

GHANA PROVINCE

OCT. - NOV. 2009



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

Greetings to everyone. We are on the doorstep of Advent as I write these lines. I would like to remind everyone of the Advent recollections at the CCC on 11-12 December and 14-15 December. Everyone should do his best to attend an Advent Recollection.

Many went on home leave this year and have returned healthy and recuperated. In my own community the province treasurer has returned. He is now busy catching up on the accounts and entering everything into the computer. Soon you will be getting your financial statements from him.

Many Ghanaian SVDs who are working abroad also came back to Ghana for their holidays and have returned to their places of work. One latecomer is still here as I write these words; Emmanuel Fianu... Welcome and have a very good holiday from the hustle and bustle of the Generalate.

We rejoice with all the Ghanaian Church and Ghana in general at the appointment of Peter Cardinal Turkson to an important assignment in the Vatican. We know he will make Ghana proud of him.

We are happy that this year we have printed a calendar on the year of the priest and the Book Centre and Calendar Committee have done a good job on it. Though it is the *Year of the Priest* we also saw to it that the brothers are included. For us SVDs it has been a 'year of the Brothers' too!!

We had a Province Chapter during the last week of October. This was a very important week of the year for us. Thirty-six capitulars and two secretaries were gathered in Nsawam for our once in three years province chapter. We thank God that it all went very well. You will get all the reports, resolutions, statements, etc. after the Generalate looks at them and gives its approval.

It is possible that the next newsletter may not reach you before Christmas, so I want to wish one and all a Happy Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

Your confrere,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thomas D'Mello'.

Thomas D'Mello SVD
Provincial

PROVINCE NEWS

36 Capitulars Participate in the Provincial Chapter

36 Capitulars and 2 secretaries participated in the Provincial Chapter held at the Divine Word Catholic Conference Center (DWCCC), Adoagyiri-Nsawam on 26th to 30th October 2009.

Capitulars from different districts arrived in the afternoon of 26th October. The first day was devoted to program review and spiritual exercises. This was extended till morning of the following day with a special recollection facilitated by Fr. Hinfey, SJ. In the afternoon, at 3:00 pm the discussions began. The theme that was chosen was: **“Consolidating SVD Mission (Presence) in Ghana: Harnessing our Spiritual, Human and Financial Resources towards Effective Evangelization.”** Topics like--Formation and Personnel needs; Finance and Accounting, how to attract confreres to these specialized ministries; SVD Contracts with the Diocese; SVD Spirituality; Final Decision on How to use Tuba Land--were discussed. All were enthusiastic to participate both in the smaller group discussions and in the open forum during the plenary assemblies. This lasted for four days. At the end, the Chapter gathered vital recommendations, statements and resolutions to be sent to the Generalate in Rome for approval and eventual implementation for the SVD Province in Ghana. Long live the Capitulars! Long live SVD Ghana Province!

Newly Ordained SVD Priests visit the Nuncio

Rev. Frs.: Benjamin Adusei-Poku, SVD; Gideon Nana Apreku, SVD; Phaniel M. Agudu, SVD; Robert B. Yinamyah, SVD; and Kingsley Issifu Sagru-Larr, SVD; who were ordained on 8th August 2009 paid a visit to his Excellency Most Rev. Leon Badikebele Kalenga, the Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana, on 11th October 2009 at the Nunciature.

They visited his Excellency to express their gratitude for ordaining them into the ministerial priesthood. Fr. Kingsley arranged the meeting. Frs. Phaniel, Benjamin and Gideon arrived at the Nunciature ahead of the rest. So they were able to concelebrate with the Nuncio in the Sunday Mass. The rest joined in the celebration later. On behalf of all his mates, Fr. Kingsley expressed sincerest thanks to the Nuncio for ordaining them. He also informed him of all their mission appointments. The Nuncio appreciated their gesture of ‘Sankofa’--looking back--in gratitude to the people who in one way or the other have made them what they are today. With a smile the Nuncio added, “Had your visit not been on Sunday I could have had a special lunch together with you.” He concluded by giving them a special blessing.

Robert Baba Yinamyah

SVD Ghana Province won in a land case

For some time now, SVD Ghana Province entered into a legal case with Mrs. Ama Tawiah Engman concerning a piece of land near SVD Community House at Tesano in Accra which the SVD bought on 26th day of October 2001 from Mr. Emmanuel Adu Mensah for its use.

The court case started when Mrs. Ama Tawiah Engman sued three of the SVD members: Br. Stephen Domelevo, Br. Rudy Kwame Chamenyi, and Fr. Rex Vegbey. The writ of summons came on 27th September 2005 against them. The Statement of Claim from the Plaintiff was that the Defendants have trespassed on her land at Tesano in Accra claiming ownership and developing the land at great speed by erecting a wall and creating structure around it. Together with her lawyer, she took the case to the High Court 10 at Cocoa-Affairs Premises in Accra for hearing. It was later in December 2005 that, with the advice of their lawyer, the three SVDs defended themselves

that they never bought any land at Tesano. So they should not be sued concerning this matter. They were called two times for the hearing and in due course the judge ruled against the three of them being sued in the said land case. Hence, the Judge advised the Plaintiff that, if she want to pursue the case, she has to find the rightful person to be sued. This turn out to be the first victory for the defendants. The result has instilled peace in SVD Community in Tesano.

