

GHANA PROVINCE

JUL -AUG. -SEPT. 2009



# SVD NEWSLETTER



## A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

This Province Newsletter is full of the happenings in the province. After reading it you should be up-to-date on all the goings on in the last few months in the province. In my few words I don't want to repeat what is said elsewhere, but wish to highlight a few things.

First of all we are happy that our ten novices pronounced their first vows on 19 July. Five of the novices came from Ghana and five from Togo. Of the ten one will go to the USA for theology, one to DR Congo, three to Kenya, and five to Tamale. We wish them well in their studies and formation wherever they go. Before the 10 left the 15 new novices started their novitiate. I am happy to inform you that for the first time we have four would be novices from Madagascar. They have started learning English here and they will join the novitiate next year.

We also rejoice in the ordination to priesthood of our seven Deacons on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The ordaining bishop was Most Rev. Léon B. Kalenga, the Papal Nuncio. St. Margaret Mary Parish, Dansoman hosted the celebration. Our thanks to Fr. Pat Ofori, his staff, and parishioners for organizing this wonderful celebration.

We have eight confreres who will profess their perpetual vows on 8 September. Out of the eight only one, Peter Kabutey, will remain in Ghana. The other seven are assigned to various mission destinations. Their assignments are listed in the recent issue of Arnoldus/Nota which has been sent to everyone, so there is no need to repeat them here. The Superior General has also assigned one Indonesian confrere, Bernardus Bere Blolong, to Ghana. We look forward to his arrival.

Since 17 July I have been staying in the new house on Castle Drive. For some time it will be only a residence with the offices and business hours continuing in the original Province House. At this point only four rooms are equipped to the point they can be lived in. The telephone numbers at the house are (021) 666 115, 666 125, 666 208.

The Final Document from the Assembly on the Brother Vocation and Prophetic Dialogue has been sent to all of you. Please, everybody should read it and if possible it should be discussed in the local chapters.

On 9<sup>th</sup> August St. Dominic's renovated, expanded and beautified Church in Adweso-Koforidua was rededicated. It is a beautiful modern church building now. During the celebration our confreres who worked there over the years were remembered and prayed for. The present Parish Priest and his assistants were congratulated for their accomplishments too.

Just a quick reminder to have your local chapters and send your reports along with the names of the delegates and their substitutes for the province chapter to the province office by 25 September at the very latest. Please keep the chapter in your personal and community prayers so it will be a true renewal in the Spirit for the province.

Your confrere,



Thomas D'Mello SVD  
Provincial

## PROVINCE NEWS

### **AFRAM Zonal Formation Board Organizes workshop for the formators**

From 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009 Ghana SVD Province played host to the workshop and meeting of the AFRAM Zonal Formation Board held at the Divine Word Catholic Conference Center at Adoagiri, Nsawam. Among the participants, the Provinces of Ghana, Botswana, Angola, Congo, Kenya and Togo, as well as the Region of Madagascar were represented by their formators.

Ghana Province delegates were: The Provincial, Fr. Thomas D' Mello, the vice-Provincial and vice-Rector of Common Formation Center (CFC) Tamale, Joshua Gariba, the Prefect of CFC and Province Formation Board Chairman, Fr. John Alphonse Asiedu, the Prefect of Philosophers, Fr. Joy Panamthanam, the Novice Master, Fr. George Angmor, the Vocation Director and Brother Formation Director, Bro. McDaniel Acquaaah, and Provincial Councilor, Bro. Jerome Agbeko.

The workshop that preceded the meeting was facilitated by Fr. Joshua Gariba and the Holy Cross Brother Bro. Neewayo, CSP. Matters discussed in the workshop included issues concerning policies for students going on OTP; evaluation of the candidates who are applying for final vows, acceptance of students from countries where there is no SVD presence, the implementation of the General Chapter resolution on the study of Spanish and English languages in common formation centers, and the exchange of formators from different formation centers in the AFRAM Zone.

The free- day that brought the participants to El Mina Castle and Kakum Park in Cape Coast provided them with much amusement and learning.

Bro. Guy Mazola (Congo) the area coordinator and Fr. John Asiedu ably facilitated the event. Fr. Xene Sanchez (Congo) the Zonal coordinator was also present throughout the session. The other members of the Zone Executive Committee, Fr. Thomas D' Mello, Ghana Provincial and Fr. Joseph Kallanchira Togo Provincial, also met Fr. Xene the Zonal coordinator for a separate meeting in Accra at the weekend after the end of the main zonal meeting.

### **Bro. McDaniel Acquaaah represents Ghana to the Assembly on the Brothers**

Bro. McDaniel Acquaaah, Province Vocation Director and Brother Formation Director, represented Ghana Province to the Assembly on the Brother Vocation in the Society held in Cebu City, Philippines on 29<sup>th</sup> June to 12 July 2009 reflecting on the theme: **“The SVD Brother Vocation and Prophetic Dialogue”**

This assembly was an event not just of the Brothers, or only of the participants from different zones, but of the entire Society. It celebrated the Brother vocation as a precious gift of God; shared life stories of Brothers from different Zones; reviewed of the first General Assembly of Brothers vocation in 1994 and the XIV General chapter; recognized the positive facts such as: better relationship between priest and brothers as well as more rights and leadership positions for brothers and evaluated the issue of stopping the decrease of brothers in our Society. It also gave recommendations for all to consider. For example, it was recommended that, as brothers and clerics we should periodically plan and evaluate together our missionary activities in the light of the provincial and regional mission statements. Another example was that, every zone should assess the need and possibility of having a coordinator for Brother.

