



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

There is a lot going on in the Province at this time. Let me say a few words about some of these things.

Our province retreats are coming up in a few weeks. Fr. Alfred Agyenta from St Victors, Tamale will be preaching the retreat. He requests that you bring your bible with you to the retreat. An email was sent out and a list is posted on the Guest House notice board asking you to let us know which retreat you plan to attend so the DWCCC can be prepared to receive you properly. Our constitutions (409.2) say: "We make an annual retreat of at least five full days and at its conclusion renew our vows." If we are not able to spend five days with the Lord on retreat once a year how do we think we are able to proclaim him to others? I ask you take this constitution seriously.

We are happy to have ten novices who will be professing their first vows this year on the 19th of July and eight Fraters who will be professing their perpetual vows on the 8th of September in Nkwatia. There are also many who will be renewing their vows as they journey towards their perpetual vows. Our Nuncio, Archbishop Kalenga, will be ordaining our seven deacons to priesthood on the 8th of August in Margaret Mary Catholic Church Accra. We rejoice in these blessing of the Lord.

In Ghana people like to find new expressions for abbreviations. Here is one I read recently. "SVD: Sacrifice, Vision, Dedication." Is it true?

The international airlines have been busy carrying many of our confreres for home leave. They have also been busy bringing many confreres for the AFRAM Formation Board Meeting and then taking them back. May all this travel enable us to proclaim the Gospel more effectively.

Among the notable visitors for the AFRAM Formation Board meeting was the Generalate Secretary for Education and Formation, Fr. Thomas Malipurathu. In addition to attending the meeting he visited all the formation houses in the province and had a chance to meet the formandi and formators.

Mark your calendars for the Province Chapter which will be held 26-30 October this year. Not all of you will be attending it, it is true, but until your local community has chosen its delegates keep those dates open in case you are one of the chosen ones. Local communities should also fix the dates for their local chapters which are to be held in preparation for the province chapter. The official announcement and promulgation as well as the theme of the chapter will come out soon.

The Province Visitation is still going on, though many communities have already completed the visitation. In due course of time a summarized report will be sent out on the visitation.

I appreciate all each one of you is doing in service of the Lord here in the Ghana Province. Many of you are more than busy but carry on cheerfully because of your dedication to the proclamation of the Gospel. May the Lord fill you with his joy and strength every day.

Your confrere,



Thomas D'Mello SVD
Provincial

PROVINCE NEWS

Biblical Pastoral Ministry

Bible Seminar on Paul

A 5-day Bible Seminar under the theme, "Life and Teaching of St. Paul" has been successfully organized by the SVD Biblical Pastoral Ministry (Ghana Province) in collaboration with the Biblical Centre for Africa and Madagascar (BICAM) and the office of the Biblical Apostolate of the National Catholic Secretariat.

The venue for the seminar was the Divine Word Conference Centre, the date was 18th -23rd May 2009 and the main resource persons were Frs. Wynnand Amewowo and Evaristus Amegadzi. There were 38 participants. The participants were made up of priests, religious brothers and sisters and other lay faithful. It is worth noting that a good number of our SVD confreres participated in this seminar.

In a welcome address, the SVD Ghana Province coordinator for Biblical Pastoral Ministry, Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurath, SVD, encouraged participants to deepen their knowledge of St. Paul and Sacred Scripture as a whole. Most Rev. Thomas K. Mensah - Archbishop of Kumasi presided over the Eucharistic Celebration for the opening of the Seminar. Rev. Fr. Moise Adekambi, the director of BICAM also gave a key note address.

Some of the topics treated during the seminar were: Life and Teaching of St. Paul, Pauline Letters (authentic, disputed and pseudonymous), How to read the letters of St. Paul intelligently, systematically, comprehensively and prayerfully, Exegetical pastoral reading of 1Corinthians and Titus, Paul and Women in the Church etc. Certificates of participation were issued at the end of the Seminar. We say bravo to the organizers of the seminar for a good work done.

Fr. Andrews Obeng

Prayer to the Apostle Paul:

Glorious St. Paul, most zealous Apostle and martyr for the love of Christ; give us a deep faith, a steadfast hope and a burning love for our Lord so that we can proclaim with you "it is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me." Help us to become apostles, serving the church with pure heart and as witnesses to her truth and beauty amidst the darkness of our days. With you we praise God our Father saying "To him be the glory, in the Church and in Christ now and forever. Amen

DISTRICT NEWS

Accra District:

SVD Accra District Prays

The SVD Accra District went for a day of quiet moment with the Lord on May 20, 2009 at the SVD Residence McCarthy – Hill, Accra.

