



**Easter Candle and flowers on Sunday morning**



# *The Franciscan*

Easter 2013  
St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter

## Contents

Foreword .....	2
From the Rector's Desk .....	3
The Resurrection in Art .....	4
A Guide to Holy Week .....	6
Easter Flowers .....	8
From the Parish Records .....	9
Books for Direlang .....	10
Exhibition of Love Quilts .....	12
Love in Action .....	14
Report of a Trinity Transformational Fellow .....	15
Opportunities for Ministry at St Francis .....	23
House Groups .....	28

---

*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](mailto:mail@st-francis.co.za)*

*Website: [www.st-francis.co.za/](http://www.st-francis.co.za/) Facebook: St Francis of Assisi Waterkloof*

*Clergy: Ven. Timothy Lowes (Rector)*

*Rev. Joan Jones & Rev. Nontle Ndlovu (Deacons)*

*Youth Chaplain: Jon-Reece Evans [youth@st-francis.co.za](mailto:youth@st-francis.co.za)*

*Children's Church: Guy Smith*

*Editor: Jill Daugherty. Tel. 012 998-9012; [daughjd@telkomsa.net](mailto:daughjd@telkomsa.net)*

*Typing: Shirley Hollier. Printing and Production: Dave Tweedley (Signmart)*

---

## Foreword

Easter was early this year and circumstances prevented the editor from getting the Easter issue out in time for Easter Sunday. But the advantage is the inclusion of articles about Holy Week and Easter as well as the cover photo of the Easter candle and flowers.

In the second half of the newsletter are two lengthy contributions. The first is a fascinating (abridged) report of a sabbatical year by a Trinity Transformational Fellow, Tshogofatso Medupe, who runs the after school care centre at St Peter's church in Ga-Rankuwa. The second is the very important update of Opportunities for Ministry at St Francis of Assisi.

**Jill Daugherty**

---

## From the Rector's Desk

**My dear Parishioners,**



Thank God we have a Saviour  
who was willing to love us  
to his very last breath.  
Thank God he held nothing back.  
Thank God we are no longer slaves  
to sin and the fear of death.

*Mark Neilson*

It's a sobering thought that if Jesus had chosen another path and the cross had stood empty that Friday – I would be writing a lot of nonsense right now.

If Jesus had made a choice (quite understandably) to avoid the slaughter that Friday – where on earth would our salvation have come from? Where would our hope be found? What would we hope for? How would we face our own sufferings and death itself with any kind of confidence?

Thank God we have a Saviour who revealed his love for us with his very last breath. Thank God we are no longer slaves to sin and the fear of death. There is nothing more to be said!

Ever Risen Christ, you have taken me into your mystery of passion, death, waiting and new life. Because I trust you, I can now trust my own dyings too. Allow me this Easter to go all the way with you, and to now trust our Eternal Sunday even more than any Passing Friday or Waiting Saturday. Amen.

*Fr Richard Rohr*

Be filled with Resurrection, Light and Power!

**Fr Timothy**

## The Resurrection in Art

In his sermon on Easter morning, Fr Timothy used two icons and poems based on them by Archbishop Rowan Williams. Below is the icon *The Resurrection*, followed by the poem *Resurrection: Borgo San Sepolcro*.



**Piero della Francesca: *The Resurrection* Museo Civico di Sansepolcro**  
(<http://www.casasantapia.com/art/pierodellafrancesca/resurrection.htm>)

The town of Sansepolcro, formerly known as Borgo San Sepulcro, was founded in about 1000 AD by pilgrims returning from the Holy Land who brought with them a stone from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (*San Sepolcro*).

***Resurrection: Borgo San Sepolcro***

Today it is time. Warm enough, finally,  
to ease the lids apart, the wax lips of a breaking bud  
defeated by the steady push, hour after hour,  
opening to show wet and dark, a tongue exploring,  
an eye shrinking against the dawn. Light  
like a fishing line draws its catch straight up,  
then slackens for a second. The flat foot drops,  
the shoulders sag. Here is the world again, well-known,  
the dawn greeted in snoring dreams of a familiar  
winter everyone prefers. So the black eyes  
fixed half-open, start to search, ravenous,  
imperative, they look for pits, for hollows where  
their flood can be decanted, look  
for rooms ready for commandeering, ready  
to be defeated by the push, the green implacable  
rising. So he pauses, gathering the strength  
in his flat foot, as the perspective buckles under him,  
and the dreamers lean dangerously inwards. Contained,  
exhausted, hungry, death running off his limbs like  
drops  
from a shower, gathering himself. We wait,  
paralysed as if in dreams, for his spring.

