

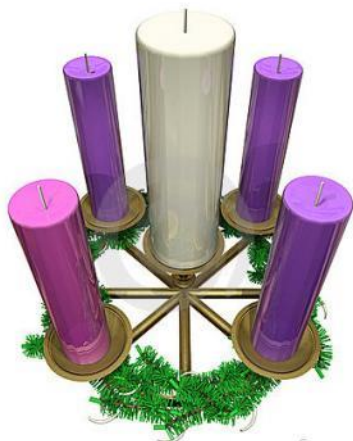


DECEMBER 2016

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ADVENT



It is written in

the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger in front of you to prepare your way before you.

A voice of one that cries in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Mk 1:2-3

MERRY CHRISTMAS



FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

Dear Confreres,

Committed to His Mission

On October 6, 2016, our province laid to rest the mortal remains of one of our veteran missionaries in the person of Fr. Sebastian Simon Sperl, SVD. As an old German missionary to Ghana, he had, at the time of his death, spent more of his lifetime in Ghana than in his native homeland. This burial, we saw, took place within three months of the death of our other veteran Rev. Bro. James Djadoo, SVD, alias 'Holalaa'. These certainly remain great milestones to reflect upon.

Celebrating his funeral, two things that people said of him, which in fact, is what he had truly been, in word and deed, was his undiluted commitment to his mission as Religious Missionary priest for the people of Ghana. Undoubtedly, here is someone who had remarkably embodied the theme of our next General Chapter in a very poignant way. It is the second part of the theme that I see emanating so powerfully from his life: ... *Committed to His Mission!*

To me, if we have been looking for models and mentors of commitment in our province, he stands tall. In many ways, by his life, he had challenged us to march up to the spirit of the Genral Chapter theme: *Impelled by the Love of Christ: ROOTED IN HIS WORD, COMMITTED TO HIS MISSION.*

It is imperative that as Divine Word Missionaries, the root of what we are and stand for, should continue to be and remain the Incarnate Word - the Divine Word! An ardent love for the Word of God, reading it, reflecting upon it, allowing it to interrogate and challenge us in our daily interactions with our confreres, the people around us, our workers, parishioners and others will indicate to all, the degree of our commitment to the mission of our redeemer and the *Missio Dei*.

Fr. Sperl, all considered, to me; crystallises this commitment to the Mission through his Prayer life. ***His private prayer and meditation was as important as his community prayer.*** His love for the Divine Office was epitomised in his earlier years in Ghana by carrying both the Latin and English versions of the Office. Love for the Divine office was well blended with his great habit of reading his selected theological books and magazines, as well as his ardent watching of TV News especially, EWTN to appreciate current debates on faith and theology. Maybe, some of us could emulate this habit to rejuvenate our own faith, and theology.

Fr. Sperl was also ***a person-oriented priest and missionary*** who enjoyed a simple lifestyle. Not only would he spend a good time with the simple people and children wherever he goes, he also loved to bless the little ones at the least opportunity with joy. He demonstrated this, as recent as early 2016 at the Holy Spirit Clinic Maternity Ward when he joyfully extended his hands to bless every newborn baby at the ward during a visit there with the Provincial. Another mark of his simple lifestyle was his generous efforts not to bother unduly those who live with him in any way by being sensitive and considerate in his manners and actions. Even in his

dying days, he kept always his things in the appropriate places in order not to bother those around him with the task of tidying up after him. Upon hearing of his death, a confrere remarked: *oh how I wish we shall all die like him, not giving troubles to those who have to take care of us!*

Fr. Sperl was well prepared for his death and was well disposed towards his final end on this earth! Yes, his death occurred suddenly after he collapsed on the fourth day of his retreat at Kwasi Fante (Afram Plains) and died a few hours later, while being conveyed to the Nkawkaw Holy Family hospital. However, Fr. Sperl, days earlier, had indicated to the SSpS sisters where exactly he has placed the Holy Oils so that in case of need they could use them to anoint him, his last sacrament. Thus, the priests who were at his sickbed had easy access to these Holy oils and administered readily his last wish.

If only, all of us can face death with this courage and joy, and prepare for it no matter when it comes...

Further, his deep sense of apostolic obedience resounded always, even in his old age. Unfortunately, this royal attitude of obedience is gradually losing its lustre these days, especially among our younger confreres.

It is not uncommon these days to witness a kind of *tug of war* between the Superior and a confrere who might have been invited to embrace a humble spirit of obedience in certain matters. I cannot imagine Fr. Sperl engaging in a *tug of war* with his Superior in respect of a decision taken by the latter. Even in his old age, I believe, almost two years ago, Fr. Sperl was ready to pack his things and move to the Formation House in Tamale, when we expressed the desire to send an experienced elderly confrere to one of our Formation houses. He said, if the Superiors thought it wise for him to go there, he was ready and willing to do so. Are we all ready, and willing to be open to the Will of God, as expressed humbly through our Superiors?

At the beginning of another liturgical year, and surely, another Calendar year, we should all resolve to rededicate ourselves to the Mission of the Lord, because we are all indeed impelled by the Love of Christ (2Cor.5:14).

I pray and hope that this special Jubilee Year of Mercy has enabled each one of us to have served, as a vessel of grace through which many would have experienced this special mercy of the Lord. I believe you yourselves have also enjoyed this special loving mercy of the Father. Maybe we could still use the few days left to the end of year 2016 to truly enliven this Mercy, and also, experience this loving grace of the Father's mercy in our own lives and situations.

We have just set in motion the process for our provincial elections. It is my prayer that we all take this exercise seriously and prayerfully so that inspired by the Lord we will elect effective and God fearing leaders who will continue to steer the affairs of our Province to greater heights in all aspects of our religious missionary lives and ministry. Have a blessed Advent season and in advance, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

George Clement Angmor, SVD



Arrivals & Departures

- Fr. Edmund Deku arrived on transfer from NEB to the GHA Province.
- Fr. Gideon Nana Apreku [KEN] arrived for his deserved holidays. He has since returned.
- Fr. Patrick Kodom [OES] arrived for his holidays. He is back to his province.
- Frt. Raymond Asagdem Akumbilim [USC] arrived on holidays. He has since returned.
- Fr. Samuel Balkono [OES] was home for his vacation. He went back.
- Frt. Stephen Nyantey [OTP CHI] arrived for the funeral of his father. He left after the funeral.
- Frt. John Jerome Asidigbe [Our seminarian in KEN] who is going for OTP in Spain arrived for the funeral of his mother.
- Emmanuel Akordor [PHS] was on leave. He has since gone back.
- Fr. Marcel Kakraba [ESP] arrived for his holidays. He is already back in his province.
- Fr. Robert Yinamyah [PAR] arrived for his holidays. He has since gone back.
- Frt. Samuel Aboo arrived from Congo for pastoral year which he is doing at SS Peter & Paul, New Aplaku.
- Fr. Phanuel Agudu studying in Belgium arrived for a research work and has since returned.

