



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

There is so much going on in North Africa in countries like Tunisia, Egypt and now in Libya that we cannot predict which will be the next country. All the countries that have repressed regimes have to stand up and bring democratic changes without delay. Otherwise the people's power will force the regimes to do so. The Nuncio of Ivory Coast who was here on a visit told me in our house that they have everything in two's like in Noah's Ark – two Presidents, two Prime Ministers, Two Ministers for every ministry, two armies, two police forces etc. Nobody can predict what is going to happen next. We need to pray seriously that everything may be settled amicably.

We had a very good family feast celebration of SVD's and the SSpS in the southern sector on the 27th and the 28th of January. The 'friends of the SVD' were also present. The family feast of the northern sector was celebrated on the 15th of Feb. They were all well attended. The special feature of the feast was the celebration of Jubilees of our confreres and of the SSpS. Our congratulations to all of the Jubilarians.

The last four weeks our novitiate and the language centre have faced an acute water shortage. I have visited there twice during this time. No water has been flowing from the town all the while. No rains too to harvest rain water. Our novices have been going to streams and other holes looking for water. A quick decision was made to drill a borehole in an area where water is not so plenty for boreholes. Yet the novitiate has succeeded in drilling a hole that will supply just about enough water for the two communities there. We thank God for this big blessing.

May I remind you to send in your straw ballots for the Vice Provincial and the Councilors. So far the response has been a bit slow.

Your Confrere,

Thomas Omillo

GENERALATE NEWS

Superior General writes

in re: Appointment of the Provincial Superior for the Ghana Province.

Dear Fr. D'Mello:

This morning in the general council we discussed the results of the consultative ballots sent in by the confreres of the Ghana Province in this, the first phase of the election process for the provincial superior and his council for the new term.

*Having carefully studied all of the ballots, and with the consent of the council, I have reappointed you, **Fr. Thomas D'Mello**, as provincial superior of the Ghana Province for the 2011-2014 triennium.*

I would like to take this occasion to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the individual confreres, the province as a whole and the local Churches of Ghana during this current term and for your willingness to respond to the will of the province by accepting a second term. We wish you and your still to be elected council all the best in helping the Ghana Province in its missionary efforts.

With this news of your re-appointment, you may now begin the process for the election of the provincial council.

Fraternally in the Divine Word,

Antonio M. Pernia, SVD
Superior General

Emmanuel Kofi Fianu, SVD
Secretary General

PROVINCE NEWS

The provincial of Ghana province organizes a sent off party for Fr. Jolly



Fr. Thomas D'Mello, the provincial of the SVD Ghana Province organized a send-off party for Fr. Jolly

Mudakkampurath on the 23rd January 2011 at the new Provincial House in Osu – Castle Drive, Accra.

Having understood that Fr. Jolly is going back to India - his home province - for good, Fr. Thomas found it good to invite confreres and friends of Fr. Jolly to come for a simple get-together and gave a token of gratitude to him for his brotherly presence and contribution for the development of the SVD Ghana Province.

The programme began at 5:00 p.m. with a prayer, followed by speeches, then a dinner and closed it with a prayer and final blessing.

