



OF SPECIAL
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Minister's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and all good!

On the first day of Passover, my mom and I had the pleasure of attending a Seder dinner at a synagogue in Fairfax. It was quite an experience, lasting for four hours and rich in symbolism.

Drawing a Catholic analogy, it holds a special significance akin to the Easter Vigil Mass. If one approaches the Easter Vigil Mass expecting brevity, they may find it challenging, as the program is lengthy with numerous readings. However, adopting a mindset attuned to the depth of the ritual reveals its deliberate purpose.

Similarly, the unfolding of the Seder dinner reveals much about the Jewish faith, guided by the Haggadah for Passover. While many passages are recited in Hebrew, others are in English, Spanish, and Russian, fostering a sense of global unity akin to Catholics praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

A prominent theme in Passover, shared by both Jewish and Catholic faiths, is that of exile. In our individual lives, we may experience personal exile — an apparent departure from God's presence. Just like the Jewish wanderers, we have a curious longing to return to bondage and a lack of appreciation for newfound freedom.

As we squander our days of freedom from sin, we often find ourselves thrust into exile once more, prompting the need to refocus and realign with God's light. This cyclic journey recurs throughout our lives, yet amidst it all, God patiently awaits the return of His beloved.

Josh



Organization

Tau Fraternity
c/o St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St.
Herndon, VA 20170

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, OFS



Monthly Tau Contemplative Prayer & Franciscan Spirituality Zoom Discussion led by Gil Donahue, OFS



Join your fellow Franciscans in a lively, hour-long discussion of contemplative prayer and Franciscan spirituality each month, led by Brother Gil!

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 13 at 7:00 PM.

E-mail Gil to receive a Zoom link.

Buy this sticker at: www.redbubble.com/i/sticker/St-Francis-of-Assisi-Contemplation-and-Meditation-by-stickercircle/144775557.EJUG5

TAU ANNUAL RETREAT: MAY 17-19

Retreat Location: Priest Field Pastoral Center
4030 Middleway Pike - Kearneysville, WV
<https://priestfield.org>

Retreat Master: Father Bernie Tickerhoof, TOR

Retreat Topic: 2024: The 800th Anniversary of Francis's Stigmata (1224)

Retreat Agenda

FRIDAY - MAY 17

4:00 - 5:45 PM Arrival and Room Assignment
6:00 PM Liturgy of the Hours - Evening Prayer in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
6:30 PM Dinner in the Dining Room
7:30 PM Session 1 in Dorothy Day Conference Room (lower level)
8:30 - 10:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration (optional) - Blessed Sacrament Chapel

SATURDAY - MAY 18

7:00 AM Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
7:30 AM Liturgy of the Hours - Morning Prayer in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
8:00 AM Breakfast in the Dining Room
9:00 AM Session 2 in Dorothy Day Conference Room (lower level)
11:00 AM Mass in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
12:00 PM Lunch in the Dining Room
1:00 PM Reconciliation in St. Francis Confessional Room (lobby area)
2:30 PM Session 3 in Dorothy Day Conference Room (lower level)
4:00 PM Free Time
5:30 PM Liturgy of the Hours - Evening Prayer in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
6:00 PM Dinner in the Dining Room
7:00 PM Session 4 in Dorothy Day Conference Room (lower level)
8:30 PM Social in Dorothy Day Conference Room & Lobby (lower level)

SUNDAY - MAY 19

7:00 AM Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
7:30 AM Liturgy of the Hours - Morning Prayer in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
8:00 AM Breakfast in the Dining Room
9:00 AM Pack
9:30 AM Summary Session in Dorothy Day Conference Room (lower level)
10:30 AM Mass in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
11:30 AM Depart

TAU ANNUAL RETREAT: MAY 17-19

Retreat Pricing: Single - \$285.00 Double - \$510.00

Retreat Payments: Checks made out to Tau Fraternity; memo line = "Retreat 2024"
Checks should be received no later than Sunday, May 5, and can be delivered at the monthly gathering or mailed to:
Tau Fraternity / 750 Peachtree St. / Herndon, VA 20170

Other Info: This year, we will be joined by brothers and sisters from Portiuncula Fraternity, which regularly meets at Priest Field. Our sister Vicki Shanholtz, OFS, transferred to this fraternity.

