



MAY 2016

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# THE LOVE OF CHRIST IMPELS US (2 COR 5:14): ROOTED IN THE WORD, COMMITTED TO HIS MISSION

## FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

Dear Confreres,

By now, you might have all received Fr. Superior General's special letter on the *preparations towards the forthcoming 18<sup>th</sup> General Chapter* scheduled for 2018. The theme for the 2018 Chapter is: ***"The Love of Christ Impels us"*** (2Cor 5:14); ***Rooted in His Word, Committed to His Mission.***

We are all encouraged to devise means to familiarise ourselves with the theme of the 2018 Chapter, to pray with it and to study it on daily basis. Thanks to Scrabble, which I loved playing while in my early schooling, I always have the habit of devising mnemonics to ease my studies. So, with my usual learning strategy, I would, for example write "LOCIS" or "TLOCIS" to aid my memory of the entire words that constitute the 2018 GENERAL CHAPTER THEME: ***The Love of Christ Impels us; Rooted in His Word, Committed to His Mission.***

Well that is my way of making an effort to remember the theme and use it in my daily meditation and prayer. Please share with the confreres in your community your personal way of familiarising yourself with the *theme for the 2018 General Chapter.*

As mentioned by Fr. General, the theme was arrived at, after considering the various suggestions from confreres across all the Provinces, Regions and Missions (PRMs). I see much of my own link and contribution to this theme through the discussions held on the subject in some of our Accra district meetings last year. I do believe that many of you also feel likewise. Now that the theme has been finalised, I suggest that we all use it during our community reflections, prayers, and the like. The guided questions that came along could be of immense help. We have already received at the Provincialate, responses from some of the districts. I appreciate the fact that some good discussions seem to be ongoing already in some of our communities. It is my hope that this will not stop with our district communal reflections but will be an on-going inspiration to our own witnessing as Religious of the Divine Word from now and beyond the General Chapter in 2018.

Whether it is our theme for the 2018 Chapter or the exhortations of Pope Francis on the Year of Consecrated Life, one idea keeps prompting me to action, and to self-renewal, an idea I have mentioned and shared severally with most of you... ***"What motivated me to become an SVD and for that matter, a religious and a missionary?" "Can I be and remain a living religious and missionary, bringing the GOODNEWS of a trustworthy Christ-encounter even to my Confrere, here in my Community today?"***

I believe that there can be no better genuine motivation save "the love of Christ" which St Paul summarises for us. A true love of, and for Christ will inspire our perseverance in the face of challenges, such as obstructions, discouragement and moments of feeling helpless and hope - 'less'. It is a love that enables us to have the spirit of Christ Himself and lead to a *kenosis* or a self-offering of the ego; a genuine *agape* love that fires our hearts to reach out to our brothers and sisters, especially, the marginalised in society for whom by our SVD Constitutions (112) inspire us to love and serve.

As we seek renewed commitment to our lives in preparation towards the 18<sup>th</sup> General Chapter and beyond, we should note that this commitment is only possible when we turn to ***The Word***, the Divine Word, albeit, aided by the words of our Constitutions. May we be truly rooted in this Word and be wholeheartedly committed to His Mission!

**George C. Angmor, SVD**

## **Arrivals**

- Fr. Hans-Gerber Makafui Agbenafa, who was in Venezuela arrived on transfer to the province. He is assigned to St. Augustine's Parish, Ashaiman. You are welcome Bro!
- Fr. Mariusz Pacula returned after attending the Nemi Program and his deserved vacation. Welcome Back!
- Fr. Gabriel Sosu [ZIM] arrived for his home leave. Welcome home!
- Fr. Elorm Akpatsa [PHS ] arrived for his vacation and to bury his late father.

## **Departure**

- Frs. David Agah and John Dorborkoe are attending a short formation programme in Steyl beginning in Nemi.
- Fr. Anastasius Osei finally got his visa after almost two years of waiting to start his missionary work in South Africa. He left on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Safe Journey.
- Bro. Apollonius Bria leaves the Province for good back to his home province IDJ
- Fr. Henry Nordermeer left on sick leave.
- Fr. John Straathof left for a short vacation and would take the opportunity to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood.

## **Pray for our sick**

- Fr. Vincent Kwame Owusu was recently discharged from St. Dominic Hospital, Akwatia. He is doing well.
- Fr. Henry Noordermeer is not too well, he needs our prayers.

## **Pray for our dead**

- Esther Azure, sister of Fr. Emmanuel Azure who died on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at Ashaiman. She has since been buried.
- Most. Rev. Thomas K. Mensah, Archbishop Emeritus of Kumasi Archdiocese who died on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016. He was 81 years. Burial Mass - Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 at 9:30am at St. Peter's Basilica, Kumasi.
- Theophilus Lifeson Kwame Akpatsa, father of Fr. Elorm Akpatsa [PHS ] who died on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the Ho Regional Hospital. He would be buried on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Fodome Helu in the Volta Region.
- Rosemary Guamah, mother of Rev. Augustine Amanor (to be ordained in July) who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016 at Ghana-Canada Hospital, East Legon, Accra. Burial on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Asutsuare.
- Eliezer Roosevelt Kofi Makatah, father of Frt. Godwin Mensah (Novice). The death occurred on 27<sup>th</sup> April in Accra. Funeral and burial would take place on 4<sup>th</sup> June at Agbozume, Volta Region.
- The mother of Frt. Michel Manga (CFC Tamale, on pastoral year in D.R Congo) which occurred on Sunday 22 May in the D.R. Congo, she would be buried on the 27<sup>th</sup> May.

