



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

This newsletter is coming out just as I am leaving for the AFRAM Zonal meeting in Lomé, therefore my comments will be short this time.

We celebrated the Southern Family Feast at Madonna School in Koforidua on 29 January, the feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz. The Holy Spirit Sisters hosted the celebration this year and did a splendid job of it. We celebrated the jubilees of our confreres and Holy Spirit Sisters who were celebrating their 50th, 40th, and 25th anniversaries of vows or ordination. Bishop Boi-Nai, who was celebrating 40 years of vows, was the main celebrant at the Mass. Andrew Campbell who was celebrating 40 years of priesthood preached. There are more details in the newsletter.

The Northern Family Feast will be celebrated at TICCS on the 15th of February. I plan to be there also. Our members in the north who are celebrating their jubilees this year will be honored at this celebration.

Our Guest House in Accra played host to ten confreres on their way to the Zonal Meetings in Lomé. They came from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. Fr. Dariusz Garbaciak, the USC Treasurer also ended up stranded in Accra when his flight from Accra to Lomé was cancelled so he was able to enjoy a visit to Ghana. They will pass through Ghana again on their way back to their various provinces. We are happy we can host them.

May all of you be blessed by the Lord as you try to serve him in your various ministries. May you have a fruitful Lenten season as you strive to draw more closely to the Lord during this holy season which is almost upon us.

Your Confrere,

Thomas D'Mello SVD
Provincial

PROVINCE NEWS

Southern Sector Celebrates Family Feast



SVD confreres and SSps Sisters in Southern sector celebrated this year's Family Feast in the Conference Hall of Madonna Catholic School, Koforidua on 29th January 2010.

It was on the feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz. Remembering St. Joseph the theme taken was: **“Family in Mission, A live!**

The celebration began with a thanksgiving mass at 9:30 am. The First reading (Rom 15: 13-19a, 20-21) which shows St. Paul's life as apostle to the gentiles; Responsorial Psalm (98:1,2-3,3-4, 5-6) which echoes the joy of Israel for the Lord has made His salvation known; and the Gospel (Lk. 10:1-9) which narrates the sending of the seventy two disciples to proclaim the Good News were appropriate to describe the life of St. Joseph Freinademetz. They also fit on the theme: **“Family in Mission, Alive!”** In this vein, Most Rev. Vincent Boi-Nai, the main celebrant invited all to thank God for St. Joseph, for our Founder and the founding generations; to thank our Family “Arnoldus Family”; to thank God for the mission and to thank God for gift the life - that we are alive! Very Rev. Fr. Andrew Campbell who assisted him confirmed this thought in his homily. As members of the Arnoldus Family – a missionary family, we need to support each other to be able to radiate life and hope to each other, to the people whom God entrusted to us, and to the world at large. When trouble comes, we should never be discouraged. We are not alone, our family is big. Besides, we have the Saints and Blessed who keep on interceding for us. St. Joseph Freinademetz radiated life in China and became the hope of the Chinese. Hence we should continue to journey as “Family in Mission, Alive!”

Before the final blessing, the Provincials: Fr. Thomas D' Mello, SVD and Sr. Mary Lauren, SSps headed the honouring of the Jubilarians who were present on that occasion by giving them memorable token of love: Most Rev. Vincent Boi – Nai for his 40 years in Vows; Frs. Gabriel Kumordji and Andrew Quaye – Foli for their 25 years in the Priesthood; Fr. Rafael Mesi for his 25 years in vows; Konrad Dreyer, Patrick Ofori and Andrew Campbell for their 40 years in the Priesthood; Sr. Dalia Schneiders, 50 years in vows; Sr. Julia Guria, 25 years in vows; and Sr. Carmen Brabo, 25 years in vows. The jubilarians who were not present were honoured in absentia. And those in the Northern sector will be specially honoured on the Northern Family Feast at Tamale (15th February 2010).

The celebration concluded with lunch, group singing, sharing of jokes, and musical interludes. All departed with the thought of St. Joseph Freinademetz's magic word: **“The language that all people understand is that of love”**

DISTRICT NEWS

Accra :

Religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters Celebrates the Day of the Religious



This year's Day of the Religious in the Accra was celebrated on 5th February 2010 at Christ the King Parish.

