



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

August 2019

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This is my last minister's message to you. It has been an honor, privilege and blessing to serve as the minister for Tau Fraternity these past six years. I look forward to seeing each of you at our elections on August 4. Please arrive promptly because once the doors are closed, no one will be able to enter and participate in the elections. I am so pleased that so many of you have answered the call to servant leadership and put forth your names for consideration for election to the council. It has been many elections ago since we had such a complete and qualified slate. Please join me in asking the Holy Spirit to guide our election process. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Peace, Pam

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

OPENING PRAYER

Pat B., OFS read a prayer to Saint Anne:

Remember, O Good Saint Anne, whose name means grace and mercy, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help and sought your intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, we come before you sinful and sorrowful.

Holy Mother of the Immaculate Virgin Mary and loving Grandmother of the Savior, do not reject our appeal but hear us and answer our prayer.

Above all, obtain for us the grace one day to behold God face to face and with thee and Mary and all the Saints praise and bless Him through all eternity.

Amen.

July 26: Saint Anne's feast day

ONGOING FORMATION

Walter Gawlak, OFS began ongoing formation with a recap of Chapter 6 from Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps, by Richard Rohr, remarking that we are ready for God to remove defects of character. He said that we have to have readiness and admit helplessness. Some points he highlighted are:

- The 12 step pilgrimage is an ongoing invitation for God to deepen our spirituality.
- On the way, we ask self questions. If the questions are uncomfortable, that is good.
- Going deeper toward wisdom leads us to happiness.
- Wisdom will help us to lessen the need for control.

After the recap, Walter introduced Chapter 7. In this chapter we humbly ask God to remove our shortcomings. Walter asked the following questions:

1. Have you ever treated God like a vending machine?
2. What do you think when God answers those prayers?
3. Did you pray differently?

Based on group discussion, Walter noted that the relationship with God changes us. He reminded us that there will be no ongoing formation in August due to elections. Walter provided the following suggestions:

- Keep a gratitude journal. See if there are changes over time.
- Try to imagine what you would be like if God removed your character flaws.

PRESENTATION

Kimberley Heatherington, OFS gave a presentation on Pope Francis' views on migrants and refugees. Sunday, September 29, 2019 is the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2019. Since 2014, Pope Francis has provided messages about migrants and refugees. Some notable things he said are:

- 2014:
 - Each individual is a part of humanity, not pawns.
 - We should manage the issue via international cooperation that begins with addressing the root problems that motivate emigration.
 - A change of attitude is needed. We need to get away from the throw away culture and move toward a culture of encounter. We must encounter them as human beings.
 - Migrants and refugees are brothers and sisters to be welcomed and loved.
- 2015:
 - Jesus calls us to share.
 - We start with the dignity of the human person.
 - There are various causes of migration and refugee movement such as economic migration, civil war, terrorism or fear for one's life.
- 2016:
 - Immigration can be the result of a humanitarian crisis; the crisis is worsened if met by others with silence or complacency.
 - Migrants and refugees are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life.
 - We are called to welcome the stranger. It is an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ.
- 2017:
 - Migration affects all continents.
 - Children are first to pay the toll.
 - Issues are child trafficking, abuse, and absence of rights.
 - Children are invisible and voiceless.
 - We need to work toward protection, integration, and a long term solution.
 - There is need for pastoral guidance/responsibility – to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate.

Refugees are not "illegal." They are protected by the United Nations. Kimberley recommended Pope Francis' book *Migrants and Refugees: Witnesses to Hope*. It is available from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops

at <http://store.usccb.org/> or Amazon.com, Another resource is *Salvador*, a book by Joan Didion. It discusses how intervention impacted El Salvador. It can be purchased from Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B004HFRJIU/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1. Also, for information on what Franciscans are doing to help migrants and refugees, go to the Franciscan Action Network: <https://www.franciscanaction.org/node/38>.

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; 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

Please consider volunteering at the Fraternity's next visit to the Gift of Peace House hospice run by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters in Washington, DC. Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 10. We will meet at the St Joseph Church parking lot (where we park for Fraternity gatherings) at 7 am.

On August 10, we will be cooking a meal for 60 patients. No culinary skills are required! There is plenty of chopping, dicing, and dishwashing that support the creation of the meal.