The recollection guide, Fr. Andrew Campbell shared that prayer was vital for all people most especially religious, like us. He said, prayer is our inner utterance. It helps us seek the Lord. It keeps us connected with Him - the source of our life, strength and joy. Hence, when we pray we are flooding along with God. This means that we are united in His Divine salvific flow. And when we pray whole – heartedly we are intimately flooding along with God; we are madly in love with God; we are thirsty and hungry of God’s presence. In this way, we shall persevere in prayer; we always pray and we pray well. Thus, whole heartedness in prayer is the key - the key to have inner strength; the key to have inner peace and joy. He testified that his whole – hearted way of praying made him strong as human, as Christian and as religious missionary in the SVD. He continued to explain that, on the contrary, if we are half – hearted in prayer, we shall never progress in our spiritual life because to be half – hearted in prayer is the beginning of our downfall. “What are the causes of half – hearted prayer?”, he asked. Then he answered that one is laziness since it is the workshop of the devil. The devil can easily work horrible things and corrupt a lazy heart to his selfish end. The second is the neglect of developing the love of inner silence since inner silence is the prerequisite of a sincere prayer. The person who loves noise cannot pray. He hardly hears the word of God. Noise, especially internal noise, can divert us far from the ways of God. He quoted “if you cannot be at home in the desert, you cannot be at home in the marketplace” (Card. Hume). The third is lack of perseverance since to give up loses one’s hope.

He encouraged all to be whole – hearted in prayer. That means be madly in love with God; have time for desert experience; persevere in trials; and be always thirsty and hungry of God’s presence.

He concluded by saying that, since “the greatest need of our society is spiritual need” (Heekeren), be whole – hearted in prayer. And so all, really prayed whole -heartedly on that day.

New Aplaku Catholic Church

Mama Teresa Shares ... “The Garden of Delights”

A garden in whatever season always produces something. Other fields produce once a year; a garden is never without fruit. So too the soul of the just man/woman is always productive and never without some good fruits.

Prayer:

Almighty God, you prepare a worthy dwelling place in the hearts of the faithful for yourself. May you always live in us through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Mama Teresa Kumi
Sts. Peter and Paul, New Aplaku

Abeka Parish

St. Charles Lwanga Parish is 40 years old

St. Charles Lwanga Parish of Abeka celebrated her 40th anniversary on 7th June 2009. This celebration was launched a year ago, way back 3rd June 2008, the feast of the Patron Saint itself – St. Charles Lwanga. Though the preliminary launching started on the feast of the Saint, 3rd June 2008, the official launching was done on 8th June 2008 the Sunday closest to the feast of the Patron. Several activities took place beginning from the preliminary launching to the official launching; then from the official launching to the culmination day itself. Among others, programmes like: candle light procession; health walk; clean up; visitation of the sick; mass wedding; and others were done. The most prominent of these were: the activities of the dedication of the Church; blessing of the parish hall and conference hall; and the closing day itself.

Most Rev. Charles Palmer Buckle, the Archbishop of the Metropolis of Accra administered the dedication of the Church and the blessing of the parish hall and conference hall on 9th May 2009 during his pastoral visit in Abeka. During the dedication, he smeared the whole altar stone with the oil of chrism followed by the placing of the relics of St. Charles Lwanga. In concelebration, Fr. Thomas D'Mello, SVD - Provincial Superior; Fr. Fred Timp, SVD - Province Secretary; Fr. Patrick Ofori, SVD - Parish Priest of St. Margaret Mary, Dansoman; Fr. Anthony Amissah, SVD - Missionary in Kenya; Fr. John Tumawu, SVD - of Tesano Community; Fr. John Boye, the Dean of Accra West Deanery; Fr. Christopher Sackey, The Parish Priest of St. Peter Claver, Ada Foah; Fr. Konrad Dreyer, SVD - Parish Priest of Abeka, Fr. Sampson Fenuku, The Assistant Parish Priest of Abeka, were present. Bro. Pius Agyeman was the commentator of the occasion. All SVD brothers in Tesano Community: Bro. McDaniel, Bro. Lambert and Bro. Mark were also present to grace the occasion. After the dedication all went to the Parish Hall and conference hall for the blessing.

The Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana, his Excellency Leon Badikabele Kalenga, celebrated the Closing Day of the 40th anniversary of the Parish on 7th June 2009. On this occasion, he congratulated the pioneers, both living and those who died already, for their generous and untiring effort in establishing the Parish. He said that, because of their unselfish dedication in the past, way back 40 years ago, today uncountable people from all walks of life in Abeka Parish are benefited. He encouraged all to continue support the parish in diverse ways possible especially prayers. He also encouraged all parishioners to love their parish; learn from the pioneers; continue make a generous effort to keep the parish growing bigger, stronger and **united in faith**.

