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"We can't row the canoe fast with one paddle"
(African proverb)

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Dear fellow coordinators,

Rome. Last February 6-13 three teams were invited to Rome to work on the revision of the Ceremonial and of the Spanish and English versions of the Vademecum. Fr. Vincent Owusu (GHA) and myself were there from AFRAM. The Ceremonial is more "user friendly" and is also useful in the parish context. It is only available in English. As to the Vademecum, the English and the Spanish versions have evolved independently from each other. Efforts were made to agree on a certain schema and to keep in common the most important prayers dear to the SVD.

Execom. On February 25 we held our first AFRAM Executive Committee meeting in Lomé, Togo. Our chairman, Fr. Provincial Alphonse Amanor could not come due to a very important meeting with the bishops concerning Tamale and the CFC. Fr. Victor Leones presided in his stead, accompanied by Brother Emmanuel Affum. Fr. Joseph Kallanchira, the second member of the Executive Committee was our host. The meeting lasted for a whole day. Please do read the report in another attached file.

Lomé. On February 26 we had Mass in the Pink Sisters' convent. It's the only SSpSAP community in the whole of AFRAM. Their presence is much appreciated and is radiating in the area. However it is not easy for them to find vocations. Then Fr. Kallanchira took us to the different SVD communities in Lomé. There are remarkable changes in the capital and the Catholic Church is growing. In the evening we visited the SSPS sisters.

Togo-Benin. On February 27 we had Mass with our 18 postulants and two formators. Then Fr. Kallanchira gave us a treat: a 4-day Togo-Benin trip! First we drove North. There we took the direction towards the Benin border. Then we went back to the South till the capital of Benin, Cotonou and finally back to Lomé. It was a great joy to meet so many confreres in only a few days. It was still greater joy for me to see those whom I know personally. We also had the opportunity to visit our SSpS sisters working in the missions in both countries. Our last host was no other than Mgr Michael Blume, SVD, the Apostolic Nuncio.

New AFRAM Province! Back to Lomé, we got the fresh news that the letter from the Generalate has come, communicating that the Togo-Benin Region will officially become a Province in June. The new Provincial is Fr. Joseph Kallanchira! We congratulate him, his new Provincial Council and all the members of the Province. In the next Coords-Link I'll share with you our trip to Ghana.

Fr. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD
AFRAM Zonal Coordinator