



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

By the time many of you get this newsletter it will almost be Christmas. I want to begin by wishing all of you the joys and blessings of the coming of Christ at Christmas. May your Advent preparations have prepared you to celebrate fully the coming of God among us in human flesh to share in our sorrows and joys in order to draw us closer to himself. As members of the Divine Word Missionaries the birth of the Divine Word should be a very special feast for us.

I am also happy to inform you that our English Language School which was closed for a year has again reopened. It is located in the old novitiate building at St. Peter's Nkwatia. There are five people in the school at present: Fr. Vincent Burke as director and teacher and four students from Madagascar.

I was also present for the closing tenth anniversary celebrations of the Diocese of Yendi. It was a memorable celebration with four bishops and the Prefect of Donkorkrom present along with many priests, religious and lay faithful. The following day three deacons were ordained to the priesthood for the diocese. With this they have ordained ten priests for the diocese in ten years. Congratulations Diocese of Yendi!

While I was in Yendi for the above celebrations I was also able to visit Sunson, established by the SVD in the early 1960s. It has developed into a very beautiful diocesan centre. The last Ghana Bishops' Conference took place there. I congratulate the Yendi Diocese and the team that organized the conference so successfully.

The housewarming celebration of the new provincial house was beautiful. About forty-five confreres were present for the celebration. It started with a prayer service beautifully prepared by Brother Pius and presided over by Joshua Gariba our vice-provincial. It ended with an agape. Most of those present also took a tour of the house. The house was so well warmed by this celebration that people went outside to sit.

Before closing I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year. May it be a year in which you come to know the Lord more fully, serve him more faithfully, and love him more dearly.

Your confrere,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas D'Mello'.

Thomas D'Mello SVD
Provincial

PROVINCE NEWS

Provincial Superior convokes Provincial Chapter

The 2009 Provincial Chapter of the SVD Ghana Province kicked off on 26th October 2009 and ended on 30th October 2009. In all, there were 36 capitulars present – 20 ex officio members and 16 elected delegates.

In the evening of the day of arrival, the provincial superior welcomed all capitulars and gave a short orientation, explaining the modality of the chapter. He also took the opportunity to read to the hearing of the capitulars a heartwarming letter of support from the Friends of the SVD, Dansoman Branch.

Fr. Donald Hinfey, S.J. was invited to give a spiritual recollection, prior to the official opening of the chapter. In his reflection, Fr. Hinfey, S.J. made reference to the admonition of Vatican II that religious institutes should return to the charisms of their founders, renew their inspirations and seek creative ways of living those charisms in this present age. He also added that faithfulness to our religious vows and the teachings of the Church is paramount.

The chapter was officially opened with a Eucharistic celebration, followed by a solemn procession from the chapel to the chapter hall with a lighted candle and the Book of the Gospels. The help of the Holy Spirit was invoked by singing the *Veni Creator*. In the chapter hall, the Prologue of John's Gospel was read.

Many issues were discussed during the chapter. Some of the central themes that came up for discussion were: Vision and Mission Statements, SVD Spirituality, Formation and Personnel needs, Finance and Accounting, Self-reliance, Document on Brother Vocation and Prophetic Dialogue, Proposing a theme and issues of concern for General Chapter, Provincial House at the Castle Drive, SVD contracts with the dioceses, Decision on Tuba Land and a discussion on Tesano Land.

The atmosphere throughout the Chapter was healthy and spirit-filled. The last day of the chapter was principally a day of voting on resolutions and statements.

At about 5pm on 30th October 2009, the chapter was officially brought to a close with the provincial superior thanking all for the input and contributions made. This was followed by a solemn Eucharistic celebration. The provincial superior will soon make available to confreres in the province the resolutions and statements that emanated from the chapter.

Andrews Obeng, SVD

House warming: New Provincial House



The provincial and vice-provincial, Fr. Thomas D'Mello and Joshua Gariba ; the members the provincial council Jerome Agbeko, Victor Leones, Matthias Helms together with the representatives

from different districts and houses of the Ghana Province celebrated the house warming of the new provincial house on the Castle Drive, Accra on the 19th November 2009.

