



WELCOME BR. FRANKLIN FONG

By Sara Miller



St. Francis Parish welcomes Brother **Franklin Fong, OFM**, as the newest member of our pastoral family. Brother Franklin's way to St. Francis Parish has been a winding road. Brother Franklin grew up in the Chinatown/North Beach section of San Francisco and was baptized in the Chinese Congregational Church. Much of his family still lives in the Bay Area, as well as in Sacramento.

It seems more than mere coincidence that Brother Franklin was led to become a Franciscan because he shares their passionate pursuit of knowledge. Brother Franklin did his undergraduate studies at UC Davis in the 1960s and graduate studies at UC Riverside in the 1970s. He continued his post-doctoral studies at the Photobiology Institute at Brandeis University and worked for eleven years as Assistant/Associate Professor of Plant Physiology in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University. He has published widely in the areas of plant hormones and environmental physiology.

During his time in Texas, he met the Poor Clares and heard about the Franciscans. He joined the Catholic Church through the RCIA program at the St Mary's Newman Center, College Station, TX and took a sabbatical leave to Cal Berkeley, where he continued his discernment with the friars at the Franciscan School of Theology.

In the decade and a half since joining the Friars, Brother Franklin has taught biology courses at the University of Portland, Oregon, courses in Human Ecology at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, lived and worked in Guatemala for nine months and in the Philippines for two summers. Franklin moved to St Elizabeth Friary in Oakland during 2003 to do formation work with simply professed friars, while finishing his own coursework towards priestly ordination. He is currently serving his first three-year term in his province's governing council – the Definitorium.

Brother Franklin's favorite hobbies are container gardening, cooking and pen calligraphy. In the coming year he is going to work on improving his tennis and Cantonese language skills, although not at the same time. Brother Franklin is sure to earn points with Father Anthony – his favorite ice cream flavor is the Italian classic, Spumoni, and the last book he read was The DaVinci Code.

Welcome to St. Francis,
Brother Franklin!

continued on page 3

Hurricane Katrina Relief

By Auburn McCanta

Recently our country watched as Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of the Gulf Coast and flooded New Orleans, leaving uncounted thousands homeless, bereft and with nothing to do but to scatter across the country in search of help. One parishioner said the storm caused her to think back to the words of children's television host, Mr. Rogers, who was so simple and eloquent in helping children understand the scary world around them. She remembered him saying, "My Grandfather McFeeley always said when something bad happens, 'Look for the helpers.'"



Over the weekend of September 10-11, parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish became such helpers in the very best sense as they generously gave over \$21,000, with more checks still coming in. Around 50 individuals and families offered their homes, their hands and their hearts. St. Francis Parish recognizes and thanks those who organized and participated in facilitating this outpouring of love: Kay Skonieczny, Auburn McCanta, Dan McCanta, Bob Reid, Leonard Thompson, Stephen Tholcke, Ryan Rose, Vanessa Rose, Paul Rieschick, Gary Timmons, Gail White, Jean Riker, Paula Schliekelman-McCarthy, Pam Caballero, Virginia Carreiro, and Jackie Mikesell.

With Mardi Gras beads, Zydeco music and 250 "storm ribbons" as encouragement, parishioners gave from their pockets and their hearts in the true spirit of St. Francis. Thank you all!

CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

By Auburn McCanta

According to legend, one day when St. Francis was praying to God in the chapel of San Damiano, he heard Jesus speaking to him from the crucifix saying, "Francis, go repair my Church, which is falling into ruin."

Francis took the words literally and set about the task to restore the little Church of San Damiano. After that, whenever Francis traveled, he stopped at the churches to sweep up the floors, dust the altars, and rekindle oil lamps which had burned out before the Holy Sacrament.



Members of the Cleaning Ministry from left to right.
Bottom row: Mary Lou Sakoi, Mary Lasell, Paul Cummings
Top row: Isabell Vasquez, Bill Waterman
Not pictured: Andrew Lassell, Rich Csaposs

Early every Saturday morning, Bill Waterman and the members of the **Church Cleaning Ministry** perform the loving task of freshening the sanctuary, chapel and sacristy of St. Francis of Assisi Parish for the week's coming activities. For the members of the Ministry, there always seems to be the feeling that one has but to turn the corner to encounter Francis himself, striding along barefoot in his frayed and patched, mud-colored robe, black-haired, black-bearded, and dirty as a sweep from the task of cleaning out a church. He would be a busy, bustling man, hands roughened, fingernails cracked and blackened by hard work, going somewhere with a kind of zestful excitement that he shares with everyone nearby.