Then he expressed his gratitude to all the priests who have shepherded Abeka Parish especially the current Parish Priest and his assistant for the wonderful work done. Finally he asked the help of St. Charles Lwanga to intercede for the people of God in Abeka. That like him, we may be steadfast in faith; and unwavering in our witness to Christ Jesus in words and deeds. ***Happy 40th Anniversary to all!***

Koforidua District:

Kukurantumi

Kukurantumi thanks Bro. Jan Urban

During a get - together party for Bro. Jan Urban's send-off at the SVD residence, Kukurantumi on 9th May 2009, since Bro. Jan is leaving for his new mission assignment in Tamale Institute of Cross Cultural Studies (TICCS), the SVD community of Kukurantumi and St. Paul Technical School (SPATS) - Kukurantumi expressed their profound gratitude to him for the invaluable contribution he has made to the school and the SVD community.

The praeses, Bro. Peter Edze, who is also the principal of SPATS, summarized all the notes of gratitude expressed by all well wishers in a simple way. For Bro Jan to teach practical machine shop to our boys in mechanical department 3 levels (Form 1 – 3) for almost 11 years was marvelous; to organize and systematize our mechanical tool room like "European Standard" was excellent. And for him to show obedience, simplicity, honesty, patience, thoughtfulness and sense of prayer in our SVD community was inspiring. He then on behalf of the school and SVD community Bro. Peter expressed his deep gratitude to Bro. Jan Urban and wished him good health, peace and joy as he moves to his new mission territory. *Bro. Jan, ye da wo ase bebre!*

Afram Plains Prefecture:

Afram Plains welcomes the Apostolic Nuncio

The faithful and their pastors spearheaded by the Apostolic Prefect of the Donkorkrom Prefecture in the Afram Plains, Very Rev. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD, joyfully welcomed the Apostolic Nuncio, Most Rev. Leon B. Kalenga who was on his three – day visit (6th – 8th April 2009) in order to celebrate the Chrism mass and to have first hand experience of the situation of the Prefecture.

Most Rev. Leon B. Kalenga was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana in 2008 since the former Nuncio; Most Rev. George Kochery was transferred to Zimbabwe. In his barely two years in service, since he has not visited Donkorkrom Prefecture, he was inspired to visit the place, the place which his predecessor has elevated.

Rev. Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD being his itinerary guide, took him first to St. Joseph Freinademetz Catholic Church in Ekye Amanfrom where Frs.: Matthias Felber, SVD and Francis Mastan, SVD with the faithful including Christian Mothers warmly welcome him with Marian songs and dances. The next was to St. Joseph the Worker Parish Maame Krobo Parish where Frs.: Stephen Kantubog and Dennis Barimah and parishioners organized an adoration of the Blessed Sacrament together with Him. And then to St. Francis Xavier Parish, Donkorkrom - the seat of the Prefecture, Very Rev. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD; Fr. Alex Chandy, SVD; Fr Eduard Simatupang, SVD; and Parishioners made his visit memorable and comfortable. In the following morning 7th April, he went to St. Fidelis Parish, Tease where Fr. Julius Keeke, SVD and Foster Asiamah and parishioners helped him feel at home. It is in this Parish that he celebrated the Chrism Mass with all the clergy and faithful in the Prefecture. Shortly after the Chrism Mass, in the afternoon, he continued to St. Mary's Parish, Adeemmra - the oldest parish in the Prefecture, where another SVD confrere Fr. Paul Dogba, SVD and his parishioners showed him a tumultuous

welcome. Since Adeemra is the home of his tour guide, Bro. Stephen Domelevo, he did not finish his job until he visited his tour guide's old parents, Mr. Augustine Domelevo (101) and wife Theresa (96) where he prayed and imparted his blessing upon them. In all the parishes he visited, the Nuncio was warmly welcomed with brass band music and cultural displays.

Having experienced the superb cordiality of the faithful and their leaders there, he joyfully responded by saying that, Donkorkrom was a vibrant Prefecture. He cannot help but thanked all the Priests and the faithful for their loyalty to the Church. He expressed his special thanks to the SVD missionaries, who were pioneers in establishing this area, for their sacrifices in bringing Donkorkrom Prefecture up to this level. He appealed to the all to support the Prefect to bring more development to the Prefecture. Then, he gave them the Papal blessing, adding that he brought a "message of love" from the Holy Father.

On the 8th April, 2009 he left Afram Plains back to Accra with fine memories.

FORMATION

Novitiate

Novices Interview Bishop Vincent Boi - Nai

As part of the forth coming 25th anniversary of the SVD novitiate in 2011, the Editorial Committee (E.C) of the novitiate interviewed Most Rev. Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD (B.B) at the novitiate. He is one of those who started the novitiate.

EC: Good afternoon his Lordship! Please can you introduce yourself giving us a brief historical background?

B.B: I was born at La in Accra. I attended St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Peter's Secondary schools. After my six form, I went to St. Victor's Major Seminary from 1971-1977. On August 13, 1977, I was ordained as the 5th SVD Ghanaian priest. After my ordination, I worked for three years in Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral in Yendi. Then I was transferred to St. Peter's Secondary School, Nkwatia as chaplain, postulant master, and district superior for three years before going to Chicago for further studies in anthropology and missiology. From there I continued to Boston and had my doctorate in ministry with emphasis on Cross Cultural Ministry. I came back to Ghana in 1991 and was appointed to Tamale Institute of Cross cultural Studies (TICCS) for five years. In 1996, I was appointed Provincial in Ghana but was called to the General Council in 1997. In 1999, I was nominated Bishop and ordained on 10th July in the same year.

