



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

<https://tauofs.org/>

September 2020

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Peace and all good!

As you may know, September 27 is the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The 2020 Day has been “branded”, if you will, with this tagline:

“Like Jesus Christ, forced to flee.”

In other words, modern migrants and refugees, the Church is telling us, can be directly identified with Christ — and indeed, that is how we are called to both see and welcome them.

It would, however, be naive to overlook the fact that the plight of modern migrants and refugees is the source of intense political disagreement — and they often are met not with hospitality, but hostility. Walls are built. Barbed wire is erected at borders. Ships patrol coasts to intercept and turn back. Punitive rules and regulations are enacted.

Sovereign nations have a right to control their borders, it is true. Indeed, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (No. 2241) says so:

Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption.

However, the same paragraph also says this:

The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him.

These two civil and moral observations concerning migrants and refugees are meant to complement one another.

When the Holy Family fled to Egypt (Mt. 2:13-23), the contemporary structure of border controls and immigration restrictions didn't exist. While it is never completely fair or accurate to project the past upon

the present, we might still ask: What kind of reception would the Holy Family find in our world, as modern refugees?

This is not a trite exercise in sentimentality; if we are to see Jesus in all people (*The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* - No. 5 and No. 13), we must realize that today's migrants and refugees are indeed "like Christ, forced to flee." They flee war. They flee disaster. They flee collapsed economies. They flee the impact of climate change.

How would we want to welcome Christ? How should we welcome Christ — present to us in our brothers and sisters fleeing their homes?

As Pope Francis tells us in his message for the 2020 World Day of Migrants and Refugees:

Almost every day the television and papers carry news of refugees fleeing from hunger, war and other grave dangers, in search of security and a dignified life for themselves and for their families ([Angelus, 29 December 2013](#)). In each of these people, forced to flee to safety, Jesus is present as he was at the time of Herod. In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help (cf. Mt. 25:31-46). If we can recognize him in those faces, we will be the ones to thank him for having been able to meet, love and serve him in them.

Displaced people offer us this opportunity to meet the Lord, even though our eyes find it hard to recognize him: his clothing in tatters, his feet dirty, his face disfigured, his body wounded, his tongue unable to speak our language (*Homily*, 15 February 2019). We are called to respond to this pastoral challenge with the four verbs I indicated in my [Message for this Day in 2018](#): welcome, protect, promote and integrate. To these words, I would now like to add another six pairs of verbs that deal with very practical actions and are linked together in a relationship of cause and effect.

The six pairs of verbs — imperatives, really — Pope Francis offers are:

- You have to know in order to understand.
- It is necessary to be close in order to serve.
- In order to be reconciled, we need to listen.
- In order to grow, it is necessary to share.
- We need to be involved in order to promote.
- It is necessary to cooperate in order to build.

We can differ over the most effective means of assisting migrants and refugees. That is indeed in the realm of public policy, where legitimate debate can and does exist. But what we cannot do is simply turn away. Christ compels us — and to abandon them, is to abandon Him.

You can read Pope Francis' entire message for the 2020 World Day of Migrants and Refugees here:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20200513_world-migrants-day-2020.html

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley

RECAP OF LAST GATHERING

OPENING PRAYER

Read by Kimberley Heatherington, OFS:

A Prayer of St. Clare

I behold the Lord.
I see His outstretched hands.

I see the blood from His wounds.
I see the love in the eyes of Jesus.
I see His gracious acceptance of me.

Jesus has come out of the tomb –
He still has the scars, but now they are glorious,
with the glory of heaven.
Still looking at the Lord, I reach out and touch Him.
I hold the Lord – and I am held in His love.
Love enfolds.

It is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me.
I am secure in the Lord.

I can look out, now, through the Lord's eyes.
I can see the world as He created it, in His mercy,
I can see my sisters and brothers with His love,
and I can worship the Father through the eyes of the Son
in the Love of the Holy Spirit.



REGIONAL STATEMENT ON RACISM

The Fraternity discussed the Statement on Racism developed and posted by the St. Margaret of Cortona Region. Gil Donahue, OFS, Regional JPIC Coordinator said that several members of the Regional Council contributed to the statement. The aim is for fraternities to have a conversation. The statement may foster personal conversion and awareness of systemic issues. Externally, the statement lets others in the Franciscan Family know that the St. Margaret of Cortona Region has a statement. Additionally, others who are not Franciscan may become aware of what we think and are doing about it. Some highlights of the discussion are:

- Racism is a sin. It is antithetical to peace and justice.
- Racism is not an issue of politics, but of human dignity.
- The Regional Statement does not address specific issues; it is intentionally broad.

