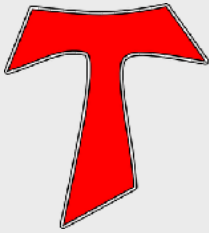


# TAU SHALOM

Emerging Fraternity | Secular Franciscan Order | La Crosse, WI



## Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 26 May 6:00 pm - Regular Meeting, San Damiano Chapel, Zoom available

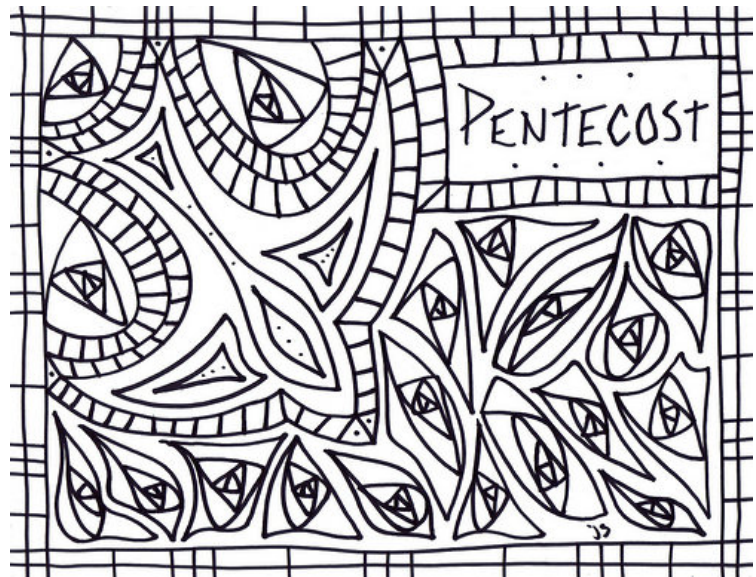
Saturday 12 June 9:00 am Business Meeting, San Damiano Chapel, Zoom available

## Liturgy of the Hours

Pages for Christian Prayer:

Evening prayer, Wednesday, May 26, weekday, St Philip Neri: page 963

Morning Prayer, Saturday, May 12, Immaculate Heart of Mary: psalms page 845, Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, page 1372



## Minister's Message

Hello, my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters!

The Easter season is quickly coming to a close. Last weekend we celebrated the Ascension of our Lord, and we are headed rapidly towards the gift and mystery of Pentecost. As I reflect on these two celebrations of the Church, I'm also in awe of the natural beauty occurring in our world around us. The days are becoming longer, and the warmer weather is causing a "renewing" in the plants and trees. I see the gardens being prepared by the work of our hands, and the morning songs of the birds are increasing day by day. This transition of the earth reminds me a lot of the story of St. Francis before the San Damiano Cross. St. Francis experienced the voice of Christ asking him to "Repair my house." Eventually, St. Francis recognized that this call to "Repair my house" referred to himself and the larger Church around him. This rebuilding was only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit in St. Francis' life. The change of the seasons around us can remind us that God is asking us to "Repair my house." The repairing begins by being attentive to



## Upcoming Meeting Information

We will meet in person for the May 26 Wednesday evening meeting, and also for the June 12 Saturday morning meeting. We will gather in the San Damiano Chapel for prayer and then proceed either outdoors, weather permitting, or to Campus Ministry. COVID-19 precautions will continue to be observed. Zoom connection will be available for those unable to join us in person.

## From our Treasurer

Please continue to support Tau Shalom with your financial contributions. Checks may be made payable to "Secular Franciscan Order, Tau Shalom." The basket will be available at in person meetings, or send your contributions to:

Frederick Ellis OFS  
1320 Pinecrest Lane, #13  
Onalaska, WI 54650-3479

our own spiritual lives and allowing the Holy Spirit to truly change us in a way that brings forth new life in our relationships with God, those around us, and all of creation. So I encourage you all to take a bit of time to reflect as St. Clare would reflect. Put yourself in the presence of Christ, whether that's sitting in front of a San Damiano Cross, seeking him in the sacraments, or sitting out in the beauty of God's creation. Use the Gaze, Consider, Contemplate, and Imitate model to begin the process of "repairing God's house." May your reflections truly leave you with the sense of awe in the incredible work of God's hands as we begin to see the areas that are being renewed in us as we place our complete trust in God's love for us. I leave you with the prayer of St. Francis before the San Damiano Cross.

