



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

The new month has come again round the corner and the newsletter is yet to come to your hand or should I say yet to be posted to your email addresses. Here it comes after hiding for a month or so.

Many of our confreres have gone on home leave this year. We are happy that they are all returning one by one. Fr. Otmar Auinger went for a short medical leave and he too should be back this week after recovering from the corrective surgery that he had in Austria.

The last few weeks were very busy for all of us here. First we had two retreats preached/directed by Fr. Francis Joseph from Pune, India. Both the retreats were all well attended and also well appreciated.

The very next day of the ending of our second retreat, our six Deacons were ordained to priesthood. It was a memorable occasion even though many could not fit into the relatively smaller St. George's Cathedral, Koforidua. Never the less it was beautiful celebration. We are grateful to the host bishop – Most Rev. Joseph Afrifah-Agyekum and our ordaining bishop Most Rev. Gabriel E. Kumordji, SVD. Fr. Anorkwa has gone to Germany for his first assignment and Fr. Samuel Adu is doing the TICCS Course before going to the Yendi District. The rest will start applying for their VISA's to various destinations.

Just a few days after that on the 15th of August, we were happy to be present as four of our Seminarians pronounced their Perpetual Vows at St. Peter's High School Chapel. Fr. Matthias Helms was at the CFC, Tamale to receive the vows of 23 of our Seminarians as they renewed their vows. The months of July and August have indeed been harvest time for us.

Your confrere,

Thomas D'Mello SVD
Provincial Superior

PROVINCE NEWS SIX SVD PRIESTS ORDAINED



Most Rev. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD, Bishop of Donkorkrom Vicariate has ordained six SVD priests and one diocesan priest from Koforidua Diocese, at the St. George's Cathedral, Koforidua on the 6th of August, 2011.

The new SVD priests were Rev. Frs; Edmund Kodzo Leo Deku, Eugene Cudjoe Agyapong, Samuel Yaw Adu, Emmanuel Mawuli Anyomi, Albert Antuo Ziem, Joseph Anorkwah Frimpong, and Augustine William Asante.



In his homily, Bishop Kumordji called on the newly ordained priests to shepherd the flock of God and imitate their master Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd who takes care of his sheep. He also urged them to spend time with the Lord in reflection, meditation, prayer and to study the Word of God.

The mass was concelebrated by more than 60 priests including Most Rev. Joseph Afrifa-Agyekum, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Koforidua and Very Rev. Fr Thomas D'Mello, the Provincial Superior.

Also in attendance were the Religious Brothers and Sisters from different congregations, various Church associations and organizations like the members of the Christian Mothers Association, Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of Marshall and St John international, Friends of the SVD, Families and friends of the newly ordained priests.

Bishop Kumordji challenged the newly ordained priests to live in accordance to what they preach. He said his recent research conducted from the faithful indicated that God's people want a priest who is humble, prayerful, honest, faithful, thankful, grateful, caring, forgiving and above all, understanding. On the contrary, they said they do not want a priest who is lazy, disobedient, liar, ungrateful, indiscipline, selfish, always with women and lover of money. The Bishop challenged the newly ordained priests to cultivate the good qualities their ministry requires. Lastly but not the least, Bishop Kumordji prayed that God would strengthen them in their ministry.

The new priests received a long applause from the congregation after they were dressed with stoles and chasubles. The Koforidua Diocese, St. George's Parish and Friends of the SVD presented parcels of gifts to the newly ordained priests as congratulatory gestures.



From: Stephen Osei Asante & Anthony Chisanga Musonda

Correspondents from Divine Word Novitiate, Nkwatia –Kwahu.

