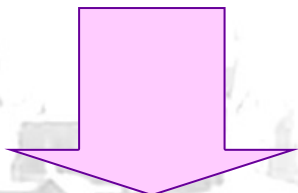




DIVINE WORD NOVITIATE NKWATIA-KWAHU GHANA PROVINCE

NOVITIATE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER, CHRISTMAS EDITION, 2011 ISSUE NO.3

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Good News and Sacred Places!

So quickly, time is passing! Why do I say this?

It is already a year since the first issue of our Novitiate Newsletter was born. Since then, we have tried to furnish you our beloved confreres, friends, family and benefactors with news concerning us in our novitiate community. Indeed, many of you have shown keen interest in our vocation and community here. This spurs us on, to continue to do our best in our life and programme here.

Another Christmas season is just at the corner. As we look forward to it with enlightened hopes, we cannot help but also to be engulfed by the air of good news that surrounds the season - all because of Christ our savior. Indeed, a number of good things, and for that matter, good news, occurred for our community. Some of these you will ascertain as you read the articles following.

As the year ends, we look back to see that the Lord's hands have indeed been with us and led us through the harsh times of the drought in February. Whenever I pass the well that was our salvation, with us carting drums or gallons of water for our survival, it has become for me personally, one of my sacred places that God has used to show his saving love to our community. As this year ends and we begin a new one, we want to wish you all our esteemed readers, God's rich blessings of abundant peace and goodwill.

And may you all have your eyes, but more especially, your hearts opened to the many good things that God has in stock for us all. And please, do not overlook your sacred places of encounter with the Lord! Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2012!

Fr. George Angmor, SVD
(Director of Novices)

A New Canonical Year Begins

This canonical year 2011/2012 began on the 7th July, 2011 with Rev. Frs. George Clement Angmor and Rafael Mesi as Director of Novices and Assistant Director of Novices respectively; and Br. Anthony Lawer, is In residence. There are currently 13 novices; six from Ghana, one from Zambia and two each from Togo, Benin and Kenya respectively. Two of the novices are brother candidates. A fourteenth one from Zambia opted out after less than two months.

On that day, we were officially received into the novitiate and invested with cassocks in a private ceremony conducted by Rev. Fr. George Clement Angmor, SVD, the Novice Director.

Earlier in the day, there was a recollection for us. In his reflections, Fr. George urged us to see the novitiate programme as a necessary step to the religious life. He encouraged us to wear the cassocks to proclaim the good news. He also advised us to seize the opportunities offered by the novitiate to develop and improve upon our many practical skills and nourish our vocation.

At this point, the challenge is double for the missionaries to be, that we are. The core reasons read that we would like to become not only a priest, but a religious missionary priest. It drew our attention on the challenge... *"We should become a priest or a brother with difference."*

In connection with the above, PRAYER is like the crutches of every vocation, especially for the missionaries to be. Therefore, prayer and spirituality are linked, and the religious life depends on the quality of our personal spirituality. It appears henceforth that without grounding foundation, we will become empty religious. Here, the challenges resound higher: if we take the foundation of spirituality for granted, our spirituality will be watered at the least storm.

On the other hand, by our WORK, we cooperate in the co-creation of God the Creator. Referred to as our duty, our work should be dedicated to a higher and noble purpose. As continuation of God's creation, we have to work. Highly important, it is a fact that our work contributes to human dignity.

In a nutshell, ORA ET LABORA summarizes well in Latin, our purpose in the novitiate, besides the first goal of Community life. Through this initial retreat, we have been energized for our one-year novitiate time, in the areas of community, spirituality and human development. To some extent, the challenges that the missionaries to be should take up, are also very relevant and noble.

The more we take advantage from our novitiate time, the more capable we should be to face the religious -SVD- life in the near future.



Novices pose after the investiture

Our Initial Retreat

By: Valentin Lissassi

On Thursday, 22nd July 2011, we had our initial retreat, which focused our attention on what should be the purpose and challenge of us all as new novices at that time. It was under the direction of Br. McDaniel AQUAAH, SVD.

In the introduction, he laid emphasis on the reasons why we came into the Novitiate. Sounding like a warning, it is a fact that Novitiate-time is the foundation of every religious life, and therefore, it is worthy to be made successful and fruitful. Among the given talks, the frame appears as: COMMUNITY LIFE, PRAYER, and WORK.

Reflecting on the first part, it appeared that religious community is characterized by a founder's charism or vision.

"The missionary who does not pray is less effective and unhappy."

St. Arnold Janssen

Christmas at Last!

By: Anthony Musonda

Every year we celebrate the coming of Jesus into this world. For us Catholics we are blessed, in the sense that we are invited by Mother church to prepare ourselves before we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have four weeks of waiting and preparing our hearts, which is the place of this baby Jesus to be born in our hearts. Some people understand Christmas as the season to do business or to eat or drink and others the period to spend time with families or their loved ones.