EC: His Lordship, we congratulate you for your Peace Award. What motivated you to work for peace in your diocese?

B.B: When I was ordained Bishop, I realized that there was tension between the Konkomba and Dagomba people. Since you cannot preach to people who are fighting, I decided to work for peace in unifying these people through reconciliatory meetings. In 1994, there was a war office in

Tamale; therefore, I wanted a peace office in Yendi so that those who were not native of Yendi could seek refuge there. We started a peace initiative in five Districts and three days to its launch, Yaa Naa was killed. This brought it to a stand still. Though there was the Wako Commission, I felt we could also do our own advocacy at the grassroots. This was to let the people refrain from using violence to solve the situation and instead, resort to forgiveness. This came to the notice of the ex-government and they gave me this Award. The people had confidence in me because they saw that I was neutral.

EC: His Lordship, we would like to know when this novitiate started and who were the first group admitted?

B.B: Before me, there were Frs.: Patrick Ofori, Francis Ankrah and one other person. Fr. Hans Van Kempen and James Toohey were both teaching Philosophy in St. Peter's secondary school around 1965. After completing philosophy, they were sent to USA to complete their studies. Later, Fr. Wildenburg became the Novice Master with Patrick Twi as the only novice. He was sent to Ireland after his novitiate. After him, came Polycarp, Nso Brown and Patrick Kwame Senya around 1966. I came in 1968 and Edmund Nomo followed and then, Vincent Owusu, Bro. Asafo Agyei and Peter Badoo. At this time Fr. Boykins (African-American) was the Novice Master. After him came Fr. Patrick Twi as the Novice Master. Indeed, at this time the number of candidates was increasing so that there was the need to build a new novitiate.

EC: His Lordship, we are aware that you were one of the pioneers who started this beautiful building, what were the difficulties you encountered?

B.B: We contacted Fr. Krajcik to build the house. I was with Brother Rudy. The main problem was that of water. Three bore holes were drilled but none functioned properly. The Headmaster also wanted to expand the school. Hence there was the need to make clear what belonged to the novitiate and the school. The first trip of sand was brought from Pankese. All these started in 1985.

The novitiate was planned for the whole AFRAM Zone such that after that they could be shared among the common formation centers -Congo, Ghana and Kenya. It was also meant to help students from francophone countries to learn English.

EC: His Lordship, we would like to know the impression the Society had about the early people who were admitted.

BB: If you were not good at that time, the Society will not accept you. As a result, those who were having the basic qualifications to study philosophy and theology were admitted. Due to their efforts, others were accepted and this brought enrichment into the Society in terms of people from different backgrounds.

A lot of things have changed so there are a lot of memories. I can still see the old typewriters and computers at the studio. Also, your library needs to be furnished with new books. Another important thing is to get a parlour which used to be there. This is because certain visitors and discussions need to be done in the parlour and not at the reception. I still remember and respect Fr. Peter Wildenburg who was my novice director. I still recall how we were eating together with

the senior confreres though we were novices. It can be a good practice for you also. I can also remember how I used to engage the novices in teaching apostolate in the school when I was the chaplain. It was a very fruitful practice.

EC: His Lordship, what changes have taken place in the novitiate and your comment about them?

BB: There are the perpetual adoration organized on every last Saturday of the month and the Stations of the Cross. The prepared meal time prayer book is also a good creativity which must be encouraged. On the other hand, singing at Mass can be improved by using keyboard. To remark on what is still being done, I will say that the farming should continue.

EC: His Lordship, since the coming two years marks the 25th anniversary celebration of the novitiate, what message do you have for us?

BB: My message is that you work as a team in a balanced way. I also wish that some of you will become lecturers in the major seminary. You have to know that the work of formation depends on yourselves. It is important to encourage yourselves and your brothers at the postulancy to be responsible in formation. I will suggest that the novitiate be linked with other centers in terms of organizing courses and the training should have an African face. The novitiate should have a conference hall where people can be invited to learn about how African values can be integrated into the religious life. Also, the habit of reading should be part of you. This should not be only spiritual books and SVD documents but also good novels. Finally, to be able to improve on your work as editorial board, you must have a camera and a recorder. Do your work seriously.

Editorial Committee,

Divine Word Novitiate

It's Good to Spend Time with the Lord

On the day of celebrating the Independence Day of Ghana on 6th March 2009, we the novices left the novitiate at 9am to Kumasi to renew our spirit in the Lord through the Ignatian spiritual exercises. We arrived at the retreat centre at 12.15pm and in the evening we entered into total silence in order to listen to the Lord speak to us.