There were 19 Religious Societies/Congregations: SVD; SSpS; Comboni(MCCJ); Jesuits (S.J.); Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM); Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ); School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND); Missionaries of Charity; Hospitaller Brothers (OH); Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB); Congregation of the Holy Family (CHF); Our Lady of the Church (Notre Dame de 'l'Eglise); Claritians (CMF); Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM); Spiritans; Marist Brothers; Franciscan Friars; Handmaids of the Divine Redeemer (HDR); and Sisters of St. Louis (SSL) that were represented in the celebration.

The programme began at 9:00 a.m. by self introduction. Fr. John Tasiane, MCCJ animated the assembly by calling the name of the Society/Congregation and inviting every member to introduce himself/herself so that each one's presence was acknowledged. After that, Fr. Andrew Campbell, SVD, the parish priest of Christ the King, gave his warm welcome address. He expressed his appreciation to all for coming. He oriented all to sequence of the programme, i.e.: talk by Archbishop Charles Palmer Buckle, the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Accra; Eucharist; and Agape.

In his presentation, Most Rev. Charles Palmer Buckle, Archbishop of Accra, talked about the "New Role of the Religious in the Archdiocese". This new role is no other than the exemplary witness of life and leadership of the religious in promoting *Organic Unity* among all the co-workers in the Archdiocese as the Archdiocese is moving forward to implement its Synodal Acts in order to achieve its vision 2018 – Church as Family of God through its mission - Sanctification of the people of God in the Archdiocese with its motto/slogan as: Church is One; Church is Holy; Church is Catholic; Church is Apostolic; Church is Family of God.

At 9:30 am. all moved to the church in candle light procession for the Eucharist. In his Homily, Most Rev. Charles Palmer Buckle, said that religious are called to be martyrs. He connected this thought to the martyrdom of St. Agatha whose memorial was celebrated on that day and St. John the Baptist since the Gospel was taken from Mk. 6:14 -29 – the story of his beheading by king Herod. The martyrdom of Religious is not beheading, which can be easiest and fastest type of martyrdom, but dying to self day by day, detachment from material things, surrender of one's will to superiors is what the religious are called to. And this can be a more difficult form of martyrdom. It is not easy, therefore we ask the intercession of St. Agatha and St. John the Baptist. May the Lord enlighten us more and more to accept the call to holiness and the call of martyrdom in order to witness Christ, he concluded. All the participants responded by holding their lighted candles while saying their prayer of commitment.

At 12:50 pm all went back to the social hall for banquet and sharing religious life's experience before departure.

Koforidua District:

The Smiling Bishop Meets His Co-Workers

Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Afrifah-Agyekum rendered a well attended Christmas get-together with his co-workers: priests and religious, sisters, novices, seminarians, brothers, and lay people as well on 29th December 2009 at his residence in Koforidua

Presiding over the Holy Eucharist himself, he exhorted his coworkers to give thanks to God for the blessings of the passing year and to recommit themselves with more passion and fervour in whatever work, office, ministries, and institutions they are in. Crosses are easier carried when inconstant prayer and in collaboration with one another, he emphasized.

After the Mass, the new comers to the diocese introduced themselves with Arnold Janssen's Family dominating once again.

The occasion was made more special with the presence of veteran missionaries like Bros.: Tarcisius de Ruyter, SVD; Paul Plawky, SVD; and Fr. Vincent Burke, SVD who, meeting Bro. Plawky said, "let me greet you for the next greeting might be in heaven", to the amusement of Fr. Joe and others watching them with edified delight.

Present also were visitors of Fr. Marek Dabrowski from Poland and of the Bishop from Nigeria who studied with him in Rome.

As usual, raffled gifts added to the fond of the celebration that lasted till afternoon.

Fr. Joseph Panabang, SVD

Afram Plains:

Very Rev. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD is elevated to the rank of the Bishop

At 10:00 a.m. GMT on the 19th January 2010, exactly 12:00 noon in the Vatican, the Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana disclosed the announcement of Pope Benedict XVI in the Vatican about the raising of the status of the Apostolic Prefecture of Donkorkrom to Apostolic Vicariate and has named Fr. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD as the first Apostolic Vicar with the rank of a Bishop.

