



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Oct. 3,
1:30pm—
Monthly Tau
Gathering,
St. Joseph
- Oct. 3,
7:00pm -
Transitus,
St. Joseph
- Oct. 4 -
Feast Day of
St. Francis
of Assisi

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Minister's Message

Peace and all good!

By the time you read this, our nation will have just observed the 20th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Perhaps, like me, you watched ceaseless cycles of documentaries filled with horrific images of destruction and suffering. Perhaps you also heard observations of, "How could God allow that? Why didn't He do something?"

How and why indeed?

But there is an answer: and it's found in the Doctrine of Free Will.

In summary, Catholic teaching on free will states that God gave men and women the capacity to choose good or evil in their lives. However, "the exercise of freedom does not imply a right to say or do everything" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1740).

Morally, we have the agency of choice because God did not create us as automatons who would only lurch between episodes of bad decisions as a divine puppet master pulled the strings just in time to avert disaster or harm. Such a scenario might assure that no evil would exist — but it would also be a violation of the dignity with which God imbued humanity. In His own image, remember?

That God's respect of human dignity has also resulted in countless episodes of evil throughout history — every day, and to this very hour — is not on God. It's on us. Humanity was given free will, and in many cases, it has made spectacularly bad, vile, and destructive choices with that same freedom.

But: Humanity has also made countless choices for good, compassion, and beauty. When something as annihilatingly awful as 9/11 happens, it's hard for us to remember this. But it abides, nonetheless.

Think of the innumerable acts of selfless heroism and sacrifice we witnessed on that day: Firefighters rushing into the World Trade Center towers, many to their certain deaths. Office workers refusing to abandon their injured colleagues, sometimes carrying them down flight after flight of smoke-choked stairs. The Diocese of Arlington's own Fr. Stephen McGraw sprinting from his traffic-jammed car to rush the sacraments and other comfort to the dying at the blazing side of the Pentagon. Flight 93 passengers who were determined that their jet would not be the instrument of death and destruction its hijackers intended.

No, there is most certainly evil, in abundance. And it can be soul-deadening. But there is also good; so much good — in so many people, in so many places, and in so many situations.

Does it all balance out, in some kind of cosmic equilibrium? If so, how and when?

Again, there may be times that it's challenging for us to not feel overwhelmed by the continual march of real and virtual wrongdoing that daily stomps across glowing screens, printed and digital pages, and into the lives of those near and far.

But in those bouts of discouragement, remember this: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

And that's a promise.

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley



Organization

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

Meetings every 1st Sunday at:
St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St., Room 205
Herndon, VA 20170

Pace e 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**—Kimberley Heatherington, OFS
- **Vice Minister**—Josh Goldberg, OFS
- **Formation Director**—Walter Gawlak, OFS
- **Secretary**—Vera Stewart, OFS
- **Treasurer**—Cynthia Filan-Kim, OFS



<https://tauofs.org>

Profession



Joseph Boyle, OFS and Valerye Milleson, OFS made a solemn profession of the gospel life in the Secular Franciscan Order at St. Joseph Catholic Church

Rite of Profession
September 17, 2021



Recap of Last Gathering

September 5,
2021

★ Family Prayer for Patriot Day And in Remembrance of 9-11 ★

Dearest Jesus,

You are the source of all hope and peace. We pray for all souls who lost their lives in terrorist attacks. Knowing our need for your protection, we ask you to protect our country and our world.

Give our president and leaders wisdom to do the right thing, and give our defenders courage as they serve our country.

We thank you for the sacrificial love shown by so many, like the firefighters, police officers, and other brave men and women, who continue to sacrifice their own time and lives to help others.

Help us to follow their example of selfless love and bravery to help those we see in need every day.

Jesus, our loving savior, watch over us and guide us in your love.

Amen

PRESENTATION:

Walter Gawlak, OFS gave a presentation entitled "Profession: A Franciscan Celebration," which addressed the following:

- **Commitment to the Franciscan Way of Life**—The Early Brothers, St. Clare, and many others made a commitment to follow the Rule, the Franciscan Way of Life.
- **Profession in a Nutshell**—It is a promise to live the Gospel in the manner of St. Francis.
- **Grace and the Candidate**—The Holy Spirit guides the candidate to the special moment, and grace helps the professed to meet the profession commitment.
- **The Ceremony**—The candidate prepares for a period of at least two years. The ceremony is a dialogue between the candidate and God.
- **The Franciscan Community**—The profession is a communal ceremony that takes place within the Secular Franciscan community; the community ratifies the profession vow by its presence.
- **The Church**—The Church approves the Secular Franciscan pedigree. The *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order* is blessed by the Pope. As directed by the Rule, the Secular Franciscan Order promises to rebuild the Church.

