



# 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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**July 2020**

### **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Peace and all good!

By e-mail, I recently shared with you the Statement on Racism from the National Commission of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation of the U.S. Secular Franciscan Order. We also discussed this document and its implications during our June 7 virtual fraternity meeting.

It is included again in this newsletter. This is a document not just to be pondered, but to be prayed with. It says in part:

“...racism is morally wrong. It does not love or respect life. Neither Scripture, our Rule of Life nor our faith justifies it, for any reason, or under any circumstance.”

Racism is not solely a matter of politics, as news outlets both broadcast and print — and at every point on the editorial spectrum, from progressive to conservative — may have led us to think in recent days.

No, while the topic of racism can be co-opted for political purposes, it is — irrevocably and fundamentally — a matter of human dignity.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us in Article No. 1935:

“The equality of men rests essentially on their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it: ‘Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God’s design.’”

Positive racial change has not actually been happening for very long — not when set against centuries of legalized oppression.

Following is a picture of nuns of various orders and priests, marching during the Civil Rights era.



This is a stirring example of the Church standing for social justice.

And yet, faithful Catholics — including religious orders — were slave owners during the centuries this country treated other human beings as property. One particularly notable example: In 1838, 272 African-American men, women, and children were sold by the Maryland Jesuits — and a portion of the proceeds was used to pay the debts of Georgetown College (now Georgetown University, also run by the Jesuits). The slaves had lived on Jesuit-owned plantations.

Contrast that with the demonstration picture some 125 years later. Change comes — but not always quickly.

Commentator David French — formerly of the *National Review* — provided in a recent article this timeline for historical perspective:

1. Slavery was legal and defended morally and (ultimately) militarily from 1619 to 1865.
2. After slavery, racial discrimination was lawful and defended morally (and often violently) from 1865 to 1964.
3. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not end illegal discrimination or racism, it mainly gave black Americans the legal tools to fight back against legal injustices.
4. It is unreasonable to believe that social structures and cultural attitudes that were constructed over a period of 345 years will disappear in 56.
5. Moreover, the consequences of 345 years of legal and cultural discrimination, are going to be dire, deep-seated, complex, and extraordinarily difficult to comprehensively ameliorate.

This country has indeed come a long way — but if we are honest about both past and recent events, it still has a long way to go. To say so is not to disparage America, or to be unpatriotic — it is to want to make America better; to bring it to social and spiritual fullness. And that is truly a very patriotic desire.

As Franciscans, we can help in that national project by always standing for the human dignity of all people. All people — in all places, in all circumstances, and at all times. Indeed, the *Rule* we are vowed to calls us to that very action:

“Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.” — *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*, No. 13

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley

## **RECAP OF LAST GATHERING**

### OPENING PRAYER

Read by Gail Dowling, OFS:

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.  
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work too may be holy.  
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.  
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.  
Guard me then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy  
Amen.

St. Augustine

## FORMATION

Walter Gawlak, OFS began ongoing formation with a discussion on chapters four through six of *Francis and Clare: A True Story* by Jon M. Sweeney. He asked the following questions:

Chapter 4 – What would a poor church look like?

Chapter 5 – Who is my Father?

Chapter 6 – Is joy still a Franciscan charism?

Next month, read Chapters 7 through 9. We will discuss.



HUMILITY IS TO THE VARIOUS VIRTUES WHAT THE CHAIN IS IN A ROSARY. TAKE AWAY THE CHAIN, AND THE BEADS ARE SCATTERED; REMOVE HUMILITY, AND ALL VIRTUES VANISH

St. John Vianney

<http://www.catholictradition.org/Saints/saintly-quotes19.htm>

## 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.

Thank you!

### MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE APOSTOLATE

Tau Fraternity volunteers continue their work to support the hospice patients at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House in Washington, DC. We did another “curbside drop off” of a meal in June, cooked by volunteers at home instead of in the Sisters’ kitchen, and delivered to the hospice.

At the time of this writing, know that the hospice patients and Sisters remain safe. Still no patient or Sister has had the virus, according to Mother Superior. The Sisters appreciate our continued prayers, and also our help with meals as they continue to have no on-site volunteers as part of their efforts to keep patients virus-free.

Unrelated to the pandemic, please pray for the repose of the soul of Robert Miller, a beloved hospice patient who passed in June.

