



Bishop Jo Seoka with five of the St Francis Confirmands



The Franciscan

Advent & Christmas 2014
St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter

Contents

Foreword	2
From the Rector's Desk	3
From the Parish Registers	5
We, who are many, are one body	8
Synopsis of the 84 th Synod	10
Church Flower Arrangers	13
Confirmation 2014	15
Ministries Fair	19
Meeting the Beneficiaries of our Food Parcels	22
Clean-up of Nieuw Muckleneuk Spruit	23
The House that Tateni built	26
Aids 2014 theme	31
Inner Peace	31

St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church, 373 Milner Street, Waterkloof, 0181
Tel. 012 346-1106/7, Fax: 012 346-4226, Email: mail@st-francis.co.za
Website: www.st-francis.co.za/ Facebook: St Francis of Assisi Waterkloof
Clergy: Ven. Timothy Lowes (Rector)
Rev. Joan Jones (Deacon)
Youth Chaplain: Jon-Reece Evans youth@st-francis.co.za
Children's Church: Guy Smith
Editor: Jill Daugherty. Tel. 012 998-9012; daughjd@telkomsa.net
Printing and Production: Shirley Hollier & Mark Napier

Foreword from the Editor

We did not have enough material to produce a Michaelmas Franciscan in September, so this final edition of 2014 is a bumper one. Many events had to be recorded, many babies have been baptised, many ministries celebrated and many photos were taken.

The Rector's letter and Hank's article challenge us, Mary Carol and Jerice encourage us to get involved and Regina's article shows what can be achieved if many people join together with a common purpose.

My thanks to all the writers and photographers.

Jill Daugherty

From the Rector's Desk

My dear Parishioners,



Below is a letter to the Editor of the *Pretoria News*, which was published on 13 February 1986. The CARING CHRISTIAN who wrote the letter was Fr John Lowes, my father.

YOU SAID IT...

But have you been to a township recently?

SIR – I wish to reply to the letter by Colonel L. Mellet calling on the Pretoria News to apologise to the SAP – for telling the truth?

I'm not sure when the honourable Colonel Mellet was last in the townships for his comments certainly show no signs of a recent visit.

To state that the SAP "enjoys tremendous support" shows you what a fools' paradise we live in, in South Africa.

The past couple of months I have been visiting a township close to Pretoria to attend to the needs of a beautiful Christian sister, who will remain nameless as legal action is definitely being instituted, who was indiscriminately shot at by a civilian van full of black and white SAP members in uniform.

I can vouch for the innocence of my friend. I'm sure many readers, as did my friend's former employer, will state "she must have been throwing stones" – surprise, surprise, she was walking home from a funeral. Witnesses will testify that the police started firing wildly, hitting my friend five times.

My sister is alive to tell the truth but how many are not? No, Colonel Mellet, visit just one family in the townships, go to any meeting and you'll find your bold statements are completely unfounded.

Pretoria News keep on telling the truth and giving the facts as they really are. – CARING CHRISTIAN.

In this season of Advent, we look forward not just to Christmas, to the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, which we know will follow the four weeks of Advent, but also to the second coming of Christ, the time of which event is unknown. We look forward to this event, which may come during our lifetime or long after we have passed away, with impatience, with trepidation and with longing. The four weeks of Advent enable us to prepare ourselves to meet the risen Christ, our Redeemer, Judge and King, and to reflect on the true meaning of the Incarnation.

You are no doubt wondering what my father's 1986 letter to the newspaper has to do with Advent and the Incarnation. The letter was written during a very dark period in our history, four years before the release of Nelson Mandela from prison (11 February 1990). It reveals the preconceived ideas of many people at that time, who were only too ready to believe that any township resident shot at by the police must have been involved in some kind of unrest. It also shows that some people did care enough to find out what role the SAP were actually playing in the townships, to condemn them and to support innocent victims.

God became man to redeem the WORLD, not just a few individuals. If we believe this, we do not only try to 'save' ourselves, but also to assist others to be 'saved'. That is why we belong to a Church and come together on Sundays to worship and pray together as one body. In this season of Advent and Christmas, let us reach out to one another and invite outsiders to join us as we celebrate the Incarnation of our God and his Redeeming Grace. The South Africa of 2014 is an improvement on that of 1986, but it is certainly not perfect. We are still a work-in-progress that God, through His Church (i.e. the body of believers), is refining in His own time.

