



OF SPECIAL
INTEREST:

- **Transitus Pictures & Excerpts from Fr. Kevin's Homily!**
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Minister's Message

Peace and all good!

This month, our theme is prayers for the souls in Purgatory.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that "all who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven."

There is a lot to unpack in that statement. The *Catechism* further states that the Church commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead.

It seems to me that many of us will need further purification to fully experience the joys of the heavenly afterlife. Likewise, in this life, many of us need a shift in perspective to truly experience the joys of our earthly existence. Perhaps achieving that perspective is a kind of heaven on earth.

Personally, I'm prone to falling into the trap of not being fully content with my life today. I often tell myself that I'll be happy when a particular problem is resolved or a hard-fought goal is reached. Even though I'm aware of the falsehood behind the "I'll be happy when" mindset, it remains pervasive in my thinking.

This, I believe, is similar to Purgatory — a time of purification that can be brief, like an Epiphany. We only need to see the star in the night sky and recognize it as the truth.

Let us, therefore, pray this month for the souls in Purgatory and also for those on their way there. The more we train ourselves to recognize God's truth, the shorter the detour on our journey to heavenly glory.

Josh





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, November 18
from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The theme will be **Gratefulness.**

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

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH

November is Black Catholic History Month!

MEET
THE



Saintly Six



Venerable
Henriette DeLille



Venerable
Augustus Tolton



Servant of God
Julia Greeley



Venerable Pierre
Toussaint



Servant of God
Mary Lange



Servant of God
Thea Bowman

African-American Catholics being considered for **canonization**

**Celebrate by learning more about the
Saintly Six!**

www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/road-sainthood-leaders-african-descent

RECAP OF OCTOBER 6 GATHERING

PRESENTATION: OPEN HOUSE

Josh provided a brief history of St. Francis, who was born in Assisi in 1182, and lived a privileged lifestyle until he realized he was living in pursuit of material goods. He then began a humble life of nonattachment, which attracted followers and led to an Order blessed by the Pope.

There are Franciscan Orders of priests, friars, nuns, and lay people. The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) is open to Catholics who profess to observe the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Bill Richey, OFS, shared additional history, including:

- Early failure when St. Francis went to war, was captured, and spent a year in captivity. He subsequently started out to join in war a second time, but God spoke to him during his travels, and he returned home.
- St. Francis received instructions to repair God's church and took vows of poverty for which his earthly father was not happy.
- St. Francis had a love for nature.
- St. Francis died in 1226 and was declared a saint two years later.
- OFS members move from Gospel to life and life to Gospel
- Gil Donahue, OFS, provides a monthly class on contemplative prayer
- Other Tau brothers and sisters are involved in multiple apostolates, including those offered from the fraternity as well as those in their home parishes.

Clip of *Sign of Contradiction: The Story of St. Francis of Assisi* was viewed.



RECAP OF OCTOBER 6 GATHERING

ONGOING FORMATION

Bill Richey, OFS, explained how to start the journey to becoming a professed Secular Franciscan:

- Submit application
- Step 1 - Orientation: 3-month minimum
- Step 2 - Inquiry: 6-month minimum
- Step 3 - Candidacy: 18-month minimum
- Provide a presentation to the fraternity

Jen Raimo, Candidate, Kimberley Heatherington, OFS, and Joe Boyle, OFS, provided testimonies of their Secular Franciscan journeys.

Josh provided handouts explaining the First, Second, and Third Franciscan Orders, and Bill provided applications.

We then joined a special USA-OFS Zoom call for a live presentation on *St. Francis and the Stigmata: Significance in 2024*, which included history (Part I) from Dr. Darleen Pryds, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality & History at the Franciscan School of Theology, followed by a panel discussion from three national OFS leaders.

Rebroadcast can be found at secularfranciscanusa.org; click on the “Celebrating the Centenary as a Franciscan Family” page, then click on “Celebrating the Gift of the Stigmata 1224-2024” box. Links below can be found under Activities.