Christmas is a celebration of the Divine Word becoming flesh and making home among us (Jn 1:1). This is the fulfillment of God's promise that He is always with us, Emmanuel. What a joy to see that the promise of God to send his only begotten son to leave His glorious heavenly home to come to live with us. Through our beloved Mother Mary, Jesus is born, who is both Divine and human. This is fulfilled as we celebrate the birthday of Jesus. In the history of the human person, the humankind has fallen short of the glory of God. We need the saviour to come and save us from the punishment. Jesus our redeemer has experienced every experience that we have undergone, be it pain or suffering.

Christmas is the feast when we are called to reflect deeply on three types of relationships. The first is the relationship with our Triune God. The second is relationship with our fellow human beings and the third is a relationship with ourselves. We are invited to reflect about our relationship with our God. God is love and we are invited to share this love with those we need our love. Furthermore, we are called to transform hatred into love, selfishness to intimacy and affection.

We can see that third type of relationship is about ourselves. We become aware of ourselves and fully understand ourselves better. That is having the power to transform our weakness to strengths, frustration to achievement and happiness.

The joy of Christmas will not be complete without mentioning the joy of sharing love and gifts with our loved ones and enemies as well. That is why each year when the festival season approaches people start preparing gifts. These practices of gift-giving symbolize the greatest gift of God to us. That is His son, is born to us and for us, He has brought Light, Love, peace and joy to the humankind. Henceforth, our challenge is that each year we celebrate Christmas; we eat, dance and spend time with our loved ones. We give or receive gifts. But the greatest gift we can give is the Divine Word to others that is the word for salvation.

Jesus who is the Divine Word dwell among us and we

ought to share with others who have not received Him or heard about Him or have abandoned the faith in Him.

In conclusion, Christmas is not just a day or eating nice food or buying expensive clothes or shoes. However, Christmas is the feast of sharing the joy of salvation through Jesus who is born in our hearts. As we share our material things, we also remember those people who cannot give us anything; because there is more joy in giving gifts to the people who cannot give us in return. May the joy of Christmas and the love of the Triune God be always with us!

Merry Christmas and a fruitful New Year

The Meaning of Christmas

By: Stephen Osei Asante

C stands for Christ. If we leave him out of Christmas, it is like celebrating a wedding without the groom.

H stands for the hope he gives us. Hope for a life without end.

R stands for the revolution he began turning hate to love, war to peace, and everyone into everyone's neighbour.

I stand for Israel, the land where he was born. But it also stands for me. Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem, but it would be all in vain unless He is born in me.

S stands for salvation He brought. Those who lived in darkness saw a great light.

T stands for Thanks. Thanks to the Father for the gift of His Son. The best way to say thanks is to make room for Him in our hearts.

M stands for Mary who brought him forth. She will help to bring him to birth in us also.

A stands for the Angels who at his birth sang: 'Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to his people on earth.'

S stands for the Star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. Now Christ is the star that we follow. His light will guide us through the night until the Son of eternal day dawns upon us.

Culled from The Curate's Diary, Power for Living, December, 2010

Novitiate and Religious Formation

By: Frank Quainoo

The Novitiate is a stage or step in formation that distinguishes the religious (priest) from the Diocesan priest. It is a stage approved by the church for all who are going through religious formation. This stage has a span of one or two years depending on the religious congregation; it is appropriately called a canonical year.

This year is always preceded by postulancy, where the aspirant goes through observation and the candidate also, taking the opportunity to familiarise himself/herself with some of the common activities of the congregation. It is only after one has successfully satisfies this condition, then he/she can be recommended to the novitiate upon his application; in order to eschew coercion. The novitiate, ideally speaking provides a conducive and congenial ambience for the novice who is preparing to become a member to discern well his vocation through prayer, reflection and guidance by the Director(s).

Consequently, series of inputs and courses are

are organized to assist the novice in his/her discernment process. This will include the Constitutions, which regulates the Society so that he/she acquaints him/herself with the needs and demands, the mission of the congregation, its spirituality, its founder(s), among others.

This level is free from academic works to some extent. It's an opportune time for the novice to build up an intimate relationship with God and have his own experience of who God is; to read as many spiritual books as possible to resource him/herself for the work ahead; read Bible commentaries and other materials to embellish his/her Bible knowledge.

Last but not the least, an in depth explanation of the evangelical councils- chastity, poverty and obedience; and how they are lived in the society is placed at the doorstep of the novice. This is to help him or her to make an informed and matured decision at the end of the novitiate.

For me, the novitiate is a stage, which well embraced adds value to one's religious calling and broadens his/her perspective of religious life.



