



**SVD NEWSLETTER**



**A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL**

Dear Confreres,

Greetings to all you involved in various parishes, Schools and other ministries. Last week I was able to attend the Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Peter Paul Angkyier as the Bishop of Damongo Diocese. Most of the Bishops, many Priests and Religious, thousands of laity and others were present for this great event. Though the celebration lasted five and half hours, all present were happy that finally Damongo has a Bishop. We wish the new Bishop well and pray that the Lord bless him with all the heavenly gifts.

I am writing these words in the beginning of the third week of Lent. Let this Lenten season be for us a time of prayer and Penance as Lk 13, 3 says ‘ Unless you do penance, you will all be lost’. May we able to pay particular attention in helping our brothers and sisters in need during this time. I read in one of our old Newsletters where the Regional was urging the confreres to come to the two Lenten Recollections well divided – otherwise they may not have rooms in Nsawam! Looking at the attendance of the last week ends recollection, we can only pray that he fills us with the same enthusiasm that our older confreres had some decades ago.

We pray for our Novices that this one month retreat they are on now may help them to strengthen their faith and love in Jesus and help them become better SVDs. We also pray for those who are guiding them – G. Angmor, McDaniel and A. Obeng. May God be with you all.

Please remember to pray for disaster hit areas like Japan, we cannot express the tragedy in words! We specially think of Bp. Y. Kikuchi – we are with you in our prayers. The North African Countries and our own neighbor Cote D’Ivoire too need our prayers everyday.

Your Confrere,  
*Fr. Thomas D’ Mello , SVD*

## PROVINCE NEWS

### ST. JOSEPH FREINADEMETZ HOUSE HOSTS FAMILY FEAST



This year's feast of the Arnoldus family in the northern sector came off on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011 in the St. Joseph Freinademetz House of Philosophy. The theme for this year's celebration was "Love is the Mission". The feast started with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the fount and summit of our Christian life. Fr. Franek Kowal was the main celebrant. Frs. Joachim Mika, Fred Timp and Kofi Ron Lange concelebrated and all happen to be our jubilarians for the year. Other concelebrants were Frs. Thomas D'Mello, Cyprian Kuupol, John Asiedu and Wladyslaw Madziar and Mietek Sagan. At the beginning of the celebration, Fr. Provincial, Thomas D'Mello mentioned the names of all the Arnoldus family members in Ghana who celebrate various anniversaries.

Reflecting on the theme, Fr. Kofi recounted the love he had experienced through his encounter with his family, the SVD family, the Arnoldus family and all the communities in which he lived and worked. He said, love has two ends; thus receiving and giving and, therefore to be effective in our mission, we need to share among ourselves whatever talents one possesses.

Before the mass ended Fr. Fred Timp gave an account of how the family feast emanated. In his account, he pointed out that the feast, as it is now, started as the celebration of birthdays and number of years in vows purposely to acknowledge the various contributions the individual members of the community has made toward the growth and the progress of the society. In this regard, special cake was cut to honour the jubilarians.

Moreover, various games were organized to make the celebration a lively one. There was 'jama' to add bite to the occasion. The celebration was a great success through the dedicated efforts by postulants, Formators as well as the workers of the house who worked tirelessly. Love indeed is the mission.

*Fr. Daniel T. Nuertey*

## DISTRICT NEWS

Accra District:

### Dansoman

#### Friends of the SVD visit parishes



Dansoman - based SVD friends visited the parishes of Asesewa and Osonson and some of their outstations on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011 for familiarization tour and to have a glimpse of how SVD confreres are doing their ministries in the Upper Manya Krobo areas.

