



JUNE 2013

**75 years
of SVD
Evangelization
in Ghana:

Knowing,
Living
and
Sharing
the Word
of God.**

A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

Greetings and good wishes from the Provincial's office.

Last weekend I was in the Common Formation Centre, Tamale and I met all the confreres in temporary vows individually and went through their end of the year evaluation. I informed them that they have all been approved for renewal of vows. The deacons also met me and we clarified certain things about their coming ordinations. The Ghanaian deacons were assigned to various parishes for diaconate ministry.

Last week we had a very good funeral celebration for the late Archbishop Andoh. The Holy Spirit Cathedral was nowhere big enough to contain the crowds from all over the country. You will find more on this on the next page. We were also very sad with the news of the passing away in Tamale of one of our Missionaries of Africa, Fr. Martin Balemans, whom I think most of our SVD confreres knew. Apart from all our SVDs from Tamale and Yendi, Fr. John Straathof was able to go from Accra by flight to attend the funeral. I missed the funeral and burial as John got the last available ticket. May he rest in perfect peace.

Beginning of last week some of us attended the well organized and well attended sendoff Mass and party for Fr. Matthias Felber in Ekye Amanfrom. Bishop Gabriel Kumordji was the main celebrant. We wish Matthias the very best in his future ministry in Austria.

Talking about sendoffs, it is also time to say goodbye to Fr. Kofi Ron Lange who even was ordained here in Ghana, learned Twi very well, Nawuri quite well and Dagbanli to some extent. He has worked here for the last 43 years, in the South and in the North. When Fr. Kofi goes for leave now he will not be returning. Ghana province is very grateful to him for his service for so many years. I am sure we will all miss him.

Confreres, please look through the Nemi programmes. We do encourage anybody with enough experience in the ministry to apply for one of the programmes before the end of August – so we can budget for it.

I would like to remind you again to sign up for retreats. Please call anyone in the Guest House to sign you up for the first or second retreat.

You won't see my provincial's two words until the October newsletter, after my return from leave.

Yours in the Divine Word,

Thomas D'Mello, SVD
Provincial

Arrivals

- Bro. Bruno Yirzie (MOZ) arrived on the 12th of April for his deserved vacation.
- Clement Addai-Kyei, Paschal Chester and Chris A.K. Ankah arrived from Kenya on the 30th April after their theological studies to prepare for ordination.

Departures

Bro. Lambert Azieve and Fr. Emmanuel Akordor departed on 21st May en route Cebu, Philippines to begin their first mission assignment.

Bishop Andoh laid to rest

Barely six months after the burial of our confrere, Bishop emeritus Most Rev. Oliver Bowers, SVD, at the Holy Spirit Cathedral, Accra, the same Cathedral was once again packed to capacity on Thursday the 6th of April, when scores of priests and religious including all the Bishops of Ghana and a large number of lay faithful came to bid their last good-bye to the beloved archbishop emeritus, Most Rev. Dominic K. Andoh who returns to his maker.

His death occurred at the Korle-Bu Teaching hospital in Accra on Friday 17th May 2013. He was 84 years old. He was admitted at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital on Sunday 5th May 2013 and since then his condition had been on and off until he passed away.

The funeral was preceded by a wake-keeping at the Holy Spirit Cathedral with a vigil Mass presided over by Most Rev. Gabriel Kumordji, Apostolic Vicar of Donkorkrom and concelebrated by a good number of the Bishops of Ghana and a large group of priests from all over the country. In attendance at the vigil were religious and many lay faithful and well wishers. Preaching the sermon, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Accra, Most Rev. Gabriel Palmer-Buckle recalled how Bishop Andoh used to visit him regularly when he was studying in Rome and brought him Ghana food from his mother. Palmer-Buckle described his predecessor as a gentleman, hard-working, a good listener and a father.

The vigil was an all-night affair with the priests and religious taking turns to mourn the late archbishop throughout the night.

On the funeral day many lay people were already at the Cathedral as early as 5.00am to secure a seat. The Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Gabriel Charles Palmer-Buckle, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Accra with all his fellow bishops concelebrating as well as a large number of priests.

Delivering the sermon, the Most Rev. Francis Anani Lodonu, Bishop of Ho Diocese who together with Bishop Andoh, was ordained in 1971. Bishop Lodonu said in his homily that, spiritually, death was a victory but as mortals on this earth, death is a great enemy, a cause of sorrow. He said there was no doubt that our beloved Archbishop will produce many more fruits than he has ever produced on this earth. In his 84 years of existence, close to half of these were spent as a Bishop and Archbishop. He added that Archbishop Andoh was an epitome of Catholic Christian charity and gave himself completely to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Confraternity.