- Fr. Benjamin Asare arrived after obtaining his licentiate in Louvain, Belgium. Congrats.
- Fr. Gerald Tanye [GER] came home for holidays. He went back.
- Fr. Anthony Anala [USS] arrived for his holidays. He has since returned to his province.
- Frs. Abraham Kposu and John Asiedu arrived from Kenya after attending a workshop on formation.
- Frs. David Agah and John Dorborkoe arrived after participating in a workshop on formation in Rome.
- Fr. Pierre Tevi-Benissan [USC – Caribbeans] visited the province on holidays in Togo.
- Fr. Moses Awinongya [GER] arrived to facilitate the Dei Verbum Course at Nsawam. He has since gone back.
- Frt. Pius Oduro [GER] came to attend the ordination of his twin brother of the Koforidua diocese. He has since returned.
- Fr. Konrad Dreyer left to participate in the German Third Age Nemi programme. He is back.
- Fr. Andrew Campbell left for Rome to attend Mother Theresa's Canonisation. He has since returned.
- Fr. Dominic Asare [USW] was on leave and has since gone back.
- Fr. Andrews Obeng left for Rome for a meeting with the preparatory team of the next 18th General Chapter.
- Fr. Augustine Amanor will be leaving to Switzerland on the 8th December, 2016, for his first assignment.

Pray for our dead

- Joseph Okoe Boi-Nai the brother of Most Rev. Vincent Boi-Nai, SVD who died on the 9th Oct. Burial took place on the 2nd of December 2016.
- Mr. Anthony Adanyeguh, Vice Principal of St Paul Technical School compound, Kukurantumi. Burial Mass: on Sat 17 Dec. @9.15am at the school's premises.
May the souls of all our deceased this year rest in perfect peace.

Approved for Higher Studies

Frs. Samuel Adu and David Selasie Agah have been approved for 2017 to study respectively Missiology and Formative Psychology.

Transfers and assignments

- Fr. Sebastian Sob is appointed to St. Arnold Janssen Catholic Church in Kumbungu
- Fr. Emmanuel Makayie is appointed to St. Luke, Lebanon, Ashaiman
- Fr. Ignatius Ayivor is transferred to SS Peter and Paul, New Aplaku as Assistant pastor.
- Fr. Fred Timp has been appointed as the Provincial Treasurer till the end of the triennium. This followed the resignation of Fr. Francis Mastan who opted to work in the parish.
- Fr. Pierre Avonyo [BRN] transferred (4 years) to the SVD Common Formation House, Tamale.

Development Office

Following the Chapter recommendation, the Development office is in place. It is currently being headed by Fr. Mariusz Pacula. His office is in Nsawam. With the establishment of this office, all projects by communities, institutions, individuals in the province would have to go through this office. The office would help the applicant to prepare a convincing project and assist in the presentation of relevant reports to the donors.

CIS, SVD on course

Catholic International School, SVD, the Province's private school project is on course. Fr. John Straathof is the project manager. The other members of the team are:

- Fr. Bernard Adjei Appiah, Chaplain, St. Margaret Mary Senior High Secondary School, Dansoman.
- Mrs. Theresa Anim, a retired SSNIT personnel, an educationist and a proprietress of a private school.
- Bro. Oswald Bangfo, SVD, Tutor, St. Paul's Technical School, Kukurantumi
- Hon Mrs. Angelina Baiden Amisah, former MP for Shama and former Deputy Minister of Education under the Kufour government.
- Mr. Prosper Kumi, an entrepreneur and businessman.
- Mr. Patrick Acheampong, former director of the school feeding programme in Ghana.

This project forms part of the strategic planning of the province on its road to financial sustainability. It is to provide the best international school experience for our students, parents and the community. The school is located at Doryumu which shares boundary with the military training camp at Shai Hills on the Tema-Akosombo road, about 60km from the capital Accra. So far a fence wall has been constructed to secure the land. The next stage would be the construction of the infrastructure in phases. If any reader wants to help the province in this noble venture towards the province's financial development please do contact the provincial Superior provincialgha@gmail.com.

We are grateful.

Nineteen profess first Vows

Nineteen novices, who have successfully completed their Novitiate formation, have professed their first religious vows in the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). The Mass took place at St. Peter's School Chapel, Nkwatia-Kwahu in the Eastern region. The Provincial Superior of Ghana, Rev. Fr. George Clement Angmor, SVD who was the main celebrant and received their vows urged them in his homily to be good SVDs devoted to prayer, the word of God and to the constitution of the Society. He was grateful to the formators who accompanied them to discern their SVD religious vocation. He asked the Parents and friends of the newly professed to continue to pray for the newly Professed in their journey towards the Eucharistic Altar. Further, the Novice Master Rev. Fr. Andrews Obeng, SVD admonished the newly professed to endeavour to live up to their calling by "Chasing the darkness out of the world and to make the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people". Out of the nineteen newly professed, eleven of them are from Ghana while the rest come from Togo, Madagascar and Kenya.

Present at the celebration were parents, friends and parishioners of the candidates, Friends of the SVD, the Christian Mothers, SVD priests and brothers, diocesan priests, as well as other religious brothers and sisters. The St. Peter's School Choir was also in attendance to enliven the Mass.

By Paul Amuzu

Novices 2016/2017

Seventeen new novices from 6 different countries have been received into the Divine Word Novitiate for the 2016/2017 Novitiate Canonical Year.

Ordination 2016

This year's priestly ordination took place on the 23rd July 2016 at the football field of St. Augustine school in Ashaiman, Archdiocese of Accra. At 9 a.m, hundreds of people had already taken their places singing to usher in the priests and the candidates for ordination who were flanked by their parents. The candidates were: Emmanuel Makayie, SVD and Sabastine Sob, SVD, appointed to the Ghana Province; Stephen Agbenorxevi, SVD, assigned to Togo/Benin province; Augustine Amanor, SVD to Switzerland; and Emmanuel Arthur, SVD to Mexico-Cuba. The ordaining bishop was Most Rev. Emmanuel Kofi Fianu, SVD of Ho Diocese.

Concelebrating were Frs. George Angmor, SVD Ghana Provincial Superior, Peter Accorley, SVD Togo Provincial and a large number of priests. A number of other religious were also present to celebrate the great day.



Preaching the sermon, Bishop Fianu said Jesus sent his apostles in pairs and therefore missionaries need to work as a team. "In carrying out the mission of evangelisation there is always a need for collaboration with others. It does not matter where one is assigned for this mission work" he said. Further, he stated that even those assigned to Ghana do not become less missionary but wherever one is, he is to carry out the missionary mandate of the Gospel. He thanked those who prayed for them. He asked the people to continue to support them. Like Jeremiah they are being sent to people who are not their own. Even those in Ghana are going to be with different cultures. He entreated the newly ordained to be always grateful to the people and not complain about the little collection or offertory gifts. "Trust in the Lord and he would provide," he concluded.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Fr. Frank Quainoo, SVD was ordained on the 3rd Dec. 2016 at the Divine Word Seminary Chapel, Tagatay, Philippines by Most Rev. John F. Du, Archbishop of Palo. Fr. Quainoo is appointed to the Philippines South Province

Attention! Divine Word Missionaries – emphasizing the Divine Word!

Dear confreres, at our priestly ordination in Ashaiman in July this year, a couple of things attracted my attention of which, particularly, as Divine Word Missionaries, we need to be alert to rectify. Most of these observations stem from issues that came up in my own seminary days in classes of Liturgy.

