



OF SPECIAL  
INTEREST:

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## Minister's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and all good!

In December, I attended two retirement parties. I knew each of the retirees fairly well, but during the speeches and ceremonies, I learned something new about them. Both celebrations were very touching and, of course, got me thinking about my own remaining runway in the workforce.

I've organized my work life and personal life around discrete goals: get promoted, earn a certification, run a certain time in a marathon, climb Mt. Rainier, get my kids into colleges of a certain caliber. This approach has kept me disciplined, which is unambiguously a good thing. However, there is something funny about discrete goals. Once you achieve them, they need to be reloaded; otherwise, a certain emptiness can ensue.

Bill Burnett and Dave Evans, in *Designing Your Life*, state the following: "A well-designed life is a life that is generative — it is constantly creative, productive, changing, evolving, and there is always the possibility of surprise." Continuous goal-setting fits nicely into the concept of a generative life. But the nature of those goals needs to evolve, and perhaps we need to concede some control to God to guide this process. There is a certain openness and self-awareness required to keep us from setting superficial goals that don't feed our evolving spiritual needs.

Since our careers are often so defining in how we design our lives, retirement becomes a true test of whether our life design is creative, productive, changing, evolving, and capable of surprise. In retirement speeches, there are inevitably references to the fact that time is short and to appreciate every moment. While this is sound advice, it doesn't guide us in how we should organize our activities to be fully present.

As Catholics and Secular Franciscans, we have discussed and practiced various forms of prayer to encourage a well-designed life. Certainly, the Rule to which we professed provides some clarity. As the New Year approaches and there is talk of resolutions, let's not be complacent. Let's not just think of something to do differently; instead, let's focus on intentionality of purpose.

Josh





# Jubilee 2025

## GENERAL CALENDAR

### DECEMBER 2024

**24 December**

Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica



Photo Vatican Media

### JANUARY 2025

**24-26 January**

Jubilee of the World of Communications

### FEBRUARY 2025

**8-9 February**

Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

**16-18 February**

Jubilee of Artists

**21-23 February**

Jubilee of Deacons

### MARCH 2025

**8-9 March**

Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

**28 March**

24 Hours for the Lord

**28-30 March**

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

### APRIL 2025

**5-6 April**

Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers

**25-27 April**

Jubilee of Teenagers

**28-30 April**

Jubilee of People with Disabilities

### MAY 2025

**1-4 May**

Jubilee of Workers

**4-5 May**

Jubilee of Entrepreneurs

**10-11 May**

Jubilee of Musical Bands

**16-18 May**

Jubilee of Confraternities

**24-25 May**

Jubilee of Children

**30 May - 1 June**

Jubilee of Families, Grandparents and the Elderly



### JUNE 2025

**7-8 June**

Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities

**9 June**

Jubilee of the Holy See

**14-15 June**

Jubilee of Sport

**20-22 June**

Jubilee of Governments

**23-24 June**

Jubilee of Seminarians

**25 June**

Jubilee of Bishops

**25-27 June**

Jubilee of Priests

**28 June**

Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

### JULY 2025

**28 July - 3 August**

Jubilee of Youth

### SEPTEMBER 2025

**15 September**

Jubilee of Consolation

**20 September**

Jubilee of Justice

**26-28 September**

Jubilee of Catechists

### OCTOBER 2025

**5 October**

Jubilee of Migrants

**8-9 October**

Jubilee of Consecrated Life

**11-12 October**

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

**18-19 October**

Jubilee of the Missions

**30 October - 2 November**

Jubilee of the World of Education



### NOVEMBER 2025

**16 November**

Jubilee of the Poor

**22-23 November**

Jubilee of Choirs

### DECEMBER 2025

**14 December**

Jubilee of Prisoners



VISIT THE WEBSITE

[www.iubilaeum2025.va](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va)



[@iubilaeum25.va](https://www.instagram.com/iubilaeum25.va)



## 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,



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



The Tau Contemplative Prayer &  
Franciscan Spirituality discussion  
group will take place  
**Monday, January 13**  
from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The theme will be Charism.

Contact 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](https://www.redbubble.com/i/sticker/St-Francis-of-Assisi-Contemplation-and-Meditation-by-stickercircle/144775557.EJUG5)



# RECAP OF DECEMBER 8 GATHERING

## PRESENTATION

Thanks to the organization and preparation by Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS, a festive Christmas party was enjoyed in place of the monthly presentation.