<https://theologyforum.wordpress.com/category/rowan-williams/>

The week before Easter is known as Holy Week. Fr Timothy sent the following "Guide to Holy Week" to all who are on the parish's email list.

## **A GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK**

In Holy Week – the week from Palm Sunday to Easter Eve (Holy Saturday) – the Church invites us to take part in a tremendous DRAMA IN FIVE ACTS.

She turns our Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Waterkloof into a sacred theatre. The play she stages is nothing less than “the tragedy of the murder of God”.

The cast consists of the entire human race – as it includes US. We have, all of us, a part to play in this tragedy, and in our midst God Himself walks, lifting up His hands now in dumb appeal, now in seemingly useless explanation, now in mortal agony, until at last He drops those Hands, nail-pierced and numb, in death.

In the course of this drama, strange old prophets (in the lessons) like veiled shadows, hold up lanterns, as it were, to light God’s Face. Jeremiah, Isaiah, Micah, Daniel, the Son of Sirah and others all lend their voices to utter what God must leave unsaid.

And as the drama of Holy Week proceeds, one figure grows gigantic upon the scene – Jesus. For into His Person humankind is gradually gathered as He, who knew no sin, becomes sin for us. As He who never had anything to repent of becomes the Perfect Penitent.

### **ACT I**

The curtain rises upon this drama as the principal Mass of Palm Sunday begins. The King moves as though to His Coronation, down the hillside, across the valley, into the city, the gates of which are opened wide in welcome to receive Him.

The curtain falls and we are left to our thoughts – wondering what the week ahead will make of all this strange frenzy.

### **ACT II**

Monday in Holy Week. A long Act – it lasts till Holy Wednesday. And if possible, let us attend the daily Morning Mass in this period – as we prepare our minds and hearts for the coming drama.

**ACT III**

Maundy Thursday – the scene before us when we come to church is the Upper Room. We are in fact assistants at that very supper – and Jesus is present in our midst. “This is my Body, this is my Blood. Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in Him”.

There upon the Altar of Repose the Eucharistic Body of Jesus is to lie throughout the night, surrounded as in the garden, by banks of flowers. Shaves of lighted candles stand on either side. It is the night of His betrayal: the eve of His Crucifixion.

**ACT IV**

Good Friday – the climax comes. The Priest in black approaches the High Altar. Then Jesus speaks: “Oh my people, what have I done to you – answer me?”

This service is called the Mass of the Pre-sanctified – because the hosts and wine have been consecrated the previous day. There is NO SACRIFICE on Good Friday, for ALL is Sacrifice. There is no need for the Son to represent Calvary to the Eternal Father, for today all the world is Calvary. And we journey together as pilgrims with the Crucified Figure through the SEVEN WORDS spoken to us.

**ACT V**

Holy Saturday – the day of STILLNESS. “Soul and Body now are parted, and the flesh must Sabbath keep, waiting in the holy stillness, wrapt in sleep.”

The dawn of Easter is about to break – and with it – the THIRD MORN – He, our Jesus, will rise again “to be a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel”.

The lighting of the Pascal Candle is the ANTICIPATION DAWN OF EASTER DAY – and we who have come to Church have come with Mary and Salome into the scented flower-filled garden. We will carefully fix 5 grains of incense symbolizing the FIVE MERITORIOUS WOUNDS of our Lord in the great Paschal Candle. That lighted candle symbolizes our Risen Lord – Christ the True Light.

**Fr Timothy**

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

There is a tradition at St. Francis, and other Anglican churches, of celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord by filling the Church with flowers on Easter Sunday.

The Easter Lily, sometimes known as the St. Joseph's lily, has a history that goes back to the Day of Resurrection when, we have been told, beautiful white lilies sprung out of the dusty ground around the cross where drops of Christ's sweat and blood had fallen.