The MC of the function, Fr. Alphonse Amanor, facilitated the whole affair with humor. He animated many well wishers to come forward for their word or two for Fr. Jolly. Fr. Konrad Dreyer mentioned that Fr. Jolly was a good friend his. He knew him since 1987 as an Overseas Training Programme (OTP) Seminarian. He had good contact even after his OTP when Jolly has to go back to India to complete his Theological Studies till ordination. When Jolly came back good rapport continued especially when he became the coordinator of the Biblical Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Accra. That time they stayed together in St. Augustine Parish, Ashaiman. They did some projects together. So Fr. Jolly was a good confrere and a good friend to him. He will not forget their good days together. He wished Fr. Jolly the best for his new appointment in his home province. Brother Paul Ayitey confirmed that Fr. Jolly was very valuable confrere in Ghana. In his few months of stay with them in the Divine Word Conference Center – Adoagyiri, Nsawam – many good things happened; he made a tremendous impact in the community. He was a channel of unity among the confreres there. With the help of Fr. Konrad he renovated and beautified the Divine Word Conference Center making the first floor of the building self-contained, the chapel conducive for prayer, and converted many to deep faith in his Dei Verbum ministry. “As Fr. Jolly go for good we lose a valuable confrere. May God bless Fr. Jolly!”. Fr. Thomas agreed that, *“since Fr. Jolly was going for good, Ghana Province will lose a valuable confrere.”* “Although”, he said, *“Ghana Province will lose a valuable confrere, SVD India province will gain one. As missionaries our life is an overflow of mutual receiving and giving. Even now, though Fr. Jolly is still with us, his new provincial in India has his appointment ready for him. Let us pray for his good health, long life and assure him that we are always with him. This time it may not be so much on a physical level, but spiritual.”* After the speeches, Fr. Jolly responded with a sentiment of gratitude to SVD Ghana Province for the untiring support given him all throughout his stay and ministry in Ghana. He was happy and privileged: 1) to experience OTP for two good years under Bishop Yama, the then Priest-In-Charge of Osonson; 2) to review his language and culture learning with Fr. Dionisio Nellas in Akumersu Osonson for six months; 3) to help Asesewa with Fr. Clement Hotze, Fr. Joachim Mika, Fr. Kazimierz Banacki and Fr. Justinus Toda as guest priest in Asesewa for few months; 4) to minister as co-pastor with Kazimierz Banacki in St. John Vianney in Asutsuare for 7 years; 5) to coordinate the Biblical Apostolate of The Archdiocese of Accra for a term; 5) then to administer as Rector in the CFC- Tamale for nearly 3 years; 6) and then as director of Biblical Pastoral Ministry in DWCCC for a term. He has to go for good for a single reason, that is, his health. After his recent surgical operation, his attending physician requires him to come for regular check-ups and this cannot be done in Ghana. At 8:00 pm the MC of the function reminded all that there is time for everything so the send-off should come to an end. He then requested Fr. Jolly to give final blessing after the closing prayer said by Fr. Thomas.

Southern Sector celebrates annual Family Feast



This year the Southern Family Feast was celebrated in Divine Word Catholic Conference Center, Adoagyiri, Nsawam. The founding generation: Saints Arnold and Joseph; Blesseds Josefa and Helena and martyrs: Louis, Gregory, Aloysius and Stanislaus had indeed interceded for the success of the affair. There was unity, joy peace and increase in stature, wisdom and knowledge of all who participated.

At 2:00 pm of 27th January 2011 the SVD Novices facilitated the opening programme. The leaders of the congregations and of the houses were requested to sit in the forefront including the chairperson of the *Friends of the SVD*, Mrs. Helen Dzikuno from Dansoman. To situate all into the spirit of the occasion, singing and drumming by SVD Novices, SSpS novice and SSpS postulants were rendered. Then the provincial of the SVD, Fr. Thomas D'Mello, gave his welcome address. His welcome speech included a word of encouragement to all to participate fully but with care especially to those who would play *outdoor games* because one cannot enjoy Family Feast with broken bones. With his note Family Feast was duly launched.

Games, such as, filling the bottle; egg relay, volleyball and basketball; were played from 3:00 pm. and ended at 6:30 pm. Blessed Maria Helena won the first prize for *filling the bottle* in the male division and St. Arnold for the female division. St. Joseph won the first prize for the egg relay for male division while Blessed Josefa for female side. St. Arnold won the first prize for the volley and St. Joseph got the second prize. Basketball was a sideline game so there was no declaration of the winners.

The night prayer took place at 6:30 pm. At 6:30 pm. the AJS team, Accra zone led by Sr. Adeline, SSpS and Fr. Andrews Obeng, SVD facilitated it with the aid of their computer, LCD projector and screen. The prayers were written in a *Power Point* form for each one to easily follow. Evening program followed immediately after supper at 7:00 pm. Fr. Thomas Przybyl won the statue with chair dance; among others, Fr. Edmundo L. Condori (OTP), Sr. Cecilia Dungdung, SSpS won the pick and act. Before the closing of that evening session, Novice Robert Bellarmin Ramamisoa led the *dance for all* with his intriguing ballroom dance steps.

