



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

Advent time is like an Alarm Clock. The readings during the Advent Season are like the ringing of the alarm clock which tells us always to wake up, arise, be ready, be watchful and stay awake. In a few days time this Alarm Clock will buzz again loudly on the silent midnight of 24th of December announcing 'yet again' the birth of Jesus – The Joy to the World and bringing peace to the broken world of today.

May the joy and peace that Jesus has brought to the world be yours and like Jesus was born in Bethlehem, may he be born in your hearts and may you be able share that Jesus with others through word and example.

I pray that this peace and joy remain all through the New Year of 2011. May he also fill you with zeal for his Mission for the coming years.

As the year comes to a close, let us thank the Lord for his abundant blessings upon us as individuals and as a Province. We are grateful to Him for the many activities that have taken place in the province that have increased our feeling of oneness in the Province. May he help us to grow more and more always. Let us also remember to pray for our province as the elections for the new administration are underway.

We celebrated the Golden Jubilee of our SVD presence in the Yendi District. It was heart-warming to listen to the history of Yendi and go through the old pictorial activities of our veteran missionaries. I felt one with all the past and present members of the District gathered there, as I myself had spent ten years in Yendi District from 1983 to 1993. This great joy of being present there helped me to shake off very fast the malaria and cold that I returned with!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Your Confrere,
Fr. Thomas D' Mello , SVD

PROVINCE NEWS

AJS Team Accra Zone Facilitates Advent Recollection



The AJS Team Accra Zone led by Fr. Andrews Obeng, SVD and Sr. Adeline Ayivor, SSpS facilitated the Advent Recollection to the SVD confreres in the province on 3rd – 4th December (first batch) and 6th – 7th December (Second Batch) at Divine Word Catholic Conference Center, Adoagyiri – Nsawam on the theme: *Discovering God's Presence in the Events of our Life*.

With the help of their prepared power point presentations, they gave graphic reflections on how one can discover God in the events of life. They underlined that if we are open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit we can discover God in every human event and situation. For instance in our conception: *“truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb”* (Is. 139:13); through our parents: *“Can a woman forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.”* (Is. 49:15); through nature: *“The Love of God shines in our Hearts in Rainbow Colors”* (St. Arnold Janssen); through insects like ants *“they make colonies by working as a team”* (Sr. Adeline), through pleasant and unpleasant situations: *“I am alone in the midst of a completely pagan people. Deo gratias. But what will I do here, what can I build? Dear God, you build, otherwise, I will build in vain; you do battle, you stand watch, otherwise I will watch in vain! May the harvest indeed be great...”* (St Joseph Freinademetz). Hence, God can be discovered anytime, any event and in every situation - pleasant and unpleasant. Discovering God then in the events of our life is good: It makes us remain in God's presence; it enlightens us to know, accept and do God's will.

DISTRICT NEWS

Yendi District:

SVD Yendi District @ 50

The SVD Yendi District is 50 years old! Holley! In expressing our joy and gratitude to God we use the words of M. Rink Art 'Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done in whom this world rejoices; who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.'

The seed of the SVD presence in Yendi Diocese dates back to 1960 when the first SVDs: Frs. Henk Janssen and Charles Erb arrived in Yendi in March and on September 9th, 1960 respectively upon negotiations with and invitation by the Missionaries of Africa. Ever since the SVD set foot in Yendi seventy SVDs have served in the Diocese. So it did not come as a surprise when an SVD, Most Rev. Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai was

ordained as the first bishop of the Yendi Diocese. Currently fourteen confreres from six countries: Ghana, Indonesia, India, Poland, Germany and USA are working in the Diocese.

The District has just had a triduum jubilee solemn celebration to commemorate this hallmark. It all started with arrival of confreres on 6th December, 2010. The following day, on the 7th they had recollection preached by the provincial superior, Very Rev. Fr. Thomas D'Mello on the theme: **Mission**. He said all people are created for mission and as missionaries we are ambassadors sent on mission. He said many people are Christians, Catholics, priests and religious today because of the early missionaries. On this day also Fr. Thomas D'Mello dedicated the SVD Mission House in Yendi after Blessed Grzegorz Franckowiak SVD, the only brother among our four Polish SVD Martyrs who were assassinated during the Second World War II. The District decided to dedicate the House to Blessed Grzegorz Frackowiak so confreres will always remember to pray for an increase in brother vocations in the Society through his intercession. The Provincial also blessed the newly constructed and installed SVD Recording Studio in Yendi.

