



SVD NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

We have just finished the old year and find ourselves in a new year. This new year brings new hopes and dreams, or revives hopes and dreams that have faded away perhaps. This is good, from time to time we need to start anew. Our confreres are still sharing their Christmas and New Year joy. The German speaking confreres are having their party as I write these lines. Other groups have had or soon will have their parties and gatherings too. These events can encourage us on to do our best in this New Year.

This Friday, as I write, January 15 we celebrate our Founder's Feast Day. I hope all our communities and parishes will have something special to remember our Founder. Two weeks later we will celebrate the feast day of our first saintly missionary, Joseph Freinademetz. In the south we will also be celebrating Family Feast with our Holy Spirit Sisters at Madonna in Koforidua on the same day. All are invited.

By now all of you should have received the resolutions, statements, etc. of the province chapter. We are still waiting to hear from Rome about our Vision and Mission Statements. It would be good for the various districts and houses to go through these documents in their meeting to see how they can be implemented.

We were all shocked when we heard the news of Bishop Lucas Abadamloora's death. It came just as we were about to begin our Christmas celebrations and festivities. We pray that the Good Lord has given him his well deserved reward. His burial will take place on January 16 in Navrongo.

I would like to congratulate all our jubilarians this year. Those celebrating Bishop Vincent Boi-Nai will be celebrating forty years in vows. Celebrating forty years in the priesthood are: Fathers Konrad Dreyer, Patrick Ofori, John Schilitz and Andrew Campbell. Twenty-five years in vows are: Tomy Thomas, Raphael Mesi, and Henry Duah. Twenty-five years in the priesthood are: Joseph Mazur, Marek Kowalik, Andrew Quaye-Foli and Gabriel Kumordji. We will celebrate with them on Family Feast and again on the actual date of their anniversary – or their anniversary celebration.

Renovations of the DWCCC in Adoagyiri-Nsawam have begun. When they are finished we hope to start at the Guest House, perhaps after Easter. While renovations are going on rooms will be hard to get, but Tesano, the Book Centre, McCarthy Hill, and the new provincial house can all try to make some rooms available.

Next month there will be an AFRAM Assembly in Lomé. Some confreres will be arriving and departing from Accra, the Gateway to West Africa. We have been busy trying to help them get their visas.

May the Lord bless each and everyone of you during the course of this year. May all of us also give our best in the service of the Lord this year.

Your confrere,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas D'Mello'.

Thomas D'Mello SVD
Provincial

PROVINCE NEWS

Memories of Fr. Clement Hotze, SVD

Recently I again noticed a photo that I have of Fr. Clement H. Hotze, SVD (Society of the Divine Word), a missionary Priest who grew up in Leopold. I was prompted by this photo to look up his obituary again and to mention for the first time on paper a few things about this man most people do not know.

He was born in Leopold on Oct. 6, 1920 to Bernard L. and Anna M. (Steinmerd) Hotze. He started his studies to the priesthood in 1934 in the SVD Seminary in Techy, Illinois. He was ordained in 1947 and was sent to Gold Coast in West Africa, now called Ghana.

My first recollection of Fr. Clem is from around 1953 when on a home visit, he gave a talk to our school, one fall day before he was to return to Ghana. I mentioned to him, how sad it must be to leave home and go back to Africa. He replied that he was happy to go since Africa is his home now. I could not comprehend how he could feel this way until 12 or 13 years later when, as a peace Corps volunteer in 1965, I started teaching in St. Peter's Secondary School, Nkwatia – Kwahu, Ghana, a school founded by Fr. Clement in 1957, the year that Ghana became independent from Britain.

The people in Nkwatia asked for the school and donated nearly 30 acres of land on which it was to be built. It was an all boys secondary boarding school, around one quarter mile from the town, with the faculty living in small, but comfortable bungalows on campus. The faculty, including the missionaries at that time, was made up of teachers from Ghana, Syria, Canada, Haiti, Australia, Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, England and USA. The students were from all over Ghana.