At 5:30 am. of 28th January 2011, the *keep fit* walk through St. Martin's Senior High School road, facilitated by novices Abraham K. Agosseme and Diderick Andrinjatovo, was well participated in. Fr. Victor Gbotso had to run his walk because he was a kilometer behind due to his late rising. Once again, with their electronic gadgets, the AJS team led the morning praise at 6:30 am. Breakfast followed at 7:00 am. The Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated at 9:00 am. In his introduction, Fr. Fred Timp, the main celebrant, explained that in the beginning the motive of the Family Feast was to integrate all birthday celebrations. He invited all to pray through the intercession of the founding generation for the success of the feast. With the help of Sr. Rita and her *ad hoc* committee, Rev. Eugene Agyapong enthroned of the Bible before the Gospel. In his homily, Fr. John Straathof, encouraged all to be fit: in spirit, in mind, and in body. He said to do this one must devote a certain time with the Lord, a certain time for reading good books, and a certain time for physical exercises "*keep fit*" every day. Sr. Rita and her *ad hoc* committee also took charge of the symbolic offering during the liturgy of the preparation of the gifts. The impact was solemn. The mantras and the dancing with flowers were inspiring. The waving of different flags of countries where confreres and sisters are working was memorable. One thing which made the celebration wholesome was the respect to the elders. Jubilarians: Fr. Vincent Burke, Fr. Sebastian Sperl, Fr. John Straathof, Fr. Fred Timp, Br. Tarcisius de Ruyter, Br. Paul Tawiah-Richmond, and Br. Anthony Lawer were given jubilee gifts – a gesture of salute to the experienced and seasoned missionaries! Jubilarians from the northern sector will also be felicitated and given gifts in the northern celebration: Frs. Kofi Ron Lange, Joachim Mika, Francis Kowal, and Francis Naduviledathu. Everyone enjoyed the special meal and special numbers which were served after the Eucharistic fellowship. The Family Feast came to an end at 2:30 p.m. with a note of goodbye and see you again...

DISTRICT NEWS

Koforidua District:



Representatives from different religious congregations in the Diocese of Koforidua celebrated the day of the religious on 5th of February 2011 at HDR Novitiate, Koforidua.

On Arrival, at 9:00 a.m. Sr. Faustina, HDR registered the participants. Breakfast then was served to all, who had not taken their breakfast yet, in the HDR Novitiate refectory. Fr. Alphonse Amanor chaired the meeting at 9:30 am. The meeting was convoked in order to elect new conveners and to plan for the next gathering and its programmes. 8th October 2011 was the agreed date for the next gathering. Fr. John Acheampong was chosen as the main celebrant and Fr. Alphonse Amanor for the talk on the theme: “Religious @ 40 and beyond”. After the meeting all went to the grotto with their lighted candles to begin the Eucharistic celebration. Taking the feast of the presentation of the Lord in the temple, the main celebrant, Fr. Dionisio Nellas, emphasized that like Jesus who being first born was offered by Mary and Joseph in the temple and at the same time he himself offered a perfect surrender his Father’s will, religious are “*first borns*” coming to the temple, offering themselves to God in love and service. This is a noble calling, a calling of great privilege to live a radical life following evangelical council - imitating that of Christ’s; sharing his mission in proclaiming the Good News of Salvation; anticipating heaven on earth. One of the most touching parts was the renewal of religious commitment after the homily. Lunch took place at 12:00 noon. In attendance, among others, SVDs, SSpS, HDR, St. John of God, Notre Dame Sisters were present.