The venue of the retreat was the Centre for Spiritual Renewal located at Christian Village in Santasi-Kumasi. It was opened in 1983 and is being run by the Sisters- of Charity of the Blessed Virgin-Mary (SCRVM), and a priest from the congregation of Missionaries of Africa (M.Afr). The centre has helped not only priests and religious but also lay people and even non-Catholics who came there to renew their spirit in the Lord. During our stay in the centre, a lot of non Catholics including a pastor from the Assemblies of God church came for spiritual renewal. The environment is very serene and conducive for spiritual growth. However, the centre needs more personnel to give retreats and other spiritual exercises. The Eucharist is celebrated every day at 5.30pm except on Saturdays and Sundays, when it is celebrated 7:00am and 11:00 am respectively, to enable Catholics living around to participate.

The 30 days retreat was divided into four weeks but not of equal days. The first and second weeks were nine days each and the third and fourth weeks were six days each.

We had four prayer periods each day except during the third week which was five periods. We were divided into three groups to meet the three directors for the review of our prayers namely Srs.: Mary Ann, Teresa Jacobs and Fr. Michael Targett.

In the first week, we saw how God loves us and created us to share His life with us forever but sin broke this union we had with God. During the second week we looked at Christ the King and His call. We also reflected on our individual call.

This was followed by the public ministry and passion of Jesus Christ in the third week. Finally, we reflected on the resurrection appearances and the Ascension of the Lord. The whole exercise was very fruitful and beneficial to us.

In order to prevent us from feeling bored, we had two breaks during the exercise.

The first break was on the 16th of March and the second on 26th March. During the second break we paid a visit to Most Rev. Peter Akwasi Sarpong, the archbishop emeritus of Kumasi Diocese, whose residence is just a stone's throw from the Centre. He was very welcoming and we had a nice time with him as he shared his experiences with us. It is interesting to note that his successor, Most Rev. Thomas K. Mensah, was one of those students he sent outside the country for seminary studies. He gave us a medal of the head of Jesus crowned with thorns and a picture of Pope Benedict XVI and a copy of one of his books Societies Differ.

The retreat came to an end on the 6th of April and we left the following day to the novitiate. We have grown more spiritual and have acquired a lot of experiences which will help us in the discernment of our vocation.

Stephen Agbenorxevi
Divine Word Novitiate

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

Fr. Mathias Yaadar: 4th May 2009 for his well deserved holiday. Fr. Mathias is a missionary to Benin as Parish Priest of St. Joseph Parish. He will stay in Ghana till 2nd June 2009. ***Fr. Mathias, Happy holiday!***

Fr. Francis Allah: 16th May 2009 for his well deserved holidays. Fr. Francis is a missionary to Zimbabwe. He will stay in Ghana for 3 months, and then go back to Zimbabwe. ***Fr. Francis, have a memorable vacation!***

Fr. Sunil Rodrigues: 1st June 2009 for first mission assignment. ***Fr. Sunil, you are most welcome to Ghana and all the best for your introduction to Ghana mission!***

Bro. Lutwin Dollwet: 1st June 2009 from Botswana. He came supposedly to attend the recently postponed SVD AFRAM Treasurers' Meeting at DWCCC, Nsawam. He is here to visit friends and confreres in Ghana his former home. ***Bro. Lutwin, Akwaaba o o o !!!***

Fr. Alejandro Villasante: 2st June 2009 from Zambia. He came to participate in the AFRAM Formators' Meeting at DWCCC, Nsawam on 8th – 12th June 2009. Fr. Al ***Akwaaba ... and have a memorable stay in Ghana!***

Departures:

Fr. John Straathof: 21st April 2009 to Holland for his well deserved holidays. ***Fr. John, have a restful and enjoyable holiday!***

Fr. Francis Kowal: 27th April 2009 for home leave. ***Fr. Francis, Have a joyful holidays!***

Fr. Matthias Felber: 15th May 2009 for raising support for the Prefecture. ***Fr. Matthias, Alles gutte!***

Frts.: Samuel Adu and Albert Ziem: 19th May to Nairobi, Kenya. They have just completed their pastoral year: Albert in Asesewa; Samuel in New Aplaku. Now they are departing to Kenya to continue their theological studies. ***Sammy and Albert, have a meaningful and successful stay and study Kenya.***

Fr. Matthias Helms: 19th May 2009 for home leave. ***Fr. Matthias, have a relaxing, re-energizing and re-creating holiday!***

Fr. Justin Toda: 2nd June 2009 for home leave. ***Fr. Justin "tremakase banyak" have a joyful holiday!***

Fr. Antonius Hibur: 9th June 2009 for home leave. ***Fr. Antonius, "tremakase banyak" may you have a memorable holiday!***

Fr. Grzegorz Kubowicz: 9th June 2009 for home leave. ***Fr. Grzegorz, "wszystkiego dobrego" enjoy your holiday!***

