



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

<https://tauofs.org/>

March 2021

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Peace and all good!

Can virtue be weaponized?

It's not a trick question; as Catholics, we are catechized in several categories of virtue.

There are the Cardinal Virtues — prudence; justice; fortitude; temperance.

The Theological Virtues — faith; hope; charity.

And the Seven Virtues — as opposed to the Seven Deadly or Capital Sins — chastity; temperance; charity; diligence; patience; kindness; and humility.

All are noble, even exquisite, and overlapping expressions of the fullness of humanity; a sort of template for living a life that deeply values both ourselves and others, defined by balance, compassion, and authentic love.

So — isn't it a bit irreverent to ask if these exalted virtues can be weaponized?

In speaking of the ego, Bishop Robert Barron observes this: "If you want to protect the ego and its prerogatives, you must oppress and demoralize those around you... you attack, put down, insult, and undermine those around you. This is the method of the bully. But the religious version is much subtler and thus more insidious and dangerous. It takes the law itself — especially the moral law — and uses it to accuse and oppress. 'I know what's right and wrong; I know what the Church expects of us; and I know you are not living up to it.'"

Behold: Weaponized virtue.

Bishop Barron is quick to clarify that he is not objecting to what is traditionally referred to as "fraternal correction". In the scope of Catholic ethics, the appropriate exercise of fraternal correction is often regarded as a moral obligation. Indeed, St. Thomas Aquinas says that "to correct the wrongdoer is a spiritual almsdeed. But almsdeeds are works of charity...Therefore, fraternal correction is an act of charity" (*Summa Theologiae*, Second Part of the Second Part, Question 33).

Perhaps this seems like a conundrum — but it's really not. The key lies in the definition and application of "charity" — another word for which is "love".

The text of 1 Corinthians 13 is perhaps the most ideal Scriptural example of the distinction and the principle in action; St. Paul says:

1 If I speak in human and angelic tongues 2 but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, 5 it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, 6 it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. 9 For we know partially and we prophesy partially, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. 12 At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. 13 So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

As Bible Gateway.com notes, "In the original Greek, the word [ἀγάπη](#) (agape) is used throughout...this is translated into English as 'charity' in the King James version; but the word 'love' is preferred by most other translations, both earlier and more recent." That includes the New American Bible, the only Bible translation approved for use at Mass in the United States.

Back to why this is key: If fraternal correction is exercised in love, it's not about the self; it's about love of another. It's about willing their good, and wanting the best for them. It's about being gentle, not confrontational; taking by the hand rather than using it to smack.

But if fraternal correction is exercised on the basis of the ego, out of a self-centered and misapplied righteousness; a sort of "who's the best Catholic" contest, what has happened?

You guessed it: Virtue has effectively been weaponized.

Such an approach doesn't change behavior; it is instead the corrosive tool of discord and resentment; a blunt instrument of alienation, not of hope or healing.

Several years ago, I attended a lecture at Georgetown University; working in the French Embassy, the educational riches of Georgetown were conveniently located right across the street. This presentation was intended to discuss the "new era" of Pope Francis. The word "love" repeatedly occurred during the panel conversation, which included *New York Times* commentator David Brooks. At one point, Mr. Brooks observed that — and I'm paraphrasing here — he found all this talk of love rather wishy-washy. With respect, that misses the point. Love is not wishy-washy; it is a sacrificial act of giving, one that can be not only challenging, but assuredly painful.

Pope Francis hasn't changed any doctrines of the Catholic Church; he can't. His pastoral approach, however — his method of fraternal correction, if you will — is one that is rooted first in love.

In a 2013 interview, Pope Francis observed, "It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds...And you have to start from the ground up."

Let us follow his example.

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley

RECAP OF LAST GATHERING

OPENING PRAYER

Brother Joseph Marie Krilich, TOR offered an opening prayer.