On 12th December 2007, Mrs. Ama Tawiah Engman had gathered energy to sue the SVDs again. This time she sued the Society itself - Divine Word Missionaries – the rightful Society that bought the land. Her writ of summons and Statement of Claims were as follows: 1) A declaration of title by the Divine Word Missionaries concerning all that parcel of land at Tesano in Accra. 2) Damages for trespass by the Divine Word Missionaries (She wanted to claim monetary value for the damages.). 3) Perpetual injunction to restrain the Divine Word Missionaries, their agents, workers, laborers, from entering and encroaching into the piece of land in questioned. 4) The land was a gift to her by her late father Kojo Dom who acquired it from one P.K.K Quaidoo, the original owner, in May 1963. Her father allotted it to her in his will and testament dated 14th September 1998. 5) In the year 2001 Rev. Brother Stephen Domelevo, SVD approached her to have the land in dispute sold to the Divine Word Missionaries which she rejected, and later the Divine Word Missionaries forcibly entered into the land without her consent.

The Divine Word Missionaries purchased the land in the year 2001 from Emmanuel Adu Mensah. Two official documents at the Lands Commission of the Republic of Ghana revealed that, the late Kojo Dom conveyed his interest in the disputed property to one Ofosu Appiah on the 12th December 1996 and the latter to Emmanuel Adu Mensah on 20th of December 2000. The Divine word Missionaries therefore purchased the said land from Emmanuel Adu Mensah on the 26th of October 2001. Regarding the case, the Divine Word Missionaries denied any acts of trespassing and said that as the lawful owners of the property they did not need the consent and/or permission of the Plaintiff in order to develop the land. This then turned out to be the issues for trial at the High court.

Br. Rudy Kwame Chamenyi represented the Divine Word Missionaries in the case while Br. Stephen Domelevo was called to the High Court trial box for cross examination thereon. Later Fr. Vincent Kwame Owusu, SVD was also called to appear before the High Court to be cross-examined by the lawyer of the Plaintiff since he was one of the witnesses for the Divine Word Missionaries. It was a tough job! The judge asked him to use one of the following: the Bible, the Cross or the Koran to swear and say nothing but the truth. The uneasiness of thinking that, if a witness is found out deceiving the High Court of Justice in Ghana, he/she would land at the "**counter bar room of the Police**" was no joking matter! Anyway, it paid a great price to witness the truth. On 21st of October 2009, the case was concluded in favor of the Divine Word Missionaries.

Br. Rudy Kwame Chamenyi

Fr. Timothy Lehane Barrett, SVD Visits Ghana

Fr. Timothy Barrett Lehane, SVD, the Secretary General of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) for the Propagation of Faith (Propaganda Fide), visited Ghana. He was appointed to the said office on October 2008. According to him, he was still the provincial of Ecuador when the information of the appointment through the Generalate came. By virtue of obedience, he accepted to take the post as Secretary General of the PMS for Propaganda Fide.

Now he goes around to different mission territories to animate, clarify, encourage, support and promote the cause of the PMS. In January 2009 he went to Bangalore, India to meet the different PMS National Coordinators of English Speaking countries of Asia; then in February 2009 to Togo to meet PMS National Coordinators in French speaking countries of Africa.

This time he chose Ghana as the venue of the meeting. A day after his arrival, that was 20th October 2009, he met the National Coordinators of the PMS from different English speaking countries in Africa such as: Nigeria, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Liberia, Gambia, Tanzania and Uganda. From Ghana, among others Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD, Apostolic Prefect of Afram Plains prefecture, Ghana Episcopal chairman of PMS; and Fr. Paul Dogba, SVD as Afram Plains Prefecture coordinator of the PMS for Propaganda Fide were present.

The meeting was launched at Christ the King Parish with the theme: “Pontifical Mission Societies as Means of Evangelization”. There, expectations of the coordinators about what the PMS can do for them; the clarifications of Fr. Timothy about the different societies which are directly under the Pontifical Mission; the responsibilities of the bishops towards PMS; and the support of the PMS to the mission activities and projects of the Diocese were considered. He mentioned that there are four Societies under the umbrella of PMS: 1) Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood, 2) Pontifical Society of Sts. Peter and Paul, 3) Pontifical Society of Missionary Union, and 4) Pontifical Society for the Propagation of Faith. Each Society has its Secretary General. And he said that for his case he is the Secretary General of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of Faith.

After the meeting on that first day, he had a good rapport with his compatriot, Very Rev. Fr. Andrew Campbell, SVD, the new Parish Priest of Christ the King Parish. Fr. Andrew must have washed his feet in an Irish way.

Part of the day, was his memorable visit to SVD Retirement House at McCarthy Hill. Apostolic Prefect Gabriel Kumordji brought him to the house where he chatted with Br. Rudy Chamenyi, SVD, Superior Delegate and Ghana Mission Secretary, about the SVD mission in Ghana. Then after that he cordially met Fr. Tony Dugay, SVD, Praeses of the House: Bro. James Djadoo, SVD: Fr. Paul Agbeyome, SVD; Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD. Then, with Prefect Gabriel Kumordji, he left for Good Shepherd House at Abeka La Paz and stayed there for the eight-day PMS meeting.

We thanked Fr. Timothy for his visit and for his good example as an SVD missionary helping the mission programmes in the dioceses and archdioceses all over the world.

Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD facilitates the visitation of the 12 member Delegation from Germany

Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD, the Coordinator of Communications in the Archdiocese of Accra and the Director of the Catholic Digest of the Ghana Bishop’s Conference, helped facilitate the visit of a 12-member delegation from the Diocese of Eichstatt in Germany.

The delegation came to Ghana on 20th July 2009 in response to the invitation of the Koforidua Diocesan Catholic Organization for Social and Religious Advancement (COSRA) which has been in partnership with Eichstatt Diocese for the past 12 years. Mr. Thomas Schneider--lay facilitator, Rev. Fr. Martin Geistbeck—Chaplain, Mrs. Maria Kaimil--Religious and Education teacher and Ms. Anya Braun--woman facilitator--were the leaders of the group.

By virtue of his office, and his good connections with the delegates, Bro Stephen was chosen as the right person to facilitate their visit.