Bro. Jan Urban: 11th June 2009 for home leave. ***Jan, "dziekuje" and have a blessed holiday!***

Fr. Marius z Pacula: 15th June 2009 for home leave. ***Marius, "dziekuje" and have a wholesome home leave!***

Fr. Gregory Boss, Fr. Dionisio Kopong Ola and Bro. Yohanes Lengari: 23rd June 2009 for home leave. ***Greg, Dion & John "tremakase banyak" thanks for your services, have a wonderful holiday together with your love ones. Extend our heartfelt greetings to them!***

Fr. Frederick Obeng: 23rd June 2009 to Papua New – Guinea (his first foreign mission assignment). ***Fred have a happy journey and wishing you the best in your new environment. Give our greetings to Fr. "Sakite" (Nana Joseph Sakite)***

Fr. Konrad Dreyer: 3rd July 2009 for home leave. ***Fr. Konrad, have a restful and re-energizing holiday, "Alles Gutte"!***

Fr. John Schilitz: 4th July 2009 for holiday. ***Fr. John, "wszystkiego najlepszego" all the best!***

Fr. Yury Labanau: 2nd July 2009 back to Belarus. He completed his OTP in Ghana. He is going back to Belarus for short holiday and then continues his formation. *Fr. Yury, thanks for your contribution to Ghana mission. Best regards to your family. Have a happy journey back home!*

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Congratulations to Sr. Veronica Bernice Osei, SSps

When Sr. Veronica Bernice Osei, SSps was still an aspirant of the SSps she was working as registered nurse in St. Martin de Porres Hospital, Agomanya of the Eastern Region of Ghana. It was her great joy when she received the acceptance note from the provincial leader of the Congregation to start her postulancy program. Her joy continued to grow when she was accepted to start her novitiate programme in Sunyani. During her temporary vows time, especially in her community experience at Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw, she showed her community spirit in her relationship with her sisters and humility in caring for the sick. No one can deny that she exhibited sincerity, joy and love in the different communities she stayed, served and lived in. Whether it was in Ghana, Botswana or Philippines, there was no place which did not experience her mark of zeal, love and enthusiasm - qualities good for a religious missionary. And greater joy she felt when accepted to take her perpetual vows.

Sr. Veronica Bernice Osei, SSps professed her final vows in the religious life on 23rd May 2009 at St. Michael Catholic Church, Nkawkaw. *We are one with you in your joy and thanksgiving for the wonders that God has done to you. As we congratulate you, we also wish you the best of your missionary endeavour especially in the ministry of caring for the sick. Sr. Vero Congratulations!!!*

COMING EVENTS

1. 7th June 2009 – Solemnity of the Holy Trinity
2. 8th -12th June 2009 – AFRAM Formators' Meeting at DWCCC
3. 29th June 2009 – Closing of the celebration of the Year of St. Paul the Apostle
4. 5th -11th July 2009 – First SVD Retreat at DWCCC
5. 10th July 2009 - 10th Anniversary of The Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev. Vincent Boi – Nai, SVD
6. 12th – 18th July 2009 – Second SVD Retreat at DWCCC
7. 19th July 2009 - first vows at the Novitiate, Nkwatia - Kwahu
8. 8th August 2009 – Ordination to the Priesthood of 7 SVD Deacons: Revs.: 1) Agudu Phaniel Myers; 2) Sagru-Larr Kinsley; 3) Yinamyah Robert Baba; 4) Gideon Nana Apreku; 5) John Kudjo Dorborkoe; 6) Jacobson E K Dey; and 7) Benjamin Adusei Poku
9. 1st – 6th September 2009 – Retreat for confreres in temporary vows at Tamale
10. 7th September 2009 – Renewal of vows at Tamale
11. 8th September 2009 – Profession of final Vows

INFORMATION

Year 2010 is declared as the Year of the Priest by Pope Benedict XVI

Our SVD Calendar Committee is preparing for the **2010 Calendar** following the theme of the year 2010 which is **the Year of the Priest** as declared by Benedict XVI. The committee has decided to take **6 good pictures** of the different sacramental ministries of the Priest/Bishop: 1) **Priest Baptizing**; 2) **Bishop confirming**; 3) **Priest celebrating the Eucharist**; 4) **Priest anointing the sick**; 5) **Priest solemnizing marriage**; and 6) **Priest hearing confession**. In view of the above project the committee is appealing to all confreres through your district communication coordinators to send your best pictures of the above category to the Catholic Book Center (CBC; email: dwmcbc@4u.com.gh or emmaffum@yahoo.co.uk) or to the SVD Guest House. You can send them either in a hard copy form (on Photo Paper) or soft copy (in CD). You may also forward them through email. **The committee needs all the pictures for selection latest 7th July 2009.** If your pictures are selected be assured of a token for your effort. Thanks in advance for your support.

