



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

We have just celebrated the Northern Family Feast at TICCS. People from the northern (Brong Ahafo, Tamale, Yendi, SSpS sisters from Saboba, Wiaga Sunyani) were present. It was a good celebration with the jubilarians being at the altar for the Eucharistic celebration. The Afram Zonal Coordinator – Xene Sanchez, The DR Congo Provincial – Bernard Ilunga wa Ilunga, and the Zonal Formation Coordinator – Brother Guy Mazola, participated in the family feast.

The Afram Zonal Assembly was held thirty kilometers north of Lomé from the 7-13th of February. Fr. General, the Treasurer General, and the Chicago Province Treasurer were also present. The Afram Treasurers’ meeting took place simultaneously in the same venue as the Zonal Assembly. Some sessions were combined.

We plan to soon host the first 100th birthday of an SVD bishop. The honor goes to Most Rev. Joseph Oliver Bowers, SVD who will be 100 on 28 March this year. That day a celebration in the HDR Sisters place in Agomanya will be held. It will consist of a Mass followed by a short celebration with the HDR Sisters and SVDs only. On Easter Monday, 5th April there will be a bigger celebration with the three dioceses that were part of Bishop Bowers’ diocese participating. Priests, religious and laity are welcome to that celebration. Many dignitaries are expected to also attend this second celebration.

Another important day in the SVD Ghana Province calendar is April 17th. This is the date of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect Gabriel Kumordji in Donkorkrom. He will be the third Ghanaian SVD bishop to be ordained. We already congratulate him while we are still looking forward to the ordination.

As you all know by now Fr. Justin’s departure to the next life has filled the province with sadness and grief. As you get this newsletter in your hand, or in your computer, we will be having the wake and burial for him. Justin You have left us, but you are still in our hearts!

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

Thomas D’Mello SVD
Provincial

PROVINCE NEWS

Northern Arnoldus Family Celebrates Family Feast

On the 15th February, 2010, our SVD confreres, seminarians in the two formation houses in Tamale, and SSPS sisters in the Northern sector of Ghana joyfully converged at Tamale Institute for Cross Cultural Studies (TICCS) to celebrate the Arnoldus Family Feast day.

The theme for the celebration was: *The Arnoldus Family in Mission*. It was really a great day to reflect over the SVD-SSPS mission apostolate in the North known as a conflict zone in the country. For us our mission is to serve the people with peace, justice and reconciliation and there was no better day than this to show our love and unity in diversity. Our confreres and sisters trooped in from the various districts including Kintampo, Yendi, Saboba, and Wiaga to show that we all belong to one big family.

The Holy Eucharist started at 9:30 am. The High Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Vincent Boi- Nai, SVD, Bishop of Yendi, who was celebrating his 40th year in vows. Concelebrating with him were Rev. Frs. Jozef Mazur, Henry Duah and Very Rev. Tomy Thomas, the Vicar General of Yendi. Frs. Jozef Mazur and his classmates Marek Kowalik, Director of TICCS were celebrating their 25 years as religious priests while Frs. Henry Duah and Tomy Thomas were also celebrating 25 years in vows and Sr. Carmen Bravo, SSPS, celebrating her 40th year in vows.

In his homily, Bishop Boi- Nai, reminded us that as religious we cannot bear witness to Christ without reflecting his image, which is made alive in us by the grace and action of the Holy Spirit. He said that because St. Freinademetz, our first SVD missionary to China was touched by the spirit of Jesus that he gave his life in service to all the Chinese people he encountered in his priestly ministry regardless of their social, religious and cultural background. Touching on our mission among the people, the bishop noted that the current situation in the Northern Region carries a historic challenge to us all as missionaries especially to our seminarians who are training and preparing themselves for the religious life. He insisted that we cannot be happy with ourselves when we remain shut up in our parishes and religious houses waiting for others to come to us especially in our northern environment which is experiencing poverty, chieftaincy disputes, ethnic conflicts, witchcraft, crude widowhood rites, etc...