STAYING IN THE NOVITIATE FOR LESS THAN TWO MONTHS : MY EXPERIRNCE

By: Gabriel Msimuko

On 27th of September 2011, Gabriel Msimuko, a former novice from Zambia voluntarily opted out of the novitiate to join the Diocese in Zambia. Before he left, the Editorial Board asked him to share his experience with us. We bring you an excerpt.

I want to share my experience in my novitiate (SVD Novitiate Ghana).

I spent only one month and some weeks and then decided to quit.

Novitiate is a lovely place that someone who wants to be religious can be. My first month was like hell on earth for me. I felt out of place despite the support and love given. I begun to ask myself is it everyone who is struggling like me? I asked some. However, they had their own stories to tell. I was always trying to prove the rightness of the novice master's comment that the novitiate is the best place a religious can be and others have said that too. For me it was not true.

The novitiate is a place of prayer so I increased my time of prayer and tried to reflect a lot. Then what was coming was that I was at the wrong place, I was not to become a religious. This led me to share with the novice master, I shared all I had gone through and why I think I am at the wrong place. Time was given for prayer and I made a decision to quit. After communicating my decision to stop to the novice master I had peace and everything started making sense. I had a week to stay before going back to Zambia. This was a lovely week; I enjoyed and saw why the novitiate is a good place to be. Those who feel that they are called to be religious have to use their time very well in the novitiate and indeed they will find out that truly the novitiate is a lovely place to be. Sad that I left, but it is always good to do the right thing and not bring distraction. Thanks to the novice masters and the novices for the support, guidance and care I received.

“I am a religious missionary priest and will not think of being anything else”- Bishop Frank Nubuasah, SVD

As part of the forth-coming 25th anniversary of the Divine Word Novitiate in September 2012, the Editorial Board of the Divine Word Novitiate (EB) interviewed Most Rev. Frank Nubuasah, SVD, (BFN) the Bishop of Francistown, Botswana. He is the first SVD Ghanaian Novice Director.

ED: My Lord, who is Bishop Frank Nubuasah?

BFN: I am a Divine Word Missionary. I was born on June 1949 at Likpe- Agbosome in the Volta Region of Ghana to Mr. Joseph Nubuasah and Mrs. Dorah Nubuasah all of blessed memory. We were eight in the family, four boys and four girls but one died. I am the fourth child of my parents but the first boy in the family. They are all married, except one of my sisters, Sr. Augusta Nubuasah, who is a religious sister of the Handmaid of the Divine Redeemer(HDR) working in Ghana. I had my elementary school at Likpe- Agbosome and secondary education at Kadjebi. I was ordained as Divine Word missionary priest in 1980.

EB: Your Grace, what motivated you to become a religious priest?

BFN: (He smiled) My desire to become a priest goes back to my youth. After my secondary School, I visited my cousin who was working in Accra at the Catholic Printing Press managed by the SVD. That was the first time I came into contact with the SVD. Four Rev. Brothers were working in the Catholic Press; two of them were young Ghanaian SVD Brothers. I was so impressed with the joy and fulfillment, which they expressed in their vocation and work. I asked my cousin who the Brothers were. He told me what he knew of the SVD and gave me the name and address of the Vocation Director. The next day, I visited the vocation director with my application letter to become an SVD to share the joy and inner peace I experienced in the young Brothers I met at the Catholic Press. I was admitted to begin my formation.

EB: Your Grace kindly tell us about your formation background.

BFN: I attended St. Victor's Major Seminary, Tamale in Ghana from 1973 to 1980 where I did both my philosophy and theology there. From 1975 to 1976, I did my novitiate. On 26th July 1980, I was ordained as a Divine world religious missionary priest.

EB: My Lord, after your ordination where did you work and which ministry?

BFN: After my ordination, I was appointed to work in Botswana in the southern part of Africa as one of the initial group of four SVD missionaries to start working in the country. I learned Setswana the national language and was posted to Maun where I worked for 8 years. While in Maun, my main task was primary evangelization of introducing Jesus to the people and people to Jesus. I was to help establish the Church in Maun and its surrounding villages and towns. In 1988, I was recalled to Ghana to assist in the formation of novices.

EB: How is your missionary life experiences in Botswana? Any Challenges and joys as a Ghanaian and SVD bishop there.

BFN: Looking back, I have enjoyed being a priest and will not think of being anything else. There is so much challenge and fulfillment in the life of the priest that the many frustrations that come with the ministry pale into nothingness. In Botswana, many people are hearing of Christ for the first time and old people becoming Christians after they follow their children to meet Christ. In addition to that, I spend an immense amount of time engaged and committed to dealing with issues related to AIDS, orphans and refugees and I believe that the Church faces many challenges as a result of this pandemic and which I must work to overcome the stigma and discrimination caused by the illness.