In the interview by the press about his feeling of being elevated Bishop, he said that he is humbled and surprised by his appointment by Pope Benedict XVI as the Vicar of Donkorkrom. He continued, "since God has done it, He will lead me to where He wants me to be". When asked what to do since Donkorkrom is elevated from Prefecture to Vicariate, he commented that he would like to continue the strategic plan he has for Donkorkrom Prefecture now Vicariate. This strategic plan for the next three years included, building: more Christian communities –parishes, health care facilities- clinics, educational facilities – schools, Cathedral as the future seat of the future diocese, etc. He thanked God for the gift of this Episcopal vocation.

Harvest is plentiful, labourers are few. The pastoral service that will be assumed by the Bishop elect will not be easy. As we rejoice in his elevation, let us support and pray for him that he may continue to do the will of God in his life by nourishing the faith of the people of the Donkorkrom Vicariate as the good shepherd.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

Fr. Otmar Auinger. 4th December 2009 from Austria. *Fr. Otmar welcome back.*

Thaduesz Grenda, Marek Glodek and Kristian Traczyk: 4th February, from Zimbabwe on their way to the AFRAM Zonal meetings in Lomé.

Konrad Klich: 4th February, from Poland/Mozambique on his way to the AFRAM Zonal meeting in Lomé.

Zeferino Martins and Caique Chivanja: from Angola on their way to the AFRAM Zonal meeting in Lomé.

Bro. Lutwin Dollwet and Fr. Paul Shiju : 5th February 2010 from Botswana to pass through Ghana on their way to Togo for the AFRAM Zonal meetings.

Paul Nadolny: 5th February from Mozambique on his way to Togo for the AFRAM Zonal meetings in Lomé.

Dariusz Garbaciak: 5 February from the USA on his way to Togo for the AFRAM Zonal meetings.
You are all most welcome.

Departures:

Fr. Paul-Kubi Prince : 21st January 2010 back to United States Western Province to continue his Ministry with the Spanish community in San Bernardino district. *Fr. Paul, we are one with your mission. All the best!*

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

JPIC

Religious JPIC – Ghana Declares to Save our Planet

In order to respond the call to respect the environment and to effect the restoration of the ecological balance of the world that has been affected by the exercise of human freedom to dominate/conquer the earth, hence climate change, the religious JPIC – Ghana organized a candle light vigil in the evening of 12th December 2010 at the quadrangle of St. Mary's Senior Secondary School, Accra.

The facilitator, Sr. Vilma Espinoza, SSpS, together with Representative from different religious houses: SVD, SMA, Holy Cross, FMM, RVM, OMI and staff and students of St. Mary's Senior Secondary School boldly proclaimed the candle light vigil declaration on climate change:

Today, we gather here, and with communities in every corner of the world, to commit to work together to save our planet.

The fragile balance of the earth that has always sustained us is changing. We are changing it.

We are causing warming that leads to more warming, icecaps melt and rainforests die, and this cycle could move beyond our control within just five years.

Climate change is far away, but close at hand. Many of us have slumbered until now. But for others, climate change is already a living devastation.

It is the dying light in a child's eye, as advancing deserts turns a farm to dust, and a family starves.

It is a home, a livelihood, and a lifetime of memories wiped out by ever-rising floods and bitter storms.

It is the deadly battle between desperate neighbouring tribes clinging to the last remaining water holes.

It is a whole proud island nation fleeing, its water poisoned by the sea, its lands sinking beneath the waves.

And it is the tension of thousands of refugees driven from their lands to cities across the poorest nations.

These are the bitter foretastes of the gathering storm. This is the future that threatens us all – for no-one will be untouched by these ravages, rich or poor, north or south.

But we can save ourselves, by changing the energy that powers our societies. We can stop burning all this oil, coal and wood. We can shift to the natural energy of the sun, the wind, the water. But we must do this all together, and we must do it now.