His help included being a tour guide and driver in their familiarization rounds in the important places of Accra and Koforidua; a protocol officer in their courtesy calls to Archbishop Charles Palmer–Buckle and Bishop Joseph Agyekum-Afrifah who in turn expressed their hopes that the relationship between COSRA and Eichstatt Diocese would continue to grow from strength to strength; a navigator to lead them across the Volta Lake to Donkorkrom Prefecture in the Afram Plains where they donated learning materials to the students of St. Mary’s Vocational Institute managed by the missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit (SSpS); an experienced path finder to help them reached Center of Hope, in Accra to meet the street children and poor mothers whom the Franciscan Sisters

(FFM) were ministering to, and a youth organizer who animated them to meet the COSRA members of Koforidua and Akosombo.

A few days before their departure he managed to take them to the SVD Residence in McCarthy Hill to stay for few days till they completed their itinerary.

Finally, the day before their departure, he involved his Catholic Joyful Singers - the singing group which he founded - to entertain them with Ghanaian gospel music, some of which was composed by him. They departed on 12th August 2009 with joyful memories in their hearts. They appreciated the contribution of Bro. Stephen for their visit to Ghana.

SVD Province Celebrate Memorial Day

In collaboration with the Diocese of Koforidua and Archdiocese of Accra, the SVD Ghana Province celebrated the Memorial Day for the departed missionaries, religious, and priests who died in Ghana and were buried in the “SVD Cemetery” at Adoagyiri-Nsawam.

The celebration began with a procession from the Parish house to the cemetery ground. The MC, Msgr. Paul Lawer guided the participants by inviting them to settle under the canopies mounted around the cemetery area for shelter. Fr. Ignatius Amposah, the host Parish Priest, expressed his cordial welcome to all who came. In his introduction, Most Rev. Gabriel Charles Palmer-Buckle, the main celebrant of the mass, said that memorials such as this remind us of our transition from this life. He noted that celebration of the memorial of our dead is connected with the celebration of the mystery of the Communion of Saints. This means that, as we celebrate All Souls’ Day we the Church on this earth (Church Militant) are praying for our departed who are in purgatory (Church Suffering), and in this exercise of faith we are also appealing for the intercession of our saints in heaven (Church Triumphant). He personalized this thought in his homily.

In his homily, the Archbishop quoted, “...we for our part are surrounded by these clouds of witness ... Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith.” (Heb 12:1-2). Yes, he said, there are great clouds of witnesses that are surrounding us here: Our departed missionaries, religious, and priests who lie in this grave yard. Being touched of their exemplary lives, he cannot help but began mentioning some of them: *1) Fr. Anthony Bauer, SVD, a priest who can turn jokes upside-down for us and laugh louder than what the jokes suggest. 2) Bro. Damian Bockman, SVD, a brother who called me a cassava stick during my mass server’s time under him. He was instrumental in my priestly vocation. Bro. Damian visited my parents and gave them a rosary to be praying for me. 3) Sr. Jean Lefrois, SSpS, a sister who inspired me by her ministry with the lepers. 5) Fr. Patrick Adu Amankwah, who made me reflect on the mysterious ways of God.* With smile, he continued, *Fr. Patrick was more a soldier than a priest. They are and many others were clouds of witnesses who are surrounding us.* At the end he prayed that, the Lord accept our prayers; that the Lord lead our beloved dead to the bosom of Abraham, and that they continued to intercede for us.

In the prayers of the faithful, two SVD novices and two SSpS postulants led the prayers. In the second part, Most Rev. Joseph Afrifah blessed some candles that were lit and placed on the graves. All SVD novices and all HDR postulants placed them with respect on each graves – more than 40 of them. Fr. Thomas De Mello, SVD, the Provincial, followed by sprinkling holy water on all the graves. Very Rev. Francis Adoboli, Vicar General of Accra Archdiocese, and Very Rev. Francis Twum-Barima, Vicar General of Koforidua Diocese, joined in incensing the graves.

Finally, Fr. Bobby Benson on behalf of the assembly expressed his thanks to all especially to Archbishop, Bishop; to concelebrating and non concelebrating priests; to all religious sisters and brothers. And he also gave his

profound gratitude to Bro. Paul Ayitey, SVD, Fr. Amposah and St. Joseph Parish Choir who were the persons behind the success of the celebration.

DISTRICT NEWS

Koforidua District:

Osonson Parish

Second Novices grace youth and vocation rally

“Second Novices”, together with their second novitiate director and assistant Novice Master, Fr. Rafael Mesi, graced the youth and vocation rally at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Akumersu–Sisi on 21st August to 23rd August 2009.

This rally was organized by the parish youth council of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Osonson under the leadership of the parish priest, Fr. Mieczyslaw Sagan with the help of the associate priest Fr. Joseph Panabang and pastoral seminarians Fraters Gerson Francisco de Souza and Ernest Dzeble.

More than 200 youth converged at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Akumersu–Sisi (one of the 21 outstations of Osonson Parish), which was the venue of the rally. On their first day, Fr. Joseph Panabang welcomed the delegates with joy. Cracking his joke, he exclaimed, “The young can see their future in the life of the *“once young”*, like me, and the *once young* can look back at their past in the life of the youth, like you.”