Bishop Boi Nai expressed his joy that our common identity and the deepest source of the special bond that unites us as members of the Arnold Janssen Family is derived from our consecration to God and our personal commitment to the spreading of the Gospel.

After the Mass, Fr. Joshua Gariba, SVD, Vice Provincial presented gifts to the jubilarians on behalf of the province. There were various activities to make the day special and entertaining. The organizers divided the confreres and sisters into four families: St. Arnold, St Joseph Freinademetz, Blessed Maria Helena and Blessed Josepha. They fiercely, but in a friendly manner, competed in the various games including football, cards, sack race, ludo, draughts, tug of peace, filling the bottle, and table tennis. Awards were given to the various winning families and some individuals. The winner of the football and sack race went to St. Joseph Freinademetz family, cards and filling the bottle to Blessed Josepha, draughts and tug of peace went to St. Arnold Family. Fr. Anthony Hibur was adjudged the best player, the best goal keeper was Sr. Matilda Quist, and the best referee was Fr. David Tengey.

Present at the feast were Frs.: Thomas D'Mello, our Provincial Superior, Bernard Illunga, the Provincial Superior of DR Congo, Xene Sanchez, AFRAM Zonal Coordinator and Guy Mazola, Zonal Coordinator for formation. Our next Northern Family Feast celebration will take place at Kintampo.

Sem. Stephen Osei-Asante and Abraham Dzibitor

Bishop Bowers the Fourth Oldest Catholic Bishop

We salute Bishop Joseph Oliver BOWERS as he turns 100 on March 28, 2010. He is the fourth oldest Catholic

Bishop in the world following only retired bishops Nguyen Van Thien (age 104 of Vietnam), Hong Yong-Ho (103 of North Korea) and Gery-Jacques-Charles Leuliet (100 of France) in age. Bishop Bowers was ordained a priest in 1939 and appointed auxiliary bishop of Accra, Ghana in 1952. A year later he was named the bishop of Accra and remained there until 1971 when he was named bishop of St. John Basseterre in the Caribbean. He retired in 1981 and returned to Ghana. Episcopal history buffs will remember that he was consecrated by Cardinal Francis Spellman. He is also one of the oldest members of the Society. Brother Cyprian KOREC (OES) who celebrated his 100th birthday on January 8 is the oldest member of the Society.

Source: USC Province Office

DISTRICT NEWS

Accra District:

SVD House

Reflection: The Receiver is a Channel of Blessing to the Giver

One morning, a confrere came to the Guest House office full of life. When he read the letter of appeal to contribute to the renovation of the SVD House, his broad smile in his face quickly disappeared. “Is he surprised or disappointed?”, I thought of myself. However, before I wrap up my assumptions, I saw a brighter look on his face. This was confirmed by the few words that managed to escape his mouth, “Well...well.. we are always receiving so why can’t we give also...”

Another confrere also after the usual format of surprise exclaimed, “I don’t think it’s a bad idea... Well, we will see how it goes... at least I can also give my widows mite”.

Observing these varieties of comments, I am inspired to reflect on the concept of giving and its values.

In Jewish tradition, *Tzedaka* is an act of righteousness that comes from our duty to help others in need. It is sometimes understood as charity but the root word means justice or fairness rather than philanthropist generosity. “Justice you must pursue” (Dt. 16:20). Therefore, *giving* is a divine imperative. A person who routinely practices righteousness is *tzaddik* – righteous man. And the followers of Christ are called to be *tzaddikim*. (Mt. 5:16; 1Jn. 2:29; 3:7). According to Jewish sages, *giving* is the highest command from God together with *tefillah* (prayer) and *teshuvah* (repentance). This is what Christ will refer to later as charity – ‘love’ as more than faith or hope. That is why Jesus Christ by *giving* himself out as a sacrificial lamb fulfills the whole Law of Moses.

