



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

As I write these lines we are well into the Easter Season, but it is my first opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter, so I start with my Easter wishes for all of you. May this be a time of joy for you as you also look forward to one day rising with Christ.

We now have the new provincial and council with the appointment of the new council members a few days ago. My congratulations to all the newly appointed/reappointed council members for the 2011-2014 triennium. We thank all for sending your votes in on time. As planned before, both the new and the old council will meet on 18 May to familiarize the new members with the workings of the council and the issues before them.

Let us pray for those who are sick among us. Brother James Djadoo has been admitted to hospital for the past month. He seems to be making progress. We ask you to keep him in your daily prayers.

Brother James was first in Akwatia Hospital where he was well taken care of by the Dominican Sisters who have cared for our members for all these years. There has always been good cooperation between them and the SVD. We will miss their care and miss them too when they leave Akwatia in September. We wish them well in their retired life in Speyer, Germany – their mother house.

The academic year is ending for our seminarians. Soon they will be on vacation/ holidays and apostolates. We wish them well in their exams. I think it is good that we also thank all those who are working in formation at all levels. It is not an easy task and they are serving with full commitment.

The AFRAM Formators Course will be starting on June 12 and running until July 12. It will take place at Nsawam. Some facilitators will come from Rome and Steyl. Formators will come from all the AFRAM provinces that have formation programmes.

Please don't forget to sign up for the retreat of your choice this year. The list is on the Guest House notice board. You can also sign up by phone call, text message, or email to the province secretary.

Your Confrere,
Fr. Thomas D' Mello , SVD

PROVINCE NEWS

SVD Ghana province goes for Lenten Recollection



Members of the SVD Ghana Province went for their annual Lenten Recollection at Divine Word Catholic Conference Center on the 18th - 19th March 2011 (First batch) and 21st – 22nd March 2011.

The recollection guide, Fr. Andrew Quaye – Foli Anumu helped the participants to meditate on their vocation as religious missionaries. He said, as a religious, we don't differ from other Christians in ideal and quality. As we are following Christ, other Christians are also following Christ. But what make us distinct in following Christ are our three bypasses of great roots of human life, namely, a desire to marry; a desire to own things; and a desire for independent. We forego married life in favor of our vows of consecrated chastity. We forgo our right to own properties in favor of our vows of evangelical poverty. We forgo independence and self –sufficiency in favor of our vows of apostolic obedience. These three bypasses of great roots of human life make us radical people. This word radical comes from the Latin word “radix” which means root. Now, he continued, each religious community centers on value. What are the values that we can radiate to human community as religious? We radiate that the Kingdom of God is at work in the world. We radiate togetherness in love since this is the nature of religious life. And we also radiate the radical nature of our vocation in the sense that, as Jesus preaches, we become. And our life becomes a gospel. In short, as far as the ideal and quality of following Jesus Christ are concerned we –religious – are not different from other Christians because they also ideally and qualitatively follow Christ. But as far as the shape of following Christ is concerned we - religious – are distinct in following Christ because our shape radiates the values of the Kingdom of God; togetherness in love , and radical way in following evangelical counsel.

DISTRICT NEWS

Kwahu District:

Chrism Mass Celebrated At Donkorkrom Vicariate



The Apostolic vicar of Donkorkrom vicariate, the Most Rev. Gabriel E. Kumordji together with his priests, religious and lay faithful on Wednesday, 20th April celebrated their mass of the oils.

The holy Mass of the oils, which was the first of its kind with their own bishop, was celebrated at Adeemmra. In his welcoming address, Very Rev. Paul Dogba, SVD, Parish priest of the St Mary's parish Adeemmra, remarked that the parish is the first and for that matter mother parish of the vicariate.

The ceremony also coincided with the first anniversary of the Episcopal ordination of the Most Rev. G. Kumordji and the elevation of the church in Donkorkrom from prefecture to vicariate.

In his homily, the bishop urged the priests to strive for holiness and also to dedicate their time for the people of God. On the part of the lay faithful he asked them to support their priests, prayerfully and materially.

The ceremony also coincided with the visit and the birthday of Rev, Fr Alex Awuah-Osei, SVD. The bishop therefore used the occasion to wish him a very happy and blessed birthday.

Meanwhile the bishop met his priests and seminarians to observe a night of CONSECRATION with adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, where again he advised his priests and seminarians to strive for holiness.