The house warming celebration began at 4:00 pm. Those present toured the compound and the buildings of the complex. The compound and buildings are indeed beautiful! At 4:45 pm Fr. Joshua led a short prayer service with gospel reading from the gospel of Luke 19:1-10 highlighting the conversion of Zacchaeus. In his sharing, Fr. Joshua connected the joy of Zacchaeus when Jesus entered his house to our joy because God has given us, through the effort of our former provincials and building committees, the gift of this new house and more importantly the gift of each confrere. He encouraged all to thank God for his care and for having dwelt among us. In addition he also invited all to be mutually charitable and forgiving to each other as each one is his brother's keeper. At the end of his sharing the Prologue of St. John was read aloud. The provincial kissed the Bible and then enthroned it. After the enthronement, spontaneous prayer of the faithful followed. This was concluded by saying the SVD favourite prayer "*May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the light of the word and the spirit of grace and may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people*". Before the next item on the agenda, Fr. Provincial thanked all those who contributed to the success of the construction of the house. Remembering them, he mentioned the three former provincials—Fr. Vincent Owusu, Fr. Gabriel Kumordji and Fr. Alfons Amanor, the building committee, bursar, mission secretary, the architect, the quantity surveyor, the supervisor and the builders. He also included all who preferred not to be known but who in diverse ways contributed the completion of the project. Finally, he thanked everyone for coming because the presence of each one made the house very warm – warm enough to celebrate the agape. After his vote of thanks, he immediately invited all for *agape*. In this case, *agape* means a dinner with a difference! *Ayekoo to all!*

Ghana Catholic Bishops hold its annual conference

For decades now the northern regions of Ghana especially Yendi and its environs have been seen by many as synonymous with conflict, war and violence. As such, then, many people avoid any serious investment in the north. For these skeptics Yendi was not safe to bring the cream of society such as the Ghana Catholic Bishops there for their annual conference.

The bishops proved these persons of little faith wrong when they held their annual meeting in Yendi from the 6th to 13th of November this year. As we commend the bishops, we also extend our congratulations to the people of Yendi and the north in general who made it happen.

The Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference (GCBC) was held at St. Martin's Pastoral Centre, Sunson about ten km from Yendi township. But the opening ceremony was at Yendi Senior High School Assembly Hall. The theme for the conference was The Church in Ghana at the Service to Reconciliation, Justice and Peace: You are the Salt of the Earth ...the Light of the Earth (Mat 13: 14).

On the 6th the bishops were assigned to the parishes and rectories of the diocese for the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgical events. They were happy with the wide open arms with which the parishioners welcomed and accepted them. They were edified by and appreciated the spirit of sacrifice of the priests and religious working in the diocese under what some of them termed *difficult situations* confronting the diocese.

In his welcome address the Most Rev. Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD, the bishop of Yendi Diocese whom many affectionately call "the missionary to the north" assured the conference fathers and all present that Yendi is very peaceful and that all should feel at home.

When the Northern Regional minister took his turn to address the gathering, he re-echoed the assurance of Bishop Boi-Nai and said Yendi is peaceful. He bemoaned the misrepresentation of the northern regions and Yendi particular as the locus of violence, war and conflict by some media

personnel and houses. He said the conference to be held in Yendi and its theme was timely and handy, as Yendi has almost come out from the tunnel of crisis of conflict. The minister thanked the Catholic Church for her sound mediatory role to ensure reconciliation, justice and peace in Yendi and its environs. He rained praises on the Church for her appropriate social interventions in the north to advance human development in all spheres of life. Most Rev. Bishop Lucas Abadamloora, bishop of Navrongo-Bolgatanga diocese and the president of the GCBC, assured all Ghanaians and other nationals living in Ghana Catholic and non-Catholic the preparedness and willingness of the bishops to discuss ways that would benefit all.