Preaching the homily at the closing Mass presided over by the Most Rev. Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD, Fr. John Straathof, SVD, a pioneer of the Yendi mission, said as a strategic plan of evangelization, the pioneers established a base in Yendi now the cathedral. From this base they reached out to other parts of the now Yendi Diocese which was carved out from the Tamale Archdiocese eleven years ago. They established schools including a catechists' school to train catechists for the Tamale Diocese/Archdiocese and beyond to enhance evangelization and to get the laity to share in the spread of the Gospel, and to develop and build up the capacity of the people. With the cooperation of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate (SMI), our pioneers initiated and carried out many projects to empower women. The youth were not left out. They encouraged them to join the CYO and out of this some have come out as priests serving the diocese.

This success story of the sowing of the seed of the Church in Yendi Diocese did not come on a silver platter. Our confreres paid a high premium for it. Some died, had mental problems etc all as a result of the tedious nature of the missions. He said the initial stage was frustrating and appeared hopeless. He recounted that on one Easter Sunday he celebrated the Mass with a police man and his two wives who formed the congregation at Tatala. What kept them going was their community life. They supported one another and constructively challenged one another. Though they were scattered as many stations were opened they met often to share their joys and difficulties.

Among the dignitaries who came to grace the occasion was Honourable Sakaria, the Municipal Chief Executive of Yendi, the Coordinating Director of Yendi Municipal Assembly, and the Provincial Superior of Missionaries of Africa for Ghana, Togo and Nigeria. In attendance were some of the pioneers, many priests, religious and lay faithful.

Fr. Benjamin Asare, SVD

Koforidua District:

Kukurantumi

Sacred Heart Parish, Kukurantumi

A Newly Built Kindergarten (KG) Block and Renovated JHS Buildings were commissioned

A newly completed Kindergarten building and Renovated JHS Blocks of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Kukurantumi were commissioned on 2nd December 2010.

According to the history, the KG schools buildings in Kukurantumi R/C unit were opened in 1940. Over the years, these various buildings were built by SVD's, i.e. Bro John Heckel and Fr. Joseph Sprehe but since then

there had not been any major renovation until three years ago when the roofs of some blocks were stripped off by rain storm. Efforts to get help from Ghana Education office and Government failed several times. However through the effort of Fr. Wilfred D' Sousa, SVD donors like Atavarsar Fund, Switzerland, MP for the area, and Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Koforidua the buildings have been renovated and a new building has been completed. At the ceremony, Fr. Wilfred mentioned that the Church and SVDs are concerned about the moral, spiritual and academic development of the children. Future plans of fencing the school were also announced and an appeal for support from the audience and well wishers was launched. He also added that, teachers; students and stakeholders should make sure that the buildings are put to good use to serve their purpose.

In attendance, The SVD Provincial, Fr. Thomas D'Mello, SVD; the Bishop of Koforidua, Most Rev. Joseph Afrifah – Agyekum; the District director of Education, the Koforidua Regional Manager Catholic Education; The Principal of St. Paul's Technical Principal, Bro. Peter Edze, SVD, St. Paul Technical School: Singing Ministry, Choir and Air Force Cadets; Kukurantumi SVD community; some parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish and students were present to grace the occasion.

Bro. Lambert Azieve

Asesewa

- **St. Augustine Parish, Asesewa**

Most Rev. Bishop Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD Celebrates His Thanksgiving

Most Rev. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD celebrated his thanksgiving Mass in St. Augustine Parish on 21st November 2010 at Asesewa, Upper Manya Krobo.