God wants us to be channels blessing to others. Normally, God does not give anything directly but through people and events of life. Here I think my novice master, Fr. Quay-Foli Anumu, is right when he said, “the will of God is necessarily mediated”.

According to Pope Benedict XIV, the problem of poverty is not that there is nothing but it is because some people have more than they need. He also affirmed that “there is enough of everything for everybody but the problem is sharing and proper distribution with those who are in need”. It is a fact that we are only stewards of what we have and are. And God wants all of us to be channels of his blessings to others, especially as Christians and religious. But on the contrary, many of us have rather become receptacles, containers and reservoirs than being channels.

The attitude of giving commanded by God is being replaced by greed, avarice, covetousness, selfishness, materialism, worldliness, and discontentment in the world in which you and I live today. And these inequalities in possessions and lack of the spirit of giving that we experience in the world today to a large extent are the causes of many wars, thefts, armed robbery and deceptions that we find in our environments – this is not to justify it.

Well, who knows, maybe we can look at the call of the province on us to contribute our quota to the renovation of the SVD House as a prophetic call on us to witness in a very practical way the Divine imperative to *give* ourselves and all we have and are to the service of God who is the greatest giver. He gives us all that we have and are. In this way we can see the SVD House as being a channel of blessing to us. Yet we must not limit our contributions to the renovation of the SVD House to monetary terms only. Our talents, skills, ideas, time, power or positions of influence are equally welcomed.

In short, No one becomes poor by giving and no one becomes rich by not giving. Giving is the answer to our economic, social and spiritual poverty in our modern world and in our church.

Certainly, we shall receive in the measure in which we give. Giving is difficult but it's worth it!
Giving is its own reward!!

Fr. Franklin Desire Adzosii

Reflection: Take Good Care of your Heart

Uncle Tom had a weak heart and the doctor had warned him to be very careful. So when the family learned that he had inherited a billion dollars from a deceased relative they feared to break the news to him lest the news give him a heart attack.

So he sought the services of the local pastor who assured them he would find a way. "Tell me, Tom," said the father Murphy, "if God, in his mercy were to send you a billion dollars, what would you do with it?"

"I'd give half of it to the Church, Father" When Father Murphy heard that, Father Murphy had a heart attack!

Franklin Adzosii

Tema - Battor:



A sudden death during a retreat

February 20, 2010. Fr. Justinus TODA, an Indonesian confrere in Ghana was going up Asutsuare Mountain as he led a Deanery group of COSRA members on a retreat. After the meditation on the eleventh station of the Stations of the Cross, Fr. Toda did not get up because he had fallen unconscious. He was brought down the mountain and was rushed to the Akuse Government Hospital. Though the medical staff worked on him for over three hours they could not revive him. Three confreres and about a dozen of his parishioners were present with him at the time of his death. Fr. Toda had been parish priest of St. John Vianney Catholic Church for about three and a half years. Akuse, the place where he died, is near his parish. He was also the current District Superior of the Tema Battor District.

Fr. Fred Timp

Afram Plains:

Episcopal Ordination of Mons. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD

The Episcopal Ordination of Monsgr Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD is scheduled for 17th April 2010 at 10:00 a.m. The venue is Donkorkrom, Afram Plains - the seat of the Apostolic Vicariate. Let us pray for him, for the success of the ordination, and for God's special showers of blessing upon him.



Tamale

St. Victor's Holds Second Congregation

St. Victor's Major Seminary in Tamale where our SVD postulants and scholastics are following their formation held its 2nd congregation on Saturday, 27th February, 2010 to award degrees and diplomas to students who have followed prescribed courses in the seminary.

The congregation attracted a large group including priests and religious from different parts of the country, Christian Mothers' Association, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, COSRA members and other faithful and friends of the seminary from the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province.