Accordingly, the main topics of the discussions were based on four of the main themes that guided the reflection of the 16<sup>th</sup> SVD General Chapter in 2006: spirituality, community, leadership, and information.

As representative from Ghana, Bro McDaniel shared: *I am grateful to know that I am not alone in the journey, but that I am with you all. We are brothers. Continue spreading the good news in your own little ways and never give up in letting it shine! This assembly has made me aware that SVD Brother Vocation is still alive and capable of moving forward in the line of its prophetic dialogue. This assembly has helped me become proud of my vocation as a brother. I cherish the individual stories, contributions and encouragement, affirming that we are all brothers playing our part to spread the Good News in our small ways. The insights of this Assembly must be implemented in this manner: first, I imbibe and practice these insights within me as a person; second, I share these insights with my community members; third, we share these insights with the district and province as a whole; and fourth, the province takes steps to implement some of the issues raised in this assembly. The implementation of the result of this Assembly should be the work of all confreres.*

#### **Forty six (46) confreres undergo an Annual Retreat**

In the recent annual retreat organized by SVD Province of Ghana, 24 confreres underwent their annual retreat in the first batch which fell on 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and 22 confreres in the second batch on 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at Divine Word Catholic Conference Center, Adoagiri, Nsawam, making all in all forty six (46) in number.

The participants did not regret going through this retreat. Besides being rested and refreshed, they were able to renew their being disciples of the Divine Word - Jesus Christ.

The retreat master, Fr. Alfred Agyenta did well in facilitating this retreat following a wonderful theme: “**The Discipleship of Jesus in the Gospel of St. Mark; Our Noble Companions in Faith**”. He unfolded this theme by exegetically exploring what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the perspective of the Evangelist Mark. In his exposition, he underlined that in Mark’s down to earth understanding of a disciple of Jesus means he is not an angel but someone who hears the call of Jesus and is sincerely trying to follow his footsteps. No matter how many times he falls, he rises up again and continues to follow him. He acknowledges that it is not because of his own strength that he is able to persevere in his following of his master’s way but it is the master’s love that sustains

him. It is the master's life of humility that makes him humble; the master's self-denial that makes him selfless; the master's respect of the importance of the wilderness experience that makes him respect the sacredness of the Sabbath; the master's sincerity of taking the needs of the flock as a priority that makes him prioritize the urgent needs of the people over his rest; the master's compassion that makes him compassionate - a hallmark of his being a disciple; and the master's faithfulness in following His Father's will that makes him faithful – relying everything and having the same mind with his Lord.

It was a very interesting companionship for them because they were able to understand that to be Jesus' disciple is to be human; to be humble; to be selfless; to have time for deep prayer (wilderness spirituality) that respects the sacredness of the day of rest (Sabbath); to be conscious of their priority - the spiritual needs of their flock even over their rest "*in casus urgens*"; to be compassionate since it is the hallmark of a disciple; to be faithful in following the Lord – trusting him in everything; and to be of the same mind with the master. The disciples of Jesus were indeed their companions on that retreat. What a noble privilege!

### **Seven SVD Deacons were ordained to the priesthood**



**Seven SVD Deacons:** Revs.: Benjamin Adusei – Poku, SVD; Gideon Nana Apreku, SVD; Phaniel M. Agudu, SVD; Robert B. Yinamyah, SVD; Jacobson E. K. Dey, SVD; John Kudjo Dorborkoe, SVD and Kingsley Issifu Sagru – Larr, SVD; were ordained to the priesthood by his Excellency Most Rev. Leon Badikabele Kalenga, the Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana, on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Dansoman.

A week (31<sup>st</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009) before their priestly ordination they went on a five –day retreat at Divine Word Catholic Conference Center (DWCCC), Adoagyiri – Nsawam to prepare themselves spiritually. Very Rev. Fr. Prosper Abotsi, Liturgist of Sowutuom Seminary, guided them in this preparation. Being a Liturgist, he also helped them to go through the liturgical rites especially in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist which is vital for their ministry. The deacons appreciated very much the patience, humility and care of their retreat master on that retreat. As one deacon has exclaimed, "*This is the best retreat I have ever attended!*"

The ordination commenced at 9:30 am with a procession from the parish mission house to the church and into the sanctuary of the church. As the procession reached the church and the Nuncio, concelebrants, deacons and their parents, and whole assembly were seated, the Parish Priest, Very Rev. Patrick Ofori, SVD welcomed all who had graciously come for this spiritual

event. He expressed his special welcome to the Apostolic Nuncio, the concelebrating priests, parents and relatives of the ordinandi. He also acknowledged the presence of the Minister of Environment and Science who was in attendance. After the welcome address he invited the Nuncio to preside over the celebration of the Holy Mass.

All readings, which were taken from: first, Jeremiah 1:1-4; second, from Heb 5:1-10; and Gospel from Mark 6: 7-13, had the same theme: The Priesthood.

In his homily, the Apostolic Nuncio enumerated different meanings of the priesthood. He said that: The priest is a servant, a shepherd, a human being, a man of prayer, and a poor man.