ONGOING FORMATION:

Walter Gawlak, OFS presented a portion of video by Bishop Barron on Holy Orders. Highlights from the video are as follows.

- The priest is married to the church, and his children are the people he serves.
- The priest is a Jacob's Ladder; he represents a reconciliation between heaven and earth, connecting them.
- Ordained priests are priest, prophet and king.
- The priest's job is to make people saints.
- The priest allows Christ to speak through him while preaching.
- The priest is the orchestrator of charisms of the community.
- The priest is always the victim, as Christ was both priest and victim at the same time while he was crucified.

After the video, Walter pointed out that some things from Bishop Barron's message are similar for professed Secular Franciscans. Similarities are in our preparation, in finding our charisms, and in our commitment to live the Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis.

APOSTOLATES

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE

Thanks to our Brothers and Sisters who support the apostolate at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. Please contact Pat B., OFS or Joe M., OFS if you are interested in making a dish for the meal or helping the hospice patients in any other way.

We have not yet confirmed a date for the October meal delivery. Watch the group site for an update over the coming days.

Pace e bene!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Help to feed the hungry. Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS volunteered to shop and deliver food to the St. Vincent DePaul 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. Tau Fraternity will continue to also give a monetary donation to the pantry. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please provide it to Cyndy.

Thank you!

For more, info, see [St. Vincent DePaul - St. Timothy Parish \(saint-timothy.org\)](http://saint-timothy.org)

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://poorclaresnewjersey.com)

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 Service](#)

FAITH without WORKS is dead

James 2:17

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

September 11, 2021

INTERFAITH & ECUMENICAL

Pope to G20 Interfaith Forum: Peace is a universal right



Pope Francis sends a message to participants in the G20 Interfaith Forum, and urges religious leaders to pursue peace for all peoples and to serve truth.

By Devin Watkins

The G20 Interfaith Forum runs from 12-14 September in the Italian city of Bologna, and is meant to promote healing from the Covid-19 pandemic and the many conflicts lacerating the world.

Religious leaders taking part in the annual event seek to engage with the agenda of the G20, a forum for international economic cooperation amongst the world's 20 largest economies.

Pope Francis sent his greetings to participants in the Interfaith Forum on Saturday evening.

True religion

The Pope praised the forum's goal of sharing ideas and hopes through interfaith dialogue and the promotion of religious freedom.

He said the role of religions is essential in overcoming war and hatred, since "true religion consists in adoring God and loving our neighbor."

"More than putting something on display, we are called to show the fatherly presence of the Heavenly God through our harmony on earth," he said.

Misuse of God's Name

Pope Francis went on to lament that we are, however, far from that achieving that ideal.

He cited figures which indicate that over 3,000 attacks on places of worship have taken place in the past 40 years, killing over 5,000 people.

"It is too easy to see that those who blaspheme God's holy

Name by persecuting their brothers and sisters can still find financing," he said.

Called to serve truth

However, religious leaders are called to "serve truth" and "declare without hesitation and fear that evil is evil, even and especially when those who commit the acts profess our same creed."

The Pope then called for education in religion, to overcome "religious illiteracy" which cuts across many societies.

"We must educate," he said, "promoting equitable and integral development which builds up opportunities for schooling and education, because wherever undisputed poverty and ignorance prevail so too does fundamentalist violence."

Peace found in justice, not arms

Pope Francis urged peoples of all religions to put aside arms and forgive one another as brothers and sisters.

"The path of peace is not found in arms but in justice," said the Pope. "And we religious leaders should be the first to support this process, by witnessing to the fact that overcoming evil consists not in proclaiming but in prayer, not in revenge but in harmony, not in the shortcuts offered by strength but in the patient and constructive force of solidarity."

Fundamental right of peace

Peace, concluded Pope Francis, should be promoted as a fundamental right for all people of the world.