The beautiful, trumpet shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life – the spiritual essence of Easter. They were often called the “white-robed apostles of Hope”. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is pictured extending to Mary a branch of pure white lilies, announcing that she is to be the mother of the Christ Child.

Each year, when the flower team meets on the morning before Easter Sunday, we are filled with hope and expectation as we divide the wonders of nature that God has provided for the great celebration of the following day – and, each year, every bloom finds its place as we prepare to welcome the Risen Christ.

I would like to thank all the members of the flower team, who provide fresh flowers throughout the year – and a special thanks to Beryl Chantler, Jeannie Rodger, Liz MacDougall, Jeanette McKenna and Shobana Sarjoo, who arranged this year's Easter flowers. Grateful thanks also to all the members of the congregation who gave so generously towards the cost of the flowers.

The flowers at St. Francis are never merely a decorative feature at the altar – they are always arranged with care and love and often with special prayers for various members of the congregation and clergy.

**Jerice Doeg**

---

**From the Parish Records December 2012 to March 2013**

**Baptisms**

<b>Date of Baptism</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Birth date</b>	<b>Parents</b>
16 Dec	Matthew Badenhorst	8 June 2012	Gerhard & Jennifer
16 Dec	Jordan Samuel	25 Sep 2012	Ashley & Teshwey
16 Dec	Natalie van den Berg	17 Feb 2012	Thyronn & Richelle
16 Dec	Lauren Erasmus	4 April 2002	Stephen

**Marriages**

<b>Date of Marriage</b>	<b>Husband</b>	<b>Wife</b>
2 Feb 2013	Jon-Reece Evans	Janine Evans (Berry)

**Faithful departed**

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Name</b>
19 Dec 2012	John Gardner
20 Dec 2012	Lloyd Adams
3 Jan 2013	Ginny Kemsley
25 Jan 2013	Elaine Savage
3 Feb 2013	Elizabeth MacDonald
31 Mar 2013	June van der Merwe

### **Books for Direlang**

Pretoria is certainly filled with kind and generous people!

Late last year I made contact with Direlang, a small Community Care centre in Ga-Rankuwa, and visited them with the school stationery which my friends had willingly donated for my birthday. I noticed that they had no books on their bookcase suitable for young children. Then I read in the paper about Mega Books, which is very near where we live. One day John and I went there and I selected some 20 little books with bright pictures. The lady in charge, Peggy, asked if they were for my grandchildren, so I told her they were for young orphans looked after by a few dedicated people in the far north of Pretoria. She said she had selected a number of books for someone else, who had never got back to her, and I could have them, as she was tired of carrying the bags around in her boot. Imagine my surprise when we discovered I had parked my car right next to hers! Peggy said that indicated I was meant to take the books. So instead of 20 books, I had nearly 60!

Jill Daugherty and I went out to Direlang on the afternoon of February 26<sup>th</sup> (which you may recall was one of the hottest days this summer), but I had already determined that I would read to the children, to get them interested in reading for themselves. We were seated under a shade cloth which made minimal difference to the heat, but the warmth of the children more than compensated for the discomfort. One of the helpers, Kelebogile, agreed to sit next to me and translate as I read (which I can fortunately do upside down) so the pictures could be followed by the listeners. She is a far livelier story teller than I am, but we managed two Dr Seuss books, *Are You My Mother?* and *I wish I had Duck Feet* with much laughter and great responses from the children.

I am so grateful to Peggy, to Jill for coming with me in spite of her recent eye op, to Kelebogile and to the people in this centre who, with limited resources and far from the notice of many other sponsors, take care of so many children.

Bless them all.

**Elizabeth Bojé**

---



Elizabeth reads to the children and Kelebogile stands and translates, while taking photos of the scene on her cell phone. In the background workmen are fixing the roof of the main house of the Centre.



## EXHIBITION OF LOVE QUILTS

"BE STRONG, you can do it". This was one of dozens of messages of love depicted on the love quilts which were exhibited in our Parish Centre on Sunday 6 January 2013. The Parish Centre was set up to exhibit 39 beautiful log cabin quilts. Quilters from around the USA had volunteered to make these quilts incorporating 20 art squares per quilt. The art squares depict beautiful messages of love from children in the United States to children in foster homes in South Africa.

