



The Tau Signature

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

October 2017



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Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

October is a very special month for us as Franciscans. We recognize the Transitus of our Seraphic Father Francis, and we celebrate his feast day the next day. We go from sadness and grief to great joy overnight. When you stop to think about it, this is actually a pretty healthy model. There are going to be times in our lives where we will experience great loss, causing us grief and sadness. It is healthy to feel those emotions and we should allow ourselves to do so - it is part of our humanity. But we also need to allow ourselves to celebrate great joy and happiness. Too often I encounter people who seem to have lost that ability to experience joy. We, as Franciscans, are blessed with such wonderful examples in Francis and Clare of how they experienced great joy in our Lord. One of my favorite Franciscans is Sr. Natalie, OSC. She is a Poor Clare in the monastery with Sister Karen. October 6 is my profession day. October 6 also happens to be Sister Natalie's birthday. This year Sister Natalie turns 100 years old. Every time I am blessed with an opportunity to visit the monastery, I am, of course, thrilled to see Sister Karen. But I also find great joy in seeing Sister Natalie, if only for a few minutes. Whenever I see Sister Natalie she has a smile on her face. What she has witnessed these past 100 years! Sister Natalie emulates joy to me - a peaceful joy. I don't know how many years God plans to keep me here on earth, but I do hope that as I age, I am able to do so with the graceful and peaceful joy that Sister Natalie exemplifies. I wish each of you much joy and peace! Pam

Pamela L. Brooks, OFS

Recap of Last Meeting 9/3/17

The Tau general meeting began with an opening prayer read by Bill Bouffard, OFS. Bill Richey, OFS began on-going formation with discussion of evangelical poverty, explaining that it is not simply material poverty but a spiritual poverty. He mentioned the message of Father Julio at a prior retreat of holding onto things lightly and not submitting to worldly ideals of power and possession. The group had a meaningful discussion of the effects

of Hurricane Harvey and how a spirit of evangelical poverty can help survivors to endure the hardships that result.

Following formation, Vera Stewart, OFS gave a presentation on Modern Slavery. She discussed four former slaves who became saints: St. Benedict the Black, Venerable Pierre Toussaint, St. Josephine Bakhita, and Julia Greeley. Then, she said that since the emancipation of slaves, slavery continues. She identified the categories of modern slavery as defined by endslaverynow.org: domestic servitude, sex trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor, child labor, and forced marriage. Vera spoke about Pope Francis' focus on modern slavery as it exists in the "throw away" culture.

Prayer Submissions

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

For physical and spiritual healing of Pam Brooks and her son; Sally White, her husband Gary, and her sister; Mary Wood, daughter of one of the Tau Fraternity Founders Martha Ureke; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; William Brewster; Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan; Irene Naveau; Ron Kauffman; Kay Flynn; and Ed Geiger. For the safety of the citizens of Aleppo, Syria during the civil war. For all peoples who suffer persecution. For the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the wildfires in the western states, and the earthquake in Mexico. For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Please forward prayer requests to Vera Stewart by the 14th of the month, so that they may be included in the newsletter.

Cooking Hospice - Missionaries of Charity

The next Cooking Hospice Ministry trip will be on October 14th. Join us every other month on the 2nd Saturday for the Cooking Hospice Ministry at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Hope Home in Washington, DC. If you don't want to cook, you may also serve by washing dishes or by raking leaves to allow the Sisters to serve food. We will meet at St. Joseph's school parking lot at 7am and will return by noon. All are welcome to lend a hand! If you would like to participate, please contact Veronica O'Donnell, OFS.

St. Vincent de Paul

Keep up the good work in food donations – they are greatly appreciated. Note that I attempt to load up my vehicle with your donations before and after the opening prayer. I do check during breaks and after the meetings for late arrivals. If you have something that you cannot bring in yourself, let me know and I will give you a hand.

Thanks!

Terry Rinker, OFS

Tau Fraternity Committees

If you are interested in participating actively in one of our Committees, take a moment to chat with the chair:

Apostolate Committee – Cyndy Filan-Kim and Pat B.

