



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

<https://tauofs.org/>

January 2020

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Peace and all good!

At the start of a new year, there is much for which to be grateful. It's a time for both looking back, and looking forward; a time of hope and anticipation, of fresh starts and new beginnings. And yet, we must remember that ours is not a world at peace — a reality marked by the the 53rd World Day of Peace on January 1, 2020, and Pope Francis' accompanying message.

In a phrase that bears repeating, Pope Francis urges us all to offer the peace of Christ to our fellow men and women, and to pursue ways of thinking and speaking that “*can make us artisans of justice and peace.*”

What a powerful and empowering idea: “artisans of justice and peace”! This tells us that not only is peace something we must work at and for, it is also something that requires the diligence and creativity of a craftsman; an artisan.

As Franciscans, we have a special call to cultivate peace. Pope Francis says in his World Day of Peace message that the only way to do this — the only way to dispel the current dynamic of distrust so evident in our own country and around the globe — is to pursue “a genuine fraternity based on our common origin from God and exercised in dialogue and mutual trust.”

That starts with what our own Rule asks of us: “Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters... Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ” (No. 5 & No. 13).

“All people”. There is no “other”. Perhaps, if the world could embrace this concept, it would indeed be on the path to becoming a more peaceful place. Until then, let us do our Franciscan part, as “artisans of peace”.

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley

RECAP OF LAST GATHERING

OPENING PRAYER

Read by Vera Stewart, OFS

Prayer for a Fruitful Advent

My hidden Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You with profound gratitude for uniting Yourself with fallen humanity. When You first entered into this world, You remained hidden for nine months in the immaculate womb of Your Blessed Mother. She carried You, body and blood, soul and divinity, within the sanctuary of her body. She also carried You within her heart as a result of her perfect love for You and her perfect obedience to the will of the Father.

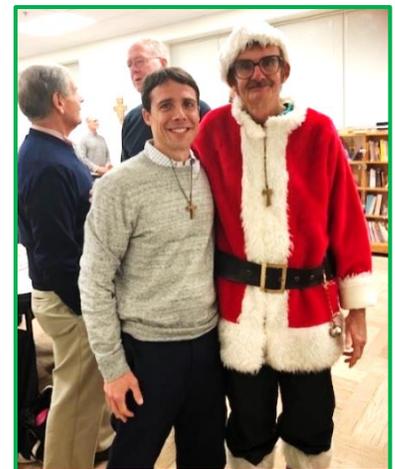
Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your Incarnation has on my life and I desire to receive those effects more fully this Advent. May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your presence into the world.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. I abandon myself to You and seek to put all my trust in Your tender care. Draw me close to You and free me from my sin so that I may love You with a pure and holy heart.

Mother Mary, as You carried your dear Son in your immaculate womb, you also carried Him in your heart. Pray for me, this Advent, that I may surrender myself to the will of the Father in imitation of you. You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you and never hesitated to fully embrace His divine will. Pray that I may imitate your perfect example so as to share a deeper union with you and your divine Son.

Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



After the opening prayer, Tau Fraternity enjoyed a joyous Christmas party! It was festive, fun, and full of food!!



PRAYER SUBMISSIONS

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

For physical and spiritual healing of Sally White; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; Helen Broxmeyer; William Brewster; Irene Naveau; and Kay Flynn. For the patients and Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. For the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic and its patients. For all peoples who suffer persecution. For the victims of natural disasters. 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, OFS by the 14th of the month, so that they may be included in the newsletter.

APOSTOLATES

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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 HOSPICE APOSTOLATE

Thanks to all of the volunteers who cooked a meal for hospice patients on our Saturday, December 14 visit to the Gift of Peace House run by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters in Washington, DC. In addition to the regulars, we even had a prospective Inquirer join the volunteers. As always, thanks also to St. John Neumann parish in Reston, for providing funds to pay for the food we cook.

Congratulations to six of the Sisters who professed their final vows on December 9, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The Profession was presided over by The Most Reverend Mario Dorsonville, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington. Please pray for these joyful (in their words) "finally professed" Sisters, some of whom will stay at the local convent while others will live and work in other parts of the country.

To learn more about this apostolate and how to volunteer, please contact Pat B., OFS or Joe m., OFS. All are welcome!