The arrival of the “second novices” on the second day gave additional cream to the rally. Each one had ample time to share the story of his vocation to the missionary–religious life in the SVD as they interacted with the youth. It was a touching moment for the youth especially those who were searching for the will of the Lord in their lives. The fellowship continued in the playground. Osonson “Youth All Stars” (Players chosen from the youth in attendance) beat the “Ora et Labora Steyler’s team” (second novices) by 2 – 1 in the volley. For the football game, it was difficult to determine who won because they mixed themselves with the youth in both teams. Someone concluded that, *it was a win –win game.*

On Sunday, Fr. Robert Baba Yinamyah, led the youth in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. It was an important day for him. That day was his first mass for his youth of Osonson parish after being their chaplain during his pastoral year. He sincerely thanked God for the gift of the priestly–religious-missionary vocation in the SVD. He was also grateful to Fr. Mietek Sagan, for inviting him. In addition he appreciated the dynamic involvement of the assistant Novice Master in bringing his “second novices” to the vocation rally. He ended by encouraging the youth to sincerely discern their vocation in life and desire to lead a holy life by choosing God always as Joshua did, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Jos 24:15) and wished the Second Novices their best in witnessing the vocation they have chosen.

FORMATION

Novitiate

Eight SVD Fraters Profess Final Vows

Fraters Innocent Adanlete, SVD; Hans-Gerber Agbenafa, SVD; Peter Chibale, SVD; Francis Dolagbenu, SVD; Irénée Dossou, SVD; Martin Akwetey Dumas, SVD; Peter Kabutey, SVD; and Boniface Mbithi, SVD; professed their final vows on 8th September 2009 in the chapel of the St. Peter's Senior High School, Nkwatia–Kwahu.

At 9:30 am the *final vowers* gathered around the shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary, near the bell tower of the chapel, in order to reflect on her role in the life of Jesus and learn from her: humility, obedience and chastity in following God's will. This gesture expressed their openness to the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary. It was from this site that the procession towards the altar began.

Fr. Bernard Appiah, the chaplain of St. Peter Senior High School, welcomed all. In special way, he welcomed Fr. Peter Accorley, SVD, representative from Togo–Benin Province; Fr. Patrick Kodom, SVD, representative from the Austrian province; Fr. Patrick Ofori, SVD, the oldest confrere in attendance; all the concelebrating priests; St. Martin's Senior High School students from Nsawam and School Choir; St. Michael Catholic Church Choir from Nkawkaw; Parents of the *final vowers*; and Friends of SVDs. After his welcome address, he invited the vice provincial, Fr. Joshua Gariba, SVD to lead the Eucharistic celebration.

In his sharing, Fr. Joshua Gariba identified three reasons for the celebration: the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the birthday of the Society of the Divine Word; and in a way the birthday of the 8 young men in their meaningful entry to the religious family by coming to profess their perpetual vows. He thanked God for the gift of this grace-filled celebration, the *final vowers* for their heroic choice, their parents for offering their sons to religious life, benefactors and all present for their unconditional support. He continued by saying that, taking religious vows of consecrated chastity, evangelical poverty and apostolic obedience in the Society of the Divine Word is a radical way of following closely the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ. Looking at our business minded society nowadays, he commented, where material possession is considered as great value, religious life is a great challenge. For young men to embrace religious life and persevere in living its vows requires sacrifice. On this note, he assured them of his sincerest prayer that they may be strengthened amidst of the demands of the world and remain forever chaste, faithful and obedient servants of God. He remarked that the evangelical counsels - religious vows - are grounded in the life of Jesus Christ as he quoted, "Though he (Jesus) was in the form of God, he did not deemed equality with God... Rather he emptied himself ... and became obedient till his death on the cross" (Phil. 2: 6-12). He pointed out that, this is the self emptying of Jesus. In this, Jesus' ways and will became the ways and will of the Father. Being inspired by Jesus' self emptying we can also say, now we live, not we but Christ lives in us. Without undermining others maters, material possession is the temptation of the day. But we are capable of overcoming it because it is God who calls us to this life. Addressing the *final vowers*, he concluded, that is why you came here to profess your final vows of consecrated chastity, evangelical poverty, and apostolic obedience to God with sincere faith in your hearts. Yes, after all, God is the only one who can give you real comfort and true joy. No amount of material things and no volume of human affection can satisfy your heart. It is God who calls you to this life; it is God who also gives you this kind of fulfillment as religious missionaries. So, don't be afraid to commit yourselves forever and entirely to the Holy Triune God.

After the individual profession of vows, as expected of a religious missionary called to go out and proclaim the Word of God to all nations, Fr. Joshua announced their appointments: Frt. Innocent Adanlete is appointed to Swiss province; Frt. Hans-Gerber Agbenafa to Venezuela; Frt. Peter Chibale to Kenya; Frt. Francis Dolagbenu to Ecuador; Frt. Irénée Dossou to Brazil; Frt. Martin Akwetey Dumas to Japan; Frt. Peter Kabutey to Ghana and Frt. Boniface Mbithi to Mexico. At this, all the people in the chapel applauded them with congratulations and best wishes.

Novices Share their Mission Experience

Last Mission Sunday will remain in the memories of the 2009-2010, novices. The parish priest of Dansoman Fr. Patrick Ofori and his assistants Fr. Jacobson and Fr. Andrews invited us to visit the parish in Dansoman-Accra and also to present the Pope's Message on the Mission Sunday. In addition, the parish youth had also requested having friendly football and volleyball matches with us.

We arrived at Dansoman at 1:30 pm on 17th October. Fr. Andrews Obeng warmly welcomed us. The weather was warmer for many of us and those with heavy clothes started shedding them off one by one. After lunch, since the volleyball match was scheduled at 5.00 pm, we toured around the vast St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish compound. We also witnessed the joy of the people who came for Holy Matrimony that afternoon.

At 5:00 pm we played volleyball with the youth. The youth were so skillful that their score reached to 3 against us who scored 0. Though we were disappointed, we consoled ourselves by saying; we will do better next time. After supper, Fr. Andrews announced our destinations for Mission Sunday: Four were to stay at St. Margaret Mary, the main parish; four to St. Peter the Apostle, Torkuse; four to St. Charles Lwanga, Abeka; and four to Sts. Peter and Paul, New Aplaku. Those going who were sent outside had to wake up at different times so that they could get to their places on time. Our novice master, Fr. George Angmor, concelebrated mass at the main parish and the assistant novice master, Fr. Rafael, celebrated mass at St. Peter the Apostle parish in Torkuse.