God be in your road this Christmas

Fr Timothy Lowes

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

Baptism Date	Child	Birth date	Parents
2014-09-28	Malachigh Peter	2014-06-06	Tommy Dean & Natalie Ann STRYDOM
2014-09-28	Tshegofatso	2004-12-09	Tshepiso MAKGALEMELE
2014-09-28	Lethabo	2011-02-01	Tshepiso MAKGALEMELE Fannie TLEANE
2014-10-19	Jordan	2013-10-04	Jean-Paul & Cheri Monique RUDD
2014-10-19	Hari Alexander	2008-04-16	Bruce MCMAHON Vaishali PATEL
2014-10-19	Maya Vaishal	2010-12-07	Bruce MCMAHON Vaishali PATEL
2014-11-30	Sisiphosethu Asakhe	2014-02-21	Amandla Bantu Sipo & Zamakhize STOFIE
2014-11-30	Margot Mae	2014-05-10	Toby Richard & Laura Mary FISHER
2014-11-30	Erik Owen	2014-06-24	Finn & Eunice BUITEN
2014-12-07	Andrew Jude	2014-07-20	Ivan Jonathan & Mickaele JENKINS

On the next page are photos of the baptism of two of the youngest members of the St Francis of Assisi family:

- Margot Mae Fisher and
- Erik Owen Buiten



Confirmation

Name	Date of Confirmation	Year of Birth
HERBST, Erin	2014-10-26	1996
ISMAIEL, Athena	2014-10-26	1999
MAJAKE, Palesa	2014-10-26	1999
MAKGALAMELE, Matoane	2014-10-26	1998
MOULTON, Chantelle	2014-10-26	1997
NAPIER, Megan	2014-10-26	1996
OKONKWO, Unoma	2014-10-26	1999
WAPPAD, Elisa	2014-10-26	1998

See the Testimonies of the Confirmands and an article on the Confirmation Service below on p. 15.

Faithful departed

Date of Death	Name
2014-10-20	ERASMUS, Gerry
2014-10-24	QWALELA, Pumzile
2014-11-03	MCPHAIL, Amy Penelope
2014-11-18	BEZUIDENHOUT, Barney

We, who are many, are one body... (Romans 12:5 & APB)

For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body though many, are one body.... (1 Cor 12:12)

....there would be no division in the body, but the members will have the same concern for each other. (1 Cor 12:25)

These quotes from the New Testament coupled with the time-honoured Second Great Commandment: *You shall love your neighbour as yourself...* are the basis of the law, give us guidance on how to live and relate to others, hence the moral and relationship standards to apply. And the Constitution of our country echoes this.

The first community in which any of us live is the Family, and it is in this that we not only show care and compassion, but learn and determine the way in which we relate to other families around us.

**Taking stock—how is it in your family?
Do we have any skeletons in the cupboard?**

The closeness in the family, and its relationship with those families around us, is a mirror of the unified relationship in *one body*. When you look around you, what do you see? Is there cohesiveness and cooperation in your family and hence in your behaviour to surrounding families? Are you one body? Do you have compatible standards or moral values as inculcated in you by your intimate family? Have you debated and cemented these values in your own family body?

If the above values were core in all of us, would we today have the degree of corruption, disregard for others, hence violence, intolerance and exploitation? Is the prevalence of these characteristics already diluting our Constitution and law to the point where anything goes? Are you happy to allow that? In your family and around you?

History teaches us of the moral decline of many admirable civilizations. Are we witnessing the Decline and Fall of the RSA?

A few simple questions:

- Why should you stop at a stop street?
- Is SARS fair game – if you can get away with it?
- Is improving your lie of a golf ball wrong?
- Is it permissible to talk behind someone's back to improve your position?
- ...To get a sick note, when you want to go to an alternative activity?
- Should I give bribes to secure favour or a business deal?
- When is it OK to shoot to kill?

If these are acceptable standards to us, why then do we complain when others do them, and it affects us?

It is perhaps well to test the conversation around your family dinner table against the stocktaking section above and to form an opinion of the relationships built ... and the resulting value systems. ...Satisfied?

Next compare with those around you and seek out the comparison with those whom you and your family admire.