Giving his goodwill message the Nuncio, Archbishop Leon B. Kalenga said "Ghana is moving forward in the right direction, leading Africa in reconciliation, justice and peace". He then announced the appointment of His Eminence Peter Cardinal Appiah Turkson as the new Chairman for the Justice and Peace Commission in Rome by the Holy Father Benedict XVI. He said by this appointment Cardinal Turkson will move to reside in Rome with effect from January 2010 in order to allow the cardinal to prepare well and say goodbye to friends and relatives. He has been relieved of the administration of the Archdiocese of Cape Coast. Bishop Nketia now shoulders this responsibility.

In the course of their stay the bishops paid visit to place to the Gnani witch camp and also paid courtesy calls on the Yendi municipal chief executive and the regent of Yendi at the Yaa Naa's palace. The regent gave them plenty tubers of yam and a bull. Irrespective of some initial accommodation problems in general the GCBC in Yendi was very successful. To the Church in Yendi we say well done!

Fr. Benjamin Asare

Yendi Diocese celebrates the closing Ceremony

Yendi Diocese celebrated closing ceremony of its tenth anniversary with an Episcopal high mass on 27th November 2009 at Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral, Yendi. The main celebrant, Most Rev. Philip Naameh, Archbishop of Tamale, started the Mass at 9:30 am. Most Rev. Gregory Kpiebaya, Archbishop emeritus of Archdiocese of Tamale; Most Rev. Lucas Abadamloora, Bishop of Navrongo – Bolgatanga; Most Rev. Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD, Bishop of Yendi Diocese itself; Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD, Prefect of the Afram Plains Prefecture; Very Rev. Fr. Thomas D' Mello, SVD, Provincial Superior of the SVD Ghana Province, and about 30 Priests from different dioceses, mostly from Yendi Diocese supported him as they concelebrated. The cathedral was filled by a large number of lay faithful as well as religious.

In his homily, Bishop Naameh said that, ten years is not a short time. It is therefore good to look back and see what has been achieved so far. Apart from infrastructures, we should cherish the many conversions, the spiritual growth of our faithful and vocations to priestly and religious life. We need to consolidate what we have achieved and then plan for the future with optimistic heart and unwavering hope in order to sustain them, he concluded.

As part of the programme the appeal for funds was organized. At the end, the organizers realized an amount of **GH¢ 12,000** plus. Out of this the SVDs donated GH¢ 1,500. Other dioceses and individuals contributed to the sum. Some pledged to send their contributions later.

After the mass, Archbishops: Philip Naameh, Gregory Kpiebaya; Bishops: Lucas Abadamloora, Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD; Apostolic Prefect: Gabriel Kumordji and SVD Provincial superior: Thomas D' Mello, SVD squeezed in a courtesy call to the regent of the Yendi's Yaa Naa in his palace.

Overwhelmed by the support of his colleagues: Archbishops, Bishops, and Apostolic Prefect; SVD

Provincial, Priests, religious brothers and sisters; and other prominent dignitaries, Bishop Boi-Nai, the “landlord” of Yendi Diocese, was very happy. Out of gratitude, he invited all to a grand meal in the garden of his house. Consequently, some cows, sheep and goats lost their heads. In this regard, indirectly the Christian community of Yendi showed solidarity with their Muslim brothers and sisters who were celebrating “Eid – ul – Adha” -- their special feast which involve slaughtering cows, sheep and goats.

The next day, the Bishop of Yendi’s joy escalated when he ordained his three deacons to the priesthood. The ordination brought the total number of diocesan priests to ten (10). For him, these ten priests are the unconditional gifts from God for the diocese after ten years of its existence. It was easy for him to think of ten reasons to thank the Lord for the gift of ten priests in the tenth anniversary of the diocese. That joyful day made each one exclaimed: Glory to God in the Highest and congratulations to the bishop and the people of Yendi! *Natuma Pam! Ayekoo!*

DISTRICT NEWS

Koforidua District:

Osonson Parish

Bishop Joseph Afrifah – Agyekum Blesses Otokpe Church, Osonson

Out of his car, a smiling Bishop Afrifah-Agyekum greeted parishioners awaiting him outside the village. He joined the crowd marching towards the church unaware that it was almost two kilometers away. Fr. Joe was holding his big umbrella shielding His Excellency from the burning sun of 19th November 2009. At the new church the bishop was welcomed with deafening brass band music, cheering, and welcome by Christian Mothers moving back and forth waving branches and tossing leaves on the path of the bishop in a typical Krobo tradition which must have given the bishop an anticipated feeling of Palm Sunday.

