

THE BISHOPS FOUNDATION

Newsletter



Greetings everyone. The Foundation has been busy since the last Newsletter. Visits to the parishes of Bryanston and Primrose resulted in over fifty parishioners opting to support the Foundation. A little brochure has been printed of all that was achieved last year but was not posted as the cost of posting is prohibitive. It was only distributed where ever I happened to be saying Mass and making a presentation about the Foundation. But it is on the web site, bishopsfoundation.org.za. Click on UPDATES and it will open on Foundation 2015.

Project Drought Relief. One of the Foundation projects which has been assisted this year is in the Diocese of Aliwal North (two hours south of Bloemfontein). Because it is a rural area with very poor rainfall, the Diocese initiated a project to provide water tanks to help families harvest water when it becomes available. Below is a picture of the tank, and the following (edited version) is taken from the letter of the Aliwal Diocese: Welfare and Development Committee. They received R50,000 for this project.



“In Aliwal there are five projects to grow vegetables for the OVC’s (orphans and vulnerable children). For the past few months the gardens have gone dry due to the drought and nothing has grown. The dams in the area have also run dry. The tanks will in no doubt play a huge role in these projects and in the lives of the OVC’s. R8,000 will be able to buy water tanks for 5 projects including their installation. An amount of R2,000, will be spent on food for each project to insure that the children do not go to bed hungry”.

Recruiting. The original target when we started a year ago was 1000 Catholics at R100 a month. So far we have almost 600 members in the Foundation. Roughly half are by means of a debit order and

the rest by means of EFTs or one off deposits. It is difficult for me to enroll new members quickly. My only big opportunity is when I am saying mass in a parish. **But each of you must try to encourage another family member or work colleague to join in and support the Foundation.** If you believe in its worth, convince someone else. All they need to know is on the web site, again, bishopsfoundation.org.za. We are over half way to the magical number of 1000. Can we reach it in the next couple of months?

Going digital. Because the numbers are increasing the time it takes to administer, register, follow up, and acknowledge contributions, all manually, is becoming difficult with the result that the Foundation is looking at the possibility of going digital. If the numbers increase as we hope they will, we have to go 'modern' and more electronic.

Platform for businesses. As an extension of the work and potential of the Foundation, we are addressing the issues of the Corporate and Business world from the perspective of helping them to kill two birds with the one stone. They are committed to make returns to SARS yearly and we can offer a section 18A certificate. Secondly many are committed to make donations to Charities because of their BEE commitments. The Foundation can also offer BEE compliance certificate if they make their contribution through the Foundation. Either way, they help the Church in its charitable outreach and also comply with their legal requirements

Names and addresses of Catholic enterprises. The Foundation already has a number of Catholic businesses on record but I am making a request for more. If you know of a Catholic business, owned, or work in one, please send me their email addresses.

A grateful thank you to all and know that you share in all the outreaches of the Foundation. Fr. Barney



From the desk of Father Barney McAleer