



## SVD NEWSLETTER



### A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

I am happy to be back in Ghana. I had a good home leave and some medical treatment while at home. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and get-well messages.

Just a few days after my return we had the first vows of fifteen novices. We also had seventeen join the novitiate this year. We wish those who have taken their first vows all the best. We also wish a good novitiate to all the new novices.

The greatest event since my return is the ordination of five of our confreres to the priesthood. They were ordained by our own SVD bishop, Isao Yama Kikuchi. We were very happy to have him. I think this is the first time in the past 25 years at least that we have had a bishop from outside Ghana to ordain our confreres. Our heartfelt thanks to Bishop Kikuchi.

As you know Father Peter Kabutey will be remaining in Ghana. The other newly ordained have been assigned to Asia and South America. We wish them good preparation for their new assignments. Pray that all get their documents to travel in good time. We still have two confreres from last year who are waiting for their documents. Your prayers are needed for them as well as for this year's group.

In the same light, more than a year ago we applied for our own quota with Immigration. About a month ago our application was approved and we now have enough quota for all the expatriate confreres who are here and about thirty more for those who are coming into the country. It means that those who have been on diocesan quotas will gradually be transferred to our SVD quota. We are also applying for a permanent residence permit for those who have been in Ghana for more than 20 years, as we have found out it is possible. Whenever the Mission Secretary or the Provincial Secretary asks for information for this purpose please send it in time.

I arrived from my leave to hear that within a few hours the AJS Team was leaving. I could only thank them by phone for the workshop and retreats they conducted and wish them well. The confreres and sisters who attended the retreats were very happy. We are very grateful to them for coming.

As a new seminary year is starting we thank our seminary staff for their time and sacrifices in the formation programmes. We also wish those who are renewing their vows God's blessing and support as they continue their programme. We also wish those in philosophy well.

Since I have come back I have noticed that our Guest House has often been very full. As you have been informed already, please book your rooms in advance so you will have a place to stay when you come to Accra. SVDs have first right to stay at the Guest House, but we also can't turn away others who have been given reservations because there were empty rooms at the time.

Your Confrere,

*Fr. Thomas D' Mello , SVD*  
Provincial

## PROVINCE NEWS

### SVDs Participates in the Opening of the SECAM



Bishop Franklin Nubuasah, SVD, Bishop of the Vicariate of Francistown, Botswana; Fr. Thomas D' Mello, SVD; Fr. Patrick Ofori, SVD; Fr. Andrew Campbell, SVD, Fr. John Straathof, SVD among others participated in the grand opening ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), near Achimota, Accra.

The function began with a Holy Mass at 8:30 am. Then followed by a grand Durbar of official delegates from Different countries of the continent of

Africa and Madagascar; representatives from Major Religious superiors in Ghana; representatives from Government Sector; Laity representatives from different parishes especially Accra; representatives from Misereor; Missio; Church in need; Catholic Relief Services; UCIP and Caritas Africa at 9:30 in the School Auditorium.

After singing the Ghana National Anthem, led by the Ghana Police Band, the chairman of the ceremony, Sir Paul Victor Obeng, thanked SECAM for the trust given to him. He appealed to all to cooperate so that the ceremony will end successfully. He drew the participants' attention to the theme: ***SECAM at 40 – Self Reliance and the way forward for the Church in Africa*** so that the assembly will not lose its focus. He asked Catholics to support the Church to achieve its aim of becoming a self – reliant continent. In his welcome address Archbishop Charles Palmer Buckle said that though there are many challenges that Ghana is facing today, Ghana is a peaceful country and gradually progressing in diverse areas like: education, sports, health and the promotion of human rights, etc. Before concluding his welcome remarks, he asked all to have a few moments of silence remembering the late Bishop Lukas Abadamloora, former President of the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference. After that he cordially welcomed and wished all a fruitful deliberation. The Nuncio to Ghana, Archbishop Leon B. Kalenga expressed his joy that Ghana hosted the Assembly. He said, “out of Africa there is always something beautiful”. He also gave the Pope's message and well wishes. The President of Ghana, Mr. John Mahama, praised SECAM for organizing the Plenary Assembly by bringing all African Cardinals, Archbishops and bishops which he said a blessing to the nation. In his speech he declared SECAM duly open. His Eminence Polycarp Cardinal Pengo, Archbishop of Dar-es-Salaam and President of SECAM, thanked the vice president of Ghana for accepting their invitation. He said the mission of SECAM is “to promote its role as a sign and instrument of salvation and to build the Church as a family of God in Africa.”