INDIVIDUAL APOSTOLATES

MOTHER OF MERCY FREE CLINIC

The clinic requested 60 Spanish and 20 English Christmas cards for their patients during Advent and Christmas. Tau sent these cards and additional religious items for the clinic and its chapel. The clinic is especially grateful to **Jim Haynes OFS** who made and donated blessed rosaries for the chapel and patients. If you have rosaries, religious items, and or prayer cards you would like to donate, please bring to the Tau monthly gathering for Sally. Vera can deliver to Sally if she is unable to be present.

WARM FEET SOCK DRIVE



The race on for the prize of who donates the most socks for the homeless. Right now **Joe Boyle** is ahead by a mile. Thank you for all the donations. The socks will be delivered during January when weather forecasters project a very cold January and February. Please bring you socks to the Tau monthly gatherings. Give them to Vera is Sally is unable to be present.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR DEPLOYED TROOPS

Please continue to bring in all unused Christmas cards for our deployed troops. Boxes of 1800 signed cards are on their way for this year. All your cards will now be saved and signed throughout 2 020 for the next holiday shipment, November 2020. Thank you for all the cards this year. Remember cards without glitter go to deployed troops and cards with glitter go to veterans. Please bring your cards to Tau monthly gatherings and give to Vera to bring to Sally.

Picture on Left: Frank Bowen, OFS praying over boxes of cards for troops



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
Interfaith/Ecumenical Committee – Kimberley Heatherington, OFS
Infirmary Committee – Sally White, OFS
Recruitment Committee – Vacant
Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

INTERFAITH AND ECUMENICAL COMMITTEE

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place January 18-25, 2020.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Churches of all faiths are called together to form a vibrant and prayerful witness for Christian Unity by heeding Jesus's prayer "that they all may be one."

The Week has been celebrated for over 100 years; it was first marked in 1908. Our diocese typically holds an ecumenical prayer service; Kimberley will send the details via email in January.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) page for the Week can be found at this URL:
www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/events/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity.cfm

The theme for the 2020 observance is "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (cf. Acts 28:2). The theme and text for each year's observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are chosen and prepared by representatives of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and representatives of the World Council of Churches. The international texts are developed, adapted, and published for use in the USA by the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, you can join others in this prayer:

Loving God, we ask that You would grant us the spirit of wisdom and unity, so that we may be one, even as you are one with our Lord Jesus Christ – and He with You.

Enable all the members of the body of Christ, to live together in unity and fellowship with one another, and lead us into the paths of peace and righteousness-so that we may be well pleasing in Your sight.

We ask You to teach us how to love one another as Christ loved us and help us to show one another the unusual kindness that can only come from knowing Your Son Jesus. May the Spirit stir up in our hearts a desire to be united as one, in the bond of peace and fellowship. This we ask in Jesus' name.

Amen

INFIRMARIAN COMMITTEE



Elves supporting the Infirmarian Christmas gift bags sent bags to four of our professed excused members. Thank you to Elves Vera Stewart, OFS; Kimberley Heatherington, OFS; and Cynthia Filan-Kim, OFS for donating handmade gifts and homemade cakes for the gift bags.

Volunteers are needed to help Sally White with infirmarian activities such as sending cards, making calls, visiting and occasionally hospital visits. Already there are Tau brothers and sisters who make hospital calls, take members to doctors' appointments and other activities. But in some cases, there are others who do not receive help. If you can help occasionally, please call or email Sally. Thank you especially to **Joe Boyle** who stepped up to visit and call **Ed Geiger, OFS**, during his last months. His family really appreciated his visits. His wife,

Beth, said the birthday cards from the fraternity made Ed's last birthday very special.

There are no guidelines available for the fraternity for the Infirmarian. The National Fraternity is unaware of any guidelines. We do need some short guidance for hospital visits or hospice visits. If anyone has an experience in this area Sally would appreciate your guidance.

The professed excused members who may not be able to make meetings for health reasons are still active in their prayers for our fraternity members. All are members of the Diocese Prayer Warriors for the Mother of Mercy Free Clinic. They devote a minimum of one hour a week of prayer for the patients of the clinic as well as for the clinic's need to serve the poor. Also, these members send items to the monthly newsletter and continue to other's individual apostolates. Please continue to remember them in your prayers and that most do not have access to email so please send them a note.