EB: My Lord you were once the Novice Director here in the Novitiate, what year was that?

BFN: Before my appointment as the Novice Director, I went for studies for two years. When I returned home, I was appointed as the director of the novices from 1992 until I was appointed Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Francistown in 1998.

EB: Your Grace, as the Director of the Novices, what were some of the challenges you experienced?

BFN: My main task as the director was to introduce young men to the life and vision of the Society of the Divine Word. Another challenge was feeding the novices; it was not easy task feeding the novices to be energetic.

Continued on page 8

NOVITIATE COMMUNITY MEMBERS, 2011-2012

MISSION STATEMENT

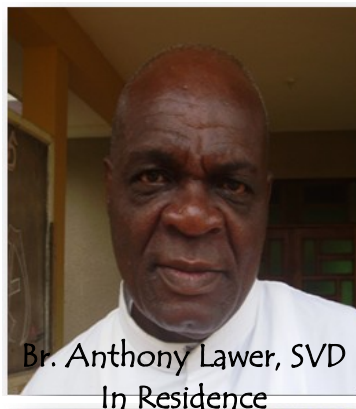
*Living in LOVE through humility and OBEDIENCE as brothers in the mission of the SVD;
we extend the love of CHRIST to creation.*



Fr. George Angmor, SVD
Novice Director



Fr. Rafael Mesi, SVD
Assist. Novice Director



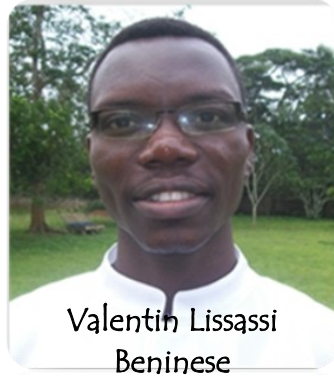
Br. Anthony Lawer, SVD
In Residence



Cyriaque Sonou
Beninese



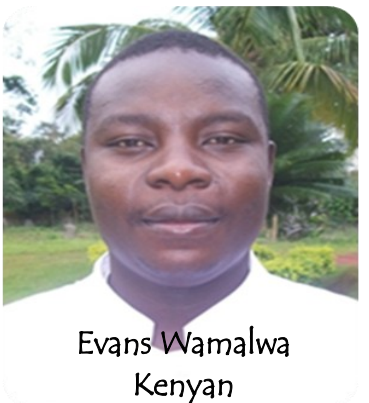
Frank Quainoo
Ghanaian



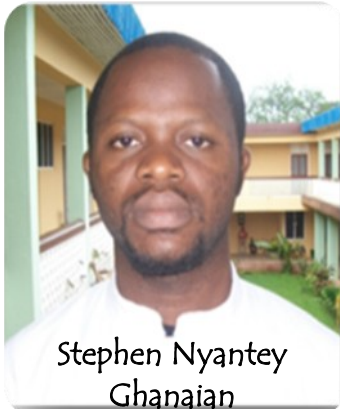
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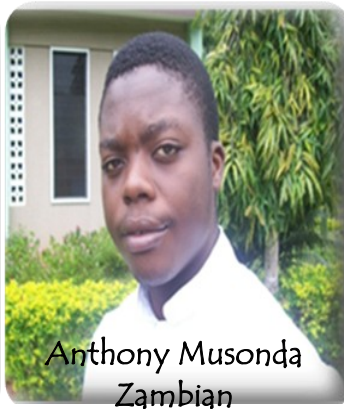
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Godwin Valentine Gatefe
Ghanaian



Alex Omondi
Kenyan



Daniel Tengué
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Ghanaian



Matthew Koudada
Togolese



Stephen Osei Asante
Ghanaian

2011

VISION STATEMENT

In LOVE, we win the WORLD

2012

What we do in the Novitiate

By: Stephen Osei Asante

Religious life begins with the novitiate year. It is a period of training and preparation that a novice or the prospective member of a religious order or congregation undergoes before committing oneself to the life of vows, in order to discern whether they are called to the religious life or not. In other words, it is the threshold between secular life and vows. "The novitiate begins on the day when the novice is officially accepted in to the community in with a private simple ceremony" (SVD Constitutions 512.4)

"To be valid the novitiate must be spent in a house duly designated for the purpose." (SVD Constitutions 512.3) We are located at Nkwatia - Kwahu in the Eastern Region, in the Catholic Diocese of Koforidua, Ghana. The novice master directs the novitiate; however, the provincial superior with the consent of his council can appoint one or two assistants. (SVD Constitutions 512.5) In the novitiate here, the Director of Novice is Fr. George Angmor, SVD, and assisted by Fr. Rafael Mesi, SVD. The novices may spend one or more periods of time away from the novitiate home to engage in activities, which fall in the scope of our Society (SVD Constitutions 512.6).