*Our Condolences to the various families. May their souls rest in peace.*

## **Approved for Higher Studies**

- Fr. Bernardus Blolong – already in Rome doing Islamic Studies.

## **Transfers and assignments**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ➤ Fr. Joshua Gariba         | Director of TICCS                                      |
| ➤ Bro. McDaniel Acquaaah    | Manager of Kintampo Farm Project                       |
| ➤ Bro. Paul Tawiah-Richmond | Transferred to Brong Ahafo from Yendi                  |
| ➤ Fr. Alex Powathu Chandy   | Transferred to Brong Ahafo, Kintampo from Freinademetz |
| ➤ Fr. Hans Gerber Agbenafa  | Tema-Battor District                                   |
| ➤ Fr. Peter Tuan            | Yendi District   |
| ➤ Fr. Peter Vinh            | Afram Plains District                                  |
| ➤ Fr. Peter Kabutey         | Transferred from Dansoman to New Aplaku                |

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| ➤ Fr. Alex Awuah-Osei      | Transferred from New Aplaku to Abeka                                       |
| ➤ Fr. Francis Mastan       | Transferred from Province Treasurer to Dansoman                            |
| ➤ Fr. Fred Timp            | Reassigned from Province Secretary to Province Treasurer                   |
| ➤ Fr. Lambert Assogba      | Transferred from Donkorkrom to Province Secretary                          |
| ➤ Fr. Nicholas Aazine      | Transferred from McCarthy Hill to Yendi District                           |
| ➤ Fr. Benediktus Bau       | Transferred from CFC to Yendi District                                     |
| ➤ Fr. Mariusz Pacula       | Transferred from Gushiegu to Province Projects & Development Office, Accra |
| ➤ Fr. John Straathof       | Transferred to St. Augustine Parish, Ashaiman.to be in residence           |
| ➤ Bro. Samuel Dagadu       | Transferred from Rome  |
| ➤ Fr. Edmund Kodjo Deku    | Transferred from NEB   |
| ➤ Fr. George Angmor        | Chairman AFRAM Exe. Com  |
| ➤ Fr. Rex A. Vegbey        | AFRAM Coordinator of Communication   |
| ➤ Fr. Godwin Fiawoyi       | AFRAM Coordinator of Treasurers  |
| ➤ Fr. John Alphonse Asiedu | AFRAM Coordinator of Formation   |

*These changes will take place between now and 1st July.*

### **10<sup>th</sup> AFRAM Zonal Assembly**



The SVD KEN-Province had the privilege of hosting the SVD Provincial/Regional/Mission (PRM) Superiors and Treasurers from Africa and Madagascar (AFRAM). AFRAM Assembly is held every three years to deliberate on issues concerning our missionary activities in the zone. The last Assembly was held in 2013 in Bulawayo in Zimbabwe. This year's Assembly featured reports with deep discussions and deliberations, as well as inputs on family ministry and our SVD charism. A separate session was also organised for the PRM Treasurers present.

In all, 38 SVD delegates participated in the Assembly held from February 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Participants came from Angola, Botswana, D.R. Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, South-Sudan, Tchad, Togo-Benin, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Also present were the SVD Superior General Fr. Heinz Kulüke, Fr. Stephen Gerdes, the General Treasurer, Fr. Joseph Kallanchira the AFRAM zonal coordinator, and area coordinators of Bible, JPIC, Communication, Mission Animation, Formation as well as the coordinator for Brothers.

Also worth noting was the presence of two of our SSpS sisters: Sr. Maria Jerley Renacia and Sr. Antonia Isabel Cassuta working in Ethiopia and South-Sudan respectively, and some representatives from the KEN-Province.



As part of the six-day Assembly, the delegates paid a visit to our SVD Common Formation Centre (CFC) in Langata-Nairobi to join our Seminary Community for Eucharistic celebration and later for a social night. In his homily, Fr. Kulüke charged all of us to become friends of Christ, to be able to carry out his mission entrusted to us. He also added that our lives must speak to people more than anything else through love, by showing care and concern for the people.



It was indeed a great opportunity for us in formation to meet and interact not only with delegates from our home PRM, but also the entire SVD AFRAM leadership team as well as the General Superior and his Treasurer.

On Sunday February 21, all the delegates in four groups joined SVD parishes in the Nairobi Archdiocese, namely Sts. Joachim and Anne (Soweto), Divine Word (Kayole) St. Peter and St Joseph Freinademetz, both in Ruai, for Sunday Eucharistic celebrations.

The assembly was finally brought to an end with the election of the zonal coordinator and area coordinators. Indeed, we were very much delighted to have had you among us, here in the KEN-Province and particularly in CFC Nairobi. We say Asanteni Sana!!!

*Frt. John Jerome CFC, Nairobi*

### **College of education for Yendi opened**

A ceremony was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April at Yendi to mark the official opening of the St. Vincent College of Education situated at Yendi.

The College was established by Most Reverend Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD the Bishop of Yendi and championed by Fr. Erasmus Norviewu-Mortty, SVD. The college is to help train teachers to serve in rural and deprived communities along the Eastern Corridor stretch of the region. The institution admitted last year its first batch of students made up of 68 women and 109 men to pursue a three-year Diploma in Basic Education after obtaining an approval from the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE). It has been absorbed by the government this year, and is affiliated to the University of Cape Coast (UCC).