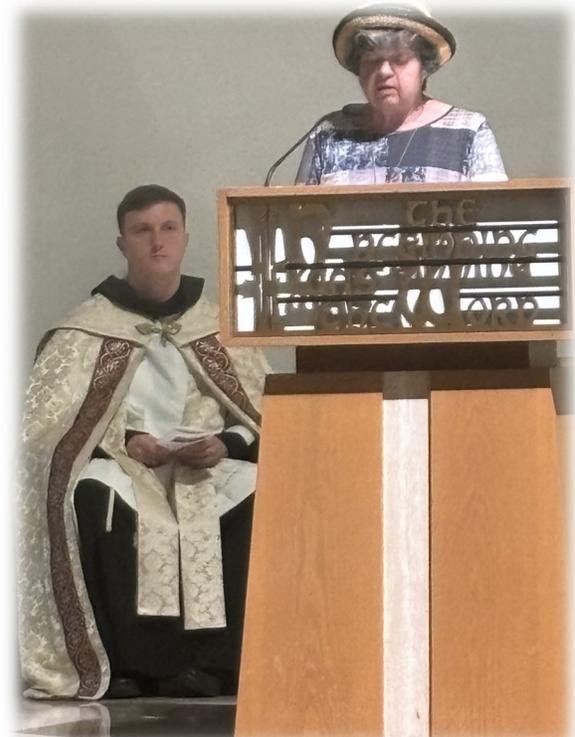
Zoom Presentation on the ***Celebration of the Centenary of St. Francis Receiving the Stigmata*** (this is the presentation as viewed during Open House):

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpL3vP3A_iM

Francis' Stigmata and the Relevance for Faith Today 2024 by Darleen Pryds, Ph.D. (this is the full presentation from Dr. Pryds — Parts 1 & 2 — highly recommended; Part 2 begins at 20:35 with a moving testimony regarding the aging of St. Francis and ourselves, as well as the wounds we may carry)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HL6mixY9ps

TRANSITUS - OCTOBER 3



TRANSITUS - OCTOBER 3

FR. KEVIN SMITH, TOR: TRANSITUS HOMILY EXCERPTS



Fr. Kevin said, “Francis had a very simple way of following the Lord, and living the Gospel. That had to have been this incredible breath of fresh air for the people of the time. Back then, there was very little preaching on the Word of God, so I think people were very deeply grateful to hear the truth of the Gospel. And the ones that would preach would often do so in a very elevated and complicated way that a lot of the commoners could not really understand or relate to.”

Through Francis’ humble example, Fr. Kevin said, people realized that “to follow the Lord didn’t mean you had to have this degree from a very far away city, and be very, very wealthy living in a bishop’s palace or in a monastery. It meant that anyone could follow the Lord authentically, and very, very closely.”

Because of his deep understanding of the Gospels, “Francis taught that love of God and love of neighbor were intimately connected. And again, this had to have been so refreshing for the people, who sensed that fact, that reality, but didn’t really see it very often in their neighbors or in the clergy.” While Francis would spend hours in church praying, he “always still had time to listen to a brother, and encourage him in what he was doing.”

Fr. Kevin said people saw how Francis lived, and it impacted them. Many changed their ways; some even joined him. Francis, Fr. Kevin said, was “the real deal — which is to say, that he reminded so many people that God, first off, is real, and that God is love. And not only does He want us to follow Him, but that it is possible to follow Him for all of us. Because I think our world constantly finds reasons or ways to distract itself from God’s love — and from these realities that God loves us; He came to earth, and He died for us. And that we constantly need to face that reality; live that reality. And Francis was one who reminded not just the people in his life but everyone who saw him, that God loves us, and God is pursuing us with His love.” God puts people in our lives at just the right time, Fr. Kevin said, so we will know we are not alone, and that, “Despite all the craziness and all the distractions to His presence, that God is bigger than all of those things, and that in following Him, we find fulfillment for every desire of our heart. Again, St. Francis was that person for so many people.”

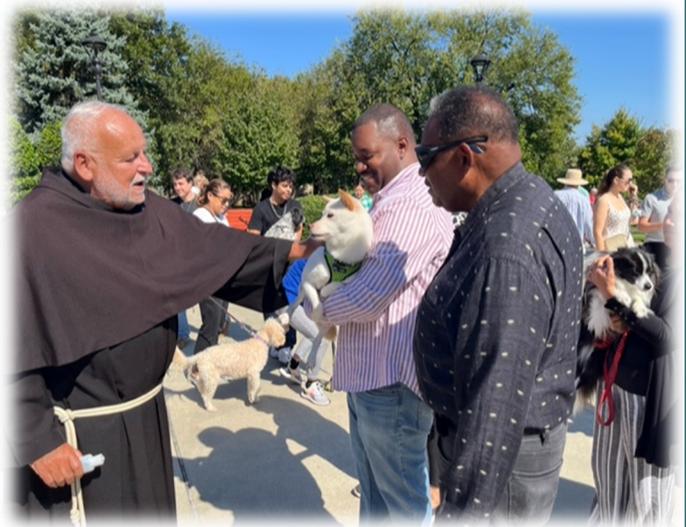


BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - OCTOBER 5

On October 5 — in front of St. Joseph's — Fr. Tom blessed all manner of four footed beasties: Dogs, cats, bunnies — and yes, Sheldon the tortoise!

