



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

In April, while I was in Accra for one of the usual council meetings, I went down town and at the back of an old Benz bus I saw the inscription "TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY". This text caught my attention. I was wondering if the driver knew how many people have been reading this and if he himself was concerned about the text all. But what really caught my attention? Was it the 'TAKE TIME' OR THE 'TO BE HOLY'? I think both did. And immediately my mind went to the creation story in Genesis where God took time to create the world and in a holy fashion. But also I thought about the many things we do and say in which we do not take time. Taking time to do things is certainly rewarding for it allows us to be more reflective and circumspect in the way we perceive life and people around us.

In the past month, many time taking events have taken place in the Province. Notable among them is the Episcopal ordination of our confrere Bishop Gabriel Kumordji, SVD. It was indeed a time taking period for him as he patiently waited to graduate from a Prefect to a Bishop heading an Apostolic Vicariate. He will still need the same art of taking time to move the vicariate to the status of a Diocese. Let us accompany him with our prayers and financial support. Also we took time to give a send off to our provincial, Thomas D'Mello who went home for a well-deserved holiday. Let us remember him in our prayers.

You have already received information concerning our annual retreats this year. Spirituality is the very essence of our life and so the writing on the old Benz bus 'TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY' cannot be more applicable. The process of becoming holy engenders a dialogue between us and God. We have been doing the talking all year round. Let us give him this time to talk to us. We need it.

We also have some work to do with regards to the theme of our general chapter in 2012. Again I want to encourage all our houses, institutions, and parishes to take time and reflect on the theme and let us have your consensual reflections.

Some of our confreres lost parents, relatives and loved ones. I exhort you to take time and remember these cherished departed souls in your prayers.

Let us take time to think, to act, to pray, to eat, to recreate, to be patient with one another, and indeed to be whatever we are capable of becoming with the help of the Triune God.

Your confrere,

Joshua Gariba, SVD
Acting Provincial

PROVINCE NEWS

Send – off party for Fr. Provincial

Confreres from SVD House: Fr. Fred Timp, Bro. John Lengari and Frt. Franklin Desire Adzosii, Catholic Book Center: Bro. Emmanuel Affum and Provincial Residence: Fr. Dionisio Nellas; representatives from the provincial council: Fr. Joshua Gariba; Bro. Jerome Agbeko, Fr. Victor Leones and representative from the formation board:



Fr. Joy Panamthanam celebrated a send – off party for Father Provincial, Thomas D' Mello in the SVD House, Accra on 11th April 2010.

The celebration started already in the morning at 8:15 a.m. with a holy mass. In the mass intentions, part of it was a prayer for safe departure, restful holidays and successful medical check-up/treatment of Fr. Thomas. In the evening at 6:15 pm simple get-together food which included; rice, potatoes, vegetables, fish stew, fried chicken, wine, beer and minerals, fruits, cake and ice cream were shared equitably. This was to wish the provincial a good and joyful holidays together with his folks at home. Informal well wishes were also given their appropriate part. The last portion of it was devoted to picture taking. Fr.

Fred Timp mounted his digital camera on a medium tripod stand, set it to a correct aperture; automatic timer then invited all to pose with a big smile. Of course the provincial was in the middle surrounded by the rest for a good photo souvenir. After that all returned to their respective community houses at 9:00 p.m.

DISTRICT NEWS

Accra District:

SVD House

Reflection: Is this how you love me...?

I was a neurotic for years. I was anxious and depressed and selfish. Everyone kept telling me to change. I resented them, and I agreed with them, and I wanted to change, but simply couldn't, no matter how hard I tried. What hurt the most was that, like the others, my best friends kept insisting that I change. So I felt powerless and trapped.

Then one day, he said to me, "Don't change. I love you just as you are".

Those words were music to my ears: "Don't change. Don't change. Don't change . . . I love you as you are." I relaxed. I came alive. And suddenly I changed! Now I know that I couldn't really change until I found someone who would love me whether I changed or not.

Is this how you love me, God?