DISTRICT NEWS

KOFORIDUA

5 YEARS AS A BISHOP

Last 3rd July 2011, Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Afrifa-Agyekum, DD celebrated his 5th Episcopal Ordination as a bishop at St. George Cathedral in Koforidua. The celebration dwarfed the cathedral with more people either seated or standing

outside. Though on a Sunday, at least 15 priests concelebrated. The celebration was deliberately moved from 1st July to Sunday 3rd July in order to have more people for the fund-raising and sod-cutting ceremony for the construction of a new Diocesan Secretariat. However, the heavy downpour forced the sod-cutting ceremony postponed to a better day which made the chairman of the function remarked, “The mass is ended but the function is adjourned”

In his homily, the Bishop compared himself to our mother Mary in terms of his soul rejoicing for the many wonderful blessing God has bestowed on him in his first five years in the hierarchy. He said that life that is based merely on the senses leads to death; whereas, life that is founded on the Spirit brings life, thus by human intellect alone, we cannot fully understand the gospel That is why Jesus condemns intellectual pride but commends meekness, simplicity, and humility. He ended up quoting an author that the heart, not the head, is the home of the gospel.

A successful appeal for funds hosted by Msgr. Paul Lawer took the second part of the program. The invited guests, priests and religious were invited to the bishop’s residence for refreshment in the midst of the rains.

We wish him our Congratulations and our support all the time.

Fr. Joe Panabang, SVD
Koforidua District Reporter

AFRAM PLAINS

TEASE PARISH CLIMAXES GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Hundreds of parishioners and well-wishers recently witnessed a colorful ceremony at the St. Fidelis Parish at Tease in the Donkorkrom Vicariate in the Afram Plains to climax its Golden Jubilee celebration. The parishioners clad in their jubilee “T” shirts were joined by the faithful of the sixteen Outstations of the Parish.

The ceremony, which culminated in the jubilee events, were launched on July 11, 2010, and had the theme: ***“50 Years of Catholic Evangelization-The Challenges and the way Forward.”*** Activities undertaken during the one year celebration included drama, talks on the healing power of the Mass, Rosary recitations and Penitential services.

Others were candle light procession, teachings on marriage and its importance in the Church, and an Open Day celebration for students of St Fidelis Senior High School.

In a homily, Most Rev. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, Bishop of the Vicariate, called on the faithful to direct their thoughts on the future growth of the Parish and thanked God for his blessings.

He was assisted at the Mass by Rev. Fr Foster Asiamah, Parish Priest and his able assistant Rev. Fr. Benjamin Nkrumah. In attendance representing the Divine Word Missionaries were Fr. George Angmor, Vice Provincial and Fr Paul Kwaku Dogba, the District Superior.

Other dignitaries present were the Holy Spirit Sisters and the Holy Rosary Sisters working in the Vicariate, members of the Kwahu North District Assembly, Head Pastors of the Local Council of Churches.

Bishop Kumordji in his glowing tribute expressed his appreciation to the Divine Word Missionaries for holding the Catholic faith in that deprived area over the years. He thanked the founding fathers of the Church for their selflessness and dedication and urged the faithful not to crave over material things and power that would not lead them to perfection.

Bishop Kumordji was later assisted by Mr Issaka Ibrahim to unveil the nine-foot statue of St. Fidelis at the entrance of the Church.

In an address at the durbar, Mr. Issaka Ibrahim commended the Church on its strong stand on current social issues like lesbianism and gay and also for providing Schools and potable water for the people of Tease and assured the Church of the government's support to St. Fidelis Senior High School.

Certificates of honor were presented to deserving parishioners for their various contributions to the Church. Priests' of the Divine Word Missionaries that had served in the Parish were Rev. Frs. Paul Van Riel, Fred Hanns, Lobianco, Santos, Norbert Mushoff, Sebastian Sperl and Fred Timp. Others were Frs. Auinger Otmar, Paulus Pio, Joseph Denkmayer, Alex Chandi, Julius Keeke and Leopold Ettuh, a Diocesan Priest.

The Parish has a current population of 950 and sixteen outstations. We say ayekoo and congratulate the Parishioners for the fiftieth milestone.

From Damian Avevor, Afram Plains

KWAHU DISTRICT

LADIES OF MARSHALL CONSECRATES COURT 101

The Grand Court of the Noble Order of the Ladies of Marshall has consecrated Court 101 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Kwahu Tafo in the Catholic Diocese of Koforidua, bringing the number in the Diocese to Six.

