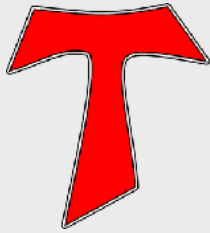


TAU SHALOM

Emerging Fraternity | Secular Franciscan Order | La Crosse, WI



Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, Oct 26
Mass at 6:00 pm,
followed by meeting

Saturday, Nov 12
9:00 am,
Regular meeting and
Fraternal/Pastoral
Visitation

Wednesday, Nov 30
Mass at 6:00 pm (note,
this is the fifth
Wednesday)

Liturgy of the Hours

Christian Prayer pages

EP, Oct 26: p 818
Wednesday weekday

MP, Nov 12: p 988
Saturday weekday



Minister's Message

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. And October 22 is the feast of St. Pope John Paul II. The motto he took for his papacy is "Totus Tuus," literally Totally Yours. It comes from St. Louis de Montford's True Devotion to Mary and signified his desire to give himself totally to Jesus through Mary. St. Francis also had a deep devotion to our Blessed Mother. Article 9 of our Rule states "The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self giving in by praying earnestly and confidently."



Upcoming Meeting Information

We will meet in person in the San Damiano Chapel for Mass or Liturgy of the Hours and then move to a classroom for formation.

NOTE: Since our regular Wednesday meeting in November will fall on the day before Thanksgiving, the Tau Shalom Council has moved the meeting date to November 30, the fifth Wednesday.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October

A Church Open to Everyone

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

I made a consecration to our Blessed Mother a number of years back. A daily prayer of consecration I make is "Oh most Immaculate Heart of Mary, heart of mercy, heart of love, I am all yours my mother and my queen, and all that I have is yours."

That was soon challenged when my only daughter told us out of the blue that she was going to be a nun and join a conservative order based in Spain that she had connected with while in college. This order has strict limits on contact with family. For someone who always wanted MANY grandkids this was a bit difficult for me to let her go and especially difficult for Maryann to accept giving up her only daughter. Even when I started to accept and give it up to Mary to offer to Jesus I then still had to carefully and prayerfully accept where Maryann was. Difficult time but continuing to pray and offer everything up to Jesus through Mary, all came to fruition as God willed.

Giving ourselves, all of ourselves, to Jesus is very hard at times. As Francis knew in his humility, all we have comes from God and we should give all we have for Him. Continue to pray for strength and humility and offer all to God!

Peace,
John Abendroth, OFS

Spiritual Assistant's Message

SPIRIT OF ASSISI DAY: OCTOBER 27

The world in 1986 was somewhat in the same situation we find ourselves today in 2022. The whole of eastern Europe was still under the grip of the Soviet Union - with its huge arsenal of nuclear weapons still targeting the West. Pope Saint John Paul II, only 8 years into his young pontificate, courageously decided to promote a movement to strengthen the cause of peace from a city known and loved for its herald of peace, Saint Francis of Assisi. This was the birth of what we now know as the Spirit of Assisi Day.

The Holy Father succeeded, for the first time in history, in bringing 160 religious leaders from all over the world: Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christians, as well as other religious organizations and 11 other non-Christian religions.

Of course, there was some criticism but Pope St John Paul II felt the world situation was too serious to avoid this initiative. He said "for

the first in history, we have come together from everywhere in this sacred place dedicated to Saint Francis to witness before the world, each according to his own conviction, about the transcendent quality of peace."

All Franciscan leaders have asked us to continue the Spirit of Assisi by doing something "Franciscan". Keeping in mind its 3 points: the inestimable value of peace and the responsibility of the world's religions towards achieving it; the awareness of the importance of prayer in obtaining the gift of peace and the necessity of getting to know and to respect other human beings, irrespective of their faiths. With Ukraine in our minds and hearts at this time, what could be more appropriate?

May the LORD give you peace!

Br Conrad OFM

Formation

Hi All,

Fasting must be accompanied by the process of reforming one's life to be effective, to be true. It begets an inward conversion. It is not, as Isaiah says, "To bow one's head like a reed, and lie upon sackcloth and ashes" (Is 58:5). The public show of contrition is of little use to one's self, those around one, or the purpose of the fast. The inward conversion of a true fast necessitates a choice, a metanoia, a "penance" in the Franciscan tradition, which brings one closer to the Father and closer to one's true heart.

In the concrete world, Isaiah directs us to achieve this fasting, this conversion, in words similar to Jesus' statements in the Beatitudes - "Is this not the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, ... setting free the oppressed ... Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, ... clothing the naked when you see them?" (Is 58:6-7.) The beatitudes then are not just a description of the Kingdom, but a call to conversion, metanoia, penance.

This becomes the working definition of fasting. Inner conversion reciprocates fasting and the result leads to a true social conscience. From this developed social reform comes growth at a personal and social level.

The goal of social reform is to approach a true moral law, which one strives for personally in conversion through fasting, and reflects back to God his transcendence in creation and eternity. "For thus says the high and lofty One, the One who dwells forever, whose name is holy. I dwell in a high and holy place, but also with the contrite and lowly of spirit" (Is 57:15). This brings one full circle, back to how Isaiah has instructed the faithful to practice fasting. Isaiah describes this result as "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn" (Is 58:8).

The Franciscan family has recently been called to fast and pray in the world's context of potential nuclear war. But can one's individual fasting have any effect? When one looks to the words of the prophet Isaiah, the answer is yes. It is indeed the way of peace. "Peace! Peace to those who are far and near, says the Lord, and I will heal them" (Is 57:19). Isaiah calls us to "... rebuild the ancient ruins; the foundations from ages past you shall raise up; 'Repairer of the breach,' they shall call you, 'Restorer of ruined dwellings'" (Is 58:12). The call of

St. Francis to rebuild the Church echoes these words. It is, then, a call for fasting, conversion, bringing God's kingdom to earth through social reform, and recognizing God's power and presence, that all leads to peace.