- 1. When the passage of Scripture is selected from the Bible and not from the Lectionary:** Sometimes, the beginning of the Scripture text is from somewhere in the middle of a pericope. If care is not taken, you may be lost as to who may be reported of saying something. See for example the beginning a reading with: *'He said ...* In such a situation, who said? It could be Jesus, as well as any other person being referred to. In a para-liturgical celebration whereby we may have many non-Catholics, and even, non-Christians, it is important that we offer no opportunity for ambiguity. We need to train our lectors to make the necessary provisions themselves. The quoted example above can easily be replaced with *"Jesus said ..."*
- 2. The dignity of the Divine Word:** For practical reasons, sometimes, the passage of the reading is typed out on a sheet of paper to be read. We might do well to place it in a Bible or the Lectionary, lest people take it to be a reading from any kind of paper. Actually, when we have adequate time for preparation, we can easily locate many of our chosen texts to read from the Lectionary; which in fact, is a dignifying way of proclaiming the Word of God.
- 3. Handling the Word of God or the Holy Bible:** I ever met a staunch Muslim and I admired how he treated his Holy book, the Quran. It is no joke, to see how he keeps it neat, and respects it... For example, he would not heap other books or any items upon it. How do we also handle our Holy book, the Bible? This is an area we have to pay attention to, and help our faithful and others to come to appreciate the Divine Word in its form, and also, its value in our lives.
- 4. Is it beer that is used to offer the sacrifice of the Holy Mass?** Recently, I noticed a priest who, at the preparation of the gifts during the liturgy of the Eucharist, pouring the wine from a beer bottle with the full Star Beer label on it! What will the people especially the non-Catholics present at the celebration think if they see this? Your guess is as good as mine! Little things such as these affect the substance of our worship and faith.

I believe that being Divine Word Missionaries, we should champion this cause in our various places and communities.

George C. Angmor



Fr. Eugene by the taxi

Fr. Eugene the 'Taxi Driver'

If you see Fr. Eugene Asante, SVD the assistant Parish Priest of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Kwahu Tafo at the wheels of a taxi, be careful not to mistake him for the usual taxi driver, in spite of the occupants in the taxi. He is still a gallant SVD missionary priest with his Mass-servers on their way to the outstations to celebrate Mass.

Since the Parish has only one vehicle, although it has many outstation churches, it becomes difficult for both Pastors to reach out to all the stations with their single vehicle. It is worthy to note that no taxis ply some of these isolated mountainous village routes. Seeing the enthusiasm of Fr. Eugene to reach out to the people in the hinterland of the parish, a parishioner freely offered his taxi cab to Fr. Eugene to enable him visit the people in these outposts so that they too could hear the word of G od. What a good gesture! Thanks to the donor. May God reward your generous initiative. Undoubtedly, many SVD confreres need vehicles to visit and minister to their flock, yet have serious difficulties accessing a means of transport. Maybe you could think of them and donate your old vehicle or help purchase one for their evangelisation and missionary work in Ghana. If you are moved by this story, please contact our Provincial provincialgha@gmail.com or any SVD mission abroad.



Confreres at the Assembly



Fr. Provincial Superior presenting his report



Treasurer giving his report



Fr. Mazur reporting on Liberia

Elsbernd Memorial Lectures and Assembly 2016 end

This year's Elsbernd Memorial Lectures and Provincial Assembly brought together, almost all the members of the Province to our Conference Centre at Nsawam from the 13th -14th October 2016. Two of our confreres who have graduated from different academic programs shared a few insights on their areas of study.

Fr. Benjamin Asare, who graduated from the University of Leuven, Belgium discussed "*A Just Language Policy: The significance of Kymlicka for Ghana*". William Kymlicka is a Canadian philosopher and political theorist.

According to Asare, in Ghana, like elsewhere, there are major and minor languages. However, there is a growing tendency to ignore some of the minority languages and promote only the major ones. As SVDs we are on the side of the marginalised and the poor; this as well, extends to minority language groups. If we are in the mission and we ignore the minority languages and concentrate only on the majority, we are contributing to the extermination of those minority languages, and this would be against our core value of defending and protecting the down trodden. As a way forward, we can propose the translation of the Sunday Mass readings in some minority languages of the ethnic groups we work with, as has been done in the past by some of our earlier SVD confreres.

In another vein, Fr. Daniel Dankyi who studied 'Sexual Abuse' at the Catholic University, Fiapre in Sunyani, shared with us the different categories of child abuse. According to him, we have Abuse of power and trust where

the perpetrator abuses the trust that the child has in him or her. Thus, the victim has no escape under the power of the perpetrator. We should be aware of issues of exhibitionism and voyeurism among others. He admonished the confreres to be circumspect when in company with children. This he said is important although, parents generally, in Ghana, do not hold their priests and religious with suspicion when they see them interact with their little children. We should be on our guard and not to become complacent.

During the Assembly, the Provincial presented an overview of the province. This was followed by that of the Provincial Treasurer and the Liberia Mission report by Fr Joseph Mazur, SVD (the Liberia Superior) among others. Other reports were on the Catholic International School, SVD, a private school initiative of the province; and the new SVD project office headed by Fr. Mariusz Pacula.

In view of the impending provincial elections, a short talk was presented by Frs. Rex Vegbey, SVD and Alphonse Amanor, SVD on: "choosing the right leaders for the province - 2017-2020". Group works ensued after their talk. Each group proposed respectively long term, medium term and short term strategic goals for the Ghana province and the calibre of leaders, needed to champion and realise these goals.

At the end of the Assembly some confreres expressed their impressions. Some of those interviewed said that the Assembly has been fruitful. "The issues and discussions were practical and is hoped...", one reiterated: "each one of us would do his bit to help develop the province to a sustainable state".



Groups discussing 'choosing the right leaders' for the Province

SVD Ghana lost three veteran missionaries



Bro. James Maurice Djadoo, SVD

Soon after his 86th birthday, **Bro. James Djadoo's** health deteriorated and on the 29th June, he passed away. A vigil Mass for the repose of his soul was held at the Christ the King Parish where he worked, many years ago. His body was later transferred to the SVD McCarthy Hill residence, where he was mourned by confreres, well-wishers and the members of the Perpetual Help Confraternity, the group he founded.

On the 7th of July Bro. James mortal remains were received into the Holy Spirit Cathedral for the funeral liturgy. The Mass was presided over by Bishop Gabriel Palmer-Buckle the Archbishop of Accra. He welcomed all especially Bishop emeritus of Ho, Francis Lodonu, Bishop Boi-Nai, SVD from Yendi, and Bishop Fianu, SVD from Ho. Present also were, Fr. George Angmor, SVD Ghana Provincial Superior and Fr Peter Accorley, SVD Togo-Benin Provincial Superior. In a homily delivered by Bishop Boi-Nai, SVD, he noted that although each of us has a unique story, each story has an earthly end. A person's life story begins when he dies... Sharing his personal experiences of Bro. James, he said that he encountered him as a supportive, generous, and a welcoming person. "Although he is friendly, Brother James is strict", said the Bishop. According to him, Brother treasured community life; he had concern for the community. He said he learnt from Bro. James how to be generous. Bro. James was an ardent devotee to Mary, which led him to found the Perpetual Help confraternity for the lay faithful.

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PERFECT PEACE

Fr. Sebastian Sperl, SVD who died on Thursday 22nd September 2016 after a very short illness was laid to rest at the Adoagyiri-Nsawam SVD cemetery on Thursday 6th October. The Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Gabriel Charles Palmer-Buckle. The sermon was delivered by Most Rev. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Donkorkrom. The final commendation was performed by Most Rev. Joseph Afrifah, Bishop of Koforidua Diocese and the interment rites were led by Most. Rev. Emmanuel Kofi Fianu, SVD Bishop of Ho Diocese.



In attendance were many priests and religious including Fr. George Angmor, the Provincial Superior of SVD Ghana and a large delegation of Priests and lay faithful from the Afram Plains. Beautiful things were said about the late Fr. Sperl in the many tributes read during the funeral.