Your Tau brothers and sisters handed out St. Francis pet tags, prayer cards, and information about Tau Fraternity. It was a great Franciscan reminder to cherish all of God's creation!

Thanks to Joe Boyle, OFS, for the pictures!



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 last food delivery of 2024 will be on Saturday, December 14. The menu for December is to be announced.

If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Veronica O'Donnell, OFS.

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://www.poorclaresnewjersey.com)

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

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!

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/>

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.



James 2:17

APOSTOLATE NEWS

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE APOSTOLATE BY JOE BOYLE, OFS

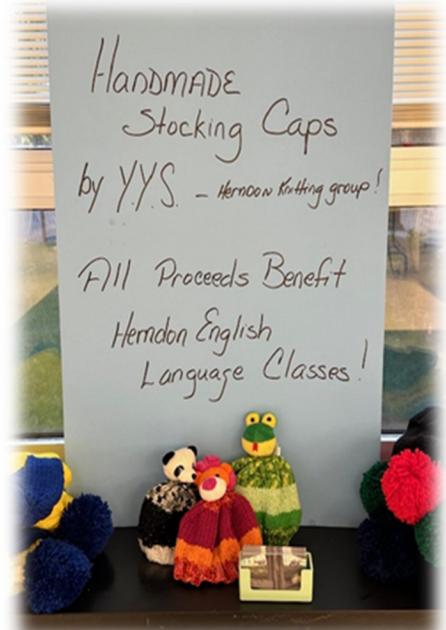
The October 12 delivery of our food — a joint effort of Tau brothers and sisters, as well as Confirmandi from St. Veronica Catholic School — was very well received by the Missionaries of Charity sisters. Additionally, the requested "kitchen supplies" — paper towels, bleach, toilet paper, coffee, aluminum foil, laundry and dish washing detergent, pasta, fruit, etc. — brought smiles from the sisters, as this needed support is critical to the daily maintenance and support for their "Gift of Peace" house.



APOSTOLATE NEWS

VERA'S "CRAFTS FOR CHARITY" BY VERA STEWART, OFS

Here are some pictures from the St. Joseph Craft Fair (October 26). I partnered with First Baptist Church of Herndon. Their sales subsidize tuition for the English language (ESL) teaching apostolate. My sales will go to Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter.



APOSTOLATE NEWS

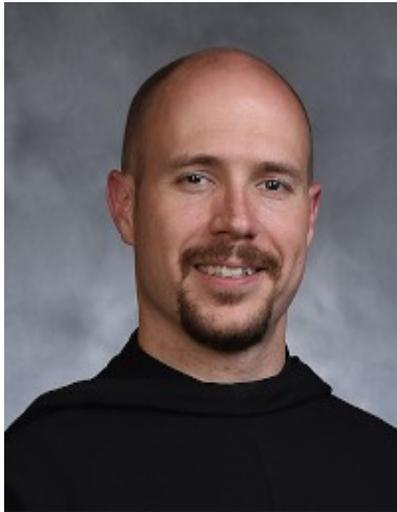
OCTOBER "MASS & A MEAL" BY VERA STEWART, OFS

Here are some pictures at St. Andrew, where Cyndy, her husband Mountain, and I went to Mass on October 19. Cyndy was a lector. Afterwards, Cyndy and I had dinner at Rosemary's Thyme.



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 — 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



TAU COMMITTEES - INTERFAITH



Interfaith Thanksgiving Meal

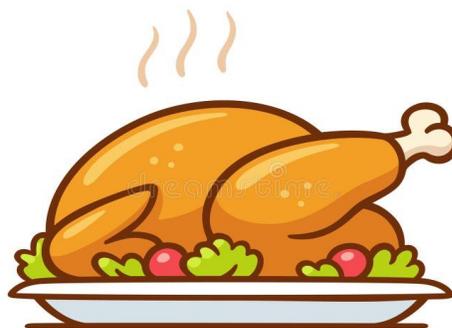
November 28 @ 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Join friends and neighbors for a special Interfaith Thanksgiving Meal, hosted by the UU Congregation of Rockville, the UUCR Pastoral Care Team, and [Rumi Forum](#).