Such is the cleaning of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. It is a busy activity, filled with all things that alert the senses – the sound of a vacuum cleaner filling the expansive space of the sanctuary, the subtle aroma of spent candle wax being cleaned away from its votive holder so a new

candle can be placed and lit and prayed over, the scent of wood polish and floor cleaner, the gleam of shining floors in the morning light, the rustle of freshly cleaned linens placed ever-so-carefully over the altar.



The cleaning of the main building is an early Saturday morning event, lively with enthusiastic conversation and artful diligence. For Bill and his crew, the Ministry is a labor of love. In the spirit of St. Francis, this dedicated group performs their weekly tasks with a joyful and contemplative expectation. Every movement and step is like a dance that echoes those long-ago days when St. Francis refreshed churches and cleaned away the dust of the day. Often, they allow prayers to fall over their work – prayers that all who enter are blessed by their humble work.

Bill quietly dedicates each Saturday he spends in the cleaning of the church to the memory of his mother, a woman who loved the church and its beauty. He loves St. Francis of Assisi Parish too. For nearly twenty years, Bill has shared his love of quietly giving to the Parish that he feels has given so much to him. He likes to arrive early so he can have a moment of quietude before the other members of the Ministry arrive.

Bill Waterman is not the only long-serving member of the Church Cleaning Ministry. All of the Ministry members have enjoyed many years of service. Each would admit that the quiet humility of working "behind the scenes" is what first drew them to the Ministry, and that the community they enjoy with one another is what keeps them excited to continue serving.

Although the Ministry is fully staffed at this time, there is one thing you can do to participate in this lovely and humble devotion. The next time you attend Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, as you slide into your seat and prepare to share yourself in community with Christ, take a moment to notice the beauty around you. Breathe in the subtle fresh scents that may still linger from Saturday morning's cleaning and then, perhaps, allow your own blessings to fall upon the work that is so quiet, so necessary, that one would not notice its presence unless it were not there. ❖

MASS APPEAL

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St. Francis of Assisi Parish

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By Bob Reid, Parish Council Chair



Bottom L-R: Sandra Nelson, Father Anthony Garibaldi (Pastor), Jean Riker (Vice Chair), Bob Reid (Chair), Paul Rieschick Middle L-R: Ryan Rose, Cathy Chenu-Campbell (Secretary), Janet Vitt, Jeff Fields Top L-R: David Sundquist, Stephen Tholcke, Jerry Hollis, Robert Teegarden, Auburn McCanta, George Buckingham

St. Francis Parish Council started its second year in July with seven newly elected members, three returning members and four new members.

Current members re-elected to 2-year terms were: Ryan Rose, Sandra Nelson, Jean Riker.

Newly elected members were: Cathy Chenu-Campbell, Jerry Hollis, Paul Rieschick, Robert A. Teegarden. George Buckingham was appointed to fill the term of Bob Chilcote who resigned in June.

Officers elected for a 1-year term were: Chair, Bob Reid; Vice Chair, Jean Riker Secretary, Cathy Chenu-Campbell.

Committee assignments were also approved in July. You will note the

unique structure of each committee, with a staff and council member serving as Co-Chairs. This was part of the new Council structure approved in 2003. The Committee on Spiritual and Liturgical Life Ministries does not have a Council Co-Chair; it is being reorganized.

The Council held its first retreat on September 24 and will report to the Parish on those proceedings at subsequent Council meetings. The Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in Brunsman Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend and participate. The Council will be holding Parish meetings on the 2006/07 budget, the new Stewardship program, and other important Parish projects. ❖

BR. FRANKLIN FONG *continued from front page*

Footnote: On Friday, September 16, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Br. Franklin and Br. John Tran Nguyen, OFM, were ordained transitional deacons by Bishop Richard Garcia. This will mark the beginning of their diaconate training period, during which they will learn about parish and priestly ministries. After a suitable period of training, they will be re-examined for their readiness for priestly life. ❖