The decisions we make today will decide the future of humanity.

This is why we have come out today to 2000 events in 130 countries across our planet, to light up the world with a call to action, a signal of hope.

We call on our leaders to take urgent action and agree a Real Climate Deal:

A real deal must be ambitious. We want a deal that will stop and reverse the growth of harmful carbon emissions within 5 years, and quickly return the world to a safe level of 350 parts per million of carbon in our atmosphere.

A real deal must be fair. We want a deal that commits \$200 billion per year to help poor countries do their part to fix this crisis which was not created by them.

A real deal must be binding. We won't allow empty promises. We want a deal that makes the protection of our planet the law of all lands.

This is the most important deal of our time. Every country must be part of the solution. We will accept nothing less.

Tonight we gather as global citizens with common purpose and shared fate. This is a chance to build a world we can be proud to leave to our children and grandchildren.

The hour is darkest before the dawn. Our movement is awake, this moment is ours to seize, the future is ours to build and our message is clear:

The World Wants A Real Deal!

This declaration coupled with photos and video clips was forwarded to Copenhagen for global effect.

Sr. Vilma Espinosa, SSpS

COMMUNICATION

VATICAN CITY - For God's sake, blog!

Pope Benedict XVI told priests saying they must learn to use new forms of communication to spread the message of the gospel.

In his message for the World Day of Communications, the pope, who is 82 and known not to love computers or the internet, acknowledged priests must make the most of the "rich menu of options" offered by new technology.

"Priests are thus challenged to proclaim the Gospel by employing the latest generation of audiovisual resources -- images, videos, animated features, blogs, websites -- which, alongside traditional means, can open up broad new vistas for dialogue, evangelization and catechesis," he said.

Priests, he said, had to respond to the challenge of "today's cultural shifts" if they wanted to reach young people.

The message was addressed to the priest by the Pope in favour of the year for the priests. But the importance of using electronic media to proclaim Christianity is for all -- priests, brothers and sisters. So, why not blog?

CCROM

SVD Confreres and SSpS Sisters participates in the Advent CCROM Seminar

The Advent Cross Cultural Reflection on Ministry (CCROM) Seminar 2009 took place successfully at the Divine Word Conference Center from the 15th to the 16th of December 2009. The theme for the seminar was “**Pastoral Liturgy – The Role Of The Religious Priest, Brother And Sister.**” We were fortunate to have as resource person our own confrere – Bro. Pius Agyemang, SVD. The participants numbered about 17, comprising SVD confreres and SSpS sisters.

The seminar offered a forum for us to share our experiences within our various pastoral contexts in relation to the celebration of the liturgy of the Church. In our sharing, it became glaringly clear that certain unapproved practices had taken solace in the term “inculturation” and were eating deep into the fabric of the Church’s liturgical life. The thrust of our discussion brought home the clarion call to uphold the universal character of the Church’s liturgy and, where there is the need for inculturation, to implement those liturgical practices approved by the Bishop’s Conference.

Another point that came out clearly was the need to prepare adequately before the celebration of the Church’s liturgy, with particular reference to the Holy Mass. It was noted that the secret behind a good Mass is good preparation.

We thank all who contributed towards making the Advent CCROM Seminar a success.

Fr. Andrews Obeng, SVD

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Congratulations to Fr. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD for the Episcopal election announced by Pope Benedict the XVI on 19th January 2010.

Congratulations to our Jubilarians . SVDs: Vincent Boi – Nai, 40 years in Vows on 31 May; Tomy Thomas, 25 years in Vows on 11 June; Josef Mazur, 25 years in the Priesthood on 15 June; Marek Kowalik, 25 years in the Priesthood on 15 June; Janusz Schilitz , 40 years in the Priesthood on 21 June; Andrew Quaye – Foli, 25 years in the Priesthood on 14 July; Gabriel Kumordji, 25 years in the Priesthood on 14 July; Rafael Mesi, 25 years in vows on 1 August; Henry Duah, 25 years in the Priesthood on 8th September; Konrad Dreyer, 40 years in the Priesthood on 11th October; Patrick Ofori, 40 years in the Priesthood on 19th December; Andrew Campbell, 40 years in the

Priesthood on 20th December. And *SSpS*: Sr. Dalia Schneiders, 50 years in vows; Sr. Julia Guria, 25 years in vows; Sr. Carmen Brabo, 25 years in vows.

