

THE MESSENGER

MAY 2016

THE MISSION OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN CHURCH IS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SERIOUS DISCIPLESHIP, SACRED WORSHIP AND SELFLESS SERVICE

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The Friars Quill

The Ascension: A Reminder of Our Mission

The Feast of the Ascension takes our minds and hearts back to that New Testament scene, at the top of the mountain, where Jesus summoned his disciples and commissioned them: *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* (Mt 28: 19-20) According to Luke, in the beginning of Acts, Jesus tells his disciples these final words: *‘You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all over Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.’*

At this point of the ascension story, Luke tells us what happened next: *after saying this, as they watched, he was lifted up, and a cloud removed him from their sight.”*

The story of the ascension reminds us first of that time when people could get in touch with Jesus: by feeling the touch of his hands, hearing the sound of his voice, looking at his face and capturing the expression of his eyes. But that moment of time is over. Jesus *“has been lifted up and a cloud had removed him from their sight.”* He is gone. Now when we think of it, the seeming absence of Jesus is just symbolic of his new and hidden presence. His physical presence limited him to time and space. His new hidden presence enabled him to be present among us everywhere and always.

It was in the context of this hidden presence that Jesus commanded his disciples to proclaim the good news of salvation to the whole world by being his witnesses. This means that from henceforth, it is through our humanity ---- through our human words and deeds that the hidden presence of Christ is again made visible and tangible everywhere and for all times.

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This mission through witnessing is what gives reason for the existence of the Church. Likewise, this mission through witnessing is what gives reason for the existence of the Church,, in general, and of St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church. We proclaim this every Sunday before the service: *“The mission of St. Francis Anglican Church is to proclaim the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ....”* We also proclaim that we will make this mission tangible and visible by means of our witnessing in three interrelated ministry areas: *Serious Discipleship, Sacred Worship and Selfless Service.”*

Our witness starts with our response to the proclamation of the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ that leads to our vital encounter with Jesus Christ, the acceptance of him as our savior and the decision to follow him as Lord in the fellowship of his Church. This **discipleship** continues into the deepening of the initial faith by means of a more systematic education in the faith (catechesis). This witness is expressed by being attendees or facilitators of catechesis, book study, bible study, Sunday School, Youth Group, Nursery.

The second area consists of other elements that contribute to the growth and maturation of the faithful believer. There are, above all, the witness of **worship** and fellowship. This witness is expressed primarily by faithful attendance to Sunday Worship, weekday worship, personal and corporate prayer or by serving in various

capacities as the choir, the altar guild, the prayer team. The lectors, the altar servers, the acolytes, the flower group, the ushers and the greeters.

The third area is Selfless **Service** – a sure sign of the maturity process: the coming to faith, the nurture and deepening of the inner life of faith. That is to say that all these areas prepare us as disciples to a life of service expressed through mutual service in the community of the church. This service builds and strengthens the inner life of our Church family. It is expressed by the ministries of ushers and greeters, set-up and take-down crew, hospitality group, Daughters of the King, child caregivers. Serving in leadership and committee positions are also service opportunities.

Service, however is not inward looking only. It points to the outward journey into the world where God is at work. This aspect of service is headed primarily by the Deacon whose role it is to make the needs of the world known to the church, and to be the church's presence and response to the needs of the world. This is expressed in many ways: pastoral care of the sick, the homebound, those with difficulties; the casserole ministry, the card ministry and telephone/text ministry to the absent and in need, the love Stockton, food for families, neighborhood schools.

The Ascension reminds us that we are all missionaries and witnesses.

Fr. Woodrow Gubuan



*Come Celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord on Wednesday, May 4th at 2pm in the Chapel at O'Connor Woods
3400 Wagner Heights Rd, Stockton*



Greetings,

We Presented Thank You Cards to the Stockton Police Department during the Love Stockton Event on April, 23rd. They were grateful for the thought. It was a beautiful day and there was another event that was going on at the Police department; they were planting roses and painting the building by the Leadership Stockton Community Pride, class of 2016. I would like to thank Kim for buying,

and printing the Cards that we gave to the Police department.