Most Rev. Dominic K. Andoh

His Motto:

Most
Sacred
Heart of
Jesus:

THY
KINGDOM
COME

Other dignitaries present at the funeral Mass were a former president, Mr. John Agyekum Kufour and his wife and a delegation from President John Dramani Mahama, who was out of the country.

A number of tributes were read, including one from the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference on which he served for 34 years in different capacities.

Archbishop Andoh, the third child of the late Francis and Mary Andoh of Elmina, was born on May 4, 1929 at Shama in the Western Region. He had both his minor and major seminary formation at Amisano in the Central Region.

On December 23, 1956, Dominic Kodwo Andoh, was ordained Priest by the Right Rev. J.O. Bowers, SVD, Bishop of Accra, at the altar of the uncompleted Holy Spirit Cathedral. After his ordination, Rev Fr. Andoh started his pastoral work as an assistant Pastor at the Koforidua St. George's Church (now a cathedral).

Father Andoh was not only the first priest to be ordained in the Holy Spirit Cathedral but also on October 3, 1971, the first Ghanaian to be consecrated Bishop of the Accra Diocese. On July 25, 1993, he was enthroned the first Archbishop of the newly created Archdiocese of Accra. His motto, "Thy Kingdom come," tells his story; love for and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

He retired in March 2005. The beauty of it all is that his own 'son' whom he formed and ordained as a Priest, who was later appointed the first Bishop of Koforidua Diocese, Most Rev Gabriel Charles Palmer-Buckle, succeeded him.

Tribute to Bishop Andoh from Divine Word Missionaries

He was a father to us Divine Word Missionaries. Whenever any of our members went to visit him, he would ask about one's health, whether we were in touch with our families, how the parish or one's community was and then only would he go to other matters but he would never go straight to business. He was an excellent listener and could say what he wanted to say in a few points.

As a priest he worked closely with the SVDs and participated in all our activities like recollections, retreats, events and celebrations. This continued during his years as bishop/archbishop of Accra, and even after his retirement he honoured invitations to come for events and celebrations.

He took over from an SVD bishop, Bishop Bowers whom he will lie close to now, and when he was appointed bishop he was the Rector of Pedu Seminary, having taken over from Fr. Peter Sarpong who became the Bishop of Kumasi. He had also served as Vicar General of the Diocese of Accra.

He frequently visited the existing parishes and when the people requested for projects and other things he encouraged them to do something themselves and at the same time he supported the project as far as he could. He never completely rejected a request for help on these visits.

When we religious made some mistakes in our pastoral work, he would let us know we had made a mistake, but he wouldn't be hard on us or go back to it again. Also, whenever we made mistakes he would advise us like a true father to do better. For many years when the SVDs were the largest religious congregation in the diocese he was very close to us. He knew each one of us by our name and our work. Whenever he went to Europe or the U.S. he felt at home to stay in our religious houses because missionaries who had returned from Ghana were there to welcome him and make him feel at home.

He always appreciated the work done by the missionaries. He would go to visit missionaries who were sick and in hospital and livened up their spirits. He made very good decisions regarding many of the activities in the diocese/archdiocese. Once he knew that those decisions were good ones he wouldn't change.

Even during his most recent stay in the hospital some of us who visited him in his last days found him still very concerned about all of us. A few months back, the passing away of Bishop Bowers had closed a chapter in the history of the Archdiocese, now another chapter is closed.

He was a very good and pleasant bishop and he has left plenty of good memories behind. May he rest in perfect peace.

Thomas D'Mello, SVD
Provincial Superior

Bishop Isao Yama Kikuchi, SVD (JPN)

Greetings from Japan. I am so sad to hear about the death of Archbishop Andoh. He was so good to me while I was in Ghana. I have so many memories of him. He spent several nights with me in Osonson and enjoyed his stay there. May he rest in peace!

Bro. Charlie Ashun (BOT)

Sorry to hear the sad news of the death of Archbishop Andoh. For some of us, he was a father who was always there to walk with us. He always took me as his younger brother and invited me for good breakfast. I mean the heavy breakfast where, I always had Fanti kenkey and palm soup. "Don't take too long to come and visit and you should know that, this is your home", he says. May his soul rest in peace!

Bro. Sammy Dagadu(ITA)

Greetings from the city of Pope Francis, Roma. Sorry to hear the news of the home calling of our beloved Archbishop Emeritus Dominic Andoh. We journey with the entire Archdiocese during these difficult moments. We will pray for the repose of his soul. He was an alumno of our college, we will have a special Mass for him soon.