After blessing and incensing outside, the people followed the bishop into the church. Suddenly, the quite big church became too small for the crowd, half of it were choir members assembled from different Villages. The parish priest, Fr. Mietek Sagan, SVD officially welcomed the bishop and invited him to preside over the Mass.

Six couples for marriage blessings with one baptism and a number of confirmations took center stage. For the first time no one shouted “*so la te? do do...*” as the bishop bluntly told them in his homily to stop such practice for no one actually knows what it means.

Reflecting on his walk-experience earlier, the bishop commented, "Walking together is working together; we persevered. So, do not give up!". Such remark revived Fr. Joe who found it quite hard to lift in prayer his hands heavily strained by the twirling of the umbrella. Further, the bishop praised Otokpe people for their tenacity of purpose and spirit of perseverance. After 50 years of struggling and dreaming to have a chapel, at long last the dream has come true today.

Though the ceremony lasted from 10:45 A.M. to 4:55 P.M., the Bishop remained unruffled beaming at every one as usual true to his dubbing as – *The smiling Bishop*.

A reception late in the afternoon capped the occasion to the joys and satisfaction of all. Our big congratulations to Fr. Mietek Sagan and all people involved in the project very well done. *Ayekoo!*

Fr. Joseph Panabang

Osonson organizes Pilgrimage

In collaboration with the Krobo Deanery Pilgrimage committee, the December 8 Pilgrimage committee of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Osonson organized a 3 – day pilgrimage to the grotto of the parish center on 4th – 6th December 2009.

As part of the spiritual exercise of the faithful in the Krobo deanery this year's pilgrimage was earmarked to help deepens the person's devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary. This is shown clearly in the theme: ***Mary Our Mediatrix to God***. Because of her special role in the history of salvation since God Himself called her to be the mother of His son Jesus Christ the redeemer of humankind, she is continually mediating for us especially those who asked for her intercession. To enhance this purpose the first day, Friday: 4th December was devoted to a five - kilometer *rosary procession*. The procession started at 3:30 pm. from Sekesua and ended at 6:30 pm. in the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Osonson. The praying of the rosary was done by group for every decade. In the evening in the grotto compound, the Deanery Service Team of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement animated the pilgrims with their intercessory prayer. This burning spirit of devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary was carried over to the second day, Saturday: 5th December through dawn rosary at 4:00 am with a candlelight procession; holy Mass at 9:00 am led by Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD; recollection talk on the theme: *Mary our Mediatrix to God* at 11:00 am facilitated by the dean of the Krobo deanery, Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Agyemang Bonsu; penitential service at 3:00 pm led by Fr. John Dorborkoe Kudjo, SVD; individual confessions at 4:00 pm; holy hour at 7:00 pm; children's hour at 8:00 pm; medley songs by choirs and other singing groups at 9:00 pm; and witnessing through individual testimonies at 11:00 pm. The third day, Sunday: 6th December concluded the pilgrimage by second dawn rosary with candle light procession at 4:00 am, and Thanksgiving Day with the celebration of the holy Mass at 9:00 am. ***May the Blessed Virgin Mary our Mediatrix to God intercede for us!***

FORMATION

Novitiate

Our Mission Sunday Experience at Tokurse

Still mindful of the flock he shepherds, Pope Benedict XVI has manifested in this ongoing year his faithfulness to the Mission Sunday by sending throughout the world his pontifical message. To help spread the message in their parish and out stations, the Divine Word Novitiate responded freely to the invitation of the parish priest of St Margaret Mary Parish (Dansoman) Fr. Patrick Ofori, SVD and his assistants Fr. Andrew Obeng, SVD and Fr. Jacobson Dey, SVD. Here we would like to share our experience in the outstation where we were sent.