Meet the Retreat Master:

Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof is a friar of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis. He is currently the Director of Ongoing Formation for his religious community, and is a member of Franciscan Pathways, the community's retreat ministry. Fr. Bernie offers retreats and spiritual programs in retreat centers, parishes, and religious congregations. These are tailored to the particular needs of the specific groups and organizations. He has developed a variety of programs on contemporary spirituality, faith and biblical conversion, and leadership development.

Fr. Bernie received his Master of Divinity (MDiv) from St. Francis Seminary, formerly in Loretto, PA, in 1978, and a Master of Theology (ThM) in spirituality and liturgy through the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, CA (now part of Santa Clara University) in 1979. He received a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2007. He has also pursued graduate studies at the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University and at the Catholic University of America.



Fr. Bernie was ordained in 1978 and has been involved in spiritual ministry and retreat work since 1979. He has traveled widely throughout the country in a ministry of preaching, spiritual conferences, and retreats. He served on his community's initial formation team as Vocation Director (1993-1996), as Novice Director (2004-2012), and as Director of Initial Formation (2008-2012). He has done extensive work in Franciscan Spirituality through the Franciscan Federation of the U.S. and as a spiritual assistant for the Secular Franciscan Order at the local, provincial, and regional levels. Fr. Bernie was on his province's leadership team from 2008 to 2012.

RECAP OF APRIL 7 GATHERING

PRESENTATION

Stanley Hoover, OFS, provided the handout, “I Thirst for You” — a letter from St. Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa), with an imprimatur from Mons. G. Sergio De La Cerda, Archdiocese of Tijuana, B.C., Mexico. Containing nine paragraphs, it begins with paragraph one, “It is true. I stand at the door of your heart, day and night. Even when you are not listening, even when you doubt it could be Me, I am there. I await even the smallest sign of your response, even the least whispered invitation that will allow Me to enter.” Stanley began this presentation with prayer, explaining he is inspired by Fr. Tom Bourque, TOR, who often speaks of St. Teresa of Calcutta. Stanley read the initial paragraphs and invited other brothers and sisters to read the remaining seven.

The article ends with a quote from St. Teresa, “Jesus is God, therefore His love, His Thirst is infinite. He the creator of the universe, asked for the love of His creatures. He thirsts for our love... These words: ‘I Thirst’ – Do they echo in our souls?”

<https://catholic-link.org/quotes/i-thirst-letter-written-mother-teresa-quote>

ONGOING FORMATION

Bill Richey, OFS shared two articles, “A Brief History of the Secular Franciscan Order and its Rules” and “What is Franciscan Spirituality?” These articles note the three pillars of Franciscan spirituality as minority (poverty & humility), fraternity, and penance. They also include the 17 essential elements of Franciscan spirituality:

- To live the gospel according to the spirit of St. Francis (Articles 1, 4, 5, 14)
- To be converted continually (Articles 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 16)
- To live as sisters and brothers of all people and all of creation (Articles 13, 18)
- To live in communion with Christ (Articles 1, 4, 5, 14)
- To follow the poor and crucified Christ (Article 10)
- To share in the life and mission of the Church (Article 6)
- To share in the love of the Father (Articles 4, 12)
- To be instruments of peace (Article 19)
- To have a life of prayer that is personal, communal, and liturgical (Article 8)
- To live in joy (Article 19:2)
- To have a spirituality of a secular nature (Articles 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14)
- To be pilgrims on the way toward the Father (Article 11:2)
- To participate in the apostolate of the laity (Articles 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24)
- To be at the service of the less fortunate (Articles 13, 14, 15)
- To be loyal to the Church in an attitude of dialogue / collaboration with her ministers (Article 6:2)
- To be open to the action of the Holy Spirit (Articles 1, 4:2)
- To live in simplicity, humility, and minority (Article 11:1)

Bill Richey noted Elements 2, 11, and 13 as having the greatest number of Articles attached to them. He also spoke of Chef Jose Andreas of World Central Kitchen as a Catholic and an example of a lay person whose work is blessing many people. The New Rule was promulgated by Pope Paul VI in June of 1978, twelve years after the Rule Project was inaugurated.

JOSH & SHARON ATTEND A SEDER!