Bishop Frank Nubuasah, SVD (BOT)

What a sad day to hear of the death of Archbishop Andoh. He served well and for a long time the church in the Greater Accra and Eastern regions of Ghana. He was my spiritual father. May he enter the joys of the kingdom and may he continue to intercede for the church. May he rest in peace

**SVD Ghana ordinations 2013 together with other
Congregations and Accra Archdiocese ordination:
SAT. 17TH AUGUST @ HOLY SPIRIT CATHEDRAL,
ACCRA**

B.A ends Communication Workshop



Confreres with the facilitator after the Workshop

Confreres who participated in the recent B/A District Communication workshop have all expressed their amazement at the many, seemingly new things they have rediscovered to sustain effective communication among themselves and with others. The workshop took place at our SVD B/A District House from the 6th to the 7th of May 2013.

As it's often said, the very things we love are in fact the very things that can destroy us if we lack caution and tact.

Undoubtedly, the art of communicating is both a gift and a task. There is a new awakening in our world today to communicate effectively, efficiently, smoothly, clearly and very fast so as to bring people, in fact, communities closer and get things done on time. Unfortunately, it seems the contrary is rather gaining grounds. In other words, the more

communication seeks to bring people together, through its techniques, the more individualistic the people using the technology become. Confreres agreed that insufficient or lack of communication in a community is one of the underlying causes of most community problems. If care is not taken, very easily, our laptops, iPhones or iPads may become our community members or "dialogue partners".

The workshop challenged us to look seriously at what we really mean when we communicate. The workshop encouraged each of us to make an effort to communicate better. What we want to communicate, to whom, how, and when to do so, should be very clear in our mind when we communicate. Further, we should pay attention to the interpretations or meaning that other people attach to what we communicate verbally or non-verbally. Above all, we are to be cautious not to misuse the tools of communication, as this can destroy rather than build relationships.

Many thanks go to Fr. Rex for organizing and facilitating such an awakening and thought-provoking workshop. May God bless you abundantly.

Fr. Nick Aazine, SVD

The SVDs and the progress of Jema Parish in the Brong-Ahafo Region



Side view of the rectory

Jema is the capital of the Kintampo South District, which was created and inaugurated on 24th August, 2004. It has an estimated population of about 7,868 while the total population of the District is 93,600 according to the figures released by the 2010 Population census of Ghana.

"The history of Jema cannot be written without Fathers Anton Fencz, Victor Leones, Joseph Panabang, Stan Gergont, Jose da Silva, Omir and Greg Kubowicz" says the catechist Joseph Duako

who had been in the church at Jema since 1975. These confreres worked hard to raise the profile of Jema and in 2006 our confrere Francis Kowal constructed a rectory and since then Jema has become a resident station.

The Parish at Jema boasts of the best Junior Secondary School, primary and a Kindergarten in the town. The Church also provides a borehole to supply water for the townsfolk. Further, a mini shopping mall being constructed by the Church as a gesture to help improve the poor supply chain of basic provisions for the people is almost completed.

In addition to the main station, there are 13 outstation chapels with the farthest being Hindokrom of a distance of about 20 km, which takes almost two hours to be reached by road due to the deplorable nature of the road.

Currently our confrere Gregory Boss is alone there accompanied by a lay missionary from Germany. According to Boss, a confrere is expected to join him pretty soon.

There are three Masses on Sundays: one at the main Parish station, the second at the local Senior High School and the third, at an outstation Chapel. The rest of the stations are visited on monthly basis.



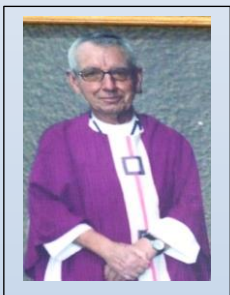
Front view of rectory

The average weekly church collection in the main station is GHc60 (\$30). A new church is under construction with funding being generated locally with a vigorous appeal for funds among the local people and beyond.

Although the District comprises mainly the Bonos, the original inhabitants, the population today is mixed. There are inhabitants who originate from the North and from the South of the country. These are the Dagabas, Sisalas, Grunshie, Frafra, Konkomba, Moos and the Akan. The main preoccupation of the people is farming; they cultivate yams, corn, beans, groundnuts, cashew nuts and mangoes.

The main Lay associations in the Church are Catholic Organisation for Social and Religious Advancement (COSRA), and the Christian Mothers or the Catholic Women Association (the most active of all.)

Other educational development projects are also taking place. According to Fr. Boss, there is no Teacher Training College to cater for the schools between Tamale and Atebubu. As a result, the church is considering establishing a training college to encourage young people into teaching. This will also be an asset to the growth of the church. The Bishop has since cut the sod for the construction of the teacher training college to be located at Jema. The project has not yet started because of lack of the needed funds. It is hoped that they would get some assistance to begin this noble project.