Peace and all good,
Peggy, OFS

Congratulations to our New Candidates

Congratulations and welcome, John and Faye Hanley, who were admitted into the Secular Franciscan Order as Candidates on October 8, 2022.



Treasury Notes

Thank you, everyone, for your continuing financial support of Tau Shalom. We collected a total of \$292.00 in the Common Fund in September. Our expenditures were \$127 for the purchase of ground beef for the September 11 service project, reimbursement of \$60 to John A for travel to the Annual Regional Meeting, and \$50 for a gift in memory of Roger Ellis. The balance in our checking account at the end of September was \$1447.39.

A reminder: you may make your contributions by cash, check or Venmo. The Venmo user name is Mary Seger (@TaushalomLaCrosse). If your contribution is for something other than the Common Fund, please let Mary know by phone or email how to apply it.

Birthdays and Profession Anniversaries

Faye Hanley - Birthday, October 12

John Ott - Birthday, October 15

Frederick Ellis - anniversary of Profession, October 21, 1995

Mary Seger - Anniversary of Profession, October 21, 1984

John Abendroth - Birthday, November 19



The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order - Article 9

9. The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to His every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

Article 9 In imitation of Mary, are we open to His word and call? We can probably say "sometimes" but we should strive for "always." What are some ways we hear His call? How did you hear the call to the Secular Franciscan Order?

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In Gratitude....

I would like to thank you for all your thoughts and prayers for my sister, Cynthia and me. I know the LOVE of JESUS is active in our small COMMUNITY of the Tau Shalom fraternity! Thank you all for your gift of \$50 which we will put to use in paying for the funeral of my dear brother, Roger Lee. Thank you all again!

PEACE and ALL GOOD!!!

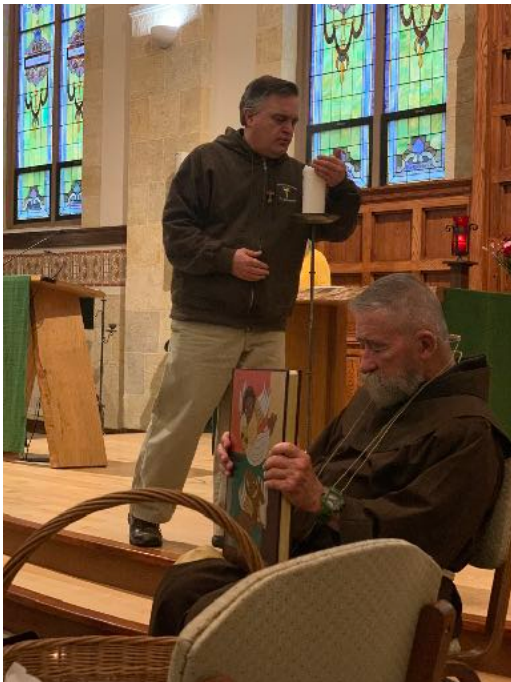
Frederick, OFS

Transitus Celebration



Many members of Tau Shalom gathered with the Viterbo Community to celebrate the Transitus of our Seraphic Father Francis on October 3, 2022. The rite was simple, moving and powerful as we commemorated the passage of our dear St Francis.





Upcoming Visitation

We will host Kathy OFS and Tim Taormina OFS on November 12 at our Saturday meeting. They have requested that we hold our regular meeting so that they may observe our "normal meeting" procedure. Please be sure to fill in the questionnaire that was sent to everyone in Tau Shalom by John, and return to Tim Taormina well in advance of the November visitation. It is important that they hear from all of us – professed, candidates, inquirers and visitors. The questionnaire may be returned by email or post (Tim's contact information is on the form). If you haven't filled it out because it "got lost" please request it from John A.

Kathy and Tim will be available to talk with anyone who wishes to have a private conversation. We'll have our regular pot luck!

Grace Notes

While traveling recently, we attended Mass with family members at their home parish. The gospel reading concerned Jesus healing the ten lepers, of whom only one returned to give thanks. Well, as it turned out, on that particular Sunday a visiting deacon proclaimed the gospel and then proceeded to give the homily, which was the stewardship pitch in the form of commitment to a long-term investment in an Archdiocesan program. Unfortunately, the homily took a turn toward hellfire and brimstone, quoting lots of Scripture, inflicting the pain and suffering of purgatory for those unfortunates who ignored the call of proper support of the Church. I felt my eyes glaze over as I conjured up sympathy for the parishioners who had to sort this out with their consciences and bank accounts.

However, in the midst of the discourse to ante up for God, a true gem emerged. The deacon brought up the concept of the Biblical tithe, the act of returning to God the first tenth of one's goods. He linked his pitch to the gospel of the day, pointing out that the man who returned to give thanks to God was one of ten lepers, a tithe. Interesting! The tithe was returned to God in thanksgiving. Wow! But as I reflected, Jesus' response was provocative: "Were not ten healed? Where are the other nine?" What I heard Jesus saying was: "I want it all. Not only the tithe, I want each of you ALL IN."

When we push back to God what we perceive to be the prescribed tenth, are we only opening part way? Do we restrict the immense flow of God's grace that is waiting to flood in to heal our broken hearts? Jesus prods us gently (or not so gently) to open up completely, to give gratefully to God 100% of ourselves, to throw open the doors and say to God "I'm all in!" And back through those open doors we receive the overflowing and overwhelming love and mercy of God.

Pace e bene,

Mary OFS