We were sent to St Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, Tokurse, an outstation of St, Margaret Mary Parish, Dansoman. We arrived there in the morning 18th October. The members of the Christian Community there were waiting for us since they were informed of our coming ahead of time. During the Mass we were given time to explain the Pope's message about Mission Sunday. We emphasized that the theme of this year's celebration is: ***'The Nations will come to its light'***(Rev. 21:24). As we went through the whole message, we summed it up in three points: a) mission is Christ centered, b) mission is apostolic, and c) mission is universal. For practical purposes (so that the message would be easily understood), we chose the Bible, an inscription on a banner and a globe as symbols to explain the tripod of the mission. First, the Bible, it refers to Christ centeredness. Without the Bible our mission cannot be Christ centered. Second, an inscription on the banner: "My vocation is to preach the truth". This comes from the statement of St. Paul himself. This connects the apostolic nature of the mission. It is carried on by apostolic succession. Third, the globe, it refers to universality. Hence, the

mission is for all. "Go to the whole world and proclaim the Good News...". We felt that we have delivered the message successfully. We noticed it from the positive response of the people by their offering of cash and in-kind for the mission.

The occasion was also good for us to promote vocation among the youth. We left the place at about 12.45 with joy for the experience that we cannot forget.

Alphonse Fahin, Gideon Davordzi, & Emile Dzokpe

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

Fr. Victor Leones: 15th November 2009 from his home leave in the Philippines. After his long memorable ministry in Kintampo Parish he is now moving to his new mission in New Longoro. *Mabuhay Fr. Vic and welcome back to Ghana and to welcome to New Longoro.*

Fr. Andrews Obeng: 15th November 2009 from an international conference in Nigeria on a theme: "Africa, the Hope of the Church". *Kwambo, Akwaaba!*

Fr. Rex Vegbey: 19th Nov. 2009 from United Kingdom. He came to do research in connection with his communication studies. *Fr. Rex, you are most welcome!*

Fr. Erasmus Norviewu -Mortty: 23rd November 2009 from his studies in Australia. *Fr. Erasmus, akwaaba o o!*

Departures:

Fr. Kingsley Issifu Sagru -Larr: 26th November to Rome to secure his visa for Mexico the actual place of his mission. *Fr. Kingsley, via con Dios mi amigo!*

Fr. Andrews Obeng: 8th November 2009 to Nigeria for an international conference on a theme: "Africa, the Hope of the Church". *Kwambo, all the best!*

Fr. Rex Vegbey: 27th November 2009 back to United Kingdom to continue his special communication studies. *Fr. Rex, Enjoy your travel and your studies!*

Fr. Emmanuel Fianu: 8th December 2009 back to Rome to resume work in the Generalate. *Fr. Emmanuel kindly carry our fraternal greetings to Fr. Tony Pernia, his councilors and all confreres in the headquarters. Extend also our best Christmas and New Year wishes. Bon voyage!*

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

Communication

Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD organizes DEPSOCOM meeting

Brother Stephen Domelevo SVD organized a 2-day meeting of the Directors and Coordinators Department of Social Communication (DEPSOCOM) at conference hall of the National Catholic Secretariat (NCS) on 23rd – 24th November 2009.