THE CFC COMMUNITY MOURNS WITH THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA
Who would have thought that after so many years of missionary life in the north of Ghana, Fr. Martinus Balemans belonging to the Order of Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers as commonly known in the North of Ghana) would be killed by a motorcycle? That was what happened on that fateful Thursday 30th May. This happened while he was crossing a street on a zebra lane in the centre of Tamale; he died a few hours later in the Tamale Teaching Hospital.

When the news of his sudden death reached the CFC Community it was a shock for many. Some of the seminarians had the chance to work with Him at the Tampiekukuo Community, an outstation of Holy Cross Parish, which has become the beloved seed of the late Fr. Martinus. His zeal for social justice, defending and protecting the voiceless and marginalized of our society is beyond compare. Indeed, beside the pastoral care he provided to the tampiekukuo community, where some seminarians have their weekly apostolate, he took care of the physically challenged with great love and devotion. Those he was still sponsoring for their education or any other thing saw his demise as a great vacuum unexpectedly created in their lives.

The burial mass was presided over by Most Rev. Philip Naameh, metropolitan Archbishop of Tamale and concelebrated by archbishop emeritus Gregory Kpiebaya, Bishops: Peter-Paul Angkyier, Damongo Diocese and Alfred Agyenta, Navrongo-Bolgatanga and as well as a score of priests from various corners of Ghana. Numerous people came from far and near to the Holy Cross Parish to witness the event and expressed their sympathy to the Missionaries of Africa.

In his homily during the burial mass, Rev. Fr. Dominic Apee, provincial of the missionaries of Africa – Ghana-Nigeria province, recalled the good deeds of Fr. Martinus both within and outside the fences of the Church. The unfortunate event that led to his death was, for Fr. Dominic, an opportunity to caution the congregation on traffic regulation especially with our motorcycle riders who mostly do not know the codes and even do not wear helmet while riding. Fr. Martinus Balemans, M. Afr, was buried at the Saint Victor's Cemetery on the 8th June 2013. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

Fr. Martin Kotchoffa, SVD

PASTORAL YEAR EXPERIENCE AT NEW APLAKU

Traditionally, the area is known as Dunkonah, but it is popularly called New Aplaku, a suburb of Accra which is along the Accra-Cape Coast road. The community is a multi-cultural one with its members coming from the three Northern Regions, Eastern, Central, Ashanti, Volta and Greater Accra Regions of Ghana, but the majority comes from the Central Region. The people are mainly business men and women, Civil Servants, Doctors and Nurses, Craftsmen and women, Accountants, Building Contractors and Radio Presenters. Even though New Aplaku is a Ga Traditional area, it is dominated by multi-cultural and multi-ethnic groups of people. The majority of the Christian population are Akans who speak Fante; and so Twi is the second language used in the Church apart from English.

Though an infant church, the community is one of the vibrant Catholic communities in the Mamprobi Deanery of the Archdiocese of Accra. Some of the key developmental landmarks of the Parish include a Basic School facility, a temporary Chapel and a completed residence for the priests. The long term plan of the community includes the construction of 2,500 or more capacity church, 2,500 seated multi-purpose parish hall, a school complex and a grotto. As a fast developing area, the church will grow gradually with time since it is a youthful church with a lot of good potential members. When the SVD continues to provide pastoral care at the parish, seminarians will also benefit as it is one of the vibrant places for pastoral experience. The problems associated with the area just like any urban settlement are lack of drinking water, bad roads, irregular supply of electricity and improper drainage systems which lead to flooding during the rainy season.

My Pastoral Year was characterized by church activities in the parish, school apostolate, visiting the sick and the aged in the communities, as well as administrative and secretarial works in the house. The Pastoral Year has been a year of intensive learning and self discovery. I have discovered that there are several potentials and talents in me which I was not aware of which showed up during the pastoral year. Many people also pointed out certain issues to me that I should keep it up. However, I have been hinted by my supervisor not to be superficial but rather be more

but rather be more in depth in all that I do including my spiritual life.

As some missionaries used to say that every missionary is a contractor, I think that it is also another means of evangelization, which the early missionaries used when they embarked on their mission. I was more involved in the construction of the new rectory, which has been completed and occupied. The purchase of building materials and transporting them to site and paying workers was one of my basic duties as a pastoral year student.

Our community life has been very interactive and I have enjoyed this community. In fact, I have experienced two different personalities as far as community life is concerned. One has a very organized structured way of doing doings. Communication is given earlier for one to plan and know what to do when possible. One will say that this is the ideal community living where one never eats without finding out where the other was. I have come to appreciate the importance of communication in a community. This makes me appreciate the activities of the other person. The other is spontaneity in doing things but not in very structured way. In this community one has to learn to balance the two ways of living in order not to look down upon the other. We spent much time at dining table sharing on all aspects of our lives. We prayed together, watched television news together. Our interactions have been through sharing of jokes, talks and brotherly corrections, sharing of experiences and teasing.

