAYER

Gail Dowling, OFS read an opening prayer.

RITE OF ADMISSION

Immediately following the call to order and opening prayer, we held the rite of admission from pages 11-15 of the *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*. This ceremony elevated Beena Job to candidate.

ONGOING FORMATION

Walter Gawlak, OFS began ongoing formation with a reflection based on the readings from Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps, by Richard Rohr: Something is in the way of becoming holy – ego. We need to be powerless before God.

Before launching into the discussion, Walter asked if the book is appropriate for formation. The group concurred that it is. Some comments were that it is about brokenness and hitting rock bottom, addiction, and penance, which are all relevant to our formation.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- Alcoholism, addiction, and sin are similar; they are diseases and weaknesses that God can heal.
- We share denial with those who are addicted. It's a defense.
- We are all spiritually powerless.

PRESENTATION



Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS could not attend the meeting, so Pat B., OFS shared some things in her stead. Pat noted that January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. St. Bernadine of Siena insisted on devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus through his evangelization. In effect, his evangelizing made the monogram IHS popular. IHS are the first three letters in the Greek name of Jesus – in Greek alphabet - ΙΗΣΟΥΣ (Iesous Christos). The feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is associated with the Feast of Circumcision and is celebrated on January 3rd. Nellie Aston passed out holy cards of St. Bernadine of Siena and a handout with quotes from St. Bernadine.

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; and Ed Geiger. For the safety of the citizens of Aleppo, Syria during the civil war. For wounded warriors, especially Capt John. For all peoples who suffer persecution. For the victims of natural disasters. For the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic and its patients. 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.

APOSTOLATES

ST. LEO THE GREAT FOOD PANTRY

St. Leo the Great in the City of Fairfax runs a food pantry. 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 food pantry. Whatever monetary donations I get, I deposit into the Tau bank account and write a check in the amount so that St. Leo knows that the check is coming from Tau fraternity. Keep up the good work in food donations – they are greatly appreciated. **All checks should be made out to "St. Leo the Great."**

Thanks!! Terry Rinker, OFS

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY COOKING HOSPICE

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 February 9th. 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.

INDIVIDUAL APOSTOLATES

Vera Stewart's knitting apostolate went international recently. Her hats and scarves made their way to children at the Spafford Children's Center in Jerusalem and Bethany. Spafford Children's Center provides educational, recreational, therapeutic and pediatric healthcare services to children in the Old City of Jerusalem and the West Bank. The Spafford Children's Center which was started in 1925 by the American Colony of Jerusalem, a Christian utopian society, that provided humanitarian aid to all who needed care in Jerusalem regardless of religion or country. The American Colony was established in 1881 by Anna and Horacio Spafford who left Chicago after a series of tragic losses following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. You can find out more about the Spafford Children's Center at www.spaffordcenter.org. For a really interesting history of the American Colony search Wikipedia.org for American Colony, Jerusalem. If you want to knit a scarf or hat for the children, the next time we can send them with a board member is in November.



News from Mother of Mercy Free Clinic: Those of you who have been praying for the Mother of Mercy Free Clinic have a victory this month. Your prayers for an expansion for a prenatal clinic and a sonogram machine have been answered! The Clinic now has a prenatal clinic and the Knights of Columbus has donated a sonogram machine. Bishop Burbidge blessed the prenatal clinic expansion and the sonogram machine on January 14. In addition to your prayers, Tau Brothers and Sisters donated four big boxes of rosaries, prayer cards, medals and other religious items to be shared with the patients. Please continue to save your prayer cards, rosaries and medals. A box will set aside at the Tau February meeting for your donations. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer at the clinic or as a prayer warrior, you can sign up on the diocese volunteer website, www.cdda.net

TAU 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

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

February is the Month of the Holy Family *

- Feb 2 – Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Terry Rinker's birthday
- Feb 3 – Feast of the Martyrs of Japan
Tau Monthly Meeting
- Feb 8 – Profession of Vicki Shanholtz and Bill Brewster
- Feb 9 – Cooking Hospice Apostolate
- Feb 10 – Bill Bouffard's birthday
- Feb 11 – Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1858
- Feb 14 – First day of Lent
- Feb 17 – Liz Welborn's birthday
- Feb 18 – Feast of St. Bernadette of Soubirous
- Feb 21 – Feast of St. Margaret of Cortona (Some sources indicate that her feast day is Feb. 22, and some May 16)



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

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

From <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=1951>

Lord Jesus Christ, who, being made subject to Mary and Joseph, didst consecrate domestic life by Thine ineffable virtues; grant that we, with the assistance of both, may be taught by the example of Thy holy Family and may attain to its everlasting fellowship. Who livest and reignest, world without end.

Amen.

BROTHER SIMEON'S VALENTINES

From: <https://myfranciscan.org/event/brother-simons-valentines-2019/>

As a high school student in the 1950s, Brother Simon decided to make his mom a special Valentine, with lace, beads and an inscribed poem. She loved it so much, he made it an annual tradition that continued even after he joined the Holy Land Friars and came to live at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, in his hometown of Washington, DC.

In 1962, Brother Simon's valentines became even more ornate after he read about the fancy Victorian-era "Box Valentine" cards, which often were designed in a box for a 3-D effect.