The delegates led by Ms. Helen Dzikunu – Chairperson of the SVD Friends and Fr. Andrews Obeng, SVD – Assistant Parish Priest, St. Margaret Mary Dansoman - arrived in Asesewa at 2:00 pm. The parish Priest, Fr. Dionisio Nellas, welcomed them with a late lunch. Then he invited them to visit the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel. And then he toured them around the areas of the grotto and school compound. After that he showed them some of the outstations in his parish, like: Kwaopeniase, Aboatsam, the way to Abertiso, Dorminasi, Abourso, Nkankama, the way to Amofoaso, and Ahomahomasu where Fr. John Dorborkoe went to celebrate a funeral mass for a departed church member. At 5:00 pm Fr. Dionisio continued to lead them to Osonson rectorate passing through some of its outstations like: Ehiamenkyene, the way to Obonkorkor and Asedja Akwadum, Ternguanya, and Sutapong until they reached Osonson rectorate itself. The priest in charge, Fr. Joseph Panabang, and pastoral seminarian Frt. Chris Ankah welcomed them with cool refreshing palm wine. The delegates responded by giving various provisions and food stuffs to both Asesewa and Osonson. After having spent the day, the “tour guide”, Fr. Dionisio returned to Asesewa while delegates went back to Accra with new insight of their friends who are SVDs ministering in the mission territory of the Upper Manya Krobo.

Koforidua District:

#### Koforidua District members gather for a multi-purpose meeting



Members of the SVD Koforidua District gathered for their multi-business meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 at St. Paul SVD Community, Kukurantumi.

Fr. Marek Dabrowski, the new District Superior called this meeting to elect a second councilor for the District. Fr. Lambert Assogba got the highest vote and was declared the second councilor. After the election the following celebrations followed: 1) send-off of Fr. Jojo George – the former District Superior and Parish Priest of St. Augustine of Asesewa, Bro. John Akuffo – former member of SVD Kukurantumi community, Fr. Dionisio Kopong - Ola – former co-pastor of SVD Adweso community, Bro. Paul Tawiah – former manager of the St. Paul Carpentry Shop; 2) Welcome of Fr. Martin Ninang – former co-pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Kintampo, Fr. Dionisio Nellas – former Communication Coordinator, and 3) Birthday of Fr. Joseph Panabang.

Following the order of the new district superior, Bro. Bernardus Tang – first councilor - handed special parcels to the outgoing confreres with a sincere word of gratitude. He also wished them the best of health and God's abundant blessings as they begin the new chapter of their religious life in their new communities. For those who have just joined, Bro. Ben gave them nothing but a big smile since they would be staying in the District for some time. The birthday celebrator, however, got his birthday gift.

In response for the kind token of gratitude, Fr. Jojo George, who spoke on behalf of all the leavers and on his own behalf, thanked the district for the support shown on them while they were still members and appreciated the parcels which were given to them. He wished all the members both old and new the best of everything that is good. This multi-purpose meeting reached its peak when the participants left the meeting hall in order to share a special dinner in the banqueting table of the house.

## **FORMATION**

### **Nkwatia**

#### **Novitiate**

##### **Parents Visit SVD Novitiate**

Our novitiate community was privileged to host parents and relatives of novices from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of February. The Parents' visit to the novitiate is an opportunity offered to parents of novices to interact and experience life in the novitiate. During the visit, a forum is organized to explain and educate the parents on the purpose and objectives of the novitiate formation.

Explaining the purpose and objective of the novitiate, Fr. Rafael Mesi, SVD, Assistant Novice Director noted that according to Canon Law and our SVD constitution 512, the novitiate serves to mature and clarify a vocation. He explained that it is the place where a person is introduced to the religious life. It provides the basic introduction to the following of Christ as outlined in the life and spirituality of the SVD so that at end the novice should come to understand himself more clearly and make a mature and responsible decision about his vocation. It is in this regard that the novices are secluded and separated from the ordinary life in order to experience a deeper union with God. As a result parents and relatives are invited to the novitiate to familiarize themselves with the novitiate environment and to keep contact with their wards.

Five of the parents and relatives came from Togo and Benin and many others from various parts of Ghana with gifts and donations to the novitiate community. During the forum, Fr. George Clement Angmor, Director of Novices said previous interactions with parents of novices have yielded tremendous results in improving the relationship between novices and their families. He continued that during last year's programme, the parents put forward various suggestions among which came the idea for the facelift of the novitiate building.