In the homily, Bishop Kumordji acknowledged Fr. Sperl's immense contribution to the pastoral life of the Afram Plains. "We see him as a celebrated missionary and the tributes that came in right after his death were a clear testimony that Fr. Sperl was loved", the Bishop emphasised. According to the Bishop, Fr. Sperl saw the Eucharist as being an important spiritual means to be close to the Lord. "He used his free time from the school apostolate to help in pastoral work".

According to the Bishop, Fr. Sperl believed in prayer and did not believe in "cement" apostolate. In other words, he did not believe in building 'cement' infrastructures as a missionary method. Rather, missionaries should carry theological books and propagate the word, first and foremost among others...

The Bishop concluded with a mail from Fr. Sperl's sister who said that his brother obtained his heart desire as he wanted to live forever in Ghana. In his last vacation he told them that it was his last vacation and would die and be buried in Ghana and better still to die in the Afram Plains.

ST. MARTINS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, ADOAGYIRI-NSAWAM IS 50 YEARS. DURBAR ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES: SAT. 17 DEC @ 9.00 AM

ASPIRANTS' WORKSHOP THE SVD GHANA VOCATION OFFICE IS CALLING ALL YOUNG MEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-28 YEARS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING RELIGIOUS PRIESTS OR BROTHERS TO THE ANNUAL ASPIRANTS' WORKSHOP.

DATE: 5TH-8TH JANUARY 2017 REPORTING AT 4PM VENUE: ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH, ASHAIMAN.

PLEASE COME ALONG WITH YOUR BIBLE AND WRITING MATERIALS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: 0247553833, 0243581785, 0209343046, 0205566033

CCROM 2016 POST-PONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

A BRIEF LIFE HISTORY OF THE LATE FR. CHARLES SCHNEIDER, SVD

On Sunday the 6th November 2016 Fr. Charles Schneider SVD passed to glory in Divine Word Residence, Techny, IL, USA. He was 97 years old.

Born on Pentecost Sunday, 8th June 1919 in Buffalo, N.Y. Charles was the youngest of George and Anna Schneider's five children. The circumstances of his birth later determined his West African name: Kwasi Antubam Mensah. Kwasi indicates that he was born on a Sunday. Mensah refers to him being the third boy in his family, and Antubam means that he never laid eyes on his father, who died shortly after he was conceived.



Raised by his mother, grandparents and extended family, he entered the Divine Word seminary at age 13. He professed vows in 1941, was ordained to the priesthood in 1946 and assigned to the missions in West Africa in 1948.

In his 55 years of missionary work in Ghana (1948-2003), he served in the following pastoral and administrative roles:

1. Bursar for the then Diocese of Accra, a job which he kept until 1963. He also did pastoral work at the Sacred Heart Parish, Holy Family Church in Mateheko and St. Theresa's Parish, Kaneshie—all in the Archdiocese of Accra.
2. Cathedral Administrator of the Holy Spirit Cathedral of Accra in 1964 until August 1965. He was appointed the Regional Superior of the then Ghana-Togo-Benin Province of the Divine Word Missionaries for two terms from 1965-1971.
3. From 1971-1973, he became the first SVD priest to work in St. Victor's Major Seminary, Tamale, and later became its Rector.
4. In 1974, he was made Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish, Derby Avenue, Accra until 1976.
5. From 1978 to 1984, he became the Provincial Bursar of the Divine Word Missionaries. He became the Assistant Novice Master of the SVDs at Nkwatia-Kwahu from 1984 to 1988, after his term of office.
6. In 1988, he became the first Mission Procurator. He worked first from St. Paul's Technical School and later from the Christ the King Parish, Accra. He retired from active service and resided at the SVD McCarthy Hill residence until May, 2003 when he bade farewell to Ghana.

Even in retirement at Techny, IL, Fr. Schneider's heart remained in Ghana. He welcomed visitors from Ghana and sat with them to discuss latest happenings and news in Ghana. A memorial Mass presided over by Bishop Gabriel Palmer-Buckle of Accra Archdiocese was celebrated for the repose of his soul at the Christ the King Parish, Accra, on the 30th of November, 2016. It was attended by Bishops Kumordji and Fianu; and also, by the SVD Provincial, Fr. Angmor, many confreres, other religious and lay faithful. The sermon was delivered by Fr. Tony Dugay, SVD who extolled Fr. Schneider's great missionary love for Ghana.

May he rest in peace.



L-R Bertain, Robert and Michel

3 Profess final Vows

Three Seminarians belonging to the Society of the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) have professed their Perpetual Vows at the Carmelite Eucharistic Community Chapel in Tampekukuo in the Tamale Archdiocese. By this profession they now become full members of the Society of the Divine word.

The three are Frts. Roberto Belarmin Ramamisoa, SVD (Madagascar), Michel Mangah Mungamatshi, SVD (DR Congo) and Bertin Kabongo Lukwanga, SVD (DR Congo).

They vowed to live the evangelical counsels of consecrated chastity, apostolic obedience and evangelical poverty in accordance with the constitution of the SVD. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Very Rev. Fr. George Clement Angmor, SVD, the Ghana Provincial Superior. Among the numerous concelebrants were, Very Rev Fr. Tommy Thomas, SVD Vicar General of the Yendi Dioceses, the Rector and formators of the SVD Common Formation Centre (CFC), many other SVDs, the Rector and formators from St Victor's and St. Augustine's Major Seminaries.

Rev. Fr. George Angmor who received their vows and admitted them as full members of the SVD said during his homily that as members of the SVD they should be committed to their vows and to the mission of Jesus Christ. He told them that as missionaries they should be ready to go wherever the Society sends them and they should live a life of simplicity relying on the grace of God through prayer.

Fr. Roberto Belarmin Ramamisoa, on behalf of his brothers, thanked all those who contributed to their formation and asked for prayers and support for them as they continue their formation and preparation for the missions.

The celebration was witnessed by religious brothers and sisters, seminarians, family and friends, the Carmelite sisters, the friends of the SVD and many faithful and well-wishers,

50 years! St. Augustine Parish, Asesewa



Bishops Afrifah-Agyekum, Kumordji, Parish priest, Assistants and some parishioners

The Saint Augustine Church, Asesewa in the then Accra Diocese and today Koforidua Diocese was dedicated on 12th June, 1966 by Most Rev. Joseph Oliver Bowers, SVD the then Bishop of Accra.

On the 28th of August, 2016 on the feast of St. Augustine the Parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

A colourful durbar preceded the Eucharistic celebration with a Guard of Honour mounted by the Knights and Ladies of Marshall, and the Asesewa Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), and was jointly inspected by Most Rev. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD, Bishop of the Donkorkrom Vicariate, Rev. Mons. Francis Twum Barimah, Vicar General of the Koforidua Diocese, and Very Rev. Fr. Clement George Angmor SVD, Ghana Provincial Superior, Delivering his speech, Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD, the Parish Priest, recalled the humble beginnings of the parish, which was put up through the toil and

sweat of the early missionaries and indigenous lay pioneers.

He was thankful to God that the SVDs nurtured the church to see an increase in her membership to about Five Thousand (5000) in its fiftieth year. "All but four (4) of the 29 outstations under the parish have chapels", he added.

Fr. Angmor, SVD in a goodwill message, challenged parishioners to let the 50th anniversary celebration of the dedication of the church guide them to create an ambiance of the Lord's presence in their lives so that people around them would see that they had not just been entering in and out of the house of God, but that, their personal encounter with the Lord in the church had remarkably impacted them to witness to him in the world around them.