**Most High, glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of my heart  
and give me  
true faith,  
certain hope,  
and perfect charity,  
sense and knowledge,  
Lord,  
that I may carry out  
Your holy and true command.**

Pax et Bonum,

Emilio Alvarez, OFS

Minister, Tau Shalom (Emerging)

## *Spiritual Assistant's Message*

QUEEN OF THE FRANCISCAN ORDER, PRAY FOR US!

This is one of the most beloved acclamations of the Blessed Virgin from the Franciscan Friars. St Francis himself composed his Salutations of the Virgin Mary which is now included in his book of writings. Pope Francis has taken this theme in his proclamation of the month of May as 31 days of prayer, especially the Holy Rosary, originating from one of the principal shrines dedicated to Mary from around the world. (you can download the list from the internet).

Utilizing the theme coming for the feast of Pentecost ... "the whole Church was fervently praying to God..'(Acts 12:5), the initiative will involve all the Shrines of the world in a special way, so that they

might encourage us to recite the Rosary to pray for an end to the pandemic. Each day the Vatican will broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6 PM Rome time from those various shrines. As His Holiness opened the initiative from Rome on May 1, he will close it with another specially broadcast Rosary.

You may remember last year when Pope Francis led the world in prayer during that confusing and difficult time by celebrating a live-streamed daily Mass in Casa Santa Maria.

After more than a year, and with the world still in the grips of the pandemic, Pope Francis and the Church all over the world are once again leading the way in imploring God for an end to the suffering which so many people are forced to bear.

As Franciscans, let us walk with them and invoke the intercession of the Mother of God and great Saint Joseph.

Brother Conrad, OFM

### *Formation Station*

Peace be with you my Franciscan Sisters and Brothers!

For this Formation Station, I wish to offer for your further reflection The Lord's Prayer through the mind, heart and soul of Francis. I shared this with you in late April after receiving it from Mona Wolney, OFS as part of NAFRA Formation Friday. In the next Formation Station, I intend to present a more contemporary commentary on the Our Father. I encourage you to pray over the questions that are offered at the conclusion of this piece. In addition, please consider, looking up each of the references in Sacred Scripture that Francis makes. May our prayer lives be deepened by the graces of the Holy Spirit as we pray Veni, Sancte Spiritus (see page 7) and prepare to celebrate Pentecost!

Pax et Bonum!

Charlie Peters, OFS

A Prayer Inspired by the Our Father (below). The original may be located at:

<https://franciscantradition.org/francis-of-assisi-early-documents/the-saint/writings-of-francis/the-undated-writings/a-prayer-inspired-by-the-our-father/174-fa-ed-1-page-158>



Fonte Colombo, Rieti, Italy

**<sup>1</sup>O Our Father** Mt 6:9 most holy:

Our Creator, Redeemer, Consoler, and Savior:

**<sup>2</sup>Who are in heaven:** Mt 6:9

In the angels and the saints,  
enlightening them to know, for You, Lord, are  
light; <sup>1 Jn 1:5</sup>

inflaming them to love, for You, Lord, are love;  
dwelling in them and filling them with happiness,  
for You, Lord, are Supreme Good, the Eternal  
Good,

from Whom all good comes  
without Whom there is no good.

**<sup>3</sup>Holy be Your Name:** Mt 6:9

May knowledge of You become clearer in us  
that we may know

the breadth of Your blessings,  
the length of Your promises,  
the height of Your majesty,  
the depth <sup>Eph 3:18</sup> of Your judgments.

**<sup>4</sup>Your kingdom come:** Mt 6:10

That You may rule in us through Your grace  
and enable us to come to Your kingdom <sup>Lk 23:42</sup>

where there is clear vision of You,  
perfect love of You,

blessed companionship with You,  
eternal enjoyment of You.

