



# PACE E BENE

## TAU FRATERNITY

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

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**April 2019**

### **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today I was thinking a lot about what love is and what love isn't. Maybe it is because my oldest daughter got married on Saturday and the couple had someone read from 1 Corinthians at the wedding. Maybe it is because I have been blessed to see many examples of love lately (my youngest daughter just donated 17 inches of her hair to an organization that makes wigs for children with cancer is the one that is closest to my family today). Maybe it is because I have seen so many examples of where love is missing. Today I had a young man in my court tell me that he did not want to be adopted because he did not want someone to control him. We had a nice chat about what love is and what love isn't. Spring will arrive next week, and love should be in the air (or so we have been told by popular culture). The reality is that love should be in our hearts and in the air all year - not just in the spring. I am certainly cognizant of the fact that there are times I am not as loving to other people as I should be, and that is something I need to work on. The world sure would be a much a much better place if there were more love in it. As an old song says:

*I'd like to build the world a home  
And furnish it with love  
Grow apple trees and honey bees  
and snow white turtle doves*

*I'd like to teach the world to sing  
in perfect harmony  
I'd like to hold it in my arms  
And keep it company*

*I'd like to see the world for once  
All standing hand in hand  
And hear them echo through the hills  
For peace throughout the land*

(That's the song I hear)

Peace and blessings,  
Pam

## RECAP OF LAST MEETING

### OPENING PRAYER

Josh Goldberg, OFS read an excerpt from *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander* by Thomas Merton:

In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness... This sense of liberation from an illusory difference was such a relief and such a joy to me that I almost laughed out loud... I have the immense joy of being man, a member of a race in which God Himself became incarnate. As if the sorrows and stupidities of the human condition could overwhelm me, now I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.

<https://www.spiritualtravels.info/articles-2/north-america/kentucky-a-thomas-merton-tour/thomas-mertons-mystical-vision-in-louisville/>

### 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 posed questions for reflection:

- Who did you have to trust in your journey of faith? Another person? God? Yourself?
- When has your heart been broken? Has it led you to greater compassion?
- How do you hold stress in your body?

Walter proceeded with the reading for this month. He asked how do we let go? The reading was on the third step – sweet surrender. Walter pointed out that we made a decision to turn over our will to God. A vivid message from the book is that surrender feels like dying, yet it is a necessary path to liberation. He discussed with the group the ego and the difficulty in letting go of control. When Jesus tells us to renounce the self, it means surrendering our will to Another whom we trust. The group then held a lively discussion about the myth of sacrifice. The author challenged that some people, including some saints – even Franciscan saints, wanted to be martyrs without truly renouncing themselves; they sought admiration for themselves. Members of the group pointed out that not all saints fall within this charge.

### PRESENTATION

Al Carroll gave a presentation on "Genocide Denial in America," from a book he is writing. Al is an unenrolled Native American and a Professor of History at the Northern Virginia Community College. Some highlights from the presentation are as follows:

- Schools teach about the Holocaust, but not about the genocide of Native Americans. Generally, in the educational system and through other means, the US has denied genocide in America. Some examples are:
  - The Bering Strait theory, a myth of Native Isolation;
  - Blaming most deaths of Native Americans on "accidental" disease;
  - Making Christopher Columbus a hero
  - Inserting Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill.
- There were seven genocides of Native Americans:
  1. Smallpox blankets distributed by the British in the 1760s and United States (US) Fur Trappers in the 1830s.

2. The Trail of Tears in which Andrew Jackson and the state of Georgia forced Natives to relocate; during the march they were encamped and suffered disease.
  3. Forced removal and rapes of 13 Tribes by the Republic of Texas Rangers and Army
  4. California Indian Genocide from 1848-63.
  5. Starvation carried out by the US Army and government through the killing of buffalo and targeting of crops and food stores.
  6. Cultural genocide from via forced assimilation from 1880s-1930s and forced adoptions from 1890s-1970s by Mormons, Fundamentalists, and Catholics.
  7. Forced sterilization of Native American women from 1968-75.
- As noted, Catholics participated in the genocide; this included Franciscans such as Christopher Columbus and Junipero Serra.
  - Reparations have been made in response to other genocides world-wide to include national apologies, return of land titles, monetary restitution, and recognition in historical teaching. While the US made an apology to African Americans for slavery in a bill in 2008, the government has never apologized to Native Americans. However, the US has taken steps, such as the Indian Child Welfare Act, to make reparation.