The opening ceremony lasted for 4 hours. Those invited for that day only returned home. Being one of the official delegates, Most Rev. Franklin Nubuasah, SVD remained till the closing date: 2<sup>nd</sup> of August.

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Accra District:



### McCarthy-Hill

#### Bishop Yama celebrates Mass at McCarthy-Hill

Most Rev. Isao Yama Kikuchi, SVD, Bishop of Niigata, Japan celebrated an Episcopal Mass in the SVD Residence at McCarthy-Hill on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010.

The procession began at 7:00 am accompanied by a hymn “this is the day that the Lord has made” led by the Catholic Joyful singers – a singing group founded by Rev. Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD. Mrs. Doris Kissi read the first reading from Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2;21-23 which emphasized the vanity of the material wealth when the owner leaves them behind on the day he dies. Mr. Augustine Kissi read the second reading from Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11 underlining the importance of spiritual wealth that Christ has offered. Fr.

Dionisio Nellas proclaimed the Gospel from Luke 12:13 -21. In his sharing, Bishop Yama emphasized that good relationships, trust in God, service to God and humankind are treasures money can't buy. He said that though Japan is a rich country, the people are suffering spiritually. Every year scores of thousands commit suicide. If having abundance of money and material possessions are the gauge of true joy and fulfillment why are our people committing suicide? Is this not an expression of dissatisfaction and hopelessness? Is this not objective evidence that material wealth is not everything in life? Is this not a sign that human heart is longing for something more supreme than money? The human heart is longing for good relationships, trust in God, service to God and humankind. Yes, our heart is longing for God as the Gospel describes: “*A man maybe wealthy, but his possessions do not guarantee him life.*” (Lk. 12:15) and as St. Paul exhorts: “Your life is hidden now with Christ in God ... then you shall appear with him in glory” (Col 3: 4-5). It is our faith in God and our act of promoting the values of the Gospel that we shall save riches in heaven. He ended his sharing by asking all to pray for his people in Japan, that more and more people find true joy and fulfillment of life in Christ.

## FORMATION

### Novitiate

#### Seventeen New Novices Admitted to the Novitiate

Seventeen new novices have been admitted to the Divine Word Novitiate in Nkwatia Kwahu for the 2010-2011 formation year. Among them seven come from Ghana; four from Madagascar; four from Togo/Benin; and two from Kenya.

The new novices were officially received into the novitiate and invested with their cassocks in a private but impressive ceremony conducted by the Novice Master, Rev. Fr. George Clement Angmor, SVD and Fr. Rafael Mesi, SVD, assistant Novice Master. Also present at the ceremony was Rev. Fr. Vincent Burke, SVD, the Director of the Divine Word Language and Cultural Centre, also at Nkwatia.

In his reflection Fr. Burke encouraged the new novices to see their novitiate programme as a necessary step to the religious life. Like any other professional training, he said, this formation is essential for all who aspire to

become good and responsible religious people. He admonished them to wear their cassocks to proclaim the good news but not to hide things.

The Novice Master, Fr. George, in two earlier talks in the day's recollection for the investiture congratulated the new novices for taking the bold step to discern their religious vocation more deeply. He advised them to seize the opportunities offered by the novitiate to develop themselves so that they can make mature and responsible decisions concerning their part. Fr. Mesi blessed the cassocks and handed them to the novices.

***Ronald Aminga and Abraham Dzibitor***

### **Profession of First Vows 2010**

After successfully completing the novitiate year, fifteen young men have professed their first vows at the St. Peter's chapel at Nkwatia on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. They are from Ghana: Emmanuel Adjetey, Vincent Agbeyome-Akpah, Augustine Amanor, Eugene Asante, Gideon Davordzie, Peter Forgor; from Togo: Joseph Djiba, Emile Dzoekpe, Thierry Koula, Janvier Koutandji, Christophe Sekle, Jean-Bertrand Tcheckpe and Alphonse Fahin. The rest from Kenya are James Kimathi and Lawrence M'Gaiti.