The meeting was attended by the different directors and coordinators of DEPSOCOM from the different Dioceses all over Ghana. Directors and Coordinators included: Mr. Dan Dzide National DEPSOCOM from NCS; Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD the organizer, from the Archdiocese Accra; Mr. John Oheneba-Acquah from the Apostolic Prefecture of Donkorkrom; Fr. Eric Frimpong and Mr. Charles Owusu Antwi from the diocese of Obuasi; Fr. Lazarus Anondee and Mr. Clement Minyila from the diocese of Navrongo – Bolgatanga; Fr. Bedekuru and Mr. James Kuusaana from the diocese of Wa; Fr. Valentine Gregory Hloror from the diocese of Keta - Akatsi; Fr. Thaddeus Kuusah from diocese of Tamale; Fr. Emmanuel B. Frimpong from diocese of Konongo- Mampong; Fr. Charles K. Arthur from the diocese of Cape Coast; Fr. Michael Sarfo Kantaka from the diocese of Kumasi; Fr. Peter Claver Sutinga from the diocese of Damongo; Sr. Rejoice Eugenia Sedegah from the diocese of Ho; Fr. Michael Asante from the diocese of Wiaso; and Fr. Dionisio Nellas from the SVD Province, Accra.

The first day, Monday, 23rd November was utilized for orientation and rationale of the meeting by Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD and Very Rev. Francis Adoboli, Vicar General of Accra Archdiocese; introduction of all delegates; sharing about communication media council, its consultancy programmes in the world by Mad. Petra Stamman, Coordinator of CAMECO Germany; Awareness talk about Ghana Bishops Conference's social communication activities by Mr. Dan Dzide, National Director of DEPSOCOM; Report on the Catholic Digest by Bro. Stephen; exploring strategies to sustain Catholic Digest by Fr. Francis Adoboli; open forum to appreciate the good work done by the national director and coordinator and to find workable strategies to face the multi-faceted challenges of the national social communication programmes; then reporting of communication programmes of individual diocesan/ institutional social communication ministry by the communication directors and coordinators. The first day of meeting was closed at 5:00 pm with a note of reviewing the mission – vision of the National DEPSOCOM of Ghana.

Second day was devoted to a sharing on: how to plan effective methods of celebrating world communication day by Accra Archdiocesan financial administrator; how to find appropriate ways of marketing Catholic Digest products by Bro. Stephen Domelevo; how to effectively promote the *Catholic Standard*, the only Catholic newspaper in the country by Mr. Isaac Fritz Andoh; then how to face challenges in promoting good social communication by Fr. Thaddeus Kuusah. The second day of meeting was closed at 5:30 pm with a note of splendour of hope to move forward to a right direction in evangelizing the world employing all good means of communication in this computer - electronic and multi –media era.

Two SVDs participate in the workshop on video/film/TV production

Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD and Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD together with 21 others participated in a two-day workshop on video/film/TV production at the National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI) of Ghana on 25th – 27th November 2009.

On 25th November at 9:30 am., Mr. Eugene Odame, Production manager of NAFTI, led Bro. Stephen Domelevo, Fr. Dionisio Nellas, and 21 others to studio three of the NAFTI. There, he started his orientation talk to the group. He described the basic set up of the studio and its equipments which included acoustics, curtains, the numbers and the color coding elements, back draft, hanging lights, sound systems, the complex camera, sound control section, and editing room to the participants. He also explained to them all their basic functions, in case the participants would like to construct their own studio. In addition, he highlighted that teamwork of the personnel: Production manager, Producer; Director, Assistant director, Cameramen, Sound men, Light men, and Editors working in this field is vital. Production of this kind would not be possible without teamwork. At 11:00 am. he led the group to the theatre cum conference hall to continue the workshop. There he instructed them on the different