Generally, the pastoral year has been good and fruitful, and a year of intensive learning and self-discovery. It has given me the opportunity to learn how to handle and care for an aged confrere. I did not imagine that I would be able to undertake the task until I found myself doing it.

Frt. Stephen Agbenorxevi, (Pastoral Year Seminarian)

**"Do not worry about anything;
instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING."**

Philippians 4:6

John Dorborkoe send-off

“Thank you John for your service in the Diocese. As you are going to Rome, the Eternal City, you will see great things that will either make your faith mature or make you lose it. Avoid making yourself a tourist but concentrate on your studies and come out successfully.” These were some of the parting words of Most Rev. Joseph Afrifa, Bishop of Koforidua at the send-off Mass for our confrere Fr. John Kudjo Dorborkoe on the 7th April at St. Augustine Parish, Asesewa.

The send-off Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Dorborkoe, flanked by Fr. Dionisio Nellas, the Parish Priest and Rev. Fr. Richard Dordonu, Priest-in-Charge of Nkurakan Quasi-Parish and Youth Chaplain of the Krobo Deanery. Numerous parishioners from the various outstations and from some parishes in the Deanery as well as family members and friends were present to wish John farewell.

Also present among the august guests were our confreres from Kukurantumi, including Br. Peter Edze, Br. Apolonius Bria and Br. Oswald Bangfo. Fr. Thomas D'Mello, Provincial Superior, as well as Frt. George Adzato Kudzo, Fr. Lambert Assogba, and Fr. Joseph Panabang.

Preaching the sermon on that Divine Mercy Sunday, Fr. Dionisio took a quote from Fr. Dorborkoe's ordination souvenir card to sum up his message: “Jesus, I trust in You”. This simple prayer, according to Fr. Dionisio, should be the mantra of every Christian and he urged Fr. Dorborkoe to pray this when the studies become tough.

In a speech later, Fr. Dorborkoe thanked God for calling him, thanked the SVD for sending him to Asesewa, and also thanked the Bishop of Koforidua, for accepting him into his diocese and thanked the people of Asesewa, for their care and love. He said, “As I leave, I pray the peace of God to remain with you. As the saying goes, ‘A soldier comes, a soldier goes but the barracks remains’; so it is: a missionary comes, a missionary goes but the church remains.

Mrs. Agnes Ofei the Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council thanked and praised Fr. John for his missionary zeal, courage, love and enthusiasm for pastoral work which she said, led to the formation, revival and strengthening of the outstations and the development of Parish groups such as the Youth Choir, the Church Brass Band, the Catholic Youth Organization, COSRA, the Bible Studies Group to mention but a few. She wished him well in his studies.

Fr. Dorborkoe was ordained on 8th August, 2009 at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Dansoman, Accra by his Excellency Leon Kalenga, the then Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana and was assigned to St. Augustine Parish, Asesewa in the same year. Since then he served as assistant Parish Priest to our confreres; first, to Fr. Jojo George Monoth, SVD and later to Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD.

Asked what his impressions are and the future of the Parish he is leaving behind, this is what he said: “the Krobo-Dangme speaking people are wonderful people to live and work with. They are very rooted and proud of their culture, linked to each other and their ancestral homeland, Odumase-Krobo. The future of the church looks promising and missionaries have a lot to learn and offer”.

Father has since left for Rome for higher studies in Missiology. He is currently learning Italian after which he will be studying in one of the Pontifical Universities in Rome, Italy. *We wish you well.*

The easiest way to
keep people from
getting involved in
Your personal
problems is not to post
them on the internet.

FR. MATHIAS FELBER, SVD LEAVES GHANA

Fr. Mathias has been transferred back to his home province, Austria and we caught up with him to share his missionary experiences in Ghana with us.



Fr. Mathias filling his water tank

I arrived in Ghana on 3rd November 2005 and found myself spending three months at the SVD Guest House to get myself acclimatised before starting the language and culture studies. The three months were periods of boredom for me. I had a lot of time on my hands and therefore took the opportunity to walk around and to know Adabraka, the immediate neighbourhood of the SVD Guest House.

At the end of my three months sojourn at the SVD Guest House, I was sent to Tegbi near Keta (Fr. Fianu's hometown) to learn Ewe.

My six-month stay in the Volta Region was not very fruitful because my teacher was not up to the task as he was not proficient in teaching the language to a foreigner. -

Upon my request, the Provincial Superior sent me to Adeemmra in the Afram Plains area of the Eastern Region. I spent a little over three months at Bruben (an outstation of Adeemmra). I must say the experience here was much better than at Tegbi.