The main celebrant on the occasion was Fr. Thomas D'Mello, our Provincial Superior. The vows were received on behalf of the Superior General by Fr. Joseph Babu Kallanchira, Provincial Superior of Togo/Benin province. Also present were Fr. Joshua Gariba, Vice Provincial and Br. Jerome Agbeko, a member of the Provincial Council, Fr. Peter Accorley, Prefect of Postulants of St. Joseph Freinademetz in Lomé-Togo, who was the homilist of the day, Fr. John Duah-Prempeh from Tamale with visitors from the US, and many other SVD confreres. Many faithful including our SSpS sisters, seminarians, Christian Mothers Association, family, friends and relatives of the professed including students of St. Peter's High School were present in their numbers to witness the occasion.

The St. Peter's Singing Band and the new novices animated the Eucharistic celebration with joyful songs that sent the whole congregation dancing and waving handkerchiefs. In his homily, Fr. Accorley noted that suffering is part of our human existence and we need to see our crosses as a treasure that would lead us to God. He advised the newly professed to be faithful to their vows in order to derive spiritual benefits in their religious vocation. The novices were guided through the novitiate programme by the two novice directors, Fr. George Clement Angmor and Fr. Rafael Mesi. Before the profession of their first vows, Fr. John Osei Yaw, CSSP led them through a retreat to prepare them spiritually for their commitment.

The newly professed were most grateful to all who accompanied them in their spiritual journey especially Br. Anthony Lawer, Fr. Alex Awuah, the District Superior, Frs. Bernard Appiah and Daniel Lenwah of the St. Peter's Community, and Fr. Vincent Burke, the Director of SVD Language and Cultural Centre. They also expressed their appreciation to Fr. John Straathof and the New Aplaku community, St. Margaret Mary Parish in Dansoman and the friends of the SVD as well as all the parishes and the families that helped them through their period of the novitiate.

Meanwhile, five of the newly professed will continue their theological formation in CFC Tamale, five to Kenya, four to D.R Congo and one to the United States of America.

***Abraham K. Dzibitor***

## **ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

### **Arrivals:**

**Fr. Josef Denkmayr; Fr. Patrick Kodom and 15 teachers from upper Austria:** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010 for on-going Formation programme on mission awareness. *Joseph, Patrick and companions, have a successful mission awareness activity.*

**Bishop Franklin Nubuasah, SVD:** 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010 to participate in SECAM. *Bishop Frank, wishing you a fruitful deliberation.*

**Bishop Isao Yama Kikuchi:** 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010 to ordain five SVD deacons to the priesthood. *Bishop Yama, have a memorable stay and ministry in Ghana*

**Bro. Bernardus Tang:** 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010 from his updating course in Mechanical Engineering related course in Switzerland. *Ben, congratulations and welcome back!*

### **Departures:**

**Bro. Bernardus Tang:** 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 to Switzerland to undergo a month course in Mechanical Engineering related subject. *Ben, wishing you success in your short course.*

**Fr. Anthony Dugay:** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010 for special leave. *Fr. Tony, have a refreshing holiday.*

**Fr. Vincent Burke:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 2010 to USA for short vacation and medical review. *Fr. Vincent, we wish you a pleasant medical review.*

**Frs.: Josef Denkmayr and Patrick Kodom:** 5<sup>th</sup> August 2010 from their mission awareness programme . *Josef and Patrick, happy trip.*

**Bro. Paul Richmond Tawiah and Fr. Francis Naduviledathu:** 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010 to participate in the Nemi Course. *Bro. Paul and Fr. Francis, have a wonderful renewal*

**Bishop Isao Yama Kikuchi:** 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010 back to Japan. *Bishop Yama, have a happy journey back home.*

## **SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES**

### **Spirituality: Arnold Janssen Spirituality (AJS)**

**The SVD-SSpS AJS Animation workshop.**

Once upon a time, the AJS Team was established in our province. This saw a composition of our Arnoldus family of both the SVD and SSpS in Ghana. It did live for a while, in the early years of this millennium. However, whatever happened, it became inactive. In a felt need of both the SVD and the SSpS in our province to be imbued deeper with the heritage of our founding generation, our provincial leadership teams agreed it was high time to resuscitate the AJST. Consequently, an arrangement was made with the Arnold Janssen Spirituality Centre (AJSC ) in Steyl to give a helping hand in the reestablishment of our local team here. The 14<sup>th</sup> of June saw the materialization of this aspiration, when Fr. Mike Sommers and Sr. Aneta

Kolodziejczyk arrived in Accra to facilitate not only the AJS workshop, but also to guide in the retreat journeys for the province this year.