Franklin Desire Adzosii

Afram Plains:

Msgr. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD is Ordained to the Responsibility of the Episcopacy

Most Rev. Léon B. Kalenga, Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana assisted by Most Rev. Gabriel Charles Palmer Buckle, Metropolitan Archbishop of Accra and Bishop Boi-Nai, Bishop of Yendi ordained Msgr. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD to the Episcopal rank in St. Michael School Park, Donkorkrom, Kwahu - Afram Plains on 17th April 2010.

Most Rev. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD who was the then Apostolic Prefect of the former Prefecture of Donkorkrom now Vicariate was ordained Bishop in a solemn and joyful manner. People started arriving in the town of Donkorkrom already on 15th April - Thursdays. By 16th - Friday it was difficult to get a place on the only ferry that joined the Afram Plains to the rest of the country. Many people had to pass the night in Kwahu Tafo and Nkwatia. They crossed the following morning by ferry. But those who did not manage to catch the first crossing of the ferry left their vehicle in a safe place and took small motor boat so as to reach on time for the Mass.

The Mass started at 9:30 a.m. Fr. Alex Chandi, SVD, the vicar general of Donkorkrom, welcomed the whole assembly by briefing them about the reason of the celebration. In his introduction, Most Rev. Léon Kalenga Badikebele, Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana, invited all to be happy. He said, "When I visited this place last year I promised to give this place a bishop", he continued, "and today... today you get it". So joy should be the pre-occupation of our heart. On behalf of the people of Donkorkrom, Fr. Sebastian Sperl, SVD read the acceptance letter asking his Excellency to ordain Msgr. Kumordji to the responsibility of the episcopacy. Then, Fr. Emmanuel Fianu, SVD, representative of the Superior General, Fr. Antonio Pernia, SVD, in Rome read the Papal Bull. In it is the declaration that, Msgr. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD is appointed as Titular Bishop of Eta and first Apostolic Vicar in the Vicariate of Donkorkrom. After that, Frs.:



Andrew Quaye-Foli, SVD and Paul Dogba, SVD presented Msgr. Kumordji before the ordaining bishop and his assistants for ordination. This solemn presentation was followed by homily of Most Rev. Joseph Agyekum – Afrifah. He said that like Jeremiah, Msgr. Kumordji is called by God to teach to all nations and proclaim the Gospel of salvation. Like Timothy who is encouraged by St. Paul, a bishop should be courageous because God gives not the spirit of timidity but piety, kindness and love. And Bishop Elect should not be afraid but seeks inspiration from God Himself and ask the special gift of holiness to be able to sanctify the vicariate. Prior to the ordination rite, Msgr. Kumordji prostrated himself before the altar showing a gesture of humility that before God he is nothing. The rest knelt praying the Litany of Saints. When the appropriate

time of ordination had come the Nuncio, assisted by Most Rev. Gabriel Charles Palmer Buckle and Most Rev Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD, ordained Msgr. Kumordji by laying on of hands on his head, and all other concelebrating bishops followed. Then came: placing the open Book of the Gospels also on his head; anointing with Chrism, presentation of the Book of the Gospels, investiture with episcopal mitre, episcopal ring, and pastoral staff. This time nobody can deny that Msgr. Kumordji is now a bishop bearing the title "Most Reverend". The traditional installation was also given its place. The Nuncio and his assistants led Most Rev. Kumordji to sit three times on his cathedra - episcopal chair.

Also present at the ordination were most Rev. Michael Blume, SVD, Apostolic Nuncio to Togo and Benin; Most Rev. Isaac Gaglo, Bishop of Aneho, Togo, Most Rev. Peter Sarpong and Most Rev. Gregory Kpiebaya, Archbishop emeritus of Kumasi and Tamale respectively among others. Good friends of Bishop Elect were also there: Rev. Msgr. Jack Foley of Holy Redeemer Church, Montrose, California, USA and Rev. Fr. Joe Miller, SVD, of the Propagation of Faith, San Diego, California, USA.

There were over 400 priests and 300 religious from various congregations; seminarians and Church societies; heads of others Churches and traditional leaders; thousands of faithful from all over Ghana who also witnessed the ceremony.

After everything the Nuncio; the GCBC; the SVD; the Conference of Major religious Superiors; the laity council and the Government expressed their congratulatory messages.

It was truly a happy occasion. The joy of the people of the Afram Plains was well expressed in their massive presence at the celebration and the joyful dancing and singing despite the heat. The ceremonies lasted six hours.