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- ♦ **Committee on the Communications Ministry**
Auburn McCanta, *Council Co-Chair*
Fran Anderson, *Staff Co-Chair*
- ♦ **Committee on Spiritual and Liturgical Life Ministries**
Vacant, *Council Co-Chair*
Sr. Margie Will, OSF, *Staff Co-Chair*
- ♦ **Committee on Formation in Spiritual Life Ministries**
Sandra Nelson, *Council Co-Chair*
Georgie Saydak, *Staff Co-Chair*
- ♦ **Committee on Outreach Ministries**
Jerry Hollis, *Council Co-Chair*
Kay Skonieczny, *Staff Co-Chair*
- ♦ **Committee on the Building and Grounds Ministry**
Robert Teegarden, *Council Co-Chair*
Joe Prassa, *Staff Co-Chair*
- ♦ **Committee on Community Relations**
Janet Vitt, *Council Co-Chair*
Kay Skonieczny, *Staff Co-Chair*
- ♦ **Committee on the Stewardship Ministry**
Paul Rieschick, *Council Co-Chair*
Fran Anderson, *Staff Co-Chair*

LIAISONS:

- ♦ **Liaison to Finance Committee:**
Jeff Fields
- ♦ **Liaison to School Advisory Commission:**
Robert A. Teegarden
- ♦ **Liaison to Tithing Committee:**
Stephen Tholcke

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

- ♦ **2008 Centennial Celebration of the Parish Church:**
David Sundquist
- ♦ **St. Francis Parish 101:**
Adolpho Mercado
- ♦ **Special Projects:**
Ryan Rose

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE:

- ♦ George Buckingham



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“What does the LORD require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:8

GIVING YOUR TIME AND TALENT

Opportunities to serve in various ministries or special events may be available. You are invited to call the Parish office if you want to join others and share your time and talent !

Below are just a few of the opportunities where you may participate in Ministry:

- ♦ Bereavement Support
- ♦ Breakfast Ministry
- ♦ Children’s Faith Formation Catechists
- ♦ Church Cleaning Ministry
- ♦ Eucharistic Bread Baking
- ♦ Eucharistic Ministers
- ♦ Gardening Ministry
- ♦ Healing Prayer Ministry
- ♦ Lector Ministry
- ♦ Music Ministry
- ♦ Parish Center Volunteers
- ♦ RCIA Catechists
- ♦ Step Ministry
- ♦ Ushers and Greeters

Information: Ministries & Events

Please check the weekly bulletin, our web site at www.st.francisparish.org, or call the parish office at (916) 443-8084 if you would like more information about, or would like to become involved with, one of our ongoing ministries, or for information about any of our scheduled events.

Mass Schedule

- Saturday Vigil—5:15 PM
- Sunday—7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 12 NOON
- Daily Mass Monday-Friday—12:10 PM in Chapel (Monday & Friday are Communion services)

Reconciliation

- 2nd & 4th Saturdays—4:00-5:00 PM and by appointment

MASS APPEAL

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Welcome Br. Franklin Fong
- Hurricane Katrina Relief
- Church Cleaning Ministry
- Parish Council News

ST. FRANCIS WELCOMES NEW PARISHIONERS

- Thomas Ahern
- Benjamin & Shari Anders
- David Bango & Joanna Latsch
- Veronica Barnes
- AnnaLisa Bass & Loni Rathbun
- Eve Bowers
- Eugene J. & Haydee M. Cacas, Jf. M Cacas
- Anne Drumm
- Tammy Dudley-Tobin
- Molly Eichler
- John C. Fields
- George Fogy & Cynthia M. Mori
- Pedro Murillo & Lisa Franco-Murillo
- Lynn E. Geise & Paul A. Miller
- Karina Gutierrez
- Celia Guzman & Luis Gallarzo
- Stephen & Sheryl Hallerman
- Kimberly Hearn & Greg Corsaut
- Jim & Jamie Hershman
- Tommy Jenovino
- Katherine Kalthoff
- Roslyn Keaney
- Jason & Mary Kinney
- Erin Koman
- Jason Lyons
- Stacie Mandalla
- Karen Maxson
- Paul & Emily McDougall
- Roger Merrett & Michael R. Jones
- Doug Moreno & Judy Hoppezak
- Andrea Navarro & Levi Wolfe
- Tricia Nishio
- Michael O'Connor
- Allan Pacada & Tamara Jeanquart
- Sandra Pacheco & Jeff Franklin
- Gloria Peterson
- Anna Yun & Rick Pincome
- Refugio & Lydia Razo
- Angela & Kris Rhoden
- Sergio Rodriguez & Michelle Seijas
- Tuesday Seales-Perkins & Brent Perkins
- Laura Shaner
- Susan Smith
- Roderick Taylor
- Toni Tino
- Maria & Ramon Torres
- Frank G. Vega
- Dean Grafilo & Marisa Vilona
- Nicholas & Mary Voron
- Wendy Wood & Dean Wolff
- Lilian Yoro