Asesewa

Anti-Bushfire Campaign



The parish priest of Asesewa, Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD participated in the launching of an Anti-Bushfire campaign on 10th February 2011 in Anyaboni Quarters, Upper Manya Krobo. The launching was opened by a parade of the Anti-Bushfire volunteers headed by one Upper Manya Krobo Fire Service officer. After parade inspection, Mr. Tetteh said an opening prayer, thanking God for the assembly and asking God for the success of the meeting. In their Bush Fire Drama, the volunteers had instructed the public about: the hazards of uncontrolled burning of the bush in the community, how to deal with the offenders, how to

extinguish a fire outbreak in the farm, and how to prevent bushfire to assure the security of the community properties and farms. In his welcome address the assembly man expressed his warm welcome to all, especially the guests, on behalf of the chief and leaders of the area. He appreciated the volunteers in their effort to produce an insightful play. He appealed to the guests to support the volunteers in fighting against bush fire. The Regional commander, DOI B.K. Nketia, of the Fire Service talked on the *PNDC law # 229 (1999)* concerning bush burning. He mentioned that anyone who is found burning his bush uncontrollably will be sanctioned according to the degree of his/her offense. He ended by saying that *fire is a good servant but a bad master*. The DCE, Mr. Joseph Angmor, also gave his piece of advice. He acclaimed that unity is strength and if we are united we can change the face of our village. He encouraged them to be enterprising by revealing the plan of the District for the area concerning mechanized farming and the fresh water fish industry. Being concerned for the development of the children, the manager of the Plan International- Ghana urged the community to include children in the affairs of the community because children also have the capacity of effecting change. While expressing his commitment and support for the needs of the fire volunteers, the DCE, together with the Regional commander of Fire Service, the chief, Fr. Dionisio and other guests of honour, declared the Anti-Bushfire campaign duly launched. The meeting closed at 1:30 p.m.

Yendi District:

To God Be the Glory

Recently the Most Rev. Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD, Bishop of Yendi, confirmed 68 parishioners of the St. Brigid's Parish, Chereponi at Chereponi. This is a record not only in the parish but in the whole diocese. According to Bishop Boi-Nai this is the highest number he had ever confirmed in the Diocese ever since the diocese was created and he became the first bishop eleven years ago. He was full of appreciations and praise of our confreres working in the parish for what he termed "the good works they are doing." He urged them to continue to really build the parish as the family of God.

In a related development, the Bishop has confirmed 53 young men and women and blessed the marriage of a couple at St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Saboba. It was a very solemn celebration. ***To God be the glory!!!***

Benjamin Asare

FORMATION

Nkwatia

Novitiate

In the path of Saint Joseph Freinademetz

When St. Arnold founded the Society of the Divine Word, he actually wanted it to be international, multicultural and missionary! That is why a Divine Word Missionary is ready to go wherever the Holy Spirit, working through his superiors, sends him. He could also joyfully leave his own country, mother tongue, cultural milieu, preferences, in order to fulfill our missionary mandate (Cons. 102). This missionary character reminds me of the early apostles who were going everywhere to proclaim the good news of our Lord. Truly, this Spirit is still present in our Church. In fact, since the beginning of my novitiate year, I have had the opportunity to meet confreres and SSPS sisters working here or in the missions who have passed by the novitiate and shared their experience with us. So far, I have been deeply moved and touched by the sharing of Fr. John Straathof who really demonstrated the spirit of courage and happiness.

Leaving his home country, The Netherlands he came to Ghana with the hope of fulfilling his missionary task of proclaiming the good news to the people. For his first assignment, he found himself in the small village of Tatale in the north where there was no chapel, no social amenities and no Christian. Yet in the face of all the challenges he had to work for Christ and his people. This reminds me of the situation of St. Joseph Freinademetz who arrived in China only to find

himself in similar condition. St. Freinademetz had to learn the Chinese language in “the tiny, dirty fishing village of Saikung, where he was stricken with malaria and digestive disorders. All in all it was no place to gather storms of enthusiasm” (Joseph Freinademetz, *Serving the people of China*, p12).

Though the situation was so deplorable, St. Freinademetz did not give up because of the love he had for the Chinese people. In the same way, Fr. Straathof also did not give up but opened his heart to welcome every event as the will of God. I could just picture him during those days when he was going from village to village, visiting people and trying to arouse their interest in his faith in Jesus Christ. Perhaps, even if people were shouting at him “foreigner, obroni, devil”, he was strongly convinced that his effort would surely yield result. This conviction, of course, came out of love. Indeed, this is the spirit of St. Freinademetz exemplified for today’s missionary.

