

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2017

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 Feast of St Francis of Assisi and the Cross of San Damiano: A Reflection

On the 4th of October, we celebrate the feast of **St. Francis of Assisi**, popularly considered as a saint for all! He is many things to many people. My focus in this article, however, is narrower. I like to reflect on and share the particular significance of St. Francis to us as the Mission Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Stockton, California. My hope is that the sharing of this reflection finds a certain resonance in the current journey of our Churches in the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin.

On April 2, 2014, a California Superior Court ruled that the 160-year-old St. John the Evangelist Church in downtown Stockton, California, belonged to TEC. It was then that our Bishop Eric Menees, together with the Vestry and the Transition Team changed the name of our Church of St. John the Evangelist to the Mission Church St. Francis of Assisi. That change of name marked the beginning of a surprise that kept unfolding into more surprises, these last three years.

Twelve days after that ruling, on Palm Sunday of April 13, 2014, we left the building of St. John the Evangelist Church. We left with nothing. Literally we left with the vestments on our back and palm branches in our hands as we processed to our new worship location. We could not even bring the name St. John's. This was the first surprise that our new patron saint's namesake was St. Francis of Assisi, an acknowledged and recognized icon of Christian simplicity and poverty. The second surprise was that with nothing, we started off our new Church journey by living out the true Franciscan spirit of simplicity and poverty.

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Over the next three years, these initial surprises unfolded into more surprises as we endeavored to continue to make St. Francis' presence alive in our Church's life, mission and ministry.

We asked ourselves: Who was Francis of Assisi? And more importantly, what does his witness tell us today?

Francis Bernadone was born in 1181 and died in 1226. A son of a wealthy merchant of Assisi, Francis lived an easy and carefree life. It was when Francis encountered Jesus in the person of the beggars and the lepers that he decided to embrace a life devoted to 'Lady Poverty'. Despite his father's opposition, Francis gave up totally all his material inheritance and possessions. From then on, he inseparably united in his life, the love for the poor and the imitation of Christ in his poverty. Francis became veritably like Christ, who, though he was rich, became poor in order to make us rich by his poverty (cf. 2 Cor 8:9)...

G...K. Chesterton, one of St. Francis' great biographers, describes him in these words:

"St. Francis [was] a Lover. He was a Lover of God and he was really and truly a Lover of men ... [And] as St. Francis did not love humanity but men, so he did not love Christianity but Christ ... [To Francis] his religion was not a thing like a theory, but a thing like a love affair ... What gave him his extraordinary personal power was this: that from the Pope to the beggar, from the Sultan of Syria in his pavilion to the ragged robbers

crawling out of the wood, there was never a man who looked into those brown burning eyes without being certain that Francis Bernadone was really interested in him; in his own individual inner life from the cradle to the grave; that he himself was being valued and taken seriously and not being added to the spoils of some social policy or the names in some clerical document.”

This is first aspect of the witness of St. Francis' life: his love in imitation of the love of Jesus in his poverty. As the Church of St. Francis, we tried to replicate this love in our day to day life and mission. We literally “pitched our tent” every Sunday, and then pulled it down for storage until the next week. Like the exodus people, we sometimes longed for the things we used to have in our old church. Yet in spite of our many needs, we managed to share what we could to others: food baskets to families in need, care packs for women's needs, material and financial help to communities affected by fire, earthquake, flood and the like.

In all of these, our life has been one unending surprise after another. We found out that the more we generously share out of our poverty, the more we were pleasantly blessed. “For it is in giving that we receive,” as a line in St. Francis prayer always proved to be right.

This first aspect of the witness of St. Francis life is a great assurance and comfort to the churches in our diocese in the same situation.

Having said that brings us to the second important aspect of the witness of St. Francis. By this I refer to the story of the Cross of San Damiano which was pivotal to his life and mission. The story of this cross also proved to be pivotal to our life and mission as the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Hopefully it can also lend some insights into the life and mission of the churches “in exodus” in the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin.

Thomas of Celano, one of St. Francis' first biographers, tells us about the story of the Cross of San Damiano:

With his heart already completely changed, Francis was walking one day by the church of San Damien, which was abandoned by everyone and almost in ruins. Led by the Spirit he went in to pray and knelt down devoutly before the crucifix. He was shaken

by unusual experiences and discovered that he was different from when he had entered.