The mass was presided over by Most

Rev. Joseph Afrifah-Agyekum. The Bishop eulogized the early missionaries, especially the Divine Word Missionaries who toiled and persevered to sow the seed of Catholicism and subsequently built a church in Asesewa, which golden jubilee celebration was being climaxed

Most Rev. Joseph Afrifah-Agyekum and Gabriel Kumordji, SVD, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to Sixty-Six (66) candidates.

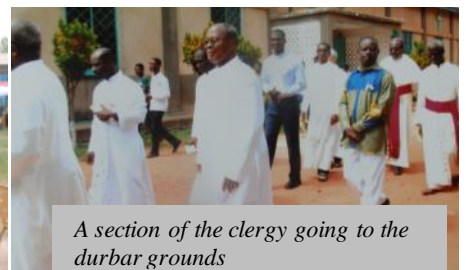
Other concelebrants at the mass were Rev. Frs. Dominic Okletey, Resident Priest at Holy Trinity Parish, Agomanya; George Jojo Monoth, SVD, the Parish Priest of St. John Vianney, Asutsuare; John Dorborkoe, SVD, Prefect of the Saint Freinademetz Philosophy House in Tamale; Emmanuel Kwesi Arthur, SVD, visiting priest to Asesewa; Dionisio Nellas, SVD, St. Augustine, Asesewa Parish Priest and his assistants, Rev. Frs.: David Selasie Agah, SVD and Emmanuel Azure, SVD. *By Fr. David Agah*



The youth cleaning for the 'Day'



The CYO leading the procession



A section of the clergy going to the durbar grounds

Orientation for new missionaries held

Fr. Stephen Dogodzi, the Mission secretary organised a two-day orientation course for the newly ordained priests at the SVD Spirituality Centre in Tuba in Accra. The aim of this orientation was to prepare the mind of the new missionaries to assume their assignments in either their home countries or in foreign lands. Fr. Vincent Kwame Owusu, SVD introduced the programme by sharing thoughtful insights and rich experiences with the participants concerning “the Identity of the SVD and the New Missionary”. Fr. Owusu reminded the new missionaries about certain significant pillars of the SVD. These he said are: the willing acceptance of postings and appointments, willingness to go wherever one is assigned, commitment to preaching the Divine Word, preferential option for the poor, prayer (community and personal) and fraternal communion.

Fr. Alphonse Amanor, SVD also shared an in-depth experiences concerning being a missionary. He said it is important to keep in mind our “Being” before “Doing”. It is who we are that is most important before what we do. Moreover, Fr. Amanor emphasized the four essential necessities of missionary life namely nutrition, clothing, accommodation and relationship.

Frs. Marcel Kakrabah-Quashie, SVD and Emmanuel Akordor, SVD, who work respectively in Spain and Philippines also shared their insights and missionary experiences. They stressed the importance of learning the language and culture, and not to have rigid or fixed expectations of the people, and rather, be flexible, patient and prayerful. We must be intelligently creative at all times, they reiterated.

Fr. John Straathof, SVD and the Provincial Superior, Fr. George Angmor, SVD also shared helpful insights and experiences with us.

The programme concluded on the 8th of September 2016 with a rosary prayer at the grotto and later with Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. George Angmor, SVD. The four newly ordained priests namely, Frs. Stephen Agbenorxevi, Emmanuel K. Makayie, Emmanuel K. Arthur, and Augustine Amanor, as well as senior confreres, Fr. Stephen Dogodzi, and Fr. Marcel Kakrabah-Quashie, concelebrated. During the Holy Mass, the Provincial Superior presented the Mission Crosses to the newly ordained. The occasion was graced by some parishioners of Tuba.

Preaching the sermon, the Provincial said that the mission cross, is a symbol of God’s love for us and the power of God in our lives. It is therefore imperative to share the cross with all. “As Divine Word Missionaries we must always carry with us the Bible, the Cross and the SVD Constitution,” he concluded

FR. EMMANUEL K. ARTHUR, SVD

INTERNATIONAL FORMATORS COURSE ENDED

The international formators course for English speaking provinces of the Society of Divine Word ended at St. Michael mission house, Steyl, Holland. The course started on the 1st of May 2016 at Nemi and ended on 28th of June 2016, at Steyl. It was under the theme: **‘but who do you say that I am?’** (Mt.16:15). In all, there were 16 participants from 12 provinces and one Region. Ghana province was represented by Frs. John Dorborkoe and David Selasie Agah.

The facilitators of the course included Fr. Tony Bon Pates, SVD, who talked on the context in which the Society was founded; Fr. Peter McHugh, SVD, spoke on the “Spirituality of a Formator”; and Fr. Mark Weber on the Challenges in our present time with particular reference to formation and management of our financial resources.

There were other talks on Canon Law for formators, psychology of Vocational Choice and Human sexuality and

sexual orientation, SVD Brothers as well as inter-cultural and inter-gender relationships. Other areas covered included vowed life and mission, SVD Characteristic dimensions, spiritual direction and counselling. Presentations from various provinces were done. The presentation from Ghana province focused on formation, various ministries in which confreres are involved and Province prospects for the future. The Superior General attended to present a bird’s eye view of the Society.

He was pleased to see many young people showing interest to work in formation. He stressed the need of putting the last first in our relation with our dialogue partners. “We must love and be willing to serve the poor”, he added.

According to him, any formandus who lacks this virtue must be advised serious.. One essential point he raised had to do with managing our meagre financial resources these days; with this, he challenged all formation houses and their formators to find a way of getting involved in some income generating ventures.

During the programme we visited Oies, the hometown of St. Joseph Freinademetz and Steyl (Netherlands) the SVD Mother House for the remainder of the programme. At Steyl, we revisited the story of the founding generation of our Congregation.

The Arnold Janssen Spirituality Team (AJST), led by Fr. Tony Pates took us through the Trinitarian Spirituality of the Founder, St. Arnold Janssen. We were also taught the theology behind the upper church and lower church at St. Michael Mission House, Steyl.

Finally, we undertook a pilgrimage to Issum the home town of Mother Josepha, as well as Goch the birth place of St. Arnold Janssen. Our workshop ended with a six-day directed retreat.

DAVID SELASIE AGAH, SVD.

MOTHER THERESA AND THE SVD: A REFLECTION by Fr. Andy Campbell, SVD.

“When the Pope declared Mother Theresa a saint for the Church, I felt complete as I have been following her all these years and to witness her being declared a saint meant that I have someone to pray to.”

Our confrere Fr. Andy Campbell the parish priest of Christ the King Parish in Accra was 70 years this year. As a present from his parishioners he was fully sponsored to witness the canonisation ceremony of Mother Theresa in Rome. ‘I have always admired Mother Theresa since my ordination’, he said.

He shares with us some of his reflections:

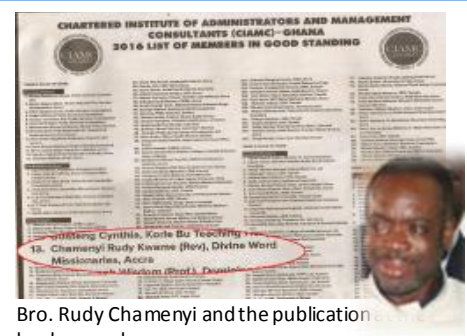
Mother Theresa was a woman who demonstrated tremendous genuine love for the poor of the poor. I recall when I was ordained I did a voluntary pastoral work in Liverpool, England. During that time I watched a TV documentary where a BBC journalist who happened to be an atheist was sent to India to carry a story on Mother Theresa. On the last day before returning to England the crew was to make photos of the room of the dying but the lights did not work. The Director asked them to take the photos anyway in the dark. Surprisingly when they came back to develop the photos, the photos came out very well. He went back to experience Mother Theresa more; he was touched so much by the experiences of the place and that ‘miracle’ of the photo that, on his return to England he was converted.

