



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

<https://tauofs.org/>

February 2023

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Peace and good!

As we begin Black History Month, I'm reminded of all the inspiring black leaders and innovators that have enriched the fabric of our society. I'm also reminded of all the progress that needs to be made toward furthering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

It's easy to lose sight of the privilege of being born under certain circumstances and all that needed to break in our direction to get to where we are today. Philosopher John Rawls suggests that we should imagine we sit behind a veil of ignorance that keeps us from knowing who we are and identifying with our personal circumstances. By being ignorant of our circumstances, we can more objectively consider how societies should operate.

As Franciscans and Catholics, we are called to help those that are disenfranchised. This month, we celebrate the achievements of African Americans who overcame adversity. Let's prayerfully discern how we can provide momentum to the ongoing movement for social justice for our brothers and sisters of all ethnicities.

RECAP OF LAST GATHERING

PRESENTATION

Beena presented information on Save Soil, a global movement started by Sadhguru to address our soil crisis. Farming is sterilizing the land, destroying the soil by killing its needed microorganisms. Nutrition derived from the food is affected. Left unchecked, experts predict a food crisis in 50 years.

The documentary, *Save Soil: Our Very Body/Conscious Planet* was viewed and is available on YouTube.

ONGOING FORMATION

Bill Richey led a discussion before the small group breakout on our individual, new year resolutions. This was based on chapter 9 in *Habits for Holiness*, regarding renewal and conversion and Gil's Advent Exercise handout.

Josh continues meeting with Stephen Paquette regarding the St. Joseph Youth Ministry. Two options for Tau involvement were discussed. We can lend support to the established groups of middle schoolers on Friday evenings &/or high schoolers on Sunday evenings. This would require Virtus certification. The second option is starting a new Tau group for an 18-30 year-old age group. Denis Castillo, OFS has started regional groups and is willing to guide us. We would start with a retreat to gauge interest.

FORMATION PREPARATION

OPENING PRAYER

LOTH: Daytime prayer

INITIAL FORMATION

Candidates: Chapter 24 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Inquirers: Chapter 8 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Orientation: Chapter 2 in *The Franciscan Journey*

ONGOING FORMATION

St. Francis and His Dreams" by Hilarion Kistner, OFM

PRAYER

Daytime prayer

Hymn:

January: p. 33. All 2023 hymns are in the book of *Christian Prayer*

APOSTOLATES

SHAWL MINISTRY

The Diocese of Arlington requested Sharon create a flyer to be shared with regional parishes. One newborn has received a blanket.

ECUMENICAL APOSTOLATE WITH THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HERNDON:

Sally has asked to speak after the Spanish Mass at St. Joseph Church. Josh, Bill R, and Veronica will be available to register potential students after the 3:00p Mass on 1/15.

Classes may be offered weekly rather than twice weekly in the new semester.

TREASURER REPORT

Please review Joe's 1/3 email on charitable contributions.

Please review 2022 report

MISCELLANEOUS

Please see signup sheet for monthly presentations, open slots.

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: March 5, 2023

Location: In-person or online

Schedule: 1:30p-4:00p