Prayer for the Entire Order

Translated by Father Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, grant us in our misery that we may do for your sake alone what we know you want us to do, and always want what pleases you; so that, cleansed and enlightened interiorly and fired with the flame of the Holy Spirit, we may be able to follow in the footprints of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and so make our way to you, Most High, by your grace alone, you who live and rule in perfect Trinity and simple Unity, and are glorified, God all-powerful, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Walter Gawlak, OFS introduced a video provided by Sally White, OFS and shared on screen by Josh Goldberg, OFS. The video by Bishop Barron, entitled “The Sacraments: Lesson Three – The Eucharist” discussed the importance of the Eucharist. Some highlights from the video are as follows:

- Vatican II said that the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life.
- The Eucharist is the food we desperately need for the journey.
- Without it, we “hit the wall” spiritually.
- The Fourth Lateran Council addressed transubstantiation.
- God’s word is creative. The Word became Flesh, and so when Jesus speaks something, it is.
- God wants to feed people with His life so that we might become “Christified”. We become what we eat. The Eucharist gives us strength for our journey in this life and into the next.

ONGOING FORMATION

Walter Gawlak began small group discussions on two sections of *Fratelli Tutti*. He provided the following questions from the *Fratelli Tutti* Study Guide for the sections on the Good Samaritan and Dialogue:

Good Samaritan

1. Imagine yourself to be each of the characters in the Good Samaritan parable: victim, robber, lawyer, priest, Levite, Samaritan, and innkeeper. Explore each character’s goals, values, and spiritual imagination. How are you like each character?
2. Who are your neighbors as manifested by your actions? Is your circle of neighbors expanding or contracting? Why?
3. How might an expanding notion of being neighbor affect you on some hot-button issues of our day: homelessness, immigration, interracial relations, health insurance, unemployment, global warming, etc.? How would you want to be treated if you were someone affected by this list?
4. Who are the modern thieves who victimize those abandoned by the wayside? How do we confront the robbers and console the victims?

Dialogue

1. When have you felt shut down by someone closed to a thought or opinion you expressed? What was the experience like? What similarity/difference has this experience to bullying? What could have made this experience different?
2. When have you cut somebody off, or rejected an opinion out of hand, totally disinterested in what the person was thinking? What similarity/difference has this experience to bullying? What was the experience like? How could you have handled it differently?
3. What is the process of coming to know a culture other than your own? How does a person start?

After the small group discussions, the Fraternity reconvened and held a 10-minute discussion on Dialogue. A common thread in the discussion was that Christian behavior requires us to be open minded and to listen to others.

PRAYER SUBMISSIONS

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

For physical and spiritual healing Al Carroll and his family; Erik and Paola Larin; Bill Brewster and his son Richard Lee; Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White and her sister Linda; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan; William Brewster; Irene Naveau; and Kay Flynn. For the repose of the soul of Baby Logan. 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 country of Myanmar and its citizens. 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 send prayer requests to Kimberley Heatherington, OFS.

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

Mark your calendars please for Saturday, April 10, the date we will deliver our next meal for the hospice patients at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House in Washington, DC. We continue to serve the hospice patients remotely during the pandemic, cooking dishes in volunteers' own homes.

Thanks to the many Tau Fraternity Sisters and Brothers who were among the volunteers who made the meal delivered on February 13, including professed, candidates, and an aspirant, providing various dishes and desserts. The Sisters so appreciated all you did to make this special meal for patients, some of it St. Valentine themed.

Thanks also to St. John Neumann Parish for its financial contribution to our efforts.

Please contact Pat B., OFS or Joe M., OFS if you are interested in preparing a dish for the April 10 meal or helping the hospice in any other way. And whether or not you are able to cook, please consider remembering the patients and the good work of the Sisters in your daily prayers.

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 – Sharon Goldberg
Recruitment Committee – Vacant
Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS



FOR GLOBAL PEACE WITH JUSTICE



*2020 National Gathering & Congressional Lobby Day
Friday, April 24 - Monday, April 27, 2020
Washington, D.C.*

AdvocacyDays.org
#EAD2020



[/advocacydays](https://www.facebook.com/advocacydays)



[@advocacydays](https://twitter.com/advocacydays)



[/AdvocacyDays](https://www.youtube.com/AdvocacyDays)

LENTEN RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

USCCB Calendar of Activities

Visit this link from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops for a calendar, with daily activities to remember Lent:

https://www.usccb.org/resources/Lent-2021-calendar_English.pdf

Franciscans in the Holy Land - Virtual Way of the Cross

<https://aleteia.org/2021/02/22/franciscans-in-the-holy-land-offer-virtual-way-of-the-cross-for-lent/>

Bishop Barron and Stations of the Cross

Bishop Barron has recorded and released his reflections on the [Stations of the Cross](#), an ancient Christian devotion that draws us into the spiritual space of Jesus' suffering and death.