The project started in 2009 when a group of "missionaries" from St Peter's Episcopal Church in Arlington Virginia came to South Africa to see what their fundraising had built. This church (which was our church when my family and I were in the USA) has partnered with St Francis Outreach Trust in Simon's Town to build foster homes for orphaned, abandoned and HIV/AIDS-affected children, in accordance with scriptural injunctions. Each of our children in the home received their own quilt lovingly made by ladies in St Peter's parish and with art squares drawn by the children in the Sunday School (see *Living in community in God's Kingdom* in Advent & Christmas 2012 issue of *The Franciscan*).

The project has grown beyond what any of us initially thought and this exhibition in the Parish Centre was testament to that! We had a constant stream of interested people – not only our own parishioners – and were fortunate to have a photographer and a reporter from *The Pretoria News* do a very good spread for us in the Tuesday 8 January 2013 edition of the paper (thanks to Elizabeth Bojé for organizing this).

In 2014, a group from St Peter's will again be in South Africa with more quilts to wrap our children in. Planning has started for an even bigger event to showcase 50 log cabin love quilts from America. Watch this space! Please look at the beautiful quilt which adorns the credence table the next time you are in our church. It was made with love by Cathy Laing and given as a gift to St Francis Waterkloof.

**Diana Higgs**



Setting up the exhibition



Admiring a quilt



The exhibition of the Love Quilt Project from the US at St Francis Church in Waterloofort was well attended. PHILIP CROSS/CPA



The centres of each square of the Love Quilt were hand-painted by US people for children in local orphanages.

Pictures in the *Pretoria News*

## **Love in Action**

*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:3)*

I was privileged and amazed to experience this verse carried out, whilst doing my Christmas shopping last year.

I had been shopping for gifts for my family at Cum Books, where I was very fortunate to find suitable books to buy. I moved to the cashier's counter and paid for my purchases. As I was about to leave the shop, I saw the *JOY! Magazine*, which looked so interesting that I was tempted to buy that as well. However, I put it back on the rack where it was displayed, thinking rightly that I had spent enough money already.

At that moment a miracle happened, which touched me deeply. A well-dressed young African man was at the counter waiting to pay for his purchases. Suddenly I heard him say to me, "Do you like that magazine?" I answered, "Yes, it is a good magazine". Within seconds he had picked the book off the rack and paid for the same. His intention was to give it to me, which he did!

I was overwhelmed with joy and excitement at the kind gesture of this young man. I thanked him profusely and, as I walked away, I thought and felt Jesus had been right there, encouraging us both to love one another:

*A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another. [...] By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another. (John 3:34 & 35)*

**Margaret Swemmer**

**Abridged Report of Tshegofatso Medupe on her year as a  
Trinity Transformational Fellow (2011-2012)**

***What is a Trinity Transformational Fellow?***

The Transformational Fellows Program [of Trinity Church Wall Street] works with one Anglican/Episcopal partner per year to recognize church leadership, whether lay or ordained, doing transformational work at the community level or some of society's most challenging issues. [...]

Since 2004, Trinity Wall Street has honored visionary leaders in the church by awarding them grants that allow a sabbatical from their work, to renew themselves, so they can strengthen and enhance their ministries. In the past, the program was restricted to the New York metropolitan area. This year, Trinity took the program "international," with the Transformational Fellows selected in South Africa, and with all three of those chosen working in programs that deal with the consequences of HIV and AIDS. [One of these was Tshegofatso Medupe.]

Tshegofatso Medupe had access to a career path most South Africans can scarcely imagine. With a fashion industry degree, she lived for a time in Italy. "I just couldn't get fulfilled," Medupe said. "I had this burning passion in me, which was to work with the community, to work with young people."

So Medupe founded the Tumelong Youth Development Centre in the Diocese of Pretoria [at St Peter's, Ga-Rankuwa]. Children come to the centre after school. They receive food, assistance with their homework, and the chance to participate in drama and to write poetry. The program is not exclusively for children whose family members are infected with HIV/AIDS. But, as Bishop Johannes Seoka of the Diocese of Pretoria reminds us, in a nation where at least 5.5 million people are infected, practically everybody is affected.