When Bishop Kumordji was a newly ordained priest, St. Augustine Parish of Asesewa in the upper Manya Krobo was his first parish of assignment. There he began his ministry as a Religious Missionary and Priest in the SVD. From there he was transferred to St. Maria Goretti Parish of Battor in the Volta Region; then to 'Demetz House, Tamale; and then to the States for Master's and Doctorate degrees in Missiology. After that he was elected provincial of the Ghana SVD Province. On April 17, 2010 he was Ordained and installed Bishop of the Vicariate of Donkorkrom. When he was ordained Bishop, he wished to celebrate his thanksgiving in Asesewa parish to thank the parishioners for their support while he was with them as their young pastor. Opportunity came when the parishioners of St. Augustine, Asesewa invited him if could be the main celebrant for their Christ the King Feast celebration. With this golden opportunity, he joyfully accepted the invitation- a good chance to show his thanks. On 21st November 2010 he came to celebrate the feast of Christ the King. In the celebration Bishop Gabriel recalled his old good days in Asesewa. He confessed that his Asesewa experienced as a young pastor groomed him to grow mature in the ministry. Now as ordained Bishop with many privilegea and responsibilities he cannot forget the parishioners of Asesewa who have contributed a lot to his being what he is now. He remembered their love, hospitality and concern. So he expressed deep gratitude to them for all the good things that they have done. After the homily, he installed the new parish pastoral council. Then the Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese of Koforidua, Very Rev. Fr. Twum Barimah, who was concelebrating also installed the new parish priest of Asesewa in the person of Rev. Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SV D. After the Mass Bishop Gabriel himself carried the monstrance outside and around the town for procession in honour of Christ the King. The concelebrating priests: Fr. Dionisio Nellas and John Dorborkoe, SVD assisted him in the journey till the whole celebration was over.

- **St. John the Evangelist, Djomoa - Asesewa**

Most Rev. Joseph Afrifah – Agyekum Blesses St. John the Evangelist Chapel



Bishop Joseph Afrifah-Agyekum inaugurated St. John the Evangelist chapel on the 5th December 2010 In Djomoa – an outstation of Asesewa.

The celebration began at 10:00 a.m. Upon arrival from Asesewa, the Bishop alighted and joined the parishioners in procession to the new chapel. After exchanging greetings with the chief and the elders of Djomoa, Bishop Joseph proceeded to pray the rites of blessing, cut the white ribbon and sprinkled Holy Water in and around the Chapel. Then he continued to celebrate the Holy Mass. He said, as we prepare for the coming of our leaders, all the more we should be prepared to welcome Jesus. Within the Mass, Bishop Joseph administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to sixty four catechumens. Also on that day, the official send-off of Fr. Jojo George took place. Among others, the parishioners gave Fr. Jojo gifts of sheep, chicken and food stuffs. The people of Djomoa were very grateful to God for the success of the blessing of their new chapel.

Osonson

Pilgrims Make Spiritual Journey to Our Lady of Lourdes Osonson



The faithful of the Krobo Deanery converged to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto for a three-day pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage began on Friday 10th December and ended on 12th December.

The first day was opened by a 5 kilometers rosary procession from Sekesua to Osonson Grotto. The Osonson Marian prayer group led the prayer the four mysteries (Joyful, Light, Sorrowful, and Glorious). On arrival at the grotto site, around six p.m., Fr. Joseph Panabang, SVD gave the welcome address and orientation talk to the pilgrims. With this the pilgrims felt at home. After a short break, the Deanery Charismatic Service Team (DST) led the prayer meeting until 11:00 p.m. to conclude the first day.

The second day was introduced by a dawn (4:00 a.m.) rosary with a candle light procession from Togordor to the Grotto – a kilometer and a half journey. The power of the light that moved the darkness away was the atmosphere of the procession. The Holy Mass was celebrated at 8:30 a.m. the main celebrant, Fr. Marcel Gorleku stressed that God looks upon his children with love. Those who humbly come to God will be blessed. A talk on the theme: “Behold thy mother (Jn. 15:27)” followed after the Mass. In his assertion, the resource

speaker, Fr. Rafael Frempong pointed out that Blessed Virgin Mary is our model of faith, a model of a person who knows the importance of following God's will. To behold her is to honor, venerate and imitate her virtue. Fr. Peter Kabutey led the penitential service at 3:00 p.m. Eight priests in the Krobo Deanery came to administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the pilgrims. The day was closed with a giving of testimonies by the pilgrims after the Holy Hour led by Fr. Joseph Panabang.