They inspired Brother Simon to design his own three-dimensional cards. Some even included handmade moving parts. One featured the Romeo and Juliet balcony scene. Pull a string in the card and Romeo climbs up the balcony to the waiting Juliet.

Fortunately, Brother Simon's mom kept these special cards and, every February for the past nine years, 20 of Brother Simon's valentines to mom have been displayed in the Visitor Center of the Franciscan Monastery for all to enjoy.

On display Friday, February 01 through Sunday, February 24, 2018, 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America Visitor Center.

FRATERNITY ELECTIONS

Submitted by Pam Brooks, OFS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you know, we are holding fraternity elections on August 4, 2019. As you discern whether or not you are being called to Servant Leadership of Tau Fraternity, I am quoting certain portions from the General Constitutions so that you have an idea of what is expected of the Fraternity Council:

The Fraternity Council

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 the 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 Constitution and the 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 the financial management and the economic affairs of the fraternity;
 - f. to assign duties to the councilors and to 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 Offices in the Fraternity

Article 51

1. While firmly upholding the co-responsibility of the council to animate and guide the fraternity, the minister, as the primary person responsible for the fraternity, is expected to make sure that the directions and the decisions of the council are put into practice and will keep the council informed about what he or she is doing.
2. The minister also has the following duties:
 - a. to call, to preside at, and to direct the meetings of the fraternity and council; to convoke, every three years, the elective chapter of the fraternity, having heard the council on the formalities of the convocation;
 - b. to prepare the annual report to be sent to the council of the higher level after it has been approved by the council of the fraternity;
 - c. to represent the fraternity in all its relations with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. When the fraternity acquires a juridical personality in the civil order, the minister becomes, when possible, its legal representative;
 - d. to request, with the consent of the council, the pastoral and fraternal visits, at least once every three years.
 - e. to put into effect those acts which the Constitutions refer to his or her competence.

Article 52

1. The vice minister has the following duties:
 - a. to collaborate in a fraternal spirit and to support the minister in carrying out his or her specific duties;
 - b. to exercise the functions entrusted by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter;
 - c. to take the place of the minister in both duties and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary impediment;
 - d. to assume the functions of the minister when the office remains vacant.
2. The secretary has the following duties:
 - a. to compile the official acts of the fraternity and of the council and to assure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients;
 - b. to see to the updating and preservation of the records and the registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from the fraternity;
 - c. to provide for the communication of the more important facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to provide for their dissemination through the mass media.
3. The master of formation has the following duties:
 - a. to co-ordinate, with the help of the other members of the council, the formative activities of the fraternity;
 - b. to instruct and enliven the inquirers during the time of initiation, the candidates during the period of initiation formation, and the newly professed;
 - c. to inform the council of the fraternity prior to profession, concerning the suitability of the candidate for a commitment to live according to the Rule.

4. The treasurer, or bursar, has the following duties:
 - a. to guard, diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected;
 - b. to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the fraternity council;
 - c. to render an account of his or her administration to the assembly and to the council of the fraternity according to the norms of the national statutes.
5. The provisions regarding the rights and duties of the vice-minister, the secretary and the treasurer apply, with the appropriate adaptations, to all levels.

Pamela L. Brooks, OFS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brother Simeon's Valentine Card Display

Where: Franciscan Monastery
1400 Quincy St., NW, Washington, DC
When: Feb 1 – 24, 2019, 7am – 4:30pm

Elections for Tau Council

Where: St. Joseph Parish
When: August 4, 2019

Franciscan Institute Summer 2019 Programs

Where: St. Bonaventure University
-3261 W.. State Rd.·St. Bonaventure, NY 14778
When: Various programs June 24 – July 18, 2019

Registration begins February 1. Master Classes held in person and online.

Details at <https://www.sbu.edu/about-sbu/sbu-campus-maps-directions/franciscan-institute/summer-2019-programs>

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday, February 3, 2019

Location: St. Joseph Catholic Church

Schedule: 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Vicki O'Donnell, 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 Bouffard, OFS**
3:30 - 4:00 The Angelus, Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

* BYOB - Please bring your own beverages to the meetings. Please bring finger foods to share. If your last name begins with A-H bring savories; if your last name begins with I-Z bring sweets.

INITIAL FORMATION:

Initial Formation:

Senior Candidates: Chapter 24 in The Franciscan Journey

Candidates: Chapter 14 in The Franciscan Journey

Aspirants: Chapter 2 in The Franciscan Journey

All are welcome to join the Initial Formation groups.

ON-GOING FORMATION:

On-Going Formation:

Chapter 2 in Breathing Underwater

Consider the following questions on powerlessness extracted from the Breathing Underwater Companion Journal:

- How do you feel about being powerless?
- When were you surprised by something good coming out of a seeming failure?
- Reflect on a dark or difficult time in your past. How was God present or absent at that time? How does it look now?
- How easy is it to ask others for help? When did you last ask God for help?
- What area of your life do you have a need to control?
- What is your first response to change in your life?

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:

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

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

Gospel Canticle and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pg. 248

Everything else: Sunday, Week IV Evening Prayer II: pg. 931

Reader: **Josh Goldberg, 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.