## ONGOING FORMATION

Bill Richey, OFS led a group discussion on “Let Us Begin Again – An Advent Invitation” by Diane Houdek, published on Franciscan Media. The focus was on her two favorite quotes:

“I have two favorite quotes from Saint Francis. The first is “Let us begin again, for until now we have done nothing.” Francis said this as he was nearing his death, knowing that conversion is never a single moment but a lifelong journey. We constantly need to renew our commitment to Christ, to following the Gospel, to drawing closer to God. Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year, is a perfect time to begin again, a fresh start for each of us.”

“My second favorite Francis quote is, “I have done what is mine to do. May Christ show you what is yours to do.” Francis knew that it was important that those who followed him never lost sight of the fact that they were ultimately following Christ. It’s not about a slavish imitation of a man who lived in the Middle Ages in a small town in central Italy but about seeing through his life the message of Christ for all people in all times and places.”



# TAU CHRISTMAS PARTY!





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# 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 first food delivery of 2025 will be on Saturday, February 8; the menu is “pasta extraordinaire.”

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**



# APOSTOLATE NEWS — ESL CLASSES

Sally White, OFS, shares this report about Tau's ESL Classes ministry:

Bill Bouffard is now the Tau liaison with the First Baptist Church of Herndon for the English class apostolate. Bill teaches the Intermediate classes and will be coordinating Tau's volunteers.

The Fall Semester has been a big success! Volunteers registered 32 students from 12 countries. There are 19 students in the Beginners class, 7 in the Intermediate Class, and 6 in the Advanced class.

Everyone worked together to create a very streamlined process with all the required stations covered! The new furniture that we were able to get with our grant money from the Herndon Moose Lodge has enhanced our classrooms with improved tables, chairs and storage cabinets and the flip charts and overhead projector have been very beneficial for our teacher presentations.

The classes will be moving to new rooms in the church over the Christmas holidays. The new rooms are larger with closets and a separate entrance to the church.

Registration for the January Semester will be January 14 and 15, 2025 at the First Baptist Church of Herndon.

Classes will begin Tuesday January 21.

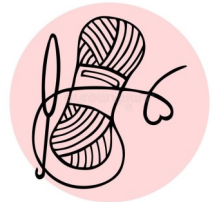
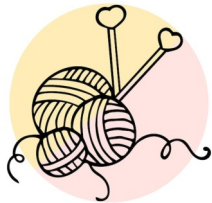
Please volunteer for one or both of the registration nights.

If you are interested in helping the teachers in the classrooms on Tuesday nights, please contact Bill Bouffard.



# APOSTOLATE NEWS — SHAWL MINISTRY

Sr. Karen Stapleton, OSC, knits for the Tau Shawl Ministry from her Poor Clare convent in Chesterfield, NJ! Returning from a trip, Joe Boyle, OFS, dropped by for a visit on Dec. 16 — and picked up Sr. Karen's latest handiwork!





# MEET YOUR MAY 2025 RETREAT MASTER!

## Fr. Vincent Yeager, TOR

**Hometown:**

Patton, PA

**Year professed/ordained:**

- Entered the Franciscan Community: 2011
- Professed Vows: 2013
- Ordained: 2018

**What did you do or consider doing before entering the community?**

I completed my degree in electro-mechanical engineering and turned down two jobs in the field.

**What drew you to the TOR friars?**

I got to know a number of the friars who were in formation and serving at Saint Francis University, close to where I grew up. While I was attending a neighboring college, I kept coming back to these men and finally realized I wanted to be one of them, to be a brother with them.

**What are some hobbies you enjoy?**

I enjoy most things that get me outside: hiking, camping, exercise. My more leisurely pursuits are reading and leatherworking.

**Favorite saint and why:**

Aside from Saint Francis of Assisi, I find Saint Benedict of Nursia to be compelling. His devotion, diligence, and practicality align well with my personality, and I find him a good example for me.

**Favorite Bible verse:**

"Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." - Luke 24:45-47

**Current Ministry:**

Provincial Councilor, Director of Formation, Post Novitiate Director

# TAU COMMITTEES

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

Cultural Diversity Committee (ESL) — Bill Bouffard, 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





2025

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

*"Do you  
believe this?"*

*(John 11:26)*

1700th anniversary  
of the Council of Nicaea



### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY— JANUARY 18-25, 2025

The theme of the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025* is based on a text from the Gospel of John: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). The prayers and reflections have been prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy. As usual, an international team appointed jointly by the Vatican Dicastery for the Promotion of Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches worked with the authors to finalize the materials.

