



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

March 2019

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

What a good week it is! Pitchers and catchers report this week - a sure sign that spring is right around the corner (despite what the Loudoun groundhog may have predicted when he saw his shadow). Of course, I always laugh that people get excited and have parties over a rodent predicting the weather. It does show the silliness of some people who take such things seriously. But as we are taught in scripture, to everything there is a purpose. There is a time to laugh and a time to cry. One time to laugh is during our times of fellowship together. We have two opportunities for fellowship coming up in addition to our monthly gatherings. On March 16 Father Alberto will be leading our Lenten Day of Spirituality. We are grateful to Father Alberto for doing this for the fraternity. The 2019 Annual Retreat is the weekend of May 17-19, 2019, at Priestfield. Please sign up for the retreat. Cost should not deter you - the fraternity is able to assist anyone who may need some help covering the cost. Please reach out to me or another council member. Father Pat Whittle, TOR, is our retreat master this year. Finally, please continue to pray for Tau fraternity and for our upcoming elections that people will answer the call to servant leadership. At the March meeting I will be asking for a volunteer to serve as the nomination chair.

Peace and blessings to you!

Pam

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

OPENING PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit!

Enlighten my mind to know your commands.

Strengthen my heart against the snares of the enemy.

Inflame my will . . . I have heard your voice and don't want to harden myself and resist saying "Later . . . Tomorrow."

Nunc coepi! Now I begin!

In case there is no tomorrow for me
O Spirit of Truth and Wisdom
O Spirit of Understanding and Counsel
O Spirit of Joy and Peace
I want whatever You want!
I want because You want!
I want how ever You want!
I want wherever You want!

Amen!

ONGOING FORMATION

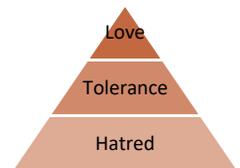
Walter Gawlak, OFS began ongoing formation with a brief recap of last month's readings from Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps, by Richard Rohr. He recollected from the readings that there is a power greater than self and that coming to know that is a gradual and difficult process, much like radical conversion.

Based on Chapter 2, Walter asked the group to reflect on the following questions:

- What do you do with your opinionated head?
- What do you do with your closed down hearts?
- What do you do with your body?

PRESENTATION

Bill Bouffard, OFS presented his thoughts from a work that he has created. The main message was that the Church says that all are welcome, but in reality, it is not true. Throughout history, the Church has condoned and participated in deplorable acts and has treated people badly. People in the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, and Queer) community are not welcome. They are the lepers of today. The Church has not spoken out against police brutality against Blacks and LGBTQ people. Some participated in slavery. And we have the legacy of the Crusades. Bill said our attitudes toward members of the LGBTQ community range from hatred, to tolerance, to love, and that while hatred is clearly unacceptable, we fail to realize that tolerance is also unacceptable. Only love is the right response, and we are not fully there as a Church.



PRAYER SUBMISSIONS

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

For physical and spiritual healing of Cyndy Filan-Kim's mother; Pam Brooks' 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 all peoples who suffer persecution. For the victims of natural disasters. For the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic and its patients. For the end of abortion and the culture of death. 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

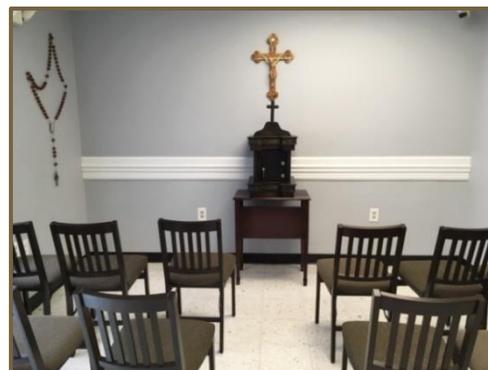
Our fraternity cooks for the Gift of Peace hospice on the second Saturday every other month. St. John Neumann Parish provides \$200 for us to buy groceries. Four or more of us meet at St. Joseph's parking lot at 7 a.m., drive to northeast D.C. and share our stories along the way. We cook for 60 people, 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 April 13th. 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

