



OF SPECIAL
INTEREST:

- YouFra DC St. Clare Fraternity hosts a celebration
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- The symbolism of the famous San Damiano Cross
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- The Season of Creation starts September 1
Page 12
- Annual Tau Open House on October 1 — invite someone to “come and see”!
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Minister's Message

Peace and good!

Earlier this month I was listening to an album I enjoyed in my youth called “Peace Beyond Passion” by Meshell Ndegeocello. As I listened to the lyrics more closely, I was struck by blistering criticisms of Christianity by a fellow Christian. To my adult self, strengthened by my current faith, it almost felt blasphemous.

However, I knew the vibe was out of care for reform of a beloved institution. While perhaps I should have been more outraged by the lyrics, I embraced the freedom to freely critique even the most sacred of truths. I also empathized with the feeling of isolation by groups that have not had a welcome home in our Church.

This month, we might all take time to reflect more generally: How do we respond when our beliefs are challenged?

If we stand up to reiterate our beliefs, are we simply stating truth? Or is it emotionally charged? Disagreement with a statement that light travels slower than sound would not be emotional. It is easily refuted by seeing a flash of lightning before thunder. But, in contrast we might get emotional when we stand up for our Catholic beliefs or those beliefs espoused by the Franciscan Rule.

Why is it that we get emotionally charged? There is not right or wrong answer. Just an opportunity to explore.

And if we do find ourselves feeling diminished somehow when we are in a disagreement, what happens if let ourselves feel lessened rather than continuing to disagree?

Pause.

If it's a statement of a simple truth, maybe it doesn't need to be litigated.

Josh



Organization

Tau Fraternity
P.O. Box 51
150 S. Sterling Blvd.
Sterling, VA 20167

Meetings every 1st Sunday
of the month at:
St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St., Room 205

PACE
&
BENE

The Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order was canonically established on June 21, 1992. The Fraternity is affiliated with the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tau Fraternity is in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Tau Fraternity Council currently includes the following officers:

- Minister—Josh Goldberg, OFS
- Vice Minister—Liz Wellborn, OFS
- Formation Director—Bill Richey, OFS
- Secretary—Barbara Slivers, OFS
- Treasurer—Joe Boyle, OFS
- Councilor—Kimberley Heatherington,



Prepare for the Transitus!

Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

7:00 PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church



RECAP OF AUGUST 3 GATHERING

OPENING PRAYER

Bill Bouffard, OFS, shared "Imagine a World: A Poem of Lament."

Imagine a world where there is no violence where there is only compassion and care.

Imagine a world where there is no despair where we thrive on hope, for ourselves and one another.

Imagine a world where there is no division where we know that our neighbor is for us and we are always about the business of unity.

Imagine a world where there are no wars, no injustice, no oppression, and no divisions.

Imagine a world where children can flourish and grow and are not thrown away before they have seen the light of day.

Imagine a world where compassion and empathy are the norm, and we rise up and reach out to any who are not under the mantle of mercy and peace.

Can you imagine this world?

To see the entire text, please turn to page 11.

PRESENTATION

Amy Harman provided a presentation on Mormonism, emphasizing these foundational beliefs: God loves us and all are His children. He wants a relationship with us. Mormons use prayer to enhance this relationship. Jesus Christ is our perfect example; He suffered for our sins, lifting them from us and was resurrected, making it possible for all of us. The Holy Ghost is part of the Godhead. Life has a purpose. Mormons lived with God before coming to earth to learn how to become better people and renew their faith. Families are an important part of their journeys. Guided by the Old & New Testaments as well as the Book of Mormon which documents the teachings of Jesus through His prophets. Christianity strayed from Jesus' teachings, requiring the church to be restored. Therefore, in 1820 God called Joseph Smith as a 14-year-old who was praying to Him. Joseph Smith would become a prophet who started the Mormon church in 1830. Russell M. Nelson is the church's current president which also makes him a prophet.

