

Vox Populi

28 September 2022

On October 4, the Church will observe the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, a saint who remains just as important today in the lives of many faithful as he did close to 800 years ago.

His affinity for the Eucharist, care for the poor in society, love for creation, and his deep sense of brotherhood towards all God's children are universal and enduring qualities which all the faithful should seek to embody.

He dispensed with an indulgent life and lived a life of poverty in service of others, preaching the Gospel and spreading the Good News.

He founded the Franciscan Order which continues his work close to a millennium later. So important is his legacy, even in the contemporary age, Pope Francis chose to honour the humble Italian saint through his papal name. It was the first time a pope had taken the name and Pope Francis said he had chosen it due to his concern for the well-being of the poor.

His second encyclical, *Laudato si'*, was very much inspired by St Francis, who had used the phrase in praise of God for his creation.

As part of the Diocese of Broken Bay's World Youth Day pilgrimage next year, the young people of our Diocese will get the opportunity to visit Assisi, birthplace of the St Francis, the Franciscan Order and St Clare of Assisi.

Blessed Carlos Acutis, a 21st century teenager well on his way to being declared a saint, requested to be buried at Assisi following his death, citing St Francis as one of the great models of his life.

The opportunity to walk in the footsteps of these great saints will no doubt be an incredible experience for many of the young people of our Diocese and provide inspiration to them to live out their faith with passion, sacrifice and love, just as St Francis did.

We pray they and all the faithful will be transformed by the example of St Francis and continue his good work, adoring the Eucharist, caring for the poor and loving all creation.