What I have learnt from the missionary spirit of St. Freinademetz and the sharing of Fr. Straathof is that to be truly effective and happy, the missionary needs to find consolation in prayer and in reflective solitude where he can find himself and God. By doing so he will be able to accept the culture of others, respect it the way it is. In the same way I was inspired by Fr. Samuel Balkono, who is studying in Papua New Guinea. He was surprised by the importance given to pigs when for the first time he saw a woman breastfeed a piglet and a baby. And she said, “They sleep together!” I think this is a sign of Eco-spirituality. The missionary then becomes more open to the Holy Spirit in order to understand and share the life of other people. Consequently, he does not impose his culture and beliefs on the people, but through dialogue and faith sharing, he transforms the life and condition of his flock.

It is probable that like St. Freinademetz, the missionary would experience an internal struggle in which perhaps he would be telling himself: “the Chinese (the Ghanaian, etc) character has little that appeals to us Europeans... the Creator did not endow the Chinese (Ghanaians, etc) with the same qualities as the European. The Chinese (Ghanaians, etc) are incapable of higher motives”. These are all part of the initial experience of a fresh missionary. For me what is important is the inner transformation that comes later after a deeper encounter with God. Looking at the life of Fr. Straathof and others who have shared their experience with us in the novitiate, I can clearly observe the joyful spirit and happiness that mark their life as missionaries in Ghana. And I think they were able to achieve their missionary feat simply because they prayerfully lived and continue to live fully their life through the evangelical counsels:

- To love everybody unconditionally and to accept our differences are, for me, a sign of practical life of chastity.
- Accepting the poor condition in which they found themselves and giving their best are authentic ways of living poverty.
- Their openness to the mission, though away from their countries, is a great act of love which can be understood only by obedience to their superiors through whom God acts.

Martin Kotchoffa, Divine Word Novitiate

Tamale

Demet’z formation House

The Arnold Janssen Spirituality Team (A.J.S.T.) visits SVD seminarians in Northern Ghana

The northern sector of the Arnold Janssen Spirituality Team (AJST) has visited the seminarians of the C.F.C. Theology and St. Joseph Freinademetz Philosophy House in Tamale from the 28th to 30th of January 2011. The short visit also saw a mumbo jumbo of activities all of which took place in the Theology House, Tamale. On that 28th evening, the team met the seminarians of both the theology and the philosophy houses together for community prayer and short introductions of and interactions among and between the team members and the seminarians.

On 29th January, the next day, the team commenced their programmes for the seminarians with a talk on the spirituality of Arnold given by Fr. Gregory Boss, the parish priest of St. Arnold Janssen, Kpankpan and a member of the A.J.S.T. He explained “spirituality”, related it to St. Arnold’s spirituality, missionary spirit, through, among others, the mission of our founder and co-founders, to St. Arnold’s mission – our mission. A workshop was organised on the talk in groups for sharing. After this was a brief power point presentation on the life of Mother Maria Helena by Sister Maria and Sister Samuela. This was followed by Mass in the afternoon during which Fr. Anthony Hibur, gave a reflection on the theme, “Our call to mission, to witness”, and said we need

prayer and self-sacrifice for such witness. He held that each Christian is a walking example, for a true witness is the one who says "I know through my life experience." Openness to the Holy Spirit will help us be good witnesses.

In the second session of the day's activity, Sr. Bernadette Dere, gave a reflection on St. Joseph Freinademetz' spirituality. A short reflection and sharing on this topic followed afterwards.

The whole programme was crowned the next day, Sunday, 30th of January, with a thanksgiving Mass in the chapel of C.F.C Theology House. During the Mass, Sr. Kate Obeng, who was given the chance to give a reflection on the readings, said for a pure practice of the beatitudes, we need to change our attitude of individualism and be more concerned for what we can do for the growth of the communities we live in. The team joined the members of the theology and philosophy seminarians and formators for community socials. It was a time well spent and will ever be in memory!