The Deputy Northern Regional Minister, Alhaji A.B.A Fuseini, who inaugurated the college, said the government was committed to expanding the infrastructural base of all educational institutions at all levels to create a conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning.

Consequently, he said the college would benefit from a number of infrastructure to enhance teaching and learning in the institution and make it one of the best training colleges in the country.

To this end, he said the government had awarded contracts for the construction of a four-storey hostel, a multipurpose administration and assembly block, a three-



*Bishop Boi-Nai sprinkling holy water on the new building*

bedroom bungalow for the principal and a modern hygiene wash and sanitary facility for the college.

He said “the contractors working on the various projects are to move to the site this week to begin work.” Alhaji Fusieni commended the Catholic Church and the Dagbon Traditional Council for their foresight and partnering the government to further create the avenue for the teeming youth at Yendi and beyond to access tertiary education.

The Regent of Dagbon, Kampakuya-Na Andani Yakubu Abdulai, who chaired the ceremony, commended the government for its efforts to improve education in the country. He however urged the government to do more to improve education in the north in particular.

The Kampakuya-Na, who is also the acting President of the Dagbon Traditional Council, said it had been the cherished dream of the late Ya-Na Andani Yakubu II to have a college of education established within the Yendi enclave and this dream had finally come to fruition.

A Businessman, Alhaji Yakubu Kasuli, the Managing Director of Gbewaa Civil Engineer and Petroleum Company, pledged to construct and provide kitchen equipment for the college at a cost of GH¢32,500 (approximately \$8,500), while Mr Nathaniel Adams Jnr, the Chief Executive Officer of Rural Water Development Programme (RWDP) of the Church of Christ (CoC) who is also the founder of the 7As College of Science and Technology, a basic school at Yendi, pledged to provide the college with a mechanised water facility at the cost of GH¢18,000 (about \$4,700) and a cash donation of GH¢2,000 (about \$520) during a fundraising session at the ceremony. Mr Adams further pledged to open up his school for teacher trainees to have their practical training.

The Principal of the college, Fr. Erasmus Norviewu-Mortty, SVD said the mission of the college was to be a leader in training teachers for Ghana’s disadvantaged rural schools to ensure better academic outcomes and progression

of students of rural schools in Ghana.

Most Rev. Boi-Nai, who later dedicated a three-classroom block and offices of the college at its new site at Gamazi, a suburb of Yendi, expressed his appreciation to all and sundry, some friends from Australia, the Dagbon Traditional Council and the NCTE for their contributions toward the establishment of the college.

**SVD PRIESTLY ORDINATION 2016**  
**THE DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES**  
 (GHANA PROVINCE)  
 Joyfully invites  
 Confreres, Friends and Benefactors  
 To join this Celebration on 23rd July 2016  
 St. Augustine Catholic Church, Ashaiman 9:00 am

Thanksgiving Masses	Thanksgiving Masses	Thanksgiving Masses	Thanksgiving Masses	Thanksgiving Masses
St. Augustine Catholic Church, Ashaiman 24th July 2016 8:00 am	St. John the Evangelist Cath. Church, Adenta 24th July 2016 8:30 am	St. Augustine Catholic Church, Ashaiman 24th July 2016 8:00 am	St. Michael Catholic Church, Wusuta 24th July 2016 9:00 am	St. John Vianney Cath. Church, Asutsuare 24th July 2016 9:00 am
Sts. Peter & Paul Cath. Church, Dzodze 31st July 2016 9:00 am	St. John Vianney Cath. Church, Asutsuare 31st July 2016 9:00 am	Mary Immaculate Conception Parish, Anomabo 24th July 2016 9:00 am	Sacred Heart Parish Chinderi – Kakraka 31st July 2016 9:00 am	Catholic Church Samoa U.W.R 30th December 2016 9:00 am
REV. STEPHEN AGBENORXEVI, SVD	REV. AUGUSTINE AMANOR, SVD	REV. EMMANUEL ARTHUR, SVD	REV. EMMANUEL MAKAYIE, SVD	REV. SABASTINE SOB, SVD

## News from Zwedru

### Liberia Mission: A surprise visit of hope

It has been four months since I left Monrovia. It seems as if it were few days ago when we arrived in Liberia. At that time, it was still raining and the roads were bad. I experienced bad roads in Ghana but what we met here on our journey to Zwedru was unimaginable. Now in the middle of the dry season, the road is better. The dryness brought positive change to the conditions of the roads and to our team as well. In no time, the people of Zwedru, not only Catholics, got to know us by names. It is a very encouraging experience when I walk through the town (about 20 thousand people living in Zwedru) and hear: "Gooevi, Fr. Mazur. How the body?" (meaning Good evening Fr. Mazur. How are you?) from unknown faces across the street. It is amazing that Zwedru has become our home in this short time!

Recently I was in Monrovia waiting for Father General, Heinz Kulúke and the Zonal Coordinator for AFRAM, Fr. Joseph Babu Kallanchira. Fr. Joseph Tugbe, a priest

from Greenville, Cape Palmas Diocese willingly accepted to convey our visitors to Zwedru with his car. When he arrived at the airport, some people were running towards him with flowers. This was a surprise. As he was wearing full clerical suit and a coral shirt, the people mistakenly took him for an Anglican bishop from Uganda they were expecting in Monrovia.

Fr. Heinz and Fr Kallanchira later arrived in a simple way and after brotherly greetings, we walked towards the parking. Just then, I heard from Fr. Kallanchira: "No, we forgot about Fr. Jean Bertrand. Where is he?" We all turned and looked towards the airport door. There appeared the Anglican Bishop and just behind him in clerical suit was Fr. Jean Bertrand. He looked very young. A thought struck my mind: Will he be able to cope with us "stiffed necked characters" in Zwedru?