A sign-up sheet for contributions will be provided after you register for this warm community gathering.

Let us connect through food, fellowship, and gratitude! Click [here](#) to register.

<https://ifcmw.org/event/interfaith-thanksgiving-meal/>



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.

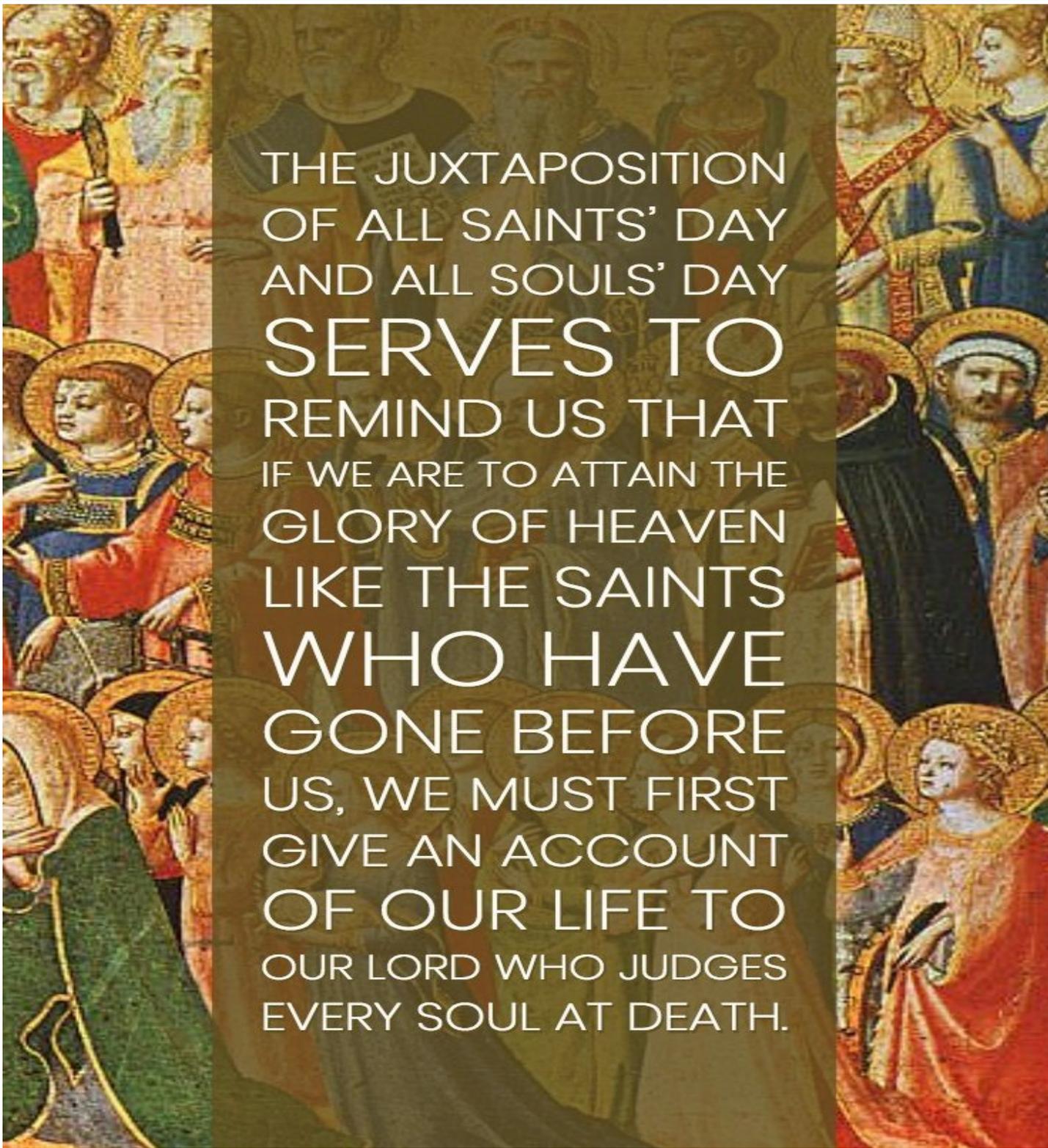
*Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything, by prayer and
petition, with thanksgiving, present
your request to God..*

