



SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Necrology,  
pg. 4
- Tau Veter-  
ans, p. 9

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

Gathering Recap	3
Transitus	4
Apostolates	5
Committee News	6
Prayer Inten- tions	7
Reflections	8
Calendar & Events	9
Next Gather- ing	10

## Minister's Message

Peace and all good!

The Church reminds us — and so does one of this month's newsletter themes — that November is the month to give a thought, and some prayers, to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

But just what are we talking about when we speak of Purgatory?

It's a doctrine that's distinctly Catholic, and sometimes, perplexing not only to our brothers and sisters from other Christian traditions, but to Catholics, too. As a convert, I'd propose that the roots of this may — at least in part — lie in a misunderstanding of what is both thought and taught concerning Purgatory.

So let's take a look at the what we think we know, and what we perhaps don't.

Generations of Catholics were raised upon nightmarish images of Purgatory featuring hapless, writhing humans surrounded by flames licking their flesh, in what appeared to be a kind of anteroom to Hades. To a man and woman, all appeared miserable and tormented. Superficially, there seemed little pictorial difference between Purgatory and Hell, except that those in Purgatory were assured of an eventual exit.

Such fearsome depictions owe their genesis to rather literal renderings of a handful of Biblical references that have variously been interpreted to refer to the existence of Purgatory. You can read them here:

[https://www.ncregister.com/blog/25-descriptive-and-clear-bible-passages-about-purgatory?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIqbbGp\\_HV8wIvSAiICR0cyQVfEAAYASAAEgJkcPD\\_BwE](https://www.ncregister.com/blog/25-descriptive-and-clear-bible-passages-about-purgatory?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIqbbGp_HV8wIvSAiICR0cyQVfEAAYASAAEgJkcPD_BwE)

Nonetheless, the word "purgatory" doesn't actually appear in the Bible. So what is the basis of this concept, and how did such images come to signify it? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us this:

1030 All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

1031 The Church gives the name *Purgatory* to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire: As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come.

1032 This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: "Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin." From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences,



## 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**



## Minister's Message Cont'd

and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead: Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.

Fire can be destructive; fire can cause pain. But fire can also signify passion and love — God's consuming love that desires to perfect us; to finish us. As Jesus urges in Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

So "where" is Purgatory? How "long" does it last? These are, to some extent, questions raised by humans locked in a chronological world, who in turn attempt to impose that construct upon the timelessness of God and eternity. Consider that Pope St. John Paul II taught that Purgatory was not a geographic destination, but a state: "The term does not indicate a place, but a condition of existence" (August 4, 1999).

St. Thérèse of Lisieux said of Purgatory, "When we love, we can't go there." Whatever could she mean? Well, this: when we love God completely, wholly, totally, we transcend every human care, attraction, and distraction; as the Franciscan motto states, "My God and my all." Thérèse was speaking of a very accomplished degree of love — a negation of the inward-turned ego — that few of us will probably ever accomplish in this lifetime.

Purgatory, however, offers the opportunity to wipe clean our interior lens — already oriented to God — of its non-sacred attachments, so it can sharply, fully, and ultimately focus upon Him without the accumulated grime of earthly concerns. This is the final work of the spirit and the soul; a soul that would be alive with expectation and anticipation — and it is a work that, despite popular images, is perhaps less painful than restorative. Still, why this interim state, this salvific way-station? Didn't Jesus already do the work of redemption? Yes, he did — but we must also do ours, as cooperators in the divine project.

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley

# Recap of Last Gathering

October 3, 2021

## Opening Prayer

Offered by Joe Boyle, OFS

O Mary, Mother of Reconciliation, obtain for us the grace to accept and love one another, and to work together for justice and peace.

To you, O Mother, Reconciler of sinners, Pathway of hope and peace among peoples and cultures, we confidentially entrust to you all humanity and our "common home", and the fears and hopes that inhabit them. Speak once more to Jesus, your Son, that, like you, we too may do whatever He tells us.