*As soon as he had this feeling, there occurred something unheard of in previous ages: with the lips of the painting, the image of Christ crucified spoke to him. ‘Francis,’ it said, calling him by name, ‘**go rebuild My house; as you see, it is all being destroyed.**’*

Francis was more than a little stunned, trembling, and stuttering like a man out of his senses. He prepared himself to obey and pulled himself together to carry out the command. He felt this mysterious change in himself, but he could not describe it.

From that time on, compassion for the Crucified was impressed into his holy soul. And we honestly believe the wounds of the sacred Passion were impressed deep in his heart, though not yet on his flesh.”

At first St. Francis interpreted the command of Jesus on the cross literally, that is, to rebuild the physical structure of the Church of San Damiano, which actually was in ruins. Promptly, St. Francis provided the means, the stones, the mortar, and with his own hands rebuilt the crumbling walls of the Church.

In like manner, as the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, we heard the command of Jesus on the Cross of San Damiano: ‘**go rebuild my house; as you see, it is all being destroyed.**’ We took and are taking this command literally, to build the physical structure of St. Francis Church. For us in the diocese that lost our Church buildings, this means doing all we can to provide the means: stones and mortars and finances to “rebuild” our churches.

Yes, the physical rebuilding of the Church of San Damiano was just the beginning point for St. Francis. He quickly realized that the rebuilding process had to include the rebuilding of person and community, the transformation of life, personal and communitarian.

In like manner, as the Church of St. Francis together with the churches in our diocese, we need to realize that as we begin to build the physical Church, we are also challenged simultaneously to build the spiritual Church – all of us as the Body of

Christ. It means rebuilding our hearts, ourselves, our relationships – our inner lives. This is the inner rebuilding that gives life and spirit to any and all of our outward efforts. This is what will go hand in hand: the building of the physical church and of the spiritual church.

On this feast of St. Francis of Assisi, let us lift our gaze upon the Cross of San Damiano, and listen to our hearts and hear Jesus say: ***“go rebuild my house; as you see, it is all being destroyed.”*** Let this Cross of San Damiano guide us all in our search for a “home.” Let this message of the Cross of San Damiano echo in our minds and in our hearts as we build the Church.

† Fr Woodrow Gubuan



Shalom,

Last month I talked about how when we gather as the church we leave the secular world behind. That we leave the distractions, the

temptations and attacks behind to come together for Worship. To come together as brothers and sisters of Christ for encouragement and strength.

Now we talk about what happens during our worship. Obviously we come to show our adoration, joy and love towards God; but something happens to us in return. We come to get fed by the grace of God because we are dependent on God. There are a couple of ways that we get fed when we are at church. First we get fed spiritually, this happens when we hear the word of God through the scriptures. By the hymns we sing, when we sing we lift our hearts in joy to the Lord. By hearing the Old Testament and New Testament readings along with the Gospel reading we learn more about God and his love for us. This spiritual feeding helps us to become intimate as well as to know that we are loved by Him.

The second feeding we receive is that of the Eucharist. Jesus said that we have no life unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood. So we come to partake of Jesus body and blood so that He may dwell in us and we in Him. The Eucharist is a reminder that life belongs to and through Jesus.

We receive this nourishment and life so that we may carry that life back out into the world for the world to see. This feeding helps to embolden us so that we may carry the Gospel with us when we are out in the secular world.

We come to be enveloped in the life and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus. For the praise and glory of God so that we as children of God may come to know God and make Him known. So that we may have the correct relationship with God that He deserves and show others that God wishes to have a relationship with them!

May the Peace of the Lord be always with You!

Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer



Our Bishop’s Committee has created a dedicated fund “St Francis Future Home” for those who would like to give

separate gifts for our future. Please mark your giving “St Francis Future Home”

You will also see our Wish List Committee at work with a list of things we will need for our new location.

We pray you will be called to help in some way during this transition.

Communion Schedule



Sundays

9:30am St Francis of Assisi Fellowship Hall

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month

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

Sacred Worship



<http://stocktonanglican.org/sermons/>



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

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



Childcare Available

Child Care is Available each Sunday from 8:30am.
Please see an Usher for location.

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, or call the church office 565-0648



Then watch your emails!!!

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Lorraine Hitchcock is offering a Women's Bible Study to begin in October.



The study is of Jesus "I AM" Statements from the book of John.

Book – "Finding I AM" by Lysa TerKeurst - \$14.99 on Amazon - More Info to follow!!!