COMING EVENTS

1. 5th February – Feast of the Religious. Christ the King Parish is the venue of the celebration for Accra.
2. 7th – 13th February – Afram Zonal Meeting at Lomé, Togo
3. February – Parents/guardians visit to Divine Word Novitiate at Nkwatia – Kwahu
4. 15th February – Family Feast: Northern Sector in Tamale
5. 22nd Feb – 24th March – Novices’ 30-day Retreat in the Divine Word Novitiate, Nkwatia – Kwahu
6. 27th February - Second Seminary (St. Victor’s Seminary) Congregation
7. 5th – 6th March - Lenten Recollection (first batch)
8. 8th – 9th March - Lenten Recollection (second batch)
9. 9th – 10th March – Lenten CCROM

INFORMATION

1. Arnoldus Nota and Newsletter Information

2 February 2010

Dear Confreres,

This letter comes from me with my prayers and wishes that all is well with you in whatever little nook or cranny of the province you may be in. Know that even if I can’t visit you very often you are never far from my thoughts and prayers.

With this letter I want to convey to you a decision made at the provincial council meeting of January 19-20. After some thought and discussion we decided that in the future we will be sending the province newsletter and Arnoldus/Nota by email only. We know that some people do not have email. Therefore every district/community should designate a member who has an email connection to print a copy for those in their district/community who cannot easily get it by email themselves.

What was the thinking behind this decision? The newsletter and Arnoldus/Nota often sit in the Guest House boxes for weeks on end because no one from the local community comes to collect them. Sometimes they even go missing completely! By sending them through email you can get them the same day they are distributed, or at least much faster than waiting for them to reach you from Accra.

As it is now many people have read these publications via email long before the printed copy reaches them. Many printed copies are never read. This is a big waste of paper. In a little way this is an effort to preserve the Integrity of Creation.

For quite some time now the Generalate has been sending out the Arnoldus/Nota and other things by email only, so this is not a new move in the Society.

We realize that some people have weak or slow internet connections. We will send these things as pdf files which means they can be downloaded fairly quickly even with a weak or slow connection.

If there are any serious problems caused by this change we would of course want to hear about them so we can find a way to overcome or alleviate them.

For February we will still put the printed copies in the boxes for those who have requested them, but we anticipate this will be the last time. In March the local communities should be ready to provide printed copies for those who need them.

Yours in the Divine Word,



Thomas D’Mello, SVD
Provincial

2. 30-day Retreat

Our novices will, this year, undertake the 30 days Ignatian exercises at the novitiate from **February 22 to March 24**. During that time, we'll appreciate it very much to have little or no disturbances from outside as the retreat will be in total silence. Consequently, we hope visits can also be reduced over that time. Please, send SMS or call Fr. Rafael Mesi at night when you need to necessarily pass by or give/get information during that period. His mobile number: 028 910 0966. – *Message from Fr. George Angmor, SVD (Novice Master)*.

3. St. Victor's Seminary (SVS) Congregational Celebration : Urgent Message!

All SVDs who passed through St. Victor's seminary (lecturers and seminarians) should pass on their contribution for the Congregation slated for **27th February, 2010** to **Fr. Joshua Gariba, SVD** not later than the 20th of February 2010 to enable the planning committee carry out its programmes successfully. Alternatively, those concerned could also bring the contribution along when coming for the event. Accordingly, Fr. Joshua has distributed letters to all SVS Alumni long time ago. So there should be no failure in this regard. (note: *this Message is taken from Fr. Joshua Gariba, SVD letter 3rd Feb. 2010*)

4. You know what? The preparation of the 100th birthday of Most Rev. Joseph Oliver Bowers, SVD is in full swing. Barely, one month more then we have centenary celebration. Please remember Bishop Bowers in your prayer.
5. Would you want to be enriched with the TV programme promoted by the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) and Radio program in *TWI* by the Archdiocese of Accra? Watch "Catholic Digest" on your screen: **GTV** at 6:00 – 6:30 a.m.; and **Crystal TV** at 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. every Saturday. And listen to "Catholic Gyediemu Nsem" on your radio: Adom FM 106.3 at 8:30 – 9:00 pm every Sunday.