The third day was also opened by a dawn rosary with a candle light procession. The mass began at 8:00 a.m. Fr. Peter Kabutey was the main celebrant. Fr. Ntim was the preacher. Fr. Ntim summarized the Saturday talked by identifying that Blessed Virgin Mary was the Immaculate Conception, our mother of perpetual help, Mediatrix of all graces and our mother of perpetual help. He encourage all to come closer to the Blessed Virgin Mary and never doubt of her effective intercessory power because of her profound unity with her son Jesus Christ.

The whole pilgrimage ended at 2:00 p.m. with a sense of gratitude to God through Mary for yet another moment for the pilgrims to ***Behold their Mother.***

FROM AFAR

It is that time of year. Christmas is just around the corner and time for a visit to bring greetings and some reflections on the past. For me , 2010 is a special year , a remembrance and celebration of fifty years as an SVD priest and missionary, a rendering of thanks for everything and everyone. In 1962 I set off for Ghana. I loved the people I found there. The SVD had been in Africa since 1895, in Ghana since the late 1930's. Assigned to a new venture in the northern part of the country, I was a member of the first small band of SVDs [3 priests and a brother] to move there. These were the heady years of early independence for Ghana, formerly a British colony known as the Gold Coast. For many years previous, it had the added sobriquet of being the White Man's Grave Yard. This simply because of the many deaths from malaria in the age before quinine was known and employed to combat a fatal disease.

In those first years, each of us struggled to learn an unwritten language, and the different cultural traditions of various tribal groups. The Konkomba people among whom I lived had a hard life. They clustered in small hamlets, scattered on part of the open savannah land known as the Yendi District, 35 miles wide, 150 miles long. They were subsistent farmers, with small herds of cows and goats, eking out a tough living from an inhospitable land, under the constant threat of drought. The men spent long hours of backbreaking labor in the rainy season, bent over with hand held hoes to till the soil.

The women walked miles to the nearest river to fetch water in the five gallon clay pots they balanced on their heads as they trekked back home with a baby strapped on their back. The children tended the cows, the sheep and the goats – everyone worked for everyone to survive. It was a harsh life in many respects, but not without time for harvest celebrations, village sing-sings and dancing with a community sharing in all aspects of social interaction. The elders were the "wise men" who made the final decisions.

But the elders were subject to the spirits of the ancestors who had preceded them. And above all else, everyone was subject to the Great Ancestor of all - the God whom the Konkombas called Uwumbor.

We arrived as strangers but received the hospitality and welcome of friends. We came to tell them about Jesus Christ, the Son of God who walked this earth as a human being. But with their stories and proverbs and worship traditions, they also taught us much spiritual wisdom about God, Uwumbor, on whose help they depended for survival.

We missionaries were a small group, and after the first years, lived in mission stations many miles apart. It was also the time of Vatican II. And so I set about learning the language of the Konkombas, entered with enthusiasm into all of the changes that Vatican II brought with it, began the long process of translating and writing prayer books, liturgical texts, and most important, the books of the Bible. In the villages, we opened schools, in the main station started a technical school training carpenters and builders. [First year, 7 students, today 280 students, including 75 girls in domestic science] Thanks to the work of many missionaries, both Catholic and Protestant, the Konkomba people who some fifty years ago had no written language, now have the complete Bible, Old and New Testament, printed in their mother tongue. Hearing and reading the Word of God in their own language has given them a sense of identity and unity, a sense of self-worth and dignity, that was not present – at least not in the same way before. So much for the idyllic life of a missionary.

In 1977, I received an assignment to Rome where I lived and worked for 17 years. And now it is already 15 years since coming “home” to work in the fields of mission animation and the retreat ministry at Miramar where I first started my journey with the SVD in 1946. My golden jubilee celebrations have marked the passage of time but also the growing list of friends and relatives whom God has called home. And many of them mutual friends from Ghana. My prayer and greeting for you is that this Christmas brings with it the gift of true peace and joy knowing that our lives have meaning and the best is yet to come as we continue the journey together. A grace-filled Christmas, a New Year of blessings!

