



# PACE E BENE

## TAU FRATERNITY

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

<https://tauofs.org/>

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**June 2020**

### **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Peace and all good!



As you probably already know, the month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is perhaps one of the most identifiable images in our Church and in our culture — an image that almost immediately says “Catholic”. But in my experience, those of other denominations also find it appealing. Indeed, I did, too, before I converted to Catholicism.

Why is that? What makes this particular depiction of Jesus so engaging?

Well, the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* — issued by the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments — says this:

“Understood in the light of the Scriptures, the term ‘Sacred Heart of Jesus’ denotes the entire mystery of Christ, the totality of his being, and his person considered in its most intimate essential: Son of God, uncreated wisdom; infinite charity, principal of the salvation and sanctification of mankind. The ‘Sacred Heart’ is Christ, the

Word Incarnate, Saviour, intrinsically containing, in the Spirit, an infinite divine-human love for the Father and for his brothers.”

Yes; that’s the theological version.

But our own very human hearts are not necessarily responding to the Sacred Heart by way of a theological proposition. No, our response is one of love. And that love is reflected back to us in the heart of Jesus.

Take a look at the Sacred Heart image above (which I will be sending you a holy card of during June). This is a wounded heart. It bleeds. It is pierced. It is encircled by a crown of thorns. It has experienced the physical and spiritual rejection of mankind. And yet, it is literally on fire — still on fire with love for humanity, in spite of all that. Jesus’ Sacred Heart is like a furnace of love — love for us, with all of our weaknesses, and all of our strengths.

That, I think, is why this image is so popular. And why it is one that can accompany us, and remind us of Jesus’ infinite love, throughout the whole year — not just in June.

Thanks to all Tau brothers and sisters for your enthusiastic adaptation to our new Coronavirus-induced “virtual” community! While videoconferencing is not a substitute for in-person gatherings and fellowship, it is the safest path for us for the immediate future. When will we be able to meet at St. Joseph again? That’s still not clear. Your Council will be observing the directions of the relevant authorities as we move forward through this unusual time, and we will be in regular communication as there are new developments.

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley

## **RECAP OF LAST GATHERING**

### OPENING PRAYER

Read by Cynthia Filan-Kim, OFS:

#### ***Pope Francis Prayer During the Coronavirus Pandemic***

O Mary,  
you always shine on our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm.  
You, Salvation of the Roman People,  
know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide  
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.  
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

### CEREMONY OF INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING

Three of the Aspirants were in attendance. Tau Minister Kimberley Heatherington, OFS conducted the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming (page 9 of *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*) with the following:

- Lisa Jaeger
- Barbara Slivers
- Sharon Goldberg

The Fraternity welcomed the members, who are now elevated to Aspirants. Stanley Hoover tried calling in but seemed to have technical difficulties. (The Fraternity later welcomed Stanley at the virtual retreat on May 16<sup>th</sup>.)

### FORMATION

Walter Gawlak, OFS began ongoing formation by asking if members like the new book we are reading – *Francis and Clare: A True Story* by Jon M. Sweeney. Some highlights from the discussion are:

- During the coronavirus, we are being forced to old ways of prayer and penance, like Clare.
- Poverty is being in the present, living in the moment, not dwelling in the past or worrying about the future.

- We are facing uncertainty, similar to what Francis encountered.

Walter then lead us into a discussion on the first three chapters. He asked the following questions:

**Chapter 1:**

- Have you experienced the joy-filled spirit of Francis and Clare or has isolation, uncertainty, and anxiety made it too difficult?
- Have you figured out how to live more like Jesus?

**Chapter 2:**

- Are Francis and Clare more or less relatable if they are asexual as presented in the chapter?

**Chapter 3:**

- Francis' encounter with the leper revealed a number of spiritual insights. Which meant the most to you?

Lastly, Walter asked if the reading led members to read the Rule.

Next month, read Chapters 4 through 6. We will discuss.

**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 and her daughter Susan; William Brewster; Irene Naveau; Kay Flynn; and Catherine Williams. For the patients and Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. For the people affected by Coronavirus and their caregivers. 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.

**DURING THIS TIME OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, ALL OF US HAVE FELT THE INFLUENCE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. IT HAS IMPACTED HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, INCOME, AND PEACE OF MIND. YOUR TAU COUNCIL WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT, IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE DURING THIS TIME, PLEASE REACH OUT TO ANY OF US TO SEE HOW THE FRATERNITY MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.**

**APOSTOLATES**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Help to feed the hungry. Food donations for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry will be collected during each monthly gathering. Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS volunteered to deliver food to the St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter at her parish. Money from the Tau General Fund will be used to purchase needed food items. If you wish to contribute, please send a check to Cyndy or to the Tau P.O. Box.