Our religion is clear in what the standards are. Have we inculcated these into our own lives and should they apply to our community? What is our personal and corporate responsibility? Do we tolerate compromise either by disregarding the consequences, or by intent? The South Africa in which we now live has the most equitable Constitution, containing all of the biblical standards quoted above in many ways, yet our national behaviour is blatantly in conflict with them, in many regards.

Are you happy to condone this, in your own home, in your associations? Will you be part of it, or will you become active in whatever manner you feel appropriate to positively change society, starting in your family, ... then associates, ... then community ... business?

We, who are many, are one body – let's care for it. **STARTING TODAY.**

Hank Doeg

**Synopsis of the 84th Synod of the Diocese of Pretoria,
held at Trinity Church Lynnwood 18-20 September 2014**

The 2014 Diocesan Synod was a most fruitful and proactive meeting. The sessions were long – 8 a.m. till 8 p.m. on some days – but they produced much which was of value. Amongst the 'mundane' but necessary discussions, were the following telling matters:

A NEW DIOCESE

The House committed itself to the development of the Western Regions, i.e. the Rustenburg area, stretching to the Botswana border. The vision is to reach a point where a new Diocese can be established by the year 2017. The challenge is that all Parishes commit themselves to donating 1% of their income towards the realization of this vision. I am very proud to tell you that we, as a Parish, have been amongst the very few who have already been doing that since the challenge went out at Diocesan Standing Committee earlier this year. I brought it to Parish Council when we prepared our 2014 Budget and, without hesitation, the leadership at St Francis of Assisi embraced it as part of our missionary work. I never cease to be stunned at the beneficence of this Parish. The work of the Church is taken very seriously – as indeed it surely should be! This is a reminder that each of us has a pivotal role to play, in thought, word, deed and contribution to the life of our Parish, if God's Kingdom is to be realized 'on earth as it is in Heaven'.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA'S ROLE IN SOCIETY

The House resolved to very seriously re-commit the Anglican Diocese of Pretoria to the role of being a 'thorn in the flesh' of the Government of the day with regard to moral and spiritual guidance matters. Of course, our Bishop has been doing so for some time now, but this Synod resolved to pointedly 'up the ante'. Corruption, the squandering of billions (which could have so ably assisted the poor), nepotism, etc. were vociferously denounced by speaker after speaker. There was a plaintive call – I'm not sure how else to describe it.

CHARGE OF THEFT LEVELLED AGAINST THE BISHOP BY THE CATHEDRAL

The ridiculous charge of 'theft', levelled against the Diocesan, was dealt with. Suffice to say, the fact that a forensic audit commissioned by the Archbishop emphatically rubbished such claims, and the testimony by Father Julian Kok (former Bursar) that the finances of THIS Diocese are the most stringent, transparent and professional in the entire Province, along with the Bishop's personal testimony that he has invited ANY party to investigate ANY books they would care to (NONE have availed themselves of this offer) dealt professionally and maturely with this nonsense. I daresay there will still be those distractors who will prefer to believe what they would rather want to be the case.

THE CATHEDRAL ISSUE

The 'Cathedral issue' of course was THE issue. When all is said and done, PRAYER prevailed. There was much, much discussion (three hours in all, over two sessions) and the end result was a decisive call to heal this fractious matter, which has so hurt the Church. I would argue that the most profound part of it all was that neither side 'won'. Certainly there was considerable progress made in bringing the matter to a close. For me, the issue was quite stunningly summed up by the Headmaster of St Alban's College who castigated those who applauded whenever 'their' argument 'won'. Christ and His Church matter here, no-one else. Keep praying. There is wonderful light at the end of the tunnel.

ROLE OF OUR PARISH IN THE BROADER PICTURE – THE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY OF FAITH IN PRETORIA

This for me, as your Rector and Priest, is the key matter I want to highlight. For each of the delegates who represented you at Synod, unequivocally, THE issue to bring back was the reminder that our Parish is not a law unto itself. Not that this is how we behave, but we were all so pointedly reminded that we are a part of a BROAD, WIDE Diocese. What happens in our Parish must reflect the vision, the aims, and the reality of what is going on in the 'bigger picture'. I'm proud to say, we do strive to do so. To this end, however, I am even more committed to incorporating the 'spectrum' which is the Anglican Church in South Africa in the daily life of our Parish.