Koforidua District:

Koforidua Vocation team visits seminarians.



The Vocation Team of Koforidua Diocese composing of five deaneries: Koforidua Deanery, Nkawkaw Deanery, Akim- Oda Deanery, Asamankese Deanery, and Krobo Deanery visited the Seminarians of St. Paul's Catholic Seminary, Sowutuom (Suburb of Accra) on 9th April 2011.

The members of the team came in order to interact and show their concern with the seminarians. As soon as they arrived at 10:00 a.m., the 150 seminarians together with their rector, Very Rev. Fr. Francis Arthur cordially welcomed them. The welcome included, singing of welcome song "*Woezor loo!, Akwaaba!, Mohee – Atuu!*" led by the seminary's singing band; then a welcome address by a designated senior seminarian; and then a presentation of seminary life by explaining the four aspects of seminary formation: 1) human, 2) Christian, 3) Intellectual and 4) Pastoral. These integrated formation are enhanced by their daily seminary activities such as: rising at 5:00 a.m., morning prayer and meditation at 6:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist at 6:30 a.m., breakfast at 7:00 a.m., studies in the class room from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, lunch at 12:30 p.m., siesta from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., ground work and or house work at 3:30 p.m., sports at 4:00 p.m., Evening prayer at 6:30 p.m., supper at 7:00 p.m., recreation and watching news after supper, silence for individual studies, light off retire to bed at 10:30 and day-off after breakfast on Sundays. In response to the welcome and an inspiring presentation of seminary life shown to them, the team members expressed their best wishes to the seminarians and the seminary teaching and non-teaching staff. And as token of concern the members of the team presented gifts of gifts of food items: bags of rice, corn and gari, few sacks of yams; cartons of milk, beverages, minerals, soap, toiletries and other provisions to the seminarians. Before the final vote of thanks, the rector of the seminary expressed his profound gratitude and shared an inspiring message to the members of

the vocation team. He said that, “our seminarians’ need a lot of things to sustain their life in the seminary but what the seminarians need most is your prayer”. He ended by saying “please pray for your children who come to respond the call of God. And also pray for all their Formators. May God bless you in heeding Christ’s invitation to ‘pray for more labourers, for the harvest is great but labourers are few’.”The interaction reaches each climax when the vocation team and Seminarians shared their lunch together.

Krobo Deanery Climbs Krobo Mountain



The faithful of the Krobo Deanery composing of four parishes: Akosombo, Agomanya, Somanya and Asesewa; and two rectories: Osonson and Nkurakan of the Koforidua Diocese celebrated their Annual Pilgrimage to the Krobo Mountain on 15th April 2011.

Krobo Mountain is located near the junctions of Akuse and Akosombo Road. It is about 80 kms. North East of Accra. The mountain is about 100 meters above sea level.

The pilgrimage started climbing at 7:00 am and ended at 2:00 pm. This seven hours journey of faith composed of four spiritual packages: Praying of the Holy Rosary; Stations of the Cross; Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

As the pilgrims from Akuse, Akosombo, Agomanya, Somanya, Nkurakan, Asesewa and some from Accra arrived at the foot of the Krobo Mountain, the facilitators invited them to choose any of the prayer group options available. Some joined the English prayer group. Others opted for the Twi. And some others affiliated to Ewe and Krobo.

They prayed the Holy Rosary while they were still in the lower heights. Then they switched their focus on the meditation of the Stations of the Cross when they reached to the higher level. And then they went for individual confession at the plateau where priests administered the sacrament for them.

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist crowned the day’s programme. The main celebrant, Very Rev. John Oforu Mireko invited all to obey God’s will and trust in his loving mercy. In his homily, the Dean of the Krobo Deanery, Very Rev. Anthony Agyeman Bonsu encouraged the faithful to have a good relationship with Christ and ask him to remember them in his Kingdom as his faithful servants. Before the Mass was ended, the main celebrant blessed the water and religious items which the faithful brought for blessing. After the Mass, the pilgrims began to descend the Krobo Mountain at 1:45 pm. Although the pilgrims were tired, they were happy because they spiritually nourished.