[www.trinitywallstreet.org/action/grants/fellows/](http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/action/grants/fellows/)

- In May 2011 I got a call from Bishop Jo Seoka; he told me that I had been selected as a Trinity Church Transformational Fellow and the people from New York would call me for an interview. For that moment I was shocked, got mixed feelings of anxiety and excitement at the same time. Trinity Church in New York started to contact us setting up a date and time for the interview; the day came and I was interviewed on Skype at Tumelong Mission offices. They told us that our names would be announced in their church on Ascension Day 02 June 2011, and I learned on that day that there were also two ladies who were selected with me: Nandi Tshaka from the Diocese of Christ the King and Ann Meshe from the Diocese of Johannesburg.
- The reality of everything regarding the Trinity Fellowship Programme came when Bishop Jo received my contract and he called me to meet with him at his office. I never realized that this was such an honour and a moment to be proud of myself for the work that I had been doing in the community. On the day that I met Bishop Jo, he asked me what I had decided to do for my Sabbatical. Firstly, I didn't know the meaning of the word and didn't understand what was expected of me, since I was not aware that this programme meant I would be travelling and studying to empower myself.
- Trinity Transformational Fellowship came at the right time in my life; it really transformed me in a big way. From the day I started to plan for my Sabbatical until today I learned a lot, in the line of my work, from other communities and organisations. Bishop Jo introduced us to Professor Annetie Brink, who was our facilitator throughout the programme; she was a relevant person who was very patient, knew how to calm us down when we were in a panic and taught us discipline, especially in handling finances.
- Prof Brink helped us to compile our Sabbatical plans, financial report and experiences reports.

The following is a narrative report of what I did during my Sabbatical time:

**PROJECT 1: EKUKHANYENI CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTRE, NELSPRUIT**

**30 OCT- 05 NOV 2011**

- The retreat to Nelspruit was an enriching experience. [...] I learned how to meditate and had time to spend with God and connect with Him to grow spiritually.
- I also went to the Kruger National Park to see the beauty of nature that God created for us. [...] The experience at Kruger and the retreat has given me a new perspective in life, to enjoy and appreciate God's creation [...] because He has made us the stewards of His creation.

**PROJECT 2: VANA VETU OVC PROGRAMME, ZEERUST 7 – 19 NOV 2011**

- When I was planning this project I first researched the organization and found that it was an Anglican Programme in several Dioceses in and outside of South Africa. I contacted the main office in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth to get more information. They sent me a brief on Vana Vetu OVC [Orphans & Vulnerable Children] Programme and I got excited, and asked to visit a few of their projects around our country.
- The first one I visited was in Zeerust, Braklaagte, in the North West Province under the Diocese of Matlosane. I was taken to Tshwaraganang Home Based Care Centre, which is where the Vana Vetu OVC Programme is based. I went there to observe and empower myself, but the experience was the opposite because the people there were hoping to learn from me. The good thing out of this visit was that, instead of empowering myself, I added value to the lives of the youth of that village and empowered a few young volunteers there, by setting-up a peer education programme. [...]

**PROJECT 3: THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP 17), DURBAN**

**28 NOV – 8 DEC 2011**

- [...] The UN Climate Change Conference in Durban was the place to be; all the excitement and vibe was there and this is where we started talking green. [...] We attended workshops that were organized to educate people about ways of adapting to climate change. [...]
- We attended a few talks and presentations about climate change. [...] One presentation [...] was a DVD about areas in South Africa that are facing challenges caused by this changing climate. There are areas that

are already experiencing droughts or floods, and these cause poverty as farming is affected by both. [...]

- With the knowledge I got from this conference I would like to educate young people how to adapt to the changing climate. I'm going to challenge them to come up with projects that can sustain us to eradicate the challenges we will face as a nation due to climate change. [...]

#### **PROJECT 4: UNISA HIV/AIDS COUNSELLING MODULE, JAN- JUN 2012**

- Studying HIV/AIDS Care and Counselling has broadened my knowledge in HIV/AIDS. [...] In the field of my work I always encounter challenges which require me to be knowledgeable about this pandemic disease. I come across children who are HIV positive and they always need to talk to me about their feelings, treatment, diet or lifestyle. After studying this course I will be equipped to tackle some of the issues myself.
- There is a chapter in my module about Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children; it was an eye-opener for me. It has taught me ways of supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children's psycho-social needs, and as a care-giver I need to know those ways. Through this course I will be able to offer quality service to the children in the community. And for that reason I would like to continue with modules in counselling so that I can be more empowered in the AIDS ministry.