I simply cannot do this, however, without the full co-operation of ALL who comprise this Body of Christ at St Francis of Assisi. Where are those who can form a Mother's Union? Why do we not have an AWF (Anglican Women's Fellowship)? What about those in the Congregation who can teach us and lead us to incorporate a more 'reflective' style of singing and worship at Mass. This is your Parish as much as the person seated next to you. We were all reminded that there are NO 'white' or 'black' parishes. There are only ANGLICAN parishes. Help me start a Servers Guild. These are some of the very serious challenges I put to all and sundry.

THE DIOCESAN FAMILY DAY MASS

Lastly, bless all who supported me and the Diocese at the splendid Family Day Mass on Sunday. It was LOOOOONG – but it was glorious. Thank God our Parish was so well represented. You made me particularly swell with pride when you stood to represent my Archdeaconry and Parish – and sang sooo well – and swayed to the 'beat' sooooo naturally. My 85 year old mum was the real hero of the day. Stayed to the end!! The Rector's wife was not too shabby either. This Diocese is a magnificently, busy, diverse, active, alive and productive entity – and we are privileged to be part of it.

Over 1500 in attendance (don't say I can't organize well).

Pax et Bonum

Ven. Timothy Lowes

PS John-Reece, you are an irreplaceable star. Without you there would have been chaos with the 300+ kids present. I owe you!!!

PPS Joan, you read the Gospel quite magnificently – 1500+ people, no mike, and I heard every word. Take a bow.

PPPS All who attended from St Francis of Assisi –take a bow.

Church Flower Arrangers

The church flower arrangers at St Francis of Assisi are a friendly group of individuals who enjoy enhancing the worship in the church throughout the year with beautiful flower arrangements. The whole church is decorated with flowers for the Festivals of Easter, Whitsun and Christmas and for our Patronal Festival. We are also asked occasionally to do arrangements for weddings and funerals.

The rota for the following year's duties is arranged in December and we are always happy to welcome new volunteers. At present each arranger has about three duties per year. For the Festivals we work as a team. We provide one large fresh arrangement in the sanctuary near the altar and a small arrangement in the Lady Chapel each week, except during Lent and Advent.

We are happy to provide special colours and arrangements of flowers in memory of a loved one, birthdays or for other special dates. Donations are gratefully accepted for the flowers for these occasions and for the Church Festivals. There is a Flower Fund kept by the parish office for this purpose.

The flowers are arranged on a Friday or Saturday. We are grateful to our vergers who help us in so many ways. Thank you, David and Jeanette.

If you would like to get involved or have any other enquiries about flower arranging at St Francis Church, please contact me on 082-683.5680.

Jerice Doeg

The Flower Arrangers Prayer

May God grant that our hearts, our eyes and our hands may receive inspiration, enabling us to glorify His house with the beauty of the leaves and blossoms that He has created.

As we arrange the flowers, we pray that they bring pleasure and comfort to the people who will gather here to worship and to sing.

*We ask this in the Name of our Lord Jesus.
Amen*



Arrangement for Confirmation Service 26-10-2014

CONFIRMATION 2014

Testimonies of St Francis Confirmands

Confirmation to me was my own way to take my relationship with God into my own hands, the last two years was a way of saying that I wanted to be in charge of my relationship with God and that it was no longer my parents' duty. It was a way to experience God and get to know more about Him so that I could learn how to communicate with Him to enable me to take charge of the spiritual side of my life. Confirmation has prepared me to take my own steps in becoming closer to God. **Erin Herbst**

To me confirmation meant growing up and becoming an adult in the church and through confirmation I have learnt a lot about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. By getting confirmed I am saying I will follow Jesus and live by His example of loving every human being regardless of how they or what they do. This is what I will try my best to do. Confirmation allowed me to grow in my Christian faith brought me closer to God by learning about him. This journey has allowed me to become an adult in the Christian faith and therefore signifies my lifelong pledge of faithfulness to Christ. **Matoane Makgalemele**

It has come to that time where I must take on the vows my parents made for me at my Baptism. I would not be able to take these vows myself, without the knowledge and growth that I have experienced during Confirmation classes. I have learnt so many things about the Bible, God, the Church and even about myself. I have been a member of this church for my whole life and Confirmation is the next part of my journey in this church and in my spirituality. Through these Confirmation classes, I have discovered God in so many ways: through different ways of prayer, through nature, through music and through silence. So many people have helped and inspired me along my journey and I am so grateful to have them in my life. I am so thankful for everything that God has blessed me with and, as I get confirmed, I pray that He will continue to shine His light on me.