Mother Theresa was a sign to the world and this is what we as religious should be: a sign of God’s love in the world. She did small things in extraordinary ways. I am attracted to Mother Theresa’s sisters as I experienced them first hand as a chaplain to them when I was in Tema. I have been challenged by their prayer life centred on the celebration of the Eucharist and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Sometimes we as SVDs seem to be losing focus; we work as if we are social workers. No, we are doing God’s work and our spirituality should be an integral part of our lives as religious; we should not allow other social works to take over our spiritual exercises. In the midst of their heavy duties of caring for their inmates and other demands, the Sisters regularly pray the rosary, share the Bible and visit the Blessed Sacrament in adoration. Above all, it is their simplicity of life (with little concerns for money and material things) that we should emulate.

I went with the Mother Theresa Sisters to visit the people who live under the bridge at Nima in Accra and surprisingly for me, the filth, and the unsanitary conditions of the people living there did not deter the Sisters to heartily embrace and take care of these people. They gave these people a bath as some of them have not had a bath for months. The Sisters cut their nails, gave some new clothes and shaved the hairs of some. It was really inspiring watching the Sisters work so passionately. This truly attracted me more to Mother Theresa. What is our unique ministry, as SVDs that the simple person can identify us with in the midst of all the existing religious orders?

Brother Rudy Chamenyi, a Chartered Administrator and Manager of the CIAMC-Ghana, recognised once again as consultant in good standing

On the 16th November 2016, the Chartered Institute of Administration and Management Consultants (CIAMC) Ghana published in the Daily Graphic, the leading national daily newspaper in Ghana the list of its members in good standing. Among them is our own confrere, a Divine Word Missionary, **BRO. RUDYKWAME CHAMENYI**. He has been a recognised member in good standing since he chartered in Dec. 2006. Congratulations!



Bro. Rudy Chamenyi and the publication background

FR. VINCENT BURKE, SVD, RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOUR OF THE ORDER OF VOLTA



The Award

Fr. Vincent Burke, SVD was among the 26 Ghanaians and 7 foreigners who received different categories of National awards from H.E. John Dramani Mahama, the President of the Republic of Ghana for their outstanding contributions to the development of Ghana. The ceremony took place on Saturday October 29th at the Accra International Conference centre.

Fr. Burke received the State Honour of officer of the Order of the

Volta (OV) for his contribution to education in Ghana. Since he could not make it to Ghana due to poor health, Fr. Andrew Quaye-Foli, SVD received the award on his behalf from the hands of Right Honourable Edward Doe Adjaho, the Speaker of Parliament.

A citation signed by the President who was present at the ceremony said “Your first teaching assignment in Ghana was St. Peter’s Secondary School, Nkwatia-Kwahu where you began a long and distinguished career which was to see the moulding of many young men who are occupying high positions in many fields of endeavour. You were later posted to Pope John Secondary School in Koforidua and thence to St. Thomas Aquinas School in Accra...While in active service in Ghana, you were appointed to various Boards and Committees and you made significant contributions to their successful operation.”

Those who accompanied Fr. Quaye-Foli to receive the award on behalf of Fr. Burke were: Isaac Duah, an old student of Pope John’s Senior High School, Sr. Mercy Benson, SSpS and Fr. Rex Vegbey, SVD

Congratulations Fr. Vincent Burke, we are proud of you! Congratulations SVD Ghana Province!



Fr. Quaye-Foli on the stage to receive the award.



Fr. Quaye-Foli with the award



L-R Isaac Duah, old student of Pope John’s. Fr. Andrew Quaye-Foli, SVD, the ‘awardee’, Sr. Mercy Benson, SSpS and Fr. Rex Vegbey, SVD

PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS ON MISSIOLOGY



Bro Pius Agyemang, SVD was among the speakers at this august PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS ON MISSIOLOGY organised by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria and the Catholic Missiologists Association of Nigeria (CAMISAN), Pontifical Urban



University Rome, in collaboration with the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) and Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa (RECOWA). The congress took place at Domus Fidei, Ikeja, Lagos, under the theme: 50 years of Ad Gentes: Fruits of mission in Africa, hope for the future.

Bro. Pius spoke on: **AFRICAN VALUES IN CONFRONTATION WITH THE GLOBALIZED SOCIETY**. Visit www.svdghana.org for the talk.

You are encouraged to copy the Novena of St. Arnold Janssen from the VADEMECUM and pray it with your parishioners and members of your institutions for the feast day. Contact the communication office for Sts. Arnold and Joseph Portraits.

A MEMORIAL THANKSGIVING MASS FOR LATE DR. DAVID ABDULAI

St. Joseph Freinademetz House of philosophy Tamale, celebrated a memorial thanksgiving Mass for the late Dr. David Abdulai, a medical Philanthropist in Tamale.

Dr. David Abdulai popularly known as “The Mad Doctor” because of his option for the poor, especially those who are mentally challenged, was called into eternity on 2nd October 2016 at the Tamale Teaching hospital. He suffered from a severe thyroid cancer. He was buried within 48hrs at his Shekhina Clinic, at Gurugu (Tamale), in accordance with his wish.

Dr. Abdulai, positively touched the lives of many with his smile and humility was a great benefactor and friend of the St. Joseph Frienademetz House of Philosophy since its establishment. He attended regularly Mass with the Seminarians at the Formation House. He was a friend to the St. Victor’s Major Seminary as well, and cared a great deal for its staff and students when he was practising in the Damongo hospital.

The memorial thanksgiving Mass which coincided with the Solemnity of Christ the King, was celebrated by the Provincial superior of the Society of the Divine Word (S.V.D) Ghana province Very Rev Fr. George Clement Angmor, SVD and concelebrated by Rev Fr. Joshua Gariba, SVD, the Director of the Tamale Institute for Cross-Cultural Studies (TICCS) and also a close companion of Dr.Abdulai, as well as the three formators at the formation house. The Mass was attended by family members, Seminarians and other people who worship with the community on Sundays.

Rev. Fr. Samuel Yaw Adu, SVD, who was the homilist, enumerated the numerous good deeds of Dr. Abdulai. He compared his humility to that of Jesus, who was great, yet humble. Similarly, Dr. Abdulai opted for serving the poor, the needy and the marginalised rather than seeking affluence as a medical practitioner. He urged those present to emulate his good example.

This was reiterated by one of his daughters Ms. Marice who spoke on behalf of the family.

Marice said her father was a father who did not discriminate against anyone. She said her father was a man of simplicity who would always give all he has for the poor and destitute, who were so dear to him. According to her, Dr. Abdulai insisted that they should always allow the will of God to be done in their lives even in difficult moments of life. A presentation was made to the family by Rev. Fr Joshua Gariba on behalf of the SVD Community.



By Paul Amuzu. Tamale

11 ORDAINED DEACONS IN TAMALE



A section of the deacons

Most Rev. Peter Paul Angkyier, Bishop of Damongo ordained 11 seminarians to the ministry of Diaconate at the Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Tamale. They were Revs. Unezuma Nicodemus, Nongnenuor Yirburee Nicodemus, Dondeme K. Robert, Bekpare Anthony Anatatina, Nasaalbeteryeb Naawin-bangfo James, all of the diocese of Wa, Kanzong Francis Xavier for Damongo, Awinnam Nchorwin Branhms of Navrongo/Bolgatanga diocese, Santah Anthony of the Tamale Archdiocese as well as three SVDs Revs. Roberto Belarmin Ramamisoa, SVD, Michel Mangah Mungamatshi, SVD and Bertain Kabongo Lukwanga, SVD.