Amen

Prayer was taken from "Prayer for the Marian Year 2020 - 2021" on the 175th Anniversary of the Missionaries of La Salette (1846 - 2021)

## Rite of Admission

Tau Fraternity held a Rite of Admission from pages 14 -15 of the *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*. This ceremony elevated Kelly Passero and Jennifer Rothwell to candidates.

## OPEN HOUSE:

Tau Fraternity welcomed five guests at our annual open house.

Kimberley Heatherington, OFS gave a brief overview of St. Francis and the Secular Franciscan Order. Following her overview, she presented a short video "Sign of Contradiction: The Story of St. Francis of Assisi."

After the video, Kimberley talked about the Franciscan Charism. She then talked briefly about the Tau Fraternity committees and apostolates.

Walter Gawlak, OFS provided a brief description of how to become a Secular Franciscan. He explained that we follow a formal process that includes almost three years of discernment. Initial Formation begins in January as aspirants. After three months, the aspirants become inquirers and learn more. After 9 months, inquirers may be elevated to candidates. They continue to discern for another 1 to 1.5 years. The Tau Fraternity uses the *Franciscan Journey* book to guide initial formation.

At the conclusion of the Open House presentations, Kimberley presented each visitor with a book and an application.

## ONGOING FORMATION:

Walter Gawlak, OFS provided an overview of Chapter Six of *Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love*. He said that St. Clare gave women an opportunity to live the Franciscan Way. He read sections from Chapter Six – Transformation, noting that both St. Clare and St. Francis underwent continuous transformation. Walter posed the following questions:

- Do we really want to be transformed?
- Is a little change good enough?
- What does conversion mean?

After the overview, Walter divided the members into small groups and invited the guests to sit in on the group discussions. Walter provided the groups with questions for discussion.

1. Do you actively seek transformation?
2. Are you attentive to transformation in your daily life?
3. What changes are you making to achieve "completion"?
4. Are you becoming more conscious of:
  - Your choices and how you are influenced by cultural, religious, and political forces over which we have little control?
  - Your poverty as a human person?
  - Your neighbor in whom God lives?
  - The sacramental life of the Church as a fountain of grace?
  - Your membership in the Body of Christ?
5. How have you addressed the profession questions:
  - How have your relationships with people changed?
  - What changes have you made in your prayer life?
  - What changes have you achieved regarding serving the poor and growing in a sense of stewardship?
  - How have personal changes affected your family life? Church life? Single/married life? Work life?
  - What qualities are you developing to show a Franciscan spirit in dealing with other people?
6. Do you sometimes remain incomplete and lost, ambivalent, restless and anxious?



## Transitus

On October 3, 2021, Tau fraternity and Franciscan Friars celebrated the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi at St. Joseph Church. The cherished commemoration of St. Francis' passage from this life to the next began with Eucharistic Exposition. Thank you to Pam Brooks, OFS and Joe Boyle, OFS for participating as readers.

## In Memorium

Please take a moment to pray for our dear departed Tau Family Members. Remember the following who have embraced Sister Death:

12/07/97	James Sheehan
06/10/98	Anna Seymore
10/15/98	Bill Obernauer
12/24/98	Karen Sawtell
03/16/05	Margorie O'Connor
05/02/05	Tony Del Popolo
11/28/06	Marie Fitzgerald
06/14/08	Isabel Bartlett
01/2010	Diana Caputo
08/16/10	Martha Ureke
03/03/12	Edna Henke
05/12/16	Mary McCarthy
07/03/18	Frank Mullin
04/12/19	Ron Kauffman

10/17/19	Ed Geiger
08/21/20	Cathy Williams
03/11/21	Kay Flynn
UNKNOWN	Edith Tomasoni

And all those who are not named on this list.

*All praise be yours, my Lord, through  
Sister Death.*

*From whose embrace no mortal can escape.*

# 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 drop off will be in December. See update in the next newsletter..