In the words of the Sisters' founder Saint Mother Teresa, let's come together to "do something beautiful for God."

Whether or not you are able to attend personally, please join in keeping the Sisters and hospice patients in your prayers.

If you plan to participate or have any questions, please contact Pat B. or Joe M., OFS

A special thanks to Veronica O'Donnell, OFS who has steered the success of this apostolate for many years. Thanks also to Veronica's parish, St. John Neumann in Reston, who donates the funds to purchase the food we bring with us to the hospice.

INDIVIDUAL APOSTOLATES

Vera Stewart, OFS participates in various community service projects through the Loudoun County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The sorority was founded in 1913 by 22 young women at Howard University. They founded it upon Christian principles with the intent to serve the black community. Since its founding, Delta Sigma Theta has participated in many public service initiatives, which are now organized in its five-point programmatic thrust of educational development, economic development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement. Most recently, the sorority held its national convention this July in New Orleans, but the convention abruptly ended early due to Tropical Storm Barry. The sorority's response was to donate food, amounting to 17,000 meals, for disaster relief. To learn more about the organization's service programs, visit <https://www.deltasigmatheta.org/service.html>. From July 2019 to June 2021, Vera will serve as the Loudoun County Alumnae Chapter's chaplain. Please pray that the chaplaincy is imbued with the Holy Spirit.

TAU COMMITTEES

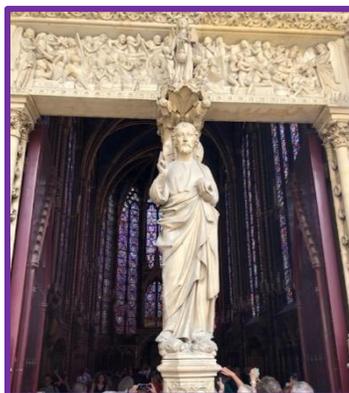
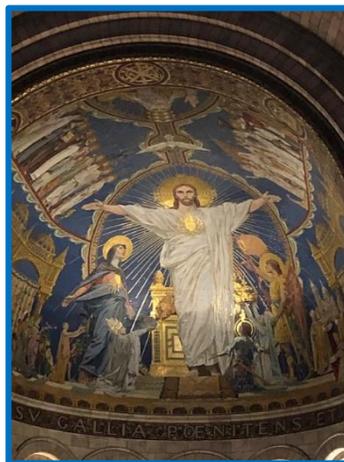
If you are interested in participating actively in one of our Committees, take a moment to chat with the chair:

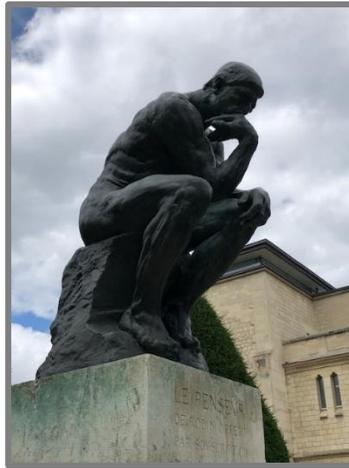
Hospitality Committee – Veronica O'Donnell, OFS
Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee – Kimberley Heatherington, OFS
Infirmarian Committee – Sally White, OFS*
Recruitment Committee – Bill Bouffard, OFS
Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

*Thank you to Irene who served as Infirmarian for the last three years. We appreciate you!

SUMMER VACATION!

Ask Josh Goldberg, OFS about his family trip to Paris!





From the top left, pictures 1 – 3 are from the Sacré-Cœur Basilica; picture 4 is from the Musée d'Orsay. Next row, pictures 5 and 6 are from Saint-Chapelle. Picture 7 and the next row, picture 8 are from the Hotel de Invalides. The last two, pictures 9 and 10 are from the Musée Rodin. The Thinker is one of Josh's favorites!

Thank you for sharing, Josh!

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
 Tau Monthly Meeting; Tau Council elections
- Aug 6 – Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- Aug 8 – Memorial of St. Jean-Marie Vianney, Third Order Secular
- Aug 10 – Cooking Hospice Apostolate
- Aug 11 – Feast of Blessed Innocent XI, Pope, Third Order Secular
- 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

Tau Fraternity Picnic

When: Sept. 15, 2019

Where: Trailside Park, Herndon

Bring your family!!