Thanks again to those volunteers who cooked or donated food for the meal in June, and to Saint John Neumann Church for its financial contribution toward this ministry.

Please contact Pat B., OFS or Joe M., OFS if you are interested in supporting this apostolate in any way. For the safety of the patients, we anticipate continuing with the curbside approach over the coming months.

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

## INTERFAITH/ECUMENICAL COMMITTEE

**Cardinal suggests U.S. cities hold prayer events to promote healing**

By Carol Glatz [Catholic News Service](#)

**6.3.2020 9:10 AM ET**



Protesters pray together during a protest at Memorial Plaza in Phoenix June 2, 2020, following the death of George Floyd, an African American man who was taken into custody by Minneapolis police and later died at a Minneapolis hospital. (CNS photo/Rob Schumacher, The Republic, USA TODAY NETWORK via Reuters)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- With anger and frustration still high in the United States over the death of George Floyd, religious leaders should organize ecumenical and interreligious prayer initiatives to bring people together and promote healing, said a top Vatican official.

"The one thing that can help George at this moment is prayer," Cardinal Peter Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, told Vatican News June 3.

The Catholic Church and others have been calling for nonviolent efforts in the wake of the tragedy of his death and to stand up to ongoing racism, but the cardinal said he would "go one step further" and promote a call for forgiveness.

"This, I think, is the way we can dignify the memory of George Floyd," the cardinal said in the interview.

"No amount of demonstration, anger, frustration or whatever can bring him back. There is only one thing that can be useful to George at this moment" as he stands before God, and that is "the forgiveness of his killers. Just as Jesus did," said the Ghanaian-born cardinal.

In those U.S. cities that have seen violence, the cardinal "humbly" suggested bishops, priests, pastors and leaders of various communities plan an "ecumenical, interreligious event."

It could take place in a park or other open area with the goal of bringing people together to pray, he said.

"It would give them the chance to express their pent-up anger, feeling and all of that, but in a way that is wholesome, in a way that is religious, in a way that is healing," he added.

The cardinal said the Catholic Church "cannot help but laud the position of George Floyd's brother," Terrence, who has condemned violent protests and said his brother wanted to see peace.

"The United States has a long history of nonviolent demonstrations," Cardinal Turkson said. "Martin Luther King led a lot of them, and they were all nonviolent probably because they were well-planned, and they had a leader -- a leader who could instill his sense of nonviolence in all who followed him."

Racism is a widespread problem in society, he said, therefore, addressing its root causes requires teaching people what "the sense of humanity, what the sense of the human family is all about. We share the same sense of dignity bestowed on us by God, created in his image and likeness."

## **JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION**

Submitted by Gil Donahue, OFS,  
JPIC Coordinator  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Professing as Secular Franciscans obligates us not only to be good Catholics, but also to live according to our Rule. Here below are the main tenets of the Rule that relate to JPIC (all references are from Chapter Two: The Way of Life). Secular Franciscans should give thoughtful consideration to how fully they are carrying out these aspects of the Rule in their daily lives and as a fraternity.

**LIVE THE GOSPEL LIFE** (para 4): *Observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.*

**ENCOUNTER CHRIST IN OTHERS** (para 5): *Seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity.*

**BE WITNESSES AND INSTRUMENTS OF THE CHURCH'S MISSION** (para 6): *Go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.*

**CONFORM TO CHRIST AND UNDERGO RADICAL INTERIOR CHANGE** (para 7): *Conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls "conversion."*

**PARTICIPATE IN SACRAMENTAL LIFE** (para 8): *Participate in the sacramental life of the Church.*

**IMITATE MARY'S COMPLETE SELF-GIVING** (para 9): *Express their ardent love for [the Virgin Mary] by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.*

**OBEY CHRIST DESPITE DIFFICULTIES** (para 10): *Follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to Him even in difficulties and persecutions.*

**DETACH FROM TEMPORAL GOODS/SIMPLIFY LIFE** (para 11): *Seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs.*

**BE FREE TO LOVE GOD AND OUR FELLOW CREATURES** (para 12): *Set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.*

**ACCEPT ALL PEOPLE** (para 13): *With a gentle and courteous spirit, accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.*

**BUILD A BETTER WORLD** (para 14): *Build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively.*

PROMOTE JUSTICE (para 15): *Individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice.*