On the side of the SVD, it had been requested that the participants of the workshop would include at least a confrere from each district. That was largely realized and we were twelve (12) in all, including Bro. Jerome who represented the Provincial Council. Our sisters were also well represented. They were fifteen (15) all together, including remarkably, Sr. Mary Laureen, the provincial leader. It is noteworthy also, that Fr. Matthias Yaadar and Sr. Damiana, our confrere and sister joined in, representing the Togo Province.

In his welcoming message to the participants of the workshop on the evening of Tuesday June 15, the acting Provincial, Fr. Joshua Gariba underscored the fact that it was truly time we took seriously back to our own founders in the present times when spirituality in general has attained a lot of relevance. He pointed out how he had observed, in his own experience, that he could cite examples from the lives of other saints when giving retreats or other similar exercises, but then we are found wanting in the citing of relevant examples from our own Arnoldus family. He also mentioned the fact that it was beautiful to see us all as brothers and sisters together at the workshop as one family with an appreciable comfortability. Since eventually we were to go out and work together, not as individual SVDs or SSpS, but in a collaborative teamwork, it was especially important that we got well acquainted with one another. He then thanked Mike and Aneta for being able to make it to help us in our province, and then wished us all an enriching time of workshop and retreat.

The workshop was short but intensive, rolling in earnest from Wednesday till the concluding Eucharist at 11:00 am on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. For many of us, this was one moment in which we have been enriched with the Trinitarian Mission Spirituality and other heritage of our Arnoldus family since the days of our novitiates etc. The facilitators were good and we could see the spirituality flowing through them with their years of experiences. As Mike reminded us, we have a unique makeup. We could be considered as a family with three kids – two girls and a boy, while many other congregations are of the “only child” pattern. One of the significant aspects of the workshop and the ensuing retreats were the bio-energy exercises that were led by Mike in the mornings. As Fr. Vince Burke mentioned to me from his retreat, expressing the same for the workshop, this was one retreat on which he found, really good, and the fact that for the first time, both his spiritual and bodily needs had been attended to in this way. We say “*bravo!*” to Mike and Aneta, and indeed, to the AJSC team in Steyl for responding to our need of help in this reestablishment effort and praying God’s rich blessings for them and their ministry and a safe journey back on July 12.

After the workshop, what next? To ensure that the present exercise doesn’t become another “nine days wonder”, towards the end of the workshop we had all of us mixed into three groupings (and another one for the Togolese Province) to draw up some practical points and action plans or suggestions in the continued animation and growth of the AJST in our province. The groups were the Accra sector of which Fr. Andrew Obeng was elected as its leader; Koforidua, Kwahu and Afram Plains sector with Sr. Rita Mishael as the leader, and the Northern sector comprising Sunyani, Tamale and Yendi districts. Those are to be found in another article. It was felt that they were worthy resolutions that if adhered to, can really get us going this time without dying out again. May St Arnold and all our patrons of the founding generation intercede and help us with their prayers!

*George Angmor*

## **Arnold Janssen Spirituality Team (AJST)**

### **A. Accra District**

#### Objectives:

1. To sensitize confreres and sisters on the spirituality of the Arnoldus Family
2. Introducing Arnoldus Spirituality to friends of the SVD and the SSpS Associates

### Modus Operandi

1. Disseminating information on Arnoldus Spirituality in District recollections and meetings
2. Making available leaflets and handouts on Arnoldus Spirituality (print the summary of Arnoldus Spirituality Workshop)
3. To run Arnoldus Spirituality workshop for Friends of the SVD and SSpS associates
4. An SVD confrere and an SSpS sister to serve as coordinators in the District (District Core Team) and members of the Province Spirituality Team
5. Animating among the youth through songs, dance, drama that bring to fore the spirituality

Specific Topics that need to be discussed in the district

1. Generation Gap
2. Effective Collaboration among SVD & SSpS

### **B. Brong-Ahafo/ Yendi/ Tamale/ Wiaga**

**Vision:** Going back to Arnold Janssen's Spirituality and relating it to today's reality.

**Goal:** To foster collaboration and family spirit between SSpS and SVD.

**Action Plan:** Echoing of experience of the AJS workshop.

-Time: To be determined by August- one day.