In attendance: Frs.: Anthony Bonsu of Agomanya, John Oforu Mireko of Agomanya, Isaac K. Agbenohevi of Agomanya, Richmond Sintim of Somanya, Robert Sackey of Akosombo, Michael Nukevor of Koforidua, Martin Akwetey of Abeka, SVD, Peter Kabutey of Osonson, SVD, John Dorborkoe of Asesewa, SVD, George Angmor of Nkwatia, SVD, Dionisio Nellas of Asesewa, SVD. All (16) SVD Novices of Nkwatia, and about 700 pilgrims were present.

Brong - Ahafo District:



St Joseph Catholic Church, Kintampo Inaugurates the Friends of SVDs

St Joseph Catholic Church, Kintampo inaugurated the Kintampo branch of the SVD Lay Associates. The ceremony took place on Easter Sunday during which thirty four members were initiated. The SVD Lay Associates, also known as Friends of SVD are lay people from SVD parishes who dedicate themselves as Associates of the Divine Word Missionaries to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all people through their prayers, works, and actions so that the Holy Triune God may live in the hearts of all people.

Rev Fr Ignatius Ayivor, SVD, (priest –in- charge) presided over the mass. He tasked the members to be Christ-like and lead exemplary lifestyle. He also urged them to be punctual at meetings and to actively participate in the apostolates of the group. Present at the ceremony was Br Jerome Agbeko, SVD, the Patron of the Kintampo branch.

Fr Paschal Chester, svd

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

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

Departures:

Bro. Peter Edze: 13th 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
- 10 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:

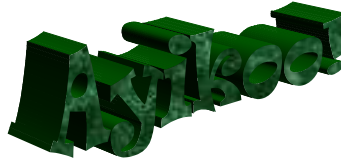
AYEKOO

1. *Franciszek Kowal: 25th in the Priesthood on 10th May*
2. *Joachim Mika: 25th in the Priesthood on 18th May*
3. *Francis Naduviledathu: 25th in Vows on 11th June*
4. *Jolly Mudakkampurath: 25th in Vows on 11th June*
5. *Kofi Ron Lange: 40th in the Priesthood on 25th June*
6. *Martin Wels: 60th in the Priesthood on 26th August*
7. *John Straathof: 50th in Vows on 8th September*
8. *Anthony Lawer: 25th in Vows on 8th September*
9. *Paul Richmond Tawiah: 25th in Vows on 8th September*
10. *Rex Vegbey: 25th in Vows on 8th September*
11. *Tarcisius Ruyter: 65th in Vows on 7th November*
12. *Fred Timp: 40th in the Priesthood on 18th December*

AYEKOO

Congratulations to SSpS Final Vowers:

1. **Sr. Catherine Obeng, SSpS**
2. **Sr. Margaret Mary Ndede, SSpS**



ANNOUNCEMENT

This year our annual retreats will be the weeks of 24-30 July and 31 July - 6 August. The Retreat Master will be Fr. Joe Francis from India. He has worked in Botswana and Kenya. The retreat of 24-30 July will also be open to SSpS who are not able to attend the SSpS only retreat this year.

Please sign up for the week you would like to make your retreat on the sheets at the SVD Guest House in Accra or send your name preferred date to the Province Secretary.

New Appointments:

Alex Awuah: Interim Communication Coordinator – McCarthy-Hill
Apolonius Bria: St. Paul Carpentry Shop Kukurantumi.

Appointment of the Ghana Provincial Council for the 2011-2014 Triennium

Superior Generalis

Societatis Verbi Divini Curia Generalizia SVD .

Via dei Verbiti, 1 .

00154 Roma RM .

ITALIA

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May 3, 2011
GHA 1c-110854

Advance E-mail COPY

*Fr. Provincial Superior SVD
Divine Word Missionaries*

*P.O. Box GP 3285
ACCRA
GHANA (WEST AFRICA)
in re: Appointment of the Ghana Provincial Council for the 2011-2014 Triennium.*

Dear Fr. D'Mello:

This morning in the general council we discussed the consultative votes sent in by the confreres of the Ghana Province for the election of the provincial council.

After a careful study of the votes, and with the consent of the council, I now appoint the following confreres to the Ghana Province council for the 2011-2014 triennium which begins on June 1, 2011:

*Vice-Provincial: Fr. George Clement Angmor
Admonitor: Bro. Jerome Agbeko
Councilors: Fr. Matthias Helms
Fr. Mariusz Pacula*

Our thanks to Frs. Joshua Gariba and Victor Leones as they leave the council, and our prayers and best wishes for you and the new council as you begin a new triennium of administrative service to the confreres of the Ghana Province and to the local Church in Ghana.