"We should not be neutral," he said, "but allied on the side of peace!"

The Pope also called for peace to be added as a fourth "P" in the tryptic of "People, Planet, Prosperity".

"Truly, the time for alliances of some against others has past," said Pope Francis. "Now is the time for alliances in the search for shared solutions to the problems of all."

PRAYER INTENTIONS

HEAR US, LORD!

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers:

For physical and spiritual healing of Melissa, Ben, and Baby Levi; Valerye Milleson; 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 refugees and migrant workers. 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.

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, Devotion, and Prayer

Impertinence Reconsidered

Have you been saved? Now there's an annoying question!
Saved from what? The answer doesn't come easily,
Hidden as it is behind an endless wall
Within the mind, lest ugliness break through
Our illusions, bringing ancient barbaric tendencies
Into the light, undoing our peace of mind,
And suggesting, against all reason, the need for salvation.

Helen Broxmeyer
September 8, 2021

TRANSITUS

"Transitus is a Latin word which means 'passage' or 'crossing over.' In all of the accounts written about the death of St. Francis, it is always remarked that he crossed from earthly life to eternal life with the Lord, filled with joy and having written his *Canticle of Creation*.

In celebrating the Transitus, we are reminded that death is a part of life, that the final journey of our earthly existence is nothing to be feared, but to be celebrated and embraced. For it is only through death that we come to the full joy of the Lord."

[The Transitus of Francis – Capuchin Franciscans \(capuchins.org\)](http://capuchins.org)

FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY

How to Pray the Crown Rosary

The Franciscan Crown Rosary begins quite simply by stating the first joy and then praying one Our Father and ten Hail Marys while meditating upon it. This same procedure is then followed for the other six joys. Even though it is common practice nowadays to add the Glory Be at the end of each decade, and even the Fatima Prayer, these are not required. It is customary to finish by adding two Hail Marys in honor of the 72 years that Our Lady is said to have lived on earth, and one Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope.

The Seven Joys are:

- 1) The Annunciation
- 2) The Visitation
- 3) The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- 4) The Adoration of the Magi
- 5) The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple
- 6) The Appearance of Christ to Mary after the Resurrection
- 7) The Assumption and Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven

[The 7 Decade Rosary - MFVA - Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word](#)

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities and Events

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

- Oct 2 – Memorial of the Guardian Angels
- Oct 3 – Tau Gathering
Transitus of St. Francis, 7:00pm at St. Joseph Church
- Oct 4 – Solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis, plenary indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers
- Oct 5 – Gail Dowling’s 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 14 – Pat B’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 29 – Bill Brewster’s birthday
- Oct 31 – Bill Richey’s birthday

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

OCTOBER 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sa
					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 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sa
	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				

TAU GATHERING REMINDER

The October 3rd Tau Gathering will be in person at St. Joseph and will have a virtual option. Call-in information will be sent via email.

We will host our annual Open House!

TRANSITUS

When: Sunday, October 3, 2020, 7:00pm

Where: St. Joseph Church



NEXT TAU GATHERING

October 3, 2021

SCHEDULE

- 1:30 - Opening Prayer – **TBD**
- 1:35 - 2:10 Open House
- 2:10 - 3:20 On-going formation
- 3:20 - 3:30 Break
- 3:30 - 3:45 The Angelus & Liturgy of Hours
- 3:45 - 4:00 Business meeting
- 4:00 Closing prayer

St. Joseph Church
Room 205

INITIAL FORMATION:

Candidates: Chapters 22 and 28 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Inquirers: Chapter 9 in *The Franciscan Journey*

ONGOING FORMATION:

We will resume our journey with Saint Clare with a reading and discussion of Chapter 6, "Transformation" in *Clare of Assisi – A Heart Full of Love*.

THE ANGELUS

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

- V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
- R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with Thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen
- V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
- R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.
Hail Mary, etc.
- V. And the Word was made Flesh.
- R. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary, etc.
- 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 Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy 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.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hymn: #182 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past (Verses 1 and 2): pg. 1704 or O Blest Creator of the Light (Divine Office podcast)

Gospel Canticle and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pgs. 633

Everything else: Sunday, Week III Evening Prayer II: pg. 861

Readers: **TBD****

**Contact Kimberley Heatherington, 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.