Whilst at Bruben my enthusiasm for pastoral work made me to open up a new station at a community at Gbulukope which is still alive and the people there are still in contact with me. As I have a farming background, I was eager to see how the local herdsman rear their cattle which made me to chance on that community. There were Catholics there already though but nobody had organized them. I ended up having a long meeting with the chief and elders. They asked me to come back and start a church and the rest is history.

On 1st January 2007 I received a letter from the Bishop of Koforidua, Most Rev. Joseph Afrifa Agyekum appointing me as assistant Parish Priest of Adeemmra. After one and a half years at Adeemmra, I requested for a change. I was then sent to Ekye Amanfrom where the Bishop had laid the foundation of a rectory. I continued the project which is complete by now.

With the completion of some rooms in the rectory, Fr. Francis Mastan SVD was appointed to join me till January 2013 when he was given an appointment in the Treasurer's office. I would describe the period I spent with Fr. Francis as a very good time. One of the reasons for this satisfaction was that I have had a good experience already with an international community back home and also here in Ghana.



View of part of the rectory at Ekye

Reminders:

First Vows: 7th July @ Nkwatia

Final Vows: 15th August @ Nsawam

I am leaving Ghana for good to my home province, Austria. There is a big restructuring going on in the Austrian Province and the whole of Europe. There are now no young Austrian confreres. A number of the priests in the Province and in the Council are confreres from Asia and Africa who are in responsible positions. As it were, I am one of the last ones who joined the SVD. So I have always been asked to go back and help.

The SVD in Austria at the moment is about to take over two parishes with international characteristics. One of the parishes, Holy Family (the place where now Bishop of Damongo, Most Rev. Peter Paul Ankyier lodged during his studies), is a merger of three old parishes in Vienna. A team of up to five confreres will be there to take care together with other lay people. The main train station which at the moment is under construction is within the area where the parish is located. The station is where all the international trains come through, so it is a big centre. A pastoral centre will also be provided and the SVDs have to take care of that too. So it is a big challenge and I was asked to accept this new Mission – to be part of the team.



Fr. Mathias celebrating Mass at an outstation

It is admirable to see how people of different ethnic groups and cultures live together in Ghana, not just living in a community but also living in the same compound house. Though there might be some conflicts or some traditional animosity between certain ethnic groups, it is not visible. If you don't know it you would never realize it. So generally, people in Ghana are living together as a big community and are doing very well.

What always inspired me and may be gave me great joy is the depth of the people's belief and their faith in God. This is in contrast to the people back at home most of whom like the young ones would not expose their beliefs publicly and admit that they are believers or they love God or respect Him.

Language has been the biggest challenge. After my arrival at Ekye I did not attempt to learn another language or to improve upon my Ewe since the language is not used much here. With this experience, I would advise confreres who work or intend to work in Ghana to try to a certain extent to know the local language more than I did.

I will miss the deep-seated spirituality of the Ghanaian; I would carry that experience with me. That was one of the reasons I wanted to come to Africa. Before coming to Ghana, I had heard that the people have a strong faith, but I did not know what it meant. I was so surprised and enriched having experienced it at first hand. That may be the biggest joy and treasure I take home with me. Indeed it is amazing the loyalty of the people I worked with, especially towards the church; it is absolutely different from what I know of at home.

Obviously I will miss my favourite local dishes, fried yam slices with pepper and tilapia and red-red (beans).

Fr. Thomas D'Mello Provincial Superior joined the send-off organised for Fr. Felber by the parishioners of St. Joseph Freinademetz Parish, Ekye. He is due to fly on the 18th of June. 'Vielen Dank für Deine Arbeit in Ghana . Gute Heimreise; we will e.mail you some yams and beans. '

Reminder:

Annual Retreat: 30th June -5th July & 7th -12th July

S.V.D. PASTORAL LITURGY, SACRED MUSIC AND CULTURE MINISTRY



The SVD Ghana Pastoral Liturgy, Sacred Music and Culture Ministry under the directorship of Rev. Bro. Pius Agyemang with his team travelled to Nigeria from the 8th of March to the 8th of April 2013 at the invitation of Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, Archbishop of Lagos and Fr.

Ethelbert Ukpabi, the Parish Priest of Presentation Parish in Ikeja.

This trip was to conduct a comprehensive liturgical seminar on the Eucharist in the light of Vatican II with special reference to the general instructions on the Roman Missal with its identity, the importance and the dignity of the celebration of the Eucharist. Bro. Pius also gave some teaching on the structure of the Mass, its elements and its parts, the duties of the various ministers in the Mass, the sacred music and the importance of singing in the Mass as well as the place of ornaments in the celebration of the Eucharist.