He also announced that through the grace of God and various donations, the novitiate has been renovated. He informed the parents that the SVD novitiate will celebrate its silver jubilee next year and preparations are underway towards this celebration. He asked the parents to collaborate the effort of the Formators and benefactors to promote the proper formation of the future religious.

Present at the ceremony was Most Rev. Vincent Boi-Nai, SVD, Bishop of Yendi Diocese, who spent a week to facilitate a workshop on “*The Religious Life and Family Relationship*” for the SVD novices. Also present were Father Provincial Thomas D’Mello, Rev. Fr. Vincent Burke, SVD, Director of Divine Word Language and Cultural Centre in Nkwatia, Fr. Sofronio Endoma, SVD, Assistant Parish Priest of Mother of Good Counsel Parish at Kwahu-Tafo, Fr. Lambert Assogba, SVD Assistant Parish Priest of St. Dominic Parish in Koforidua and Frt. Emmanuel Kabate, SVD, a pastoral year seminarian who led the parents from Togo and Benin.

Also present in their numbers were Christian Mothers Association (CMA) from various stations under the Kwahu-Tafo parish led by their president, Madam Valeria Doh, the Friends of the SVD from St. Margaret Mary Parish in Dansoman in Accra represented by Ms Helen Dzikunu and Elisabeth Pomany and some friends of the novitiate.

Bishop Boi-Nai called on the parents and relatives of the novices to contribute towards the sound moral and spiritual formation of their wards. He also invited them to share their experiences during the visit with other family members so that they would be abreast with the formation programme in order not to make unnecessary demands from the young religious. He reminded the formators, the novices and their relatives that as African religious we are linked to our various families and it is the relationship that we have with our families that defines the quality of our relationship with others. He thus advised that religious should frequently visit their homes in order to be aware of the happenings in their families.

The Christian Mothers donated foodstuffs, various items and thirty bags of pure water to the novitiate community. On their part, the parents expressed their joy and appreciation about the formation programme and commended the novices and their directors for the various activities such as cooking, baking, farming and gardening that they undertake daily in the novitiate and promised their continual support and prayers for the community.

*Abraham Dzibitor and Ronald Aming’a*

### **Inter-Novices Workshop at Foyer De Charite**

It has become obvious in recent times that great attention needs to be given to basic formation of priests and religious at all levels of formation. A recent document of the SVD Generalate, *Re-imagining the Pathways of Our Common Vocational Journey*, stressed that “our vowed life takes on right meaning when we accept our vocation as a following of Jesus which involves taking up our cross on a daily basis and journeying in the footsteps of the Lord.”

Considering the recent scandals and sexual misconducts of priests and religious in various places, it is imperative to form and educate young religious to understand and embrace the religious life with enthusiasm and human maturity. It is in this regard that the South-East sector of the National Association of Religious Formators (SE-NARF) has organized a one-week workshop from 14th to 19th February for novices of their respective religious congregation at *Foyer de Charite* in Alavanyo-Abehenease in the Ho Diocese. It was based on “Fidelity to the Vows” and aimed at preparing the young religious to embrace the evangelical counsels of obedience, chastity and poverty.

The workshop was facilitated by Most Rev. Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD, Bishop of Yendi Diocese. The participants included four novices from Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church (SMMC) in Sokode-Ho, fifteen

SVD novices and three novices from The Handmaids of the Divine Redeemer (HDR) in Koforidua. Sr. Esther Honuga, SMMC sat in for the formators of the sector. We were warmly welcomed to the Foyer community by Msgr. Gregory Daniels-Akata, the Foyer Father who is also member of Association of Religious Formators.

Foyer de Charite is a consecrated community of lay men and women who have dedicated themselves to live as a family and serve God with their resources. The community serves as a retreat centre for priests, religious and all Christian faithful. Fr. Daniels-Akata called on us, the novices to open our hearts and minds to God's call in the challenging and broken world of today so that we could reach out more effectively to all people.