Now for Fr. Clem: there were four of us volunteer living in the same bungalow. One Saturday the van backed up to our front porch. The driver said that Fr. Clem wanted us to have new mattresses for our single beds. He unloaded four-inch soft, covered foam mattresses in trade for our one-inch ones, which were to be given to the students. We slept in luxury from then on.

Payday was naturally a monthly highlight, not only for the pay but for the gathering of the faculty in the mission house for an evening of visiting and food. Near the end of one of these gatherings, after the closing down of the gasoline powered generator, Fr. Clem asked me to bring a lamp and follow him to his bed room so he could get money out of the safe to pay us. As he was opening the safe, I looked around. What did I see? A one-inch mattress on his bed. We, the teacher got four-inch mattresses and Fr. Clem our principal did not.

One day I needed to visit Fr. Clem. I went to the mission house and was told by another priest that Father was in the latrine. I said I would wait until he was finished. Then I was told I didn't understand, he didn't go to relieve himself in the latrine but, instead he was helping a school worker to clean it out. I went out to see him. There he was cheerfully working with the custodian, cleaning waste from the latrine, reminding me of the cleaning out of the outdoor toilets we had in the 'good-old-days' at home Leopold/Laflin. Fr. Clem the founder and the principal of the school was cleaning out a latrine and looking as if he enjoyed it. I believe he did enjoy working with the fellow whose usual job it was to do this lowly work.

During the two years I spent in St. Peters, I never saw Father frown or hear him sass someone. Bruce a teacher from Canada dubbed him as "Father Smiley". Another teacher, Gary, from England, was so pleased that Father encouraged him to produce a play with the students. These plays were acted out in the church, since there was no theater on campus.

However soon there was to be a theater on campus. In order to save the duplication of lectures in biology, chemistry, and physics we brand-new, inexperienced, volunteer science teachers asked Fr. Clem if he would build a new science lecture theater. He wanted a design, which we gave him. Father was impressed and said he would look into raising the fund to build it. As we were leaving in June 1967, the science lecture theater

was almost complete.

Father Clem reminds me of something I read about Mahatma Gandhi, when he was seeking the independence of India. He was asked by someone who all of those people were who were marching by. He said: "Those are my people, I must catch up with them for I am their leader". That was father Clem, our leader who was behind us all the way.

Fr. Clem died in Ghana where he lived for 53 years among the loving people there. After living with the people of Ghana, I could now understand what he told us in 1953, that Ghana was his home. He died in July 19, 2001. His body is buried alongside many other SVD Missionaries, in Adoagyiri, Nsawam, Ghana. His spirit lives on all the people who were privileged to know him. Bruce said "... it was Clem who best exemplified the work of Christ." May we try to follow his ways.

**By James E. Landewe
Springfield Mo.**

(This article was published on Wednesday, 4th Nov. 2009 in the Banner Press p. 9A, Marble Hill, 190)

Advent Recollection

Fr. Rafael Mesi, SVD leads Advent Recollection

Fr. Rafael Mesi facilitated annual advent recollection for the SVDs in Ghana Province on 11th – 12th December (first batch) and 14th -15th December (second batch) at Divine Word Catholic conference Center (DWCCC).

In order to help the participants to recollect, he encouraged them to follow the program he put in place. Programme included: evening and morning prayer, silence and meditation, reflection talk, individual confessions, Holy Eucharist. In the reflection talk, he started by asking a question: who is Jesus whose coming we shall prepare for? In answer to this, he enumerated the following: Jesus is provider of hope; he is God-man who is concern of our household; the healer of our maladies; the giver of sight to our blindness; the Emmanuel – God who is truly with us; the rock – sure foundation of our life; the reconciler who restore us to ourselves, to God and to others; and the precious gift from God whom we shall receive at Christmas. In conclusion, he said, Advent therefore is to prepare to receive Jesus. Since Jesus is our precious gift, the gift we receive we shall give as gift. Hence, share Jesus.

DISTRICT NEWS

Accra District:

SVDs honor the Archdiocesan Co-workers Christmas Get-together

SVDs both of Accra and Tema- Battor districts joined in the celebration of the archdiocesan co-workers Christmas – New Year get-together at the Archbishop's house in Osu on 26th December 2009.