-Target Group: SSpS/SVD communities.

### **Long Term Plan:**

Regular meetings of the animators (quarterly)

Vocation promotion in schools and parishes.

Recollections for different target groups.

Forming SSpS/ SVD Associates.

### **C. KAK- Kwahu Tafo, Afram Plains and Koforidua.**

AJST Coordinators (SSpS/SVD) and office to be named and supported financially etc.

### **Aims/ objectives:**

-Animate ourselves (AJST), SSpS-SVD in the districts.

### **Target groups:**

Ourselves

SVD/SSpS

Schools

Formation houses

Friends of the SVD/SSpS

The rest of the province.

### **Means:**

Workshops/ seminars

Retreats/ recollection

Personal on-going updating

Meetings twice a year

First meeting 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010.

## COMING EVENTS

- 7<sup>th</sup> August – SVD Ordination
- 8<sup>th</sup> August – 18 Sept. - Bible Course at DWCCC
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Renewal of Vows
- 31<sup>st</sup> August – Deadline of the submission of the Poor and needy statement of Account
- September – Perpetual Vows
- 15<sup>th</sup> September – Deadline for Budgets
- 13<sup>th</sup> October – Local Superiors – Provincial Council Meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> October – Province Assembly

## MISSION OUTSIDE GHANA

### Austria

**Fr. Patrick Kodom Shares**

Dear Confreres,

I am glad to share with you this news, not just because I got it but because of the work I am doing which is normally not much recognized, has been noted.

For those who do not yet speak German it is an award called the **Rose of Peace award** which is given since the year 2000 here in Austria. It is a Metal Rose. I was given this award this year for the work I am doing with Immigrants, Refugees and Deportees. I also try in many ways in Schools and so on to build a Bridge between Africa and Austria. I see this as a very important Pastoral work as the first African SVD to be here in this Province.

The Prize will be given on the 5th of September 2010 and so all are invited. The original text which came to me by surprise is found below. All to the Glory of God.

Thanks and stay well.  
**Fr. Pat Kodom, SVD**

(The German text of the award is posted on the notice board at the SVD Guest House for those who want to read it.)

## INFORMATION

### 1. SVD Priestly Ordination: 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010 in St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Abeka at 9:30 am

## 2. First Mass: Fr. Francis Damoah Kwabenah, SVD

**Fr. Francis Damoah Kwabenah, SVD** will celebrate his first mass at Diaso, Cape Coast - his home town in Ghana on **26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010**. He took his final vows as religious Brother in the SVD in 1997. Shortly after his final vows, he went to USA Southern Province where he was appointed to do his work as Divine Word Missionary. He did his apostolate in different parishes like: Holy Ghost Church, Jackson, Arkansas – Mississippi District; St. Paul the Apostle in New Orleans – New Orleans District. There he felt he had a vocation to the Priesthood. He entered Divine Word Theologate in 1997. With three other companions, Francis was ordained to the Priesthood on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010 in Techny, Illinois. All confreres are invited for his **First Mass at Diaso**.

## 3. Elsbernd Lectures

This is the topic for our memorial lectures this October.

HEALTH CARE TODAY: VITAL TIT BITS ON HOW THE MISSIONARY SHOULD CARE ABOUT HIS HEALTH

FACILITATOR: PROF. DR. LAWRENCE OSEI, LECTURER IN PUBLIC HEALTH, KORLE BU TEACHING HOSPITAL.

## REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

**Stephen Tetey Kumordji**, the brother of Bishop Gabriel Kumordji, SVD died on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Funeral arrangements were as follows: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – Service at Derby Avenue.; 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 – Service at Family House and Burial.