In his presentation, Bishop Boi-Nai said that as young religious, we need to begin valuing our vocation from our initial formation so that we can become more matured and open to the influence of the Holy Spirit. He insisted that fidelity to the vows we profess requires a radical way of living which comes through suffering and endurance yet nourished by prayer and Christian asceticism. Bishop Boi- Nai stressed that to be faithful means to be in communion with God. He advised us to "be born anew, to become like little children" for the sake of the Kingdom of God. He encouraged us to pay attention to our community life because our problems begin from life debasing religious communities. "You must make the daily effort to build life-giving communities and in this way the vows you profess would be more meaningful to you", the Bishop admonished. According to him, our world is pervaded by materialism, consumerism and eroticism due to science, technological advancement and people's yearning for novelty. These tendencies, he observed, are gradually enveloping the simple, humble and pure lifestyle which we are called to live as Christians and as religious people. He concluded that as African religious, we need to give an African face to the Religious life by inculturating the African values of simplicity, obedience and chastity in order to live in solidarity with the poor, the marginalized and the underprivileged in our societies.

On behalf of the novices, Sr. Regina Esinu Gbemu a SMMC novice thanked Bishop Boi-Nai and the Formators for the inspiring workshop and the Foyer Community for hosting us and promised that we would live by what we have experienced.

### *Abraham Dzibitor and Diderick Macaire*

#### **Novitiate celebrates cultural day**

Divine Word Novitiate Celebrates Cultural Day. Inspired by the prologue of the SVD constitution: "God's loving grace has gathered us from various peoples and continents into a religious community dedicated to the Divine Word", the Divine Word Novitiate Community has celebrated its cultural diversity in the spirit of oneness and togetherness. Our community is made of six nationalities coming from Benin, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar and Togo.

We were also joined in the celebration by Fr. Vincent Burke from USA and his students from the Divine Word Language and Cultural Centre, who are from Bolivia, D.R. Congo and Poland. At the time of the celebration, a Nigerian, a student at the Institute for Continuing Formation in Cape Coast who was having his experience in our community also enriched our celebration with his culture. The presence of our sisters from St. Joseph's community in Kwahu-Tafo also made the celebrations very colourful.

The celebration began with the Sunday Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Rafael Mesi, SVD. The chapel was decorated beautifully with various cultural elements. The songs and bidding prayers were sung and prayed in various languages. Everyone felt very much at home with our traditional dresses. For the two days various local dishes were prepared by the various nationalities. Foods like Ravitoto, Ranonanpango (drink prepared from rice) from Indonesia and Madagascar; Chapatti from Kenya; Accassa and Amiwɔ from Benin and Togo, eba and bitter leaves soup from Nigeria, and Apaprams, Tubani and T.Z from Ghana were served for our meals.

In the evenings of the two days we had cultural gatherings at which the Headmaster of St. Peter's Senior High School, Mr. Mathias Kudiabor and the wife Mrs. Magdalene were the Guests of Honour. Each nationality had the opportunity to unveil their national flag accompanied with the singing of the national anthem. Each person had the opportunity to share about his country on various issues such as marriage, funerals, naming ceremony, political situation etc. There were also

cultural performances such as singing and dancing.

Apart from the entertaining aspect of this celebration, the occasion also offered us the opportunity to learn from our cultural diversity and from our backgrounds. This is against the background that we can never build a healthy community if the members do not have a fair knowledge of themselves. This was also to help prepare us for the prophetic dialogue with other cultures and peoples in our ministry. At the end, the Headmaster, Mr. Kudiabor, was full of praise to the community for coming up with such an important programme and pleaded that it should be continued and improved. The community on its part felt very renewed and rejuvenated for such unity in diversity.

