



PACE E BENE

TAU FRATERNITY

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

<https://tauofs.org/>

May 2021

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Peace and all good!

May is the Month of Mary — and maybe, like me, you just can't resist a good Mariological controversy. Or maybe you can.

In any event, perhaps you heard that Pope Francis lately stirred up a bit of debate when he declared that Mary is not Co-Redemptrix with Christ.

If you haven't heard this term, Co-Redemptrix is a "title used to describe Mary's relation to Jesus and her unique role in salvation history... the prefix 'co-' ordinarily means a mutually cooperative effort between or among equals... it applies to one who both cooperates with, and is completely dependent on and subordinate to, another or others. It is in this sense in which Mary may be said to cooperate with her Son, the sole redeemer of humanity" (p. 72, *Encyclopedia of Mary* by Monica & Bill Dodds — 2007, Our Sunday Visitor).

Speaking on the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Annunciation, Pope Francis said he entrusts the Church to Mary — but he was very specific that he did so "as a Mother, not as a goddess, not as co-redeemer: as mother. It is true that Christian piety has always given her beautiful titles, as a child gives to his or her mamma," said the pope. "But we need to be careful: the things the Church, the saints, say about her, beautiful things, about Mary, subtract nothing from Christ's sole Redemption. He is the only Redeemer."

So did Pope Francis just dis Mary?

No, he didn't. While some have sought to have the concept of Co-Redemptrix defined as dogma, it never has been — so it just remains a lovely title to ascribe to Mary.

It is a concept and a title, however, that points to a very deep truth, which is this: God wants — indeed, needs — us to participate in our own salvation.

Since we are endowed with a free will, God will not force anything on us, however much it might be for our ultimate good.

No, we must come to faith on our own — with open hearts and hands; hearts ready to be filled with the love of God, and hands ready to receive the gift of eternal life.

God needed Mary to say yes — and she did. “Let it be done unto me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Nothing was imposed upon her; her assent was a sign of participation; of cooperation. Mary’s “yes” enabled the salvific work of Christ. That’s how much God respects our autonomy. That’s how important humanity is.

Likewise, St. Paul says this in Colossians 1:24: “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the Church.”

But what is Paul talking about? What could Christ possibly lack? Our participation; our assent; the uniting of our hearts — and our own suffering — with His.

Again, that’s how important humanity is.

So never underestimate the important role you have as a very special someone who cooperates with God. Sometimes, it’s a role that might seem a bit overwhelming. But whenever we are discouraged, we need only to look to the example of Mary — and not just during her month of May, but throughout our lives.

As Franciscans, our love for Mary follows that of St. Francis: “He loved with an unspeakable affection the Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, forasmuch as that she had made the Lord of glory our Brother, and that through her we have obtained mercy” (St. Bonaventure, *Legenda Maior*, IX, 3).

Remember — on May 22, our very own Br. Joseph will be ordained to the priesthood at the Franciscan University of Steubenville! Be sure to keep him in your daily prayers as he moves toward this momentous date.

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley

RECAP OF LAST GATHERING

OPENING PRAYER

Joe Boyle offered an opening prayer:

Life can appear to be complicated at times and so can we. But the truth is that we need to cut through the complexities of life and realize that, from the perspective and Will of God, life is simple. It’s simple in that all we need to do is say “Yes” to Him every day, surrendering all to Him and trusting Him every step of the way. We must be diligent in responding to His promptings and grace, but we do not have to enter into the entire complicated world, figure it out and solve it. This is too much and is far better done by God. Seek to be a simple soul who trusts in the perfect wisdom of God and He will sort life out for you (*Saint Faustina Diary*)

PRESENTATION

Bill Richey, OFS gave a presentation on Pope Francis’ book *Let Us Dream*. The presentation focused on the three periods of suffering in his life, which Pope Francis described as COVIDs. For each period, one Tau member shared a similar experience.