We set off at 5.30am the next day from Monrovia to Zwedru taking the coastal road through Buchanan and Sino forest. The Liberian forest is a natural breath taking phenomenon, at least for us. It is thick; the trees are tall as old





church towers, majestic and reaching to the skies. I heard from Fr. Heinz: “Just like Mindoro”. At 5.15pm we arrived in Zwedru. Together with the Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council, Frs. Addai and Yao welcomed us warmly to the mission.

The following day, during the morning mass, Fr. Addai introduced our visitors to the congregation. After Mass everybody shook hands with our visitors forgetting about Ebola warning: “No shaking hands” hanged on the door of our church. After Liberian breakfast, Fr. Addai took us to his school where we walked from classroom to classroom for almost two and half hours. Fr. Heinz and Fr. Joseph gave some words of encouragement to the students. On the way from the High School to St. Philomena Primary we passed through the Catholic Health Centre. The nurse in charge took our visitors around the facilities.

Then we visited the PTP – Ivorian Refugee Camp in Zwedru. The camp is situated about 20 km from the town. Fr. Yao Awuja takes pastoral care of the Catholic community living in the camp. The population of the camp is over 30 000. The Catholics are little above 120 but the number is increasing steadily as Fr. Yao attends to them. He is in the process of building a chapel for them; it is already roofed but the walls are not yet raised nonetheless I can see it beautiful and I am proud of what Fr Yao, one of us is doing for the refugees.

Our next stop was the Parish. The people rushed towards us embracing Fr. Heinz and the rest of us. What a welcome! We were led into the church by little children dancing and singing in French. The lay leader of the community delivered his speech. People were happy clapping their hands as we did as well. I had no idea what they said. Then Fr. Heinz got up to deliver his message. I believe in “charisms”. One of them is simplicity and this is the Charism our General has.

With a smile he addressed the community. I had no idea what he said but I saw and felt it was a message of hope. He awakened the lost hope in them. They were clapping

their hands and bringing him simple gifts, taking pictures as everyone would like to remember the man who brought back hope to them. Isn't it what we Missionaries of the Divine Word should be?

On the third day, we visited Pouth Town and Zleth Town, the only surviving outstations of the Christ the King Parish, actually the whole Grand Gedeh County. To our surprise, almost half of the town gathered to welcome the powerful delegation from Rome and the missionary who is in charge of all SVDs. They led us to the Town Hall where the Paramount Chief, sub-chiefs, and elders of the area addressed us and performed traditional welcoming ceremonies. The Paramount Chief offered ten acres of land to the Divine Word Missionaries at first and then coughed and said if you want more you ask and I will give you. From the Town Hall we went to the locally built chapel where Fr. Joseph prayed for the people of Pouth Town and Fr. Heinz blessed them.

From Pouth Town, we visited another outstation at Zleth Town. We stopped at the office of the Zleth Town Commissionaire (The District Chief Executive) to interact with him briefly. Before the Liberian war, Zleth Town was an independent Parish. During the war, the rebels burnt down the rectory, pulled down the church tower, took the bell away and used the church as their dormitory. The church is still at the reconstruction level twelve years after the war. I visit the community twice a week: Tuesdays for catechetical teachings and Sundays for the Eucharist.

The next day, we had a district meeting with our visitors. My confreres shared their experiences concerning community life and the pastoral field where they work. I looked at Fr. Jean Bertrand as he listened attentively to the various experiences and thought to myself, there is hope for this young man here. I would summarise the meeting with the words of Fr. Heinz, “Right people in the right place”. He told us also that he can't believe that at so short a time we were able to penetrate the hearts of the people and won them over as if we had been there for ages. “It is wonderful that people know you by names.”

When we closed our fraternal meeting with the General and the Zonal Coordinator, the Bishop of Cape Palmas arrived. Bishop Andrew is a good man, full of concern for us here in Zwedru. He is so proud of us that sometimes I am afraid whether we (I don't want to impose my feelings on the rest of my community) will be able to meet the confidence he has in us.

On Sunday, we celebrated a Mass (what in time past we would refer to as High Mass) to close the visitation. The Bishop was the main celebrant but Fr. Heinz was the preacher. In his sermon, Fr Heinz challenged the community to take good care of the missionaries serving them. He ended his homily with an experience that happened to him in the Philippines. *“One day he was celebrating mass in the village and when the readings were on going, he pulled his sandals from his feet to get some cool air on them. Then at the time of the Gospel Reading, he got up to put his sandals on and to his surprise he could find only the other pair. When he looked around he saw a dog at the entrance going away with the other. He had no choice than to walk barefooted to read the Gospel. Seeing him barefooted the people removed their foot wears as they listened to the Gospel. By example we learn.”*



*Fr. General and his entourage being welcome*

After the Mass, the Bishop blessed the foundation for the new rectory we began to build in Zwedru. We shared a Liberian Lunch with the Bishop and he left us going to Harper. The visitation came to an end. The following morning, Fr. Joseph Tugbe took our visitors back to Monrovia Airport. They are gone but their message of hope, words of encouragement will remain with us. Thank you for your visit. It is true that by example we learn.