*Fraternally in the Divine Word,
Antonio M. Pernia, SVD
Superior General*

*Emmanuel Kofi Fianu, SVD
Secretary General*

SPECIAL NEWS

Holy See Press Office Director On Death Of Osama Bin Laden



VATICAN CITY, 2 MAY 2011 (VIS) - This morning the Director of the Holy See Press Office, Fr. Federico Lombardi, S.J., released the following declaration on the news regarding the death of Osama Bin Laden.

"Osama Bin Laden, as is known, claimed responsibility for grave acts that spread division and hate among the peoples, manipulating religion to that end. A Christian never takes pleasure from the fact of a man's death, but sees it as an opportunity to reflect on each person's responsibility: before God and humanity, and to hope and commit oneself to seeing that no event become another occasion to disseminate hate but rather to foster peace".

OP/

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REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Captain (Rtd.) Philip Agbeyome, the elder brother of Fr. Paul Agbeyome, SVD. He died On 15 January 2011 at the 37 Military Hospital. He was 76 years old. Wake keeping and burial: 13 & 14 May 2011. Venue: Agbakope, VR. We render our sincerest condolences to the entire family.

May his soul rest in God's peace.

WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

"Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: You re present within me, healing me, empowering me, making me fully alive..." - St. Arnold Janssen

"The little that we do is nothing compared to what God has done for us." - St Joseph Freinademetz

"Take care not to deny God anything. No matter how small a sacrifice may be, our conversion, yes even our salvation, might depend upon it." - Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk

"Lord help me to persevere faithfully until my life's end and to gladly and joyfully bring any sacrifice that you... may ask of me..." - Blessed Josefa, Hendrina Stenmanns

JOKES ONLY

Inquiry or Invitation

A politician called on a farmer asking his support at the coming election.

"I want to ask you one question," said the farmer, "do you drink alcohol?"

"Before I reply," said the politician carefully, "Is this an inquiry or invitation?"

Undertakers

"My forefathers all followed the medical profession."

"Were they all doctors?"

"No. They were all undertakers."

Lazy Pig

A foolish man was visiting the zoo for the first time and was surprised to see a baby deer.

He asked the attendant, "What kind of animal is that?"

The attendant replied, "You mean you don't know, what your wife calls you every morning?"

"Oh I see!" the man exclaimed. "So that is a lazy pig!"

WORTH REMEMBERING

April

3	Patrick Moroney	Birthday	23	George Makonzo	Feastday
4	Ronald Aming'a	Birthday	25	Marek Dabrowski	Feastday
7	Kimathi Mburugu James	Birthday	25	Marcus Hipolito	Feastday
9	Andrews Obeng	Birthday	25	Marek Kowalik	Feastday
10	Marek Dabrowski	Birthday	25	McDaniel Acquaah	Feastday
12	Julius Keeke	Feastday	26	David K. Tengey	Birthday
19	Alex Awuah Osei	Birthday	29	Thomas D' Mello	Birthday
21	Konrad Dreyer	Feastday	30	Andrianandrasana Jean Aime	Birthday
23	George Angmor	Feastday			

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

May

1	Joseph Panabang	Feastday	15	Kusaga Samuel Victor	Birthday
1	Joseph Addai	Feastday	10	Samuel Yaw Adu	Birthday
1	Cyprian Kuupol	Birthday	12	John Alphonse Asiedu	Feastday
1	Kingsley Sagru-Larr	Feastday	13	Agyapong Eugene	Feastday
1	Ziem Albert	Birthday	14	Matthias Helms	Feastday
2	Davordzie Gideon	Feastday	14	Matthias Yaadar	Feastday
3	Franciszek Kowal	Birthday	14	Mathias King	Feastday
3	Jojo Monoth	Feastday	17	Paul Ayitey	Birthday
3	Jacobson Dey	Feastday	18	Mariusz Pacula	Birthday
4	Francis Allah	Birthday	18	Michael Tangente	Birthday
5	Joshua Gariba	Birthday	19	Djiba Youta Joseph	Birthday
5	Alexander Chandy	Birthday	21	John Ohene Akuffo	Birthday