FROM THE MISSION OUTSIDE GHANA

Brazil

Fr. Gerson writes

Hello confreres from Ghana,

I received the message about the death of Fr. Justin Toda. For me it was [a] surprise because he was a strong man. But I know that we have to be prepared every day. I feel sorry for this situation and I pray for his soul rest in peace.

I wish to all of you a happy Easter. May the resurrection of Christ be our resurrection too. Congratulation for the renovation of the guest house. It is very important.

Congratulations for Fr. Kumordji “our”, new Bishop. May God help him in his new appointment.

Finally, I wish Fr. Provincial a good home- leave and good recovery of his health.

Happy Easter to all of you!

Fr. Gerson Francisco D’ Souza, SVD

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

Archbishop Michael Blume, Nuncio to Togo – Benin; **Msgr. Jack Foley**, from Redeemer Church, Montrose, California; **Fr. Emmanuel Fianu**, from the Generalate, Rome; **Fr. Joe Miller**, from San Diego, California; **Fr.**

Davis Mekkattuparambil, from Paroisse Saint Kizito, Kabou, Togo and **Fr. Cosmas Messigan**, from Paroisse Saint Joseph, Djougou, Benin: 15th April 2010 for the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect Most Rev. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD. *You are all most welcome. Akwaaba!!!*

Fr. Joseph Kallanchira : 16th April 2010 from Togo for the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD. *Fr. Joseph, Akwaaba!*

Fr. Frédéric Koubi: 24th April 2010 from Paroisse St. Arnold Janssen, Laramanaye, TCHAD for a short visit. *Fr. Fred, welcome to Ghana!*

Fr. John Straathof: 26th April to Holland for medical treatment. Fr. John wish you successful treatment.

Departures:

Fr. Thomas D' Mello: 12th April 2010 to India for home leave and medical treatment. *Fr. Tom, have a restful and therapeutic home leave.*

Archbishop Michael Blume, back to Benin; **Fr. Joseph Kallanchira**, Back to Togo; **Fr. Cosmas Messigan**, Back to Benin: 19th April 2010. *Have a memorable journey. Von voyage!*

Msgr. Jack Foley: 22nd April 2010 back to California. *Enjoy your flight.*

Fr. Emmanuel Fianu and Fr. Joe Miller: 22nd April 2010 to Rome, Italy. *Have a blessed journey!*

Fr. Frédéric Koubi: 25th April 2010 to Togo for holidays before going back to Paroisse St. Arnold Janssen, Laramanaye, TCHAD. *Fr. Fred, enjoy your holidays!*

Fr. Boguslaw Berek: 28th April to Poland for home leave. *Fr. Dan, enjoy your holidays.!*

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

Spirituality - AJSC

“It is for the Lord I came, and for the Lord I stay!”

The above words of Mother Helena Stollenwerk, was one of the most memorable and powerful statements that has stayed with me from the just ended retreat journey. On our second break, we undertook a pilgrimage and visits that also brought us to the town and home of our blessed Mother in Rollesbroich, Germany. In the Holy Eucharist that we celebrated there in her church, Fr. Peter McHugh, the principal celebrant recalled an event in the life of Mother Helena that in a poignant way sunk this message into my heart, and as I would discover later, into the hearts of many others of my companions on the retreat journey.

The occasion being recalled was when the bishop of Roermond was invited to bless the Mission House. At the end of the function, he was on his way to the kitchen to greet Mother Helena and the other ladies who worked so hard behind the scenes. Whatever happened, the bishop was in a diplomatic way led away from the kitchen. Thinking that the bishop would still make it to them so that those of them in the kitchen could also receive his blessings, but there they were, forgotten and realizing later that the bishop had in fact departed. One could imagine said Fr. Peter, the pains and sorrow in her heart in being prevented from receiving those special blessings on that special occasion! What could she do? Asked how she felt, she uttered those famous words above!

Disappointed over the missed chance of the episcopal blessings, she had nonetheless, a strong will within. That was not going to see her packing off. It struck me that in the lives of many people, things happen which through the disappointments they carried with them led to those people giving up, for example in quitting the formation house or putting down the habit or cassock, sometimes, because of one or the other member of the community. Mother Helena teaches however, that an ardent love of Christ himself leads us to remain committed to him and shields us against any stumbling block we may face in following him.