#### **Fr. Campbell launches Leper's project in honour of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday**



*Fr. Campbell being supported by the dignitaries to cut his birthday cake.*

Fr. Andy Campbell, SVD is a common face in the Ghanaian media for the various social projects he undertakes. Notably among this is championing the course of lepers in the country which led to the formation of the non-Governmental Organisation 'Lepers Aid'. As part of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday he organized a concert at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Accra to raise funds to build a Leprosy Unit at Kokofu, in the Ashanti Region.

Notable among the Guests were His Excellency Jerry John Rawlings, former president of the Republic of Ghana, Her Ladyship Justice Georgina Theodora Wood the Chief Justice of Ghana, Her Excellency, Mrs. Matilda

Amissah-Arthur, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lady of the Republic of Ghana, His Grace Gabriel Charles Palmer-Buckle, The Archbishop of Accra, Fr. George Angmor, the SVD Provincial of Ghana and his entourage and some of the cured lepers. The Winneba Youth Choir supported by Christ the King Choir and other musicians thrilled the audience by their musical performances. Fr. Campbell said outbreaks of leprosy have affected and panicked people on every continent adding that today about 180,000 people worldwide are affected with the disease.

He expressed the hope that the project when completed, will help break the transmission chain of the disease by identifying, treating and managing lepers at the early stages of the infection. He said, this would also help prevent disabilities and the stigma attached to the disease.

He appealed to the government, benevolent organizations and NGOs to contribute generously to the project. Former President Jerry John Rawlings commended Rev. Fr. Campbell for initiating and executing many projects in the country and also for winning many awards. He also called for support for Rev Fr Campbell to enable him complete his projects.



## **Armed Robbers stormed St. Arnold Janssen House, Tesano**

On 12<sup>th</sup> April and for the second time in a year, armed robbers visited the Arnold Janssen House at Tesano not for prayers like many of our visitors do, but on a different mission.

The incident happened when Fr. Jacobson came in to the House to take some rest after he was involved in an accident to recuperate from his trauma. Having gone out that evening and upon return at about 10.30pm, the security man opened the gates for him to drive through. Just as the security man was closing the metal gate, from nowhere emerged a masked man with a pistol pointing at him and in no time a second man joined and they shut the gate. They demanded for the ‘master’ of the house. The security man was led at gun point into the inner court of the house. Fr. Jacobson who did not have a clue to what was happening at the gate was about to open the main door to the house, when he was ordered to stop. The two were made to lie flat on the ground. Their pockets were searched and phones and a wallet were removed including Father’s finger rosary. The little money in the wallet was removed and the wallet was left behind. After finding the car key, one of them drove it out and the two abandoned their victims and fled with the car.

It would be recalled that Fr. Lambert Assogba suffered a similar fate sometime last year when he visited Tesano. Being a quiet residential area, thieves are taking advantage of the situation to disturb residents and passers-by.

The vehicle was discovered by the police abandoned after two weeks. Of course, it was left wretched.

Meanwhile, the Arnold Janssen House has beefed up security by engaging uniformed security services.

## **SEMINARIANS UNDERGO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COURSE**



*Fr. Alphonse Amanor facilitating the Course*

Postulants of the St. Joseph Freinademetz house in Tamale have undergone a two day human development programme on the topic “Religious Life and Sexuality”. The course is organized each year to help them learn more about their sexuality and how to live it as they aspire to become religious. The resource person for the session was Fr. Alphonse Amanor, SVD, a clinical psychotherapist.

The areas that were explored included culture, the four essential necessities of life, and sexuality among others.

According to Fr Alphonse, religious life and sexuality and its related areas cannot be lived without a culture. Therefore, as people coming from different cultures, we need to understand our own cultures, develop our personal sub-cultures and blend both to suit our life. He added that to be authentic religious, one needs to be fully human. To be human means that one must have “a heart that hears God, congregation, others and the self”. He emphasized that from the psycho-spiritual background, to be religious does not only mean being sanctimonious and spiritual rather it means to be realistic about one’s choice of vocation, embrace values, lifting up the image of others and the congregation, being instruments of peace and sensitive to the needs of others.

Fr Alphonse noted that our sexuality does not just border

on how to respond to our sexual needs but more importantly, it is the totality of our being. Our sexuality affects every choice we make in life and it influences the four essential necessities of our life namely Nutrition (what to eat and drink), clothing’s (what to wear), accommodation, and our relationships. To pay attention to our sexuality therefore would mean to screen our choices for a productive life, to fulfill our existential necessities.

*By Paul Sitso Amuzu, Freinademetz House, Tamale*

### **CAUTION:**

Recently, a confrere was travelling from Accra to the North. He comfortably fit his carry-on bag in the overhead locker of the bus. At a stop he visited the washroom only to discover later that his laptop and other things were gone. Is it on a bus that this can happen? I checked online and these are some of the headings I found:

[Risks of using the overhead locker](#)

[Theft on board airplanes does happen, tips to guard your gear](#)

[Warning to watch your carry-on luggage, thieves take to the air](#)

[In-Flight Theft : How Thieves Go Unnoticed On Planes](#)

**So beware when travelling on the bus, train or on the aircraft!**



## Arnold's Understanding of the Divine Word

*This article is culled from "The Spirituality of Arnold Janssen for Lay Partners" by Jürgen Ommerborn SVD.*

In the first printed SVD rule of 1891 we read: In the expression "Divine Word" in the name of the Society, we understand in a threefold way. The Divine Word is:

The Word of the Father, which is the Son

The Word of the Son who has become a human being and that is the gospel of Jesus Christ

The Word of the Holy Spirit which is all of scripture, the word of the prophets, apostles and priests insofar as they are spoken under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Saint Arnold saw the Divine Word in relation to the Triune God.