1. **Illness** – He was very ill, and the doctors removed the upper right lobe of his lung. Two nurses at the hospital were very helpful to him, and Sister Maria Dolores Tortola visited him in silence, only saying, “You’re imitating Jesus.”

Veronica O’Donnell, OFS shared her experience working in a hospital.

2. **Living in Germany** – He moved to Germany in 1986 and experienced feelings of loneliness and non-belonging. Moving to a foreign land throws you off balance.

Valerye Milleson shared her experience moving to different areas due to her work.

3. **Living in Cordoba** – From 1990 – 1992, he lived in Cordoba, in a lockdown. He did not leave the house much. This gave him a greater capacity for prayer; he experienced temptation; and he did a great deal of reading. Living in a lockdown, you suffer a lot, but if you allow it to change you, you come out better.

Josh Goldberg, OFS shared his reflection of the lockdown.

To conclude his presentation, Bill read a poem.

Hope

By Alexis Valdes

When the storm has passed...and the crowds are tamed
And we are survivors...of a collective shipwreck
With tearful heart...our destiny blessed
We will feel joy...simply for being alive

And we'll give a hug...to the first stranger
And praise our good luck...that we kept a friend.
And then we'll remember all that we lost
And finally learn...everything we never learned.

And we'll envy no one...for all of us have suffered
And we'll not be idle...but more compassionate .
We'll value more what belongs to all...than what was earned
We'll be more generous...and much more committed

We'll understand how fragile ...it is to be alive
We'll sweat with empathy...for those still with us and those who are gone.
We'll miss the old man...who asked for a buck in the market
Whose name we never knew...who was always at your side.

And maybe the poor old man...was your God in disguise
But you never asked his name...because you never had the time
And we'll all become a miracle...and all will become a legacy
And we'll respect the life...the life we have gained.

When the storm passes...I ask the Lord, in shame
That you return us better...as you once dreamed us.

ONGOING FORMATION

Kimberley Heatherington, OFS led Ongoing Formation, in the absence of Walter Gawlak, OFS. She provided highlights from the introduction and first chapter of *Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love*:

- Early on, at the age of 18, Clare decided she wanted to live a penitential life like Francis. But she did not get to live the way she wanted because the Pope wanted the women penitents to be protected.
- Clare emphasized the Incarnation.
- Clare saw the world as good because God created it.
- The poverty of God is his willingness to die for us. Poverty for us is living in dependence on God.
- The Trinity is perfect love; a continual flow of love back and forth.

After the overview, the members were divided into five groups. Each group discussed the following questions.

1. How does God's love make a difference in your life?
2. How do you understand the Trinity as a community of love? Does the Trinity help shape your life in the everyday world?
3. What is significant about the poverty of God for you? Do you relate the poverty of God as love to the person of Jesus Christ?
4. How does God's love diffuse through you to others?

PRAYER SUBMISSIONS

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

For physical and spiritual healing Al Carroll and his family; Bill Brewster and his son Richard Lee; Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White and her husband Gary; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan; and Irene Naveau. 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 who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Please send prayer requests to Kimberley Heatherington, OFS.

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I am deeply grateful for your love and support. My surgery went well, and I am resting and recovering comfortably at home. I know this is because of your many prayers!! Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, calls, flowers, emails, and text messages. You all are a blessing!

Love, Vera

APOSTOLATES

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Help to feed the hungry. Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS volunteered to shop and deliver food to the St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter at her parish. Money from the Tau General Fund will be used to purchase needed food items. If you wish to contribute, please send a check to Cyndy.

Thank you!

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE APOSTOLATE

The next trip will be in June.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INDIVIDUAL APOSTOLATES

Sally White, OFS is following the issue of immigration of unaccompanied minors. Call her if you would like to know more. She has a JPIC webinar and online course information that she can share.

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



Day of Unity is here!

