

The Tau Community of Saint Francis

www.interfaithfranciscans.com

Empowering mankind embrace the Natural World-the Franciscan Soul as well as uniting all 'Faith Groups' into 'ONE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY' through Love, Prayer and Service.

Dear Friend

Re: The Launch of the Tau Community – League of Friends on Feast of St. Francis October 4th 2009

The League of Friends came into existence on the promptings of St Francis of Assisi and Saint Therese of Lizieux in prayer! It was another practical way of earnest prayers being heard for the needs of the covenanted or monastic members of the Interfaith Franciscans or better known as the Tau Community of Saint Francis.

A group of the 'Friends of the Tau Community,' were not only inspired by the friendship and love they each witnessed during the induction ceremony of Rev Sr. Olivea as their newly appointed Mother Abbess, along with ten new members received as Oblates into the community on the Feast Day of St. Francis (4th October 2009), but that the monastics are prohibited from applying for funds for their survival. This is stipulated in their Constitutions or Governing Document. The reason for this is because they vowed to walk a simple path devoid of materialism or its associated entrapment caused by maintaining records, etc. It was decided by the Custodians of the community to keep everything simple.

The League of Friends came into existence because of this and are now committed to raising the required finances that will endeavour to support the members of the monastic interfaith community. The League of Friends are also committed to working alongside the two key people within the Tau Community of St. Francis, namely, Brother Sean, their Brother General and Sr. Olivea, their new Mother Abbess.

The members of the League Friends are dedicated to promoting the Objects of the Tau Community to locate a small holding or land to establish their eco sustainable building program, namely, an Abbey with an Interfaith Place of worship; several hermitages; guest retreat accommodation; an animal rescue and healing centre; a market garden; woodland pet cemetery, visitors shop and tea room.

We are an unincorporated not for profit charity, dedicated to providing those facilities, extra comforts and support for the members of the Tau Community of St. Francis.

In addition to providing these essential services, the League will look to networking with all other relevant bodies from within and outside the voluntary and statutory sector.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

When St Francis guided the hearts of our Founders, Brother Sean and Sister Theresa in prayer to '**Unite the whole family of God**,' little did they realize then that there was a price to pay in service to God!

Society today is quick to '**Name, Shame and Blame God** for all of the atrocities in the world! What is so disconcerting and deeply offensive is when we discover that down through the centuries, clerics representing the Christian, Judaic and Muslim faiths to name but a few, have taken God's word out of context to spiritually impoverish the innocent from embracing an interreligious God of Love and Blessing. **FACT!** But, we can change this by embracing God in all!

July 2006, St. Francis spoke to a group of Brother Sean's student therapists inviting them to set up a radical monastic community. Though ego got in the way from various well meaning friends, Brother Sean was guided to go to Assisi in April 2008, where he was assured by Saint Francis that the time had come to establish the Tau Community of Interfaith Franciscans- a spiritual monastic community for men and women to covenant their lives to a spiritual diet of daily prayer in service to God, regardless of religious belief. Through their Sevenfold Vows, each monastic will embrace a God who cares for the divided spiritual family of God by 'Walking God Talk through love not hate! The call of the monastic is one of absolute Faith!

The proposed plans for the new eco sustainable Abbey dedicated to St. Francis of Peace and Compassion will be the first Interfaith Franciscan Monastic Community where men and women are empowered to embrace the Natural World-the Franciscan Soul. **Our vision is to reach out and embrace all as One!**

Currently, members of the Tau Interfaith Franciscans live the monastic life from their own homes-their monasteries without walls until such time as our League of Friends are equipped to raise the capital to establish the Abbey. If you can assist in any way, then please be guided by what your heart tells you to do! As the Monastic Community are prevented from applying for direct funds by reason of their vows, every penny raised will go towards the entire eco sustainable project that will help make a real difference! **With your help, we can make it happen!**

The covenanted members and Oblates of the Tau Interfaith Community of Saint Francis live to a simple way of life, known as their '**Little Way.**' It is a way of life rooted in Franciscan Spirituality that has empowered many ordinary men and women to reawaken their childlike qualities as demonstrated by St. Francis of Assisi and later adopted by another well known 20st century Saint, that of **St. Therese of Lizeux.** In their childlike innocence they both reiterate the importance of simplicity by integrating a spiritual ecology for the Natural World-God's creation.

Francis of Assisi, in his living the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the full, gives us an example of 'Four Ecologies:

- an environmental ecology, living in harmony with creation and Mother Nature and the Elements.
- a social ecology, embracing all people as brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or status.
- a spiritual ecology, in praise of the Father Mother God as Creator of all things.
- an interfaith ecology, inviting all soul seekers of truth enter a new concept of living practical spirituality in the modern world regardless of one's religious persuasions.

The League of Friends of The Tau Community of Saint Francis

Registered Charity No. ????????

The Tau Interfaith Franciscans are an interfaith Spiritual Monastic Community of Brothers and Sisters having covenanted their hearts and lives to God by living the Sevenfold Vows including a vow of Providence. This vow/promise prohibits our monastic monks from applying directly for funding for their daily ministrations.

At present, some of the overheads, stationary, postage and printing, are supported from the sales of our wide range of chutneys, Tau Mandala Beads and the Tree of Life Course, leaving a reduced amount in the Tau Bank account. Because of the revised changes in the registration of new charities in the UK, the Tau Community are expected to show in their bank balance the sum of £5.000 before the Charity Commission will process their application for registered status. In the interim period, the Charity Commission has encouraged the Custodians (Trustees) of the Tau Community of Saint Francis to use the following title: **'an unincorporated charity.'**

Funding for the Tau Community's vision which will include the new Abbey, dedicated to **St. Francis of Peace and Compassion,** requires a commitment from all the members and their friends. The Founders and Mother Abbess with the support from the elected Custodians representing the Tau Community of Saint Francis, have agreed to support the birth of the 'Tau Community of Saint Francis League of friends.'

By 'Walking God's Talk,' the members and Friends of the Tau Interfaith Franciscans Abbey seek to eradicate all forms of religious oppression through a life dedicated to prayer, love of God, regardless of belief and being of service to everyone even in their local community and beyond!

(Rev).Brother Sean TCOSF
(Founder & Spiritual Director of Tau Community)

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If you would like to find out more about the eco sustainable Abbey of Saint Francis of Peace and Compassion League of Friends and the services we provide, just follow the links below:

We need the continued support of members of the Tau Community of Saint Francis, their friends and their families to continue our voluntary work.

There is a number of ways in which you can help.

- **If you click on the link opposite you can go shopping at our on-line store with over 100 retailers supporting us with donations for all purchases made.**
- **If You Would Like To Make A Financial Donation And Help Support The Work**
- **We Can Accept You're On Line Donations.**
- **All Major Credit Cards Are Accepted.**

If You Wish To Donate On Line, Please Click On The "Donate Button Online Now" on our website.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS OVERLEAF

The League of Friends of The Tau Community of Saint Francis

Registered Charity No. ????????

Membership Application

I / We wish to join The League of Friends of The Tau Community of Saint Francis.

Name

Address

Postcode Date / /

If you would like to make a donation, please complete the following:

I / We enclose a donation of £.....

(Cheques payable to 'The League of Friends' please)

If you pay UK tax on any part of your income and would like the League to any future donations you may make, please tick this box

Signed

Membership is free and entitles you to a quarterly Newsletter giving up to date news on our activities, appeals and general information. You may also attend our AGM, held in October, at which all members are entitled to vote.

If you would like to become a member, double click on the membership form below. Please send completed form to: Membership Secretary. TCOSF