The archdiocesan co-workers' get-together was called together by, Most Rev. Charles Gabriel Palmer Buckle, the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Accra. Here, co-workers refer to the priests and religious who are in the archdiocese and are working directly or indirectly under the Archbishop. This is for the Archbishop to thank each and every one for his/her invaluable support. The celebration started with a mass. The Archbishop was the main celebrant and all the priests were encouraged to concelebrate. In his message, the Archbishop, underlined the importance of having goodwill to the country Ghana for its beauty and natural resources; goodwill to fellow Ghanaians by appreciating one other instead of fostering ethnic conflicts; goodwill toward the head of state since he needs support from the people to effect national development. In this way we can progress as Ghanaians, as a nation and as a family of God. He reflected this message on the spirituality of Christmas in the thought of goodwill: "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all people of goodwill" (cf Lk 2:14). The Mass was followed by announcements pertaining to the Synodal Acts and

liturgical reform in the archdiocese. Then when drinks and food for lunch were ready all proceeded to agape – sharing of food, drinks and gifts.

The SVDs in attendance: Fr. Thomas D' Mello, Fr. Fred Timp, Bro. John Lengari, Fr. Konrad Dreyer, Fr. Martin Wells, Fr. Simpson Fenuku, Fr. Patrick Ofori, Fr. Jacobson Dey, Fr. Andrews Obeng, , Fr. John Straathof, Fr. Robert Baba Yinamyah, Fr. John Tumawu, Bro. McDaniel, Bro. Pius Agyeman, Bro. Lambert Azieve, Bro. Mark Mutero, Fr. Anthony Dugay, Fr. Dionisio Nellas, Bro. James Djadoo, Fr. Andrew Quaye-Foli, Fr. Benjamin Adusei-Poku, Fr. Justinus Toda, Fr. Marcelo Oyarzún, Fr. Daniel Lenwah, Rev. Boniface Mbithi, Sem. Abraham Dzibitor, Sem. Pius Owusu, Sem. Stephen Osei- Asante, Sem. Ramamisoa Robert Bellarmin. The Archbishop was delighted to meet great delegation from the Divine Word Missionaries.

Dansoman Parish

Congratulations! Very Rev. Fr. Patrick Ofori, SVD



On Sunday the 15th November 2009, the entire church of St Margaret Mary Parish, Dansoman witnessed the solemn installation of Very Rev. Fr. Patrick Ofori, SVD, as the first Ghanaian Priest to become Parish Priest in the history of the parish. Fr Patrick Ofori, who was for many years Headmaster of St Martin's Senior High School, succeeded Very Rev. Fr. John Straathof, SVD, as the Parochial Administrator since 18th April 2006.

The installation took place during a liturgical celebration, presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Francis Adoboli, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Accra. In his homily, the Vicar General congratulated Fr Patrick for his elevation from Parochial Administrator to Parish Priest by His Grace Most Rev Charles Gabriel Palmer Buckle, the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Accra Archdiocese. He explained canonically why Fr Patrick Ofori was not appointed immediately when he took over from his predecessor. This was to give the new pastor the chance to acquire some pastoral experience after serving for many years in the education fields. The Catholic Church is very organized, methodical and meticulous in carrying out its affairs; he said.

After the homily, Rev. Bro. Pius Agyemang, SVD read before the congregation the letter of appointment, which was dated 20th September 2009. The new pastor then knelt before the Vicar General to profess his faith and the oath of office. The Vicar General in his turn presented the tabernacle and the church keys to the new pastor with the following words: "Receive these, and the charge of all that they control, for which you shall render account to God". He was also presented with a missal to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for all the parishioners, both living and dead.

The Vicar General, assisted by Very Rev. Fr. John Straathof, SVD, the former parish priest, placed the new parish priest three times on his seat to signify the actual position of the parish in accordance with the letters of appointment. He was then sprinkled with holy water and incensed with a triple swing.

