



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

<https://tauofs.org/>

June 2021

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Peace and all good!

On Sunday, June 6, the Church celebrates the Feast of Corpus Christi — “The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ”.

Parishes will decorate altars and hold processions, often through neighboring streets. In some countries, vibrant carpets of flower petals or colored sawdust, laid in intricate designs, are spread along the procession route (<https://www.italymagazine.com/featured-story/three-italys-best-infiorata-festivals-tradition-making-carpets-flowers>). An atmosphere both solemn and festive reigns.

But what are we celebrating?

The simple explanation is that Corpus Christi recognizes the abiding presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

But it's not really so simple.

In July, 2019, the Pew Research Center — one of the country's most respected non-partisan think tanks — reported that a full half of Catholics don't know that the Church teaches that the Eucharist is the actual Body and Blood of Christ. Furthermore, among those who are familiar with this teaching of the Church, only one-third actually believe it.

Pew detailed their findings:

“About six-in-ten (63 percent) of the most observant Catholics — those who attend Mass at least once a week — accept the Church's teaching about transubstantiation. Still, even among this most observant group of Catholics, roughly one-third (37 percent) don't believe that the Communion bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Christ (including 23 percent who don't know the Church's teaching and 14 percent who know the Church's teaching but don't believe it). And among Catholics who do not attend Mass weekly, large majorities say they believe the bread and wine are symbolic and do not actually become the body and blood of Jesus.”

Is this just — as some are fond of frequently observing — “bad catechesis”? Perhaps. But then, how to explain those who do know the teaching — but still reject it? Is it just too fantastical, too anti-rational to

still believe in our modern age? In the secular list of Strange Things Catholics Believe, this one is pretty near the top.

So why **do** we believe in the Real Presence? Well, basically, because Christ told us to, in what is known as “The Bread of Life Discourse” (John 6:22-59):

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world”... 53 Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him...” 60 Then many of his disciples who were listening said, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?” 61 Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, “Does this shock you?”... 66 As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.

It’s noted in John 6:52 that Jesus’ listeners took him literally, wondering aloud how he could give them his flesh to eat. Catholic Biblical scholar Edward Sri, Ph.D., observes that in John 6:56, “in fact, Jesus now uses a word for ‘eat’ that has even greater graphic intensity — *trogein*, which means to chew or gnaw — not a word that would be used figuratively here!”

And then, some disciples left him. Would they do that if he was speaking only figuratively? As Sri explains, “He didn’t chase after them, saying, ‘Wait! You misunderstood me.’ They understood quite well that Jesus was speaking about eating his flesh and blood, and they rejected this teaching. That’s why Jesus let them go.”

Still, why would Jesus do this? Sri again: “In the Jewish, Biblical worldview of Jesus’ day, the body is an expression of the whole person and the life is in the blood. So by giving us his Body and Blood in the Eucharist, Jesus is giving his very life to us.”

The Eucharist is, then, a gift of life; a gift of Jesus’ own self. It is the ultimate gift that we can receive — it is Jesus with us, here and now. Forever.

Catholic author Flannery O’Connor — a twentieth century master of the short story genre whose fictional tales are by turns fascinating, bizarre, even offensive, and yet offer startling insight into the operation of grace — recounted a dinner party at which several “big intellectuals” were her fellow guests. During the meal, conversation turned to the Eucharist:

“Mrs. Broadwater said when she was a child and received the Host, she thought of it as the Holy Ghost, He being the ‘most portable’ person of the Trinity; now she thought of it as a symbol and implied that it was a pretty good one. I then said, in a very shaky voice, ‘Well, if it’s a symbol, to hell with it.’ That was all the defense I was capable of but I realize now that this is all I will ever be able to say about it, outside of a story, except that it is the center of existence for me; all the rest is expendable.”

“...It is the center of existence for me.” Shouldn’t we each say the same?

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley

P.S.: On Saturday, June 5 at 11:00 AM ET, watch a free, virtual, two-hour Bible conference from the Augustine Institute — “Source and Summit” — to learn more about the Real Presence. Register here: <https://bibleconference.augustineinstitute.org/>

RECAP OF LAST GATHERING

OPENING PRAYER

Joe Boyle offered an opening prayer:

At times it can be helpful to speak openly and thoroughly to God about what we experience in life. You may feel compelled to talk and talk and talk. And God will listen. But there are other times when words seem quite insufficient. In fact, there are times when words appear to be counterproductive. In those moments the greatest blessings come through silence. We must realize that silence is a language. In fact, communication with God, in moments of silence, has potential to be far deeper than words can bring us. Do not be afraid of silent communication with God. Do not feel as though you must speak or even hear what He has to say. Simply being silent, in His presence, knowing that He is there may be exactly what your soul is in need of in those moments (*Saint Faustina Diary #1200*).