Our program lasts for at least twelve full calendar months, but not more than two years. In the Ghana Province, it is for one year and during this one year, we have inputs, workshops, seminars given by experts in the various fields. A typical day of a novice could be divided into, *prayer; class/inputs, manual work and sports*. The activities we engage in the house include:

Prayer; as the centre of our life. This we do through our daily Eucharist Mass and community prayers; meditation on the Scriptures; spiritual reading and exercises; Bible sharing, faith sharing-New Testament way of Christian living. We do have Holy hour and Benediction every Saturday and Sunday respectively. In addition to that, we have perpetual adoration every last Saturday of the month. That is praying before the Blessed Sacrament throughout the night, by taking turns until Mass the following morning.

Retreat and Recollection: This helps us in our spiritual journey to know the will of God. It also helps us in our discernment to become a religious missionary priest/brother. We have these important retreats throughout our canonical year.

Initial retreat- A retreat before our investiture.

Monthly Recollections- It is done at the end of every month.

30 Day Retreat Journey: This is the climax of the Novitiate. It is an intensive spiritual exercise to discern and / or renew our "commitments" to Christ. A short Retreat before Vows- This is a period of strengthening the "commitment" we will make to Christ.

Manual work: As religious to be, we work towards more self-reliance. We produce some of the food we eat; we store what we cannot eat and share what we have with others. In our farm, we cultivate maize, cassava, plantain, banana, sweet potatoes etc. Furthermore, we also have palm plantation, vegetable garden, orchards of different kinds of fruits. We also have some animals such as sheep, goats, rabbits and free range fowls. We do cook on Sundays, it is not a task; it is an art to learn and to develop. As a community, we also take personal initiatives to improve the life of our community. In our conferences, we study the History, Constitutions and Charism of the Society and Christian spirituality.

Personal reflection; psychological support; spiritual direction; fraternal correction are always at our disposal for self formation.

Sports: We exercise our bodies to make us strong. This we do every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesdays and Fridays, we play football and Wednesdays, volleyball.

To conclude, the novitiate is one full calendar year. A novitiate is a year we are bound to inculcate within our minds and hearts the yearnings of Jesus Christ and establishes a well-grounded vocation to deepen our understanding of our divine vocation and our vocation to the society of the Divine Word.

It is stated that this period serves to mature and clarify a vocation. It provides a basic introduction to the following of Christ as outlined in the life and spirituality of the Society and in our Constitutions; thus it leads one to follow him in an ever-deeper way. Through a living union with the Divine Word and through life in community, a novice should come to understand himself more clearly and know our society better so that he may make a fundamental mature responsible decision about his vocation. (SVD Constitutions 512)

My First Mission Sunday Experience in Ghana

By: Alex Omondi

The beauty of Mission Sunday always climaxes with a feeling of encouragement and appreciation in missionaries in their various missions. The papal message, though one, the reactions seem to diversify the extent in which the Word of God has gotten into the people and the urgency by which it is needed to be received by others. With the grace of God, I have been lucky to witness and compare two Mission Sunday experiences; from my home country Kenya and here in Ghana. To avoid talking of two different things as though they were one, I would rather prefer to introduce a new conception of Mission Sunday here and this would be in its “loose” and “strict sense”.

Mission Sunday in its loose sense would imply a day observed by the Catholic Church every fourth Sunday of October, to enable her faithful to pray for missionaries and their mission all over the world and to conscientised as to their own roles as missionaries in whatever state of life they are. This is the Mission Sunday celebration in Kenya with a little improvisation from various vocation promotion teams seeking to make known their presence and search for “fresh blood” for their various missionary institutions. In this case, we can notice that very little is ever

achieved to strengthen the “old blood”, the already practicing soldiers of Christ.

However, if mission Sunday indeed do exist in its strictest sense, then my experience at the Ghanaian celebration would simply express this enthusiasm. Even without any labourious explanation on the essence of mission Sunday, the jubilation and appreciation I witnessed in the Christian community here was enough to energize a religious with new spirit and pedal him/her to seek more the kingdom of God. I realised for the first time in my life at St. Margaret Mary Parish at Dansoman, that dedication and service to the Divine Word is not merely a sacrifice but rather a grace to be treasured, nurtured, tamed and celebrated, not only by the lay Christian community but by one self. The “thank you” and “I pray for you” were a clear indication to me that God did not only call me but He also assured me of acceptance. If this was to be the case with all mission Sunday celebrations all over the world, then there would be no need to observe it every fourth Sunday of October since this one would suffice for all eternity!

“I am a religious missionary priest and will not think of being anything else.”-Bishop Frank Nubuashah, SVD

Continued from page 5

The third challenge was letting the Provincial Administration at the time to accept that the parents of the novices have a part to play. That is the parents to visit the novitiate to see what their sons are doing. Thanks now the parents visit you every year.