The entire programme was categorized into four parts:

- One week for the liturgical functionaries namely; the choirs, altar servers, Ushers or the ministers of Hospitality, lectors, commentators and cantors.
- Two weeks for the liturgical assembly or the faithful to comprehend or fathom the entire celebration as arranged in such a way that leads to a conscious, active and full participation.
- One full day workshop on music in the liturgy was organized for all choirmasters in the Archdiocese of Lagos. This programme took place at the Regina Mundi Parish in Mushin.
- One week for teaching on the Holy Week celebration starting from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.



A section of parishioners at a liturgical function

In conclusion there was a group sharing and discussions. This exercise offered the participants some reflections and suggestions.

MAILS

From Fr. Tony Amissah (KEN)

Greetings from South Sudan. I am here at the invitation of 'Reconcile Peace International Institution' to present a lecture on Trauma recovery. This is an Episcopal Church NGO and this is the second year I have been invited to perform this function.

I am happy to render this service to the South Sudan Episcopal Church in particular and the Church at large.

I extend greetings from our confreres working here in South Sudan and in very tough conditions, but they seem to be enjoying every bit of it. Once in a while they communicate with us in Kenya.

Our confrere Fr Jimmy Owusu-Amankwah in Chile has provided some funds to support the victims of the war in Sudan, many of whom are still grappling with serious traumas. I am really impressed by the gesture of Fr. Owusu-Amankwah.

I also visited our SSPS sisters in Sudan, and they are doing well. I have, since January this year, started my Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in the United States International University here in Kenya.

Remember to pray for our gallant confreres and the people of South Sudan.



Fr. Tony Amissah (2nd from right) with our confreres in South Sudan.

From Br. Lambert Kwabla Azieve.

Fr. Emmanuel Akordor and I arrived safely in the Philippines. We thank you all for your efforts and great contributions towards our documentations and travel. We pray God to keep you and grant us a successful mission.

Send your mails, comments, and photos to: svdghanacom@yahoo.com

Visit our website at: www.svdghana.org



Superior Generalis

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Friday, 24th May 2013

P05 / 2013

TO ALL PROVINCIAL / REGIONAL / MISSION SUPERIORS OF THE SOCIETY**in re: Nemi Programmes for 2014**

Dear Provincial/Regional/Mission Superior,

In the General Council this morning we were able to finalize the schedule of programmes planned for the year 2014 at the Ad Gentes Centre in Nemi. The schedule is as follows:

DATES	PROGRAMME	FOR WHOM?	Deadline for application
8 th April to 16 th May 2014	Training Seminar for Bibliodrama Guides. Venue: Nemi Joint programme of the Pastoral Biblical Team of Munich and Centro Ad Gentes - Nemi	Religious, Priests and Lay in the Biblical Apostolate who are willing to prepare themselves for Bibliodrama facilitation	15 th December 2013
3 rd June to 12 th July 2014	Third Age Course in English Venue: Nemi	Senior SVD Confreres from 65 years and above.	15 th February 2014
8 th August to 5 th December 2014	Tertiate Renewal Programme in English Venue: Steyl, Oies, Nemi	Confreres 40 to 60 years of age, a minimum of 10 years after Perpetual Vows (Const. 519.1). This programme is also open to non-SVDs, religious or diocesan clergy.	30 th April 2014
2 nd September to 27 th November 2014	Dei Verbum Biblical Course in English Venue: Nemi	Lay, Religious and Priests both men and women engaged in biblical-pastoral ministry.	30 th April 2014

Kindly keep in mind that it is your responsibility as Provincial or Regional Superior not only to make these courses known to the confreres of your Province or Region, but also - together with your Council - to select confreres who would benefit from these courses and to inform them that you wish them to attend. The criteria for taking part in the

Reminder: Communication Workshop

For confreres of Accra, Nsawam, Tema-Ashaiman, Koforidua-Kukurantumi Districts 1st – 2nd Aug. 2013@ Nsawam. Reporting is on Wed. 31st July.

Afram Plains District: 5th – 6th August.

courses are laid out in the Constitutions, the 'Handbook for Superiors', and the specific course description.

As you are all aware from the XVI General Chapter, it has proved difficult maintaining a sufficiently large number of SVD enrolments for the various courses. The General Council and I trust that you and your Council will do your best to see that confreres of your Province or Region have the opportunity to benefit from the Nemi courses in 2014.