I like to wish the all the Mothers a Happy Mother's day on May 8th. During the month of May we have the Ascension of our Lord 40 days after his death and resurrection, and Pentecost which is when the Lord sent the Holy Spirit for the Apostles. With the coming of the Holy Spirit the Apostles were rejuvenated, during this Pentecost may the Holy Spirit also rejuvenate us? We had the pleasure of having Fr. Franklin Mmor Preaching and celebrating on April 17th his passion and energy were evident in his preaching and his energy is greatly appreciated. We are working on asking other priest to come and speak and celebrate at St. Francis, with the hopes that they too will help energize us. Allowing us to remember that we are connected to the whole diocese and are all one body in Christ. Sometimes we may feel isolated and alone but we must remember that we being in Christ are one, and that we are connected throughout the world not just in our own diocese; although we start with our parish, then to the diocese and its churches, to the ACNA and our Archbishop Foley, then throughout the whole Anglican communion in the world. And the body we are to present, is that of Christ, we are to show forth his life and light in our lives as well as our church to the world. Like our patron, St. Francis we can show this light through compassion in taking care of those less fortunate, those in grieving, and by holding to the truth that of which is Christ himself; for Jesus said he is the truth, the light and the life, no one comes to the father but through him. In today's world we are challenged to accept that there are several ways to God. The world wants to change the truth, but we as Christians must hold fast to the cross and the one who died for us, for he is the truth. Compromise is not an option the truth cannot be changed, only recognized. And we must allow that truth to be recognized in us by showing our commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus!

Lastly I would like us to continue to offer prayers for the Robinson family for the loss of Kirby and for Isabel and Remy for the loss of their sister. We as a parish are bound together in a close-knit family, looking after and caring for each other.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with You!

Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer

Sacred Worship

Thank You Canon Franklin Mmor
For visiting with us!!!!



Sundays

9:30am St Francis of Assisi
Fellowship Hall

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month

2pm O'Connor Woods Chapel
3400 Wagner Heights Rd, Stockton



**Don't Forget to Wear Red on
Pentecost Sunday - May 15th**

Serious Discipleship



Choir: Upcoming Rehearsals:
May 15th - Pentecost

Coffee Hour Hosts: Sign up on calendar
behind food table

Bishop's Committee Meeting: Sunday,
May 22nd - 11:00am

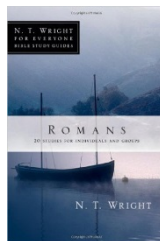
Altar Guild: Tues, May 17th 10am/Church

Daughters of the King: Sat, May 14th 10am
at the home of Alberta



Child Care is Available each
Sunday from 9:15am. Please see
an Usher for location.

Bill Aaron will lead us on Paul's
writings to the Romans using the
Study Guide by N.T. Wright's
Romans at 8:30am on Sundays.



St Francis uses Flocknote
to send emails to our
parishioners with notices
and information. If you do
not receive these notices,

we do not have your email. Please put it in the
offering plate with your name, give it to Kim or
call the church office 565-0648

Then watch your emails!!!



May 1st

Acts 14:8-18

Revelation 21:22—22:5

John 14:23-29

Psalms 67

May 8th

Acts 18:16-34

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

John 17:20-26

Psalms 68:1-20

May 15th

Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:4-13

John 20:19-23 or 14:8-17

Psalms 33:12-15, 18-22

May 22nd

Isaiah 6:1-18

Revelation 4:1-11

John 16:5-15

Psalms 29

May 29th

1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30, 41-43

Galatians 1:1-10

Luke 7:1-10

Psalms 96



*May 29th is
Friendship and
Potluck Sunday!
Invite a friend and*

bring your favorite dish to share!

Selfless Service



May

- 2nd Jerry Towne
Isabelle Ceballos
- 4th Barbara Foy
- 5th Yvonne Brown
- 9th Vincent Dato
- 13th Becky Clover
- 14th Jessica Aaron
- 19th Melissa Kenst
- 21st Terry Beth
Donna May
Dina Osgood
Gary Crowder
- 22nd Christina Guardado
Richard Byars
- 24th Isabel Johnson
- 26th Erlinda Agarao
- 31st Steve Olmsted



St Francis Church extends the body of Christ to our homebound by sending cards each month. They are available for you to sign on the table as you come in the door. Take a moment and sign them each week. They are so grateful and feel a part of the parish of St Francis with this simple gesture.