EB: My Lord, how many times have you visited the novitiate and whenever you visit this place what memories come to mind?

BFN: This is my second time; the first visit was in 1998. Many things have changed. There are new facilities, also the nice paintings of the building. The environment looks beautiful and the numbers of rooms has increased.

EB: My Lord, next year, the novitiate will be 25 years old, what message do you have for us and the formation personnel in Ghana and AFRAM as a whole?

BFN: My message to the novices is that the spirit of teamwork is very important in formation to grow as a community. Also, make good use of this period that has been given to you by the Society. Do not let it slip through your hands. You should encourage yourselves to be responsible in formation. The habit of reading should be part of you as this will broaden your horizon. For the formation personnel, I will say they should keep up the good work in forming our future generation.

EB: My Lord, we express our gratitude to you for granting us audience.

BFN: You are welcome.

APPRECIATIONS

The Novice Directors and the Novices of the Divine Word Novitiate, Nkwatia- Kwahu, Ghana, would like to express its profound gratitude to the following personalities who facilitated various courses and retreats for us:

* Br. McDaniel Acquaaah, SVD, Initial Retreat -22nd -24th July

* Sr. Diana Ofosu, SSpS, Input on Health and First Aid", 17th July

* Fr. Francis Osei, a Canonist and Lecturer at St. Peter's Regional Seminary, Cape Coast, Input on Religious life and the canon law 1st-5th August

* Fr. Vincent Owusu, SVD, Director, Institute for Continuing Formation, Cape Coast- Input on Liturgical Life in the Novitiate, 15th -19th August

* Msgnr. Alex Bobby-Benson, Director, Matthew 25- Input on Family Genogram

* Br. Nee Wayo, Director, Diocesan Pastoral Training and Social Centre, Goaso- Input on Self Awareness and directed September monthly recollection- 19th- 23rd September

*Sr. Martha Anobaah, Directress, National Catholic Counselling Centre, Kumasi- Input on Community Dynamics, 10th - 14th October

* Fr. Andrew Campbell, SVD, Parish Priest, Christ the King, Accra for directing our October Recollection, 28th -29th October

* Fr. Francis Mastan, SVD, Inputs on Dei Verbum, 14th -19th November

* Fr. John Strathoff, SVD, Parish Priest, Sts. Peter and Paul, Accra- directed Advent Recollection- 24th -25th November

* Sr. Rita Michael, SSpS, Input on Forms of Prayer, 27th Nov.-, 3rd December

God bless you all and all your intentions

UP COMING EVENTS

23rd December, Carols Night

JANUARY

16-17; Sacred Liturgical Music with Br. Pius Agyemang, SVD

FEBRUARY

30th Jan., - 4th February; Inputs on Religious and their Families by Most Rev. Vincent Boi- Nai, SVD

10th - 12th; Parents' Visit

25th February, beginning of 30-Day Retreat

MARCH

28th; End of 30-Day Retreat

WHO VISITED US?

We are very grateful to the following confreres, sisters and lay faithful who passed by to see how we are doing:

* Fr. John Alphonse Asiedu, SVD, Prefect, CFC, Tamale, Ghana, 22nd July

* Fr. Andrew Obeng Aboagye, SVD, Parochial Vicar, St. Margret Mary Parish, Dansoman, 23rd July

* Bishop Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, SVD, Bishop of Donkokrom, 26th July and many other times

* Sr. Perpetual Adarkwah, SSpS, Holy Family, Nkawkaw, 29th July

* Sr. Nelsi Maria Stroher, SSpS, Kwahu Tafo for directing recollection for our final vows brothers, 29th-30th July

* Br. Pius Agyemang, SVD, for directing retreat for our final vows brothers, 6th-12th August

* Sr. Mishael Rita, SSpS, for personal retreat, 7th August

* Fr. Joseph Frimpong Anorkwah, SVD, 8th August. Fr. the Novitiate Community wishes you well in your priestly ministry.

* Fr. Edward Tetteh Angmor, SVD, working in US Chicago, for sharing your experience of missionary assignments. Your experience made us see the pressing need for missionaries in all parts of the world, 25th August

* Sr. Mercy Assan, HDR, 1st-4th September

* Fr. Matthias Felber, SVD, Parish Priest, Ekye Amanfrom and his accompanied German volunteer. 21st September

* Fr. Dioniosis Kopong Ola, SVD, St. Joseph's Parish, Kintampo, 19th Septemehr

* Bishop Frank Nubuasah, SVD, Bishop of Francistown, Botswana, 27th September

* Sr. Tarcildis Westerhoff, SSpS, Kwahu Tafo, for personal retreat-1st-7th October

* Miss Rita Angmor, at St. Dominic's Parish, Koforidua, 3rd-11th October

* Fr. Peter Accorley, SVD, Togo-Benin Provincial, 25th October

* Fr. Michael Obeng Shang, SVD, working in Colombia, who is on home leave for sharing your missionary experiences with us, 2nd-5th Nov

* Fr. Thomas D'Mello, SVD, 13th Nov.