Like Arnold, we follow Jesus the Divine Word which has become a human being. Following him we also follow the other two persons of the Blessed Trinity. Jesus points us to the Father: he makes us pray to God: "Our Father." And Jesus the incarnate Word of God also points to the Holy Spirit. He promised to send the Spirit: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you" (Jn 16:12-15). Being missionaries of the Divine Word who has become a human being, we are directed by him to the Triune God. The Triune God is one because he is LOVE.

The Divine Word became a human being in the form of a little baby. And Fr. Arnold said about this baby: The Christ-child is **the gift of the merciful love of the Triune God**. Being with St. Arnold, missionaries both religious and lay partners of the Divine Word, having become a human being, we are ultimately missionaries of the God who is Love. Pope Francis said: Jesus – the one who is the Divine Word having become human – is **the face of the Father's mercy**. Being missionaries with Saint Arnold who follow Jesus, the Divine Word having become human, we are missionaries of this visible merciful love of the Triune God; we are to be today what Jesus was at his time when he lived on earth: the face of the Triune God's merciful love.

Love has many faces; in the present year of mercy it has for instance the face of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Pope Francis wrote proclaiming the Year of Mercy: "It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. ... Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead." (n. 15)

Fr. Arnold wrote under the heading "The Spirit and Task of Our Society" the following: "The spiritual and corporal works of mercy will receive our special attention, since the Lord has especially recommended them to us. People are images of God, brothers and sisters of Christ, and temples of the Holy Spirit. Just as God cares for them out of the fullness of his love, endures their defects, and seeks to reform them, so we, too, will love them actively. This will be our golden rule, whether we spread the faith or foster fraternal love. In practicing these works of charity we will not forget our deceased, especially those who are recommended to our prayers." (Arnold Janssen, The Spirit and task of our Society, p. 304.)

### Co-incidence of life AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*(From the book BE BLESSED: Reflections and Christian Teachings*

*By Rev. Joyzy Pius Egunjobi)*

1. TEMPLE has 6 letters so does MASJID and CHURCH.
2. GEETA has 5 letters so does QURAN and BIBLE.
3. LIFE has 4 letters so does DEAD.
4. HATE has 4 letters, so does LOVE.
5. ENEMIES has 7, so does FRIENDS.
6. LYING has 5, so does TRUTH.
7. HURT has 4, so does HEAL.

8. NEGATIVE has 8, so does POSITIVE.

9. FAILURE has 7, so does SUCCESS.

10. BELOW has 5, so does ABOVE.

11. CRY has 3 letters so does JOY.

12. ANGER has 5 so does HAPPY.

13. RIGHT has 5 so does WRONG.

14. RICH has 4 so does POOR.

15. FAIL has 4 so does PASS

16. KNOWLEDGE has 9 so does IGNORANCE....

*Is it just a coincidence?*

**BIBLE MINISTRY****COORDINATOR: Br. McDaniel Acquah, SVD***Dei Verbum Ghana 2016***An intensive 40 days course in Biblical Pastoral Ministry****Venue:** Divine Word Catholic Conference Centre, Adoagyiri-Nsawam**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> August - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016**Theme:** "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU". (John 2:5)

The good news is that *Dei Verbum Ghana 2016* is oversubscribed. It is a sign of the impact the programme is making on people.

The budget was for 30 participants, and 40 people have applied. Do we turn the extra 10 down? That was the dilemma of the *Dei Verbum* Team. However, the team has decided to appeal to all to help sponsor the extra participants. It would cost GHc24,800 (about \$7,086) to take the ten onto the 40-day programme. The amount would cover boarding and lodging.

**COMMUNICATION MINISTRY****Coordinator: Fr. Rex A. Vegbey, SVD*****Communication Seminar in CFC***

As part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Common Formation Centre (CFC), Tamale the communication office was invited to facilitate a seminar on 'Communication and Development' to our seminarians in the House.

There can be absolutely no development without communication; and for the future priests, they have the arduous task of helping develop the human person both spiritually and materially as part and parcel of their mission. To achieve this one needs to equip oneself with the tools and skills to communicate especially in one's immediate community. This was the line of the seminar where seminarians were led to sharpen their skills in communication starting with their immediate community. A lot of misunderstandings in our communities and ineffective pastoral life could be avoided if our communication skills are sharpened. The seminarians were therefore asked to take the theme of communication seriously.

To conclude, I urged them to take advantage of every opportunity to practice their communication skills so that on the pastoral field after ordination they will have the gift, the style, the sharpness, the clarity, and the emotions to affect people spiritually and materially.

**DVDs for sale**

Hymns of Praise TV Show featuring various Churches both Catholic and Protestant singing hymns have paused due to the lack of sponsorship to produce and air the shows. Unfortunately, at the point when viewership increased, that was the time we had to pull the brakes. We hope some sponsors would come to our aid to initiate the next TV season. The production and airing one Show on the National TV (GTV) cost about \$2,000. Any ideas for sponsorship?

DVDs of the 13 episodes are on sale at the moment at the Catholic Book Centre, Verbo Media Shop and Challenge Book Shop.

**I Believe Videos**

The 'I Believe videos' are in three categories:

**CATHOLIC ANSWERS** features young people asking the fundamental catholic questions and a panel of priests provide answers. Episode 1 is on sale now.

