



OF SPECIAL
INTEREST:

- Annual Blessing of the Animals at St. Joseph!
Page 6-8
- The Transitus of St. Francis According to Thomas of Celano, OFM
Page 9
- St. Francis Coloring Page - Get Out Your Pencils!
Page 10
- Pray the Rosary with Rosa Mystica!
Page 16

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Prepare for the Transitus	2
Gathering Recap	3
Apostolates & Apostolate News	4-5
Committees	11
Prayer Intentions	13
Reflections	14-15
Calendar & Events	17-18
Next Gathering	19

Minister's Message

Peace and good!

This month we host the Open House for the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis, and contemplate his lasting impact at the Transitus.

It would be only appropriate that we dedicate some quiet time to reflect on what St. Francis and St. Clare mean to us.

For those who have been professed for an extended period, what were the initial changes that entering into the SFO had on you?

For those who are newly professed or still going through initial formation, what is stirring inside you or inspiring you to continue the journey?

There was a memorable line from a recent homily by Bishop Baron – “The way to Heaven is Heaven!” He reminds us that serving others is not a life of hardship.

Serving is not a sacrifice, but rather the divine reward itself.

We might recognize it as Franciscan joy!

Find some element of your own personal definition of Franciscan joy and share it with someone this month.

It could be one of your Brothers or Sisters in Tau, it could be a family member, or it could be a complete stranger.

And thanks to you all for sharing Heaven with me.

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 & Feast Day!

Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi
Tuesday, October 3
7:00 PM

Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi
Wednesday, October 4
Mass at 6:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church



RECAP OF AUGUST 3 GATHERING

OPENING PRAYER

Veronica O'Donnell, OFS, offered a prayer for Labor Day with help from Bill Bouffard, OFS, and Jen Raimo, Inquirer.

OPENING PRAYER

Bill Bouffard, OFS, offered his presentation, "Fraternity as Community — Was Jesus the Fifth Beatle?", drawing comparisons between Mark 10:17-31 (The Rich and the Kingdom of God) and the Beatles song, "And Your Bird can Sing." He then expanded the discussion regarding purpose by contemplating why we are individually here in fraternity. He spoke of the saints' audacity to do the things they did.

Do we hide behind a mask or reflect on the mirror of St. Clare? On his deathbed, St. Francis told his brothers, "I have done what was mine to do; may Christ teach you what is yours." Do we only put on the Franciscan cloak when needed, then take it off when it gets too difficult? The OFS Rule and Constitution are guideposts for daily living, not menus for selection.

We need to come down from the mountaintop, to bring the good news into our homes and communities. Please don't be just another brick in the wall (Pink Floyd reference). Group discussion then followed on what resonated with each of us.

ONGOING FORMATION

- Gil Donahue, OFS provided the handout, "Christmas at Greccio, 1223."
- He reminded us that the Franciscan Order — more than 800 years old — is being celebrated by the Franciscan Centenary, 2023-2026.
- Importance of the Incarnation for St. Francis was spoken of at Tau's 2023 retreat
- Creche: having something real to depict the fact of Jesus
- Jesus came to us and met us where we are, exemplifying what we need to do as Franciscans —_accept, affirm, and encourage others
- Stations of the Cross are a Franciscan innovation
- Covering of images during Lent is a Franciscan innovation
- Group discussed favorite things about Christmas, descriptions of Christmas spirit, and how we can live a Gospel life on behalf of others

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://ThePoorClaresofNewJersey.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

ECUMENICAL APOSTOLATE

Sally White, OFS, reports that so far 35 students have registered for Fall Semester ESL classes at First Baptist Church of Herndon.

Registration is not closed, so more students are expected. Tau is providing volunteers for registration and placement testing.

Most students are from South American and Central American countries. Some are from Iran.

About half of the new students came from St. Joseph's Spanish Mass. St. Joseph parish has been very helpful in getting the word of classes out to potential students.

Tau is providing three teachers, Bill Richey, OFS; Veronica O'Donnell, OFS; and Bill Bouffard, OFS.

So far there are three levels of instruction: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced.