Joe Connolly, SVD

FORMATION

Nkwatia

Novitiate

The Brother Vocation

In general terms, a brother is a man or boy with whom one shares the same parents. He can also be a man who is connected to you in some other ways and who you have feelings of friendship towards. A brother is therefore a person who is close to me, to whom I am bound. In the case of the religious, a Brother is someone who responds to a divine call to be with Christ and follow Him more closely. This journey with the Lord is also a journey with others in a community. We find this more clearly in the Society of the Divine Word. According to our constitutions, clerics and brothers journey together in communion and collaboration. It is quite evident that the life of a priest is much more exposed to the faithful than that of the brothers. It is sad to observe that some of our faithful still think that to be a Brother is one of the several steps toward the priesthood. Taking our Society as an example, who are the brothers?

When we consider the first generation – the *founding generation* – the Brothers were the people who supported the mission by their works. In fact, when St. Arnold Janssen founded the SVD, he had in mind to establish a group of lay people who by their works will help the mission in Steyl and also in China. Firstly he was sure to get among the workers some and then others could come from the scholastic students. He then “found industrious laymen who were content to work for room and board and a little money; actually they were lay mission helpers, though the term was not then in use” (Analecta SVD – 35 – p.113). Truly, with perseverance and prayer some of the workers joined the mission of Steyl and were working in the house for no reward. They were involved in construction, printing press, carpentry, bakery, shoes shop, etc... Slowly but surely they became skillful and were developing many kinds of talents. The fruit of their effort was helping the missionary service in China and wherever the Society was working. It is important to note the fact that they first took vows, in 1882, before the clerics and as Fr. Vincent Owusu once remarked “they are more SVD than we the priests”. In fact “at the death of the founder there were 588 brothers (72 novices and 66 postulants) as against the 430 priests (49 novices and 150 philosophy students)” (cf. Leonardo R. Estioko, SVD, in *Witness to the Word* – volume 2 – p.15).

Having recognized the fact that Brothers were the “**heart of the SVD**”, how can I define a Brother? How can I make him known?

Our generation could be a time when traces of clericalism are still not giving the chance to appreciate more and better, the brotherhood. That is why one can easily think that “to be a brother is a step to the priesthood.” Fortunately for me, the Novitiate programme has revealed and spelt out clearly to me the role and place of religious Brother in the missionary service. They are mission partners who reach out and witness to the faithful through their work and prayer. In my opinion, they share their life more intimately with people because they are always with them.

In the mind of St. Arnold Janssen, Brothers were training not only for the needs of the seminary in Steyl but also for the mission. That was one of the resolutions about Brothers during the first General Chapter (1884-1886): “Religious Brothers are full members of the Society of the Divine Word. They make the same vows as clerics and, like clerics, **their primary goal is missionary work**”. Brothers “were sent to the mission fields side by side with the clerics. They also assisted the Missionary Sisters in the foreign missions. Father Arnold had a special love for the Brothers. He called them by their first names which he did not do with the clerics” (cf. *ibid* p.15-16). Therefore, we can say that St. Arnold was a man ahead of his time. We need, therefore, to develop a new conception about Brothers in our Society especially in line of one of the point of the last Brothers’ Assembly in Cebu “**LEADERSHIP: the Brother as partner in the mission of the Church.**”

We need “to perform our mission bearing in mind that we are all co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord” (cf. Bro. Bernie Spitzley, SVD, in *Arnoldus Nota* – Sept. 2010, p. 5). For me, a Brother is like Jesus who is with the people of God as an equal, who brings them closer to Jesus. The Brothers today are symbols of permanent communication, interacting daily with the people of God. This idea of Brothers in the Society calls them and every member of the Society “to learn to walk with the people and to respect the pace of the people’s walking; to be prepared to change and be changed, to form and to be formed, to invite to conversion and be converted” (cf. *ibid* p. 6). By so doing, the new image of brothers can radiate and bear fruits that last.

“Since the start of the Society of the Divine Word, 2976 Brothers have professed their final vows. There are 603 Brothers currently in final vows, 1737 have died and 636 left the Society” (*Arnoldus Nota* – Sept. 2010 – p.6). Bearing in mind this reality let us pray the Holy Triune God to help us to be more conscious of the need of Brother Vocation for the mission of the Church.