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECT OAK TREE

Submitted by Sally White, OFS

See https://drive.google.com/file/d/17uOPmFhPVGlgtnkwhM4NWhi3I_fidfQ5/view

Secular Franciscans are invited to participate in Project Oak Tree. The National Councilor Donna Hollis, OFS and local fraternities in the area work directly with refugees in Las Cruces through this project. Volunteers and donations are needed. As Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement release refugees into Southern New Mexico, the Diocese of Las Cruces provides them with basic Christian hospitality. The ministry provides food, shelter, safety, and clothing to the refugees, The ministry constantly needs personal travel size hygiene supplies, lip balm, hairbrushes, hair ties, small and medium belts, shoelaces, new underwear and socks for children and adults (Sm./Med.)

For more information, contact Donna Hollis at 575-649-8265 or donnadancerfeet@aol.com. Monetary donations may be sent to:

Monetary Donations can be sent to:

Holy Cross Retreat Center
600 Holy Cross Rd.
Mesilla Park, NM 88047

Tel. (575) 524-3688.

Include 'Refugee Donation' in check memo.

HOLY CHILD PROGRAM

The Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist spoke at St. John the Apostle church during their annual appeal. The Holy Child Program provides therapeutic treatment and alternative education to children in Bethlehem. If you would like to know more about the program, visit their website at www.holychildbethlehem.org.

Tax free donations may be made online or at:

Bethlehem Holy Child Program Corporation
P.O. Box 7083
Meriden, CT 06450

FRANCISCAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP

From: Handbook for Franciscan Servant Leadership, Rev 2010

Franciscan servant leadership is always rooted in conversion. Ongoing conversion-penance-is the fundamental, dominant charism for Secular Franciscans, and is central in our lives. None of us has arrived, and we need to be aware of the need for openness to the grace that will lead us to "right faith, certain hope, and perfect charity" (cf. Francis' Prayer Before the Crucifix, in Armstrong and Brady, p. 103). Franciscan values of ongoing conversion, minority, poverty, and prayer are crucial elements, which underpin a leader's behavior, but each leader brings his or her own unique personality, style, and attitudes to the role. Because conversion is an ongoing process, dynamic growth will continue to shape the ideals as well as practical application of leadership.

In this spirit of ongoing conversion, we remember that Christ is the true leader, and we follow. We hear the call, express our commitment, and recognize the vision. Acting as servant leaders, we share our gifts

and encourage others to share theirs. We understand that the best leadership is collaborative. We recognize that there is a place for each one of us, and we value our differences.

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

POETIC REFLECTION

Pentecost 2019

By Helen Broxmeyer, 6/9/2019

May God have mercy on all of us who are Church;
As we stumble, dazed, toward an uncertain future,
Relentlessly pursued by the Furies of public disgrace.

Will the fire come down this time? We need the Holy
Spirit to burn away the familiar – to draw us
Into the Cloud of Unknowing, where all is silence,

Nothing can be seen through the fog, and there's no choice
But to let go, and to let God speak to us
The unexpected truth we need to hear.

Note: "The Cloud of Unknowing" is a treatise on mystical contemplation. It was written by an anonymous 14th century monk. While I found the treatise too difficult to understand, eventually the title became meaningful to me as a thing in itself.

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday, August 4, 2019

Location: St. Joseph Catholic Church

Schedule: 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
1:30 – Opening Prayer – **Gail Dowling, OFS**, Elections – nobody may enter or leave once doors close. (*Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*, p.41)
Followed by Social time with meal*, 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 sweets; if your last name begins with I-Z bring savorys.

INITIAL FORMATION:

Senior Candidates: Chapter 30 in The Franciscan Journey

Candidates: Chapter 20 in The Franciscan Journey

Inquirers: Chapter 8 in The Franciscan Journey

All are welcome to join the Initial Formation groups. No preparation is necessary, only your Franciscan experience.

ON-GOING FORMATION:

Due to elections, there will be no ongoing formation at the August meeting.

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: #82 – Sing Praise to Our Creator (verses 1 and 2) : pg. 1597

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. 786

Reader: **Vicki Shanholtz, 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.