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Mr. Bernard Teye, The grandfather of Fr. Edward Tetteh (missionary in Chicago province). He died 14th of April. He was 94 years old. The funeral was on 23rd May 2009 at Agomanya. **Fr. Edward and bereaved family members receive our sincerest condolences**

Mr. Alban Tanson, father of seminarian Frederick Tanson Gbal (Austria). Funeral was on 6th May 2009 at St. Clementina Ashiaman. On 7th May the body was brought to the house and on 9th the body was buried at Piina, Upper West (UW). Then 17th May 2009 Memorial/ Thanksgiving was celebrated. **Fr. Frederick and bereaved family members please accept our condolences.**

Elma Paras, first cousin of Fr. Sofronio Endoma, SVD, died on 18th April 2009. She suffered from abdominal tumor. Funeral was in May at her home town.

Angelita Endoma, elder sister of Fr. Sofronio Endoma, SVD, died on 28th April 2009. She suffered cardiac arrest at the age of 62. Funeral was on 6th of May 2009. **Fr. Sofronio and bereaved family members accept our sincerest condolences.**

May the souls of our faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace!

FROM THE MISSION OUTSIDE GHANA

My Oversea Training Programme (OTP) Experience in Colombia

My Oversea Training Programme (OTP) was growth enhancing one. I left Ghana in August 2007 to start my OTP in Colombia with mixed feelings: Joy, because I can see other places outside Ghana; Anxiety, because the hustle of traveling far away from home; Timid, because I do not know the people; their culture and their language; and Uneasy, because I haven't experienced the climate of the place and haven't tasted their food. But when I arrived and stayed in Colombia for 2 years my mixed feelings were rewarded with understanding. My stay with my international (Brazilians, Poland, Colombians) community helped me to see different realities. There were many ways of doing things with the same good results. My Spanish

language learning experience made me humble and realize that language is God's gift. My exposure with the pastoral activities and youth apostolate that I was privileged to go through widened my horizon of what missionary life all about.

So I am very grateful to my formators for allowing me to go for an Oversea Training Programme. I am also equally grateful to all who have accompanied me in my missionary journey as a seminarian in formation. I recommend to our young formandi to be courageous to go for OTP.

Frt. Peter Kabutey

Frt. Peter stayed in Colombia for 2 years as an OTP seminarian. His two – year OTP programme was divided into four moments: Living in an international community in the formation house; practical language and culture learning; official language study; language practice again; youth ministry; and parish pastoral ministry.

Living in an international community in the Formation House. For his international community exposure, he stayed for 2 months (August to September 2007) with the seminarians and other OTP students from Brazil, Poland, and Argentina.

Practical language and culture learning. For his immersion/enculturation, he went to do his language and culture learning in the parish of “Senora De Misericordia’ for two (2) months (October to November 2007).

Language Studies. For his official language studies he studied Spanish language for 2 months (December 2007 to February 2008) in “Eafit University of Languages”. This gave him the proper theory of grammar and language rules of conjugations and declensions in Spanish.

Language practice again. After 2 months of theory in Eafit University of Languages it was necessary for him to practice again what he learned. He stayed in St. Bartholomew Parish to practice his Spanish with the parishioners: children, youth, students, and adults for another two (2) months (March 2008 to April 2008). This helped him to see what ministry he would engage in order to develop as religious missionary.

Youth Ministry. His acquaintance with the youth during his practical exposure of learning the language and culture helped him to know different youth organizations in the parish so it was just like automatic for him to learn more by involving himself in the youth ministry.

Parish Pastoral Ministry. To balance his learning, coupled with his youth ministry he also went for parish pastoral activities. He went with his Parish Priest to visit many outstations in the parish and helped in various parish activities. When the Parish Priest was not available he helped by conducting communion services in Spanish to the parishioners in the outstations. He continued doing this ministry until he completed his OTP on 20th March 2009.

Frt. Peter Kabutey returned Ghana on 27th March 2009. He is now in the Novitiate at Nkwatia –Kwahu for his second novitiate to prepare for his final vows.

WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

“May the knowledge and love of God enlighten and gladden people all over the world.”– St. Arnold Janssen

“True virtue is made possible by prayer and joy” – St. Joseph Freinademetz

“God alone can fill your heart. The human heart is far too great to be held captive by creatures.” – Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk

“I desire nothing more than with the grace of God to be the least and to sacrifice myself for the work of evangelization.” – Blessed Josefa Hendrina Stenmanns

JOKES ONLY

Analyze, Anatomy

Teacher: “*Johnnie use analyze and anatomy in a sentence.*”

Johnnie : “*My Anna lies over the ocean. Oh! Bring back my Anna to me.*”

Advice

Patient: “*I am very much dissatisfied with your advice. It did me more harm than good.*”

Doctor: “*But tell me why?*”

Patient: “*You told me to sleep at night with windows wide open.*”

Doctor: “*And you got rid of your cold?*”

Patient: “*Nothing doing, I did not get rid of my cold but someone rid me of my watch and my purse of cash.*”

Drink ... Drink ...