In his address, the new parish priest expressed his gratitude to all and sundry for their prayers, support, and words of encouragement. He promised to work hard in collaboration with the parishioners to improve upon the parish.

Present at the ceremony were some SVD Confreres, delegations from St Peters, Torkuse; St Jude, New Weija and some relatives of the new parish priest.

Koforidua District:

Kukurantumi

St. Paul Technical School gets ICT

St. Paul Technical School (SPATS), Kukurantumi-East Akim inaugurated its Information Technology (ICT) Center on 8th December 2009.

In the opening ceremony, Rev. Bro. Peter Edzi, SVD, principal of the school, welcomed all who came for the inauguration especially Mr. Samuel Ofose Ampofo, the Regional Minister of Eastern Region, Osabarema Boama Darko II, the Chief of Kukurantumi, and Miss Kate Agyeman Badu, the Municipal director of Education of East Akim. He said that the school management personnel in their desire to offer quality and skills training that would be appropriate for the students, made a request through the SVD Provincial in Ghana and to the Arthur Waser Trust of Switzerland for support. Negotiations were made and approval was given. The support was sent and the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Center project began and completed with the total cost of **Gh¢ 130,000.00**. So he expressed his joy that the school's dream became a reality. With profound gratitude, he thanked the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) and Arthur Waser Trust of Switzerland for their generosity.

After the welcome address, Mr. Samuel Ofose Ampofo, assisted by Osabarema Boama Darko II, and Miss Kate Agyeman Badu gladly cut the tape to inaugurate the **Gh¢ 130,000.00** ICT Center for St. Paul's Technical School, Kukurantumi.

In his speech, Mr. Ampofo advised the students to use the ICT Center properly to improve their academic performance and avoid internet fraud and visiting pornographic sites. He also encouraged them to handle the equipment with care and have a sense of ownership. Addressing the management of the school, he told the leaders to adhere to the culture of maintenance for the sustainability and durability of the equipments.

Kwahu District:

Adeemmra Parish

Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD Celebrates Solemn Funeral mass

Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Kumordji presided as the main celebrant at the funeral mass of Mr. Augustine Domelevo, the father of Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Adeemmra-Kwahu on 19th December 2009.

As the Prefect of the Donkorkrom Prefecture, he felt privileged to have been invited to the funeral and deeply honoured to spearhead the funeral ceremony of Mr. Augustine who has contributed a lot in the establishment of Adeemmra Parish. In his homily, he said that, in our culture, we are sad when one of our loved ones die young. But when he/she dies a natural death in his/her old age we rejoice. But there is a saying that goes, age doesn't matter. What is important is the quality of life that we live on this earth. As far as Mr. Augustine is concerned his case is exceptional, he has lived both a long and a quality life. Hence, we are here to rejoice and thank God for the long and quality life he gave to our dear "old man" as he was fondly called by his 10 children (3 were of blessed memory), 42 grand children and 30 great-grand children. To survive a century and four (104) years in this world is not a small thing. Mr. Augustine was a man of discipline, courage, strength and faith. Traditionally, he was the hero of the hunters and farmers in his time. In the family, he was the bringer not only of game from the forest and cocoa from his farm but also education and Christian faith. He educated all his children and converted them to faith in Christ. One of them became a religious brother in the SVD. In the Christian community, he was a dynamic church president for a long time. Hence, it is not

surprising that he became the co-founder of the Catholic Church in Adeemra. So let us praise God for his goodness to “old man” by giving him grace to complete the race and fight a good fight; learn from “old man’s” good example of cherishing his culture and tradition to enhance his faith in Christ; pray to God that He may receive Mr. Augustine into His Kingdom, console the bereaved family, and grant us all long and quality lives. Indeed “old man” truly understood St. Paul’s words “In life and death we belong to the Lord” (Rm 14:7).

Very Rev. Francis Adoboli, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Accra took care of the final commendation rite and Fr. Emil Setsoafia; SVD did the blessing of the grave and closing prayer in the cemetery. The funeral was well attended. The laity were uncountable, the religious brothers and sisters were also in their great numbers. Out of 22 priests who concelebrated 18 were SVDs.