PRESENTATION

Bill Richey, OFS presented a program on "A Great Brazilian Franciscan." He discussed Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns, Archbishop of Sao Paulo and was known for liberation theology and his campaign against Brazil's military dictatorship and its use of torture. He later became Cardinal.

FORMATION

Walter Gawlak, OFS led a discussion of Chapters 10 and 11 of *St. Francis and Clare: A True Story* by Jon Sweeney. He asked the following questions:

Chapter 10, "Being Crucified with Christ" - How important is the stigmata, and what does it mean to your Franciscan vocation? Did the chapter help you to see better?

Chapter 11, "The Canticle of the Creatures" – What do you think of suffering?

Because of the great amount of discussion on these chapters, the fraternity will discuss Chapter 12, "The Sepulcher of St. Francis" next month. We will also discuss Chapters 13 and 14.

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.

PRAYER SUBMISSIONS

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

For the repose of the souls of Catherine Williams and Christopher Stine. For physical and spiritual healing of Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan; William Brewster; Irene Naveau; and Kay Flynn. 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.

APOSTOLATES

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Help to feed the hungry. Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS volunteered to shop and 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

Thanks to those volunteers who helped prepare a dish from home for the August 29 meal for hospice patients at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House in Washington, DC.

Mark your calendars for our next trip to the hospice on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Throughout the pandemic, for the safety of the patients, we will continue to do "curbside drop off" of meals, cooked by volunteers at home instead of in the Sisters' kitchen, and delivered to the hospice.

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

BUILD A LOVING AND JUST DMV: (VIRTUAL) UNITY WALK 2020

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13
12:30-5:30PM**

**VISIT HOUSES
OF WORSHIP
FROM BAHA'I TO
ZOROASTRIAN...**

**JOIN A DIALOGUE ON
RACE AND FAITH, TAKE
A COOKING WORKSHOP
FROM A LOCAL CHEF,
LEARN MORE ABOUT
INTERFAITH
PERSPECTIVES ON
CLIMATE CHANGE AND
MORE!**

Visit ifcmw.org to register



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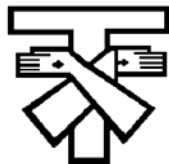
ANNOUNCEMENT

Tau Fraternity will hold a Profession for Beena Job!

When: Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 9:00am

Where: St. Joseph Church

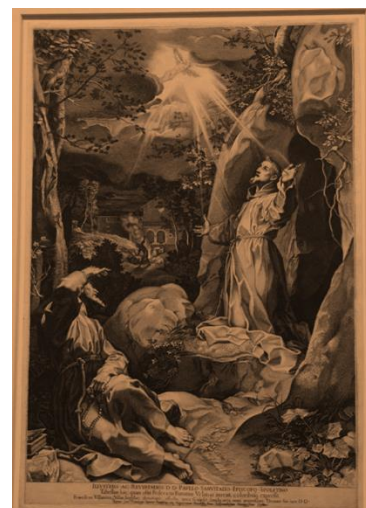
For COVID 19 guidelines, see
<https://sjcherndon.org/documents/2020/7/updated-2020-0728-reintegration%20for%20SJC-4.pdf>



COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

September is the Month of the Holy Cross*

- Sep 3 – Doug Fehrer’s birthday
- Sep 6 – Tau Monthly Meeting
- Sep 7 – John Ata’s birthday
- Sep 8 – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sep 10 – Blessed Martyrs of Japan
Profession Anniversary for Kay Flynn & Irene Naveau
- Sep 11 – Feast of Blessed Bonaventure
- Sep 12 – Feast of the Name of Holy Mary
- Sep 14 – Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Sep 15 – Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows
- Sep 17 – Feast of the Stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi
- Sep 18 – Feast of St. Joseph Cupertino
- Sep 19 – Profession for Beena Job
- Sep 21 – Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle
Profession Anniversary for Pat B., Cyndy Filan-Kim, Josh Goldberg, Joe M.
- Sep 23 – Feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina
- Sep 27 – Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul
106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees
- Sep 29 – Feast of St. Michael the Archangel



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Transitus of St. Francis

When: October 3, 2020

Where: St. Joseph Church

Check emails for more details.

Tau Fraternity Virtual Open House

When: October 4, 2020

Details: Instructions for guests will be included in the announcement in the Arlington Catholic Herald. Bulletin ad information and Call-in information for Tau members will be provided via email.

PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Submitted by Cynthia Filan-Kim, OFS

Lord Jesus, carpenter and king, supreme sovereign of all men, look with tender mercy upon the multitudes of our day who bear the indignities of injustice everywhere. Raise up leaders in every land dedicated to Your standards of order equity, and justice. Grant unto us, Lord Jesus, the grace to be worthy members of Your mystical body, laboring unceasingly to fulfill our vocation in the social apostolate of Your Church. Sharpen our intellects to pierce the pettiness of prejudice; to perceive the beauty of true human brotherhood. Guide our minds to a meaningful understanding of the problems of the poor, of the oppressed, of the unemployed, of all in need of assistance anywhere. Guide our hearts against the subtle lure of earthly things and undue regard for those who possess them. May we hunger and thirst after justice always. Amen.

THE FRANCISCAN STORY

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

We are all part of a history and a story. We are part of the story of our families, of our religion, of the time in which we live. As Franciscans we are also part of the Franciscan story. There are traditions, stories, devotions, prayers and sayings involved with all of these groups. Knowing about them helps us to be part of the family. SOMETIMES what appears to be part of our tradition comes from another source.

Every so often, Formation Friday will highlight one of these important parts of our story.

This week (*July 24*): The Peace Prayer is ATTRIBUTED TO St. Francis, but it was most likely written in France in 1912. It then gained popularity during WWI when Pope Benedict XV had it reprinted in L'Osservatore Romano in 1916.

What makes it seem like it could have been written by St. Francis? Check out the references on the website: <https://franciscantradition.org/> (We give you a few, see how many more you can find by using the search tool provided. (FA:ED means Francis of Assisi: Early Documents)

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE:

["May the Lord give you peace!" Legend of the Three Companions 26]

[The Assisi Compilation: "He makes peace between the bishop and mayor of Assisi adding a verse to the canticle. 84]

["2Those people are truly peacemakers who, regardless of what they suffer in this world, preserve peace of spirit and body out of love of our Lord Jesus Christ." Admonition XV FA:ED, vol. 1, 134]

WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE;

[...he was not afraid to present himself to the sight of the Sultan of the Saracens...57 The Life of Saint Francis by Thomas of Celano: FA:ED, vol. 1, p. 231]

[1The Lord says: Love your enemies [do good to those who hate you and pray for those who persecute and slander you]. Mt 5:44

2For that person truly loves his enemy who is not hurt by an injury done to him, 3but, because of love of God, is stung by the sin of his soul. 4Let him show him love by his deeds. Admonition IX]

WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON;
[True and Perfect Joy FA:ED, vol. 1, 166]

WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;
[See the Prayer Before the Crucifix FA:ED, vol. 1, 40]

WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT;
[See The Major Legend of St. Francis by St. Bonaventure FA:ED, vol. 2, 525 – “His companion said to the holy man: ‘Pray, father, that we may be saved from these threatening dangers!’ Full of confidence, the man of God answered him: ‘God is powerful, {snippet Lk 3:8} if it pleases him in his sweetness, to disperse this darkness and give us the benefit of light.’



WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.
[“3Where there is poverty with joy, there is neither greed nor avarice.a Admonition XXVII FA:ED, vol. 1, 136]

Now you try looking up some references.

O DIVINE MASTER, GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK
TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE,
TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND,
TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE.
FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE,
IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED,
AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE.
AMEN.

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GATHERING

- Date: Sunday, **September 6, 2020**
- Location: TELECONFERENCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS– Call-in information will be sent via email.
- Schedule: 1:30 – 3:30 pm
- Opening Prayer: ****TBD**
 - Presentation: Vera Stewart, OFS
 - Ongoing Formation: General discussion of assigned material in *Francis & Clare: A True Story*
 - Liturgy of the Hours
 - Business Meeting
 - Closing Prayer

INITIAL FORMATION:

Senior Candidates: Chapter 33 (the last) in The Franciscan Journey

Candidates: Chapter 21 in The Franciscan Journey

Inquirers: Chapter 9 in The Franciscan Journey

ON-GOING FORMATION:

What happens when St Francis is no longer there to lead by being Francis? Read Chapters 12 - 14 in Francis & Clare -- A True Story. Be honest, are you more of a Conventional or a Spiritual?

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

LITURGY OF THE HOURS:

Led by John Ata, OFS

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Hymn: #182 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past: pg. 1704

Gospel Cantic and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pgs. 629**

Everything else: Sunday, Week III Evening Prayer II: pg. 861**

Reader: ****TBD**

****Please contact Kimberley Heatherington, OFS if you would like to volunteer to do the following:**

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Liturgy of the Hours Psalm 1**
- **Liturgy of the Hours Psalm 2**
- **Liturgy of the Hours Psalm 3**
- **Liturgy of the Hours Scripture Reading and Responsory.**

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.