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

## WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

*“Gratitude is the foundation of our dedication to God to do all that he wills. Religious persons should be able to make their lives an offering to God; they should dedicate themselves to God, not by force, but by choice, for this is true love” - St. Arnold*

*“If ever there was a great work on earth, great because of its sublime goal, ... it is the religion of the Crucified... in this light everything takes anew ... what is small and unimportant becomes singularly attractive, what is bitter gains peculiar sweetness” - St Joseph Freinademetz*

*“O dearest Spouse of my soul... I firmly resolve to approach you trustingly, as bride her bridegroom... to follow you willingly, in all adversity to take refuge under your protection ad to remain there in peace” – Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk*

*“From moment to moment, from hour to hour, from day to day, leaving the future to God.” – Blessed Josefa Stenmanns*

## JOKES ONLY

**Twins – the Plural**

Teacher: "What is the plural of woman?"  
 Pupil: "Women"  
 Teacher: "Good! Now what is the plural of child?"  
 Pupil: "Twins"

### A Glimpse of Hell

Two men bearing identical names, one lay-minister and the other a businessman, lived in the same city.

The lay-minister died at about the time the businessman took a trip to Singapore. Upon reaching Dubai, He sends his wife a telegram informing her of his safe journey. Unfortunately, the message was delivered to the widow of the lay-minister. Imagine the surprise of the good woman when she reads: "ARRIVE SAFELY – HEAT TERRIFIC!"

### Still Running

A boastful Accra man was holding forth on the merits of his watch to friends in Boti village. At last one of the Krobos decided he could stand it no longer.

"That is nothing," said the interrupter. "I dropped my watch into the Boti Falls a year ago, and it is still running ever since."

"What? The same watch?" exclaimed the Accra man taken aback.

"No," replied the wise guy, "the Boti falls"

## WORTH REMEMBERING

### August

|      |                        |          |    |                       |          |
|------|------------------------|----------|----|-----------------------|----------|
| 1    | Anthony B. Amissah     | Birthday | 17 | Charles Ashun         | Birthday |
| 1    | Alphonse Dungdung      | Feastday | 19 | Augustine Amanor      | Birthday |
| 2    | Alfons Amanor          | Birthday | 20 | Bernard Adjei Appiah, | Feastday |
| 2    | Alfons Amanor          | Feastday | 20 | Germain Mukinisa      | Birthday |
| 4    | John Duah Prempeh      | Feastday | 20 | Bernardus Tang        | Feastday |
|      |                        |          | 20 | Gideon Nana Apreku    | Birthday |
| 8    | Paul Dogba             | Birthday | 20 | Bernard Assenyoh      | Feastday |
| 8    | Dominic Asare          | Feastday | 21 | Francis (Pius)Agyeman | Feastday |
| 8    | Emmanuel Azure         | Birthday | 21 | Patrick Kodom         | Birthday |
| 8    | Boniface Mbithi        | Birthday | 21 | Victor Gbotso         | Feastday |
| 9    | Edmund Afagbegee       | Birthday | 24 | Apollonius Bria       | Birthday |
| 11   | Antonius Hibur         | Birthday | 25 | Apollonius Bria       | Feastday |
| 12   | Peter Accorley         | Birthday | 28 | Hans Gerber Agbenafa  | Feastday |
| 14   | Alfred Ayem            | Feastday | 28 | Gideon Nana Apreku    | Feastday |
| 15   | Anthony L. Djimatey    | Birthday | 29 | Dominic Asare         | Birthday |
| 15   | Tarcisius de Ruyter    | Feastday | 29 | Josef Sprehe          | Birthday |
| 15   | Joseph Sakite          | Birthday | 31 | Jan Urban             | Birthday |
| Aug. | Our departed confreres | Year     |    |                       |          |
| 14   | Charles Erb            | 2002     |    |                       |          |
| 17   | Franz Huber            | 1994     |    |                       |          |