stages of film project. He mentioned that first is called *developing stage*. This is the stage that the concept of the film, screen play/ script writing, takes place. Second, is called *pre- production stage*. This is also known as planning stage. In planning the following must be considered: concrete plan for the shots (photo-video clips) according to script; gather all the crew: cameramen, sound and light men, all necessary equipments; money for the journey, to pay for crew, and other accessories. The third is called *production stage*. He said that all the crew members should now go to the place where shooting will be done. Then make actual shooting and recording of scenes. The other name of this stage is, *principal photography shooting stage*. In addition he mentioned that when the camera men go on shooting he should apply the *art of sequence shooting*. This is the shooting that, apart from all photos required by the director, the cameramen should also take as many shots as they can. These shots can be used during the editing. This can save time and money because if the unforeseen photos were not taken, to go back to the site is difficult. The fourth is *post production stage*: Here one has to do logging – watch all the shots by replaying them one by one. This is for the editor to know all information about the film project to be done. This stage is also called editing stage. This is the stage where one can cut away, cut and paste photos/clips; employ animations and transitions; add commentaries; sound effects and music. At 2:00 pm Mr. Amishadai Sackitey, NAFTI photography instructor, took over to instruct the group on good photography. He reviewed with them the meaning of photography as “writing by the use of light”; about intensity of lights and colors; how to use professional camera effectively; then the different shooting parameters, from Big Close Up (BCU) to Medium Close Up (MCU), Close Up (CU) to Short Shots(SS); Long Shot (LS), then to Very Long Shot (VLS). In the following day, at 9:00 am Mr. Julius Baayel, NAFTI instructor of Sounds and Recording came to assist the group on the aspect of effective recording. He instructed them about sound waves; different types of microphones and how to handle them; how to control public address system; and how to use mixer in recording to eliminate unwanted sounds. At 2:00 pm. Miss Laurene Addy, NAFTI Editing instructor, facilitated the session on editing. She mentioned that editing is the most important stage of production. The good result of the production highly depends on the editor. The editor edits the film according to the script/screen play and target audience. He/she can also suggest to the director what is appropriate and best. She added that the attitude of the editor counts very much because his/her different feelings and emotions can come out in the production. She encouraged all to be very patient in this job. Since this job entails a lot of computer work, knowledge of different editing software should be learned properly. She warned the group of a high risk of backbone problem in the future for editors due to the long time of sitting on the chair while editing. She suggested that physical stretching exercises at least every two hours while on the job are necessary. At 5:30 pm. the participants together with the Rector and instructors of NAFTI celebrated a short closing ceremony. All participants, especially Bro. Stephen Domelevo and Fr. Dionisio Nellas, benefited from this workshop because the lessons were very applicable in their ministry as Communication Director and Coordinator.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Congratulations to our 8 new Deacons who were ordained on 5th December 2009 in Tamale.

Diaconia means service, and to our new deacons, a life of service that is grounded on the statement of Christ: “*I come not to be served but to serve*”(Mk 10:45). May your services bring greater honour and glory to God and salvation to his people on earth. *Ayekoo!*

COMING EVENTS

1. 15th January - Feast of St. Arnold Janssen
2. 29th January – Feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz
3. 2nd February 2010 – Feast of the Religious

INFORMATION

1. 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.
2. 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 in CD and Video in CD and DVD of Final Vows & Ordination 2009 please contact our communication office.

REMEMBERING OUR SICK

Mr. Philip Agbeyome, the older brother of Fr. Paul Agbeyome is admitted in 37th Military Hospital, Accra, Let us include Mr. Philip Agbeyome in our healing prayer.

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Mr. Augustine Kweku Domelevo, the father of Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD. He died on 19th October 2009 at 9:07 pm. Funeral arrangement is as follows: 18th Dec. 2009 wake keeping at the residence in Adeemmra-Kwahu, Afram Plains; 19th Dec. burial Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church Adeemmra Kwahu at 9:30 am; then the Interment will follow at Catholic Cemetery in Adeemmra; and then final funeral rite will be at the residence.

Mr. Edward Tawiah, younger brother of Bro. Paul Tawiah. He died on 19th November 2009 at St. Joseph Hospital after short illness. Funeral arrangement will be announced later.

Mr. Benjamin Dalunag Panabang elder brother of Fr. Joseph Panabang. He died on 21 November 2009. He was buried on 25th November 2009 in his home town at Kalenga Apayao, Philippines.