That Sunday was for us a taste of an urban mission experience. Those who stayed in St. Margaret Mary Parish experienced a double celebration since that day was the climax of the parish feast day. Around 2:00 pm, every herald had come back to the main parish. A lot of goodies and gifts accompanied us, as we were returning. This indeed confirmed that the message of the Pope was received well by the people.

Around 3:30 pm, we went to the St. Benedict's Basic School park for the football match. There we displayed our talents with style. We defeated the parish youth group 1-0, with a ball possession of 55% against 45%. Everyone was very happy.

After Fr. Ofori had given his traveling blessings, we journeyed back to Nkwatia. Along Nkawkaw road we had a flat tire. Thank God, Fr. Rafael managed to bring the heavy vehicle to a halt. Some said "Jesus!" others "Mary!" and still others kept quiet. We changed the tire and continued the journey. We arrived home around 9:00 pm. Though we were tired, we felt fulfilled for the weekend had been a wonderful moment for us.

We thank most sincerely the parish priest of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Dansoman and his assistants Frs. Andrews and Jacobson, for accepting us to share Mission Sunday with the faithful. We also thank the faithful and the priests of the other places we visited: Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Charles Lwanga and St. Peter the Apostle parishes.

Lawrence Muthee M'gaiti

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

Fr. Matthias Felber: 16th June 2009 from Austria for mission appeal. *Fr. Matthias, welcome back, Ekye Amanforum is waiting for you.*

Fr. Paul Prince Kubi: 11th July 2009 from Spain for his successful Spanish Language studies. He is now completing his travel documents for USA. *Fr. Paul, congratulations, and welcome back!*

Bro. McDaniel Acquaah: 15th July 2009 from Philippines after the General Assembly on the Brother Vocation in the Society. *Bro. McDaniel, akwaaba!*

Fr. Franciszek Kowal: 27th July 2009 from a well deserved home leave. *Fr. Francis, welcome back to Jema!*

SVD Seminarians Ramamisoa Robert Bellarmin, Andrinjatovo Diderick Macair, Andriannandrasana Jean Aimi, and Dieu Donne Nicolas: 17th August 2009 from Madagascar to prepare for their Novitiate. At present they are studying English as second Language at GAK Academy in Accra. *Robert, Diderick, Jean Aimi & Nicolas You are all heartily welcome to Ghana. Have successful language learning.*

Fr. Justinus Toda: 1st September 2009 from his well deserved home leave. *Fr. Justinus, your Christian community of Asutuare is needs you, mohee!!!*

Fr. Thomas D' Mello: 14th September 2009 from Zimbabwe where he attended the Episcopal Ordination of Monsignor Alex Thomas Kaliyanil, SVD. *Fr. Thomas, welcome back to the province!*

Fr. Mariusz Pacula: 15th September 2009 from home leave. *Fr. Mariusz. Welcome back!*

Fr. Jozef Mazur: 16th September 2009 from his Sabbatical year. Fr. Jozef, welcome back to Good Shepherd Biblical Pastoral Center - Amaraba!

Fr. Antonius Hibur: 18th September 2009 from his home leave. *Fr. Antonius, Yendi District house feel home sick for you. Welcome back - Amarabaa!!!*

Fr. Norbert Mushoff: 20th September for a month of visit. *Fr. Norbert, welcome to Ghana and have an enjoyable meeting with your old and new friends!*

Matthias Helms: 22nd September from his well deserved holidays. We are happy that you had a good holiday and gained more weights for the mission. *Fr. Matthias, welcome back to Ghana!*

Bro. John Lengari, Fr. Dionisio Kopong, and Fr. Gregory Boss: 24th September 2009 from a well deserved home leave. *Bro. John, Fr. Dion, and Fr. Greg, akwaaba!*

Bro. Peter Edze: 30th September 2009 from his SPATS' project report visit to donour agency in Swetzerland. *Bro. Peter, Great SPATS' student, staff & SVD Community in Kukurantumi missed you, welcome back!*

Fr. John Schilitz: 5th October 2009 from his home leave in Poland. *Fr. Janusz, your parishioners in St. Augustine, Ashaiman are waiting for you. Akwaaba!!!*

Fr. Konrad Dreyer: 6th October 2009 from holidays in Germany. *Fr. Konrad, the parishioners and the newly blessed parish hall of Abeka missed you. Welcome back!*

Fr. Emmanuel Fianu. 16th October 2009 for his home leave. He is the Secretary General of the Society of the Divine word. *Fr. Emmanuel, arrivederci, Akwaaba! Have a wonderful holiday.*

Fr. Timothy Lehane Barrett SVD: 19th October 2009 from the Vatican – Rome for Pontifical Societies for Propagation of Faith meeting in Ghana. *Fr. Timothy, welcome - akwaaba !*

Bro. Jan Urban: 20th October 2009 from a well deserved home leave. *Bro. Jan, you are welcome to your new home of languages and culture in TICCS – Tamale*

Fr. Vincent Burke: 28th October 2009 from a well deserved holidays. *Fr. Vincent, we are praying for your sister. Welcome back to Nkwatia!*

Departures:

Bro. Peter Edze: 2nd August 2009 to Swetzerland for SPATS’ project report. *Bro. Peter, have a happy journey!*

Fr. Stephen Dogodzi: 11th August 2009 back to Italy after a month of compassionate leave. He is returning to continue his ministry with the African migrant workers. *Fr. Stephen, have a grace-filled ministry!*

Seminarians: Lawrence Kponor and Sebastian Tengan: 1st September 2009 back to Hungary to continue their formation and theological studies. *Lawrence and Sebastian, wishing you God’s blessing in your formation and your academic endeavours.*