The priest as a servant receives his vocation from Christ. Jesus Christ his master came to serve and not to be served, the priest then is to serve. In the Last Supper Jesus washed the feet of the apostles and celebrated the first Eucharist, the priest is to serve with humility and love and celebrates the Eucharist for the Church. Service is the secret of the priesthood. The priest is a shepherd. He is the voice that calls the sheep by inviting the people to know, love and serve God. He leads the sheep to the green pasture by providing the people spiritual food: God's Word and Sacraments. He protects the sheep from harm and danger by becoming the voice of the voiceless, a bridge for unity and a promoter of justice and peace. The priest is a human being. He is not God who knows everything and is invulnerable. He has his weaknesses. People should not criticize him negatively. People should provide him with his needs for his mission. The priest is a man of prayer. As Jesus prays, he has to pray. It is in prayer that God's will is known to him. And it is also in prayer that God's strength can come to him to do God's will. And finally, the Nuncio concluded, the priest is a poor man. As a poor man he is not a material provider. He prays for the people. So people should not come to him in the first places for material needs but come to him for spiritual support.

After the homily, the examination and the promise of obedience by candidates took place. Then the choir sang the Litany of Saints while all knelt down in prayer for the ordinandi who prostrated before the altar as a sign of total surrender to God. After that the Nuncio laid his hands on each one of them. This gesture was followed by all the concelebrating priests. Finally he consecrated them by praying the prayer of consecration to complete the rite of ordination.

As the rite of ordination was done, the parish priests of the newly ordained priests came forward to vest them with their new liturgical vestment of chasuble and stole. Before the newly ordained priests had joined with the college of priests in celebration, the Nuncio anointed their palms with the Oil of Chrism. So that from then on their hands will be employed for blessing and consecration.

Then congratulatory remarks were sounded to the newly ordained priests: *Truly, you are priests forever in the Priesthood of Christ!*

## DISTRICT NEWS

Accra District:

New Aplaku Catholic Church

**New Aplaku celebrates the feast of SS. Peter and Paul.**

Being blessed with their patron saints Peter and Paul the name of this quasi – parish, the church of New Aplaku celebrated her yearly patron’s feast. This feast was celebrated on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009 since the exact date which was 29<sup>th</sup> June fell on Monday. In his homily during the mass, Fr. John Tumawu highlighted the pastoral and missionary life of the two great apostles of Christ: Peter the apostle to the Jews; Paul the Apostle to the Gentile. These two saints are the two strong pillars of the Body of Christ – the Church. He invited all to imitate their lives especially the life of care for each other and the life of proclamation of the Good News to their neighbours. In addition, Rev. Bro. Pius Agyeman, SVD who was invited to encourage the faithful to take liturgical celebration solemnly, advised that during preparation of the gifts at the offertory each one should offer the best of what he/she has because the offering each one brought to the altar represents the offering of their very self. If one offers crumpled notes, rotten fruits and ugly items, this represent that his/her life is crumpled, rotten and ugly which is unbecoming of him/her because he/she is in reality handsome/beautiful, noble and respectable beloved son/daughter of God. In response to this, the parishioners rose joyfully singing praises and thanksgiving and bringing their sizeable thanksgiving offering to the altar for the development of the church. After the mass, the parishioners grouped themselves according to their day of birth groupings - “Day Born Groupings”. And then went outside to their specified colorful canopies to continue their family feast. This portion of the celebration had various parts: singing; dancing; sharing of stories and cracking of jokes. Finally, the faithful ended it with a sharing of various palatable Ghanaian foods, such as banku with tilapia and hot pepper; fufu with light goat soup; ampese with koobi kontomre palaba sauce; omo tuo with beef cum ground nut soup and apapransa with shito and various drinks with music interludes that made their day unforgettable. All were very grateful to God for the gift of His saints Peter and Paul. Through their intercession the church of New Aplaku is growing steadily and vibrantly. This celebration marked the 4<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Sts. Peter and Paul Church of New Aplaku.

***“Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us. We build our church!”***

### **Knights and ladies of Marshall donate goods**

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2009, the Knights and Ladies of Marshall of Sts. Peter and Paul, New Aplaku - Accra donated basic items to the orphans of the Village of Hope in Fetee, Central Region of Ghana.

This corporal works of mercy of the said society is a yearly affair. The visit to the orphanage in the Village of Hope was their second appearance. The items donated were: sacks of rice and flour; cartons of sardines, margarines, bath soap and washing detergents; gallons of cooking oil, toiletries and cutleries; and relief clothes of various sizes. All the items donated amounted to GH¢ 5,000.00 (50 million cedis old currency).

On behalf of the 200 orphans, the Proprietor in Charge was ever grateful to the members of the Knights and Ladies of Marshall of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, New Aplaku for their kindness, concern, care and love. He also expressed his heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. John Straathof, SVD, the Parish Priest, who always come along with them on this sort of affair. He prayed that God will continue to bless them in diverse ways.

Koforidua District:

### **SVD Koforidua District honours Bro. Jan Urban, SVD**

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at Kukurantumi, the SVD District in Koforidua diocese gathered for a befitting farewell party in honor of Bro. Jan Urban who was transferred to TICCS at Tamale.

Also present were representatives from Kukurantumi Parish, Department Heads of St. Paul Technical School and friends of Bro. Jan. Because of the strong rain, the party which was intended to be outdoors was transferred to the kiosk which was big enough for the visitors.

Bro. Oswald Bangfo, SVD emceed brilliantly and successfully the program punctuating his introduction of guests and visitors with exhilarating jokes and anecdotes. Cheers and laughter filled the whole place.

Then, in his vote of thanks, Bro. Jan mentioned that he learned a lot from the new culture and environment in which he found himself immersed for almost twelve years. He was particularly assigned to the school, so committed to his work that from the mission to the school and from the school to the mission was his world - which explained why he seems unable to find his way back if left at the other end of Kukurantumi town, according to the Principal's amusing interjection.