As always, we remind you not to send the applications for the courses at the Centro Ad Gentes, Nemi to the Superior General. The teams in Nemi have been authorised to accept applications. Therefore, the applications for the SVD Tertiate Renewal Course and other special courses should be sent directly to Fr. Tony Bon Pates at: nemi.director@tiscali.it Applications for the 'Dei Verbum' Biblical Course should be sent directly to Fr. James Uravil at: dvsemi@tiscali.it

Fraternally in the Divine Word,

Robert Kisala, SVD
Acting Superior General

Emmanuel Kofi Fianu, SVD
Secretary General



WORTH REMEMBERING

July

01	Thierry Balonda Koula	Feastday		July	
01	James Doerfler	+ 1992	13	Yeremias Palur	+ 2002
03	Ireneus Boli Lolan	Birthday	14	Friedrich Hahn	+ 2006
03	Thomas D'Mello	Feastday	17	Emmanuel Arthur	Birthday
03	Thierry Balonda Koula	Birthday	18	Fred Timp	Feast day
03	Lawrence Aurbach	+ 2001	19	Peter Kabutey	Birthday
04	Stephen Dogodzi	Birthday	19	Clement Hotze	+ 2001
04	Anthony Dugay	Birthday	23	Matthias King	Birthday
04	Julius Keeke	Birthday	23	Willibald Regnath	+ 1989
06	Aures Da Silva	Birthday	25	James O. Amankwah	Feast day
06	Samuel Victor Kusaga	Feastday	25	Jacques Bidahou	Feastday
06	Alonso Arockiadass	+ 1990	25	James Djadoo	Feastday
10	Hans-Gerber Agbenafa	Birthday	25	James Kimathi Mburugu	Feast day
10	Alfred Ayem	Birthday	25	Christophe Sekle	Feastday
10	Roman Zbutowicz	+ 1994	26	Joachim Mika	Feastday
11	Curtis Washington	+ 1985	27	Rudolph Chamenyi	Feastday
13	Henry Kwaku Duah	B & Feastday	28	Victor Leones	Feastday
13	Henry Noordermeer	Feastday	30	Joachim Mika	Birthday

August

01	Alfons Amanor	B & Feastday
01	Anthony B. Amissah	Birthday
01	Alphonse Dungdung	Feast day
01	Alphonse D.K. Fahin	B & Feastday
02	Jean Marie Aluku	Birthday
04	Jean Marie Aluku	Feastday
04	John Duah Prempeh	Feast day
05	Jean Chrysostome Rzaanimaro	Birthday
08	Dominic Asare	Feastday
08	Emmanuel Azure	Birthday
08	Paul Dogba	Birthday
09	Edmund Afagbegee	Birthday
11	Antonius Hibur	Birthday
12	Peter Accorley	Birthday
12	Julius Keeke	Feastday
14	Alfred Ayem	Feastday
14	Charles Erb	+ 2002
15	Anthony Lawer Djima	
15	Joseph Sakite	Birthday
15	Tarcisius de Ruyter	Feast day
17	Charles Ashun	Birthday
17	Franz Huber	+1994
19	Augustine Amanor	Birthday
20	Bernard Adjei Appiah	Feastday
20	Gideon Apreku	Birthday
20	Bernard Assenyoh	Feastday
20	Germain Mukinisa	Birthday
20	Bernard Tang	Feastday
21	Samuel Aboo	Feastday
21	Pius Agyemang	Feast day
21	Victor Gbotso	Feast day
21	Pius Kamuti	Feastday
23	Patrick Kodom	Birthday
25	Apolonius Bria	Feastday
28	Hans-Gerber Agbenafa	Feast day

August

28	Wisdom Agbovi	Feastday
28	Gideon Apreku	Feast day
28	Emmanuel Arthur	Feastday
28	Emmanuel Makayie	Feast day
28	Augustin Mevor	Feast day
28	Richard Hajduk	+ 1993
29	Dominic Asare	Birthday
29	Josef Sprehe	Birthday
29	Thomas Leibold	+ 1993

MAIL

Dear Editor: I have just read the latest issue of the Province Newsletter. It brought me great joy and happiness to observe how the Province is growing and expanding, little by little.

The colour scheme and the attractive quality of the new layout (75th Jubilee etc.) immediately caught my eye. Kudos on the time and successful effort you have invested in this important tool of communication.

I feel the Province is practicing what it preaches regarding the importance of Communication. I congratulate the Facilitator of the Communication workshop held at Nkwatia SVD Novitiate. I was pleased that the Province is initiating our Novices into this important Apostolate at an early stage in their lives.

I was particularly pleased to learn that Fr. John Straathof is now "a young man again" after his return from Holland. Sts. Peter and Paul will remain another milestone in his already long list of churches and parishes he has established during his almost 50 years of Ministry in Ghana. KUDOS to him.

As a retired English teacher, I was very impressed at the careful editing of the text. May the Lord and the Holy Spirit continue to guide and strengthen you in this important instrument. It keeps the Province and former members like me abreast of the current status and transfers going on in the Ghana Province. Onyame nnae koraa!!!

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