Martin Kotchoffa
Divine Word Novitiate

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

Fr. John Kirby: 2nd December 2010 from USA. *Fr. John, amaraba!!!*

Fr. Konrad Dreyer: 18th November 2010 from his sick leave. We thank god for the successful I surgery of his eyes. *Fr. Kondrad, O Trin Kwa and welcome back to Abeka!*

Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurath: 14th December 2010 from Urbaniana, Rome. *Fr. Jolly, welcome back! Mo hee!!!*

Departures:

Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurath: 30th November 2010 to Rome for Biblical Conference on post- Synodal Papal encyclical: Verbum Domini. *Fr. Jolly, have a memorable conference.*

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

Biblical Pastoral Ministry:

Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurath participates on the conference of Post Synodal document on Verbum Domino.

Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurath left for Rome on 30th November to participate on the fourteen –day conference of the post Synodal document on “Verbum Domino”. This is the latest papal encyclical on the Holy Scripture. Having been known of his biblical pastoral ministry, Fr. Jolly was cordially invited by the biblical coordinator in the Vatican among others to join in the conference. Fr. Jolly is yet to give details of the conference.

INFORMATION

1. New Appointment

Fr. Josef Mazur is appointed to take care of the Tuba Apostolate. He joined Accra District on 1st December 2010. For the time being he is residing in the SVD Residence McCarthy-Hill.

2. Handing Over

Fr. John Acheampong, SVD handed over the headship of St. Martin’s Secondary School on 11 November.

3. Postulants’ Pastoral Exposure

Pastoral experience during Christmas vacation.

1. Stephen Appiah to St. Augustine’s Parish – Asesewa
2. Francis Bakilatob to SS. Peter & Paul - New Aplaku

3. Wisdom Agbovi to St. Charles Lwanga parish - Abeka
4. Frank Quainoo to St. Arnold Janssen Catholic Church - Kranka
5. Samuel Aboo to SVD House [New place] - Kintampo
6. Stephen Nyantey to St. Michael's Catholic Church - Nsawkaw
7. Philip Tekperter Abaya to Holy Family Catholic Church - New Longoro
8. Daniel Nuerter Teye & Godwin Gatefe Valentine Kwami to St. Charles Lwanga church - Saboba.
9. Theodore Atsu Afanyedey & Gideon Awudi to Holy Cross Parish - Sambuli
10. Stephen Osei Asante to St. Brigid's Catholic Church - Chereponi

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Fr. Eugene Agyapong, SVD is now a Deacon

Fr. Eugene Agyapong, SVD who professed his final vows to the religious life in the Society of The Divine Word last 31st of October is now a Deacon. He was ordained deacon on 17th November 2010 in Tamale. By virtue of his ordination, Fr. Eugene is now called **Rev. Eugene**. As the ordination entails, he is to serve the priest and the faithful through his work of assisting the priest on the altar during mass and proclaim the gospel by his preaching. **Rev. Eugene, congratulations! Ayekoo!!**

COMING EVENTS

25 December 2010– Christmas Festivities
1 January 2011 – New Year

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Mr. Claudius Bangfo, the uncle of Bro. Oswald Bangfo, SVD, died on 11th December 2010. He was 57 years old when he died. Funeral and burial: 22nd December 2010 at Tokuu-Pisie. Ko Parish, 3 km from Nandom Parish.

May his soul rest in peace

WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

“May it be our food and drink, heavenly Father to do your will with complete unselfishness” - St. Arnold Janssen

“Dear Christian people, what a precious treasure is our holy faith. The true Christian is never without consolation... joy and courage never leave him for a moment.... The more painful the cross, the firmer his trust in the Lord. Indeed he lives, suffers and dies for God.” - St Joseph Freinademetz

“I will often implore the good Lord for the grace to recognize the great value of spiritual solitude and to lend a willing ear to his holy voice when he speaks to me.” – Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk

“If the Lord God means me to enter a convent, I will get there one day.”– Blessed Josefa, Hendrina Stenmanns

JOKES ONLY

What?

TEACHER: “Who invented the steam engine?”

PUPIL: “What?”

TEACHER: “That’s Correct, James Watt.”

He thinks he is dead

FAITH - HEALER: “How are things my friend?”

FRIEND: “Not so good. My brother is sick.”

FAITH - HEALER: “Your brother is not sick. He only thinks he is sick. Tell him that and remember it yourself: he only thinks he is sick.”