*Raymond Akumbilim A.*

## **ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

### **Arrivals:**

**Bro. Apollonius Bria:** 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 from home leave in Indonesia. *Bro. Apollo, apakabar sayang!*

### **Departures:**

**Bro. Peter Edze:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 to Austria for a seminar concerning partnership in technical education. *Bro. Peter, enjoy your trip and have a memorable seminar!*

## **COMING EVENTS**

- 24-30 July 2011- First SVD Retreat – DWCCC Nsawam
- 31 July to 6 August 2011 - Second SVD Retreat - DWCCC Nsawam
- 17 July 2011 – First Vows - Nkwatia
- July – August 2011 – Ordination - To be announced
- August 2011 – Retreat for confreres in temporary vows - Nsawam
- August 2011 – Perpetual Vows
- 12 October 2011 - Local Superiors – Provincial Council Meeting – McCarthy - Hill

## **CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE**

### **Congratulations to our Jubilarians:**

AYEKOO

1. *Sebastian Sperl: 50<sup>th</sup> in the Priesthood on 18<sup>th</sup> March*
2. *Vincent Burke: 50<sup>th</sup> in the Priesthood on 16<sup>th</sup> April*
3. *Franciszek Kowal: 25<sup>th</sup> in the Priesthood on 10<sup>th</sup> May*
4. *Joachim Mika: 25<sup>th</sup> in the Priesthood on 18<sup>th</sup> May*
5. *Francis Naduviledathu: 25<sup>th</sup> in Vows on 11<sup>th</sup> June*
6. *Jolly Mudakkampurath: 25<sup>th</sup> in Vows on 11<sup>th</sup> June*
7. *Kofi Ron Lange: 40<sup>th</sup> in the Priesthood on 25<sup>th</sup> June*
8. *Martin Wels: 60<sup>th</sup> in the Priesthood on 26<sup>th</sup> August*
9. *John Straathof: 50<sup>th</sup> in Vows on 8<sup>th</sup> September*
10. *Anthony Lawer: 25<sup>th</sup> in Vows on 8<sup>th</sup> September*
11. *Paul Richmond Tawiah: 25<sup>th</sup> in Vows on 8<sup>th</sup> September*
12. *Rex Vegbey: 25<sup>th</sup> in Vows on 8<sup>th</sup> September*

AYEKOO

13. *Tarcisius Ruyter: 65<sup>th</sup> in Vows on 7<sup>th</sup> November*  
14. *Fred Timp: 40<sup>th</sup> in the Priesthood on 18<sup>th</sup> December*

## INFORMATION

### New Appointments:

John Acheampong: St. Dominic Parish, Adweso - Koforidua  
John Akuffo: Catholic Book Center - Accra  
Ignatius Ayivor: St. Joseph Parish, Kintampo – Techiman diocese  
Henry Kweku Duah: Our Lady of Good Council Parish, Kwahu - Tafo – Koforidua Diocese  
Alphonse Dungdung: Holy Family Catholic Church, New Longoro - Techiman diocese  
Martin Ninnang: St. Paul SVD Community, Kukurantumi – Koforidua diocese  
Dionisius Kopong Ola: St. Joseph Parish, Kintampo – Techiman diocese  
Paul Tawiah: SVD Mission House -Yendi

### Update of Japan's Disaster and Libya's turmoil



The entire world was on alert, watching for any evidence of dangerous spikes in radioactivity spreading from the six-reactor facility, or that damage to the Japanese economy might send ripple effects around the globe. – *Tokyo news*

"If Gadhafi does not comply with the resolution, the international community will impose consequences, and the resolution will be enforced through military action," Obama declared on Friday in brief remarks at the White House. – *Washington News*

*Let us pray for our suffering brothers and sisters in Japan and Libya. May Divine Word intervene alleviate their pain.*

## WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

*“Make us true followers of Christ, who praise the Father, who bear fruit equal to the graces given, who work for the world’s redemption... so that when life is through we may enjoy our part of that glory which Jesus won for us by his passion and death on a cross..” - St. Arnold Janssen*

*“This time my eyes did not succeed in staying dry; euntes ibant et flebant – they went weeping! The good Christians of Puoli (an area of South Shandong) had began to grow too close to my heart...” - St Joseph Freinademetz*

*“God wishes for me two things: Recollection of Spirit and perfect receptivity of heart.” – Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk*