Megan Napier

What is confirmation to me? Well I think confirmation is a new chapter in my life. A very special chapter for that matter. I think it is a reconnection with my God and the Church itself. Confirmation has taught me a lot of things, not only about the Lord God but also about myself. I believe as a person I have learnt to embrace myself in many ways. Especially with my Lord God. At first I thought it was too soon, but I came to realize that in fact it was the right time to start this holy journey with my God.

Palesa Majake

Confirmation classes were something I looked forward to every week. It was a place where you could ask as many questions related to the scriptures and get an answer. Sometimes we would ask questions and Jon Reece would say, "I don't know, that is just how God works." Confirmation was a place where I could discover new things about God, miracles he performed, people he came in contact with and their stories. Learning about books in the bible I had never heard of like, Thessalonians and Lamentations. Not only did I get to learn more about God, but I also got to make new friends and got more involved in church activities. So, I would say confirmation was a big part of my life for the past year and a half, and I don't know where I would be today without it.

Unoma Okonkwo

Confirmation has been an amazing experience. I was fortunate enough to spend these two years of confirmation with people sharing in similar interests as me. I haven't just built relationships with my fellow confirmands, but with myself and God as well. I have built a strong relationship with God and feel I've found myself. My beliefs and trust in God is stronger. I feel confirmation was for myself, for my soul not just the fact that I have to get confirmed. With my Church and my parents' support I feel I've accomplished what I wanted to out of confirmation.

Athena Ismaiel

Confirmation has been a great experience. We have learned and been exposed to so much over the past months. Learning about topics ranging from the Old Testament to different forms of prayer has helped shape my values and my outlook on everyday happenings. We are now taking personal responsibility for our own spirituality and maintaining a more personal relationship with God.

Confirmation has given us the necessary knowledge and confidence to be able to do this. As a group, we have supported one another. It has been a journey filled with laughs, enlightenment and has equipped us all for our spiritual journeys still to come.

Chantelle Moulton

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

The service was joyful and fun – 2½ hours long and the church was full. The Bishop went down the aisle before we sang the last hymn and wanted a show of hands of those were new in St Francis that day. One couple, Nicola and Neville, stood up. Fr Tim said they hadn't been in church for a while, upon which the Bishop greeted them in a warm embrace, welcoming them back to church. It turns out that Nicola is the daughter of Mrs Daley, who we are praying for in the pew leaflet. And Nicola's dad is a retired Anglican minister and was the Bursar in the Bishop's office before Paul Pretorius. Neville and Nicola say they will be back and have not been frightened off by such a public welcome. In fact I think they were quite touched by it all. Bishop Joe also had everyone representing the different confirmands stand up. He was in a very fine frame of mind.

After the service, there were plenty of different eats in the hall which were soon demolished. Fr Timothy presented both Timea Seoka and Nina Lowes with a bunch of red roses each, while Jeannie Rodger's beautiful arrangement in the church was applauded for its magnificence.

All in all, the service was a great blessing to all who attended. There was even a moment or two of great hilarity over one young confirmand from Corpus Christi who had played soccer the day before and as he went to kneel in front of the Bishop he got a cramp in his leg and had to stretch his leg sideways and then had to be helped to a standing position. There were several confirmands from somewhere with no name tags at all and then there were the St Francis confirmands with names that could be seen from the back of the church. Of course this elicited a response from the Bishop, all in good humour.

Diana Higgs



**Bishop Jo with
lay minister Linda Lewis and
Deacon Joan Jones**

**And with Yulia,
organist and
choir mistress**



Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible!!!!

The **St. Francis Ministry Fair** coincided with our Patronal Festival this year. Twelve ministries participated enlightening all who visited their tables of the great good they perform both inside and outside the walls of St. Francis. The Parish Centre was decorated with blue and silver pennants, posters with ministry names, beautiful flower arrangements, a compost expo, delicious ingredients from our soup kitchen and much more. Comments ranged from, "I had no idea we were involved in this" to "This outreach program really provides so much to those in need."