Thank you!

## MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE APOSTOLATE

Please continue to keep in prayer the patients and the work of the Sisters at the Gift of Peace House, a hospice run by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters in Washington, DC. Tau Fraternity volunteers continue their work to support the hospice patients throughout these early days of the pandemic. In the coming months, we will do “curbside drop offs” of a meal cooked by volunteers at home instead of in the hospice kitchen and delivered directly to the Gift of Peace House.

We delivered a meal in May and are scheduled to cook and deliver another meal for the patients in June, with a date to be determined on or around June 20. (Note this is not our regular day.) Only a couple volunteers are needed for June, to help cook a side dish at home (to be picked up curbside by Joe). Pat will recontact Fraternity members who volunteered but were not needed in May. Over time, we will need lots of help. (Of course, please volunteer only if you are virus free, and have no symptoms or contact with someone who has the virus, as the hospice patients are especially vulnerable.)

Finally, at the time of this writing, know that the hospice patients and Sisters are all safe. Pat reports that the Sisters say that not a single patient or Sister has had the virus, as they stay in strict quarantine. Praise the Lord! The Sisters remain grateful for our prayers, and especially appreciate our help with meals as they have had no on-site volunteers as part of their efforts to keep patients virus-free.

Thanks to St John Neumann Church for its financial support, and also to those volunteers who cooked or donated food for the meal in May.

Please contact Pat B., OFS or Joe M., OFS if you are interested in supporting this apostolate in any way.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## 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  
Infirmarian Committee – Sally White, OFS  
Recruitment Committee – Vacant  
Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

## INFIRMARIAN COMMITTEE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your prayers for Catherine Williams, OFS. She is now home. Please do not call her or her family. Sally White, OFS will be checking in with her daughter daily. If they need anything or if Catherine's health changes, she will let Tau Fraternity know. Catherine needs your continued prayers. Cards are welcome. Here's a message from her daughter:

Hi Sally, You can let the group know that my mom is at home now. She will be in quarantine with me and my husband at home now. The hospital arranged home health services, and we will be following up with her primary car virtually. We are trying to get into a new routine and resting because we are very tired. We will check in later next week. Members can send cards to cheer Cathy if they like. It might be too exhausting for phone calls. Amy

# IFC LUNCHTIME LIVE!

A NEW SERIES OF LIVESTREAMED CHATS ON TIMELY TOPICS WITH CLERGY, LAY LEADERS AND YOU.\*

**On the Front Lines: Experiences of a Hospital Chaplain During the Pandemic**

**Tuesday, June 2, 12:30-1pm**

**Moderator: Symi Rom-Rymer, IFC Outreach Director**

**Speakers: David Balto, Jewish Chaplain, Washington Hospital Center**

\*We invite you to join in the conversation in real time. If you can't make the live chat, send in your questions ahead of time. All chats will be recorded and put on our social media for later viewing.



On the front lines: Experiences of a hospital chaplain during the pandemic with Rabbi David Balto. Moderated by Symi Rom-Rymer, IFC Outreach Director. Join the conversation in real time or view it later on IFC social media channels.

Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/276572820415713/>

# CRUX

*Covering all things Catholic*

## Pope joins interreligious prayer, begging God to end pandemic

[Cindy Wooden May 14, 2020](#) CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME - At a time of global "tragedy and suffering" because of the coronavirus, and in view of the long-term impact it will have, believers of every religion should beg mercy from the one God and father of all, Pope Francis said.

During his early morning Mass, Pope Francis joined leaders of every religion marking May 14 as a day of prayer, fasting and acts of charity to ask God to stop the coronavirus pandemic.

Some people might think, "It hasn't affected me; thank God I'm safe.' But think about others! Think about the tragedy and also about the economic consequences, the consequences on education," the pope said in his homily.

"That is why today everyone, brothers and sisters from every religious tradition are praying to God," he said.



Pope Francis listens to the readings at Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae May 14, 2020. He joined leaders of all religions in a day of prayer, fasting and acts of charity, asking God to free the world of the coronavirus pandemic. (Credit: CNS photo/Vatican Media.)

The day of prayer was called for by the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, an international group of religious leaders formed after Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar, signed a document in 2019 on promoting dialogue and “human fraternity.”

During the pope’s Mass, livestreamed from the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, he said he could imagine some people would say that gathering believers of all religions to pray for a common cause “is religious relativism, and you can’t do it.”

“But how can you not pray to the Father of all?” he asked.

“We are all united as human beings, as brothers and sisters, praying to God each according to our own culture, traditions and beliefs, but brothers and sisters praying to God,” the pope said. “This is important: brothers and sisters fasting, asking God to pardon our sins so that the Lord would have mercy on us, that the Lord would forgive us, that the Lord would stop this pandemic.”