7	Matthias Felber	Birthday
8	Stanislaw Gergont	Feastday
8	Lawrence Muthee	Birthday
9	George Makonzo	Birthday
10	Bruno Yirzie	Birthday

22	Emil Setsoafia	Birthday
22	Emmanuel Anyomi	Feastday
25	Boniface Issaka	Birthday
26	Wladyslaw Madziar	Birthday
22	Dzokpe Komla Emile	Feastday

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

June

2	Erasmus Norviewu-Mortty	Birthday
2	Erasmus Norviewu-Mortty	Feastday
7	John Tumawu	Birthday
9	Emmanuel Affum	Birthday
9	Jerome Agbeko	Birthday
9	Rodrigues Sunil	Birthday
10	James Djadoo	Birthday
10	Wilfred D' Souza	Birthday
12	John Dorborkoe	Birthday
13	Anthony Dugay	Feastday
13	Antonius Hibur	Feastday
13	Anthony Lawer	Feastday
13	Augustine Amanor	Feastday
13	Eugene Agyapong	Feastday
15	Lambert Azieve	Birthday
16	Joy Panamthanam	Birthday
7	Nyongesa Augustine Sande	Birthday
19	Oussoi o. Victorin	Feastday

18	Francis Mastan	Birthday
20	Bernardus Tang	Birthday
21	Dionisio Nellas	Birthday
22	Benjamin Asare	Birthday
23	Stephen Bonsu	Birthday
23	Vincent Owusu	Birthday
24	John Acheampong	Feastday
27	Wladyslaw Madziar	Feastday
28	Ireneus Boli-Lolan	Feastday
29	Paul Agbeyome	Feastday
29	Paul Dogba	Feastday
29	Peter Edze	Feastday
29	Peter Kabutey	Feastday
29	Paul Plawky	Feastday
29	Paul Richmond Tawiah	Feastday
29	Biju Maramkuzhackal	Feastday
26	Kpatcha David	Birthday
13	Moses Awinongya Assaah	Feastday

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

Liturgy Corner

Lent:

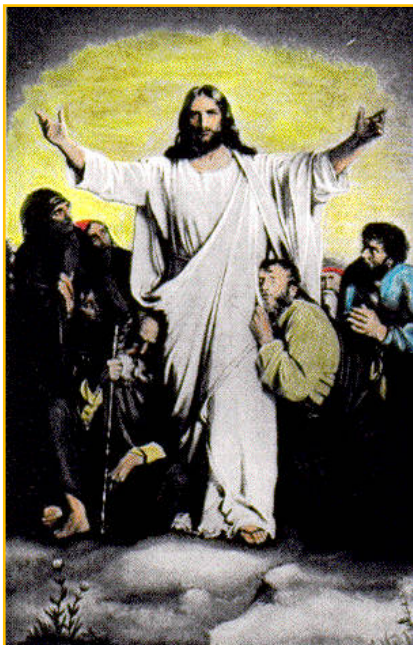
The yearly celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ has been kept in the Church since the earliest times. Originally, the celebration lasted three days, which now corresponds to our Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Soon it was extended to a whole week, now called Holy Week. Later the Church established a time of preparation for Easter, the time we now call Lent. At first, the period lasted three weeks, now corresponding to our 3rd and 4th and 5th weeks of lent. Later, two more weeks were added, our present 1st and 2nd weeks of Lent. And much later, four days more, starting Lent on Ash Wednesday as at present. This was done to complete the 120 days of fast in imitation of Jesus' fast, since fast was interrupted on Sundays.

The time of Lent was established in the Church, originally as a preparation for Baptism and for the Easter celebration. Later on, as a period of repentance of sin for those already baptized. Praying more assiduously, doing penance and helping our neighbor in need, have always considered in the church as the best ways of sharing in the passion and death of Jesus. For a long time, fast and abstinence were considered as among the best ways of doing penance. They are still useful, but circumstances in the world having greatly changed, the Church does not impose them any longer as a command, except on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. She invites her children to choose by themselves ways of doing penance which are best suited to their own condition.

Lent will always remain a period during which we ought to share more intensely in the suffering and death of Jesus, so as to share more fully in his resurrection..

*The Word of God – Year 1
Commentaries on the Sunday Readings
Pastoral Center
Tripura Castle Road.
Shillong 793 003 – Meghalaya India*

"Peace be with you."



**"As the Father has sent me,
so I send you."
(Jn. 20:21)**