REMEMBERING OUR SICK

Mary Abraham, mother of Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurath, SVD. She is seriously ill with kidney failure and a lung infection.

Helena Bao, mother of Bro. John Lengari. She is seriously ill and bedridden. Bro. John has gone home to be with his mother at this time.

Let us pray that ourmerciful and compassionate Lord extends consolation and healing touch upon them .

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Mrs. Margaret Acheampong, mother of Fr. John Acheampong. She died on 18th January 2010. Funeral arrangements still to be announced

Cor de Ruyter, younger brother of Bro. Tarcisius de Ruyter, SVD. He died 18th January 2010 in Canada.

Thomas Narh Kabutey, the elder brother of Rev. Peter Kabutey, SVD. He died on 19th January 2010 at the age of 54. He was buried on 6th February.

Gifty Alberta Owusu, also aunt of Fr. Daniel Lenwah, SVD. She died 26th December 2010. Funeral arrangement will be announced later.

Mary Anane, aunt of Fr. Daniel Lenwah, SVD. She died 27th December 2010. Funeral: 30th January 2010 at Taifa Catholic Church.

Felicia Abankwa, mother of Fr. Edward Tetteh, SVD (Missionary from Ghana to the USC). She died on 2nd February 2010 at the age of 70. Funeral arrangement will be announced later.

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

WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

"The Holy Spirit is the God of love who comes in order to make humans lovable in God's eyes and to reveal God's love for them." – St. Arnold Janssen

"What can we do? First, pray. Ask the Lord for harvest. Second, sacrifice." – St. Arnold Janssen

"The Lord challenges our faith to do something new, precisely when so many things are collapsing in the Church." – St. Arnold Janssen

"The holier a work is, the more difficulties it usually meets." – St. Arnold Janssen

"The language that all people understand is that of love" – St. Joseph Freinademetz

JOKES ONLY

His Father is Brilliant!

Father: *My goodness! You fail again!*

Son: *Oh ... our exams were difficult.*

Father: *Is that so? Why not follow your classmate, Peter? He always gets excellent marks.*

Son: *Father, It is unfair to follow him.*

Father: *And why?*

Son: *His father is brilliant!*

Wooden Start

John: *What would happen if you have a wooden car with wooden wheels, a wooden chair and a wooden engine?*

James: *It wooden start!!!*

Side B

A Mental patient is singing while lying in his hospital bed.

After a song, he turns face down to sing again.

Nurse: *Why are you facing down while singing?*

Patient: *Madam, I am in the **Side B** now.*

Customer is Always Right

On his first day at the store, the young clerk was being lectured by his boss: *"Now don't forget that the customer is always right"*

It wasn't long before the boss noticed a customer entering his store and leaving immediately without buying anything. "What's wrong?" he asked the clerk. "why aren't the people buying?" "Well," answered the honest youth, "they all say the prices are too high and tell them they're right and off they go!"

WORTH REMEMBERING

February

1	Joseph Addai	Birthday		19	Andrew Quaye-fofi	Birthday
1	Deepak Tigga	Birthday		19	Joseph Panabang	Birthday
4	Gerard Tanye	Birthday		24	Mathias Yaadar	Birthday
8	Emil Setsoafia	Feastday		24	Martin Ninang	Birthday
9	Tomy Kanjiramalayil	Birthday		24	Matthias Felber	Feastday
10	Oswald Bangfo	Birthday		26	Alex Awuah - Osei	Feastday
12	Rafael Mesi	Birthday		26	Alexander Chandi	Feastday
15	Boguslaw Berek	Birthday		28	Oswald Bangfo	Feastday
16	Dionisius Kopong Ola	Birthday		29	Matthias Helms	Birthday

Feb	Our departed confreres	Year
10	Josef Glatzel	2000
13	Charles Roesslein	1999
22	Titus Grawey	1986
22	Leslie Hatfield	1987
24	David Schouten	1993