The ceremony began with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most Rev. Philip Naameh, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Tamale. Those who concelebrated include Most Rev. Peter Akwasi Sarpong, Archbishop Emeritus of Kumasi, Most Rev. Vincent Sowah Boi- Nai, SVD, Bishop of Yendi and more than twenty other priests.

After the celebration of the Eucharist, Very Rev. Fr. Rudolph Aluman, the Acting rector of the seminary, welcomed all present and convoked the Assembly into a Congregation. The keynote address was delivered by Archbishop Emeritus Peter Akwasi Sarpong on the theme: ***The Priest in the Pluralistic Society***. He stressed that in a pluralistic situation, the priest should be a general practitioner who is immune to all kinds of unpleasant situation. He should be prepared to suffer for the salvation of everybody in the society in which he operates. He mentioned that society is necessarily ethnically, religiously, socially, academically, politically, economically and culturally pluralistic. He insisted that for the priest to meet the challenges posed by the pluralism of our society, he must arm himself with the armor of all the virtues especially the virtue of humility. He advised that in a pluralistic society we aim at a church which under holy, hardworking and humble priests, is a place where all those forces, personal and political, which challenge and undermine the values of justice, peace and unity are effectively exposed, prophetically denounced and, through the instrumentality of moral rather than material forces, initially disarmed and dismantled.

Among the graduates were our SVD confreres Martin Akwetey Dumas, Hans-Gerber Agbenafa, Eugene Agyapong and Francis Dolagbenu who were awarded Bachelor of Arts degrees in Religious Studies from the University of Ghana, Legon. Three other confreres, Innocent Adanlete, Boniface Mbithi and Peter Chibale have been awarded Diploma in Theology also from Legon.

Present at the function were Most Rev. Gregory Ebo Kpiebaya, Archbishop Emeritus of Tamale, Very Rev. Frs. Nicholas Apetorgbor, and Thomas Anamoah - Diocesan Administrators of Damongo and Navrongo/Bolgatanga respectively.

SVD confreres who witnessed the ceremony included Rev. Frs. Robert Yinamyah and Sampson Fenuku. Confreres who were from Togo include Frs. Peter Accorley, Prosper Agbanon and Martin Gouna. Also present was the Northern Regional Minister Hon. Moses Mabigban.

Sems.: Abraham Dzibitor and Stephen Osei-Asante

Koforidua District:

Osonson

Osonson Bids Fr. Mietek Goodbye

In a big parish hall filled to capacity, Fr. Mietek Sagan, SVD assisted by Fr. Joseph Panabang and Fr. John Asiedu representing the seminary, celebrated his farewell Mass amidst singing, dancing, and drumming last 3rd January 2010 at Osonson.

After the Mass, he was installed as honorary chief Tetteh Kwame. Enthroned twice on the stool the congregation exploded in wild excitement shouting and singing “awoo... awo... “The mood was electrifying.

To honour the new “Chief”, gifts in abundance were presented from various villages, societies, and individuals as token of appreciation for the wonderful works he has done in his stay at Osonson as Priest In – Charge.

Singing by different group, local dances by C.Y.O., soloists, and speeches also did their share.

The vote of thanks and testimony by Madam Victoria Yomle of Osonson capped the celebration. She enumerated the achievement of Rev. Mietek in the whole rectorate from internal discipline of the catechists to completion of two chapels, provision of computers, new Yamaha Motor Bike, and various Dangme translations of prayers especially Divine Mercy leaflets. Remarkably he succeeded in popularizing the Divine Mercy Devotion in the whole rectorate. In short, from personal character to physical accomplishments, people were loud in their praise.

So excellent and proficient in Krobo, Fr. Mietek said his farewell speech in Dangme from beginning to end uninterruptedly.

On his part, Fr. Joseph described his brief stay with Fr. Mietek as heaven. It was a story of team work and compliments – filling in what the other lacks. “Working with Fr. Mietek, now, I understand more clearly why Jesus sent out His Apostles two by two”, he told the jammed-packed parish hall.