## September

|    |                     |          |    |                     |          |
|----|---------------------|----------|----|---------------------|----------|
| 1  | Francis Koimb       | Birthday | 17 | Lambert Assogba     | Feastday |
| 1  | Kingsley Sagru-Larr | Birthday | 21 | John K. Acheampong  | Birthday |
| 2  | Daniel Lenwah       | Birthday | 21 | Matthew Yeng        | Feastday |
| 3  | Pius Agyeman        | Birthday | 24 | Gerald Tanye        | Feastday |
| 3  | Samuel Yaw Adu      | Feastday | 27 | Vincent Boi-Nai     | Feastday |
| 3  | Gregory Boss        | Feastday | 27 | Vincent Burke       | Feastday |
| 4  | Joseph Mazur        | Birthday | 27 | Vincent Owusu       | Feastday |
| 4  | Moses Awinongya     | Feastday | 27 | Vinsensius Wangge   | Feastday |
| 6  | Lambert Assogba     | Birthday | 28 | John Bissue         | Birthday |
|    |                     |          | 29 | Gabriel Kumordji    | Feastday |
| 6  | Biju Maramkuzhackal | Birthday | 29 | Gabriel Sosu        | Feastday |
| 7  | Marcus Hipolito     | Birthday | 29 | Rafael Mesi         | Feastday |
| 9  | Peter Claver Narh   | Feastday | 29 | Michael Obeng Shang | Feastday |
| 10 | Otmar Auinger       | Birthday | 29 | Michael Tangente    | Feastday |
| 14 | Rudy Chamenyi       | Birthday | 30 | Jerome Agbeko       | Feastday |
| 16 | Cyprian Kuupol      | Feastday | 30 | Sampson Fenuku      | Birthday |

| Sept | Our departed confreres | Year |
|------|------------------------|------|
| 1    | Lucian Orians          | 1979 |
| 9    | Alfons Merten          | 1994 |
| 11   | Vincent Staebell       | 1987 |
| 19   | Stephen Dorsey         | 1988 |
| 10   | Francis Beemsterboer   | 2006 |
| 23   | Henry Janssen          | 1986 |
| 24   | Paul Ayi               | 1973 |
| 24   | Glicerio Paraguya      | 1973 |
| 24   | Cletus Lesage          | 1990 |
| 28   | Winfred Lerche         | 1987 |
| 30   | Günther Klinkhammer    | 1994 |

## *Liturgy Corner*

### **Liturgy of the Word**

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

### **Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation**

“*Alleluia*” or “*praise God*” announces or acclaims delight and joy in God’s wonderful deeds for his people. The people stand, and make this acclamation in song to proclaim the most wonderful deed of God among human-kind, Jesus Christ, visually symbolized by the Gospel book held high by the celebrant or deacon.

The Alleluia became part of the Mass in the fourth century by order of Pope Damasus (368-384). It was originally used only during the Easter liturgy, but Saint Gregory (540 – 604) permitted its use throughout the Church year except during the Church’s penitential season. This usage continues today. And when the

Alleluia is not used during Lent it is replaced by a verse which is closely connected in theme with the Gospel reading.

At Easter and Pentecost, there is a special poetic introduction to the Gospel which prepares the community for its proclamation. This poem or song, usually sung by the choir, is called the *sequence*.

## Gospel

The Gospel, the focal point of the liturgy of the word, is a reading from one of the four accounts of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The use of readings from the Gospels ("the memoirs of the apostles") in the Mass is confirmed by Justin Martyr (d.c. 165) in his First Apology. And the significance of the Gospel proclamation in Catholic liturgical tradition is its reservation since the fourth century to those persons sharing in the sacrament of orders, namely, deacons, priests, and Bishops.

Because of the Gospel's prominence, its proclamation is often honoured on Sundays and feasts by great solemnity. There is a procession in which the Gospel book is preceded by servers carrying candles which symbolize the risen Christ as the Light of the world. Upon arrival at the place of proclamation, the Gospel book is incensed, symbolizing both the community's Prayer ascending to God and the mystery of God coming to the community. The sign of the cross is always traced upon the forehead, lips and heart by everyone in the assembly. This signing identifies the readings with the teachings of the Lord Jesus who is the source of our faith as it is heard, spoken and given root in our hearts.

Preceding the proclamation, a prayer is said by the deacon or priest who bows in recognition of the privilege given to him: *Almighty God, cleanse my heart and my lips that I may worthily proclaim your Gospel.*

So life-giving is the experience of listening to the Gospel that the deacon or priest concludes by proclaiming "*The Gospel of the Lord,*" to which the community responds "*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*" The minister, as a symbol of reverence, then kisses the Gospel book which is a symbol of the Lord, Jesus himself.

*Pius Agyemang*

**"If anyone loves me, he will hold to my words,**



**and my Father will love him, and we will come to him"**  
**(Jn. 14:23)**