*“What great thanks I owe to the Lord for the tremendous grace of my calling to serve him in the Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Spirit. Thanks, fervent thanks to the dear, good God for such a great grace.”– Blessed Josefa, Hendrina Stenmanns*

## JOKES ONLY

### Beauty Pageant

Interviewer: *If you found out that your boy friend has an AIDS what will you do?*

Contestant: *I will still love him.*

Interviewer: *Why?*

Contestant: *‘Coz ‘Age’ doesn’t matter.*

### Court Hearing

Judge: *Kwablah tell me what really happen between you and Kwame.*

Kwablah: (remained silent)

Judge: *“Speak and answer my Question Kwablah!”*

Kwablah: *“I thought this is only hearing. Why is there speaking?”*

### Nothing you can get inside

Arm robber: *Choose, your wallet or your brain?”*

Victim: *“It is up all to you to take any of them. They are both the same anyway – nothing inside!”*

## WORTH REMEMBERING

### March

2	Marek Kowalik	Birthday	19	Joseph Sprehe	Feastday
3	Stephen Ayisu	Birthday	19	Paul Tawiah Richmond	Birthday
5	McDaniel Acquaaah	Birthday	21	Paul R. Tawiah	Birthday
8	Anastasius Osei	Birthday	21	Matthew Yeng	Birthday
11	Phanuel Agudu	Birthday	21	Benjamin Adusei-Poku	Feastday
15	Gideon Davordzi	Birthday	22	Boguslaw Berek	Feastday
17	Patrick Kodom	Feastday	23	Marcel Kakrabah	Birthday
17	Patrick Ofori	Feastday	24	Gabriel Kumordji	Birthday
17	Pius Oduro Owusu Gregory	Birthday	24	Koutanji Wayename Janvier	Birthday
17	Patrick Moroney	Feastday	25	McDaniel Acquaaah	Feastday
18	Alexander Powathu C.	Feastday	27	Andrew Campbell	Birthday

19	Djiba Youta Joseph	Feastday
19	Joseph Mazur	Feastday
19	Joseph Sakete	Feastday
19	Joseph Panabang	Feastday
19	Joy Panamthanam	Feastday

28	Germain Mukinisa	Feastday
28	Gregorius Boss	Birthday
28	Henry Noordermeer	Birthday
28	Joseph Bowers	Birthday
31	Benjamin Asare	Feastday

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

#### April

3	Patrick Moroney	Birthday
4	Ronald Aming'a	Birthday
7	Kimathi Mburugu James	Birthday
9	Andrews Obeng	Birthday
10	Marek Dabrowski	Birthday
17	Stephen Osei Asante	Birthday
19	Alex Awuah Osei	Birthday
21	Konrad Dreyer	Feastday
23	George Angmor	Feastday
25	Lutwin Dollwet	Birthday
25	Marek Dabrowski	Feastday

25	Marcus Hipolito	Feastday
25	Marek Kowalik	Feastday
25	McDaniel Acquaah	Feastday
26	Gregory Kubowicz	Birthday
26	David K. Tengey	Birthday
27	Andrew Campbell	Birthday
28	Henry Noordermeer	Birthday
28	Joseph Bowers	Birthday
28	Gregorius Boss	Birthday
29	Thomas D' Mello	Birthday
30	Andrianandrasana Jean Aime	Birthday

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

## *Liturgy Corner*

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist: *Commingling of Water and Wine***

The priest puts a drop of water into the wine as he prays: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

This simple rite is rich in symbolism. In it are symbolized the mystery of Christ and the Church, In Eastern Christianity this mingling symbolizes the mystery of Christ, the water signifying Christ's humanity and the wine his divinity.

In Western Christianity, the mingling symbolizes the union of Christ (wine) and his Church (water). Fittingly, the prayer which is recited as this gesture is carried out is a remnant of a much longer Christmas prayer dating from about the year 1000.

*Pius Agyemang*

**"By thy holy cross**



**You have redeemed the world"**