The Herndon Moose Lodge donated \$2,000.00 for classroom and teacher supplies. The money has been used for a large whiteboard for the Advanced classroom. Flip charts, Post-it paper, notebook binders, and spiral notebooks were also purchased.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Saturday, September 30, the friars of St. Joseph offered the annual Blessing of the Animals in front of the church!

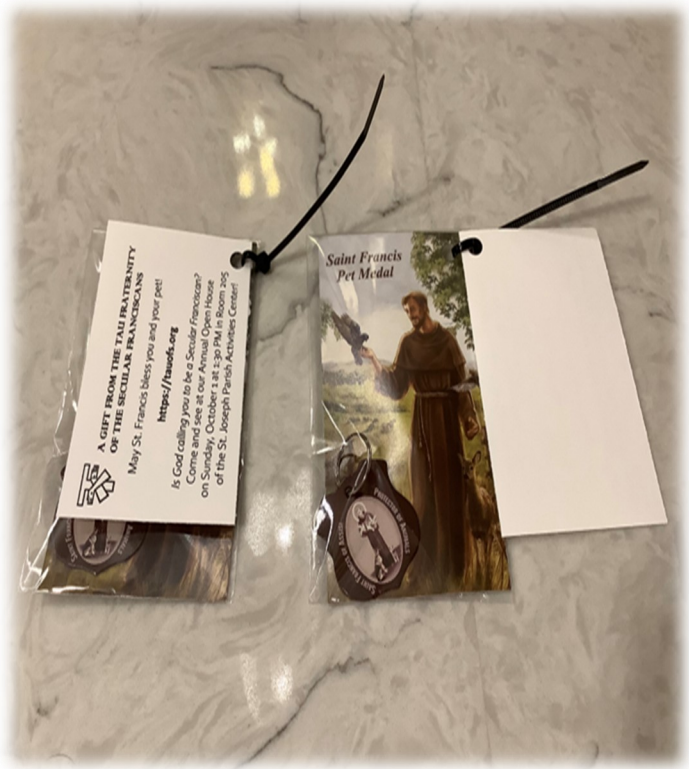
Joe Boyle, OFS; Kimberley Heatherington, OFS; and Barbara Slivers, OFS, attended and passed out complimentary pet medals (pictured below) and Tau brochures, also inviting owners to attend the October 1 Tau Open House. Barb's grand-dog Skeeter — Who is a Really Good Girl — assisted.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



OCTOBER 3: THE TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS

At this time Francis was staying in the palace of the Bishop of Assisi, and he therefore asked the brothers to take him as quickly as possible to the place of St. Mary of the Portiuncula. For he wished to give back his soul to God in that place where, as has been said, he first knew the way of truth perfectly.

Then blessed Francis, despite the overpowering burden of his sickness, praised the Lord in a great joyful outburst of body and soul, saying to his companion: "Since I must soon die, have Brother Angel and Brother Leo come and praise our Sister Death for me." Both arrived and, forcing back their tears, sang the "Canticle of Brother Sun" and of the other creatures, which the saint had composed during his sickness for the glory of God and for the consolation of his soul and of that of the others.

While therefore the brothers were weeping very bitterly and grieving inconsolably, the holy father commanded that bread be brought to him. He blessed and broke it and gave a small piece of it to each one to eat.

Commanding also that a book of the Gospels be brought, he asked that the Gospel according to St. John be read to him from the place that begins: "Before the feast of the Passover."

He was recalling that most holy supper which the Lord celebrated as his last supper with his disciples. He did all of this in reverent memory of that supper, showing thereby the deep love he had for his brothers.

Then [Francis] spent the few days that remained before his death in praise, teaching his companions whom he loved so much to praise Christ with him. He himself, in as far as he was able broke forth in this psalm, "I cried to the Lord with my voice: with my voice I made supplication to the Lord." He also invited all creatures to praise God. He exhorted death itself, terrible and hateful to all, to give praise, and going joyfully to meet it, he invited it to make its lodging with him.