UPDATE ON MOTHER OF MERCY FREE CLINIC from Sally White, OFS

Brothers and Sisters of Tau Fraternity and others donated four boxes of rosaries, prayer cards, books and other religious items last month to the Mother of Mercy Free Clinic. The Clinic Director, Alexandra Aluevano, is very thankful for all of the donations, many of which will be used in the new chapel. She asks for continual prayers for the clinic, the volunteers and the patients. Below are photos of Alexandra, a beautiful painting in the clinic of Mary with Jesus in her womb, and the clinic's new chapel.



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 MARCH

March is the Month of St. Joseph*

Mar 2 – Feast of St. Agnes of Prague
Mar 3 – Tau Monthly Meeting
Mar 5 – Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
Mar 6 – Ash Wednesday
Mar 7 – Helen Broxmeyer's birthday
Mar 14 – Veronica O'Donnell's birthday
Mar 16 – Tau Fraternity Lenten Day of Spirituality
Mar 17 – Feast of St. Patrick
Mar 19 – Solemnity of St. Joseph
 Josh Golberg's birthday
Mar 29 – Feast of St. John Capistrano
 Nellie Aston's birthday



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lenten Day of Spirituality

Where: St. Joseph Parish
When: March 16, 2019
after 8am Mass

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>

Annual Tau Retreat

Where: Priestfield Pastoral Center
4030 Middleway Pike; Kearneysville, WV 25430
When: May 17 – 19, 2019

St. Margaret of Cortona Region Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

When: October 10 - 19, 2019

Cost: \$3,250 per person (ground & nonstop air)
\$2,050 per person (ground only)

Return completed registration forms and deposits by March 1 if possible or by March 15 at the latest. For questions, please contact Fred or Claire Ickes by phone at 434-384-6562 (H) or on Fred's cell phone at 434-426-9162.

Registration form, schedule, and other details at: <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Pilgrimage-to-Rome-and-Assisi.pdf>

INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

From: https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=89

"The Breastplate"

St. Patrick's poem of faith and trust in God:



Christ be within me,
Christ behind me,
Christ before me,
Christ beside me,
Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ inquired,
Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

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

A CALLING TO FRANCISCAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP

From: Handbook for Franciscan Servant Leadership, Rev 2010

Three essential characteristics when one assumes a Franciscan servant leadership role are:

1. that the call or commission is initiated by God;
2. that the response or commitment is wholehearted; and
3. that the leader has or is open to receiving the vision necessary to serve in a servant leadership capacity.

A copy of the handbook is available in the Tau Fraternity library.

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Sunday, March 3, 2019

Location: St. Joseph Catholic Church

Schedule: 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Josh Goldberg, 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 – **Al Carroll** will present on genocide denial
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 savorys; if your last name begins with I-Z bring sweets.

TAU SURVEY: Don't forget to bring your completed Tau survey to the March gathering!!

INITIAL FORMATION:

Senior Candidates: Chapter 25 in The Franciscan Journey

Candidates: Chapter 15 in The Franciscan Journey

Aspirants: Chapter 3 in The Franciscan Journey

All are welcome to join the Initial Formation groups.

ON-GOING FORMATION:

Chapter 3 in Breathing Underwater, "Sweet Surrender"

Consider the following questions on healing the head, heart and body extracted from the Breathing Underwater Companion Journal:

- Consider a significant moment on your journey of faith. Who did you have to trust in that moment? Another person? God? Yourself?
- Keeping the heart space open requires some healing in regard to our carried hurts. This is when we know that the work we need to do is going to take us places we might not want to go. Consider an experience of letting go of a hurt and one where the hurt remains.
- When has your heart been broken? How has this led you to greater compassion?
- How do you carry stress in your body? Spend some time listening to the various places in your body that hurt.

See you in March!

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:

Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time:

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

Gospel Canticle and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pg. 253/252

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

Reader: **TBD**

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.