TAU FRATERNITY FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, December 7, 2019 the Tau Fraternity had a field trip to see the Greccio Living Nativity at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, Maryland.



Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS: What a wonderful evening and what a blessing to be out under the stars with Christ the King and experience the simplicity and beauty of the true meaning of Christmas! Thanks to all and especially to Joe for coordinating this wonderful trip and cherished memory! Peace!

COMING UP IN JANUARY

January is the Month of the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Childhood *

- Jan 1 – Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord – Holy Day of Obligation
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- Jan 2 – Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
Vicki Shanholtz' Birthday
- Jan 4 – Feast of Blessed Angela of Foligno
Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Veronica O'Donnell's Profession
- Jan 5 – Feast of St. John Neumann
Tau Fraternity Meeting
- Jan 6 – Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 11 – Kimberley Heatherington's Profession
- Jan 12 – Baptism of the Lord
Gail Dowling's and Walter Gawlak's Birthday
- Jan 23 – Feast of the Marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Jan 24 – Feast of St. Francis de Sales
Paola Larin's, Terry Rinker's, and Vera Stewart's Profession
- Jan 25 – Carol Clarke's Birthday
- Jan 27 – Irene Naveau's Birthday
- Jan 29 – Feast of St. Francis de Sales
Gil Donahue's Profession
- Jan 31 – Feast of St. John Bosco
Richard Clarke'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

When: March 7, 2020

Where: St. Joseph Catholic Church

SAVE THE DATE

A Franciscan Lenten Journey of Hope

When: March 28, 2020

Where: Archbishop Curley High School
3701 Sinclair Lane
Baltimore, MD

SAVE THE DATE

Day of Reflection

Who: Inquirers, Candidates, & Newly Professed

When: April 4, 2020

Where: Shrine of St. Anthony
12290 Folly Quarter Rd.
Ellicott City, MD

Annual Tau Retreat

When: May 15 – 17, 2020

Where: Priestfield Pastoral Center
4030 Middleway Pike
Kearneysville, WV

Fee: Single room \$231.50,
Double \$211.50

FRANCISCAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP

What is a Servant Leader?
Anne Mulqueen, OFS, TAU Spring 2013

A Secular Franciscan Servant Leader:

- + Demonstrates spiritual and psychological maturity
- + Shows respect for every member of the fraternity
- + Demonstrates the Franciscan charism by their actions
- + Is compassionate and just
- + Is humble and open to the wisdom of others
- + Is willing to collaborate with and EMPOWER others
- + Possesses good communication skills
- +;Is willing and able to share necessary information with the entire fraternity

Talents of Servant Leader:

- Is willing to accept new ideas as suggested by members of the fraternity
- Is able to communicate a sense of ownership and accountability to fraternity members—collaboration and teamwork (develops commitment)
- Is able to develop new leaders while leading
- Is able to focus and mobilize the energy of the fraternity
- Possesses communication skills that pull the fraternity together

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2020

Location: St. Joseph Catholic Church

Schedule: 12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation
1:30 Opening Prayer – **Gail Dowling, 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

* BYOB - Please bring your own beverage, plate, cup, and utensils 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:

Senior Candidates: The Little Flowers of Saint Francis

Candidates: Chapter 25 in The Franciscan Journey

Newest Candidates: Chapter 13 in The Franciscan Journey

Aspirants: Chapter 1 in The Franciscan Journey

All are welcome to attend Initial Formation groups. No preparation is necessary. Only your Franciscan spirit.

ON-GOING FORMATION:

We will engage in an open discussion of where last year's spiritual awakening has brought us in terms of the action component of our Franciscan vocation. No reading is necessary, however, those of you who have To Live as Francis Lived (Foley, Weigel, and Normal) or the updated version, Live Like Francis (Weigel and Foley) might want to briefly review Reflections 34 - 44.

THE ANGELUS

During Epiphany 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:

Epiphany:

Hymn: #81 – As With Gladness Men of Old (Verses 1 - 3)

Everything else: pg 214

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.