The Bishop in his homily told the Deacons to be dedicated to their calling as deacons and should discharge their duties with dedication. He exhorted them to eschew all behaviours that will taint their dignity as deacons. He assured them that if they perform their duties faithfully God will surely lead them to greater heights in their ministry.

The Bishop also congratulated the parents of the Deacons for offering their sons willingly to Mother Church and asked them not to demand too much from their sons.

During the ceremony the candidates made commitment to celibacy and promised apostolic obedience to their bishops and superiors. Also in attendance were Religious, Seminarians, family and friends of the candidates from Ghana and even beyond as well as Friends of the SVDs and parishioners.

Paul Amuzu, Freinademetz House

BIBLE MINISTRY

COORDINATOR: Br. McDaniel Acquah, SVD

DEI VERBUM GHANA 2016 ENDS IN NSAWAM

1. PREAMBLE

The Dei Verbum Ghana 2016 course, the 8th in the series, took place for forty (40) days from Monday 1st August to Saturday 10th September 2016 at the Divine Word Catholic Conference Centre (DWCCC), Adoagyiri-Nsawam.

The Theme of the course was “**Do Whatever He tells you**” (John 2:5). Thirty six (36) members made up of twenty six (26) men and ten (10) women, took part in the program. Among the participants were Priests, Catechists, Deacons, Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, Catholic Teachers, Pastoral and marriage Counsellors.

For the first time ever, Dei Verbum Ghana participants span ten (10) (Arch) dioceses across the country, namely: Accra, Cape Coast, Navrongo-Bolgatanga, Damongo, Sunyani, Sekondi-Takoradi, Keta-Akatsi, Obuasi, Koforidua and Donkorkrom Vicariate.

This year also saw the largest number of participants (36 in all) to Dei verbum Ghana program since its inception in the year 2000. Three facilitators from Germany, DR Congo and South Africa came in to support the team of facilitators from Ghana.

2. THE DEI VERBUM GHANA COURSE

The Dei Verbum Ghana is a course in Biblical Pastoral Ministry (BPM), run biannually by the Divine Word Missionaries, Ghana Province, in collaboration with the Catholic Biblical Federation (CBF).

The course aims at giving a good formation to the ministers of the Word of God by immersing them into the Scriptures.

3. COURSE CONTENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The rich course content covered areas such as: Community Building, Dei Verbum Document, Lectio Divina, The Kingdom of God, Scripture from Scratch, Biblical Fundamentalism and The Lumko Program. We also discussed the Contextual Bible Reading, The Kerygma of The Word and had a Basic Bible Seminar. At the end of the program participants came out with projects that would be implemented in our respective parishes or dioceses.

The lessons were delivered by very experienced facilitators in the form of presentations, group discussions, group activities, creative sessions, group as well as individual assignments.

The Liturgy was also very much present in our activities in the form of Mass, morning prayers, Vespers and Adorations. Throughout the course we had a very vibrant community life. Bible sharing and Bible discussions were regularly held at community levels, joyous occasions were celebrated together as a family, mourners were consoled and sympathised with, persons in difficulties were assisted and motivated.

We were reminded and encouraged to care for, support one another and respect each other's space as community members.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Having shared and tasted the good fruits of Dei Verbum Ghana 2016, we wish to recommend that:

- i. The Bishops should use the Biblical Pastoral Ministry (BPM) and the Small Christian Communities (SCC) as diocesan and pastoral tools for the new evangelisation.
- ii. The Bishops should promote in our dioceses and parishes, the formation of Small Christian Communities (SCC), where the Eucharist and the Word take centre stage.
- iii. Our Shepherds should pursue and monitor the initiative of the Bible Society to translate the Deutero-canonical Books of the Bible.
- iv. The exhortation by the Catholic Bishops Conference that groups in the Church should include Lectio Divina in their activities should be encouraged.
- v. Pastors should patronise and promote the enthronement of the Bible in our churches, homes, offices, during catecheses and pastoral programs.
- vi. Gospel Based Pastoral Care Teams (PCTs) should be created in our parishes to care for societies, children, youth groups, the sick, the aged, the lonely, the poor and the needy.
- vii. The Dei Verbum and some selected documents of the Vatican, should be studied during the Laity and the Catechetical week celebrations.

COMMUNICATION MINISTRY

Coordinator: Fr. Rex A. Vegbey, SVD

The communication office had gone through a few challenges very recently. The Newsletter for August could not be published due to lack of stories from confreres. This has resulted in this edition being 'voluminous'. It seems it is becoming difficult for confreres to write about their events and activities for publication. Perhaps this could be due to the fact that confreres have access to different social media through which they communicate more easily. Further, a cursory study of the patronage of the newsletter within the province indicates that very few confreres actually read it. Could this be due to the fact that confreres are already directly involved with the events and stories related?

Similarly, the situation with the website of the Province is no better. There are fewer stories to enliven regularly the website. In spite of the fact that the Coordinator alone has to manage both the Newsletter and the Website in addition to Verbo Media activities, he would be encouraged in manning all these with enthusiasm if only confreres will volunteer their stories or the stories of events and activities in their parishes and places of ministry. The Communication Board of the Province considered these issues and has detailed some pragmatic ways of addressing some of these.

They suggested that the Newsletter is published once every two months beginning next year 2017. This means that no matter what, we may have to publish a Newsletter with only one story if that is all that is available at going to press. In other words, if we do not receive any stories, the Newsletter may not even be published in three or four months.... and this will be pathetic... We thus, encourage all confreres, especially, the District Superiors and District Communication Coordinators to write or get some young people from their Parishes and institutions to write short stories that report on events and activities involving them and their Pastors. Mobile phones can take good photos on the spot to spice your stories.

Finally, the office is appealing to confreres who have good English skills to volunteer to be proof readers for the Newsletter. **Please kindly call Fr Rex on 0208291717 or through svdghanacom@yahoo.com to volunteer.** The more proof readers we have, the easier it would be to get the newsletter published on time.

The missionary journey.....



These photos may recall memories of not only our early missionaries but also, some of our current confreres working in most challenging remote rural areas. No matter how difficult the situation is, they always thrive and build God's communities. Surely, LOVE AND ENTHUSIASM MAKES THE MISSIONARY. May Sts. Arnold and Joseph be our strength.



'Push, Push'...Asesewa roads

JPIC

Coordinator: Fr. Peter Kabutey, SVD



At the eve of the 2016 presidential and parliamentary elections in Ghana, there seems to be some amount of uncertainty among the populace. The question is: **WOULD THE POLLS BE PEACEFUL?** This question comes up as a result of unfavourable utterances made by some politicians and a section of the public who call into radio programmes. If there should be any disturbance of peace, it would have been instigated by such utterances.



It is in view of promoting peace before, during and after the elections that the Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) of the Ghana Province organised an 'all night prayer service to pray for peace on the 11th of November 2016 at St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Abeka, Accra.

The programme was under the theme **I WILL HEAL THEIR WOUNDS**, (2Cor.7.14). It was organised in conjunction with the Christian Mothers of the Kaneshie Deanery of the Archdiocese of Accra who came in their numbers. Fr. Andrews Obeng, SVD led the people to pray for peace to prevail in all the regions of Ghana.