Fr. Patrick Kodom: 2nd Sept. 2009 back to Austria to continue his ministry with the African migrants in Austria. *Fr. Patrick , alles gutte!*

Fr. Thomas D’ Mello: 7th September 2009 for Zimbabwe to attend the Episcopal Ordination of Monsignor Alex Thomas Kaliyanil, SVD, as chairman of the AFRAM Zonal Executive committee. *Have a memorable trip!*

Fr. Kamale S.L. Georges: 17th Sept 2009 to Dr. Congo for his theological studies at Common Formation Center (CFC). *Georges, have a happy trip to Congo! All the best in your studies and formation over there.*

Seminarians Albert Kodjo Pongo and Joseph Anorkwa Frimpong: 24th Sept 2009 back to Germany to continue their theology studies and formation on the German soil. *Fraters Albert and Joseph, alles gutte!*

Fr. Peter Claver Narh: 29th Sept. 2007 back to Germany to continue his priestly – missionary religious ministry. *Fr .Peter, we are proud of you. Keep up the good work. God bless you!*

Fr. Norbert Mushoff: 12th October back to Germany. *Fr. Norbert, thanks for your visit, alles gutte!*

Fr. Gabriel Sosu: 29th October 2009 back to Zimbabwe to continue his missionary endeavour. *Fr Gabby, all the best!*

Fr. Timothy Lehane Barrett SVD: 31st October 2009 back to the Vatican – Rome. *Fr. Timothy, have a happy trip! Give our greetings to the Pope.*

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

Justice and Peace & integrity of Creation (JPIC)

Inter – Congregational JPIC- Ghana undergo workshop on Jatropha Curcas bio-fuel

The Inter-Congregational Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Coordinators in Ghana recently completed the workshop on Jatropha Bio-Fuel held in Babaso Catholic Mission, Afram Plains North in the Ashanti Region last September 10-13, 2009. The workshop was facilitated by the founder of Environmental Concern Office (ECO) Rev. Fr. Clobus, SMA and assisted by Mr. Sean Hogan, an American SMA lay missionary.

Participants included Bro. Tony Dadzie, CSC (JPIC-Ghana Chairman), Fr. Alan de Guzman, SMA (Zone 1 Coordinator), Sr. Lucy Dery, HHCJ (Zone 2 Coordinator) Fr. John Bosco Ntihebuwayo (representing Zone 3), Bro. Oswald Bangfo, SVD and Sr. Claire Nyator, MIC. Three invitees also participated: Mr. Peter Canicius Kuusaana (ECO Director), Ms. Claire Moizard and Marieke de Jong, both SMA lay missionaries from France and Holland respectively.

The workshop updated the participants on the reasons why the world has now resorted to the production and use of bio-fuel which is believed to be environmentally friendly. Climate change, environmental hazards posed by the use of fossil fuel, dependence on imported petroleum and its associated problems are some of these reasons. Ghana, like many other countries, has taken up an interest in large-scale cultivation of plants for the production of Jatropha Curcas seeds which are a source of bio-fuel. Investors come to Ghana and acquire lands to establish bio-fuel plantation. There is a reason to be enthusiastic regarding this development. It can be a source of income for the government, land owners and farmers. It can also re-invigorate Ghana's rural areas through job creation and income-generation. Jatropha Curcas, apart from being a bio-fuel product can be used to make soap and medicines. The plant lasts 40-50 years and can be harvested three times a year. However, there are social repercussions that may not be fully known to the ordinary Ghanaian. For instance, a very large tract of land in Ashanti-Kwaman traditional area has been leased to a bio-fuel company for the production of Jatropha seeds. Hence, the settler farmers in this area of Afram Plains North have already been warned to cease commercial farming as the land preparation for large-scale industrial farming would begin very soon. It is important to know that huge land "buy-outs" by foreign companies will also dangerously threaten the family-based farming in our country.

Other sobering concerns are: Afram Plains functions as a buffer zone to prevent savannah-type conditions from encroaching on the Ashanti and Eastern Regions. Already, we are painfully aware that charcoal producers and loggers are depleting the whole area of its tree vegetation. It is needless to say that with wide-scale Jatropha seeds production in APN, the original vegetation of the Afram Plains and the scarce availability of water will be severely affected. This will in turn affect the climatic conditions further south. Furthermore, despite the fact that Jatropha grows abundantly in the wild, it has never really been domesticated. Its yield is not predictable, the conditions that best suits its growth are not well defined yet and the potential environmental impact of large-scale cultivation is not understood at all! Without understanding the basic agronomics, a premature push to cultivate Jatropha could lead to very unproductive agriculture. In addition, Jatropha planting carries with it the temptation to use better land such as that used to grow food crops and to use more water resources. It takes 2 years before the plants produce seeds suitable for harvesting with optimum levels achieved only after 5-8 years. Jatropha needs a larger "water footprint" to achieve good yields than other bio-fuels do. It takes 20,000 liters of water to make 1 liter of Jatropha bio-diesel! In the Afram Plains, where such resources are already scarce, Jatropha production would compromise the existing water and food supply.

The participants were reliably informed about the success story in the Northern Region where farmers rejected Jatropha as source of agro-fuel mainly because they fear being tied down by fickle markets and because of its

toxicity which limits its use, among other reasons. The introduction of Jatropha as bio-fuel is not altogether a useless venture but it is obvious that the negative aspects far out-numbered the positive aspects. It is in this light that JPIC - Ghana Coordinators recommend the following:

- ? That the members do research, gather more information, and inform themselves, interview local people and religious communities.
- ? Network with Diocesan Justice and Peace, NGO's, and other religious groups using reliable data from the Internet.
- ? Organize workshops, set up surveillance teams, enable leaders, chiefs and get legal advice on the situation of settler farmers.
- ? Get funds, delegate members to do research, attend workshops on Jatropha issues

An important and urgent question to reflect and answer: Now that Ghana has oil in commercial quantity, WHY JATROPHA?