**<sup>5</sup>Your will be done on earth as in heaven:** Mt 6:10

That we may love You  
with our whole heart by always thinking of You, <sup>Dt 6:5</sup>

with our whole soul by always desiring You,  
with our whole mind by always directing all our  
intentions to You,  
and by seeking Your glory in everything,  
with all our whole strength by exerting  
all our energies and affections of body and soul <sup>Lk 10:27</sup>

in the service of Your love and of nothing else;  
and we may love our neighbor as ourselves  
by drawing them all to Your love with our whole  
strength,  
by rejoicing in the good of others as in our own,  
by suffering with others at their misfortunes,  
and by giving offense to no one. <sup>2 Cor 6:3</sup>

**<sup>6</sup>Give us this day:** Mt 6:11

in remembrance, understanding, and reverence  
of that love which [our Lord Jesus Christ] had for us  
and of those things that He said and did and suffered  
for us.

**Our daily Bread:** Mt 6:11

Your own beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**<sup>7</sup>Forgive us our trespasses:** Mt 6:12

through Your ineffable mercy  
through the power of the passion of Your beloved  
Son

and through the merits and intercession  
of the ever blessed Virgin and all Your elect.

**<sup>8</sup>As we forgive those who trespass against us:** Mt 6:12

And what we do not completely forgive,  
make us, Lord, forgive completely  
that we may truly love our enemies because of You  
and we may fervently intercede for them before You,  
returning no one evil for evil <sup>1 Thes 5:15</sup>  
and we may strive to help everyone in You.

**<sup>9</sup>And lead us not into temptation:** Mt 6:13

hidden or obvious,  
sudden or persistent.

**<sup>10</sup>But deliver us from evil:** Mt 6:13

past,  
present,  
and to come.

+++++

Read the meditation twice alone or with a prayer  
partner.

Questions to discuss or to answer in your journal.

- How does Francis regard God the Father? How do I think of God the Father? What effect does this have on me?
- How does he wish to behave in order to be closer to the Father? What part of this is difficult for me?
- How are we to treat others? How can I improve my efforts to love myself and others?
- How does Francis regard Jesus? How do I think of Jesus? What surprises me about what Jesus said and did?
- Are there times when I have difficulty forgiving? How can I overcome this difficulty?
- From what evil tendency do you pray that God will deliver you?



## *JPIC Corner*

I had the opportunity recently to participate in the La Crosse Area Landings, Mississippi River clean up. This was going to be a particularly fun volunteer event because my Little Brother was coming with me.

I woke with the attitude I often have when I've committed to something that starts early on my day off... 'well, this was a mistake'. Mercury in the 30's on this May day confirmed my low spirits. But it was like getting up after a cold night camping, I knew once I got moving around my spirits would lift.

I could tell my Little Brother was feeling the same way when he dragged himself into the car. A cup of hot chocolate later and things were looking a little better.

We arrived at our landing and checked in. We were given garbage bags and sent to our location to start the clean up.

I could tell he wasn't really enjoying picking up little bits of garbage at a walk-in canoe landing. I tried keeping it interesting by pointing out geese and a heron but his response was guarded and reserved.

We went to our second site and it was much the same. But soon we found a hidden trail that led to an old railroad bridge over the Black River. Now it was getting interesting.

When we were coming back from the bridge, things started to get good. We spotted an old tire next to a big muddy puddle down an embankment. I was dubious that we could get down there and retrieve it but he found a route and the adventure was on.

The tire was just the tip of the garbage iceberg. We found twisted coil springs, a rusty old fan, plenty of beer cans, and (jackpot) lengths of barbed wire. Quite a haul!

As our refuse pile grew I told him we'd have to call in the big garbage truck, it was too much for my little car. I could sense his pride as the men hanging around back at the landing commented on our impressive work. For me, seeing the ember of care for God's creation beginning to glow in a young person was more reward than I could have hoped for.

Later that day, after the clean up event was over, we decided to get in a quick round of disc golf. As we walked through the park he bent to pick up a small piece of litter. "I guess we don't have to stop," he said. And I suspect he never will.

John Ott, OFS,

Regional JPIC Animator and Guest Columnist

## *Birthdays and Profession Anniversaries*

Father Conrad - Anniversary of Ordination, May 31, 1975



### *Tau Shalom Meeting Recap*

Formation meeting, Wednesday April 28, in person and via Zoom. Formation - we discussed Chapters 28 and 29 of *The Franciscan Journey*. An observation: "OFS is a budding force as Franciscan priestly vocations wane. OFS comprises 85-90% Franciscans in the world, a huge responsibility and a serious vocation." The chapters tie together because to be a good Servant Leader, we must have and understand structure. Business: Planning for admission to Candidacy for our Inquirers, and potential timing for Profession of four of our current Candidates. We discussed current ministries within the group, and possible apostolate once we are canonically established.