A few days after they met again, “How is your brother now?” inquired the faith-healer triumphantly.

FRIEND: “Worse. He thinks he is dead.”

Amen

Preacher, after a long sermon: “My brethren, what more can I say?”

Voice from rear of the church: “Amen”

WORTH REMEMBERING

December

1	Marcelo Oyarzún	Birthday	20	Agosseme Abraham K	Feastday
1	Nicholas Aazine	Birthday	21	Vincent Burke	Birthday
1	Dionisius Kopong Ola	Feastday	23	Victor Leones	Birthday
2	Jean-Paul Sokpe	Birthday	23	Samuel Dagadu	Birthday
3	Francis Naduviledathu	Feastday	25	Emmanuel Fianu	Feastday
3	Jean-Baptiste Tchandama	Feastday	25	Emmanuel Affum	Feastday
3	Daniel Fordjour	Feastday	26	Stephen Domelevo	Feastday
3	Francis Mastan	Feastday	26	Stephen Bonsu	Feastday
4	Peter Edze	Birthday	27	John Straathof	Feastday
4	Tarcisius de Ruyter	Birthday	27	Adrianandrasasna Jean-Aime	Feastday
4	Dzokpe Komla Emile	Birthday	27	John Akuffo	Feastday
6	Nicholas Aazine	Feastday	27	John Asiedu	Feastday
6	Rakontondramasy Nicolas	Feastday	27	John Dorborkoe	Feastday
7	Dzibitor Abraham W.K.	Birthday	27	Schilitz Janusz	Feastday
10	Anthony D. Mensah	Birthday	29	Kpatcha David	Feastday
14	Claude Galley	Birthday	30	Sob Sabastine	Birthday
18	Tchekpi Jean-Bertrand	Birthday	31	Agosseme Abraham K.	Birthday
19	Oussoi O. Victorin	Birthday	31	Andrinjatovo Diderick	Birthday

Dec	Our departed confreres	Died
6	Kostka Piotrowski	1981
6	Paul van Riel	1995
21	Aloysius Hoguth	2006
27	Maurice Mayo	1977
28	Carolus, George Kukah	1985

January

1	Vincent Boi - Nai	Birthday	15	Vincent Agbayome - Akpa	Birthday
1	Paulus Pio	Birthday	15	Ronald Lange	F&Bday
1	Johannes Lengari	Birthday	16	Marcelo Oyarzún	Feastday
1	Mieczyslaw Sagan	Feastday	17	Anthony Anala	Feastday
1	Dzibitor Abraham W.K.	Feastday	17	Victor Gbotso	Birthday
2	Andrinjatovo Diderick	Feastday	19	Mariusz Pacula	Feastday
3	Vinsensius Wangge	Birthday	20	Sebastian Sperl	Feastday
3	Thaddeus Nyanuba	Birthday	20	Fabian Mate	Feastday
5	Jacobson Dey	Birthday	20	Sob Sabastine	Feastday
6	Francis Dolagbenu	Birthday	24	Francis Dolagbenu	Feastday
7	Akumbilim Raymond	F&Bday	24	Edward Tetteh	Birthday
7	Peter Claver Narh	Birthday	25	Paul Ayitey	Feastday
11	Martin Dumas	Birthday	26	Stephen Domelevo	Birthday
11	Frederick Timp	Birthday	26	James O. Amankwah	Birthday
13	Stephen Appiah	Birthday	26	Stanislaw Gergont	Birthday
14	Anthony Anala	Birthday	31	John K. Tumawu	Feastday
			31	Johannes Lengari	Feastday

Jan	Our departed confreres	Year
2	Dennis Asiamah	2008
12	Josef Jud	1985
16	Harold Rigney	1980
23	Lawrence Thornton	2003

Liturgy Corner

The Liturgy Corner: My Turn!

Although I am not one of the experts on liturgy, arising from specializing in that area of study and formation, nonetheless, I believe there is something little that I can also offer in this column. This is just recalling lessons and discussions from my own time in the seminary plus additional readings. The experts can later polish it up, if needs be. The following are things I think we often take for granted and need to be more attentive to.