Oswald Bangfo, SVD

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Congratulations to SVD Ghana Province for winning the land case in St. Arnold Janssen's House, Tesano.

Thanks to Fr. Vincent Owusu, Bro. Stephen Domelevo for being an authentic witnesses and providing all the necessary objective evidence when the case was at its height in the High Court of Justice, Accra. Special thanks go to Br. Rudy Chamenyi, as the representative of the whole society, for his untiring effort, patience and perseverance in coordinating with the Society's lawyer and witnesses; in archiving all important land documents and in attending all the hearings till it reached a successful conclusion. *Ayekoo!*

COMING EVENTS

1. 19th November 2009 – House warming of the new provincial residence at 4:00 pm Castle Road, Accra.
2. 5th December 2009 – Diaconate ordination in Tamale.
3. 11th – 12th December – Advent recollection (first batch) in DWCCC
4. 11th – 12th December 2009 – Congregational Justice and Peace Coordinators' meeting, McCarthy -Hill
5. 14th - 15th December 2009 - Advent recollection (second batch) in DWCCC.
6. 15th - 16th December 2009 – CCROM meeting in DWCCC.
7. 25th December 2009 - Christmas
8. 1st January 2010 – New year. 2010 is the “Year for the Priests”. Let us pray for our priests.

INFORMATION

1. Fr. Paul Agbeyome is temporarily staying at the SVD Residence House McCarthy –Hill to prepare for his new assignment.
2. Fr. Alphonse Dungdung is now residing at the SVD provincial residence, Accra. He is at the moment assisting the provincial in running the new house.
3. Year 2010 Calendar is still available in CBC and SVD House, Accra. You can order in bulk for GH¢ 1.00 each and in retail for GH¢ 1.20 each.

4. Don't forget to send your mission stories to our Communication Office. Your stories give life to our **Province Newsletter**. Through them we know that you are there witnessing the Divine Word. God bless you for your support. **N.B.:** Those who would like to order copies of photos on CD, and Video on CD and DVD of Final Vows & Ordination 2009 please contact our communication office.

5. SVD - E-mail FRAUD Again

To all SVD Provincial and Regional Superiors

Today we received notification from Fr. Provincial Mark Weber of USC that an e-mail has been sent out in his name. Please see the attached file. NEVER SEND MONEY in response to such e-mails. Check first with the SVD named, either by e-mail or by telephone.

David Streit, SVD
Acting Secretary General

Dear Fr. Pernia,

Today I have received two emails and one phone call – from Panama, Togo, and Kenya. Either the provincial or the provincial treasurer has received an email supposedly from me, asking to give sizeable amounts of money to a Sister. Three provinces have checked with me, but I imagine whoever is doing this has gotten more email addresses to send this. Is it possible to send out a warning to all provinces that this is a fraud, and NOT a legitimate email from me?

The text of one of the emails is below.

Yours in the Word,
Mark Weber, SVD (USC)

Data: Fri, 23 Oct 2009 12:18:16 +0300
Od: Fr Mark Weber SVD
Odpowiedz-Do: Fr Mark Weber SVD
Temat: Re: Greetings from Chicago, USA

Dear Padre,

I send greetings to you and to all the confreres in Panama. You are always in our Prayers. I am writing on behalf of Sr. Stella Maria the Provincial Bursar of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. She has told me Sr. Nina Lucia O'Reilly working with their Mission Hospital in Uganda is currently stranded in Panama after she over used the limit of her Visa card. And because she does not have a bank account of her own in Panama the Sisters here do not have a quick safe means of sending the amount of Money she urgently require. Sr. Stella Maria has given me a check of US\$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars).

I request you to proceed and give Sr. Nina Lucia, and then you will let me know how I can wire the US\$20,000 to your bank account in Panama You can contact Sr. Nina Lucia O'Reilly at nina.luciar@gmail.com and I will also ask Sr. Stella Maria to tell her to contact you.

Thank you so much.

Yours fraternally,

Fr Mark Weber svd
Provincial Superior
Society of the Divine Word
Chicago Province
1835 Waukegan Road
Techny, IL 60082
USA

REMEMBERING OUR SICK

Linda Burke, the sister of Fr. Vincent Burke, SVD. She is suffering from multiple myeloma, i.e. cancer of the white blood cell. She is undergoing an adult stem procedure, which is a very delicate treatment. Let us include Linda Burke in our healing prayer.

Bro. Paul Plawky: He suffered a strange malarial attack and abdominal infections. He is recuperating in St. Dominic Hospital, Nkwatia. Get well soon Bro. Paul. We remember you in our prayer

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Augustine Kweku Domelevo, the father of Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD. He died on 19th October 2009 at 9:07 pm. He was anointed by Fr. Paul Dogba shortly before he passed away. The Information of the burial and funeral will be communicated when arrangement is finalized.

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

WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

“How can I give up, become faint-hearted, and complain about the suffering, when I can place all my affliction in the great Heart of God?” - St. Arnold Janssen

“When we offer up most of our prayer for others and only think of ourselves last, not out of pride but out of love for God and neighbor, our good God will hear our prayers for ourselves just as well as if we had prayed twice or three times as much for our own wishes.” - St. Arnold Janssen

“Freinademetz is genuinely pious and has an amiable disposition, he is zealous and not wanting in prudence...” - St. Arnold Janssen

“Our life is too short; our time is too precious to lose even a tiny second of it! This month too, belongs to God, and God will place each of its 720 hours, each of its 43,200 minute, each of its 2,595,000 seconds on the scale of his justice, and demand an accounting from us.” - St. Joseph Freinademetz

JOKES ONLY

Hit Him Hard!