Josh Goldberg, OFS, and Sharon Goldberg, OFS attended a Jewish Passover Seder on April 22 at Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, in Fairfax. Following its inception 250 years ago, the Chabad-Lubavitch movement — a branch of Hasidism — spread to Russia and surrounding countries. Eventually the philosophy of Chabad-Lubavitch and its adherents reached almost every corner of the world, and impacted almost every facet of Jewish life. Learn more about them here: www.chabadnova.org/library/article_cdo/aid/36226/jewish/About-Chabad-Lubavitch.htm



CHABAD LUBAVITCH
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

B"H

Passover SEDER

With Chabad of Northern Virginia

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 7:45 PM
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 8:30 PM

3939 Prince William Drive
Fairfax VA 22031

- Warm and inviting atmosphere
- Gourmet Passover Cuisine
- Enjoy a meaningful and interactive Seder with all ages and stages
- Led by Rabbi Deitsch

Cost:
Adults \$50 | Children \$30

[Click HERE to RSVP](#)



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 delivery will be either **Saturday, June 8 or Saturday, June 15 (to be decided)**; the menu will be pasta.

If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Veronica O'Donnell, 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—JoyfullyEmbracingtheGospelWayofLife.poorclaresnewjersey.com)

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

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

TAU COMMITTEES

If you are interested in participating actively in a Tau Committee, take a moment to chat with the chair:

Cultural Diversity Committee — Sally White, OFS

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



PRAYER INTENTIONS

HEAR US, LORD!

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers:

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

For peace in the Middle East.

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 refugees and migrant workers. For Russians opposing the war in Ukraine.

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



2024 CHAPTER OF MATS

SEPTEMBER 6-8

The Chapter of Mats is a very ancient tradition that dates back to the beginnings of the Franciscan Order, and to St. Francis himself. In 1221, the friars gathered in Assisi for the Pentecost General Chapter. However, due to a lack of space, they slept on straw mats — hence the name. In our era, the Chapter of Mats is a gathering of Secular Franciscans from all over the St. Margaret of Cortona Region, to which Tau Fraternity belongs. The 2024 gathering theme is “The Next 800 Years.”

See more details here: <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/upcoming-events>

2024 Chapter of Mats—September 6 - 8, 2024



3035 Buckeystown Pike—Adamstown, MD 21710

Claggett Center Website — <https://www.claggettcenter.org/>



Scroll down for pictures at the Claggett Center

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 Chapter of Mats

The Next 800 Years

The Chapter is a gathering of Secular Franciscans

to celebrate -

where we've been, where we are now, where we are going.

September 6-8, 2024

Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland

Watch the *Up to Now* for more details.

****Please share with ALL members of the fraternity.****

MAY: MONTH OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER

The month of **May** is dedicated to

The Blessed Virgin Mary

During this month, we offer up to Mary an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration.

FROM CATHOLICCULTURE.COM



Because of Mary's singular cooperation with the action of the Holy Spirit, the Church loves to pray in communion with the Virgin Mary, **to magnify** with her the great things the Lord has done for her, and **to entrust** supplications and praises to her.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2682



Mary is the perfect "Orans" (pray-er)...

When we pray to her, we are adhering with her to the plan of the Father, who sends his Son to save all men.. **We can pray with and to her.** The prayer of the Church is sustained by the prayer of Mary and united with it in hope.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2679



The custom of dedicating the month of May to Mary started at the end of the 13th century. It became especially popular among Jesuit students that it spread to the whole Church by 1700.

FROM CATHOLICCULTURE.COM

We ask Mary, our Mother, to help us to pray with a humble heart.

POPE FRANCIS @PONTIFEX, AUGUST 14, 2016



MAY: MONTH OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER

“To the Immaculate Virgin, On a Winter Night” by Thomas Merton

Lady, the night is falling and the dark
Steals all the blood from the scarred west.
The stars come out and freeze my heart
With drops of untouchable music, frail as ice
And bitter as the new year's cross.

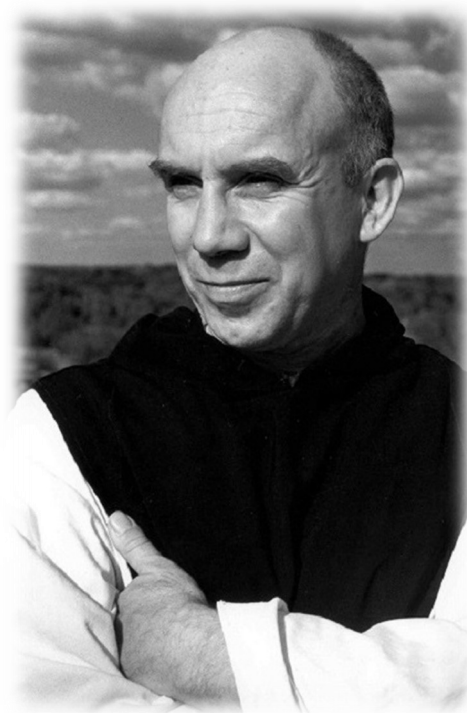
Where in the world has any voice
Prayed to you, Lady, for the peace that's in your power?
In a day of blood and many beatings
I see the governments rise up, behind the steel horizon,
And take their weapons and begin to kill.