RESPECT OCCUPATIONS (para 16): *Esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community.*

RESPECT LIFE (PARA 17): *Cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life.*

RESPECT ALL CREATURES (para 18): *Respect all creatures, animate and inanimate.*

BE BEARERS OF PEACE/SEEK OUT UNITY AND FRATERNAL HARMONY (para 19): *Be bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, [and] seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue.*

BRING JOY AND HOPE TO OTHERS (para 19): *Strive to bring joy and hope to others.*

## **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 5 – Tau Fraternity Virtual Gathering

Jul 6 – Feast of St. Maria Goretti

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>

## Precious Blood Prayers

### **Pleading the Blood of Jesus**

“Father in heaven, may we all be cleansed by the saving Blood of Jesus; may our consciences be purged of dead works. Scripture says that evil is defeated by the Blood of the Lamb, so we ask that the Blood of Jesus cover all who are in need of protection (all civil, religious and lay leaders, our families, friends, enemies, all those for whom we have promised to pray, and ourselves). We mark the borders of our nation and the doorposts of our churches, homes, schools and places of employment with the Precious Blood of Jesus. Also, we cover our vehicles that no one may ever be injured through them. Thank You, Lord, for shedding Your Blood for us. May the Water and Blood that came from the side of Jesus create a protecting fountain of grace, one which flows directly from the throne of God to us. Come, Lord, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit.”

### **When blessing yourself with Holy Water**

“By this Holy Water and by Your Precious Blood, Lord Jesus, wash away all my sins.”

## **When entering or leaving your house**

“Precious Blood of Jesus, shed on the Cross for us, bless this house. Take it under Thy protection.”

For more Precious Blood prayers, see <https://www.catholicgallery.org/prayers/prayers-to-blood-of-jesus/>

### **POETIC REFLECTION**

Written by Helen Broxmeyer, OFS

*June 18, 2020*

On and on it went – the Long Lent  
Who could have expected such a thing?  
Trapped inside our homes, we had no alternative  
But to think about our history. And not only our own,  
But looking back in time, we saw a species  
Troubled from its beginnings, its soul torn  
Between creating art and the instruments of destruction.

It was cave drawings or making better war clubs,  
And war clubs always seemed to win out  
Over more introspective pursuits. From the beginning,  
Like Adam and Eve, we worshipped our own intelligence,  
And what we could do with it. But the Long Lent

Forcibly brought to our attention the unpleasant fact  
That while God’s Name is “I AM,” ours had turned out  
To be “WE’RE NOT.” With unaccustomed  
Intensity, we prayed for help – for the Divine Wisdom  
To be infused into us, and into our leaders,  
So we might know in which of many directions  
It made sense to go to escape the pandemic.

For now, there seems to be safety. But let us pray  
That with the return of the illusion that we’re in control,  
We’ll still remember our need for God’s help.

Notes:

“God’s Name”: See Exodus 3:14

“Adam and Eve”: See Genesis, Chapter 3.

### **FRANCISCAN RELATIONSHIPS**

Friday Formation Posted by Diane F. Menditto, OFS  
Chair, National Formation Commission  
Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region

**Our Rule, Chapter 2, Article 14** states:

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself," let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit

of service.

- *How familiar are you with what the Church says about taking a stand when the good of others is called into question?*
- *What are some current situations that require a Christian voice?*
- *How can you offer your gifts and talents in service to your neighbors?*
  - Humility
  - Respect
  - Trust and be trustworthy
  - Confidence – persist in our love
  - Community – collaboration
- *How do these qualities affect and improve our interactions with others?*

### **NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GATHERING**

Date: Sunday, **July 5, 2020**

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

Schedule: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

- Opening Prayer: **Vera Stewart**
- 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 31 in [The Franciscan Journey](#)

Candidates: Chapter 19 in [The Franciscan Journey](#)

Inquirers: Chapter 7 in [The Franciscan Journey](#)

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

We will continue with our exploration of [Francis & Clare - A True Story](#) with Chapters 9 - 11. As we did last month, consider any questions or insights you might have on each of the chapters and send them to me. We will consolidate the feedback to guide our discussion during formation. This is not intended to foreclose any other thoughts you would like to bring to our discussion. Remember: we are sharing and recharging as a community based on what we learn about our beloved Saints.

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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

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 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.