ONGOING FORMATION

Gil Donahue, OFS offered a handout on a national Secular Franciscan theme: Listen, discern, and go forth. He explained Franciscan fraternities were involved in different ministries in the past, some now discontinued. Repenting is synonymous with metanoia, both pointing to doing away with preconceived notions. We discussed how we might listen, discern, and act in small, breakout groups and came back together to offer the following ideas:

Listen:

- Pray for proper listening for ourselves and Tau as a whole. The call is to live the Gospel. What holds us back? Fear, laziness, hopelessness?
- The Tau online prayer group is available to all members.
- Tau fraternity could start an online book or poem club or in-person; Catholic movie nights.
- Tau member's families could do get-togethers

Discern & Go Forth:

- Tau's strength is what each member brings to the group. Maybe the greatest gift to give is time for each other and the larger community.
- Start a booth after St. Joseph Catholic (SJC) Church Masses to promote Tau.
- Three apostolates have been started within the last 18 months: English as a second language with the First Baptist Church of Herndon, the shawl ministry, & the plastics problem ministry. All three were initiated by an individual Tau member who then encouraged & welcomed all other members to join them.
- Tau could celebrate Mass at SJC prior to our monthly meetings.
- Tau could celebrate Mass on a rotation to each other's parishes.

APOSTOLATES

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE

Thanks to our Brothers and Sisters who support the apostolate at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. The next food deliveries will be on these Saturdays:

- October 7
- December 9

The menu for October is pasta. If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Veronica O'Donnell, OFS or Joe Boyle, OFS.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Help to feed the hungry. Joe Boyle, OFS, volunteered to shop and deliver food to the St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter at St. Timothy Catholic Church. Food donations may be dropped off prior to the Tau Gathering in the stairwell on the right at St. Joseph School. You can also provide a monetary donation to Joe, who is Tau Treasurer. Thank you!

For more information, see

<https://sttimothyparish.org/outreach-and-ministries/st-vincent-de-paul/>

POOR CLARES OF NEW JERSEY

Tau Fraternity supports the Monastery of St. Clare in Chesterfield, NJ, with a biannual monetary donation. The monastery is home to Sister Karen Stapleton, OSC, who began her Franciscan journey with Tau Fraternity. The main work of the Poor Clares of NJ is to provide Altar Bread to parishes in the diocese of Trenton.

For more information, or to submit a prayer intention to the Poor Clares, see [The Poor Clares of New Jersey — Joyfully Embracing the Gospel Way of Life .\(poorclaresnewjersey.com\)](http://www.poorclaresnewjersey.com)

Watch their YouTube video [A Quiet Joy: New Jersey's Monastery of Saint Clare](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

FRANCISCAN MISSION SERVICE

Tau Fraternity provides a biannual monetary donation to Franciscan Mission Service. The organization prepares and supports lay Catholics for mission service opportunities around the globe.

For more information, see [Home | Franciscan Mission](#)

PRAYER SHAWL APOSTOLATE

Tau Fraternity provides handmade prayer shawls to individuals in the Diocese of Arlington. Currently, shawls are being provided to pregnant women participating in the Gabriel Project. For more information, please contact Sharon Goldberg, OFS.

ECUMENICAL APOSTOLATE

Tau Fraternity partners with the First Baptist Church of Herndon to provide English lessons to students. Tau members volunteer time and talent to teach at Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sally White, OFS.

Many thanks!



James 2:17

APOSTOLATE NEWS

PRAYER SHAWL APOSTOLATE

Sharon Goldberg, OFS, and Kelly Passero, Candidate, have completed crocheted lap blankets for the Missionaries of Charity hospice. Jim Haynes, OFS, will make a Rosary for each, while Lisa Jaeger, OFS, is making cards. Veronica O'Donnell, OFS, will deliver the blankets. Notice the pockets!



ECUMENICAL APOSTOLATE

Sally White, OFS, reports that the Summer Camp ESL students received certificates on August 15! They attended Summer Camp to keep their skills sharp for the Fall Semester in September.



YOUFRA CELEBRATION

Saint Clare Jufra (YouFra) invited fraternities in the Washington, D.C., area to celebrate the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi August 18! Josh Goldberg, OFS, represented Tau and shared these pictures. Tau is exploring a YouFra apostolate at St. Joseph — and after two recent meet and greets following the St. Joseph 3:00 PM Sunday Mass, there are now eight potential participants!