George C. Angmor

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Congratulations to Bishop Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD

INFORMATION

1. Retreat Schedules

Dear Confreres,

This letter is to give you a few details on the province's retreat programme for 2010. The retreats will be given by two members of the Arnold Janssen Spirituality Team from Steyl.

They will start with a course and first retreat for the SVD and SSpS members of the AJST team in Ghana. It will run from 16-26 June. The retreat is open only to those who are doing the full course.

The second retreat is primarily for SVDs. It will start on 27 June and end on 3 July. SSpS sisters who cannot participate in either the first or the third retreat may join the SVD on this second retreat.

The third retreat is primarily for the SSpS. It will start on 4 July and end on 11 July. A few SVDs who are not able to participate in either the first or second retreat can join the SSpS on this retreat. Please note that the closing date for this retreat is Sunday, not Friday night or Saturday morning! Anyone attending this retreat should not plan to leave until after Mass on Sunday.

To make sure there will not be any problems with room arrangements please let us know which retreat you are planning to participate in. We will have a signup sheet on the notice board in the Guest House, but you can also inform us by phone, sms, or email and we will add your name to the list.

This information is also being sent to the local superiors who should share it with you also. Please also share this information with anyone in your community who does not have email.

Yours in the Divine Word,

Fred Timp, SVD
Province Secretary

2. Nemi Programmes for 2011

Dear Fr. Provincial / Regional,

This morning in the General Council we were able to finalize the schedule of programmes planned for the year 2011 at the Nemi International Centre. These include Renewal Courses (Tertiare) in English and Spanish, the Biblical Pastoral Course ('Dei Verbum') and Third Age Courses in German and English. The schedule is as follows:

Dates	Programme	For Whom?	Deadline for application
25 th January to 5 th March 2011	On-going Formation for Third Age Confreres in German (65 and above) <i>Venue: Nemi</i>	SVDs 65 years and over – who can still travel to Nemi.	15th October 2010
23 rd March to 16 th June 2011	Combined SVD-SSpS Tertiare Renewal Programme in English <i>Venue: Steyl, Oies, Nemi</i>	For SVDs: Usual Tertiare age bracket – up to 60 years of age For SSpS: Their usual Tertiare age bracket.	31st October 2010
8 th August to 9 th December 2011	Spanish Tertiare Renewal Programme <i>Venue: Steyl, Oies, Nemi</i>	SVD Confreres also open to non SVDs	31st March 2011
14 th September to 9 th December 2011	Dei Verbum Biblical Course <i>Venue: Nemi</i>	Lay, Religious and Clerics – Ministers of the Word	31st April 2011
1 st October to 30 th November 2011	On-going Formation for Third Age Confreres in English (65 and above) <i>Venue: Nemi</i>	SVDs 65 years and over – who can still travel to Nemi.	31st May 2011

Kindly keep in mind that it is your responsibility as Provincial or Regional Superior not only to make these courses known to the confreres of your Province or Region, but also - together with your Council - to select confreres who would benefit and to inform them that you wish them to attend. The criteria for taking part in the courses are laid out in the Constitutions, the 'Handbook for Superiors', and the specific course description.

As you are all aware from the XVI General Chapter, it has proved difficult maintaining a sufficiently large number of SVD enrolments for the various courses. The General Council and I trust that you and your Council will do your best to see that confreres of your Province or Region have the opportunity to benefit from the Nemi courses in 2011.

Fraternally in the Divine Word,

Antonio M. Pernia, SVD
Superior General

3. New Telephone landline Code for Ghana

Dear Confreres,

Yesterday there was a notice in the newspapers that starting with 1 May 2010 the Regional Codes for land lines are changing. The old codes will still work until 1 August, but it would be good to note the changes before forgetting about them. Our province numbers now will be:

[+233] (30) 222 7714 (Guest House)
[+233] (30) 223 8415 (Provincial's Office)
[+233] (30) 223 0305 (Province Fax)
[+233] (30) 224 1748 (Treasurer's Office.)