Yendi District:

10 Years of grace: 10 Priests!

The Yendi diocese has just ended her *triduum* celebration to crown her ten years of existence as a diocese of which preparation commenced in March this year. The three days of continuous celebration started on the 27th and came to a close on the 29th of November. It was all about thanksgiving to God and humans and excitement over ten years of grace.

The first day began with the reception of the anniversary cross at the cathedral, which was followed by Eucharistic celebration and was presided over by Most Rev Philip Naameh, the metropolitan archbishop of Tamale. About 40 priests concelebrated with him. Other bishops who were present to grace the occasion were Most Rev. Gregory Ebo Kpiebaya emeritus of Tamale, Most Rev. Lucas Abadamloora of Navrongo-Bolgatanga diocese, and Most Rev. Vincent Bio-Nai, SVD. Very Rev. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, the apostolic prefect of Donkorkrom Prefecture and Very Rev. Nicholas Apetorbor, the diocesan administrator of Damongo diocese and provincial superiors of SVD, FMM and Spiritans were also present. Priests, religious and the laity from all rank and files of the diocese and beyond were there in their numbers.

The second part of the programme, which was to start at 11: 00 am, started a bit late. The venue was Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral and had Archbishop Gregory E. Kpiebaya as the guest of honour. In his speech he took the gathering through the processes of the creation of a diocese. He dwelt extensively on this and said no one creates a diocese except the Holy Father, the Pope. He also told the faithful what informed and influenced the creation of the Yendi diocese when he took over the mantle as archbishop of Tamale. As he was full of praise and thanks to God for what had been achieved within the ten years, he was so quick to add in acknowledgement that Bishop Bio-Nai took possession of the diocese with a severe toothache: crisis of conflict, poverty and minimum infrastructure.

Recounting the history of the diocese, Bishop Bio-Nai said upon his accession to the cathedral as the first bishop of Yendi he was faced with two main initial battles. 1) To work to bring peace in the diocese significantly Yendi for as he put it "Effective and meaningful evangelization cannot take place when the people are fighting" hence his initiation and establishment of the Yendi Peace Committee. 2) To correct the accusation, wrong notion and mentality of many Dagombas that the Church discriminates against Dagombas in favour of Konkombas as a result vandalizing the cathedral church, the priests' and sisters' residences, water project and other properties of the Church. His duty was to let them understand and know that the Church is for all and cares for all. It is universal. Other issues that showed their ugly teeth at him were empty coffers, inadequate number of personnel and many more. He was full of joy, praise and thanks to God, his collaborators, the faithful and benefactors both home and abroad. Beaming with a smile he said, “A lot has taken place and many situations improved.”

Some donations, pledges and a silver collection were made to bring the day to a close. The next day, 28th Nov., was a day of ordination to the priesthood. Three deacons were ordained to the ministerial priesthood bringing the number of diocesan priests ordained to the diocese within these ten years of grace to ten. On this day the cathedral church was filled to its capacity. As a surprise to one priest working at the cathedral he exclaimed, "This is the second time this church has been filled to its capacity ever since I came here." The celebration of the day was coloured and punctuated with the singing and dancing of traditional songs and dances.

The last day was Sunday, the Day of the Lord. It was a day of thanksgiving to God and all for a successful tenth anniversary celebration. The officiating minister was Bishop Boi-Nai. In his homily he made a passionate appeal to the youth to think about and consider seriously embracing the priestly and religious life, especially in the diocese. He urged the faithful to support their priests by bringing offertory gifts to Mass. He bemoaned the situation where some parishes within the diocese have celebrated 75th, 50th and 40th anniversaries and yet evangelization in these areas is still classified as primary. He said this cannot be. For how long will they continue to remain in primary evangelization? He cautioned these parishes and others to make earnest efforts to move to the next step on the evangelization ladder.

Awards were presented to people who in diverse ways have contributed to the growth of the diocese ranging from priests to laity, both home and abroad. St. Peter and Paul Church, Tatale is tasked to start developing gradually the place earmarked for the diocesan pilgrimage centre. Symbolically, this was done when the bishop entrusted to them the anniversary cross.