* Br. Apolonius Bria, SVD, St. Paul's Technical, Kukurantumi, 2nd-4th December

Thank you for coming, please come again!

NOVITIATE NEWS FILE!!! NOVITIATE NEWS FILE!!!

* Sixteen young men professed their first vows on 8th July, 2011 at St. Peter's Chapel. They have since been sent to other parts of the world for their theological studies. There are two each in Germany, USA, and the Philippines respectively; one is studying in DR Congo; one in Kenya; one in brother formation, Tesano; one at the SVD Guest house, and the rest are in Tamale, Ghana. Brothers, we wish you success in your theological studies and apostolate.

* 15th August, 2011, four fraters responded "YES" to the call of the Lord to follow him for their rest of their lives through their profession of final vows. Congratulations Frs. Augustine, Emmanuel, John-Pierre, and Laurent-Pierre.

* To help spread the message of His Holiness, Benedict XVI, the novitiate community responded freely to the invitation of some of the SVD confreres working in Accra to share with the faithful in the parish. This year's theme was: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." We divided ourselves into four groups and were assigned to different parishes and out-stations run by the SVD. Some went to Sts. Peter and Paul, New Aplaku, St. Karol, a new outstation of Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Peter's, Torkuse, St. Luke, Ashaiman, and some remained at the main parish, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Dansoman. The Friends of the SVD welcomed us joyfully and provided food and offertory gifts for us. They also offered us some cash donations to support our community. We thank them and our confreres for giving us the opportunity to promote missions.

* The Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the elements of the Spirituality of our Society. The Directors and the Novices had the opportunity to attend the Eighth National Congress of the Sacred Heart of Jesus held at Pope John's Minor and Senior High School, Koforidua from 18th-22nd July, 2011 on the theme: *Understanding the Eucharist through the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Living this Devotion in our Daily lives especially in our families.* Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us.

* The Novitiate Community attended this year's SVD ordination of Rev. Frs. Samuel Adu, Edmund Deku, Joseph Anorkwah, Eugene Agyapong, Emmanuel Anyomi, Albert Ziem; and Augustine Asante, a diocesan priest at St. George's Cathedral, Koforidua. The officiating bishop was Most Rev. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD. It was concelebrated by Bishop Joseph Afrifah- Agyekum, Bishop of Koforidua Diocese, Fr. Thomas D'Mello, SVD, Provincial Superior and many other priests. Frs. Joseph, Albert, Edmund, Samuel, Eugene, Emmanuel and Augustine, we wish you well in your priestly ministry.

24 YEARS AGO.....

From the Novitiate Archives

25th August 1987, two of the expected three seminarians to enter the novitiate that year arrived. They were Daniel Lenwah and Joseph Djabare. Francis Mensah, the third one did not come.

7th September 1987, the new novitiate premise (where we are now) was blessed. It was officiated by the then Provincial, Fr. Michael Blume, SVD, and Nkwatiahene, Nana Atuobi Yiadom cut the ribbons. On that same day was the first vows of Br. Anthony Lawer Djimatey, Anthony Darko-Mensah, Frs. Emmanuel Kwaku Akoeso, and Patrick Anson-Anomah.

9th October 1987, Br. Charles Ashun, the first SVD Ghanaian Brother to be sent to a mission outside Ghana visited the Community for a short visit.

16th November 1987, Monsignor Pius Kpeglo was the first Diocesan priest who visited the new novitiate.

4th December 1987, Very Rev. Frs: Peter McHugh (From Generate and in Charge of Formation ;) Herman Wigten (in Charge of Justice and Peace) together with Patrick Moroney and Vincent Owusu visited the Novitiate. Fr. Peter McHugh encouraged the then novices to be good and be personally committed to their future Society. On his part, Fr. Wigten admonished them to reflect on their future missionary task in solidarity with the poor.

WHO SHOULD BE BLAMED?

Sometimes in our daily lives, we take many things for granted. One says that he or she will not do this or that because there is somebody responsible for it. But if we do not take care of the situation we would come to see that nobody does what should be done.

Look at this: A story is told of four young people named *Everybody*, *Somebody*, *Anybody* and *Nobody*. There was an important job to be done and *Everybody* was sure *Somebody* would do it. *Somebody* got angry about that because it was *everybody's* job. *Everybody* thought *Anybody* could do it but *Nobody* realised that *Everybody* wouldn't do it. It ended up that *Everybody* blamed *Somebody* when *Nobody* did what *Anybody* could have done.

