

The Tau Interfaith Spiritual Community of Saint Francis

Uniting all Faith Groups as ONE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY through Love, Prayer
and Service



History of the Interfaith Franciscans vision

In June 2009, whilst researching the internet to see if there were any other Interfaith Franciscan monastic groups on the world wide web, we came across several interesting articles about the Vatican, more to the point, Pope Benedict removing the Papal Seal granted by the late Pope John Paul II to the Franciscan Order for Assisi's recognition as an interfaith centre. The Vatican prohibited the Franciscans using Assisi for interfaith ministry. We were equally surprised to discover the date this reprimand arrived, April 2006!

It would seem that despite man's interference with God's vision of interfaith reconciliation to all faiths and none, Saint Francis had other plans when he spoke to mere mortals possibly seen as less theologically versed in their role as student therapists from the Sean Bradley Academy of Essenic Energy Medicine than the intelligencia of the Roam Curia. It proves the point that when clerical ego gets in the way of God's vision for mankind, the Spirit of God prepares ordinary souls to take on the task without ego getting in the way.

Something amazing happened during their weekend of training in Manchester. On day 2 of their course, whilst in meditation. Lord Kutumi, otherwise known as St. Francis, came through with a simple message saying: "Establish an interfaith forum for all beliefs; meet regularly empowering

many embrace God's love for them and call the venture, the Tau Community of Saint Francis."

In August 2007, at a Trustee's meeting, we soon became aware that within the group and from one of our advisers, there was an element of deep unease with the venture being called after St. Francis. The reason given was that many would perceive the name St Francis as representing Catholic and engender a poverty mind set. We were later told that if the name of St. Francis wasn't removed then a group in Manchester would have difficulty supporting us. A vote was taken and though the outcome was devastating for both poor Sr. Theresa and Brother Sean, our Founder, they accepted in faith the majority vote to call themselves, 'Tau Tree of Life Healing Community.'

A sense of despair prevailed from August 2007 until April 2008 when Brother Sean was guided in his heart to go to the tomb of St. Francis at Assisi as he would be given clarity what must be done to resolve the situation. As soon as he arrived at the tomb of his beloved Francis,

Brother Sean received a simple request from Jesus and St. Francis: 'To establish an Interfaith monastic community for men and women of all beliefs to live a covenanted monastic life of prayer and penance in service to the God of all Faiths. The name of the Community will be known as the Tau Community of Saint Francis- an Interfaith Franciscan venture empowering mankind embrace the Natural World-The Franciscan Soul.'

Upon his return from Assisi, Brother Sean called for a meeting of the entire membership within the Tau Community and shared the message he was given from Jesus and St. Francis. A sense of Joy and Celebration returned albeit with several hardened hearts looking defeated and unhappy with the decision to resume the name of St. Francis.

GOD'S PROPOSED 7 YEAR VISION FOR THE NEW VENTURE:

The New Monastic 'eco sustainable' Buildings will be known as: The Abbey of Saint Francis of Peace and Compassion. Please click below to read about the vision of faith:

God's vision will be our opportunity to 'Walk God's Talk' and embrace His vision with absolute faith. As covenanted Interfaith Franciscans living the monastic sevenfold vows, of which one is the vow of Providence to our Father Mother God, who are Millionaires in their own right, will provide

whatever we need for the sake of their vision...many will see this leap of faith as pure madness! Despite not having any tangible written guarantees of funding, we know that this journey is one of faith and we trust that God will underwrite all we need at the appropriate time and place by honouring our vow of Providence to God.

The Tau Interfaith Franciscans Monastic Community of Saint Francis Fraternity:

"Inspired by God, St. Francis initiated a gospel form of life that he called a brotherhood according to the example of the life of Christ and His disciples."

"For this reason, united by faith in God and nourished at the table both of the Divine Word and interfaith celebration, we love one another that the world may know we are God's disciples, service to the whole Family of God."

- We gather together for prayer 3 times each day.
- All meals are taken in common.
- All goods are held in common.
- Each Monastic's unique talents are recognised and used for the common good.
- Important events in brothers' and sister's lives are celebrated by all.

Our Ministry

As Interfaith Franciscans living the monastic life, our first chosen vocation is to become a 'Prayer Consultant for God.' We achieve this spiritual way of life by the daily support from God's Spirit by the following means:

1. Prayer:

"Desiring above all things the Spirit of the Lord and Its holy activity, praying always God with a pure heart, let us offer people a witness of authentic prayer in such a way that they may see and sense in our faces and in the life of our fraternities the goodness and kindness of God present in the world"

As members of an Interfaith Monastic Community, we endorse the teachings of our Founder, St. Francis by upholding a simple belief that as we are all brothers and sisters of the same Loving God of all, when we come together to celebrate each other's religious beliefs through sacred

dance, rituals and shared prayer for the world at large, we do so with humility, reverence and respect.

We recite the Liturgy of the Divine Office in common each day

- We spend two half hour periods of meditation daily
- Opportunities for Interfaith devotions including Eucharistic Adoration is offered frequently
- Private prayers and devotions encouraged in accordance with one's religious beliefs.

Monthly day of recollection in silence.

- Yearly mandatory 5 day's retreat in silence.

2. Monastic Social Enterprise in Communal Service through collaborative action.

As covenanted monastic members of the Tau interfaith Community, we enter a spiritual relationship with God by adhering to several important vows or promises made when we commit our lives in service to God and each other. Another we can achieve this is by living to the same simple rule of St. Francis, namely, that of absolute confidence in our Loving Heavenly Father Mother God who sees our hearts and who will provide for all our daily needs accordingly. This is what we call living to a vision of complete faith and trust in God where there are no guarantees but unconditional love.

Each member of the professed community live to the 'Tau Rule of Life' which prohibits one from applying to any statutory body, the Lottery, or any Grant Making Trust for direct funding. Instead, each member makes a practical contribution by sharing their skills and expertise which will contribute towards the running costs of the monastic community. We can raise our daily bread by the following means:

- Making a range of Creative Arts and Crafts, namely, the Tau Prayer Chaplets
- Making homemade preserves, honey and chutneys.
- Making iconography, religious cards, etc.
- Writing and publishing our works.
- Recording our range of healing meditations and chants

- Running guided and or group spiritual retreats.
- Delivering a range of seminars on: Spirituality; Holistic Therapies; Ecology; caring for our animals (hens; bees; etc.).
- Providing a woodland cemetery for the ashes of individuals and their pets.
- Providing an animal sanctuary for sick and abandoned animals.
- Naming ceremonies; weddings; blessings, etc.

As a covenanted monastic community, it is not our intention to remain kneeling in prayer each day whilst the community dies of starvation. The vow of providence implies that we not only place our abiding trust in a beneficent God who will provide, but we have to be responsible and meet God half way by utilising the skills and gifts that He has given to each one and earn a simple living from the sale of our homemade produce or the sale of our arts and crafts, etc. This, we believe, is Franciscan Spirituality in its simplest form.