March

2	Marek Kowalik	Birthday		21	Paul R. Tawiah	Birthday
3	Stephen Ayisu	Birthday		21	Matthew Yeng	Birthday
5	McDaniel Acquaaah	Birthday		21	Benjamin Adusei-Poku	Feastday
8	Anastasius Osei	Birthday		22	Boguslaw Berek	Feastday
15	Gideon Davordzi	Birthday		23	Marcel Kakrabah	Birthday
17	Pius Oduro Owusu Gregory	Birthday		24	Gabriel Kumordji	Birthday
17	Patrick Kodom	Feastday		27	Andrew Campbell	Birthday
17	Patrick Ofori	Feastday		28	Henry Noordermeer	Birthday
19	Joseph Mazur	Feastday		28	Joseph Bowers	Birthday
19	Joseph Panabang	Feastday		28	Gregorius Boss	Birthday
19	Joseph Sakete	Feastday				

Mar.	Our departed confreres	Year
5	Edward Asafu-Adgye	2006
6	Rene Derinck	1965
7	William Kane	2001
17	Patrick Twi	1995
18	Thomas Helleran	2004
27	Theodore Smeets	1998

Liturgy Corner

Greeting

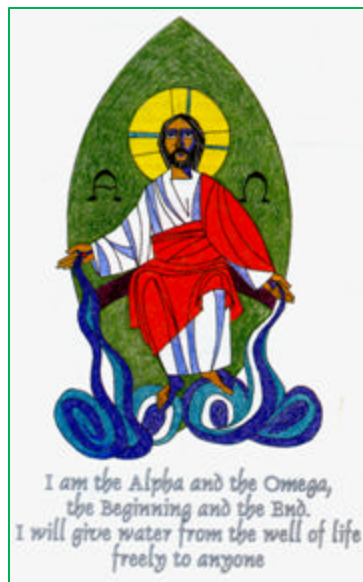
In any human relationship a greeting is the first attempt to welcome another with graciousness and warmth. The three standard scriptural (2 Cor. 13:44; Rom 1:7; Phil 1:1-2) greetings in the ritual express “the presence of the Lord to the assembled community” and, in this greeting by the celebrant and response by the people, “the mystery of the Church that is gathered together” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, n. 28) and the people’s awareness of the reality that they are a community is deepened.

Penitential Rite

The Mass celebrates the love and forgiveness by which Jesus destroyed the power of sin and death and united all people to himself as a perfect gift to his father. In an act of thanksgiving for love and as an admission of our need for continual conversion, the people join with the priest in the penitential rite in asking God for mercy, forgiveness and healing.

This rite is the community’s statement of confidence that God is with them. Fitting place at the beginning of the celebration, the penitential rite prepares the community to hear God’s word; profess its faith; join in prayers of thanksgiving and share in communion in the life of God.

The most familiar of the variations in the penitential rite is the *Kyrie eleison*, or “Lord have mercy which is a litany – like petition for God’s mercy dating from the fourth century Antioch – Jerusalem liturgy. The sprinkling and blessing of the people with holy water will replace the ... penitential rite. This ritual recalls their initial conversion and baptism and symbolizes new birth, regeneration, cleansing and healing (Gen 1:1-2, 6-9; Ex. 14:15; 40:12-15; Lev. 8:7; Ezekiel 36: 24-26; Psalm 23:1-2; John 3:5; 2 Cor. 4:6; Eph. 5:13-14; 1 Tim. 3:5; Heb 10:32). The meaning of the sprinkling with holy water is recalled in the new Rite of Baptism for Children... the door to life and to the Kingdom of God ... the sacrament of that faith by which men and women, enlightened by the Spirit’s grace, respond to the Gospel of Christ ... the sacrament by which men and women are incorporated into the Church, built into a house where God lives in the Spirit, into a holy nation and a royal priesthood....a sacrament bond of unity linking all who have been signed by it ... the cleansing with water by the power of the living word (Gen. Instruction of Roman Missal, nos. 3-5)



Pius Agyeman, SVD