And finally the three priests blessed the jubilant crowd.

A simple lunch followed at the Mission House.

Fr. Joseph Panabang

Nkwatia-Kwahu

Nkwatia

SVD Madagascar Meets SVD Ghana

In the sticky humid heat of the Washington, DC summer of 1962, I was working on an M.A. in English Literature at the Catholic University of America (CUA). Georgetown University was offering also a special summer course “*Linguistics For Missionaries.*” I thought to myself: What a helpful advantage and cut in course time if I could use those seven credits towards my M.A.

I approached Dr. Cain the kind, scholarly and gentle Dean of the CUA English Department (he always wore a bow tie!!). I requested if I could cross register and take the summer course in Linguistics at Georgetown and apply the seven credits to my MA program at Catholic University. Dr. Cain knew I was a young Divine Word Missionary appointed to Ghana. He smiled gently and replied although it was

not usually done, he would make an exception and allow the cross registration. *May the Lord reward him for that decision!!* It turned out to be a wise academic move. Later it proved to be one of the most useful and practical courses when I arrived in Ghana in 1963 to teach English as well as to learn the local Akan language.

In July 2009 I had completed three delightful academic years at the Catholic University College of Ghana CUCG teaching Study Skills and Biblical Ethics. My new assignment would allow me to renew my interest in the teaching of English as a second/foreign language (TOEFL). I could finally employ the skills and techniques I learned many years ago at Georgetown. Some of our non-English speaking SVD confreres would also have the chance to improve their English language skills.

In November 2009 I was appointed as Director of the Divine Word Language and Cultural Centre of the Ghana Province. The Centre had been in operation for many years. I was requested to continue the language learning program and update the Centre.

DIVINE WORD LANGUAGE CENTRE

In August 2009 four young and enthusiastic SVD Malagasy philosophy students who spoke French and Malagasy had volunteered to take their SVD novitiate program in Ghana, and English speaking country. They are: Derick 23; Nicolas 26; Jean 28 and Robert 30. *SVD Madagascar had now met SVD Ghana.*

Their goal is to become proficient in spoken and written English so that by July 2010 they can enter the SVD Novitiate program in Ghana. Fortunately these four young SVD philosophy students from Madagascar are well motivated and very open to the ESL/EFL program. From Madagascar they bring with them their rich Malagasy culture. They successfully completed an introductory program in Accra from August to November 2009. Then on 24th November they arrived at the Divine



Word Language and Cultural Centre to begin their second stage of English language learning. The Centre is located on the compound of St. Peter Senior High School, Nkwatia, Kwahu. Interestingly St. Peter's was my first teaching assignment when I first arrived in Ghana September 1963. *What goes around comes around!!*

We are seriously engaged in the four main aspects of English language learning: speaking, listening, reading with comprehension and learning to write essays with correct grammar and vocabulary skills. Learning new language habits and changing old ones is very tedious. All four had some knowledge of English in Madagascar. This experience has helped them to progress from beginners to intermediate levels of language learning very quickly. One student is now at the advanced level. I am both pleased and impressed at their progress, commitment and dedication. After Easter 2010 I hope that they will be able to fit comfortably into the Ghanaian experience and to build steadily on the language principles they are now learning.

LEARNING TO LEAVE & LEAVING TO LEARN

One important principle to remember is that one cannot learn a new language fully without first learning to leave one's own culture and learning the cultural signals associated with a new language. At the Centre we try to be sensitive and aware of English cultural practices and expressions as well as the local Kwahu cultural practices among the people where we live. Thus the name: **Divine Word Language and Cultural Centre. (DWL&CC).**

As an American Divine Word Missionary I am thrilled to be a catalyst between the SVD in Madagascar and the SVD in Ghana. *Internationality* is one of the hallmarks of the Divine Word Missionaries the world over. My hope is that these four young SVD Malagasy students will one day be proclaiming the Gospel message of Salvation in English, French and Malagasy as well as being aware of the cultures associated with these languages.