Speakers praised Bro. Jan to the skies as hardworking and a man of prayer who combined prayer and diligence in work as SVD Brothers usually were, are, and will always be. Parishioners who used to sit near him in the church report a sense of awe and holiness radiating from his very presence. Moreover, he brought sanity into the mechanical department. He introduced a kind of tag system whereby users of tools are identified and closely monitored. Such systematic approach put an end to the disappearance of tools, a perpetual problem since then. His department Head promised to maintain such system.

At the end came the turn of the Principal, Bro. Peter Yao Edze, SVD. He expressed his anxiety over finding someone of Bro. Jan's caliber and humility to take his place. He further made mention that throughout his long service to the school, Jan never received a penny for his work. Yet, he did not complain - something not everyone can easily do. His transfer to TICCS indeed is a big loss to the school and the SVD Kukurantumi Community as well.

The District wishes Bro. Jan all the best in his new assignment.

*Fr. Joseph Panabang, SVD*

### **Pilgrims from Many Walks of Life Climb Krobo Mountain**

Every year, the upper Manya Krobo Deanery goes for pilgrimage to the ancestral and sacred Krobo Mountain in Agomanya. This time it was on the third of April 2009.

Pilgrims from all walks of life in three groups climbed the mountain that is close to a five kilometers hike. At the start all were physically equal but after the second station of the cross, one could hear pilgrims already sighing, out of air, and praying in deep breath and groans; creating a division as the boys were now separated from the men and the girls from the women.

All along the way are the beautifully shaped rocks dotted with white columns that resemble veins in a human body. The half-broken drinking pots, grinding stones, and stonewalls are still there as if the great settlers had just hurriedly left yesterday and yet, actually as of the press time, it was 117 years and 9 months ago they were expelled by the British from the mountain.

The sight of pilgrims solemnly moving like columns of ants was indeed edifying to prepare oneself for Holy week. After more than two hours, the crowd finally reached the peak of the mountain, which is a huge uneven stone. There stands proudly the big glittering silver concrete cross which, when looking up, makes you feel like you are standing under the cross at Mt. Calvary.

Confession under the shade followed. About 9 priests attended to the spiritual care of the pilgrims. At 12:30 pm., the Holy Eucharist commenced at the foot of the Cross. The homilist Fr. Michael Agbenyaga of Swedru Parish caught the audience in form with his stirring homily on the sacrifice of Isaac and the transfiguration of Jesus both happening on a mountain. Yes, on God's Holy Mountain, great things happen. On this Krobo Mountain, God provides for your needs. So, come join us next year and witness once again how Jesus is feeding thousands.

*Fr. Joseph Panabang, SVD*

Adweso Parish

### **St. Dominic Parish Church is re - dedicated**

St. Dominic's Parish Church of Adweso in Koforidua was re-dedicated on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2009 by the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Koforidua, Most Rev. Joseph Afrifah - Agyekum.

St. Dominic's Catholic Church, now a parish, was founded in the year 1949 as one of the outstations of the then St. George's Parish of Koforidua, now St. George's Cathedral. In the year 2003, the church was dedicated and elevated to a parish and Very Rev. Fr. Josef Sprehe, SVD was installed as the Parish Priest.

The rededication began at 9:30 am with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. As the beautiful church building became the focus of the occasion, the Bishop, in his homily, invited all to go beyond the outward aspect of re - dedication. He reiterated that, undeniably we are blessed to have a beautiful church temple. Thanks be to God! But we should not forget that we, the people, are His beloved temples in whom he always wishes to dwell. "Don't you know that you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3; 16). He continued by saying that, as we love to decorate our church building so they appear very beautiful outwardly which is good, we should also constantly beautify ourselves inwardly with the Christian virtues of gratitude, generosity, peace, love, joy and unity so that we become worthy dwelling places of God all the time. As Christians, the Bishop concluded, we should strive always to be outwardly and inwardly beautiful in order that the glory of God be revealed.

Apart from the Bishop and Fr. Joseph Aggrey who graced the occasion, all who came to concelebrate in the Holy Eucharist were SVDs: Frs.: Thomas D' Mello, Provincial Superior; Josef Sprehe, Parish Priest; Lambert Assogba, Associate Pastor of Adweso; and George Angmor, Novice Master. Frt. Martin Akwetey Dumas an SVD was also in attendance. He represented the pastoral year seminarians of St. Dominic Parish.

The celebration ended at 2:00 pm with a memorable *family feast's Agape* in honour of St.

Dominic in which all the society members of the church brought out their special food and drinks to share. All had their fill and rejoiced for having St. Dominic's Parish Church solemnly re-dedicated!

Yendi District:

### **Bishop of Yendi celebrates his 10<sup>th</sup> year**

The Most Rev. Bishop Vincent Sowa Boi Nai, SVD, Bishop of the Catholic Church of Yendi celebrated his tenth year anniversary of his Episcopal ordination on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Exactly 10 years ago on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1999, the then Rev. Fr. Vincent Boi Nai was ordained bishop by the late Peter Cardinal Poku Dery, the then Archbishop of Tamale. He was assisted by Archbishop Most Rev. George Kochery, the apostolic Nuncio to Ghana during that time and supported by other Bishops of Ghana on the holy ground of Yendi. The time was ripe for Yendi to be carved out from the Archdiocese of Tamale to become an independent diocese under the leadership of Bishop Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai. His ten years of ministry as Bishop of Yendi Diocese have been filled with actions: he put in place *peace initiative* to work for peace in unifying his people disturbed by ethnic conflict through reconciliatory meetings; building socio-, cultural, religious and economic structures to move the diocese forward; and coordination and collaboration with local and foreign NGOs to keep Yendi Diocese alive. He is happy to celebrate his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and ever grateful to God for the graces and blessings he received from Him especially during the difficult moments of the Diocese. He prayed for God's continuous inspiration to overcome evil by doing good. The SVD Yendi district congratulated him saying: ***Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bishop! O yeah'***

Chereponi

### **Fr. Ireneus Boli Lolan meets an accident**

On his way back to Chereponi Mission House from his charitable act of sending a very ill patient to Yendi hospital, Fr. Ireneus met an accident. The accident happened in the evening, around 6:00 pm, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 2009. The pick-up car that he was driving had fallen into an unseen pot hole. It swerved uncontrollably and then somersaulted two times. Fortunately, though the car was damaged, Fr. Ireneus was unharmed. Thanks be to God! And thanks to Fr. Ireneus also who was mindful of strapping himself in with car's safety belt.