Helen Pretorius & Jeannie Rodger set up the Soup Kitchen display; behind them is the Flower Arrangers' table

St. Francis of Assisi ministries provide endless hours of ushering, arranging, singing and serving our church family. Outside our community we provide food, toiletries, clothing and technical assistance to those less fortunate than we. Through generous donations of time and money St. Francis provides a lifeline to many who otherwise would struggle significantly to make ends meet.

We do not recruit for our ministries. We discern a 'call' in those who wish to serve. Each person has numerous gifts. St. Paul says, "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us..." (Romans 12:6a) If you feel you are called to a particular ministry, be it singing, flower arranging, assisting with environmental awareness or counting money, please bring your desire to us. Here are some ministries you could get involved in:

Stewardship – Sidespersons – Sacristans – Lay Ministers – Worship Team – Choir – Servers – Flower Arranging – Readers – Pray-ers – Sound Engineer – Refreshment Providers – Catering – Hospitality – Youth Helpers – House Groups – Multi-media Coordinator – Photographer – Article writing – Home/Hospital Visiting – Soup Kitchen – Friends of Tumelong – Fill-a-Bag – Environmental Issues – HIV/AIDS Coordinator – Friends of Tateni – Mission and Ministry – Pastoral Care –Phone Ministry...

Mary Carol Tazewell

Tumelong Display at Ministries Fair

The Tumelong table was a long one at the back of the hall under the St Francis window – the best possible position. It was long enough to accommodate all four arms or focus areas of Tumelong:

1. Care and Relief;
2. ECD (Early Child Development) and Youth Development;
3. HCT (HIV/Aids Counselling and Testing); and
4. Environment.

Environment was at the one end of the table (for Vincent Taylor and his Bokashi buckets) and Fill-a-Bag at the other end where the contents of a bag and a filled bag were displayed. Next to this was an easel for the photo collage created by Diana Higgs of the beneficiaries of the St Francis food parcels. ECD and HCT were in the middle – not much on ECD (except for copies of *The Franciscan* with articles on the Christmas parties we have given to the children of the ECD Centres at Maboloka Ga-Rankuwa) – but lots of pamphlets and booklets from the Dept. of Health for HCT, as well as copies of *The Franciscan* on the Wellness Days held at St Francis.

Behind the table was a stand on which were displayed the Tumelong diagram as well as posters, pictures, etc. from the Dept. of Health for HCT and from SAFCEI (Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute) and other sources for the Environment. There was a sign-up list for the Clean-up of the Nieuw Muckleneuk Spruit on 25 October and details were also taken from anyone who wanted to join the Fill-a-Bag Pledge Scheme.

Tumelong (especially the ECD arm) was also represented by the presence at the patronal festival service of Katie Sepato, the young girl from Tshwaraganang Orphanage in Temba who recently received a new prosthetic leg. We had met her when we visited the orphanage on the Mandela Day visit organised by Tumelong (see the July Trinity 2014 issue of *The Franciscan*) and helped to finance the prosthesis.

After the service, breakfast was served in the newly upgraded Barn Area behind the Rectory. The upgrade has been financed in a large measure by a legacy from the late June van der Merwe. She was a faithful Friend of Tumelong. Her Craft Group used to knit jerseys for the children of Maboloka Haven and she instituted the Christmas parties for Tumelong children. June and Joe joined the parish in the 1960s, June becoming the Superintendent of the Sunday School, teaching in the very barn that has now been renovated. A bench in the Barn Area commemorating Joe and June was blessed by Fr Timothy in the presence of their daughter Olivia Gregory and her husband Alan.

Jill Daugherty



Meeting the Beneficiaries of our Food Parcels

On Thursday 21 August, I went with Lucas Mthembu from Tumelong to Shoshanguve and Winterveld with the idea of seeing some of the faces behind the Fill-a-Bag food parcels we donate every two weeks.

The meeting place for most of our families is Shalom Primary School in Shoshanguve. This is a well-appointed face-brick primary school. Many representatives of our more than our 30 or 40 families had arrived this day – all moms, gogos or foster moms as well as two dads – to pick up their bags. I took photos of the kids with their 'guardians'. By the grace of God we managed to have a bag to give every family at this school and then headed for a secondary school in the Winterveld. This school was not nearly as well appointed. Again by the grace of God we had 10 bags over for the 10 adults who were waiting for us. Lucas and I both remarked on how "good God was".

