



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

July 2019

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Summer is finally here! Yay! I love this time of year (as you can tell). We have more daylight and are able to spend more time outdoors. I hope that you and your families are able to spend some quality time together this summer enjoying God's wonderful creation of the great outdoors (even if it is only the portion that is your backyard). Please remember that the July meeting will be held at Christ the Redeemer in Sterling. Also, please remember that elections will be back at St. Joseph's on August 4. Please be prompt for the August meeting. Someone from the Region will be running the August meeting and elections, and if you are not present when the election process begins, you will not be allowed to vote. There seems to be some confusion about who is allowed to vote in the elections. The Council received guidance from the Region several years ago that all professed members (active and professed excused) are allowed to vote if they are present at the elections. Professed members who are lapsed and no longer involved with the fraternity are not allowed to vote. So, the bottom line is, if you are professed and your name appears on the roster maintained by the secretary, either as professed or professed excused, you are encouraged to attend the meeting on August 4 and cast your votes for each office on the Council. Those of you who are not professed may be asked to serve as tellers at the meeting. As in past elections, I imagine that the regional representative will have the seating arranged so that those eligible to vote sit in the front and those not eligible to vote sit in the back (this is how it is done at the Regional elections). If you have any questions about elections, please reach out to me or John Ata. Finally, please remember to bring your mess kits to each meeting to support Tau's efforts to be "green" and minimize waste going into the dump. Have a great summer!

Peace and blessings, Pam

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

OPENING PRAYER

On behalf of Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS, who could not attend, Jim Haynes., OFS read the opening prayer to the sacred heart of Jesus.

ONGOING FORMATION

Walter Gawlak, OFS began ongoing formation with an overview of Chapter 6 “The Chicken or the Egg” from Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps, by Richard Rohr. He said that up until now we have been assessing, laying the groundwork presumably for change. This is a pivotal shift because we have significant steps to take to love God. We must remove defects of character. Unless we work to change and let God change us, we can become spiritual dry drunks. The chapter discusses paradox. After a brief discussion of the chapter, Walter asked the following questions for reflection:

- When have you had the experience of letting go and letting God?
- When did you get in God’s way or even think you had a better way?
- What might be the source of your fear?

After discussing the reading, Walter announced that the celebration of the anniversary of the Rule is ending. He asked if the reading relates to the Rule. Gil Donahue responded that we have to know the Lord, and we are in the world, but not of the world. The exercise helps us to love ourselves. We have to know self, then we can love God. Walter suggested we read a section of the Rule each day or re-write the Rule in our own words.

PRESENTATION

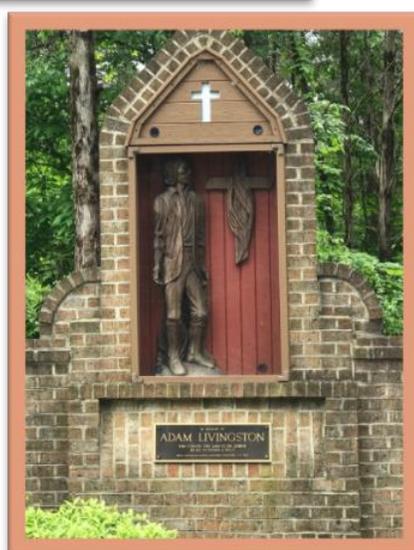
Bill Bouffard, OFS gave a presentation on creation. He listed numerous sources that he consulted in preparing the presentation, including *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*, by Ilia Delio, OSF; *The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World*, by Jeff Goodell; “A Franciscan Worldview;” and other articles. Bill said that human beings are a part of the whole of creation. We are not the top of the chain or the most important link. St. Francis was not an environmentalist, but he saw God everywhere in nature. Because God created all creatures, we must love them. St. Francis did not view creatures as tools. He saw that the creatures praise God simply by their existence. Bill mentioned the various ways that man has intervened to control the environment that has resulted in disaster. The created world is a sacrament of God; God’s glory is reflected in the sacredness of creation. God is the provider of all we need. He expresses his care for us through creation. St. Francis was a brother to all creation, not a steward. Our first responsibility is to be a creature of God.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019 TAU RETREAT

On May 17, 2019, Tau Fraternity returned to Priestfield Pastoral Center for the annual retreat. Father Pat Whittle, TOR led us in thought provoking and lively discussions on the them Francis and the Liturgy. Some highlights from the sessions are as follows:

- Separation of the liturgy and personal prayer is not good. Eucharistic prayers in the liturgy are bold and rich; St. Francis knew this.

- Liturgy comes from the Greek word Liturgia, which means work of the people – a work of the people for the people, or public work. In the Church, it is God’s work on behalf of the people. The Church is the servant.
- In the liturgy, we are able to enter into God’s world; everything else is suspended.
- The liturgy is a rehearsal for what we are to do in the world.
- It is meant to change our life. We are nourished by the Eucharist, and we adore the Eucharist. We desire to be different. The Holy Spirit is at play.
- Physically entering the church mirrors our interior change. We enter through the membrane of the narthex, into the nave, and into the sanctuary.
- The 4th Lateran Council brought about a change in the liturgy.
- In his writings, St. Francis talked more about the Eucharist and the Mass than poverty or creation.
- The Mass is not just between you and God; it is the building of the community, the people of God.
- When we pray the Liturgy of the Hours in the morning and at night, we are inviting the Lord into our day.
- When we pray out loud, it is not meant for pleasing others.
- The Office of Readings can be prayed any time of the day.
- St. Francis observed three Lents in which he fasted, prayed, and did penance – Lent before Easter, Advent, and Michael’s Lent.
- We are called to be ourselves, conformed to Christ. We enter the liturgy so we can pray, build the body of Christ, offer sacrifice, and open our hearts to divine charity.
- We learn to do the same outside and can open ourselves to others.