*Lesson: Strap and drive. You shall arrive alive!*

## **FORMATION**

Novitiate

### **First Vowers express their joy and gratitude**

"Here I am Lord, that I may do your will" (Ps.40:7). On Sunday 19th July 2009, ten of us: Frts.: Abraham Kposu, SVD; Anastasius Osei, SVD; Andrew Amanor, SVD; Aures Da Silva, SVD; Denis Yaou, SVD; Emmanuel Dogble, SVD; Georges Kamale, SVD; Stephen Agbenorxevi, SVD; Sylvain-Franck Tettekpoe, SVD and I - Godwin Fiawoyi, SVD, professed our first vows as members of the Society of the Divine Word at St. Peter's Chapel at Nkwatia-Kwahu. The main celebrant was Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Kallanchira, S.V.D, the Provincial Superior of Togo/Benin

province. In his homily, he told us that by professing the vows of chastity, obedience and poverty, we have united ourselves intimately with Christ and are called upon to be His worthy witnesses in a world plagued by materialism and consumerism. As the representative of the Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Thomas D'Mello, SVD, the Provincial Superior of Ghana, received the vows.

Also at the celebration were the Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS), Christian Mothers, friends of the Novitiate, our parents and family members.

It was really a day of joy and gratitude. We give thanks to the Lord for His marvelous deeds!

*Fr. Godwin Fiawoyi, SVD*

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

### Arrivals:

- 1. Fr. Deepak Tigga:** 3rd June 2009 from India. Fr. Deepak is now here first mission appointment. . *All the best and God's blessing to you!*
- 2. Fr. Sunil Rodrigues:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 for first mission assignment. *Fr. Sunil, you are most welcome to Ghana and all the best for your introduction to Ghana mission!*
- 3. Fr. Michael Tangente :** 28<sup>th</sup> June 2009 from Philippines. Fr. Michael arrived from his first mission assignment. *You are most welcome to Ghana mission. Mabuhay!*
- 4. Seminarians: Lawrence Kponor and Sebastian Tengan:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 from their theological studies in Hungary. They came for their home leave. *Akwaaba! Have a wonderful day!*
- 5. Fr. Patrick Kodom:** 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009 for a well deserved home leave. Fr. Patrick is a missionary to Austria. His ministry deals with the African Migrants in Austria. *Akwaaba !!!*
- 6. Bro. McDaniel Acquah:** 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 returned from SVD Brothers' Assembly Meeting in the Philippines. Arnold Janssen Community of Tesano is waiting for some good news from you. *Welcome back and Mabuhay!*
- 7. Fr. John Straathof:** 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009 from a well deserved home leave. *Fr. John, your parishioners of Ss Peter and Paul, New Aplaku is eagerly waiting for you, welcome back!*
- 8. Fr. Stephen Dogodzi:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009 for the funeral of his late father, Mr. Moses Dogodzi. Fr. Stephen is ministering the African migrant workers in Italy. *Fr. Stephen, arrivederci!*
- 9. Seminarians Albert Kodjo Pongo and Joseph Anorkwa Frimpong:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009 from Germany for their home leave. *Fraters Albert and Joseph, herzlich Willkommen!*
- 10. Maxwell Wullar, Edmund Kodzo Deku and Emmanuel Anyomi:** 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 from CFC Congo. They returned to Ghana for their pastoral year and OTP: Edmund – Pastoral year;

Emmanuel – Pastoral year to Asesewa and Maxwell – OTP to Chile. *Ed, Max and Emma, von arrivé and all the best!*

**11. Fr. Peter Claver:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 from his mission in Germany for his home leave. *Fr. Peter, willkomen, Mohee... Atuu!*

**12. Fr. Gabriel Sosu:** 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009 from Zimbabwe for his well deserved home leave. *Fr Gabby, Zimbabwe mission was not easy, have restful and enjoyable holiday!*

### **Departures:**

**1. Bro. McDaniel Acquaaah:** 24 June 2009 to Philippines for General Assembly on the Brother Vocation in the Society. Bro. McDaniel is representing Ghana Province in the SVD Brothers' General Assembly in Cebu, Phil. *Bro. McDaniel have a successful and enjoyable assembly.*

**2. Frts.: Andrew Amanor, Denis Yaou and Abraham Kposu:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 to Kenya for their theological studies and formation in the Common Formation Center (CFC), Nairobi - Langata. *Frts. Andrew, Denis and Abraham, wishing you the best in your studies and formation. Hakuna Matata!*

**3. Fr. Victor Leones:** 12<sup>th</sup> August 2009 to the Philippines for home leave. *“ maragsak na byahe Apo Vic” and have a grace –filled and joyful centenary celebration of the SVD presence in your Home town - Abra!*