Philippians 4:6-7



REFLECTIONS: THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER



THE JUXTAPOSITION
OF ALL SAINTS' DAY
AND ALL SOULS' DAY
SERVES TO
REMINDE US THAT
IF WE ARE TO ATTAIN THE
GLORY OF HEAVEN
LIKE THE SAINTS
WHO HAVE
GONE BEFORE
US, WE MUST FIRST
GIVE AN ACCOUNT
OF OUR LIFE TO
OUR LORD WHO JUDGES
EVERY SOUL AT DEATH.

REFLECTIONS: ALL SOULS

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER

A Prayer for the Month of the Holy Souls

Cameron Bellm

In these days when we look back
Upon generations of the mercy of God,
Brilliantly lit in those who came before us,
I like to think, too,
Of the mercy that will stretch beyond us.
We have laid so many to rest this year
That our grief is ever present with us,
But so, likewise, are our loved ones—
The paths they walked, the prayers they prayed for us.
May we realize, too, that someday
We also will live on earth only in memory,
Carried in the hearts of those who loved us.
In remembering our death, may we move
through each day
With tenderness, with gentleness,
With love strong enough to stretch that
thin veil
Between heaven and earth into
transparency.
May we light the candles that will
brighten the lives
Of those who will come after us.
And may we always recognize
this truth:
That the goodness of God
Is matched only by its might,
Ever transcending both life
and death.
Amen.



JESUITS



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024 @ 5:30 PM - Holy Spirit w/ Gil (Annandale)

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025 @ 11:30 AM - St. John Neumann w/ Veronica (Reston)

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.

Advent Retreat with the TOR Sisters: “Awaiting the King!”

Saturday, December 7

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM via livestream

Mass with Fr. Tom Sparacino from the Diocese of Pittsburgh -
Talk by Sr. Elizabeth Beussink, TOR - Eucharistic Adoration

REGISTER HERE:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQbIpHaMP9PYUgylqPDjpt1OzqXePvhSXHDdzgbwdF7OLHVw/viewform>



CALENDAR: ACTIVITIES & 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. 3 Tau Fraternity Gathering
- Nov. 4 Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop and Secular Franciscan
- Nov. 8 Feast of Blessed John Duns Scotus
- Nov. 17 Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary
Cecilia Thieman's Profession Anniversary
- Nov. 21 Feast of the Presentation of the Holy Virgin Mary
- Nov. 22 Memorial of St. Cecilia
- Nov. 23 Erik & Paola 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->

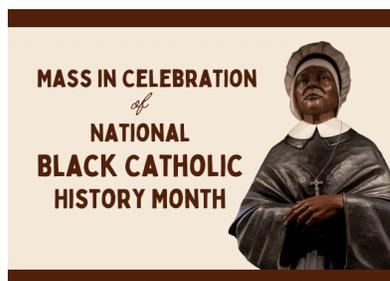
November 2024

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

December 2024

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				

Sunday, November 17



11:00 AM
 Cathedral of St. Thomas More
 Arlington

Sunday, November 17 Adoration & Praise @ St. Joseph!



7:00- 8:00 PM in the Church
 See the SJC website for details:
<https://sjcherndon.org>

NEXT TAU GATHERING

NOVEMBER 3, 2024

SCHEDULE

1:30 PM Opening Prayer & Social Time
2:00 PM All Souls Commemoration Ceremony

BRING YOUR FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY!

2:45 PM Break
3:00 PM Ongoing Formation
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

Candidate: Ch. 23 in *The Franciscan Journey*

ONGOING FORMATION

Please view this video by Darleen Pryds, Ph.D., of the University of San Diego Franciscan School of Theology, "Lay Franciscans and Their Tradition of Caregiving." How do we as Secular Franciscans approach giving and receiving care?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zs0-VDdPIDI

During Ordinary Time, 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.



LITURGY OF THE HOURS

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Midday Prayer: See [here](#) or
<https://divineoffice.org/ord-w31-sun-dp2-current/?date=20241103>

Hymn: #172 - "For All the Saints"

Evening Prayer:

Gospel Canticle and Prayer:
Evening Prayer II - pgs. 638/637

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

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