#### **PROJECT 5: FIKELELA OUTREACH PROGRAMME, CAPE TOWN 13 – 18 FEB 2012**

- Visiting Fikelela Outreach Programme was the most exciting experience I have ever had. I experienced a lot of different projects that they have in the Diocese of Cape Town, which could help us grow our ministry. I spent time with Mildred who facilitates support groups in the parishes. [...] People have an opportunity to talk about their challenges and fears at support groups and they support each other.
- I visited three 'Home from Home' foster homes in Vrygrond, where they have given children who are neglected, abused or orphaned a home and family. They take children from 6-18 years and place them in homes and each house has 6 children, with foster parents or foster mother.

- I also visited the Fikelela Children Centre in Khayelitsha where they give a home to children from the age of 0-6 years. They normally have up to 40 children at the centre, but at the time of my visit they only had 24 children. Some of these children still have parents but they are terminally ill, so unable to look after their children; some are orphaned or neglected.
- Another project in Khayelitsha that I visited was in St. Francis Anglican Church: they have an after-care programme and a support group that meets on a daily basis to work on the gardens, do beadwork, sew clothes and do door-to-door visits to care for children who cannot come to the church because they are ill.
- If I had to adopt anything from Fikelela into our Diocese it would be support groups in our parishes and the 'Home from Home' programme. Because we have so many children who do not have homes, it would give our ministry great joy to be involved in giving children homes they do not have. My experience in Cape Town has humbled me and given me more strength to work hard in taking care of the children of God.

#### **PROJECT 6: PURCHASE OF TOOLS FOR MINISTRY**

- The main experience I can mention here is the excitement of having my own office equipment as my life has been made so much easier when I have to submit reports and access my emails. I now communicate better with my office, my mentor and a whole lot of people. I can easily do my research on my laptop; I got myself a modem that will enable me to have access to the internet. I have also purchased a desktop for my office that will be of great help to the children as sometimes they are given homework that needs a computer or the internet. It becomes difficult for a child who can't afford to go to an internet café.

#### **PROJECT 7: VISIT TO DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA, 11 – 21 APR 2012**

- Visiting the Diocese of Virginia was an unforgettable experience; I had a lot of fun, experience and learning. [...] We landed at Washington Dulles Airport on Thursday, 12 April 2012 at 06h49 and Phenie Gollat from St. Phillip's (Episcopal Church Women) was waiting for us. She

took us to our accommodation in Richmond, Roslyn Retreat Centre. [...]

- On Friday, 13 April 2012, Phenie came to see us with the itinerary they had made for us, which was [open-ended]. Because Nandi's Diocese is linked to the Virginia Diocese [...] most of ECW members wanted to spend time with her [...].
- During our visit I learned that other countries have a different way to deal with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Looking at the way the disease challenges different countries, it was humbling to see that the Episcopal Church in the State of Virginia has programmes in place that educate and raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and there are also organizations that are doing HIV/AIDS ministry. [...]
- We had an opportunity to meet people from the Balm in Gilead, a non-profit organization under the leadership of Dr. Pernessa C. Seele, the founder and CEO. They train and empower faith leaders to transfer information about HIV/AIDS to the community. They have partnership with African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) and are working hard to capacitate them with knowledge that will make a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS. They [...] are involved in a campaign called Our Faith Light the Way, which mobilizes faith communities, especially African Americans, to speak loud from pulpits to educate and encourage congregants to get tested, stop the stigma and shame associated with HIV/AIDS, educate and encourage support. [...]
- We also met people from the Baptist church in Richmond who do AIDS ministry. [...] They also address related social issues and engage spiritual issues, to make people aware that they are not alone in the body of Christ and not separated from the love of God.
- HIV/AIDS continues to be a challenge to us all [...]. We need to join hands together to form a very strong ring around this killer disease and fight against it. The experiences in Virginia have taught me to humble myself and let God use me in a way that will be saving others' lives and improving their lifestyles so that they can live longer. Sharing and educating one another in a healthy lifestyle is a way of living as Christians.