Diverse Faith Perspectives on Nonviolence

Featured Speakers



Dr. Sushil Jain
Jain Society of
Metropolitan Washington



Judy Coode
Catholic Nonviolence
Initiative, Pax Christi



Matt Regan
International Buddhist
Committee of Washington,
DC



Dr. Timothy Seidel
Professor, Center for Justice
and Peacebuilding, Eastern
Mennonite University

Moderator

Violence is all around us, whether it be mass shootings, police brutality or war. Yet many faith traditions speak to the importance of nonviolence as a value or action to be pursued. This program will explore diverse religious understandings of nonviolence and how nonviolence is being practiced by faith communities in contemporary times.

Wednesday, May 5th
7:00 - 8:00 PM ET

Register here:

https://givebutter.com/umNuCv?blm_aid=352066

COMING UP IN MAY

May is the Month of the Holy Virgin Mary *

- May 2 – Tau Gathering
- May 3 – Feast of Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
- May 6 - Kelly Passero's birthday
- May 14 – Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle
- May 22 – Brother Joseph Marie Krilich's ordination
- May 25 – Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi
- May 26 – Feast of St. Philippe Neri
- May 27 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity



May 30 – Ascension of Jesus

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: <http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/traditional-franciscan-calendar.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ordination of Brother Joseph Marie Krilich, TOR

When: May 22, 2021, 10am

Where: Franciscan University of Steubenville, Finnegan Fieldhouse

RSVP: (202) 734-3634 or at www.franciscanstor.org/ordinationrsvp

Livestream: <https://chapel.franciscan.edu/live>

First Annual Virtual Franciscan Connections Virtual Conference

Sponsored by The Franciscan Study Center at Tilburg University and The Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University

Topic: Lesser Ethics: Retrieving the Good Life in the Franciscan Tradition

When: June 24 & 25, 9:00am – 2:00pm

Free, no registration fee

Register at [Franciscan Connections Conference | Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University \(sbu.edu\)](#)

Virtual Secular Franciscan Conference

Topic: Living Franciscan Values in our Contemporary World

When: June 28 – July 1, 7:30am – 9:00pm

Registration Fee: \$50, due by June 1

Register at [Living Franciscan Virtues in our Contemporary World Virtual Conference | StBonaVenue](#)

NEXT TAU FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Sunday, **May 2, 2021**

Location: TELECONFERENCE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS – Call-in information will be sent via email.

Schedule:	1:30 pm – 1:35 pm	Opening Prayer & Member Prayer Offering: TBD
	1:35 pm – 2:15 pm	Presentation Stanley Hoover - His OFS Journey
	2:15 pm – 2:25 pm	Break
	2:25 pm – 3:05 pm	Ongoing Formation & Discussion
	3:05 pm – 3:15 pm	Break
	3:15 pm – 3:25 pm	Regina Coeli & Liturgy of the Hours
	3:25 pm – 3:35 pm	Business Meeting
	3:35 pm	Closing Prayer

INITIAL FORMATION:

Senior Candidates: Chapter 29 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Candidates: Chapter 17 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Inquirers: Chapter 5 in *The Franciscan Journey*

ON-GOING FORMATION:

We will continue with our consideration of poverty with Chapter 2 of Ilia Delio's *Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love*. We will discuss the questions at the end of the chapter in small groups.

THE REGINA COELI

During Easter, we will precede the Liturgy of the Hours with the Regina Coeli in English

V Queen of heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.

R For He whom thou didst deserve to bear, Alleluia

V Hath risen as He said, Alleluia.

R Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

R. Because Our 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, great, we beseech Thee, that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ Our Lord. AMEN

LITURGY OF THE HOURS:

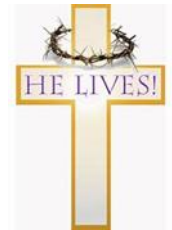
Fifth Sunday of Easter:

Hymn: #114 – I Am the Bread of Life: pg. 1629

Psalms with Antiphons from Sunday, Week I Evening Prayer II: pg. 712

Everything else: pg. 523

Readers: **TBD****



****Please contact Kimberley Heatherington, OFS if you would like to volunteer to do the following:**

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

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. If you call and do not get an answer, please leave a voicemail message.