Hospitality Committee – Veronica O'Donnell, OFS

Infirmarian Committee – Irene Naveau, OFS

Recruitment Committee – Bill Bouffard, OFS

Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

O'Donnells' Golden Anniversary

Veronica & Jim celebrated 50 years of marriage in September! Happy Anniversary from Tau!





Coming up in October



October is the Month of the Holy Rosary and the Holy Angels *

- Oct 1 - Tau Monthly Meeting and Open House
Ron Kauffman's birthday
- Oct 2 – Memorial of the Guardian Angels
- Oct 3 – Transitus of St. Francis, 7:15pm at St. Joseph
- Oct 4 – Solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis
- Oct 5 – Clari Claus' & Gail Dowling's Profession Anniversary
- Oct 6 – Pam Brooks', Helen Broxmeyer's, & Sally White's Profession Anniversary
- Oct 7 – Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
Carol Clarke's Profession Anniversary
- Oct 9 – Cyndy Filan-Kim's birthday
- Oct 14 – Pat B's birthday
Cooking Hospice Apostolate – Washington, DC
- Oct 17 – Memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch
- Oct 24 – Al Carroll's & Vera Stewart's birthday
- Oct 28 – Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude
- Oct 29 – Bill Brewster's birthday
- Oct 31 – Bill Richey's birthday

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

The Franciscan Crown Rosary

From <http://www.prayerfulrosary.com/Franciscan.html>

The Franciscan Crown Rosary is a Rosary consisting of seven decades with each decade describing a particular joy from the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Seven Joys are:

- 1) The Annunciation
- 2) The Visitation
- 3) The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- 4) The Adoration of the Magi
- 5) The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple
- 6) The Appearance of Christ to Mary after the Resurrection
- 7) The Assumption and Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven

How to Pray the Crown Rosary

The Franciscan Crown Rosary begins quite simply by stating the first Mystery and then praying one Our Father and ten Hail Marys while meditating upon it. This same procedure is then followed for the other six Mysteries. Even though it is common practice nowadays to add the Glory Be at the end of each decade, and even the Fatima Prayer, these are not required. It is customary to finish by adding two Hail Marys in honor of the 72 years that Our Lady is said to have lived on earth, and one Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope.

More Prayers

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God
. My guardian dear
To Whom His love
Commits me here
Ever this day
Be at my side
To light and guard
To rule and guide. Amen

<http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=281>

Saint Francis's Vocation Prayer

Most High, Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of our minds.
Give us a right faith, a firm hope and a
perfect charity,
so that we may always and in all things act
according to Your Holy Will. Amen.

<http://www.shrinesf.org/franciscan-prayer.html>

Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek

to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life. Amen.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/prayer/traditional-catholic-prayers/saints-prayers/peace-prayer-of-saint-francis>



Tau Fraternity: Next Meeting Date

Tau Fraternity General Meeting: Sunday, October 1 at St. Joseph Catholic Church

12:30 - 1:30 Inquirer/Candidate Formation

1:30 - Opening Prayer – **Bill Brewster, OFS**

1:35 – 2:10 Open House and Social time with meal *

2:10 - 3:20 On-going formation

3:20 – 3:30 Break

3:30 - 4:00 The Angelus, Liturgy of Hours, business meeting, and closing prayer

* BYOB - Please bring your own beverages to the meetings. Due to low consumption, coffee, will no longer be provided. Please bring finger foods to share. If your last name begins with A-H bring a savory dish; if your last name begins with I-Z bring something sweet.

Initial Formation discussion:

Candidates: Chapter 22, 'Foundations for the Kingdom' in The Franciscan Journey

Inquirers: No Meeting this month

On-going Formation:

We will begin a series of sessions on the Family under the theme, "Caring of Frailties: Mercy and Discernment." No formal preparation is necessary, other than to consider the many problems that our families face in the modern world.

Liturgy of the Hours:

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Hymn: #45 – Let All Things Now Living

Canticle of Mary Antiphon and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pg. 632

Reader: **Terry Rinker, OFS**

The Angelus

During Ordinary Time, 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.

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.