Compiled by Stephen Appiah and Stephen Osei Asante, Tamale

MISSION OUTSIDE GHANA

Fr. Samuel writes

I would like to extend my greatest and heartfelt appreciation to the SVD Ghana Province; the Provincial and His Council for how they received me during my holidays in Ghana. To all the confreres, especially, the Brong Ahafo SVD District, I say big thank you for all your supports and kind gestures both in kind and words. I felt being accepted in your communities and relaxed at home. Lastly, my appreciation goes to all the SVD Formators and my fellow SVD Seminarians: Philosophy House and the Common Formation Centre in Tamale and the Novitiate in Nkwatia, I say 'tenkyu tru' for all your encouragements and kind gestures. I really appreciate everything. To my fellow brothers in formation i say, never give up. Keep persevering, for the celibate life, is not for 'boys' said by Fr Anthony D'Mello, SJ. I had a safe flight back to Papua New Guinea through Dubai-Singapore. I am fine still adjusting to the climate and the time difference [Ten hours ahead of Ghana].

'MI LAIKIM YUPELA OLGETA- I LOVE YOU ALL!

From:

Fr. Samuel Balkono Nabare, SVD [PNG]

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

Fr. Samuel Balkono: 9th November 2010 from Papua New Guinea for holidays. **Fr. Sammy, welcome and enjoy your holidays!**

Fr. Issaka Boniface: 11th January 2011 from Brazil for compassionate leave due to his mother's illness. **Fr. Boniface, akwaaba!** Rest assured of our prayer for the speedy recovery of your mother.

Bro. Paul Richmond Tawiah: 12th January 2011 from Nemi Spiritual Renewal Course in Rome. **Bro. Paul welcome back refreshed, relaxed and rejuvenated!**

Departures:

Fr. Samuel Balkono: 30th January 2011 back to Papua New Guinea to continue his Theological studies. *Fr. Sammy, all the best!*

Fr. Issaka Boniface: 8th February 2011 back to Brazil for his appointment. *Fr. Boniface, god bless you!*

Fr. Donatus Elorm Akpatsa: 18th February 2011 to the Philippines for his first appointment. *Fr. Elorm, "hinay-hinay basta kanunay - slowly but surely" have a memorable language and culture learning in the SVD Southern Province- Philippines!*

Fr. Joseph Panabang: 28th February 2011 for a long awaited home-leave. *Fr. Joe, happy holidays.*

COMING EVENTS

1st February 2011 – Start of the second Novitiate - Tamale

11-13 February 2011 – Parents and Guardians' Visit to the Novitiate – Nkwatia

15th February 2011 – Family Feast Northern Sector – Demet'z House

18th – 19th March – Lenten Recollection (First batch) - Nsawam

21st – 22nd March – Lenten Recollection (Second batch) - Nsawam

1st June – New Provincial Administration Takes office - Accra

9th June – 12th July: AFRAM Formators' Course - Nsawam

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

The SVD Ghana Province is sad to announce the death of MADAME ANANONEMEH DONZUO The Mother of Frt. Francis Xavier Donzuo, SVD (Seminarian in DR Congo) On 1st February 2011 At Nandom Hospital She was 62 Years Old. Our Condolences to the Entire Family.

May her soul rest in peace.

WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

"Fill us with a spirit of prayer so that we will cling more and more with each passing day." - St. Arnold Janssen

"Now that I have less difficulty with the language and know the people and their way of life better, China has become not only my homeland but also the battlefield on which I will one day fall..." - St Joseph Freinademetz

"Believe and be convinced that all the divine graces await you in this holy solitude." – Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk

"I desire nothing more than, with the race of God, to be the least and to offer myself as a sacrifice for the work of spreading the Faith." – Blessed Josefa, Hendrina Stenmanns

JOKES ONLY

Always slow

Mr. Kwasi describing an accident to his friend: *“The old clock got loose and fell off the wall. If it had been a minute sooner, it would have hit my mother-in-law.”*

Friend: After a meaningful pause, *“That clock was always slow.”*

Which end to trust

Lion Trainer: *“Didn’t I tell you when a lion wag his tail he is friendly?”*

Lion Trainee: *“Yeah, but he was also roaring and wagging his tail at the same time.”*

Lion Trainer: *“So?”*

Lion Trainee: *“I just didn’t know which end to trust!”*

Why aren’t you working?