Fr. Vincent Burke, SVD – Director: DWLCC, Nkwatia-Kwahu, Ghana

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

Fr. John Cudjoe: 9th February 2010 for his home leave. He is missionary in Ecuador. *John, enjoy you holidays!*

Bro. John Lengari: 16th February from his compassionate leave. *Yohanes welcome back and rest assured of our prayer for your mother.*

Fr. Edward Tetteh: 14th February from the USA for the funeral of his mother on 20th February at Agomanya. *Edward, accept our heartfelt condolences. May the Lord console you and your family.*

Departures:

Konrad Klich: 15th February to Poland for Holidays after AFRAM Zonal meetings in Lomé and short visit to Ghana. He will go back to his mission in Mozambique after his holidays. *Konrad, happy holidays!*

Bro. Lutwin Dollwet, Fr. Zeferino Martins and Fr. Kaike Chivanja: 17th February 2010 back to Botswana and Angola after their AFRAM Zonal meetings in Lomé and short visit to Ghana. *Lutwin, Zeferino and Kaike have an enjoyable journey!*

Fr. Xene Sanchez, Fr. Bernard Ilunga, and Br. Guy Mazola: 18th February 2010 back to Congo through Lomé. *Xene, Bernard, and Guy, have a memorable journey back to your mission territory*

Fr. Edward Tetteh: 22th February 2010 back to the USA. *Edward, have a memorable journey!*

Fr. Paul Nadolny: 23rd February back to Mozambique after his Zonal meetings in Lomé and short visit to Ghana. *Paul, obregado and have a blessed journey!*

Fr. Paul Shiju: 24th February 2010 back to Botswana after AFRAM Zonal meetings in Togo and short visit to Ghana. *Paul, have a pleasant journey back to Botswana and don't forget, Give our greetings to Bishop Frank Nubuasah, SVD*

Fr. John Cudjoe: 8th March 2010 back to his mission in Ecuador. *John, have a memorable trip.*

Fr. Stephen Ayisu: 8th February back to his mission in the US Western Province.

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

JPIC

SVD JPIC Report

In Ghana we have nine districts and houses and each has a local JPIC coordinator. I had contact with most of the districts' coordinators. We have talked at length about their programme of activities. I have realized that most, if not all, of the confreres in the province are in one way or another involved in JPIC. Confreres in the northern part of the country have to deal with people affected by conflicts. Those in Accra and Koforidua have to deal much with street families and urban migration. Those in the Afram Plains have the problem of child labor.

I also realize that we as SVD alone cannot deal with issues of injustice in Ghana. For that matter we have formed an inter-congregational association of JPIC coordinators in the country which consists of all the religious congregations in the country. At the moment we have a project of empowering women to be self-supporting. We also had an inter-congregational JPIC meeting Feb. 4-7 to look at how together we can deal with issues of JPIC in Ghana.

I thank my provincial for giving me all the support I needed. I also try to contact some of our seminarians and young brothers and listen to them. If it was necessary I made suggestions to the formators about particular matters. However, I still feel there is much to be done.

Bro. Oswald Bangfo

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Congratulations to bishop Joseph Oliver Bowers, SVD for his 100th year's birthday: 28th March.

Congratulations again 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; and Sr. Carmen Brabo, 25 years in vows.