Generally, the *triduum* celebration of the tenth anniversary was successful. We say kudos to Bishop Vincent, his co-workers and all the faithful. *Natuma Pam! Naa...*

Fr. Benjamin Asare

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals:

Fr. Rex Vegbey: 4th January 2010 from United Kingdom for filming (field work) and a short holiday. *Fr. Rex, you are most welcome!*

Fr. Anthony Amissah: 9th January 2010 from Kenya for his mother's funeral. *Fr. Tony, accept our sincerest condolences.*

Fr. Stephen Ayisu: 10th January 2010 from the USA for his well deserved home leave. *Fr. Stephen, your arrival is timely for the African cup of Nations, enjoy your holidays. Akwaaba!*

Departures:

Fr. Alphonse Dungdung: 7th January 2010 to India for home leave and short course on human development. *Madamfo, Alphonse, Happy trip!*

COMMUNICATION

My Media Studies

Many confreres are aware that I am studying communication. However, many are not clear as to what aspect of communication I am studying so I will like to use this medium to share with you what I am studying for the Society. I am studying Film and Television Production which started at the close of the year 2007 in Cambridge, UK. This is a follow-up of a provincial chapter's resolution to face the modern trend of communication and use all available means to let the Word reach all. In other words, the chapter resolution enjoins on us to be aggressive in our communication ministry. This is precisely what the Pope addresses in this year's World Day of Communication in the Year of the Priests on the theme: "The priest and pastoral ministry in a digital world: new media at the service of the Word."

Since film and TV have become powerful tools today to transmit messages in modern society I consider it a practical means to be adopted by the province to disseminate the Word among the People of God and to attract others to the fold which the SVD was born to champion. You would agree with me that reading habits have fallen drastically among the youth; more young people spend their leisure times with an aspect of media today being it film, internet, ipod etc. So it is prudent that we also use the same means to reach our young people.

In my studies so far, I produced and directed among others a short film on 'suicide' titled "Lousy Cards". Life sometimes deals us lousy cards: we come to crossroads and think that suicide is the option which is obviously not the answer. The persons we least expect like priests go through that situation. My main character is a priest. People think they should be resilient when it comes to these things but believe me they are just vulnerable as any other person. Another theme I addressed in a 10-minute film was on domestic abuse 'Was Blind, now I see': It is about women who see signs of an abuse partner but still hook onto the relationship in the name of 'love' till the worst happens. It is a piece of advice. These themes are familiar ones associated with the youth.

There are different areas that the province can adopt as communication ministry among which is a TV show addressing different issues especially of young people. I am shooting a pilot this year on the topic 'Mistakes that people have made especially in their youth for which they have regrets today'. A counselor will be on the show to give input on how our young people can avoid those mistakes. I will be happy to have your comments on this type of show especially the challenges that may be inherent in such a venture. I believe your input will help us to prepare for the future ministry.

The first challenge which many will be worried about is the capital intensiveness inherent in such a programme. I am convinced that just like the pastor who sets out to build a mighty church does everything possible to have it constructed, or the one whose passion is catechesis develops or intensify it in the parish no matter the challenges that come with it, so also if we are convinced of a communication programme, we will find ways of clearing the hurdles that may come with it. If lay people are able to do it, we should be optimistic that we can do it. Proper planning can yield good results. Let us pray for an effective communication ministry for our province.