What is your position? Do you identify with one of this four people? And what will be your stance from now going?

NOVITIATE PICTURE GALLERY! NOVITIATE PICTURE GALLERY!!



Bishop Nubuasah with the Novitiate Community



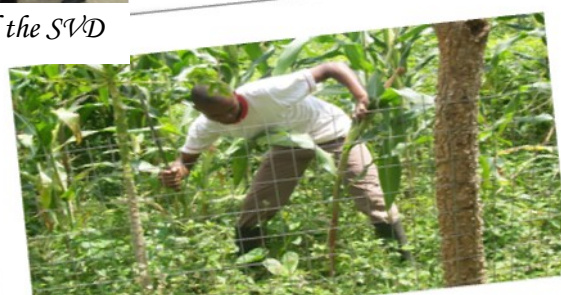
Oh! So they can prepare fufu



Novitiate Community with the Friends of the SVD



Novitiate Community with the Friends of the Novitiate



See how a novice is weeding in a maize farm

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BECOME A :

RELIGIOUS PRIEST SVD
RELIGIOUS BROTHER SVD
RELIGIOUS SISTER SSpS
ADORATION SISTER SSpSAP
(SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION)

OR
AS A LAY AFFILIATE

FRIEND OF THE SVD (FoS)
SSpS ASSOCIATE (SA)
EX-SVD (XVD)

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PRAYER FOR THE 17TH SVD GENERAL CHAPTER
THEME: FROM EVERY NATION, PEOPLE AND
LANGUAGE: SHARING INTERCULTURAL LIFE AND
MISSION

All provident Father, source of Life and Love,
you sent your Son to reconcile humanity with yourself and to
unite in peace all people divided by walls of indifference and
hatred, arrogance and intolerance.

Through the guiding light of the Holy Spirit, you have called
us from among peoples of diverse nations and
languages to share in your universal mission of gathering
humankind into your Trinitarian communion.

Nourish us and our mission partners in our commitment to
proclaim the challenge and solace of the Divine Word to all
-especially to the poor and marginalized, to the migrants in
search of refuge, and to the young in search of meaning.

Mary, our Mother, intercede for us, that we may remain
faithful and creative disciples of your Son.

Saints Arnold and Joseph, Together with our Blessed
martyrs and with Blessed Maria Helena and Josefa,
intercede for our Society so that our 17th General
Chapter may bear fruit in better sharing of intercultural life
among us and intercultural bridge-building among peoples of
our time. Amen!

SPORTS CORNER with Stephen Nyantey***Let them Come !***

A healthy mind lives in a healthy body. Exercise is one of the fundamental ways to keeping the body healthy and strong. Among many other things, playing of football and volleyball are some of the ways of ensuring that we the novices remain in good health all the time here in the Novitiate. Over the past four months since we arrived, we have had series of encounters mainly in football with some teams in and around the novitiate community.

To begin with, our first encounter which was to reveal to us our ability, capability, strength and the like was fiercely battled with the Catholic Students of St. Peter's Senior High School. At the end of that match, we the novices emerged victorious by four goals to two.

Our next encounter was on Mission Sunday with our Catholic Youth of St. Margret Mary Parish, Dansoman. Just in the first quarter of the first half, we were down with a lone goal. With the help of our Coach, Fr. Rafael Mesi, and our Technical Man, Fr. George Angmor, we changed our game plan to the surprise of our opponents who were just running up and down. Not long, we equalized and added more goals. At the end, we again came out with victorious with the score line being 4-1.

Just a few weeks after the Youths of St. Margret Mary Parish had suffered at our hands, the youth of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at Nkwatia also dared to invite us for another football match. You cannot believe this. We loaded them with just count on 1,2,3,4,...11 goals to only one. Hey; don't think that we paraded players like the Asamoah Gyans, Dede Ayews; we are just "Holy Novices."

Please my dear reader be careful and do not read this very paragraph aloud for it is a top secret... Look our Novice Director Rev. Fr. George Angmor, SVD, is into serious consultation with the Provincial to see the possibility of giving some of us out as a loan on contract for 13 novices to any good football club if it will not affect our canonical year here in the novitiate.

Well at this point, I would like to extend a word of appreciation to all who made it possible for us to interact with our brothers through the game of football most especially the Novice Director Fr. George Angmor, the Assistant Novice Director who also doubled as our coach Fr. Rafael Mesi, Friends of the SVD, Dansoman and the Youth of St. Margret Mary Parish, Dansoman. We say ayekoo to you all.

Finally, we would want to put on record that we are planning to have our next match with the school team of St. Peter's Senior High School.

The date, time and venue will be announced later but shout joyfully with us as we say.... Let them come!!!



Novitiate team with the Catholic Students team of St. Peter's Senior High before the match



Novitiate team pose with the St. Margaret Mary team before the match