PRESENTATION

Stanley Hoover gave a presentation on the status of his formation. Stanley has actively participated at St. Joseph Parish for 14 years. Through the encouragement of Frank Bowen, OFS, he became a lector. He also served as a third-grade faith formation teacher and scout master. The work with children led him to seek adult interaction.

Stanley is learning about St. Francis' humility and joy through Tau formation and activities. The readings have especially been impactful in his formation. He has changed by increasing his service to others. Also, he has seen improvement in his listening skills and patience. Stanley has also grown in appreciation for creation. He intends to continue growing and embracing constant conversion.

Currently, Stanley is seeking ideas on how to promote Franciscan ideals and activities with parents. He would also like help in gaining support of elementary school principals. Some ideas expressed included:

- Emphasize St. Francis or Franciscan activities on Earth Day.
- Have a program about St. Francis when the church has the blessing of pets.
- Learn about the Franciscan Youth Program (YouFra) and work with the St. Margaret of Cortona Region to foster the program.
- Be aware that some parishes already have youth programs and are not interested in expanding.

ONGOING FORMATION

Walter Gawlak, OFS gave a brief overview of Chapter two of *Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love*. He then opened a discussion on poverty and Clare's desire to be poor. Some highlights of the discussion are:

- Clare's desire for poverty was not a desire for deprivation; it was a desire for dependence on God.
- To be poor in spirit, we need to clean out our soul to make room for God and neighbor.
- Poverty is about freedom from attachments.
- Poverty is not having things out of love.
- To grow in spiritual poverty, we need to empty self of junk; we need to simplify our spiritual life; we need to embrace emptiness so that we can be filled.
- It can be a challenge to give up control or desire for control.
- One thing that Clare gave up was a connection with her biological family.

After the discussion, members were divided into small groups. Each group discussed the following questions:

1. Do you live as a poor person? If not, what prevents you from embracing your poverty?
2. How do you understand the relation between material poverty and spiritual poverty?
3. Does poverty help you become more dependent on others? Do you see yourself in need of others or do you prefer autonomy and individualism?
4. What helps and hinders your openness to God and others?

PRAYER SUBMISSIONS

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

For physical and spiritual healing Al Carroll and his family; Bill Brewster and his son Richard Lee; Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White and her husband Gary; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan; and Irene Naveau. 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

The next food drop off is Saturday, June 12th. Let Pat B., OFS know by June 1 or 2 if you would like to cook.

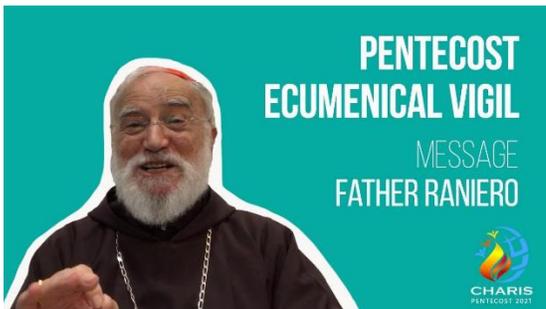
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

INTERFAITH/ECUMENICAL COMMITTEE



Pentecost Ecumenical Vigil

On May 22, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service (CHARIS) — through the Commission for Christian Unity — organized a Pentecost Ecumenical Vigil.

The online Vigil took place live from four locations around the world, beginning in Topeka, KS, and ending in Jerusalem, via Rome and Buenos Aires.

In each of these cities, participants were led in prayer by Christians of different Churches and communities. Together, they prayed to the Holy Spirit for a new Pentecost on the world. All were able to pray together as Jesus himself asked the Father for us (Jn 17:21).

The Holy Spirit was invoked in Jerusalem, the same city where the first Pentecost took place.

Watch a Pentecost Ecumenical Vigil message from Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap., the Franciscan Preacher to the Papal Household:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5E8LoynOrLw>

ORDINATION OF FATHER JOSEPH MARIE KRILICH, TOR



On May 22, 2021, our Spiritual Assistant Brother Joseph Marie Krilich, TOR was ordained into the Priesthood! The Ordination Mass was held at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Congratulations Father Joseph Marie Krilich, TOR!!