The year 2025 will mark the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians as expressed in the Creed formulated at that Council. The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025* is an invitation to draw on this common heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

[www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/news/2024/2024-05-20-wpcu-2025.html](http://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/news/2024/2024-05-20-wpcu-2025.html)

**SEE DAILY PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY HERE,  
ON P. 18**

[www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita/semaine-de-priere-pour-l-unite-des-chretiens-20241/anglais.html](http://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita/semaine-de-priere-pour-l-unite-des-chretiens-20241/anglais.html)

# 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 and terror attacks. 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*





## REFLECTIONS: MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

### POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER



...There is one Christian name in the world  
which casts a spell over eye or ear  
when we see it written  
on the page of a book,  
or overhear it mentioned in conversation.  
We are thrilled by the mere encounter of it.

...It produces in us  
a sudden lightening of the heart,  
**because we are IN LOVE!**

Monsignor Ronald Knox (1888-1957)





## CCC 2668

The invocation of the Holy Name of Jesus  
is the simplest way of praying always.  
When the Holy Name is repeated often  
by a humbly attentive heart,  
the prayer is not lost  
by heaping up empty praises  
but holds fast to the Word  
and "brings forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15).

This prayer is possible at all times  
because it is not one occupation among others  
but the only occupation - that of loving God,  
which animates and transfigures every action  
in Christ Jesus.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Join your brothers and sisters for Tau Mass & A Meal!**

**Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025  
11:30 AM**

**St. John Neumann (Reston)  
With Veronica O'Donnell, OFS**

Attend Mass at the parish of one of your Tau brothers or sisters, followed by a meal together at a nearby restaurant.

Don't miss these opportunities to worship with one another, and build community in our fraternity!

Additional details for each Tau Mass & A Meal date will follow by e-mail.





# CALENDAR: ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

## January is the Month of the Holy Name of Jesus & His Holy Childhood\*

- Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- Jan. 3 Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
- Jan. 4 Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Veronica O'Donnell's Profession
- Jan. 5 Tau Fraternity Gathering  
The Epiphany of the Lord  
Feast of St. John Neumann
- Jan. 7 Feast of Blessed Angela of Foligno
- Jan. 11 Kimberley Heatherington's Profession
- Jan. 12 The Baptism of the Lord  
Walter Gawlak's Birthday
- Jan. 15 Barbara Slivers' Birthday
- Jan. 18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
(until Jan. 25)
- Jan. 23 Tambra Riggs-Gutierrez's Profession
- Jan. 24 Feast of St. Francis de Sales  
Paola Larin's and Vera Stewart's Profession
- Jan. 25 Carole Clarke's Birthday
- Jan. 29 Gil Donahue's Profession
- Jan. 31 Feast of St. John Bosco  
Richard Clarke's Birthday

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

## January 2025

Sun	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	

## February 2025

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	

### Sunday, January 5 Opening Mass for the Holy Year 2025



**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**Cathedral of St. Thomas More**  
[www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org)

### Sunday, January 19 Mass in Recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day



**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**Cathedral of St. Thomas More**  
[www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org)

# NEXT TAU GATHERING

JANUARY 5, 2025

## SCHEDULE

- 1:30 PM** Opening Prayer: Joe Boyle, OFS  
Social Time
- 2:00 PM** Bill Richey, OFS: Ongoing Formation
- 2:45 PM** Break
- 3:00 PM** Gil Donahue, OFS: "Charism"
- 3:30 PM** Angelus & Liturgy of the Hours
- 3:45 PM** Business Meeting
- 4:00 pm** Closing Prayer

St. Joseph Church  
Room 205

## INITIAL FORMATION

### Aspirants:

Preface & Ch. 1 in *The Franciscan Journey*

### Candidate:

Ch. 25 in *The Franciscan Journey*

## ONGOING FORMATION

Bill Richey, OFS, will facilitate a discussion of how we served as Franciscan peacemakers in family and social gatherings affected by political or cultural divisions.

During Epiphany, 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 Epiphany of the Lord

Midday Prayer: See [here](#) or

<https://divineoffice.org/xmas-epiphany-dp2-current/?date=20250105>

Evening Prayer  
Led by Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS

Everything:  
Epiphany, Evening Prayer II  
pg. 214

Contact  
Liz Welborn, OFS,  
to volunteer for  
Scripture Reading &  
Responsory, Opening Prayer,  
& Presentations