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

WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

“Lord Jesus, send us from the Father the Holy Spirit, that He may glorify Thee and the Father in us and through us.” – St. Arnold Janssen

“I'm alone in the midst of a completely pagan people. Deo gratias. But what will I do here, what can I build? Dear God, you build, otherwise I will build in vain; you do battle, you stand watch, otherwise I watch in vain! May the harvest indeed be great, but ... God wills it! So set to work!” – St. Joseph Freinademetz

“For the Servant of the Holy Spirit, everyday should be a new Pentecost; every breath:” Come Holy Spirit!” every deed: “Send forth your Spirit” and every heartbeat: “Lord Jesus, send us from the Father the Holy Spirit!” – Mother Mary Michaela (Co – foundress of the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters)

JOKES ONLY

Missing

A man was on his way home with a new car, which was absorbing all his attention, when it struck him that he had forgotten, something.

Twice he stopped, counted his parcels and searched his pockets, but finally decided he had everything with him. Yet the feeling persisted.

When he reached home his daughter ran out, stopped short, and cried: *‘Oh! Why, Father, where is mother?’*

Gentleman still

Guard: (to prisoner about to be electrocuted) *Have you any last word?*

Prisoner: *Yeah, I would like to offer my seat to a lady.*

You are hired

The editor was interviewing an applicant for the position of proof reader.

Editor: *I suppose you are aware of the responsibility attached to this job.*

Applicant: *Yes sir. I know that when you make a mistake I take the blame, Right?*

Editor: *You are hired*

? Don't Worry

Mother: *It is showering, Lets hurry home so that we will not be wet.*

Daughter: *Don't worry mommy, it will disappear when heavy rain comes.*

WORTH REMEMBERING

December

1	Marcelo Oyarzún	Birthday	10	Anthony Darko-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 João 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	25	Emmanuel Affum	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

January

1	Vincent Boi - Nai	Birthday	17	Anthony Anala	Feastday
1	Paulus Pio	Birthday	19	Mariusz Pacula	Feastday
1	Johannes Lengari	Birthday	24	Edward Tetteh	Birthday
1	Mieczyslaw Sagan	Feastday	20	Sebastian Sperl	Feastday
3	Thaddeus Nyanuba	Birthday	20	Fabian Mate	Feastday
7	Peter Claver Narh	Birthday	26	Stephen Domelevo	Feastday
11	Frederick Timp	Birthday	26	James O. Amankwah	Birthday
11	Martin Dumas	Birthday	26	Stanislaw Gergont	Birthday
13	Victor Gbortsu	Birthday	31	John K. Tumawu	Feastday
14	Anthony Anala	Birthday	31	Johannes Lengari	Feastday
15	Ronald Lange	F&Bday			
16	Marcelo Oyarzún	Feastday			

Jan	Our departed confreres	Year
12	Josef Jus	1985
16	Harold Rigney	1980
23	Lawrence Thornton	2003

Liturgy Corner

The Role of the Congregation

Some writers speak about the ministry of the congregation. While this is not a defined ministry in the strict sense, still the congregation has an important role to fulfill in the Eucharistic liturgy. Their role is ministry in the wide sense. "For their part, the faithful join in the offering of the Eucharist by virtue of their royal priesthood ... Taking part in the Eucharistic Sacrifice ... they offer the Divine Victim to God, and offer themselves along with it" (Constitution on the Church, No. 10).

The role of the congregation therefore, is not simply to be present and observe what the liturgical ministers are doing. The assembled people (according to the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, No. 48) are called to exercise their priesthood by participating "knowingly, devoutly, and actively" in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, and they are reminded that "by offering the Immaculate Victim, not only through

the hands of the priest, but also with him, they should learn to offer themselves too.” Without this total offering of themselves they cannot claim full participation.



Perhaps more effectively than any of the other ministers, the people in the congregation are able to make a given liturgy truly come alive by performing the actions of liturgy: by singing, responding, reflecting in silence, and by listening! As they minister to each other, they build up the Body of Christ and help one another to experience more clearly the presence of Jesus in word and sacrament.

In the Eucharistic banquet the presiding priest, liturgical ministers, and self-offering congregation “participation together in their own way, according to the diversity of orders and liturgical roles” (Canon 899, No. 2)

Pius Agyeman, SVD

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year to all!

Edited by Dionisio Nellas, SVD