These beautiful and powerful [video reflections](#) are the perfect resource for this penitential season of Lent.

Watch the free video reflections here:

<https://stations.wordonfire.org>

Virtual Lenten Retreat with Franciscan Sisters, TOR

The Franciscan Sisters, TOR are having a virtual annual Lenten Retreat on **Saturday, March 27th**. The theme is ***Into Your Hands, Father***, focusing on trust and abandonment to our Heavenly Father, seen in the life of Jesus and our own lives! The retreat will offer talks, testimonies, music, meditations, and optional small groups led by a sister.

The sisters will also share short video reflections during Lent, leading up to the retreat, on their [blog](#), [their Facebook page](#) and their [Youtube channel](#), and offer weekly small groups. The deadline to register for these groups has now passed.

There is no fee to register, but registration is required by **Wednesday, March 24th for the retreat and optional one-time small groups**. If you are a part of a parish group, Bible study group, or prayer group, and would like your group to participate, contact Sr. Anna Rose at (740) 544-5542 x135. Individuals and groups of family and friends are also welcome!

See [Lenten Retreat 2021 \(franciscansisterstor.org\)](https://www.franciscansisterstor.org) for updates.

COMING UP IN MARCH

March is the Month of St. Joseph*

- Mar 2 – Feast of St. Agnes of Prague
- Mar 7 – Helen Broxmeyer's birthday
Tau Monthly Meeting
- Mar 14 – Veronica O'Donnell's birthday
Daylight Saving Time
- Mar 17 – Feast of St. Patrick
- Mar 19 – Solemnity of St. Joseph
Josh Golberg's birthday
- Mar 25 – Annunciation of the Lord
- Mar 27 - Passover
- Mar 28 - Palm Sunday
- Mar 29 – Feast of St. John Capistrano



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

LENTEN PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

[Lenten Reflection for Ash Wednesday - Franciscan Friars of the Atonement \(atonementfriars.org\)](http://atonementfriars.org)

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent.
By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.
Without You I can do nothing.

By Your Spirit, help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will.
Teach me to find new life through penance.
Keep me from sin and help me live by Your commandment of love.

God of love, bring me back to You.

Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works.

May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer.

Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ.

Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness.

Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand;

let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace.
Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom.

I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

Amen

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Sunday, **March 7, 2021**

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

Schedule:	1:30 pm – 1:35 pm	Opening Prayer & Member Prayer Offering: TBD
	1:35 pm – 2:15 pm	Presentation Video on Reconciliation
	2:15 pm – 2:25 pm	Break
	2:25 pm – 3:05 pm	Ongoing Formation & Discussion
	3:05 pm – 3:15 pm	Break
	3:15 pm – 3:25 pm	Angelus & Liturgy of the Hours
	3:25 pm – 3:35 pm	Business Meeting
	3:35 pm	Closing Prayer

INITIAL FORMATION:

Senior Candidates: Chapter 27 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Candidates: Chapter 15 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Aspirants: Chapter 3 in *The Franciscan Journey*

ON-GOING FORMATION:

Get to know Saint Clare through her four letters to Saint Agnes of Prague. While you're at it, learn something about our wonderful Franciscan Saint, Agnes. You can find these brief letters by searching on-line. The site I used is: Clare's Letters to Agnes Secular Franciscans + San Luis Rey Fraternity <http://www.slr-ofs.org/st-clares-letters-to-st-agnes-of-prague.html>

If you haven't yet reached out to someone in the Fraternity, how about now? How about a letter such as Clare sent to Agnes? Perhaps, a visit, phone call, note, card, email or, (sigh) text? How about more than one person?

THE ANGELUS

During Lent, 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:

Third Sunday of Lent:

Hymn: #94 – Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days: pg. 1609

Psalms and Canticle: Sunday, Week III Evening Prayer II: pg. 861

Everything else: Third Sunday of Lent: Evening Prayer II: pg. 318

Readers: **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.