**4. Fr. Vincent Burke:** 17<sup>th</sup> August 2009 to the USA for home leave. *Fr. Vincent, happy trip and have a restful holiday.*

## **SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES**

### **Pastoral Liturgical, Sacred Music and Cultural Ministry**

#### **PALIMUS goes on mission outreach**

A team of four members from Pastoral Liturgical, Sacred Music and Cultural Ministry known as PALIMUS under the leadership of Rev. Bro. Pius Agyeman, SVD was invited by his Grace Most Rev Dr. Richard Burke, SPS, Archbishop of Benin City. The purpose of the invitation was to help the Archdiocese to go through **Vatican II Liturgical Reform and Renewal**. The target group for Sacred Liturgical Reform and Renewal were: 1. all priests in the Archdiocese of Benin City to undergo a week retreat; 2. the religious to reflect on Holy Triduum; 3. The lay faithful and special liturgical ministries namely the Choir, Canters, Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors, Commentators, Eucharistic Ministers and Catechists to meditate on practical aspect of the various part of the Mass.

These are contents of the retreat for the priests that the PALIMUS team shared: The role of the presider in the Eucharistic celebration (principal celebrant); The importance and the dignity of the Eucharistic celebration; structure, element and parts of the Mass; offices and ministries of the Mass; offices; different forms of celebrations; arrangement and furnishing of churches for the Eucharistic Celebration (Liturgical Setting); requisite for celebrating Mass (bread and wine, chalice, vessels - sacred furnishing); Masses and prayers for various need and occasions and masses of the dead; The Word of God in the celebration of the Mass; offices and ministries in

the celebration of the liturgy of the word within Mass: function of the one presiding for the liturgy of word, role of the faithful in the liturgy of word, ministries of the liturgy of the word (deacons, readers, altar servers); description of the order of the readings: Advent – Sundays, week days, Christmas Season: solemnity, feast and Sundays, Lent, Easter Triduum, Easter Season; the solemnities of Ascension and Pentecost; the liturgical year and calendar (liturgical circles)

On the aspect of the triduum for the religious on the Eucharist, the team explained very well the meaning of the mass in the step by step procedure. This helped the participants to understand the inclusive character of Holy Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

On the part of the activities of the lay faithful which included the choir, readers, etc., the team educated the them in their individual ministry according to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. And the team also demonstrated the practical aspect of the various parts of the Mass. Then after that the team helped in forming the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission; Cathedral Parish Liturgical Committee and Archdiocesan Music Association.

*Bro. Pius Agyeman*

## CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Congratulations to our seven newly ordained priests: Rev. Fr. Benjamin Adusei – Poku, SVD (missionary to Brazil), Rev. Fr. Jacobson E. K. Dey, SVD (missionary to Ghana), Rev. Fr. Robert Baba Yinamyah, SVD (missionary to Paraguay), Rev. Fr. Phaniel M. Agudu, (missionary to Ghana), SVD, Rev. Fr. John Kudjo Dorborkoe, SVD (missionary to Ghana), Rev. Fr. Kingsley Issifu Sagru – Larr, SVD (missionary to Mexico), and Rev. Fr. Gideon Nana Apreku, SVD (missionary to Kenya),

We are one with in your joys and in your journeys. Abide by the words in the scripture and wise sayings you have inspiringly inscribed in your biography: *“Be still and acknowledge that I am God, supreme over the nations, supreme over the world.”* (Ps. 46:10) – BENJAMIN; *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God”*( Jn. 6: 68-69) – JACOBSON; *“I do not regard being a missionary as a sacrifice offered to God, but as a grace that God gives to me.”* (St. Joseph Freinademetz, SVD) – ROBERT; *“pray for me to be given an opportunity to open my mouth and fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel...pray that in proclaiming it, I may speak as fearlessly as I ought to.”* (Eph. 6, 19-20) – PHANUEL; *“Love is the only thing which you get more, when you share, than when you keep it all to yourself”*- JOHN KUDJO; *“las puntos iniciales del humano son las pequeños esta mejor”* (Insignificant things are often the starting point of human destiny) – KINGSLEY; *“Only by God’s Grace that we shall persevere till the end”* – GIDEON and you will be blessed.

**Ayikoo!!!**

## COMING EVENTS

1. 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – Retreat for confreres in temporary vows

2. 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – Renewal of vows
3. 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – Profession of final Vows. Venue: SVD Novitiate, Nkwatia - Kwahu. Time: 9:30 am
4. 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – Province Chapter at DWCCC Adoagyiri, Nsawam
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 – Tentative date for Memorial Day of our dead missionaries.

## INFORMATION

"The various storerooms at the SVD Guest House are overflowing. Some of the things in them should be thrown away. If you have anything in the store rooms please collect it before 15 October 2009 lest someone who doesn't know its true value consider it discardable and throws it away. The Guest House does not accept any responsibility for things left at the Guest House while the store rooms are being cleaned."

### 1. Beware of Ecclesiastical Fraud and attempted extortion

Dear confreres, this is a note forwarded to the secretary of the Ghana Province in order not to fall victim of the cyber crime that is commonly employed by the cyber syndicates. Below is the note to be on the watch:

Please read the notification below for your information.