We then returned to Shoshanguve to deliver a fridge and sewing machine (from Trinity Church). It is here at Thorntree Primary that a very successful veggie garden has been started by some of the Fill-a-Bag beneficiaries. Both Lucas and I had tried at both the previous schools to inspire our beneficiaries to do something to help themselves, i.e. starting veggie gardens, making things out of empty containers, e.g. empty Domestos, Toilet Duck, Handy Andy bottles, and all plastic bottle tops. With just a little imagination the ideas are limitless! But it was almost as though we were talking to the walls. Lucas says he often feels completely overwhelmed. More and more hopeless cases and no one inspired to help themselves try and get out of the desperate situations they are in. It's as though they feel entitled to these hand-outs. We wonder whether we just have to 'laugh off' in a sense this generation, continue to feed them as best we can and earnestly educate the next generation so that this cycle of poverty and entitlement does not continue.

So I now have a photographic collage of families and the names of our beneficiaries, but I am still trying to link the pictures to the names – not an easy task. The project was on display at the Ministries Fair and is now in the Prayer Room.

Diana Higgs

Clean-up of Nieuw Muckleneuk Spruit

On Saturday morning, 25 October 2014, the St Francis Earth Keepers organised a clean-up of a spruit in Nieuw Muckleneuk. This spruit, officially known as Walker Spruit, begins somewhere on Waterkloof hill and runs mainly underground, surfacing in Nieuw Muckleneuk on the northern side of Main Street. It passes under a bridge on Giovanetti Street and continues for one more block to Veale Street before going underground again to pass under Brooklyn Mall, resurfacing after Middel Street to flow into the Austin Roberts Birds Sanctuary. From there it flows through Magnolia Dell and Sunnyside, eventually joining the Apies River in the CBD (near the Caledonian Stadium).

The Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary was previously a natural wetland. A cultural history survey of the site published recently (*Management Plan 01408V Austin Roberts*, available on the Internet) found no sign of human habitation there before the 19th century, but concluded that indigenous people, who lived in the area before European settlers, probably used it to graze their cattle. In the 19th century, a brick factory (possibly Kirkness) had a clay quarry here and it was also a municipal refuse site – a midden on the site bears testimony to this. The old quarry is now the main dam and, together with eight smaller dams and waterways, it attracted water birds and other bird life to the area. Increased urbanization in the last few decades has reduced the variety and number of birds, but it is still important to prevent rubbish from the spruit flowing into the dams and endangering the birds.

In Pretoria, there is a fondly held belief that the summer rains always arrive before or on 10 October, previously a public holiday (Kruger Day). So Saturday 25 October was chosen as a suitable date after the first rains for the clean-up, but this year was the exception that proves the rule – little or no rain had fallen. However, as the date had also been chosen to fit in with Waterkloof Primary School's schedule, it was decided to go ahead with the plan. There was not much water in the spruit and it was very overgrown, as the Horticultural section of the Parks Department had not yet begun to clear vegetation from Pretoria's waterways.

We started the clean-up at 9 o'clock with about ten St Francis parishioners, among them several members of the Men's Breakfast Group, who had decided to do some manual labour after their meal. We were soon joined by about sixty children, parents and teachers from the Waterkloof Primary School. With such a large workforce we managed to fill 50+ bags with litter in less than 2 hours. We left the site before 11 o'clock, disappointing parishioners, including the rector, who arrived for the last hour (11:00 to 12:00) only to find no one there and two piles of yellow municipal bags full of litter.

Recyclable material (mainly glass or plastic bottles and cans – the spruit must be used as a shebeen over weekends) was gathered separately and filled half the bags. These bags were placed on one side of the bridge in Giovanetti Street and Waste Group was requested to liaise with Tshwane Metro pick up these bags so that the recyclables did not end up in a landfill. The other bags with non-recyclable material were placed on the other side of the street to be picked up by the Tshwane Waste Management Division.

This clean-up was a great success as a community project, being supported by St Francis parishioners and by Waterkloof Primary School. A special word of thanks must go to Jane Shee, a St Francis Earth Keeper who teaches at the school and organised their collaboration with the parish. The spruit is within the parish and just two blocks away from the school. This is the second year we have held a joint clean-up and I hope it will become an annual event.