Peter: *“Why aren’t you working?”*

Paul: *“My Boss and I had an argument and he won’t take back what he said.”*

Peter: *“What did he say?”*

Paul: *“He said. ‘You’re fired.’”*

WORTH REMEMBERING

February

1	Joseph Addai	Birthday	19	Andrew Quaye-fofi	Birthday
4	Gerard Tanye	Birthday	23	Joseph Panabang	Birthday
8	Emil Setsoafia	Feastday	24	Mathias Yaadar	Birthday
9	Tomy Kanjiramalayil	Birthday	24	Martin Ninang	Birthday
10	Deepak Tigga	Birthday	24	Matthias Felber	Feastday
11	Oswald Bangfo	Birthday	26	Alex Awuah - Osei	Feastday
12	Rafael Mesi	Birthday	28	Oswald Bangfo	Feastday
15	Boguslaw Berek	Birthday	29	Matthias Helms	Birthday
16	Dionisius Kopong Ola	Birthday			

Feb	Our departed confreres	Year
10	Josef Glatzel	2000
13	Charles Roesslein	1999
20	Justinus Toda	2010
22	Titus Grawey	1986
22	Leslie Hatfield	1987
24	David Schouten	1993

March

2	Marek Kowalik	Birthday	19	Joseph Sprehe	Feastday
3	Stephen Ayisu	Birthday	19	Paul Tawiah Richmond	Birthday
5	McDaniel Acquaaah	Birthday	21	Matthew Yeng	Birthday
8	Anastasius Osei	Birthday	21	Benjamin Adusei-Poku	Feastday
11	Phanuel Agudu	Birthday	22	Boguslaw Berek	Feastday
15	Gideon Davordzi	Birthday	23	Marcel Kakrabah	Birthday
17	Patrick Kodom	Feastday	24	Gabriel Kumordji	Birthday
17	Patrick Ofori	Feastday	24	Koutanji Wayename Janvier	Birthday
17	Pius Oduro Owusu Gregory		25	McDaniel Acquaaah	Feastday
17	Patrick Moroney	Feastday	27	Andrew Campbell	Birthday
18	Alexander Powathu C.	Feastday	28	Germain Mukinisa	Feastday
19	Djiba Youta Joseph	Feastday	28	Gregorius Boss	Birthday
19	Joseph Mazur	Feastday	28	Henry Noordermeer	Birthday
19	Joseph Sakete	Feastday	28	Joseph Bowers	Birthday
19	Joy Panamthanam	Feastday	31	Benjamin Asare	Feastday

Mar.	Our departed confreres	Year
5	Edward Asafu-Adgye	2006
6	Rene Derinck	1965
7	William Kane	2001
18	Thomas Halleran	2004
23	Patrick Twi	1995
24	Boleslaw Gielata	2008
27	Theodore Smeets	1998

Liturgy Corner

Liturgy of the Eucharist: Preparation of the Gifts

The preparation of the Gifts has twofold purposes: (1) to prepare the bread and wine which will be offered as gift and sacrifice to God, and (2) to prepare the priest and the people for the self-offering of their words and deeds, that is, their very lives.

Originally the preparation rite was very simple. People gathered around the table and placed food upon it in a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving. With time, however, the simple rite became more embellished. Already by the third century a procession accompanied the presentation of the gifts. Gifts for the poor and the Church were also eventually included in the offerings. By the Middle Ages, however, as the “communal” dimension of the Mass was less evident, the processions ceased, and the preparation rites became “Offertory rites” centering around the prayers of the priest.

The second Vatican Council has restored the “preparation” dimension of these rites as well as the ancient custom of the procession for presenting the gifts of the community to the priest. It is desirable for the faithful to present the bread and wine which are accepted by the priest or deacon at a suitable place.

These are placed on the altar with the accompanying prayers. The rite of carrying up the gifts continues the spiritual value and meaning of the ancient custom when the people brought bread and wine for the liturgy from their homes (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, N49).

The prayer which the priest says in preparing the bread and wine is patterned on an ancient Jewish prayer, the Kiddush, recited at the Passover meal: "Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the earth. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

Pius Agyemang

"Blessed are you Lord God of all creation



through your goodness we have these bread... and wine... "