COMING EVENTS

1. May – Pastoral Supervisors' Course.
2. 1st June – Second Novitiate continues.
3. 16-26 June AJST Course and Retreat.
4. 27 June – 3 July –SVD Retreat
5. 18th July – First Vows
6. August - Ordinations
7. August – Retreat of confreres in temporary vows.
8. August – Renewal of Vows
9. September – Perpetual Vows

INFORMATION

1. Transfer of Residence

Fr. Dionisio Nellas was transferred to SVD Residence Castle Drive house from SVD Residence McCarthy – Hill on 20th February 2010. He is given an office in the house for his work in the communication ministry. This also enables him to be in the house during much of the days when Provincial is out for his administrative work. If the Praeses, Fr. Anthony Dugay, of SVD McCarthy-Hill community asks for his help in shopping, etc. he is welcome to do so once or twice a week or as and when the need arises.

2. 30-day Retreat

Our novices are in the middle of the 2nd quarter of their 30 – day retreat. Their spiritual journey will culminate on 24th March. Let us continue to pray for them and respect their contemplations.

3. Renovation

Dear Confreres,

We had hoped to start renovations of the SVD Guest House at the start of March, but decided to wait until after the funeral of Fr. Justin Toda. Therefore the contractor will start work on Monday 15 March. The Guest House will have to be closed until the renovations are completed. This should take about two months. During this time if you need to come to Accra you can contact Tesano, McCarthy Hill, the Catholic Book Centre and the new Provincial Residence for accommodations.

We are sorry for the inconvenience this will cause, but we believe the improvements will be worth it.

If you haven't sent a contribution to help with the cost of the renovations you can still do so. Even if you lost the form and envelope that was sent, you can use another piece of paper and another envelope to inform Brother John of your contribution.

Fred Timp, SVD

Province Secretary and Guest House Manager

REMEMBERING OUR SICK

Fr. Josef Sprehe, SVD and **Fr. Paul Agbeyome, SVD**. They are given medical treatment in St. Dominic Hospital, Akwatia.

Let us pray for their speedy recovery.

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Mrs. Margaret Acheampong, mother of Fr. John Acheampong, died on 18th January 2010. Funeral arrangements are as following: Lying in state 23rd April 2010, Asin – Fuso, CR; Funeral Mass and Burial 24th April 2010, Asin – Fuso, CR; Thanksgiving 25th April 2010, Asin – Fuso, CR.

Felicia Abankwah, mother of Edward Tetteh, died 2nd Feb. 2010. Funeral arrangements were: 19th February at 8:00 p.m. – Wake keeping at Agomanya; 20th February at 9:30 a.m. Burial Mass at Holy Trinity Parish, Agomanya.

Fr. Justinus Toda, SVD, died on 20th February 2010 at Akuse Government Hospital. Funeral arrangements: 11th March at 8:00 pm - Wake keeping at St. John Vianney Parish, Asutuare; 12th March 2010 at 10:00 a.m. - Funeral Mass, then followed by Burial at the cemetery of Adoagyiri, Nsawam.

Mr. Edward Daniel, the uncle of Fr. David Tengey, SVD, died on 2nd March 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 Love of God shines in our Hearts in Rainbow Colours" – St. Arnold Janssen

"Celebrate mass in a dignified manner, without haste but without irritating slowness" – St Joseph Freinademetz

"May the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people" – St. Arnold Janssen

"God, Holy Spirit. To your love and glory I consecrate my whole life ... When I die, do not forget me" –Blessed Josepha

JOKES ONLY

Only Sacristy

A boy who was sent by his father for an errand came back very late.

Father (furious): *I have been waiting for you since morning, you deserve my beatings!*

Son (defensive): *I'm sorry, on my way back I was attracted by the sermon of the pastor in the chapel nearby and so I forgot the time.*

Father: *It's too much! I am going to beat you now!*

Son: *Please, don't ... the Pastor said, "Our body is the temple of the God."*

Father: *Yes I know! But I am not beating the temple ... only the sacristy!*

Coin – Where is it?

A professor well-known of his absent – mindedness was riding in a tro-tro (bus).

"fare, please," said the mate. The professor extended his hand to pay it. *"But, this is a PK chicklet,"* said the mate.

"Oh where is my coin?" and he felt something crunching in his mouth. *"It is in your mouth sir,"* said the mate.