The talkative drunkard climbed aboard a streetcar and sat next to a clergyman. “*Humph!*” snorted the drunk in a loud tone. “*I don’t believe in heaven!*”. The minister merely nodded and went on reading his paper. “*Do you hear?*” cried the drunk more loudly. “*I don’t believe in heaven!*” “*Very well then my friend,*” replied the minister pleasantly. “*You can go to hell, but please don’t make much noise. The angels might hear you.*”

WORTH REMEMBERING

July

1	Thierry Kombate	B / F. day	13	Henry Kweku-Duah	Feastday
3	Ireneus Boli Lolan	Birthday	13	Henry Noordermeer	Feastday
3	Thomas D’Mello	Feastday	18	Frederick Timp	Feastday
4	Julius Keeke	Birthday	23	Matthias King	Birthday
4	Anthony Dugay	Birthday	25	Maurice (James) Djadoo	Feastday
4	Stephen Dogodzi	Birthday	25	James O. Amankwah	Feastday
5	Emmanuel Arthur	Birthday	26	Joachim Mika	Feastday
6	Aures Da Silva	Birthday	27	Rudy Chamenyi	Feastday
7	Daniel Kyei	Birthday	28	Victor Leones,	Feastday
10	Hans Gerber Agbenafa	Birthday	28	Gerson D’Souza	Birthday
10	Alfred Ayem	Birthday	30	Joachim Mika	Birthday
13	Henry Kweku-Duah	Birthday			

July	Our departed confreres	Died
2	James Doerfler	1992
3	Lawrence Aurbach	2001
11	Curtis Washington	1985
13	Yeremias Palur	2002
19	Clement Hotze	2001
23	Willibald Regnath	1989

August

1	Anthony B. Amissah	Birthday	15	Joseph Sakite	Birthday
1	Alfons Amanor	Birthday	19	Augustine Amanor	Birthday
1	Alfons Amanor	Feastday	20	Bernard Adjei Appiah,	Feastday
1	Alphonse Dungdung	Feastday	20	Germain Mukinisa	Birthday
2	Jean Marie Aluku	Birthday	20	Bernardus Tang	Feastday
4	Daniel Ntem	Birthday	20	Gideon Nana Apreku	Birthday
4	John Duah Prempeh	Feastday	20	Bernard Assenyoh	Feastday
4	Jean Marie Aluku	Feastday	21	Francis (Pius)Agyeman	Feastday
8	Dogba, Paul	Birthday	21	Patrick Kodom	Birthday
8	Dominic Asare	Feastday	24	Apollonius Bria	Birthday
8	Emmanuel Azure	Birthday	25	Apollonius Bria	Feastday
8	Boniface Mbithi	Birthday	28	Hans Gerber Agbenafa	Feastday
8	Dominic Chemaringo	Feastday	28	Gideon Nana Apreku	Feastday
9	Edmund Afagbegee	Birthday	28	Emmanuel Makayie	Feastday
12	Julius Keeke	Feastday	28	Emmanuel Arthur	Feastday
12	Peter Accorley	Birthday	29	Dominic Asare	Birthday
14	Alfred Ayem	Feastday	29	Josef Sprehe	Birthday
15	Anthony L. Djimatey	Birthday	31	Jan Urban	Birthday
15	Tarcisius de Ruyter	Feastday			

Aug.	Our departed confreres	Year
14	Charles Erb	2002
17	Franz Huber	1994

Liturgy Corner

The meaning of Liturgy ... continuation

Why Liturgy? Why not some of other means of accomplish this? Because this is what Jesus gave us - Do this in memory of me ... Remember my saving death and Resurrection through the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup ... Remember everything I have done for you my forgiving of sins, my healing of the sick, my blessing of marriage, my appointing of priests, my sending the Holy Spirit, my making you the beloved children of the Father, my teaching you how to pray.

Liturgy not only “remembers” everything Jesus did, but – and this is the wonder of it all – Jesus becomes present and, with his people, accomplishes what it is they are remembering. For example, in confession we remember the forgiveness of Jesus, and Jesus forgives us of sin. In confirmation, we remember the sending of the Holy Spirit, and Jesus sends the Holy Spirit. In the Eucharist, we remember what Jesus did in the Last Supper. And Jesus is present again in the bread and wine. Liturgy accomplishes what it remembers: the actions of Jesus by which he continues to serve us, to save us, to change us, to redeem us.

The Word of God’s people in any liturgy is, first of all, *to come together*. Their second task is to understand the liturgical signs and symbols they use. Signs and symbols are essential ingredients of liturgy. They communicate the abstract meaning of liturgy in concrete ways. To interpret liturgical signs and symbols demands an understanding of them. In the following chapters we shall seek this understanding.

Pius Agyeman, SVD