Fr. Rex Vegbey, SVD

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Congratulations to the Headmaster and all the staff and students including our confreres Fr. Daniel Lenwah, SVD, vice principal and Fr. Bernard Appiah, SVD, school chaplain of St Peter's Senior High School of Nkwatia - Kwahu for the work well done to maintain the excellent academic standard of the school. Your form 4 students who all passed with good result during the WASSCE conducted last April 2009 was the objective

proof of your hard work, determination and dedication. *Headmaster, Staff, students, Frs. Daniel and Bernard Keep up the good work, God bless you.*

Congratulations to Fr. Mietek Sagan, SVD, Priest In Charge of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Osonson for successfully completed his term. *Fr. Mietek, wishing you the best for your new appointment to the CFC*

COMING EVENTS

1. 15th January - Feast of St. Arnold Janssen
2. 29th January – Feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz- Family Feast at Madonna (see information)
3. 1st February – Start of Second Novitiate
4. 5th February – Feast of the Religious. Christ the King Parish is the venue of the celebration for Accra.
5. February – Parents/guardians visit to Divine Word Novitiate at Nkwatia – Kwahu
6. February – Family Feast: Northern Sector in Tamale

INFORMATION

1. The southern Family Feast 2010 will take place at Madonna School in Koforidua on Friday 29 January 2010. Arrival is 9:00 a.m. This will be followed by Mass and all the other family feast activities. During this celebration the confreres and sisters who are celebrating a notable anniversary will be remembered and honored. All SVDs and SSps in Ghana are invited to this celebration.
2. The renovation of the DWCCC chapel is near completion. We say big thank you to the SVD building committee.
3. Starting 10th January 2010, the first floor rooms of DWCCC will be renovated into self contained rooms.
4. You know what? **Most Rev. Joseph Oliver Bowers, SVD** is 100 years old. The exact date is 28th March. Let's rejoice with him and be grateful to God for the gift of 100 years.

REMEMBERING OUR SICK

Mr. Philip Agbeyome, the older brother of Fr. Paul Agbeyome, is admitted in 37th Military Hospital, Accra; Let us include Mr. Philip Agbeyome in our healing prayer.

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Mr. Edward Tawiah, younger brother of Bro. Paul Tawiah, died on 19th November 2009 at St. Joseph Hospital after short illness.

Mrs. Sabina Cudjoe Aye, the Mother of Fr. Anthony Amisah, SVD, died on 6th December 2009. Funeral arrangement: No wake keeping; 30th January – Funeral Mass at Holy Family Parish, Mataheko to be followed by burial; 31st January – Memorial and thanksgiving at Holy Family Parish, Mataheko.

Most Rev. Lucas Abadamloora, Bishop of Navrongo - Bolgatanga and President of the Ghana Catholic Bishop Conference (GCBC) died on 23rd December 2009. Funeral arrangement: Wake keeping - 15th January 2010 at Bolgatanga; Funeral Mass - 16th January 2010 at Bolgatanga. Then Burial follows also at Bolgatanga.

May their souls and the souls of our faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace!

WISE SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDING GENERATION

“In the divine sacrament our confreres can drink the very rich graces of the Holy Spirit from the Heart of Jesus...”- St. Arnold Janssen

“The foundation, maintenance, and further development of our society has no other origin apart from God who lives in heaven and rules all thing on earth.” - St. Arnold Janssen

“May the most holy and just will of God, impenetrable in its heights and depths, sovereign and most worthy of love in all its ways, be done in all things. Lord your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” – Maria Helena Stollenwerk

“I am prepared to dedicate myself to serving the apostolate with all my love and all my life..” – Maria Helena Stollenwerk

“I have prayed earnestly for the light of the Holy Spirit that God may lead me according to the plan he has had for me from all eternity ... I desire nothing more than, with the grace of God, to be the least and to offer myself as a sacrifice for the work of spreading the Faith.” – Maria Hendrina Stenmans

JOKES ONLY

My Mistake

She was a big, strong woman, and the burglar she had tackled bore unmistakable signs of severe punishment when the police arrived.

Doctor: *It was very brave of you, lady, to risk your life and to set upon the burglar and capture him, but you did not need to blacken both his eyes and knock all his teeth out, did you?*

Wife (looking very indignantly): *How was I to know it was a burglar? I had been waiting up for my husband for three hours, and in the dark I thought it was him.*

“No” is the answer

A farmer and a professor were riding side by side on a train. After a while, both were tired of the conversation. “Just to pass the time away,” suggested the professor, “let us have a game of riddles. If I have one you can’t answer you give me a dollar and vice-versa.”