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

Date

## INTERFAITH & ECUMENICAL

### Vatican meeting of religions on education to peace, fraternity



**The Vatican organized a meeting of representatives of the world's religions with Pope Francis, to discuss how, through the Global**

**Compact on Education, religions can promote an open and inclusive education for the common good.**

By Robin Gomes

"By means of education, religions contribute to promoting the human person, and they aim to cooperate actively with international organizations to educate young people to a culture of peace and fraternity." The Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education made the statement in a communique, at the end of the meeting of some 20 representatives of the world's religions with Pope Francis in the Vatican, on the theme, "Religions and Education: Towards a Global Compact on Education".

The Congregation organized the meeting for October 5, World Teachers' Day of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), "to actuate all necessary measures to put education and the human person at the centre of the international agenda".

The event was part of the Global Compact on Education, an initiative that Pope Francis originally launched on 12 September 2019. Due to the pandemic, he launched it again on 15 October 2020.

#### Appeal to governments

In his address to Tuesday's gathering, Pope Francis stressed the special relationship that religious traditions have with education. He said that religions are called to add their voice to the movement for a new education that can redirect the world towards universal fraternity. In this regard, he urged everyone who cares about education to sign the pact.

"On this background," the Congregation said, "the representatives of religions, who for the first time have met to discuss matters of education, direct an appeal to governments to rediscover the priority of education in their countries' political agendas, by offering better support to educators and giving more consideration to all aspects of this category of professionals".

#### Educational Pact's 5 areas of action

The contributions and reflections of the meeting will help further research in the five areas of the Global Compact on Education: human dignity and rights; fraternity and cooperation; technology

and holistic ecology; peace and citizenship; and culture and religions. These themes will be analyzed in subsequent events with the aim of actualizing the undertakings of the educational pact both locally and globally, in cooperation with a wide network of universities.

The Congregation for Catholic Education has noted a rising number of educational projects around the world since the Pope's initial launch of the project in 2019. "We are all invited to place ourselves at the service of the common good, by promoting open and inclusive education", it said.

#### Message to teachers

This has been made clear in the participants' message to the teachers and educations on the occasion of World Teachers' Day. They expressed gratitude to teachers and educators for their dedication and sacrifice in carrying out their "noble mission of educating young people", and for encouraging them "to continue on this path with hope", despite the challenges made acute by the pandemic.

#### Contribution of religions and youth

Stressing that the Global Compact on Education is not only an idea but also has practical implications, the Congregation said young people are already making an energetic contribution to it. Placing themselves in the frontline of the culture of dialogue and of a civilization of harmony, they are challenging the adults.

The Congregation noted that representatives of religions at the meeting have made suggestions and ideas about education arising out of their different experiences and traditions. "Knowing and appreciating each other's plans for education is a way to consolidate contacts among the members of diverse confessions, with a view to ecumenism and interreligious dialogue", the Vatican Congregation said.



Pope Francis and representatives of religions meet at a Global Compact on Education event, October 5, 2021

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

HEAR US, LORD!

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers:

For the repose of the souls of our departed Tau Sisters and Brothers. For physical and spiritual healing of Sylvia Capurso; 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

### A Day in the Czech Republic Recollections of 9/11

Early in the morning, our pilgrimage group explored Saint Vitus Cathedral, in Prague - a lifeless edifice, Whose stones protested against the previous regime For having erased all memory of their reason for being. (God must have thought, "THIS IS NOT MY HOUSE," And left unnoticed, together with the cloud of his presence.)

That night, in a hotel on the town square,  
The Twin Towers fell again and again,  
In eerie silence, on the television sets provided -  
Perpetrators blinded by their own invisible wounds,  
Hoping to please God and their stone-blind leader -  
All of them last in death. Lord, Have Mercy.

Helen Broxmeyer, OFS  
9/11/2021

### Prayer for the Dead

In your hands, O Lord,  
we humbly entrust our brothers  
and sisters.