“The Lord bless us.” When you are the principal celebrant, you are never to forget that you are acting in the person of Christ. Therefore, it is inadequate to impart the final blessings other than the rubrics stipulates: “The Lord bless you .../May Almighty God bless you ... Related to this also, is what some choose to say: **“The Lord is with us”** instead of “The Lord be with you!” Explanation of this “innovation” may take more space but it may be worthwhile to check it out for yourself.

Other things you need to bear in mind as the principal celebrant: at the lifting of the species of the body and blood of Christ at the doxology, he himself is always to hold the body and a concelebrant holds the chalice of the consecrated wine (blood). He is also to consume both species before passing them on to concelebrating priests who may have to distribute communion when there is a large congregation. Other cautions given us in our class include the need to be careful not to treat **the altar** like an ordinary table, clustering it with many different objects – e.g. your spectacles, cruets, handkerchief, books and other things which do not need to be there. Scenes of this, is not uncommon in the outstation setting.

Wine bottles: Sometimes, when there is a grand celebration with the huge attendance of the congregation, we are tempted to bring the whole bottle of wine to the altar. Often times, these are still carrying the original “Star,” “ABC” or “Club” beer labels. Make no mistake, to the eyes of the ordinary man or woman in the pews, they can be easily misled to think that “Father is using beer for the Mass.” Avoid this scandal and transfer the wine into fitting/dignified bottles or vases.

The **purificator** – this is not a handkerchief but meant for the sacred vessels. It is appalling the way it is sometimes used to wipe or clean our mouths etc. Please watch out on this habit! In any case, as good gentlemen, we are expected to always have our own handkerchiefs in the pocket!

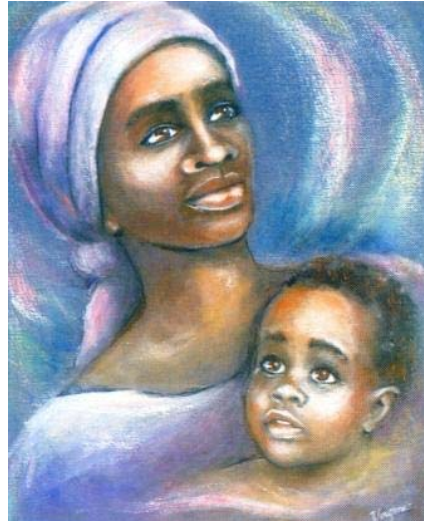
Proclamation of the Word of God, especially, the Gospel: I believe that as Divine Word Missionaries, this is an area that we should pay particular attention to, and to ensure that the people hear the word proclaimed to them clearly without any ambiguity. In the cases whereby the priest has had to learn another local language and celebrate the Holy Mass in that language, I think that it may still be better, in the light of what I have just said, to allow the catechist or another person to read the gospel other than insisting to do it ourselves and “crucify” or “massacre” the local language and the people do not hear the message as intended. We know that especially, with our tonal languages, not having the right intonation can cause different meaning, and even lead to scandalous connotation and thus interfere with the reception of the God’s message. Sometimes, at such occurrences, you raise the head to see some faces in the pews struggling hard not to explode with laughter at what has just been mispronounced! In any case, we can never practice it enough, to read in another language. The case is even more so for the expatriate!

Furthermore, if you have to use leaflets on which the readings or prayers are printed, we can make it more dignified to put them in the lectionary or sacramentary. In all these, we are to bear in mind the dignity of the liturgy and of our Saviour whom we proclaim in the Eucharist. It is a good thing to now and then go through the instructions and rubrics of the books concerned, especially, many years after leaving the seminary. And we have to continue updating ourselves on liturgical issues too. The website of zenit.org and its news dispatches regularly provide issues of liturgical interest, questions asked and answered by both the lay and the clergy, answered or discussed by the experts. Perhaps, this is also one area that we can make use of our fraternal community living to help one another realize what we have been taking for granted and work at to rectify. May the Divine Word, whom we seek to make alive and in a dignified way in the Holy Eucharist, give us the grace, and the courage to do the right thing always!

George C. Angmor

"The virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son,

MERRY CHRISTMAS



מזמור ליום הולדת

and they shall call him Emmanuel... God is with us"
(Mat. 1:23)