Pictures courtesy of Gil Donahue, OFS

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 and her son; Sally White and her sister; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; Helen Broxmeyer; William Brewster; Irene Naveau; 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 August 10th. 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 Pat B., OFS or Joe M., 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
Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee – Kimberley Heatherington, OFS
Infirmarian Committee – Irene Naveau, OFS
Recruitment Committee – Bill Bouffard, OFS
Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

COMING UP IN JULY

July is the Month of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ *

- Jul 1 – Feast of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- Jul 2 – Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady
- Jul 3 – Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle
- Jul 6 – Feast of St. Maria Goretti
- Jul 7 – Tau Fraternity Meeting
- Jul 9 – Feast of the Martyrs of China
- Jul 10 – Sally White's birthday
- Jul 14 – Feast of St. Bonaventure
Kimberley Heatherington's birthday
- Jul 18 – Feast of St. Camillus de Lellis
- Jul 19 – Feast of St. Vincent de Paul
- Jul 23 – Feast of Blessed Louise of Savoy
- Jul 25 – Feast of St. James the Apostle
- Jul 26 – Memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Jul 31 – Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are invited to attend a webinar with Nicola Albini on the Enneagram. The webinar will be held immediately following the July gathering at Christ the Redeemer Church. Nicola is also co-hosting a workshop in Santa Monica, CA On October 25-27. A description of the workshop is included in the link below (it says May only because it was postponed).

<https://thefreedomformulaworkshop.com>

UPCOMING EVENTS



ELECTIONS FOR TAU COUNCIL

Where: St. Joseph Parish

When: August 4, 2019

ALL PROFESSED MAY VOTE!

DON'T BE LATE!

POETIC REFLECTION

May 27, 2019
Memorial Day

Working on the following poem felt like the conclusion of a lifelong attempt to reconcile all the religions in my own family of origin, and in that of my deceased husband: five varieties of Judaism; Nichiren Buddhism; Roman Catholicism; and two Protestant denominations. The latter included at least two generations of Congregationalist ordained ministers, one of whom was the President of the National Council of Churches in the 1950s, and another who was a Vice-President of that organization in the 1970s. (This list doesn't include my own excursions into a number of faith traditions, or my conversion to the Catholic faith at age 59.) Given the apparently insurmountable complexities involved, it finally took the Holy Spirit to "cut the Gordian Knot" and show me the way out, in a way that seems wholly compatible with the Franciscan tradition. (The title of the poem is Hebrew for "The Name," a term used by Orthodox Jews when referring directly to God.)

Helen Broxmeyer

Ha-Shem

By Helen Broxmeyer, May 18, 2019

I don't know who you are, LORD;
I only know that YOU ARE, and that you are with me,
Both at my right hand and beyond human reckoning.
Born of a family of many religions and none,
I float on a sea of contradictory perceptions,
Always trying to weave the disparate threads
Into a unified whole that's just out of reach.

But only your mind is big enough to make sense.
Of the constantly moving shuttles, and to bring them together
In a tapestry of such other worldly beauty
As to blind the human eye, and to silence all thoughts.

FRANCISCAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP

From: Handbook for Franciscan Servant Leadership, Rev 2010

A Franciscan leads effectively by example. Our models to follow are Jesus Christ, St. Francis and St. Clare. We need to evaluate our actions constantly in light of them, how they inspired and led their followers and created fraternity-what they did, what they said, what they didn't do. All three were foremost servant leaders.

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

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday, July 7, 2019

Location: Christ the Redeemer 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 – **Kimberley Heatherington, OFS**
3:30 - 4:00 The Angelus, Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

Remember to bring your mess kit!



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

INITIAL FORMATION:

Senior Candidates: Chapter 29 in The Franciscan Journey

Candidates: Chapter 19 in The Franciscan Journey

Inquirers: Chapter 7 in The Franciscan Journey

All are welcome to join the Initial Formation groups.

ON-GOING FORMATION:

Read Chapter 7 in Breathing Underwater, "Why Do We Need To Ask?"

Also consider these reflections from Chapter 6:

- When have you had the experience of letting go and letting God?
- When did you get in God's way, believing you had a better answer?
- Consider your fears if you let go of control and allow God to change you. What might be the source of the fears?

Take the time to celebrate the Rule using a brief video available on the National Fraternity website (secularfranciscansusa.org) under Guidelines, Forms and other Resources/40th Anniversary of the Rule of 1978/CIOFS video: Forty years of the "New Rule": A Treasure for the OFS. You won't be sorry.

<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/2018/06/14/celebrate-the-rule-with-this-new-ciofs-video/>

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:

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Hymn: #32 – Now Thank We All Our God: pg. 1540

Gospel Cantic and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pgs. 619,618

Reader: **Terry Rinker, 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.