"Here is your PK chicklet. Give me the coin."

Pains

Patient: *Doc, I got awful pains when I bend over, put my hands below my knees, straighten up, and bring them above my waist*

Doctor: *Well, why make such silly movements, then?*

Patient: *Silly? My goodness! How else do you think I can get my pants on?*

WORTH REMEMBERING

March

2	Marek Kowalik	Birthday	21	Paul R. Tawiah	Birthday
3	Stephen Ayisu	Birthday	21	Matthew Yeng	Birthday
5	McDaniel Acquah	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	24	Koutanji Wayename Janvier	Birthday
17	Patrick Ofori	Feastday	27	Andrew Campbell	Birthday
19	Joseph Mazur	Feastday	28	Joseph Bowers	Birthday
19	Joseph Panabang	Feastday	28	Henry Noordermeer	Birthday
19	Joseph Sakete	Feastday	28	Gregorius Boss	Birthday
19	Djiba Youta Joseph	Feastday			

Mar.	Our departed confreres	Year
5	Edward Asafu-Adgye	2006
6	Rene Derinck	1965
7	William Kane	2001
23	Patrick Twi	1995

18	Thomas Helleran	2004
24	Boleslaw Gielata	2008
27	Theodore Smeets	1998

April

3	Patrick Moroney	Birthday	25	Marcus Hipolito	Feastday
7	Kimathi Mburugu James	Birthday	25	Marek Kowalik	Feastday
9	Andrews Obeng	Birthday	25	McDaniel Acquaah	Feastday
10	Marek Dabrowski	Birthday	26	Gregory Kubowicz	Birthday
17	Stephen Osei Asante	Birthday	26	David K. Tengey	Birthday
19	Alex Awuah Osei	Birthday	27	Andrew Campbell	Birthday
21	Konrad Dreyer	Feastday	28	Henry Noordermeer	Birthday
23	George Angmor	Feastday	28	Joseph Bowers	Birthday
25	Lutwin Dollwet	Birthday	28	Gregorius Boss	Birthday
25	Marek Dabrowski	Feastday	29	Thomas D' Mello	Birthday

Apr.	Our departed confreres	Year
9	Theodore v. Eijndthoven	2000
15	Adolf Noser	1981
18	Cletus Hodapp*	1967
20	Harold Lauck	1990
26	Joseph Skorupka	1982

Liturgy Corner

Gloria

The Gloria is an ancient hymn of praise, full joy and life, whose theme is the reconciliation of God and humanity in peace and love. The origins of this hymn are uncertain, but it surely dates back to the fourth century A.D. It is probable that the Gloria was first, used in the celebration of the Eucharist at the Christmas Midnight Mass, and was originally only sung by bishops.

In the fifth century the use of the Gloria was extended to Sunday and feast day Masses. This custom continues today. The Gloria is not said and sung during Advent and Lent. Its absence from the Liturgy during these two seasons deepens our preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into our lives at Christmas and Easter.

Opening Prayer

The Priest prays the opening prayer for the people in and through this prayer, the theme, mode and focus of each particular celebration of the Mass is summarized. Everyone stands, and the priest, as the person presiding over

this community, stretched his arms out in a symbol of the new person who stands upright and freed by the power of Christ's resurrection. He then invites the community to prayer, and after a brief moment of silence, during which the community gathers itself, he officially leads them in prayer.

Introduced into the liturgy in the mid-fifth century, this prayer was originally called "the collect" and served as the conclusion of a litany of prayers in which the celebrant collected and summed up the intentions of the people.

The people's response, "Amen," is a biblical affirmation meaning "So may it be."

The word is used in the liturgy as an expression of ratification, assent or acceptance. At this point in the liturgy, it is the people's ratification of all that has been celebrated. It marks the conclusion of the introductory rites and the transition into the liturgy of the word.

Pius Agyeman, SVD