Business meeting, Saturday, May 8 in person. We gathered in prayer and then for check-in and socializing afterwards. Charlie led us in a meditation on the words of the "Our Father;" we got no further than the first word, "Our."

### *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order - Article 21*

*"On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister (or president) who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions. Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community. Within themselves the fraternities are structured in different ways according to the norm of the constitutions, according to the needs of their various members and their regions, and under the guidance of their respective council."*

This fraternity is bound together with the leadership of a president and a council who are ready and willing to serve, and it is expressed in diversified ways according to the needs of the area. Two implications ensue from the first part of this paragraph: the importance of choosing available and competent and willing leaders and, secondly, the responsibility of Secular Franciscans themselves to exercise complete control in administrative and temporal matters. The stress on diversified fraternity styles implies that the structure of the community must be tailored to the needs of those who form it.

from The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with Catechism and Instructions (1981)



*Come, Holy Spirit!*

*Veni, Sancte Spiritus*

*Holy Spirit! Holy Light!  
From thy clear celestial height,  
Thy pure, beaming radiance give:  
Come, Thou, Father of the poor!  
Come, with treasures which endure!  
Come, Thou light of all that live!  
Thou of all consolers best,  
Visiting the troubled breast,  
Dost refreshing peace bestow:  
Thou in toil art comfort sweet;  
Pleasant coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.  
Light immortal! Light divine!  
Visit Thou these hearts of Thine,  
And our inmost being fill.  
If Thou take Thy grace away,  
Nothing pure in man will stay;  
All his good is turn'd to ill.  
Heal our wounds--our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour Thy dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away:  
Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.  
Thou, on those who evermore  
Thee confess and Thee adore,  
In Thy sevenfold gifts descend.  
Give them comfort when they die;  
Give them life with Thee on high;  
Give them joys which never end.  
Amen. Alleluia.*



## *Stones for Rebuilding*

"Go, repair My house, which is falling in ruins!" More than 800 years later, we hear the same call from Jesus the Christ in the manner in which He spoke to our seraphic father Francis. The task of rebuilding the Church can be approached by considering the fundamental stones and sticks and mortar that we as Franciscans have at our disposal. I'm talking about the Rule, the Constitutions and the Statutes, which are so frequently referred to in our Franciscan Journey lessons.

Let's start with some definitions (from dictionary.com).

•Rule - "the code of regulations observed by a religious order or congregation." The noun "rule" implies the exercise of authority. As Franciscans, we place ourselves under the authority (and care) of others, and, in particular under the authority of Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

•Constitutions - "the system of fundamental principles according to which a nation, state, corporation or the like, is governed. The document that embodies these principles." The General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order may be found through our Queen of Peace website, or through the National OFS website, here: [Constitutions](#)

•Statutes - Laws. "A permanent rule established by an organization...to govern its internal affairs." The OFS Statutes for the United States can be found both on our website, and also here: [Statutes](#). You will notice as you begin reading the Statutes, that numerous references are made to our Rule, the Constitutions, and to Canon Law. Clearly, we are part of a highly interconnected organization that has well thought out processes and governances.

•Guidelines - "A guide or indication of a future course of action." Our Queen of Peace Regional Fraternity (of which Tau Shalom is a part), publishes Guidelines that help us understand how to proceed in common (or uncommon) situations. The current version of the Queen of Peace Guidelines can be found here: [Guidelines](#). There are procedures for how to run an election, how to transfer to another fraternity, and what to do if someone leaves your fraternity a lot of money in their will!

•The Regional Fraternity Council is comprised of all the local fraternity Ministers, the Regional Executive Council and the Regional Spiritual Assistant or the Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants (see Article 21 of the Statutes). The Regional Guidelines may be amended by this body when it convenes. So, during the upcoming Regional Meeting in June, one of the things that may happen is that any proposed changes to the Guidelines will be voted upon by the Regional Fraternity Council.

So you see, we have many stones for rebuilding at our command: regulations, fundamental principles, governance, guide for the future. Let us not be overwhelmed by them, but little by little, we can understand the great utility of these stones.

Mary Seger OFS

