



September –
October 2017

The Habit

Committed to God's Mission



Dear Habitual Friends

We are very grateful for the teaching which Fr Mike McCoy on Mission and Discipleship during July and August. I have reproduced his **Vision for a missional church**, and **Mission in the way of Jesus**, so that we can remind ourselves of his teaching as we begin to learn how to make disciples intentionally. Mike left us with two meaningful challenges, and I hope that we have all begun to give these some thought:

1. To prepare and be ready to briefly tell MY God-story. How I came to know, love and serve God.
2. To consider how we as a PARISH witness to God in our community.

We have now begun the exciting journey of making disciples, intentionally, in tune with our Church's call to a **Decade of Intentional Discipleship**.

So far we have considered that we have a **Great Commandment** and a **Great Commission** from Jesus [GC²]. The first gives us our **PASSION** for making disciples and the second, our **PURPOSE** in making disciples.

During October and November we will be considering the **PROCESS** by which disciples are made, namely – **Winning the Lost**, **Building Believers**, **Equipping the Workers** and then **Multiplying Disciples**. Each teaching is firmly based on how Jesus went about drawing people closer to God, and we want to follow in Jesus' footsteps as we continue God's Mission.



The Diagram in the centre of this newsletter illustrates this **PROCESS**.

What I find exciting is that in the process of making disciples, God is also taking us back to the first years of our Vision 2020 programme, namely being **Anchored in the Love of Christ, Growing in the Love of Christ** and being **Committed to God's Mission**. In our teaching I will share with you some of the ways in which we can re-visit those years and bring new members of the congregation on board with our Vision 2020 programme.

God bless you as we learn together how to honour and work to obey our Lord's great command and Great Commission [GC²].

Reggie

Parish Gardens and Greening Project



Our Prayer Garden Project has now really taken off and it is just so exciting!

Soon Alton and Beryl will present a plan to the congregation which has been put together for us by **Earth Force Landscapes**. A basic garden layout will be available for consideration with suggestions and a costing for individual parts – something like a jigsaw puzzle. Different individuals or groups can then take responsibility for the different gardens (jigsaw pieces) and work on them in their own time. The project includes the possibility of Putting in a big window and doors behind the Altar in the Chapel. This will allow more natural light into the Chapel, enable us to see the Garden, and provide access to the Chapel from our Garden.

While we may not be able to implement the plan totally in one or two years because of the cost, we can begin this year and build on the project as time goes by. Much depends on donations which we will still receive and how much work parishioners are prepared to do personally to bring about our garden.

Surely God just wants us to enjoy putting a garden together here at St Francis where God can meet with God's people and draw them closer.



Dedicated Giving – July, August September 2017

Month	Amount Dedicated	Amount Received	Surplus + Shortfall -	Accumulated Surplus +/ Shortfall – Year-to-date
July	R 95 000.00	R 111 020.00	+R 16 020.00	+ R 110 365.00
August	R 95 000.00	R 95 529.00	+R 529.00	+ R 110 894.00
September	R 95 000.00	R 91 080.00	-R 3 920.00	+ R 106 974.00



St Francis of Assisi

Birth Name: Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone

Feast Day: October 4th

Born: 1181 **Died:** 1226 (45 years old)

Patron Saint of: Animals, merchants, ecology, San Francisco, and the environment, St Francis of Assisi Parish, Albert

The Tau Cross

Born in Italy circa 1181, St. Francis of Assisi was renowned for drinking and partying in his youth. After fighting in a battle between Assisi and Perugia, Francis was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison—awaiting his father's payment—and, according to legend, began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, Francis heard the voice of Christ, who told him to repair the Christian Church and live a life of poverty. Consequently, he abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the faith, his reputation spreading all over the Christian world. Later in life, Francis reportedly received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ—marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he was crucified—making Francis the first person to receive such holy wounds. He was canonized as a saint on July 16, 1228. During his life he also developed a deep love of nature and animals and is known as the patron saint of the environment and animals; his life and words have had a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe. Each October, many animals the world over are blessed on his feast day.

In 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergogli chose to honour St. Francis by taking his name, becoming Pope Francis.



From the Diocese of the Highveld



- **Second Lecture in memory of Bishop David Beetge.** Saturday 28th October at Sophiatown the Mix beginning at 5.30 for 6 p.m. The lecture will be given by the Revd Canon Prof Barney Pityana. Please make every effort to support this event.
- **All Souls Service** at the Cathedral. See notice on our Notice Board.
- CDs of the **women's day celebration** are available at R50.00 for the speakers and R75.00 for the speakers and Eucharist service. Please order from Judy in the HABSR office.

➤ **Youth Retreat: Saturday 28th October:** See our Notice Board.

➤ Counselling Course in **Death & Living:** 28th October **2017**

➤ **2018 Counselling Courses:**

The following courses will be offered in **2018:**

Basic Counselling: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th Feb, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March;

Marriage: 12th and 19th May

Trauma: August 2018

➤ **Cathedral Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** The Pilgrimage includes a full experience of the Holy Land as well as an opportunity to visit the pyramids, sphinx and sail on the Nile on the return part of the trip.

The price is very attractive as it includes all flights, all travel and admissions during the trip, all hotel accommodation and breakfast and dinner each day, full services of guide and driver, insurance cover as well as **all tips** (hotels, guides, drivers etc.).

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Parish Notices

- Next **Infant Baptism** will be on **19 November 2017**. Preparation for this baptism will take place on the following dates; 4, 11 and 18 November 2017, 14:00 – 16:00
- The Gideons are collecting **used Bibles** to hand out to Prisoners who want a complete Bible rather than just the New Testament. Please bring any second-hand Bibles which you have at home for this purpose.
- **ELOIM** will use our church parking on Saturday 21 October.
- **IEC Registrations** will take place on the Church premises on 27 & 28 October.

Parish Contact Details

Office hours (weekdays): **08.30 - 16.30**

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✉ PO Box 11346 RANDHART 1457

Rector: rector@sfc.org.za

BANKING DETAILS: *Standard Bank - Alberton*

Account Name: The Parish of St Francis

Account No: 421855282

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Rector:	Rev Reggie Venter	Tel	011 867 5922	Cell	079 506 6660
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