All (21) codes are now (30) 2
All (22) codes are now (30) 3
All (81) codes are now (34) 20
All (832) codes are now (34) 21
All (848) codes are now (34) 2
All (61) codes are now (35) 2
All (71) codes are now (37) 20
All (744) codes are now (37) 24

I think this covers all the SVD land lines in Ghana. Please pass this information on to those in your community who don't have email. You may want to make the changes in your copy of the SVD Directory, Ghana Province 2010 and on your mobile so you don't dial the old codes by mistake.

Thanks.

Fred Timp, SVD
Province Secretary

New Address:

Otmar Auinger, SVD
SVD Residence, BA District
P.O. Box 125
Kintampo, BA

4. Video DVD of various SVD Celebrations

Dear Confreres,

During the months of March and April 2010, we were blessed with two great events: 1) 100th Birthday of Bishop Joseph Oliver Bowers, SVD and 2) Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD. We thank God for these blessings. With gratitude and joy we managed to capture the events and burned them into Video DVD. We know that you are interested to have copies. So for your copies order now at **GH¢ 3.00** each through: 1) Rev. Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD mob. no.: 0208150821, landline: 030-224-7196, 030 222-4810 mail: cdigest2006@yahoo.com or 2) Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD mob.: 0243077398; landline: 030-266-6115; email: dionisionellas@yahoo.com.

Thanks for our support. God bless you.

Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD
Communication Coordinator

REMEMBERING OUR SICK:

1. **Fr. Thomas D' Mello** who has undergone for arm operation
2. **Fr. John Straathof** who went to his Home town for medical review on skin disorder.

Let us pray for the success of their treatment and speedy recovery.

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Mr. John Ohene Akuffo, elder brother of the father of Bro. John Akuffo, died on 23rd February 2010. Funeral Mass and burial: 14th May 2010 at Kwahu Tafo. The details of the funeral are still to be announced. A short background: As Bro. John's father died when he was very young he was raised by Mr. John Ohene Akuffo, after whom he is named.

Mr. Daniel Kwame Kye, the father of Bro. Samuel Adjei, SVD, who is working in the USA, died on 11th April 2010. Funeral mass and burial: 28th May 2010 in Obomeng - Kwahu.

Mrs. Abia Afortu, the maternal grandmother of Fr. John Kudjo Dorborkoe, SVD, died on 22nd April 2010. Funeral mass and burial: 2nd July 2010 in Battor.

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

WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

Most Holy Trinity, "grant that we never cease to honour you as our highest Lord and to love you with all our hearts." - St. Arnold Janssen

"I know the surpassing misery of our brothers across the ocean who, with tears in their eyes, stretch out their hands toward us, imploring help" – St Joseph Freinademetz (when he was still a young missionary- full of enthusiasm and idealism)

"Come, Holy Spirit' should be the breath of every Servant."- Blessed Josefa Hendrina Stenmanns

JOKES ONLY

Illiterate

Once while on a trip, Albert Einstein bought a newspaper from a vendor. But he soon realized that he had left his glasses at home. He therefore requested the vendor to read out the headlines for him.

"I'm also illiterate like you, sir" was the prompt reply.

God is my Saviour

Patient: *Doctor, it is your medicine and treatment that saved my life. Otherwise I would be dead!*

Doctor: *My son, it is not I. it is God Almighty who saved you.*

Patient: *All right doctor, may I take my leave of you?*

Doctor: *Oh, yes, you may! What about the payment?*

Patient: *You said that God saved my life. I shall send the payment to God above.*

New Mother

A primary school teacher was exasperated by the naughtiness of one of her pupils. This is what ensued between them:

Teacher (furious): *I only wish that I could be your mother for a week.*

Pupil (cool): *All right, I will see and speak with my father about it. So that tonight I will have new mother...*

WORTH REMEMBERING

May

1	Joseph Panabang	Feastday
1	Joseph Addai	Feastday
1	Cyprian Kuupol	Birthday
1	Kingsley Sagru-Larr	Feastday
1	Ziem Albert	Birthday
2	Davordzie Gideon	Feastday
3	Franciszek Kowal	Birthday
3	Jojo Monoth	Feastday
4	Francis Allah	Birthday
4	James Anane	Feastday
5	Joshua Gariba	Birthday
5	Alexander Chandy	Birthday
8	Lawrence Muthee	Birthday
8	Stanislaw Gergont	Feastday
9	George Makonzo	Birthday
10	Bruno Yirzie	Birthday