Dcn Jeff Stugelmeyer delivering Thank You Cards to the Stockton Police Department for the Love Stockton Event.



Dcn Jeff was able to give the Chief of Police, Eric Jones his own card.



May

- 1st Mr & Mrs David Lind
- 1st Mr & Mrs Bill Aaron
- 9th Mr & Mrs Warren Osgood
- 20th Mr & Mrs Jim Holman
- 21st Fr & Mrs Woodrow Gubuan
- 30th Mr & Mrs Augustine Nwaogu



**April Altar Flowers were given to the
Glory of God by**

Mr & Mrs Jose Rosal in Thanksgiving for their
Wedding Anniversary

I turned to the Lord God and
pleaded with him in prayer
and petition, in fasting,
and in sackcloth and ashes.



Daniel 9:3

Bishop's Call to Prayer for Oral Arguments:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Anglican
Diocese of San Joaquin,

As you receive this message we are preparing to celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday remembering that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for the sheep.

As you are aware, the court of appeal published its opinion on April 5th. The appellate court's decision is based on a new and different interpretation of the directions given by the appellate court in a prior opinion known as the *Schofield* decision. The April 5th opinion makes clear that the trial court committed the errors which caused us to appeal. Nevertheless, the April 5th opinion is based on a new and different reason for upholding the judgment of the lower court. It appears to me and others that the appellate court changed the rules of the game without advanced warning.

After a good deal of time in prayer and consultation with leaders across the diocese, and in consultation with the Diocesan Council and Standing Committee, I have directed our attorneys to file for a rehearing of the appellate court's decision and to file a petition with the state supreme court if the request for rehearing is denied. We do not understand how a 10% dissenting minority, unlawfully assembled under state corporate law, can seize control of the diocese and its property. The court of appeal has not explained how this can happen. You will recall that in 2008 Bishop Schofield gave the dissenting minority their property and funds when they decided not to join us in our affiliation with the Anglican

Diocese of the Southern Cone and Archbishop Gregory Venables.

In the United States we are blessed with the right to exhaust all available avenues for justice. I believe that the April 5th decision has affirmed an injustice. The facts are undisputed that by a 90% vote the diocese amended its constitution to realign with the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone. This action was valid under state corporate law and should have been affirmed by the civil courts. There was nothing in the canons of TEC or the diocese which prohibited this corporate action. This action was taken only after exhausting all means for reconciliation and attempts at alternative primatial oversight.

I want to assure you all that my decision to continue the legal proceedings will cost us no further attorney fees. Our attorneys have agreed to go forward on a contingency fee basis. This means that if we win, the attorneys will receive a small percentage of the recovery, and if we lose, they will receive nothing for their services. I am honored by their continued sacrifice. Their dedication, faith, and passion are an inspiration and are to be commended.

The request for rehearing will be made this week and, if denied, the request to the state Supreme Court will be made in early May. I will be sending along more information as it is made available. I continue to thank you for your faithfulness and grace under difficult circumstances and ask for your continued prayers.

Your Servant & Bishop,
Bishop Menees



Our Diocese of San Joaquin Website:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/>

Diocesan Newsletter:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/san-joaquin-anglican.html>

May 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:30am Holy Eucharist	2 St Philip and St James, Apostles(Trans) Rogation Day	3 Rogation Day	4 Rogation Day Eve of the Ascension 2pm Mass at O'Connor Woods	5 Ascension Day	6	7
8 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:30am Holy Eucharist	9	10	11 2pm Mass at O'Connor Woods	12	13	14
15 Day of Pentecost 9:30am Holy Eucharist – Don't Forget to Wear Red!!	16	17 Altar Guild Meeting 10am	18	19	20	21
22 Trinity Sunday 9:30am Holy Eucharist 11am Bishop's Committee Meeting	23	24	25 2pm Mass at O'Connor Woods	26	27	28
29 Second Sunday After Pentecost – Proper 4 9:30am Holy Eucharist	30	31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin				

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Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal
Life. Amen



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