**'I BELIEVE' Videos**  
Featuring Catholic Teachings and other developmental topics

**Hymns of Praise TV Show DVD**

**CATHOLIC ANSWERS**  
What does the Bible Say About LIES?

Get your copies from  
**CATH. BOOK CENTRE & VERBO MEDIA SHOP**

Directed by Fr. Rex A. Vegbey, SVD  
Produced by VERBO MEDIA for the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD Ghana Communications)

**CATHOLIC TEACHINGS** features full teaching on the catholic faith.

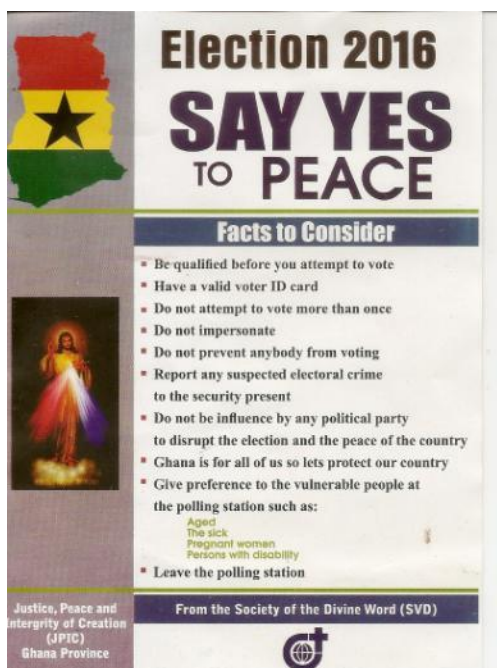
**SPIRITUAL TALKS** features various topics for spiritual growth.

**DEVELOPMENTAL TOPICS** features various human development topics.

**VERBO MEDIA GHANA** starts operations from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June from the old Catholic Book Centre Communications Centre. It shares the premises with GN Bank. Its primary function is to offer media training to young people for their own development and for those who want to enter the media industry as a profession. It offers paid services to the general public to raise funds to sustain the programme: Graphic works, video, TV productions, Capacity building, Mobile Money Transfer. Photocopies, photo shoot, Brochures, Banners, complimentary cards etc.

**JPIC**

**Coordinator: Peter Kabutey, SVD**



*In view of the forthcoming General elections the JPIC has come out with a programme targeted at the youth to be agents of peace during and after the general elections. Flyers have been printed out outlining some facts to consider during the period of the election. Apart from the flyers, all confreres are encouraged to champion this course by propagating the facts on the flyers.*

*Workshops are slated to run in the districts for the youth in our various parishes on this subject. Although it is primarily targeted at our SVD managed parishes, other pastors have expressed interest to make their youth participate.*

*The first District to have the Workshop is Accra. It would take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at Tuba at 9.00am.*

## ANNUAL RETREAT

**1<sup>st</sup> GROUP (SVD)**  
**26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE -2<sup>ND</sup> JULY @ NSAWAM**

## ANNUAL RETREAT

**2<sup>ND</sup> GROUP (SVD & SSps)**  
**24<sup>TH</sup> – 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY @SUNYANI**

## MAILS

Filial and warm greetings from Taishan Formation Community, in TAIWAN. I hope everything is moving on smoothly in Ghana, with the spiritual guidance of Arnold Jansen himself. I have been getting every bit of information from the Ghana Province, and I am really grateful for that. Over here in Taiwan, everything is going on well. With my daily leitmotiv of doing my best, leaving everything else in God's own care, I am getting along with the Chinese culture and various experiences.

On this note, I would like to inform you that our Taishan Formation Community have just made a short clip about the OTP PROGRAM in Taiwan. Even though that is the first experience of the kind, it gives an overall understanding and deeper knowledge of what it entails to think of OTP in TAIWAN (notwithstanding the fact that Taiwan's reality does not necessarily include that of the whole CHINA PROVINCE "SIN").

It is on youtube, at <https://youtu.be/BCI19KmdBCU>. I assure you of my prayers, as I am always grateful to our Province for giving me this opportunity to experience CHINESE CULTURE, particularly in TAIWAN.

With gratitude, in the Divine Word,  
黎 修士 (Frater L i)  
Frt. Valentin Lissassi





Congratulations to Frt Frank Quainoo from Ghana and 8 others who professed perpetual vows on Trinity Sunday 22nd May in the Philippines.. Fr. Paul Dogba presented Frank to the Church on behalf of his parents.....Congratulations Frank.

From Frt Stephen Asante



St. Veronika, SSpS

Rest in Peace

Sr. Veronika,  
SSpS

Dear Bishops, Priests, Men and Women Religious,  
Dear Fellow Christians,  
"Precious is the life given for the mission" (St. Joseph Freinademetz SVD, Missionary to China)

With deep sorrow and great trust in God's will I announce the death of our beloved Sr. Veronika Rackova SSpS (1958 – 2016) after succumbing to the injuries caused by a gun attack on her while serving the people of Yei, South Sudan in her profession as a medical doctor. RIP.

We will celebrate the Requiem Mass for Sr. Veronika Rackova SSpS on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 9.30 am in Divine Word Parish, Kayole, Nairobi. Thereafter she will be buried at the cemetery of the Divine Word Missionaries, at Divine Word High School, Katani, Mlolongo.

On Monday, May 23, 2016 a memorial Mass will be celebrated for her at the Consolata Missionary Sisters' Flora Hostel Church on Ngong Road, Nairobi at 2. 00 pm.

In gratitude for Sr.Veronika's life as a missionary sister and all the expressions of deep concern, faith and prayers offered during her days of agony, I am asking you to pray for her eternal repose and for peace in South Sudan.