MISSION OFFICE

Coordinator: Fr. Stephen Dogodzi, SVD

Tit-bits from the Mission office:

Orientation for new confreres

For the third time in succession we successfully organised Mission orientation programme for newly ordained confreres to prepare them for their missions. We believe this year's programme was a memorable event for all the participants.

Lay associates

In December 2015, the Mission office organised an Advent retreat for some of our SVD lay Associates at St. Augustine Parish, Ashaiman. Our lay associates need our utmost attention, presence, and enthusiastic counsel and touch. Let us continue to motivate the groups in our respective parishes and communities.

May I remind confreres that the concept of the 'Friends of the SVDs' is first and foremost to share in our spirituality and be partners in our missionary endeavours. Some of us may get the wrong impression that their role is to rather make donations to the SVD during celebrations like profession of vows, ordinations and anniversaries. This is an erroneous notion and must be corrected.

Fund Raising

I am happy to state that for the first time in the history of our province, the mission office will not need a subsidy or any financial support from the SVD Generalate to run its activities. Thanks to the generous support of a few benefactors, stole fees from retreats and recollections at St. Arnold Janssen Spirituality Centre at Tuba, and in parishes, Lenten-fast envelopes and Mission month stickers (*feed a missionary with a ball of kenkey*).

The Mission Office however has a serious concern in respect of fund raising activities in the Accra metropolis. Would the SVD Accra District make as one of their key agendas during the beginning of the New Year 2017, the discussion of how to integrate the various fund raising activities of all SVD confreres from the South as well as the North to avoid putting undue pressure on generous parishioners from the same parishes?

Conclusion.

It is the wish of the Mission office that if this generous support from our local Ghanaian benefactors continue, pretty soon the Mission office would be in position to also absorb the budgetary needs of the office of the Superior Delegatus. Therefore, I encourage all my confreres to support these initiatives of the Mission office to make it more vibrant.

MADLS

FROM: John Kwamevi Cudjoe, SVD [ECU] [jokwacud27@yahoo.com]

Graceful greetings from Ecuador. I wish to thank all my confreres in Ghana, especially those who sent me congratulatory messages on my appointment as the new Provincial Superior of the Ecuador Province.

Indeed, when I read your text messages, I knew and trusted am not alone. Certainly, I am accompanied with the love and prayers of family members, confreres and friends. I always thank God for the religious and missionary life of many confreres of our dear Ghana Province which awakened in me the zeal for the Society and for the Lord. Thanks to you all, I freely surrender completely to God's will in the service of THE DIVINE WORD.

I sincerely appreciate and pray you would keep me in your prayers as I will continue to do for you and for all the confreres. Thank you once more and greetings to everyone. AND MAY THE HEART OF JESUS LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF ALL PEOPLE. LONG LIVE THE SVD, LONG LIVE THE GHANA PROVINCE!

The editorial team: Frs. Rex A. Vegbey, Erasmus Mortty-Norviewu, Andrews Aboagye Obeng, Frt. Stephen Asante and Abraham Djibitor wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*WORKS REMEMBERING***December**

04	Emile K Dzokpe	Birthday
04	Peter Edze	Birthday
06	Nicholas Aazine	Feastday
06	Nicholas Irungu	Feastday
06	Kostka Piotrowski	+ 1981
06	Paul van Riel	+ 1995
07	Abraham Dzibitor	Birthday
07	François Andrianihantana	Birthday
10	Anthony D. Mensah	Birthday
18	Jean-Bertrand Tchekpi	Birthday
18	Anthony M. Muchui	Birthday
20	Kossi Abraham Agosseme	Feastday
21	Aloysius Hoguth	q+ 2006
23	Samuel Dagadu	Birthday
23	Victor Leones	Birthday
25	Emmanuel Affum	Feastday
25	Emmanuel Azure	Feastday
25	Emmanuel Fianu	Feast day
26	Theodore Afanyedey	B & Feastday
26	Stephen Appiah	Feastday
26	Stephen Ayisu	Feastday
26	Stephen Bonsu	Feastday
26	Stephen Dogodzi	Feast day
26	Stephen Domelevo	Feastday
26	Stephen Nyantey	Feastday
26	Stephen Osei Asante	Feast day
27	John K. Acheampong	Feast day
27	John Ohene Akuffo	Feast day
27	John Asiedu	Feastday
27	John Bissue	Feastday
27	John Cudjoe	B & Feastday
27	John Dorborkoe	Feastday
27	Jan Schilitz	Feastday
27	John Straathof	Feastday
27	Maurice Mayo	+ 1977
28	Innocent Adanlete	B & Feast day
28	Charles Kukah	+ 1985
29	Roger Agre	Birthday
29	David K. Tengey	Feast day
30	Sabastine Sob	Birthday
30	Roger Agre	Feastday
31	Kossi Abraham Agosseme	Birthday
31	Marouwele Pitcholo	Birthday

January

01	Vincent Boi-Nai	Birthday
01	Abraham Dzibitor	Feast day
01	Yohanes Lengari	Birthday
02	Asiamah, Dennis	+2008
03	Vinsensius Wangge	Birthday
05	Jacobson Dey	Birthday
06	Gideon Awudi	B & Feastday

07	Akumbilim, Abraham	B&Feastday
07	Peter Claver Narh	Birthday
08	Yophesius Ogachi	Birthday
09	Isaac Anim Addo	Birthday
11	Martin Dumas	Birthday
11	Frederick Timp	Birthday
12	Kangwa Bwalya	Birthday
12	Josef Jud	+ 1985
13	Stephen Appiah	Birthday
14	Anthony Anala	Birthday
15	Vincent Agbeyome	Birthday
15	Tarcisius de Ruyter	+2014
15	Vincent Aarah-Bapuah	Birthday
16	Harold Rigney	+ 1980
17	Anthony Anala	Feastday
17	Victor Gbotso	Birthday
19	Marius Razafimandimby	Feast day
19	Mariusz Pacula	Feast day
20	Fabian Cofie	Feast day
20	Sabastine Sob	Feast day
20	Sebastian Sperl	Feast day
23	Lawrence Thornton	+ 2003
24	Francis Dolagbenu	Feastday
24	Edward Tetteh	Birthday
24	Jan Francizak Res	+2012
26	James O. Amankwah	Birthday
26	Stephen Domelevo	Birthday
26	Stanislaw Gergont	Birthday
26	Titus Tuoyintir	Feastday
31	Yohanes Lengari	Feastday
31	John K. Tumawu	Feast day
31	Kodzo E.A.J-B Glidoh	Feastday

February

01	Joseph Addai	Birthday
03	Nicholas Irungu	Birthday
04	Gerald Tanye	Birthday
06	Titus Tuoyintir	Birthday
08	Emil Setsoafia	Feastday
09	Tomy Kanjiramalayil	Birthday
10	Deepak Tigga	Birthday
10	Josef Glatzel	+ 2000
11	Oswald Bangfo	Birthday
13	Charles Roesslein	+ 1999
14	Gatefe, Godwin	Birthday
15	Boguslaw Berek	Birthday
16	Dionisius Kopong Ola	Birthday
19	Joseph Panabang	Birthday
19	Andrew Quaye-Foli	Birthday
20	Justin Toda	+2010
22	Peter Lampitey Forgor	Feastday
22	Titus Grawey	+ 1986
22	Leslie Hatfield	+ 1987
24	Martin Ninnang	Birthday
24	Mathias Yaadar	Birthday
24	David Schouten	+ 1993