



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

October, 2022

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

HOW CAN WE GET TO HEAVEN?

As a Christian, I suppose this is a worthy question. Yet, there's something that always bugged me about the talk of Heaven, Hell and Purgatory. What got under my skin was the concept of earning points to please God to make our way into Heaven. Yet, it seemed to be reinforced by sources I trusted in the Catholic Church. We talk about the sometimes intricate ways we can get an indulgence or better yet a plenary indulgence. These may have their place, but isn't **my** quest to get **my** eternal rewards in Heaven inherently selfish, even if I have to sacrifice now? In fact, it seems like a well-reasoned, but still hedonistic, goal of delayed gratification. Even more than that, my gut told me that if the religion was too centered on helping us overcome the fear of death, that this was too shallow. Some well-intentioned Catholics told me that I got it wrong. It's not all about my selfish desire to get to Heaven, it's about bringing as many people with me as possible. This evangelical slant made me feel a little better but was not wholly satisfying. As Franciscans and as Christians, we are taught to Deny Thyself. And again, my gut told me that this had to be a core of the answer.

I've now come to believe that the quest for Heaven is about interior transformation. What good would it do any of us to arrive in a place of deep joy and peace, still frantic with the Pride of earthly attachments. The Franciscan concept of daily conversion fits nicely into this concept of the preparation for Heaven. Of course, as we discuss as a Fraternity, this requires both prayer and the charitable actions that forge our character. Ones who do embark on this path, undoubtedly choose to Deny Thyself of the old way of thinking.

It reminds me of the scene from Meet Joe Black.

William Parrish : It's hard to let go, isn't it?

Joe Black : Yes it is, Bill.

William Parrish : And that's life... what can I tell you

Once we really let go, we can become the beautiful creatures of Paradise that God intended. And we will all get there, every one of us. That last statement may strike you as bold. How can I be so confident we are all going to

Heaven? My answer is because the interior transformation is all about intentionality. Just as I might miscalculate or spell a word incorrectly, I never do so on purpose. *Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.* Because God knows we make mistakes, this must be about living a purpose driven life. Not only Secular Franciscans, of course, but anyone who would make a lifelong profession to the Franciscan Rule surely has that intentionality. So, my message is to stop fretting over Heaven, stop trying all together to be a good person, and just let our light shine.

RECAP OF LAST MEETING:

THE SEPTEMBER 11TH MEETING WAS DEDICATED TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS. THE NEWLY-ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE:

1. MINISTER: JOSH GOLDBERG, OFS
2. VICE MINISTER: ELIZABETH WELBORN, OFS
3. SECRETARY: BARB SLIVERS, OFS
4. TREASURER: JOE BOYLE, OFS
5. FORMATION DIRECTOR: BILL RICHEY, OFS
6. AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER: KIMBERLEY HEATHERINGTON, OFS

FORMATION PREPARATION

INITIAL FORMATION:

1. Candidates: Chapter 20 in The Franciscan Journey
2. Aspirants: Chapter 4 in The Franciscan Journey

ONGOING FORMATION:

Click [here](#) for Sermon preached by Pope Francis in Assisi 4 October 2013

PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE HOURS:

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Hymn: #33: 'O Christ, You Are the Light and Day' (Verses 1 and 2): pg. 1541 (or "O Blest Creator of the Light" from the Divine Office podcast)

Gospel Canticle and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pg. 633

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

APOSTOLATES

ECUMENICAL APOSTOLATE WITH THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HERNDON:

The English Language Apostolate is now underway! After a great deal of work by the Baptist and Tau volunteers, a framework for the apostolate is in place with teachers assigned and trained and classes started. Tau

brothers and sisters really stepped up to make this apostolate successful. Almost every brother and sister participated, and those who could not supplied teachers' supplies and held the apostolate in their prayers. (The prayers really helped!!!)

Some of our Tau volunteers took on leadership roles, Bill Bouffard, OFS, agreed to be the teacher coordinator. Lisa Jaeger, OFS, Sally White OFS, and Vera Stewart, OFS provided the power point training slides and teacher training. Kimberley Heatherington, OFS, wrote the student handbook. Joe Boyle, OFS, led the on-site Assessment and Registration for Tau. Veronica O'Donnell, OFS, led the Communication Committee, which required walking all over Herndon in the heat to find sites for flyers. Stanley Hoover, OFS, volunteered to teach. Josh Goldberg, OFS, Giovanni Tagnesi, and Barbara Slivers, OFS, volunteered to substitute teach. Bill Richey, OFS, volunteered to translate on the first registration night. Beena Job, OFS, and Linda Hoover, volunteered as classroom mentors. Cynthia Filan-Kim, OFS, volunteered to help with registration, along with Walter Gawlak, OFS, and Veronica O'Donnell OFS. Heber Garcia, OFS, helped with translation of flyers and is on hand by phone if translation is needed during classes. John Ata, OFS, helped with internet issues. Sharon Goldberg, OFS, volunteered for the refreshment committee and she will be a big help in December for class graduation Christmas party!!!