The Blacksmith has hired a new and inexperienced helper and was instructing him in his duties.

“Now I will bring the hot shoe from the forge, and lay it on the anvil,” he directed, “and then when I nod my head you hit it hard with this hammer. Hit it hard.”

The helper followed the instruction to the latter.

When the blacksmith came out from the hospital, the first thing he did was to fire his helper.

“You blundering idiot! The hot shoe on the anvil is to be hit, not my head!”

Jam and traffic

A man who was starving for something to eat reached the outskirts of the city and could go no further. He sent his servant, companion in his travels, to the city for something he could lay his hand on.

After some hours he returned empty handed.

Master: *Where is the food you brought?*

Servant: *I could not get anything sir!*

Master: *Why?*

Servant: *There was a jam right at the crossing and I could not get thru.*

Master: *You fool. Why did you not bring me the jam?*

We are in Heaven

A poor mother and her child were listening intently to the sermon of their pastor.

Pastor: *I tell you solemnly, money is not so important. You know why? THERE IS NO MONEY IN HEAVEN.*

Child: *Did you hear that, Mama?*

Mother: *Yes, I've heard it clearly, so what?*

Child: *So we are in HEAVEN right now, Yee...Yahoo!!!*

WORTH REMEMBERING

November 2009

1	John Prempeh Duah	Birthday	11	Martin Guona	Feastday
1	Daniel Lenwah	Feastday	11	Martin Ninang	Feastday
1	Joshua Gariba	Feastday	16	Otmar Auinger	Feastday
1	Samuel Adjei	Feastday	19	Eugene Agyapong	Birthday
1	David Tengey	Feastday	20	John Schilitz	Birthday
1	Jolly Mudakkampurath	Feastday	20	Edmund Afagbegee	Feastday
1	Sampson Fenuku	Feastday	22	Forgor Lampitey Peter	Birthday

1	Martin Tetteh	Feastday
3	Martin Goi – Mangi	Birthday
3	Martin Goi – Mangi	Feastday
3	Martin Dumas	Feastday
3	Paul Gbortsu	Birthday
3	Samuel Dagadu	Feastday
3	Thaddeus Nyanuba	Birthday
3	Adjetey Adjei Emmanuel	Feastday
3	Adjetey Adjei Emmanuel	Birthday
4	Francis Naduviledathu	Birthday
5	Tomy Kanjiramalayil	Feastday
5	Jojo Monoth	Birthday
5	Martin Guona	Birthday
8	Sofronio Endoma	Birthday
8	Paul Agbeyome	Birthday
11	Martin Wels	Feastday

23	Bernard Appiah	Birthday
23	Clement Angmor	Birthday
23	Patrick Ofori	Birthday
24	Martin Wels	Birthday
24	Sebastian Sperl	Birthday
28	Asante Bruce Eugene	Birthday
28	Asante Bruce Eugene	Feastday
30	Andrew Campbell	Feastday
30	Andrew Quaye-Foli	Feastday
30	Andrews Obeng-Aboagye	Feastday
30	Rex Vegbey	Feastday
30	Andrzej Kedziora	Feastday
30	David Tengey	Feastday
30	Jolly Mudakkampurath	Birthday

Nov	Our departed confreres	Died
1	Maurice Lesage	1977
9	Romeo Cofie	2003
12	John Dauphine	1993
15	August Gehring	1949
22	Amos Freichs	1986
23	Albert Kretschmer	2002
28	John Heckel	1999

December 2009

1	Marcelo Oyarzún	Birthday	10	Anthony D. Mensah	Birthday
1	Nicholas Aazine	Birthday	11	Daniel Kyei	Feastday
2	Jean-Paul Sokpe	Birthday	14	Claude Galley	Birthday
3	Francis Naduviledathu	Feastday	18	Tchekpi Jean-Bertrand	Birthday
3	Franz Schneider	Feastday	20	Urey Labanau	Birthday
3	Jean-Baptiste Tchandama	Feastday	22	Antonio Joaõ Ladeira	Birthday
3	Daniel Fordjour	Feastday	23	Victor Leones	Birthday
4	Peter Edze	Birthday	23	Samuel Dagadu	Birthday
4	Tarcisius de Ruyter	Birthday	25	Emmanuel Fianu	Feastday
4	Dzokpe Komla Emile	Birthday	25	Emmanuel Dzisi	Feastday
6	Nicholas Aazine	Feastday			
6	Dionisius Kopong Ola	Feastday			

Dec.	Our departed confreres	Year
6	Kostka Piotrowski	1981
6	Paul van Riel	1995
21	Aloysius Hoguth	2006
27	Maurice Mayo	1997
28	Carolus, George Kukah	1985

Liturgy Corner

Liturgical Ministers

During the eucharistic liturgy, we see various ministers in action. Besides the ordained ministers, we see the ushers, the servers, the lector, cantor, choir, and ministers of Communion. These men and women of the laity, who take an active role in the liturgy, are not there merely to “help” the priest at the altar or to ensure a more organized and smooth – running liturgy. They are there to exercise their priesthood and build up the Body of Christ in an important but different capacity from the ordained ministers.

The servers and ushers, for example, build up the Body of Christ through their courteous and helpful assistance. The lector is called to proclaim the Word of God to the assembled congregation and build up the Body of Christ by nourishing the people with the Scriptures. The cantor and choir build up the Body of Christ by helping the faithful lift their hearts to the Lord in sung prayer. The ministers of Communion literally nourish the Body of Christ by distributing the Bread of Life and extending the Cup of Eternal Salvation.



Pius Agyeman, SVD

“... beloved of God ... you are called to be saints.” (Rm 1:7)