*Dear Provincial/Regional*

*Along with this letter, I am forwarding to you a notification we received from Secretariat of Union of Superior General (USG) here in Rome. The notification is addressed to superior general and Treasurer General with advice to alert our confreres to be on the watch about these similar to the addressed in the letter.*

*I hope you and your council will know the best way to make our confreres be aware of these fraud and extortion schemes that are going on.*

*Fraternally,*

*Konrad Keler, SVD  
Acting Superior General*

### Notification of Ecclesiastical Fraud and attempted extortion

*I want to alert member of USG of an active attempt at fraud and extortion. Two persons posing as Cardinals (Runi/Bertone) from Vatican approached our members in three different countries. The phone and email contact were made "sub secreto pontifico", each time denying the person permission to speak with the Superior General. Vague references were often made to urgent meetings with Pope Benedict XVI just hours earlier.*

*Ostensibly, the "Cardinal" request was made for members to consider an appointment as a Bishop in his own country. He in turned referred to another senior member in another country, who had been asked by the "Cardinal" to urge him to accept the nomination. Overtures to build a formation fund as compensation to the province were offered by the "Vatican Official"*

*In a later phone conversation request were made for bank account information. Eventually, the nominee for the Bishop was asked to come to Singapore to meet the “Cardinal” in person, and immediately bring along large sum of money.*

*The phony “Cardinal” has enough accelerated Information and jargon to sound initially credible to the person called. When bank account and money were mentioned suspicions arose.*

*Thankfully, no transfer of money took place. However, in retrospect, these extortionists are rather bold and well enough informed. They may currently be trying something with other group.*

*I advise Superiors General to put alert to members of their staff and provincials to be on watch for similar fraud and extortion schemes that may be going on.*

## **2. Year 2010 Calendar: is declared as a “Year for Priests” by Pope Benedict XVI**

The theme of the calendar which the Divine Word Catholic Book Center is publishing for the year 2010 is “**A Year for Priests**”. This is in conjunction with the Pope’s declaration that the special year for priest will run from 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010. We have completed the exact calendar dates; selection of pictures per two months; and corresponding Biblical quotations. We are now sending the materials to the printing press for printing. We are hoping that by October 2009 we will have the finished products. In this connection, the calendar committee expresses its profound gratitude for sharing your pictures and for some allowing themselves to be featured. Thanks for your support. Let us promote our calendar for the mission. God bless us!

## **3. Do you need a new Cassock?**

Those who would like to have a new cassock, contact **Mr. Sammy Ameveanku**. He is the successor of the cassock master tailor of Nsawam whom Bro. Lutwin, SVD had trained. Since he died, many were asking “to whom shall we go?” So if you need a new cassock contact the above successor on his mobile number: **0241756779** or meet him personally on this location: St. John’s Catholic Church, Nsawam.

## **REMEMBERING OUR DEAD**

**Mr. Moses Kwame Dogodzi**, the father of Fr. Stephen Dogodzi who is a missionary to Italy, died on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009. The funeral “Requiem Mass” was on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 at St. Barnabas’ Catholic Church, Hatsoo - Agbogba. This was followed by interment at his home town in Suipe near Avernorpeme, Volta Region. ***Fr. Stephen and bereaved family members accept our sincerest condolences.***

**Mrs. Patricia Agbeyome**, cousin of Fr. Paul Agbeyome, died on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at her home in Nsawam. The Funeral was on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at St. Joseph the Worker’s Parish, Adoagiri – Nsawam. The burial was in the Catholic cemetery of Nsawam. ***Fr. Paul and bereaved family members accept our sincerest condolences.***

**Mr. George Kuku Mortty**, elder brother of Fr. Erasmus Norviewu-Mortty, passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009 in his home at Gbledi. He was 64 years old. The funeral and burial will be announced soon. ***Fr. Erasmus and bereaved family members our sincerest condolences to you.***

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

## FROM THE MISSION OUTSIDE GHANA

### Zambia

#### Fr. Francis Allah meets an accident again

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Fr. Wojciech Szypula sent information about the accident of Fr. Francis Allah:” While driving his motorbike he was hit by a Toyota Land Cruiser. The accident looked serious at first but in the detailed investigation it appeared that his injuries are rather light.

*He was wearing a crash helmet which prevented serious head injuries. In addition to numerous bruises of the right side of the body he suffered a broken bone in his lower right leg and a deep cut in the same area. The bone was not dislocated but merely crashed. The deep wound is of some concern as infection a possibility. For now Francis remains in the hospital and is under observation and under heavy antibiotics treatment. If his wound begins to heal normally, his injured leg will be put into a cast and he will be mobile after some days. He is in good spirit and conveys greetings to everyone.”*

Accordingly, this was the second motor accident of Fr. Francis. Let’s include him in our prayer for his speedy recovery. ***Francis, get well soon, we are one with you in your pain.***

### Papua New Guinea

#### ***Fr. Samuel sends two messages to Ghana through Provincial Secretary from Papua New Guinea***

*Greetings from PNG! The rest are fine except me who is now sick of chickenpox with fever and quarantined. At the same time, I am writing my examinations. Pray for me.*

***Bye Frt. Samuel Balkono.***

*We are happy to know what is also happening in Ghana. Thank you very much and I wish you good luck in all that you do. Please Fr[Fred Timp] this is Eric’s email address where you can also send the newsletter to him: **ankoic@yahoo.com** . Greetings from Eric Ankamah and Fr. Frederick Obeng who has just arrived in Papua New Guinea!*

*At the moment we are together where he will have 7 weeks introduction to Tok Pisin before he will go to the parish. I wish you all the best. Until then I say bye.*

***Bye Frt. Samuel Balkono***

## WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATIONS

***“Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, be our consolation in suffering, our love in life, our refuge in death, our joy for all eternity!” – St. Arnold Janssen***

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*“No matter what cross befalls me; I can approach it in faith. For He said to us all: ‘Come to me with your burden and sorrow’” – St. Arnold Janssen*

*“I do not regard being a missionary as a sacrifice offered to God, but as a grace that God gives to me” – St. Joseph Freinademetz*

*“The little that we do is nothing compared to what God has done for us” – St. Joseph Freinademetz*

## JOKES ONLY

### He lives there!!!

Teacher: *“Can anyone tell me where God lives?”*

Pupil: *“Yes madam, he lives in the bathroom”*

Teacher: *“Why do you say that?”*

Pupil: *“Because every morning my dad yells at the bathroom door: ‘Oh my God are you still there??’”*

### Autopsy

The famous specialists who had been called into consultation had examined the patient and then retired into another room to discuss the diagnosis. The patient who was curious of the result, send his small son to listen at the door. *“Could you hear what they said?”* he asked eagerly when the boy returned.