Peace and all Good Brothers and Sisters in Christ ,

Jufra Saint Clare of Assisi wants to invite you to our celebration of our Patron Saint Clare of Assisi, at Nativity Catholic Church

Day : Friday, August 18, 2023
Starting with the Holy hour at 6:00 PM followed by Mass at 7:00 PM

Place : Nativity Catholic Church,
6000 Georgia Ave NW, Washington,
DC 20011

We hope to see you there.



SEPTEMBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY CROSS

DO YOU KNOW THE SYMBOLISM OF THE SAN DAMIANO CROSS?

The San Damiano Cross is the large Romanesque wood cross that Saint Francis of Assisi was praying before when he received a commission from the Lord to rebuild the church. Tradition tells us that Saint Francis of Assisi was praying at old San Damiano Church near Assisi, Italy, when Christ spoke to him from the cross saying, "Francis, repair my Church." Saint Francis soon realized the Lord meant the whole Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, and not merely the church at Saint Francis' physical location. Saint Francis created the Franciscan order to fulfill Christ's wishes. The original cross presently hangs in the Basilica of Saint Clare in Assisi, Italy. Franciscans cherish this cross as the symbol of their mission from God.

On the cross, Jesus Christ is represented both as wounded and strong. His halo includes the picture of the glorified cross. Above the head of Christ is an inscription in Latin: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

The next largest figures are five witnesses of the crucifixion and witnesses of Jesus as Lord. On the left side are the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist. On the right side are Mary Magdalene, Mary, Mother of James, and the centurion who in Matthew's Gospel proclaims, "Truly this is the Son of God." Both Mary and Mary Magdalene reflect extreme grief and anguish as shown by the placement of their hands on their cheeks.

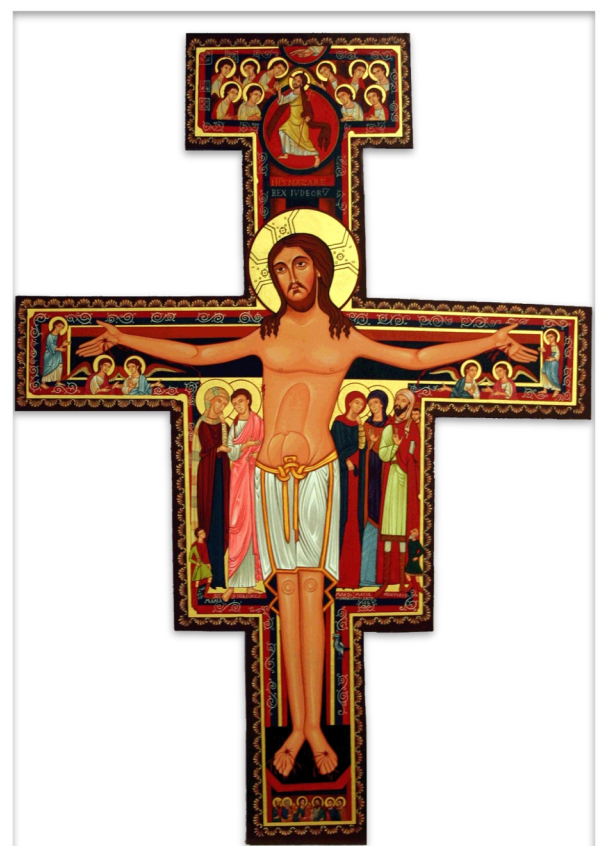
Peering over the left shoulder of the centurion is a small face. A close look reveals the tops of the heads of three others beside him. This represents the centurion's son who was healed by Jesus and the rest of his family to show that "he and his whole household believed" (John 4:45-54).

Two smaller figures are located in the corners with the witnesses. On the lower left is Longinus, the Roman soldier who pierced the side of Jesus with a lance. In the lower right is Stephaton, the traditional name for the soldier who offered Jesus the sponge soaked in vinegar wine. Six angels are represented as marveling over the event of the crucifixion. They are positioned at both ends of the crossbar discussing this wondrous event.

At the foot of the cross there is a damaged picture of six figures, two of whom are represented with halos. In accordance with the traditions of the day, these six are the patrons of Umbria: St. Damian, St. Michael, St. Rufino, St. John the Baptist, St. Peter and St. Paul.

On the top of the cross, one sees Jesus now fully clothed in his regal garments and carrying the cross as a triumphant sceptre. He is climbing out of the tomb and into the heavenly courts. Ten angels are crowded around.