Daily Office Resource

<http://legereme.com/office>



Don't forget to sign the cards on the back table for our homebound and sick

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stocktonanglican.org



Prayer Table of St Francis Church at the Love Stockton Event at the Gospel Rescue Mission.

Serious Discipleship



**Choir: Upcoming Rehearsals:
October 15th & 29th**

**Coffee Hour Hosts: Sign up on calendar
behind food table**

**Altar Guild:
October 17th at 10am**

Daughters: October 14th at 10am

Bishop's Committee Meeting: Sun, Oct 22nd

Other Ministry Opportunities

- Acolyte
- Lector
- Prayer Team
- Collection Counter
- Hospitality
- Usher
- Flowers
- Homebound Ministry
- Senior Ministry



October

- 2nd Marge, mother of Bill Thomas
- 5th Nelly, Jose Matulac
- 12th Claudina, sister of Carol Sherwood
- 13th Juan, father of Fr Gubuan
- 24th Felisa, mother of Fr Gubuan



Bring a Dish to share on
Sunday, October 29th.

Please have it table ready
with serving utensil.



October 1st

- Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
- Psalm 25:1-21
- Philippians 2:1-13
- Matthew 21:28-32

October 8th

- Isaiah 5:1-7 ~ Psalm 80:1-19
- Philippians 3:14-21
- Matthew 21:33-44

October 15th

- Isaiah 25:1-9 ~ Psalm 23
- Philippians 4:4-13
- Matthew 22:1-14

October 22nd

- Isaiah 45:1-7 ~ Psalm 96
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
- Matthew 22:15-22

October 29th

- Exodus 22:21-27
- Psalm 1
- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Matthew 22:34-46



September

Jim & Cyndi Telander in celebration of their
Marriage

Peggy Tobias in thanksgiving for family and
friends

Kim Combs in memory of her mom, Darlene

Jeff Stugelmeyer in memory of his mom,
Dorothea

Selfless Service

Installation Daughters of the Holy Cross



October 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pentecost XVII	2	3	4	5	6	7 Blessing of the Animals 5pm
8 Pentecost XVIII 9:30 Holy Eucharist	9	10	11 2pm O'Connor Woods Mass	12	13	14 Daughters of the Holy Cross 10am
15 St Francis 9:30 Holy Eucharist	16	17 Altar Guild 10am	18	19	20	21
22 Pentecost XX 9:30 Holy Eucharist Bishop's Committee Meeting	23	24	25 2pm O'Connor Woods Mass	26	27	28
29 Pentecost XXI 9:30 Holy Eucharist Potluck	30	31				



October

10th Mr & Mrs Ernest Nailes



October

- 1st Diane Stauffer
- 2nd Joseph Rosal
- 3rd Elinore Ceballos
Jim Sanborn
- 5th Alberta Thompson
Michael Alcon
- 9th Jennifer Nailes
Randy Hamilton
- 10th Mike Griffin
Honey Rosal
Chiara Melchor
- 11th Willmarieann Gaa
- 16th John Gubuan
- 22nd Nancy Blaylock
Isabella Rosal
- 30th Victoria Dato

Under the Freeway Ministry the First Saturday of Every Month

Our ladies are always in need of ladies toiletries, such as small shampoos, deodorants, lotions, lip balms, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc, underwear as such. See Samantha Towne for more info. This is an awesome ministry to the homeless women of Stockton.

This ministry piggy backs on the Downtown Feeding of the Homeless on the First Saturday of the Month.

See Deacon Jeff for more details

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Plan a date on your calendar to show your appreciation for our clergy!



Animal Blessings - Saturday October 7th at 5pm in the courtyard of St Francis/St Paul's

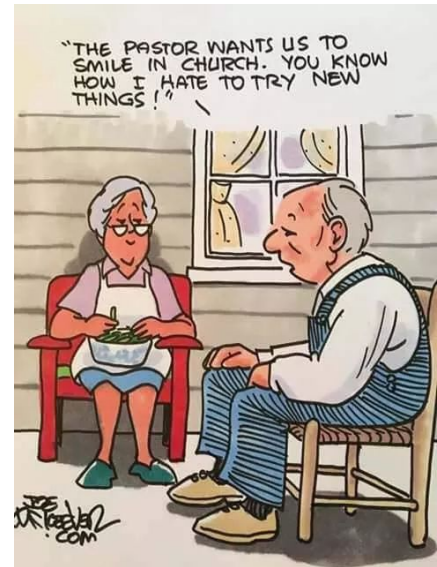
The Messenger

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