Brothers and sisters, especially those who could not physically volunteer, provided all of the teacher classroom supplies such as pencils, whiteboard erasers, whiteboard markers, masks, beach balls, hand wipes, copy machine paper and finally, a big whiteboard for one the classes. Thank you Vicki Shanholtz, OFS, for the whiteboard! Then there was a big prayer group of Tau brothers and sisters. These prayers were needed during all of the ups and downs of the development of the apostolate by Dot Chambers of the Baptist Church and Sally White, OFS, both who are in their late seventies and homebound.

Implementation of the apostolate finally began on September 13, when the Tau volunteers and Baptist volunteers gathered together at the First Baptist Church of Herndon. During the gathering, Diana Round, Education Supervisor, for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, trained the volunteers to give oral and written assessments when students register for classes. Registration consisted of filing out a registration form, an oral test, and a written test to determine each student's ability to speak, read and write English. The gathering was a wonderful success for the ecumenical goals of the apostolate with many Tau volunteers attending including Josh Goldberg, OFS, fresh from his first few days after surgery.

However, the goal of getting students to register was more difficult than anticipated. The goal was to get six students in each of two classes for Basic English for nonspeaking English students with a maximum of 15 per class. Although great attempts were made to reach out to potential students, registration was slow at the beginning and was extended through September. Students will also be admitted if they show up in October. Tau is working with St. Joseph's Catholic Church to reach out to the Hispanic community that attend the Spanish Mass on Sundays.

Because the Baptist Ladies Knitting Group donated four hundred dollars from proceeds from the sales of their knitted sock hats to the apostolate, there are scholarships available for those students that do not have the means to pay. So far at least one student obtained a partial scholarship.

During October Dot Chambers and Sally White will be developing a plan for the next semester beginning in January based on all the lessons learned in this first semester. Also, more small ecumenical gatherings are being planned with the Baptists. Vera Stewart, OFS, has invited members of the Baptist Ladies Knitting Group to participate with her in the St. Joseph's Craft Fair. There is also talk of a joint Christmas gathering. Word is that the Baptists like the Franciscans.

To all the Tau brothers and sisters and their friends and family who volunteer, spend their money and prayed
THANK YOU.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE FBC-TAU APOSTOLATE:

The First Baptist Church Ladies Knitting Group are selling winter hats with the proceeds going to the Baptist Tau English Apostolate. The proceeds provide scholarships for students in need. The hats come in all kinds of colors. Many are in the Ukrainian flag colors in recognition of the Ukrainian country's challenges. Others are in local school and college colors. These hats make great stocking stuffers. Vera Stewart, OFS will have some available at the St. Joseph's Craft Show on October 29. If you are interested in buying a hat, please contact Dot Chambers at dachambers@verizon.net.

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY COOKING HOSPICE:

For our TAU Food Apostolate this October, we will be highlighting a broadened version of our "pasta extraordinaire" menu for the Gift of Peace hospice on October 8th.

We would invite you to volunteer and prepare pasta meals that you enjoy, such as Ziti, Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti with meatballs/sausage in a marinara sauce, etc. Please use your own recipe for any of these dishes, or other pasta recipes that you like. Additionally, we suggest that you consider making your favorite "Meat Pie" or "Shepherd's Pie".

Cook and deliver any serving for 12 people, or multiples of 12, to Joe's home any time after 11:00 AM on Friday, October 7th – 13109 Weathered Oak Court, Herndon, VA. When you come with your receipts, you will be reimbursed then.

Come to Joe's house on Saturday after 8:00 AM and cook whatever is lacking to fill in the gaps. Joe will buy the necessary ingredients. The food will be delivered to the Gift of Peace hospice in DC late Saturday morning.

At our meeting on Sunday (10/2), we will poll our members to record your choices. Those who want to cook in their own homes will be sent the recipes if they want them.

Hopefully, TAU can dazzle the Sisters and residents with our pasta selections & meat/shepherd pie offerings!!

Thank you in advance for your support of our Food Apostolate!

COMING UP IN OCTOBER

10/1: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH – 12:00P

10/1: DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/pray/st--therese-society/>

10/2: TAU OPEN HOUSE – 1:30P

10/3: TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH – 7:00P

10/4: FEAST DAY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI MASS AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH – 8:00A

10/8: BLESSED JOHN DUNS SCOTUS DAY OF REFLECTION HOSTED BY ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY OF TRIANGLE, VA

OFFERED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

REGISTER BY 10/5 VIA EMAIL TO MIKE CHAMBERLIN AT MJCHAMBERLIN@OUTLOOK.COM

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GENERAL MEETING

DATE: NOVEMBER 6th

LOCATION: IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

SCHEDULE: 1:30-4:00P