GEMS FROM THE ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA VIRTUAL REGIONAL RETREAT

Submitted by Gil Donahue, OFS, JPIC Coordinator

The region held a virtual retreat on Saturday May 22, 2021. About 50 participants listened to three presentations by Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM. The region held a breakout session on how to be prophetic, and also prayed morning and evening prayer. It is hoped that the region will be able to hold an in-person retreat in 2022. Here is a brief synopsis of the key points.

Fr. Kevin Treston's three addresses:

Jonah, the Reluctant Prophet - Instrument of God's Mercy

Franciscans seek to bring peace between warring factions: racism, quarrels, economic differences. Seculars are on the front lines; we live in the world and often have credibility where many priests do not. We should use our talents and position in the secular world to assist the oppressed and those who live in poverty. We follow Christ - love God as self and others - and we are building God's kingdom day by day. Our duty is to spread the gospel, including among those who don't accept it. We should bring new life of peace to others, reconcile with them, and show them how much they are loved by God. Don't be discouraged; God is with you.

Come to the Garden

For Seculars, our garden is the world: nature, justice for the poor, commitment to the good of society, peace in our neighborhood, and the world. Change comes when we are active. Remember, all life is sacred.

Fire upon the Earth - Troubadours of Charity and Peace

Take your place where God has planted you and spread the gospel there.

The 50 participants were divided into breakout rooms to discuss the following:

What is my prophetic role in the local fraternity, the church community and the domestic church?

Responses were summarized as follows:

The role of the prophet is to speak truth to power; be on the cutting edge; say something useful to the community; encourage, not condemn. To be a prophet means to be humble, faithful, talk about the love of God, and bring people back to the church. The term "prophet" has a different nuance from "evangelist." The prophet has to listen and discern what God wants him/her to do. The prophet must be based in scripture and speak the truth.

We can be a prophet in our local churches by participating in apostolates and performing spiritual and corporal acts of mercy. Within the domestic church of our home, we can impact the future of our family. Within our local fraternity, we can reach out to excused members and invite them to play an active role.

In our lives in general, we should wish every person a blessing and we should seek God's blessing of justice for the whole world, which is what Jesus came to do. In every case, we should try to be messengers of perfect joy.

COMING UP IN JUNE

June is the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus *

- Jun 6 – Corpus Christi
Anniversary of John Ata's & Bill Richey's profession
Tau Fraternity Gathering
- Jun 10 - Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Jun 11 – Memorial of St. Barnabas, Apostle
World Day of Prayer for Consecration of the Priests
- Jun 12 – Missionaries of Charity Hospice Apostolate
- Jun 13 – Feast of St. Anthony of Padua
- Jun 20 – World Refugee Day



- Jun 21 – Tau Fraternity Anniversary
Jim Haynes' birthday
- Jun 22 – Feast of St. Thomas More
Stanley Hoover's birthday
- 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>

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Annual Virtual Franciscan Connections Virtual Conference

**Sponsored by The Franciscan Study Center at Tilburg University and
The Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University**

Topic: Lesser Ethics: Retrieving the Good Life in the Franciscan Tradition

When: June 24 & 25, 9:00am – 2:00pm

Free, no registration fee

Register at [Franciscan Connections Conference](#) | [Franciscan Institute](#)

Virtual Secular Franciscan Conference

Topic: Living Franciscan Values in our Contemporary World

When: June 28 – July 1, 7:30am – 9:00pm

Registration Fee: \$50, due by June 1

Register at [Living Franciscan Virtues in our Contemporary World Virtual Conference](#) | [StBonaVenue](#)

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GATHERING

- Date:** Sunday, **June 6, 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 Bill Bouffard, OFS – Modern Slavery |
| 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 30 in *The Franciscan Journey*
 Candidates: Chapter 18 in *The Franciscan Journey*
 Inquirers: Chapter 6 in *The Franciscan Journey*

ON-GOING FORMATION:

Next up is Chapter 3 of *Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love*. We will discuss The Mirror of the Cross and your experience with this profound prayer method.

THE ANGELUS

During Corpus Christi, 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:

Corpus Christi:

Hymn: #114 – I Am the Bread of Life (verses 1 & 2): pg. 1629

Everything else: Corpus Christi: Evening Prayer II: pg. 658

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.