“That is fine,” replied the farmer, “but you are better educated than I, so do you mind if, I give only fifty cents?”

“Agreed,” said the professor. “You go first.” “Well,” began the farmer, “what has three legs walking and two legs flying?” “I don’t know,” replied the professor, “here is the dollar. Now what is the answer?” “I don’t either,” replied the farmer, “Here is your 50 cents.”

WORTH REMEMBERING

January

1	Vincent Boi - Nai	Birthday	15	Ronald Lange	F&Bday
1	Paulus Pio	Birthday	16	Marcelo Oyarzún	Feastday
1	Johannes Lengari	Birthday	17	Anthony Anala	Feastday
1	Mieczyslaw Sagan	Feastday	19	Mariusz Pacula	Feastday
3	Vinsensius Wangge	Birthday	24	Edward Tetteh	F&Bday
6	Gideon Awudi	F&Bday	20	Sebastian Sperl	Feastday
7	Peter Claver Narh	Birthday	20	Fabian Mate	Feastday
11	Frederick Timp	Birthday	25	Paul Ayitey	Feastday
11	Martin Dumas	Birthday	26	Stephen Domelevo	Birthday
13	Stephen Appiah	Birthday	26	James O. Amankwah	Birthday
17	Victor Gbotso	Birthday	26	Stanislaw Gergont	Birthday
14	Anthony Anala	Birthday	31	John K. Tumawu	Feastday
14	Anthony Anala	Birthday	31	Johannes Lengari	Feastday

Jan	Our departed confreres	Year
2	Dennis Asiamah	2008
12	Josef Jud	1985
16	Harold Rigney	1980
23	Lawrence Thomton	2003

February

1	Deepak Tigga	Birthday	19	Andrew Quaye-Foli	Birthday
1	Joseph Addai	Birthday	23	Joseph Panabang	Birthday
4	Gerard Tanye	Birthday	24	Mathias Yaadar	Birthday
8	Emil Setsoafia	Feastday	24	Martin Ninnang	Birthday
9	Tomy Kanjiramalayil	Birthday	24	Matthias Felber	Feastday
11	Oswald Bangfo	Birthday	26	Alex Awuah-Osei	Feastday
12	Rafael Mesi	Birthday	28	Oswald Bangfo	Feastday
15	Boguslaw (Dan) Berek	Birthday	29	Matthias Helms	Birthday
16	Dionisius Kopong Ola	Birthday			

Feb.	Our departed confreres	Year
10	Josef Glatzel	2000
13	Charles Roesslein	1999
22	Titus Grawey	1986
22	Leslie Hatfield	1987
24	David Schouten	1993

Liturgy Corner

Introductory Rites

“The purpose of these rites is to make the assembled people a unified community and to prepare them properly to listen to God’s word and celebrate the Eucharist” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 24).

Entrance Song

The people stand and sing a song or recite a prescribe antiphon as the priest and ministers enter. This action “introduces them to the mystery of the season or feast” (General instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 25) and sets the tone and mood of the celebration. (A particular variation of this “rite” is “antiphonal singing” which dates to the fourth century. If this variation is used a psalm is sung by alternating verses between a cantor and choir or congregation.)

Upon entering the sanctuary or presbyterium, the priest and ministers kiss the altar – a gesture of reverence acknowledging the altar as the symbol of Christ. The priest then leads the people in making the sign of the cross. This signing symbolizes two beliefs central to Christianity: God is one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we are his people saved in, with and through Christ. Our signing ourselves with the cross proclaims our belonging to Christ and our faith in Christ as the way to share in the life of God and the way to establishing a true human community on earth the Kingdom of God.

One of the earliest references to the sign of the cross is found in the writings of Tertullian (c. 160 -220) “At every forward step and movement, at every going in and out, when we put on our clothes and shoes – in all the ordinary actions of everyday life, we trace the sign of the cross.”

Mass begins by this invocation of the triune God, praises God in, with, and through Christ and ends as the celebration begins – with a blessing involve over the people in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Pius Agyeman, SVD

“My peace I give to you



is the peace that the world cannot give”