At the very top of the cross is the Hand of God with two fingers extended. This is to be understood as the blessing of God the Father on the sacrifice of his Son.



— Submitted by Joe Boyle, OFS

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
Infirmary Committee – Sharon Goldberg, OFS
Recruitment Committee – Vacant
Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

INTERFAITH & ECUMENICAL

At this year's Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington Unity Walk, the theme is exploring what it means to be responsible for each other as people of faith. Join the walk **Sunday, September 10 from 12:30 - 5:30** for a day of fun, engaging, and meaningful interfaith learning and community-building! This year's Walk will feature:

- Intergenerational storytelling led by the Multifaith Storytelling Institute
- An environmental workshop led by [Interfaith Power and Light](#)
- A family workshop led by the Center for Children and Theology
- A collaborative service project to benefit the [Brooks Family Shelter](#)

Participants will also have the opportunity to explore 11 different houses of worship that line Massachusetts Avenue. [Tickets](#) are \$10 or \$5 (students, seniors, and those of limited income). All participants must register.

Save the Date!

IFC UNITY WALK 2023

Sunday, September 10th
12:30-5:30pm

Join us for a public
demonstration of love and
support for all who live in our
region!



Visit IFCMW.org for more information.



PRAYER INTENTIONS

HEAR US, LORD!

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers:

For the physical and spiritual healing of Gail Dowling; Sylvia Capurso; Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White and her husband Gary; Richard and Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; and Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan.

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 impacted by the fires in Maui. For refugees and migrant workers. For Russians opposing the war in Ukraine. For Bishop Rolando Alvarez imprisoned in Nicaragua.

For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Please send prayer requests to Josh Goldberg, OFS.

*Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything, by prayer and
petition, with thanksgiving, present
your request to God..*

Philippians 4:6-7



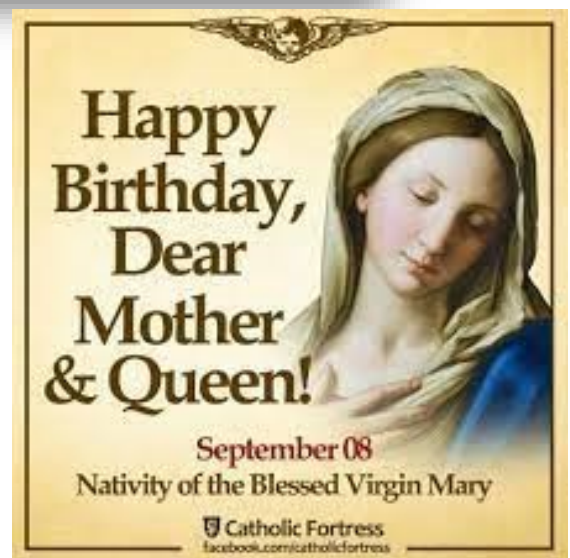
REFLECTIONS

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER



Christ on the cross bows His head waiting for you, that He may kiss you; His arms outstretched, that He may embrace you; His hands are open that He may enrich you; His body is spread out, that He may give Himself totally; His feet are nailed, that He may stay there; His side is open for you that He may let you enter there. *St. Bonaventure*

—Submitted by Joe Boyle, OFS



IMAGINE A WORLD: A POEM OF LAMENT

Imagine a world where there is no violence
where there is only compassion and care.

Imagine a world where there is no despair
where we thrive on hope, for ourselves and one another.

Imagine a world where there is no division
where we know that our neighbor is for us and we are always
about the business of unity.

Imagine a world where there are no wars, no injustice, no oppression, and no
divisions.

Imagine a world where children can flourish and grow and are not thrown away
before they have seen the light of day.

Imagine a world where compassion and empathy and care are the norm, and we rise
up and reach out to any who are not under the mantle of mercy and peace.

Can you imagine this world? Can you take just one moment, the time it takes to
breathe a breath, to imagine this world? *

Breathe it; feel it; see it; be it – just because you truly need it.

We all need this world. We all need to be reminded that this is not our world, that
this world belongs to God our Creator, God our Redeemer, God our Comforter.

God gave us this world to keep and care and love and honor. God gave us this world
to love our neighbors and have no enemies. God gave us this world to cultivate and
till and sow and reap.