But Pope Francis also asked people to look beyond the coronavirus pandemic and recognize that there are other serious situations bringing death to millions of people.

“In the first four months of this year, 3.7 million people died of hunger. There is a pandemic of hunger,” he said, so when asking God to stop the COVID-19 pandemic, believers should not forget the “pandemic of war, of hunger” and so many other evils spreading death.

“May God stop this tragedy, stop this pandemic,” he prayed. “May God have mercy on us and also stop other awful pandemics: those of hunger, war, children without education. And we ask this as brothers and sisters, all together. May God bless us and have mercy on us.”

## **COMING UP IN JUNE**

June is the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus \*

Jun 2 - Ascension of the Lord  
Jun 6 – Anniversary of John Ata’s & Bill Richey’s profession  
Jun 7 – Tau Fraternity Gathering  
Jun 8 – Cooking Hospice Apostolate  
Jun 10 - Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Jun 11 – Memorial of St. Barnabas, Apostle  
Fr. Alberto’s birthday  
Jun 13 – Feast of St. Anthony of Padua  
Jun 15 – Anniversary of Fr. Alberto’s profession  
Jun 21 – Tau Fraternity Anniversary  
Jim Haynes’ birthday  
Jun 22 – Feast of St. Thomas More  
Jun 23 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
Jun 24 – Nativity of St. John the Baptist;  
Jun 29 – Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

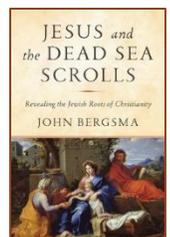


\* See the Franciscan Calendar for more dates: <http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/traditional-franciscan-calendar.html>

## **BOOK REVIEW**

Submitted by Helen Broxmeyer, OFS

***Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls*, John Bergsma, PhD**



This modest-sized readable book describes how the Dead Sea Scrolls provide a living connection between the Old and New Testaments, and between some Jewish practices of the inter-Testament period and the forms taken by the early Church. Subjects covered are: Baptism; the Eucharist; matrimony and

celibacy; Holy Orders; the Church, from St. Paul through the Reformation to the present day; and how the Scrolls shed new light on things about the Gospel of John that have always defied explanation. Though deceptively simple, to me the book's insights seemed brilliant – a synthesis that could be a major contribution to both Old and New Testament studies. (Caution – I'm not a Scripture scholar and might be a little off in this perception.) At the very least, he makes this subject accessible and interesting to the laity.

Dr. Bergsma is a professor of theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He specializes in the study of the Old Testament and the Dead Sea Scrolls. He's a popular lecturer at Franciscan University, and it's easy to see why!

## **NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GATHERING**

Date: Sunday, **June 7, 2020**

Location: TELECONFERENCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS– Call-in information will be sent via email.

Schedule: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

- Opening Prayer: **TBD**
- Family discussion, in lieu of a presentation
- Ongoing Formation: General discussion of assigned material in *Francis & Clare: A True Story*
- Abbreviated Liturgy of the Hours
- Closing Prayer

### **INITIAL FORMATION:**

Senior Candidates: Chapter 30 in [The Franciscan Journey](#)

Candidates: Chapter 18 in [The Franciscan Journey](#)

Inquirers: Chapter 6 in [The Franciscan Journey](#)

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



Read Chapters 4 - 6 in [Francis and Clare: A True Story](#). Consider this passage from Chapter 1, "We need Francis and Clare today. Our souls and bodies need their wisdom and their sensuous approach to life and spirituality. And we need them to remind us of what it means to take steps toward living like Christ." Was this month's reading assignment just another obligatory chunk of book to be read, or did what you consumed in the chapters draw something from the lives of Francis and Clare that lead your steps to living like Christ in even the smallest way?

### **Prayer to Jesus for Healing and Guidance**

Jesus, Son of God, you were sent by the Father to bear our weakness; be with us in this time of crisis. Merciful Savior, heal and comfort the sick, so that with health restored, they may give you praise. Divine Physician, accompany our caregivers so that, serving with patience, they may heal wisely. Eternal Wisdom, guide our leaders so that, seeking remedies, they may follow your light. Christ, the Anointed, protect us in body and spirit, so that, freed from harm, we may be delivered from all affliction. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

### **LITURGY OF THE HOURS:**

Trinity Sunday:

We will follow the abbreviated, which is available online for free at <https://us.magnificat.net/free>.

Reader: **TBD**

**If you would like to volunteer to provide the opening prayer or to do the Liturgy of the Hours Reading, please contact Kimberley Heatherington, OFS.**

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.