## PRAYER SUBMISSIONS

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

For physical and spiritual healing of Cyndy Filan-Kim's mother; 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 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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## 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 APRIL

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

Apr 1 – Tau Fraternity Meeting  
Apr 3 – St. Benedict the Moor Feast Day  
Apr 4 – Frank Bowen's birthday  
Apr 8 – Tau Monthly Meeting  
Apr 13 – Hospice Cooking Ministry  
Apr 14 – Palm Sunday  
Apr 18 – Maundy Thursday  
Apr 19 – Good Friday  
Apr 21 – Easter  
Apr 22 – Heber Garcia's profession  
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>



**HOLY WEEK**

## PRAYERS FOR HOLY WEEK

From: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever/prayers-for-lent>



### HOLY THURSDAY

Jesus, in these last few days leading up to Easter, as I recall your passion and death, let me remember that, above all, I am called to feed your sheep. You have given me a model of how to live; may I strive to be all that you created me for, spreading the love of God and the truth of our Catholic faith wherever I am able. You are the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

### GOOD FRIDAY

Jesus, no one knows change better than you. You died on the cross, and three days later you rose from the dead. Forty days later you ascended into heaven and left the world transformed for the rest of time. Help me to transform my soul, to die to sin and death and be reborn in your love and eternal life. Amen.

### HOLY SATURDAY

Jesus, you are courage incarnate. As you hung on the cross for my sins and the sins of the world, you showed me that all things are possible. You knew that life did not end on the cross. It was only the beginning of a new and glorious eternal life. Amen.

### EASTER

Almighty Father, I thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead and redeemed humankind. Fill us with the fire of the Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful disciples and enthusiastic witnesses of our Catholic faith. Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Annual Tau Retreat**

**Where:** Priestfield Pastoral Center  
4030 Middleway Pike; Kearneysville, WV 25430  
**When:** May 17 – 19, 2019  
**Cost:** \$250 per person (Financial assistance available. See Council.)

### **St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Retreat**

**Where:** Priestfield Pastoral Center  
**When:** May 31 – June 2, 2019  
Details at <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/newsevents/>

### **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>

### **Elections for Tau Council**

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

## FRANCISCAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP

From: Handbook for Franciscan Servant Leadership, Rev 2010

The life of the Secular Franciscan fraternity is more akin to a family than a typical organization. The Franciscan leader's task is to nurture an environment steeped in Franciscan spirituality so that each member can grow in the freedom to be co-heirs with Christ.

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

## NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Sunday, April 8, 2019

Location: St. Joseph Catholic Church

Schedule: 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation  
1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Pat B., 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 – **Gil Donahue, 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 savorys; if your last name begins with I-Z bring sweets.

### **INITIAL FORMATION:**

Aspirants: Chapter 4 in The Franciscan Journey

Candidates: Chapter 16 in The Franciscan Journey

Senior Candidates: Chapter 26 in The Franciscan Journey

All are welcome to join the Initial Formation groups.

### **ON-GOING FORMATION:**

Read Chapter 4, "A Good Lamp," in Breathing Underwater.

Reread Chapter 3, "Sweet Surrender," and consider the following questions:

1. What does the word surrender conjure up in your mind and heart?
2. What do you find difficult to accept about yourself? About people close to you?
3. Have you ever experienced turning your life over to God?
4. How have you known unconditional love?

## THE ANGELUS

During Lent, 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:

Fifth Sunday of Lent:

Hymn: #89 – The Glory of These Forty Days (Verses 1,2,4): pg. 1604

Psalms and Antiphons (Lent, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday): Sunday, Week I Evening Prayer II: pg. 712

Everything else: Fifth Sunday of Lent: Evening Prayer II: pg. 270

Reader: **Nellie Alston**

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