Then Francis said to the brothers: "When you see that I am brought to my last moments, place me naked upon the ground just as you saw me the day before yesterday; and let me lie there after I am dead for the length of time it takes one to walk a mile unhurriedly." The hour therefore came, and all the mysteries of Christ being fulfilled in him, he winged his way happily to God.



***"The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul" by Thomas of Celano, OFM
The Second Book, Chapters VII & CLXIII***

RELAX WITH A COLORING PAGE!

The Wolf and Saint Francis of Assisi



These coloring pages are based off the illustrations in *Saintly Creatures* published by Word on Fire Spark.
To get the book, visit <https://wordonfire.org/creatures>

TAU COMMITTEES

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

Hospitality Committee – Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS

Interfaith/Ecumenical Committee – Kimberley Heatherington, OFS

Infirmarian Committee – Sharon Goldberg, OFS

Recruitment Committee – Vacant

Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS



INTERFAITH & ECUMENICAL

The IFC Interfaith Concert

November 5, 2023 | 5-7:30pm

Washington Hebrew
Congregation

3935 Macomb St., NW
Washington, DC

Honoree: Selva Jayaraman,
Co-Founder, Business Integra



All Faiths.



One Family.



For tickets and information,
please visit our website.

[IFCMW.org](https://www.ifcmw.org)



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



October
is the
Month of
the Most Holy
Rosary
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

**MEMORIAL OF OUR
LADY OF THE MOST
HOLY ROSARY
7th OCTOBER**

Hail Mary

FULL OF GRACE;
THE LORD
IS WITH YOU

— LUKE 1:28 —

REFLECTIONS

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER

The Canticle of the Creatures

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.



PRAY THE ROSARY WITH ROSA MYSTICA

Sally White, OFS, suggests that — during this Month of the Holy Rosary — you may want to pray your beads with Rosa Mystica!

This YouTube channel presents all the mysteries of the Rosary, accompanied by beautiful music and sacred images.



The Glorious Mysteries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2j9N9E4YdJs>

The Sorrowful Mysteries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJHv5d8xCD4>

The Joyful Mysteries

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZRL_igjACE

The Mysteries of Light

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4qBjtYWK98>

All Mysteries of the Rosary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSHMd9Vukpl>

CALENDAR: ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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

- Oct. 1 Tau Gathering
- Oct. 2 Memorial of the Guardian Angels
- Oct. 3 Transitus of St. Francis
7:00pm at St. Joseph Church
- Oct. 4 Solemnity of Our Seraphic Father
St. Francis
Plenary indulgence for tertiaries
- Oct. 5 Gail Dowling's & Clari Claus' Profession
Anniversary
- Oct. 6 Pam Brooks', Helen Broxmeyer's, & Sally
White's Profession Anniversary
- Oct. 7 Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
Carole Clarke's Profession Anniversary
- Oct. 9 Cyndy Filan-Kim's birthday
- Oct. 17 Memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch
- Oct. 18 Feast of St. Luke
- Oct. 24 Al Carroll's & Vera Stewart's birthday
- Oct. 28 Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude
- Oct. 31 Bill Richey's birthday
Beena Job's Profession Anniversary

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

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				

November 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		

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

OCTOBER 1, 2023

SCHEDULE

1:30 pm–1:32 pm	Opening Prayer: Josh Goldberg, OFS
1:32 pm–2:12 pm	No Presentation - Open House
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 31 in *Franciscan Journey*

Inquirers:
Chapter 10 in *Franciscan Journey*

ONGOING FORMATION

Article 11 (pages 70-77) in *Called To Build a More Fraternal and Evangelical World* by Benet Fonck, OFM

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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Midday Prayer: See [here](#) or

<https://divineoffice.org/ord-w26-sun-dp2-current/?date=20231001>

Evening Prayer:

Hymn: #45: "Let All Things Now Living,"
pg. 1554

Canticle of Mary Antiphon and Prayer:

Evening Prayer II: pg. 632

Everything else: Sunday, Week II

Evening Prayer II: pg. 786

**** Contact Joe Boyle, OFS, to volunteer for:**

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