*“I did”,* replied the boy, *“but I could not get the big words. What was very clear to me was: OH WE WILL FIND OUT IN THE AUTOPSY.”*

### Ambitious

The young applicant for the job was being interviewed by the boss. After the customary questions, the boss inquired: *“do you have any ambition, young man?”*

*“Ambition?”* cried the young fellow. *“Yes sir, I shall never rest until I see you out of the swivel chair and I in it”.*

### Another doctor, Please

The doctor looked gravely at the sick man without attempting to prescribe treatment.

*“I can see that you are very ill. Now is there any one you would like to see?”*

*“Yes, get me another doctor who acts and not who speaks only.”*

### Blessing!!

A five year old daughter of a boarding house Mistress was punished by having to eat her supper at a small table in a corner of the dining room.

She was not allowed to talk to anyone and the other boarders were not paying attention until they heard her saying this blessing: *“Thank you. Dear Lord, for preparing a table before me in the midst of mine enemies. Amen.”*

## WORTH REMEMBERING

September 2009

1	Francis Koimb	Birthday		17	Robert Baba Yinamyah	Feastday
1	Kingsley Sagru-Larr	Birthday		17	Lambert Assogba	Feastday
2	Daniel Lenwah	Birthday		21	John K. Acheampong	Birthday
3	Samuel Yaw Adu	Feastday		21	Martin Mamaq	Birthday
4	Pius Agyeman	Birthday		21	Matthew Yeng	Feastday
4	Joseph Mazur	Birthday		24	Gerald Tanye	Feastday
4	Gregory Boss	Feastday		27	Vincent Owusu	Feastday
4	Moses Awinonaya	Feastday		27	Vincent Boi-Nai	Feastday
5	Bertin Koudoagbo	Birthday		28	Bissue John	Birthday
6	Lambert Assogba	Birthday		29	Gabriel Sosu	Feastday
6	Francis Koimb	Feastday		29	Gabriel Kumordji	Feastday
7	Marcus Hipolito	Birthday		29	Rafael Mesi	Feastday
9	Peter Claver Narh	Feastday		29	Michael Tangente	Feastday
10	Othmar Auinger	Birthday		29	Michael Obeng Shang	Feastday
11	Rudy Chamenyi	Birthday		30	Jerome Agbeko	Feastday
16	Cyprian Kuupol	Feastday		30	Sampson Fenuku	Feastday

Sept	Our departed confreres	Died
1	Lucian Orians (75)	1979
9	Alfons Merten (62)	1994
11	Vincent Staebell (69)	1987
19	Stephen Dorsey (65)	1988
23	Henry Janssen (74)	1986
24	Paul Ayi	1973
24	Glicerio Paraguya	1973
29	Winfred Lerche	1987
30	Gunther Klinkhammer (66)	1994
19	Francis Beemsterboer (82)	2006

October 2009

1	Lutwin Dollwet	Feastday		12	Andrzej Kedziora	Birthday
2	Frederick O. Obeng	Birthday		13	Edward Tetteh	Feastday
4	Francis Damoah	Feastday		15	Samuel Adjei	Birthday
4	Franklyn Nubuasah	Feastday		16	Konrad Dreyer	Birthday
4	Franciszek Kowal	Feastday		17	Ignatius Ayivor	Feastday
4	Francis Allah	Feastday		20	Mieczyslaw Sagan	Birthday

6	Bruno Yirzie	Feastday
7	John Straathof	Birthday
8	Ignatius Ayivor	Birthday
8	Paul Plawky	Birthday
9	Dionisio Nellas	Feastday
9	Robert Baba Yinamyah	Birthday

26	Jan Urban	Feastday
27	Thaddeus Nyanuba	Feastday
30	Alphonse Dungdung	Birthday
31	Rex Vegbey	Birthday
31	Michael Obeng Shang	Birthday

Oct.	Our departed confreres	Year
5	Arthur Schenker	1870
13	Frank Charles (68)	1999
16	Baldericus Tenscher (79)	1985
16	Elmer Powell (70)	1989
26	Rudolf Krajcik (81)	2000

**Liturgy Corner**

**The Ministry of the Liturgy**

To minister means to serve. In the Scripture, Jesus testified that he came to serve, not to be served. In several of his letters, Paul captured this vision of Jesus, developed it, and applied it to the daily life of the early Christian and their vocations in the church. Paul saw clearly that this was what Jesus intended his Church to be: a community of believers – each member with his or her own unique gifts – all working together (ministering) to build up the Body of Christ the church. (Read Corinthians 12:4 -21)

In our time, Vatican II has developed the idea of ministry in a beautiful way. The Council has reminded us that we all share in the one priesthood of Christ: the faithful through baptism, the ordained priest or deacon through Orders. We are a priestly people. Ministry is simply the exercising of the priesthood we share with Christ.

*Pius Agyeman, SVD*