And what have we done in return?

Oh, look what we have done in return?

Oh God, please forgive us! God, please hear us!

As we cry out to You with our heads bowed low in mourning and grief.

But You are a God of second chances.

You are a God of sweet forgiveness.

You are a God who does not give up on His children –
especially when we have not heeded Your will.

Oh Lord, help us do better. Help us be better. Help us to see what You see in us and
for us.

Oh Lord, we are the people who are called by Your name, we do humble ourselves,
and we do pray and seek Your face, Oh Lord, please hear us, please forgive us and
please heal our land.



MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO GIVE YOU HIS PEACE.

CALENDAR: ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

September is the Month of the Holy Cross

- Sept. 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
Season of Creation begins
- Sept. 3 Doug Fehrer's birthday
Tau Monthly Gathering
- Sept. 7 John Ata's birthday
- Sept. 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sept. 9 Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities
- Sept. 10 Blessed Martyrs of Japan
- Sept. 11 Feast of Blessed Bonaventure
- Sept. 12 Feast of the Name of Holy Mary
- Sept. 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Sept. 15 Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows
- Sept. 17 Feast of Stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi
Tau Profession for Joe Boyle and
Valerye Milleson
- Sept. 18 Feast of St. Joseph Cupertino
- Sept. 21 Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle
Tau Profession Anniversary for Cyndy Filan-
Kim and Josh Goldberg
- Sept. 23 Feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina
- Sept. 26 World Day of Migrants and Refugees
- Sept. 27 Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul
- Sept. 29 Feast of St. Michael the Archangel

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

September 2023

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

THE SEASON OF CREATION IS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 4 !

<https://laudatosimovement.org/season-of-creation/>



TAU OPEN HOUSE: OCTOBER 1



Remember:

The annual Tau Open House will take place
at our October 1 meeting!

Do you know someone who might be interested
in our Franciscan way of life?

Invite them to “come and see!”



NEXT TAU GATHERING

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

SCHEDULE

1:30 pm–1:32 pm	Opening Prayer: Veronica O'Donnell, OFS
1:32 pm–2:12 pm	Presentation: Bill Bouffard, OFS "Was Jesus the Fifth Beatle?"
2:12 pm–2:22 pm	Break
2:22 pm–3:02 pm	Ongoing Formation
3:02 pm–3:12 pm	Break
3:12 pm–3:22 pm	Angelus & Liturgy of the Hours
3:22 pm–3:32 pm	Business Meeting
3:32 pm	Closing Prayer

St. Joseph Church
Room 205

INITIAL FORMATION

Candidates:
Chapter 30 in *Franciscan Journey*

Inquirers:
Chapter 9 in *Franciscan Journey*

ONGOING FORMATION

Gil Donahue will lead; the topic will be "The Incarnation – Christmas at Greccio."

During Ordinary Time, we will precede the Liturgy of the Hours with the Angelus:

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared
unto Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy
Spirit.
---- Pray The HAIL MARY ----

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
R. Be it done unto me according to
your Word.
---- Pray The HAIL MARY ----

V. And the Word was made flesh,
R. And dwelt among us.
---- Pray The HAIL MARY ----

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 You, O Lord, Your
grace into our hearts: that we, to whom
the Incarnation of Christ Your 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.



Pray The HOLY ROSARY Daily / facebook.com

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readers: **PLEASE VOLUNTEER - TBD****

Midday Prayer: See [here](https://divineoffice.org/ord-w22-sun-dp2-current/?date=20230903) or
<https://divineoffice.org/ord-w22-sun-dp2-current/?date=20230903>

Evening Prayer:

Hymn: #32 "Now Thank We All Our
God" (Verses 1 & 2) – pg. 1540
Canticle of Mary Antiphon and Prayer:
Evening Prayer II – pg. 628 and 627
Everything else: Sunday, Week II
Evening Prayer II – pg. 786

** Contact Joe Boyle, OFS to volunteer
for:

- ♦ Opening Prayer
- ♦ Liturgy of the Hours Psalm 1
- ♦ Liturgy of the Hours Psalm 2
- ♦ Liturgy of the Hours Psalm 3
- ♦ Scripture Reading and Responsory.