Preaching the homily at the thanksgiving Mass, the Parish Priest Rev Fr Henry Duah congratulated members of the new court and promised them of his co-operation.

Nana Ameyaw Gyensiamah III, Chief of Kwahu Tafo and Twafohene of Kwahu Traditional Area who was a special Guest at the Mass, asked the members to act and behave as noble people.

The Grand Lady, Most Respected Lady Sister Mary Agegee challenged the sisters of the new court to nurture the mustard seed that has been planted. The installation and consecration was performed by Most Respected Lady Sister Margeret Gaisie Essilfie, Past Grand Lady. She was assisted by respected Sister Janet Edith Mmieh as installation Secretary with Respected Lady Sister Gloria M. Bramson as the installation Sentry and Rev. Fr. Duah as the installation Chaplain.

SPECIALISED APOSTOLATES

The Divine word Missionaries, in collaboration with the Catholic Biblical Federation (CBF) and BICAM, is organizing a one week program for graduates of last year's Dei Verbum group from 4th-10th September 2011 at the Divine Word Catholic Conference Center, Adoagyiri Nsawam. The week long program would bring together their evaluation of last year's program on the field and some input by the organizers. We express our profound gratitude to Fr. Matthias Helms and his team and wish the participants a happy stay at the Conference Center.

INFORMATION

FORMATION

SIXTEEN SVD NOVICES PROFESS FIRST VOWS

Sixteen novices of the Divine Word Missionaries recently professed their first vows at a Mass presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Thomas D'Mello, the Provincial Superior, at the St Peter's Senior High School Chapel at Nkwatia Kwahu in the Catholic Diocese of Koforidua. Rev Fr. Thomas D'Mello in his homily said that the seeds planted by Jesus Christ must germinate, grow and produce fruits enjoining Christians to put the Word of God into practice.

He urged them to study hard and dedicate their lives to God as religious in formation reminding them that they would encounter difficulties but God would always help them overcome them. The candidates after being presented by Fr George Clement Angmor to the Provincial, professed their vows.

After the profession of vows six candidates were posted CFC Ghana, one to CFC Kenya, two each to CFC Congo and Philippines, three to Chicago in the US and one to Germany to continue with their Formation in the respective countries.

The Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Peter Accorley, SVD, Provincial Superior of Togo/Benin and other priests from various places of the world and the Arnoldus family of brothers and Sisters. The Friends of the SVD and the Christian Mothers of the Kwahu Parishes presented parcels to the candidates. We say thank you for the generous readiness to help in the formation of our students.

FOUR FRATERS PROMISE TO REMAIN FOREVER WITH THE LORD

Four Fraters on the 15th of August, 2011, took their Perpetual Vows at the Chapel of St. Peter's Senior High School, Nkwatia- Kwahu, pledging to work for the Lord forever.

They were Fraters: Augustine Kodo, SVD, appointed to Ghana; Emmanuel Akordor, SVD, appointed to Philippines South; Jean- Pierre Akueson, SVD, appointed to The Netherlands; and Laurent-Pierre Chardey, SVD appointed to Austria.

The main presider of the Eucharistic celebration on the occasion was Very Rev. Fr. Peter Accorley, SVD Provincial Superior of the Togo-Benin Province. The vows were received on behalf of Fr. Superior General by Very Rev Fr. Thomas D'Mello, SVD, Provincial Superior of the Ghana Province.

Also present were Frs. John Alphonse Asiedu, Prefect of CFC (Tamale), who introduced the candidates and some SVD confreres, and SSPs sisters, Christian Mothers and the lay faithful, mostly relatives and friends from Ghana and Togo of the fraters who could not afford to miss the week-day event. The celebration was lively animated by the Choir of St. Thomas More Parish, Achimota-Accra.

Before professing their vows, Fr. Thomas asked them one by one if they have come “freely, without coercion” for the ceremony. They answered **YES**. In turns, the fraters vowed to God to forever live a life of Consecrated Chastity, Evangelical Poverty and Apostolic Obedience.

In his homily, Fr. Accorley reminded them that God chose them to be his servants and that no one has reasons to boast of their personal call. He advised them to be conscious of their community life, the source of their joy and enthusiasm and not to become distracters of community.