In this life you embraced them  
with your tender love;  
deliver them now from every  
evil

and bid them eternal rest.

The old order has passed away:  
welcome them into paradise,  
where there will be no sorrow,  
no weeping or pain,  
but fullness of peace and joy  
with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
forever and ever.

Amen.

[sympathymessageideas.com](http://sympathymessageideas.com)

---

## PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

---

Loving Lord,

As I express my gratitude to you in prayer, may it be a pleasing, *joyful* sound to you.

Thank you, Lord, for your love. It brings me acceptance and significance.

Thank you, Lord, for your truth. It brings me guidance and direction.

Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. It brings me help and comfort.

Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness. It brings me stability and strength.

Thank you, Lord, for your beauty displayed in the earth. It brings me joy and delight.

Thank you, Lord, for your way of redemption - the cross. It brings me salvation and regeneration.

By Beth McLendon of [Inspirational-prayers.com](http://Inspirational-prayers.com)  
[Prayers for Gratitude \(xavier.edu\)](http://Prayers for Gratitude (xavier.edu))

### SCRIPTURE:

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; cry out to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with a song of praise, joyfully sing out our psalms. For the lord is the great God, the great king over all gods.

### **Psalms 95: 1-3**

You are my God; I give you thanks; my God, I offer you praise. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures forever. **Psalms 118:28-29**



# CALENDAR

## Upcoming Activities and Events

November is the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory \*

- Nov 1 – Feast of All Saints – Holy Day of Obligation
- Nov 2 – All Souls Day
- Nov 4 – Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop & Secular Franciscan
- Nov 6 – Valerye Milleson’s birthday
- Nov 7 - Tau Fraternity Gathering
- Nov 8 – Feast of Blessed John Duns Scotus
- Nov 19 – Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Nov 21 – Feast of the Presentation of the Holy Virgin Mary
- Nov 22 – Memorial of St. Cecilia
- Nov 23 – Erik Larin’s birthday
- Nov 26 – Sharon Goldberg’s birthday
- Nov 29 – Feast of the Saints of the Seraphic Order
- Nov 30 – Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle

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

### NOVEMBER 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	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				

### DECEMBER 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	

## HONOR OUR VETERANS

Thank you to Tau members who have served our nation!

**Bill Bouffard, OFS:** US Air Force

**Frank Bowen, OFS:** US Army Airborne – Served in the Viet Nam era, 1965 - 1966

**LtCol Joseph Boyle, USMC, Ret:** Served in the Marine Corps for 21 years, retired 1989

**Bill Brewster, OFS:** US Army Infantry – Served in the Viet Nam era, 1966 – 1969

**Richard Clarke, OFS:** US Air Force – Served as a Missile Officer for 4 years

**Clari Claus, OFS:** US Air Force

**Denis Dunn:** US Marine Corps and Ohio Army National Guard



Army



Navy



Air Force



Marines



Coast Guard

# NEXT TAU GATHERING

November 7, 2021

## SCHEDULE

1:30 pm – 1:32 pm Opening Prayer **TBD**  
1:32 pm – 2:12 pm Presentation **Sally White, OFS**  
and **Joe Boyle, OFS**  
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:

Senior Candidates - Chapters 23 and 30 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Candidates - Chapter 10 in *The Franciscan Journey*

## ONGOING FORMATION:

We will read and discuss Chapter 6, The Eucharist, in *Clare of Assisi -- A Heart Full of Love*. Try to read a section of the Rule each day during the month. Does this practice help make your days more Franciscan?

## 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

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Hymn: #40** – Love Divine All Love Excelling:  
pg. 1548 or recording from Divine Office: O  
Trinity of Blessed Life

**Gospel Canticle and Prayer:** Evening Prayer II: pgs. 639

**Everything else:** Sunday, Week IV Evening Prayer II: pg. 931

**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