As if to applaud our effort in the morning, the clouds gathered later in the day and the first good rains of summer fell that night. It was comforting to listen to the rain knowing that no litter was being washed down the spruit into the waterways of the Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary.

Jill Daugherty



**EARTH
KEEPER**



**Jill & the Men's Breakfast Group with the result of their labour
More Members of the Fabulous Clean-up Team**



The House that Tateni Built with the Christmas-in-July Donation from St Francis

The donation from St Francis was earmarked for the Mdlalose family which consists of a 54 year old mother and two sons, aged 15 and 10 years. This family lives in the informal settlement in squatter house number 412 Ext. 11 in Mamelodi East. The family was identified through the boys who are registered at the after school drop-in-centres which are under Tateni care and support.

Tateni's care practice is not only to feed the children at the drop-in-centres, and sometimes clothe them, but also to visit their homes and care for them physically and psycho-socially. This is how we came across the most anti-social and unacceptable situation where these two boys shared the same bed with their mother in a shack of around 9m², which is much too small for three people to move around in. There was also no privacy during washing or dressing.

It is with gratefulness and appreciation from Tateni to the St. Francis congregation and friends for the donation they raised, which allowed us to help this family. Below is the one room shack before renovation:



We added another room using iron sheets requested from the Mamelodi High School, which we transported to the site.

The whole manpower of the Tateni Staff, including myself, arrived to build the additional room and even some of the neighbours came to help us.



The roof consists of eight new iron sheets, so it will not leak, and a firm new concrete floor was laid.



A newly purchased doorframe was fitted on. The shack was nearly finished at this point, the window fitted and being rearranged, but the whole place still needed to be cleaned up.



Then the new room was ready for the boys and below you see them receiving the keys for their new room.



During the two days which we spent with the Mdlalose family we observed that there was no toilet. It was demeaning to ask the neighbours if we could use their toilet. We were told that each house has dug its own pit latrine and that it cost R400.00 to dig a hole and build the latrine.



So we started to clear up a place for the pit latrine behind the shack. Some days later a hole for the latrine was built and just the slab and the closet were missing. We have taken the old toilet from our office in Moretele View and built it again at the Mdlalose house.

This is the pit latrine ready for the toilet slab and closet.



The neighbours had running water and in front of the Mdlalose house was a water pipe which just needed to be connected to a stand pipe, so that the family could have their own running water supply.



A hole for the new pipe was dug and even the older son of the Mdlalose family was helping us by this stage. Then the new pipe and the tap were connected and...

Voilà! Mma Mdlalose in her yard next to her new tap.



This project is a living testimony of what Tateni's 'Breaking the cycle of poverty' is all about. Many families and children that Tateni is working with are caught in the 'poverty-trap', fuelled by ignorance, feelings of helplessness and poor lifestyle patterns. Tateni and all of you who assisted financially, materially and just by verbal motivation have assisted in preventing the two boys from being a next generation with that mind-set. They are being assisted to break free from the forces which keep them locked in the cycle of poverty.

In conclusion, the boys' new room has received donations of carpets, two beds with bedding and blankets from Tateni's friends. Moreover the boys now have a study table with chairs to do their school work and a cabinet for donated plates, cups and mugs.

Without your help we would not have been able to support the Mdlalose family in this way. Many thanks to all of you.

GOD BLESS YOU!

Regina Mokgokong

AIDS 2014 Theme : Getting to Zero

Zero stigma, zero discrimination, zero HIV infections ... by 2020

St Francis supports this theme which was introduced on
World Aids Day 1 December 2014



Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy
to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without alcohol,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

Then You Are Probably.....

.....The Family Dog!



Submitted by Ponty Thuynsma

PCH BOOK SHOP

**Please donate your
FICTION books to us.**

The PCH Book Shop is open:

Run by VOLUNTEERS

Tuesdays 9:30 - 12:00
Fridays 9:30 - 12:00
Saturdays 8:30 - 12:00

120 Middel Street, New Muckleneuk, Pretoria

Please contact Pat Dennis for more information at:
012 460 2221 or admin@pch24.org.

All funds raised are in aid of Princess Christian Home which specialises in 24 hour care for the elderly, those who are frail or suffer from Alzheimer's disease.