They expressed their appreciation to all who accompanied them in their formation journey up to this far. They were also grateful to Br. Pius Agyemang, SVD, who directed their retreat, and Frs. George Angmor and Rafael Mesi for accompanying them in their Spiritual journey during their 2nd Novitiate and preparation.

Stephen Osei Asante & Alex Omondi
Correspondents in Divine Word Novitiate

NOVICES ATTENDED EIGHTH NATIONAL SACRED HEART OF JESUS CONGRESS

The Eighth National Sacred Heart of Jesus Congress came off in Koforidua from 18th to 21st August, 2011. The theme of the congress was: ***Understanding The Eucharist Through The Devotion To The Sacred Heart Of Jesus And Living This Devotion In Our Daily Lives Especially In Our Families***. We the members of the Divine Word Novitiate attended the closing Mass on 21st August 2011.

The Holy Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Joseph Osei Bonsu, Bishop of Konongo- Mampong Diocese and President of the Ghana Catholic Bishops’ Conference. It was concelebrated by twelve bishops, Monsignories and about 60 priests.

In his homily, Bishop Osei Bonsu described the sacred Heart of Jesus as a symbol of love for humankind and therefore challenged the faithful to live a new life that is acceptable to God. Touching on the family, the Bishop challenged parents, youth and children to live according to the Christian values as people influenced by the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Furthermore, the Bishop urged Christian parents to train their children in the traditional manner of respects for elders and authority and also to teach them to dress decently and eschew seductive and provocative dresses.

On Marriage, the Bishop noted that, husbands and wives should be faithful to each other and avoid extra marital affairs. In addition, he entreated the faithful to give up their sinful ways. By so doing, he said, it will help the family and their neighbors.

The bishop also urged Christian politicians to check their political responsibilities seriously and do healthy politics. He appealed to the politicians and the lay faithful alike to be objective and constructive in criticisms and not blinded by their political

affiliation. He urged the faithful to be frank with politicians and point out their mistakes to them and be courageous to castigate politicians when they go wrong. In conclusion, he challenged the faithful to take on the Christ in the Catholic Church and be proud of the Catholic Church founded on St. Peter, the rock. He encouraged them not to rest on their laurels but seek devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and other devotional practices as well as the sacraments which would enrich their Christian life.

The Bishops renewed the consecration of Ghana to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The consecration of Ghana to the Sacred Heart of Jesus dates back to 1957, when the first Prime Minister, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah requested the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference(GCBC) to consecrate the new Ghana to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the 3rd of March, 1957. Ghana was re-consecrated on March, 2007, when Ghana was celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

There was congratulatory message from Bishop Francis Lodonu, the Bishop of Ho Diocese on behalf of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC).

The next national congress would be hosted by Konongo -Mampong Diocese in 2016.

Stephen Osei Asante
Correspondent in Divine Word Novitiate
Nkwatia-Kwahu

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

✍ FR. JOSEPH ANORKWAH CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING MASS



Rev. Fr Joseph Anorkwah Frimpong, SVD, one of the seven newly ordained priests by Bishop Gabriel Kumordji, SVD, has celebrated his first and thanksgiving Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Kwahu Tafo on the 7th of August, 2011. He is the second indigenous SVD priest from Kwahu Tafo after Fr. Vincent Owusu, SVD.

Among the concelebrating priests were Frs. Vincent Owusu, SVD, Paul Abankwah, Paul Effah Dankyi, Daniel Osei Yeboah, CSSp, Andrew Obeng Aboagye, SVD, and Henry Kwaku Duah, SVD, the Parish Priest. Others were Frs., Rafael Mesi, SVD, Daniel Lenwah, SVD, Emmanuel Adarkwah, and Martin Owusu from the Cape-Coast Archdiocese.

Also in attendance were some religious men and women, the Chief and Elders of Kwahu Tafo, Christian Mothers, Mpraeso Youth Choir, C.Y.O, Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of Marshall and St. John International, family and friends .