**NB:** after visiting Diocese of Virginia I saw the importance of having relationships with other Dioceses so that we can have an opportunity where we sit down together, learn from one another and sharing ideas. [...] I am going to find our link diocese and form a working relationship with them.

**NEW YORK VISIT: 12-18 MAY 2012**

- Visiting New York was an experience of a lifetime and a blessing to my life because it has given me an opportunity to grow as an individual. My ministry is getting better ever since I got back from New York [...]. We went to Trinity Church on Sunday to receive our Trinity awards and to meet the congregation; after the service we were given an opportunity of exchanging our Sabbatical experiences with the Trinity community. [...]
- The 5 days we stayed in New York were very exciting: we visited their community projects that are linked with Trinity Church and previous fellows are involved in. We went to Hour Children, a project that looks after women who have been incarcerated, served their time and come out of prison. These women are given a second chance to do the right thing with their lives. [...] We had an opportunity to listen to some of their stories, how they got convicted, how life was in prison and how they coped when they got out. This organization also has a home for those who do not have anywhere to go with their children. [...]
- This was a very emotional and traumatic experience for me as it was my first time sitting next to ex-convicts to listen to their stories. [...] Later we had lunch with Father Subone who is well informed and has a very extensive experience in the Prison Ministry. I never knew that one can offer or do something in prison as community work, visiting prisoners to listen to their stories, pray with them and seek advice on how to stay out of prison as young people.
- These experiences have given me an idea of starting my own community prison ministry so that I can give children of convicted parents love, care and support so that they do not feel alone. Also to help them stay away from trouble [...]. [We also visited] a school that is doing wonderful work for the children in the community who do not go to school and just live on the streets. This school offers dance, drama, music, poetry and other extra-mural activities [...].

- We had an opportunity to meet most of the previous Trinity fellows; we shared experiences and the frustrations in the work that we do. [...]
- On Ascension Day we had brunch with other fellows and Trinity Staff before we went to the service [...]. We were asked to share our experiences during our visit to New York and to reflect on the events of the past week that we were there. At the service, 2012 Trinity Transformational Fellows were announced and they are from Madagascar; this is the very same service at which our names had been announced in 2011. [...]

### **MADAGASCAR VISIT: 14-19 AUG 2012**

- Trinity church invited the 3 Fellows from South Africa to join them for an orientation of the 2012 Fellows in Madagascar. We arrived together in Antananarivo [...] all 15 of us: 3 South African Fellows, 4 Madagascan Fellows, 2 Translators, their facilitator, 2 Bishops, administrator of Diocese of Antananarivo, Sarah (New York) and Benjamin (New York).
- The first day we only had time to gather around and get to know each other. [The next 3 days] we started with a Eucharist service, followed by discussions for the rest of the day. We started at 08h00 and ended at 18h00 [...]. The discussions were prolonged because of translations, but at the end of the week we had achieved our goal. The Fellows in Madagascar were now clear on what was expected of them and they were able to come up with draft proposals.
- On Saturday we were taken sightseeing. We visited the southern part of Antananarivo where there is a big Episcopal Church which is 140 years old and is being used as a museum. We also visited the King's Palace which is also a cultural museum [...]. On Sunday we attended a service at Antananarivo Cathedral and we were warmly welcomed by the Dean of the Diocese; after the service we went to the airport to get a flight back to South Africa.

**Tshegofatso Medupe**

**Opportunities for Ministry at  
St Francis of Assisi, Waterkloof**

At St Francis we encourage all of our members to participate actively in ministry - as part of the body of Christ. But one of the joys of belonging to this body is that nobody is forced to do more than he or she feels called to do. People offer themselves freely to God in response to his free gift of love, and enjoy being involved in service and ministry.

On our website is a list of ways in which people share in the formal ministry and mission of St Francis Church, and the names of those who lead or co-ordinate and exercise authority in the different areas. If you feel called to an area of ministry, or there is an area not mentioned below, please discuss this with Fr Timothy or one of the other clergy.

**The list of Ministries and Leaders as well as the list of House Groups can be found on the website at**

[http://www.st-francis.co.za/ministry/Opportunities\\_to\\_serve%202013.pdf](http://www.st-francis.co.za/ministry/Opportunities_to_serve%202013.pdf)