10	Samuel Yaw Adu	Birthday
12	John Alph. Asiedu	Feastday
13	Agyapong Eugene	Feastday
14	Matthias Helms	Feastday
14	Matthias Yaadar	Feastday
14	Mathias King	Feastday
17	Paul Ayitey	Birthday
18	Mariusz Pacula	Birthday
18	Michael Tangente	Birthday
19	Djiba Youta Joseph	Birthday
21	John Ohene Akuffo	Birthday
22	Emil Setsoafia	Birthday
22	Emmanuel Anyomi	Feastday
25	Boniface Issaka	Birthday
26	Wladyslaw Madziar	Birthday
22	Dzokpe Komla Emile	Feastday

May	Our departed confreres	Year
14	John McKillip	d. 1979
25	Fr. Otto Welter	d. 2003
27	George Wilson	d. 1985
31	Alphonse Elsbernd	d. 1997

June

2	Erasmus Norviewu-Mortty	Birthday	16	Joy Panamthanam	Birthday
2	Erasmus Norviewu-Mortty	Feastday	18	Francis Mastan	Birthday
7	John Tumawu	Birthday	20	Bernardus Tang	Birthday
9	Emmanuel Affum	Birthday	21	Dionisio Nellas	Birthday
9	Jerome Agbeko	Birthday	22	Benjamin Asare	Birthday
9	Rodrigues Sunil	Birthday	23	Stephen Bonsu	Birthday
10	James Djadoo	Birthday	23	Vincent Owusu	Birthday
10	Wilfred D' Souza	Birthday	24	John Acheampong	Feastday
12	John Dorborkoe	Birthday	27	Wladyslaw Madziar	Feastday
13	Anthony Dugay	Feastday	28	Ireneus Boli-Lolan	Feastday
13	Antonius Hibur	Feastday	29	Paul Agbeyome	Feastday
13	Anthony Lawer	Feastday	29	Paul Dogba	Feastday
13	Augustine Amanor	Feastday	29	Peter Edze	Feastday
13	Eugene Agyapong	Feastday	29	Paul Plawky	Feastday
15	Lambert Azieve	Birthday	29	Paul Richmond Tawiah	Feastday

June	Our departed Confreres	Year
13	Josef Hus	1988
20	Hans Van Kempen	2006
21	Antoni Horst Wrzask	1986
24	Edmund Nomo	1996
26	Damian J. Bockman	1994

Liturgy Corner

Liturgy of the Word

Continuation of the meaning of the Liturgy of the word...

The early Church, at first by word of mouth and later in written form, has passed on this fulfillment of God's word in Jesus in a special way in the writings of the New Testament. The core of this faith is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter proceeds to address them in these words: "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality. Rather, the man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. This is the message he has sent to the sons of Israel, the good news of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all. You know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth, beginning in Galilee with the baptism that John preached; of the way God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the devil, and God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did in the land of the Jews in Jerusalem. They killed him, finally, hanging him on a tree, only to have God raise him up on the third day and grant that he be seen not by all, but only by such witnesses as had been chosen beforehand by God – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that He is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the

prophets testify, saying that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his name” (Acts 10:35-43)

The aim of the liturgy of the word is to proclaim the word of God and elicit a response of faith from the people, for by responding to the spoken word the people respond to Christ, “He (Christ) is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in Church” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, no. 7).

The Liturgy of the Word has always been closely connected with the celebration of the *Eucharist*. From the earliest days of Christianity readings were customarily shared with the community gathered for the Eucharist. While the original forms of the readings before the Eucharist are uncertain, the Christian community very early imitated the practices of the synagogue liturgy, namely, two readings, a sermon, and a prayer. Evidence from the second century clearly established this similarity. The choice of readings has undergone many changes over the years. But throughout all these changes a simple guideline seems to prevail, namely, to present as much of the Scriptures as possible and to proclaim the truths of faith... *(to be continued)*

Pius Agyeman, SVD

"I am the Bread of life. Whoever eats my body



and drinks my blood will live in me and I in him"
(Jn. 6:57)