In the homily, Fr. Vincent Owusu urged him not to be afraid to proclaim the word of God. He said, “Like Isaiah, God has called you by name to proclaim his word to the ends of the earth.”

He advised Fr. Anorkwah to be humble, bold and bear fruits in the word of God. He added that he should see himself as a gift from God, the Church and the family, that God loves him and should show the same love in his ministry.

The new priest expressed his gratitude to the Almighty God for calling him, unworthy as he is to his Holy Priesthood. He thanked his parents for freely offering him to the church to shepherd God’s flock. He also thanked all who have contributed in his life to reach where he has reached.

The Kwahu Priests and Religious, the Kwahu SVD District and parishioners presented him with several gifts.



Reported by Stephen Osei Asante,

✍
The Province would wish to congratulate most Rev. Joseph Oliver Bowers who clocked 101 and for his honorary reception of Presidential award conferred on him by President John Evans Atta Mills for excelling in his field of endeavor.

✍
Congratulations to our Jubilarians:

1. Sebastian Sperl: 50th in the Priesthood on 18th March
2. Vincent Burke: 50th in the Priesthood on 16th April
3. Franciszek Kowal: 25th in the Priesthood on 10th May

4. Joachim Mika: 25th in the Priesthood on 18th May
5. Francis Naduviledathu: 25th in Vows on 11th June
6. Jolly Mudakkampurath: 25th in Vows on 11th June
7. Kofi Ron Lange: 40th in the Priesthood on 25th June
8. Martin Wels: 60th in the Priesthood on 26th August
9. John Straathof: 50th in Vows on 8th September
10. Anthony Lauer: 25th in Vows on 8th September
11. Paul Richmond Tawiah: 25th in Vows on 8th September
12. Rex Vegbey: 25th in Vows on 8th September

WORTH REMEMBERING

September

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

Sept	Our departed confreres	Died
1	Lucian Orians	1979
7	Alfons Merten	1994
11	Vincent Staebel	1987
19	Stephen Dorsey	1988
19	Francis Beemsterboer	2006
23	Henry Janssen	1986
24	Paul Ayi	1973
24	Glicerio Paraguay	1973
29	Winfred Lerche	1987
30	Gunther Klinkhammer	1994

OCTOBER

1	Lutwin Dollwet	Feastday	13	Edward Tetteh	Feastday
2	Frederick O. Obeng	Birthday	15	Samuel Adjei	Birthday
4	Francis Damoah	Feastday	16	Konrad Dreyer	Birthday
4	Franklyn Nubuasah	Feastday	17	Ignatius Ayivor	Feastday
4	Franciszek Kowal	Feastday	20	Mieczylaw Sagan	Birthday
4	Francis Allah	Feastday	26	Jan Urban	Feastday
6	Bruno Yirzie	Feastday	27	Thaddeus Nyanuba	Feastday
7	John Straathof	Birthday	30	Alphonse Dungdung	Birthday
8	Ignatius Ayivor	Birthday	31	Rex Vegbey	Birthday
8	Paul Plawky	Birthday	31	Michael Obeng Shang	Birthday
9	Dionisio Nellas	Birthday	31	Wisdom Agbovi	Birthday/Feastday
12	Andrzej Kedziora	Birthday			

Oct.	Our departed confreres	Year
5	Arthur Schenker	1870
13	Frank Charles	1999
16	Baldericus Tenschler	1985
16	Elmer Powell	1989
26	Rudolf Krajcik	2000

WISE SAYINGS

1.1. Relying on Divine providence through the innate goodness of the people of God, St. Arnold exclaimed, “the money are in the pockets of the people...”, when he was asked, “where shall you get the money to establish the mission house?” – St. Arnold Janssen

1.2 “To be missionary is the finest task in the world”. – St. Joseph Freinademetz.

EVENTS

The Local Superiors meeting (12th Oct.) is gradually coming to our midst. Confreres are reminded to take note of it. It comes off at McCarthy Hills at 9.00am. The Elsbernd Memorial Lectures take place the following day (13th Oct.) while we continue on the next day (14th Oct.) with the Province Assembly. We should all mark these dates in our calendars.