Where in the world has any city trusted you?
Out where the soldiers camp the guns begin to thump
And another winter time comes down
To seal our years in ice.
The last train cries out
And runs in terror from this farmer's valley
Where all the little birds are dead.

The roads are white, the fields are mute
There are no voices in the wood
And trees make gallows up against the sharp-eyed stars.
Oh where will Christ be killed again
In the land of these dead men?

Lady, the night has got us by the heart
And the whole world is tumbling down.
Words turn to ice in my dry throat
Praying for a land without prayer,

Walking to you on water all winter
In a year that wants more war.



Thomas Merton, OCSO (January 31, 1915 – December 10, 1968) was an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist, and scholar of comparative religion.

MAY: MONTH OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER

“WHEN THE CHURCH LOOKS
FOR JESUS, SHE ALWAYS
KNOCKS AT HIS MOTHER’S
DOOR AND ASKS:

“SHOW US JESUS”

IT IS FROM MARY THAT THE
CHURCH LEARNS TRUE
DISCIPLESHIP. THAT IS WHY
THE CHURCH ALWAYS GOES
OUT ON MISSION IN THE
FOOTSTEPS OF MARY”

POPE FRANCIS



CatholicLink

CALENDAR: ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

May is the Month of the Holy Virgin Mary*

May 3	Feast of Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
May 5	Tau Fraternity Gathering
May 6	Kelly Passero's birthday
May 9	Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
May 12	The Ascension of the Lord (Observed)
May 14	Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle
May 19	Pentecost Sunday
May 22	National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea
May 25	Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi
May 26	Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
May 30	Feast day of St. Joan of Arc
May 31	Feast of the Queenship of Mary/Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

May 2024

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	

June 2024

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						



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
 Congress**

July 17-21
Indianapolis, Indiana

www.eucharisticcongress.org



Sunday, May 19
7:00 - 9:00 PM
Featuring Eucharistic Adoration
& worship music
St. Joseph Catholic Church

NEXT TAU GATHERING

MAY 5, 2024

SCHEDULE

- 1:30 PM** Opening Prayer: Sharon Goldberg, OFS
Social Time
- 2:00 PM** Bill Richey, OFS: Ongoing Formation
- 2:45 PM** Break
- 3:00 PM** Lisa Jaeger, OFS: Presentation -
Camino de Santiago de Compostela
- 3:30 PM** Regina Caeli & Liturgy of the Hours
- 3:45 PM** Business Meeting
- 4:00 pm** Closing Prayer

St. Joseph
Room 205

INITIAL FORMATION

Inquirer: Ch. 5 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Candidate: Ch. 16-17 in *The Franciscan Journey*

ONGOING FORMATION

Please read the one-page handout Bill Richey, OFS, e-mailed to the fraternity on April 28, concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary.

During Eastertide, we will recite the Regina Caeli:



Regina Caeli Laetari Queen of Heaven

O Queen of Heaven, rejoice,
Alleluia.

For He Whom thou didst
merit to bear, Alleluia.
Hath risen as He said,
Alleluia.

Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad,
O Virgin Mary! Alleluia.
R. For the Lord
is truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us Pray:

O God, Who by the
Resurrection of Thy Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
hast vouchsafed
to make glad
the whole world, grant,
we beseech Thee,
that, through the
intercession
His Holy Mother,
the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may attain the joys
of eternal life.
Through the same Christ
our Lord.
Amen

LITURGY OF THE HOURS 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Midday Prayer: See [here](https://divineoffice.org/easter-w06-sun-dp2/?date=20240505) or
<https://divineoffice.org/easter-w06-sun-dp2/?date=20240505>

Evening Prayer:

Hymn: #112 - "Alleluia! The Strife is
O'er", pg. 1554 in *Christian Prayer*
Psalms and Canticle: Sunday,
Week II - Evening Prayer II, pg. 786
Everything Else: Sixth Sunday of
Easter - Evening Prayer II, pg. 545

Scripture & Responsory Reader:
Cynthia Filan-Kim, OFS

Contact
Liz Welborn, OFS,
to volunteer for June
Scripture Reading
and Responsory.