



# 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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**December 2022**

### **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Peace and all good this holiday season!

I am a New York Yankees fan. Please don't hold that against me. Sometimes Yankees fans get the reputation for choosing to root for the winning team. However, in my early years as a fan, they were a historic franchise but far from a championship team. In 1982, they finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place in their division. They didn't even make the playoffs for the first 13 years of my fanhood. In the late 1990's, however, they started to get good again and put together another history team. At this point, I had graduated college and moved out to Seattle. Alas, the Yankees were finally doing well and I had no fellow NY sports fans to cheer with me. However, on October 16, 2003, I was on a trip to NYC to see Phantom of the Opera. After the play was over, we hustled over to a local sports bar to watch the end of the playoff game between the Red Sox and the Yankees. The series was tied 3-3 and this was the decisive game. New York was down 5-2 with two innings remaining when we finally settled down to watch the game. The Yankees came back and tied it up. So, it went to extra innings. In the bottom of the 11th, an unlikely hero, Aaron Boone hit a HR to send the Yankees to the World Series. The crowd in the NYC sports bar went wild. I walked outside on the streets and there were audible cheers from blocks away. It was a big change from watching Yankees games from my Seattle apartment.

Just like in my story, the Christmas season is so much more special when surrounded by celebrants who have a deep appreciation for the religion and the what it means to the world. Fellow parishioners in your church are some of the true fans. And we have each other in Tau, who get to share the tradition with one another. We have a Franciscan Advent Retreat on the calendar. Some of us are bringing our creche to the Tau Holiday party. Many outside the SFO don't realize the Franciscan origins of the nativity scene. It's a special time of year with special people in our lives. No matter what your plans are this season, smile and know your Brothers and Sisters are wishing you a Merry Christmas!

## **RECAP OF LAST GATHERING**

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### PRESENTATION

A candlelit Remembrance Ceremony, including praying the Franciscan rosary, took place to celebrate the lives of our deceased Brothers and Sisters: Tony Del Popolo, Martha Ureke, Bill Obenauer, Edith Thomasoni, Diane Caputo, Ron Kauffman, Ed Geiger, Karen Sawtell, Marie Fitzgerald, Marjorie O'Connor, Edna Henke, Mary McCarthy, Frank Mullin, Anna Seymour, Deacon James Sheehan, Isabel Bartlett, Catherine Williams, Helen Martin, Kay Flynn, Joe Messina, and Bill Brewster.

Special thanks to Sally, Walter, & Joe for all their work to put this ceremony & slide presentation together.

### ONGOING FORMATION

Gil reminded us that we, as OFS, can be waked in the church. Kimberley explained we can also buy shrouds at <https://poorclarepa.org/sfo-shrouds/>

We viewed a clip from 'The Letter' by Cardinal Cantalamessa. It can be viewed in its entirety at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>. Short reflections were given by Val & John.

Bill Richey led a conversation on the assigned handout for reading, 'Peace as a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation, and Ecological Conversion'. Gil asked that we also remember human ecology. Walter reminded us to think of all the good work being done, which includes rewilding in different parts of the world.

Josh & Gil attended the Chapter of Ministers meeting this weekend and found it very energizing to hear what other fraternities are working on. Tau fraternity was recognized for our ecumenical work.

Josh will invite Dennis Castillo, Regional YouFra contact, to a Tau meeting. JPIC can be a bridge to Tau since young people are interested in ecological issues. Aging fraternities were also discussed.

## **FORMATION PREPARATION**

### INITIAL FORMATION

Candidates: Chapter 22 in The Franciscan Journey

Inquirers: Chapter 6 in The Franciscan Journey

### ONGOING FORMATION

Bill Richey provided the reading for December as a handout, 'In Love with Christ, The Secret of Saint Francis of Assisi' You can also click [here](#) for this reading by Cardinal Cantalamessa.

## **PRAYER**

**Second Sunday of Advent:**

**Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**Psalms: Week 2 Evening Prayer II: pg. 787**

**Everything else: Second Sunday of Advent, Evening Prayer II: pg. 68**

## **APOSTOLATES**

### SHAWL MINISTRY

Sharon reported prayer shawls being made for those being served by The Gabriel Project. Thanks Kelly, Lisa, & Jim for their help!

### MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE APOSTOLATE

Stanley's St. Veronica students are now helping and earning Confirmation service hours!

Baked goods have been added to the meals, per hospice request.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Vera thanked those who stopped by her booth at the St. Joseph Craft Fair. She earned \$125 which is being donated to the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter.

Kimberley discussed the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Retreat with the Franciscan Sisters TOR of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother and emailed the link for registration:

<https://www.franciscansisterstor.org/events/advent-retreat-2022>

Kelly reported members are meeting every Friday at 7:00p via What's App. All encouraged to join for fellowship by contacting Beena.

Joe reported thank you notes were received from the American Liver Foundation for the donation made in memory of Bill Brewster and from the Missionaries of Charity Hospice for the food pantry contribution.

### **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, OFS  
Recruitment Committee – Vacant  
Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

### **NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GENERAL MEETING**

Date: December 4, 2022 Christmas Party

Location: In-person or online

Schedule: 1:30p-4:00p