In the Triune God,

Sr. Jerly Maria Renacia SSpS,

Fr. Albert FUCHS, SVD

Regional Leader of SSpS Ethiopia – South Sudan.

Email: [sspsethiopia@gmail.com](mailto:sspsethiopia@gmail.com).

KEN-TAN Province

## WORTH REMEMBERING

### June

02	Marcel Kakrabah	Feastday
02	Erasmus Norviewu-	Feastday
02	Mortty	& Birthday
05	Boniface Issaka	Feast day
06	Józef Hus	+ 1988
07	Franklyn Nubuasah	Birthday
07	John K. Tumawu	Birthday
09	Emmanuel Affum	Birthday
09	Jerome Agbeko	Birthday
09	Sunil Rodrigues	Birthday
10	James Djadoo	Birthday
10	Wilfred D'Souza	Birthday
11	Anthony Bauer	+ 1994
11	Joseph Oliver Bowers	+ 2012
12	Joseph T. Djabaré	Birthday
12	John Dorborkoe	Birthday
13	Eugene Agyapong	Feast day
13	Augustine Amanor	Feastday
13	Anthony B. Amisah	Feast day
13	Moses Awinongya Asaah	Feastday
13	Anthony Dugay	Feast day
13	Richard Botchway	Feastday
13	Antonius Hibur	Feastday
13	Anthony Lawer Djimatey	Feastday
13	Anthony D. Mensah	Feastday
13	Joseph Hus	+ 1988
14	Emmanuel Fianu	Birthday
15	Lambert Azieve	Birthday
15	Francis Damoah	Birthday
16	Raymond Guidrey	+ 2011
18	Francis Mastan	Birthday
19	Déohomba Honoré Karo	Birthday
19	Gabriel Sosu	Birthday
20	Bernard Tang	Birthday
20	Hans van Kempen	+ 2006
21	Dionisio Nellas	Birthday
21	John Koster	+ 2005
21	Horst Wrzask	+ 1986
22	Benjamin Asare	Birthday
22	Paul Lengyel	+ 2003
23	Stephen Bonsu	Birthday
23	Vincent Owusu	Birthday
23	Patrick (Joseph) O'Reilly	+ 2006
24	John Acheampong	Feastday
24	Jean-Baptiste Tchandama	Feastday
24	Edmund Nomo	+ 1996
25	Aloysius Turbek	+ 2004
26	David Kpatcha	Birthday
26	Richard Botchway	Birthday
26	Bockman Damian	+ 1994
27	Benjamin Adusei-Poku	Birthday

27 Wladyslaw Madziar Feast day  
 28 Philip Tekpertey Abaya B&Feastday  
 28 Jacques Bidahou Birthday  
 28 Ireneus Boli Lolan Feastday  
 29 Peter Accorley Feastday  
 29 Paul Agbeyome B & Feastday  
 29 Pierre Avonyo B & Feastday  
 29 Paul Ayitey Feastday  
 29 Paul Dogba Feastday  
 29 Peter Edze Feastday  
 29 Paul Gbortsu Feast day  
 29 Peter Kabutey Feastday  
 29 Biju Maramkuzhackal Feastday  
 29 Frank Quainoo Feastday  
 29 Jean-Paul Sikpe Feastday  
 29 Paul Tawiah –Richmond Feast day

**July**

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

**August**

01 Alfons Amanor B & Feastday  
 01 Anthony B. Amissah Birthday  
 01 Alphonse Dungdung Feast day  
 01 Alphonse D.K. Fahin B&Feastday  
 02 Jean Marie Aluku Birthday  
 04 Jean Marie Aluku Feastday  
 04 John Duah Prempeh Feast day  
 05 Jean Chrysostome Rzaanimaro Birthday  
 08 Dominic Asare Feastday  
 08 Emmanuel Azure Birthday  
 08 Paul Dogba Birthday  
 09 Edmund Afagbegee Birthday  
 11 Antonius Hibur Birthday  
 12 Peter Accorley Birthday  
 12 Julius Keeke Feastday  
 14 Alfred Ayem Feastday  
 14 Charles Erb + 2002  
 15 Anthony Lawer Djimatey Birthday  
 15 Joseph Sakite Birthday  
 15 Tarcisius de Ruyter Feast day  
 17 Charles Ashun Birthday  
 17 Franz Huber +1994  
 19 Augustine Amanor Birthday  
 20 Bernard Adjei Appiah Feastday  
 20 Gideon Apreku Birthday  
 20 Bernard Assenyoh Feastday  
 20 Germain Mukinisa Birthday  
 20 Bernard Tang Feastday  
 21 Samuel Aboo Feastday  
 21 Pius Agyemang Feast day  
 21 Victor Gbotso Feast day  
 21 Pius Kamuti Feastday  
 23 Patrick Kodom Birthday  
 24 Apolonius Bria Birthday  
 25 Apolonius Bria Feastday  
 28 Hans-Gerber Agbenafa Feast day  
 28 Wisdom Agbovi Feastday  
 28 Gideon Apreku Feast day  
 28 Emmanuel Arthur Feastday  
 28 Emmanuel Makayie Feast day  
 28 Augustin Mevor Feast day  
 28 Erick Isabwa Okumu Feastday  
 28 Richard Hajduk + 1993  
 29 Dominic Asare Birthday  
 29 Josef Sprehe Birthday  
 29 Thomas Leibold + 1993  
 31 Jan Urban Birthday