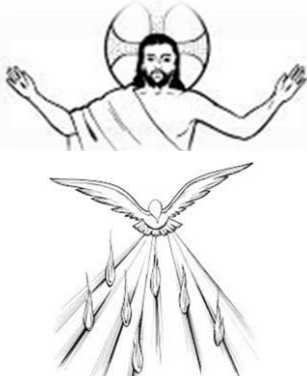




MAY 2018

www.svdghana.org

email: svdghanacom@yahoo.com



...you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end.'

Acts 1:8

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

A story is told of two confreres living together who had never ever had a quarrel. One said to the other, "Come on, let us have at least one quarrel like other people." The other said, "I don't know how to start a quarrel. The first said, "I will take this brick and place it here between us. Then I will say, "It is mine." Then you will say, "It is mine." This is what leads to a dispute and a quarrel.

So they placed the brick between them. And one said, "It is mine." The other replied to the first, "I do believe that it is mine." The first one said again, "It is not yours, it is mine." And the other answered, "Well then, if it is yours, take it." And that was it they were unable to start the quarrel. [Story by J. Maurus (Wisdom Stories) – Slightly adapted].

In James 4:1-2, we read: "Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Is it not precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you lack it; so you kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force."

The expression, "...if it is yours, take it" in the opening story is a statement of detachment – a disposition of "letting go and letting God in". It is refusing to make a god out of oneself or inordinately insisting on one's point of view/opinion. To detach is to nib egocentrism in the bud. A person who is truly detached from self-centeredness is a happy religious missionary.

We may have immersed ourselves doing works of penance during the Season of Lent just gone by. We find ourselves in the Easter season when one puts on his clothes and goes back to an old way of life. If this is the state in which we are, then we can say there is no renewal and growth. If any act that we perform does not reflect a change of heart and a new way of living, then they are empty spiritual exercises that weaken rather than strengthen.

Divine Word Missionaries
18th General Chapter 2018



Misioneros del Verbo Divino
18° Capítulo General 2018

**Rooted in the word,
committed
to his Mission. Mk6. 30-32**

- *To which extent are you rooted in the word?*

St. Paul was a man who had imbibed the spirit of detachment. Hence, he could write: "I have learnt to manage with whatever I have. I know how to live modestly, and how to live luxuriously too: in every way now I have mastered the secret of all conditions: full stomach and empty stomach, plenty and poverty" (Phil 4:12).

As religious, and especially within the context of our three vows, we may have deprived ourselves of many things but the question worth reflecting upon is: Have we detached ourselves from that which we have willingly deprived ourselves of? Along the line it could be that we might have developed some attachments that are not wholesome.

The call to renewal within the context of our religious missionary vocation is an invitation to submit our human will to the divine will. We may have ambitions and great plans but our constant prayer to the Lord ought to be "Not my will but thine be done".

The grace that the season of Lent offered us and brought us into the joy of Easter should overflow into healthy community living and transform us to our commitment to the mission of Christ.

Provincial Leadership Team

Departures and Arrivals

- Frt. Victor Kusaga arrived for the funeral of his father and will remain in Ghana to prepare for his diaconate and priestly ordinations.
- Fr. Michael Obeng-Shang [COL] arrived to bury his mother and has since returned to his mission.
- Fr. James Owusu-Amankwah [CHI] arrived for his vacation.
- Fr. June Lee Sarenas has been granted a compassionate leave to be with his sick parents.
- Fr. Provincial and Fr. John Asiedu departed to attend AFRAM Zonal Execom Meeting in Kenya. They have since returned.
- Frs. Peter Vinh and Anthony-Mary arrived from Vietnam after their home leave. They have since resumed their mission in Afram Plains and Kintampo respectively.
- Fr. Sunil departed for his home leave.
- Frs Antonius Doni and Timoteus Mauk left for their mission in Zambia after acquiring the pastoral competency in the use of the English Language in our Divine Word Language centre at Nkwatia. They spent 8 months in Ghana. We pray for traveling mercies for them and a fulfilling mission in Zambia.
- Louis Delphin Andriniaina left Ghana back to his home country, Madagascar after discontinuing from his Language course at Nkwatia. He was learning English to begin his novitiate this year. He has arrived safely to his family.
- Fr. Bertin Kabongo arrived from D.R. Congo to begin his mission in Ghana. He studied at CFC, Tamale and was appointed to the Province. Fr. Kabongo will spend about six months to learn Krobo language in Asesewa and its environ before receiving his appointment

Transfers and appointments

- Fr. Alex Osei-Awuah is transferred from St Charles Lwanga, Abeka to Nsawkaw, Brong-Ahafo.
- Fr. Peter Kabutey is transferred from SS Peter and Paul, New Aplaku to St. Charles Lwanga, Abeka.
- Fr. Abraham Dzibitor has assumed office as Province Secretary effective 1st March 2018.
- Fr. Daniel Dankyi assigned to St. Arnold Janssen Brother Formation House, Tesano as he pursues further studies at Ghana Institute of Public Administration (GIMPA).
- Fr. Boguslaw Dan Berek has returned to his home province after so many years of missionary life in Ghana.

We remember our dead

- Obaapanin Anna Abena Pinamang, the younger sister of Brother Pious Agyemang, SVD. She has since been buried.
- Sr. Agathina, SSps died on the 18th January 2018 in Steyl. She has since been buried in Steyl.
- Bro. Peter van Ufellen who worked for many years in Ghana died in the Netherlands. He has since been buried.
- Madam Monica A. Obeng-Shang, the mother of our confrere Michael Obeng-Shang [COL] . She has since been buried. *Our sympathies!*

➤



PROVINCIAL CHAPTER HELD

The chapter started with a recollection at exactly 3:10pm on the 5th of February at the Divine Word Catholic Conference Centre, Nsawam (DWCCC). It was led by Fr Andrews Obeng-Aboagyie. Present were all the Capitulars except Joshua Gariba and John Duah Prempeh who joined later.

Obeng introduced the theme of the recollection as the same as that of the XVIII General Chapter: ***The love of God impels us*** (2Co 5, 14): ***Rooted in the word, committed to his mission***. He gave a brief understanding of how the theme was chosen quoting from some statements from the Superior General (SG), Heinz Kulüke on the chapter. The aim of the Chapter, he said, is the **renewal of oneself, community life and mission**".

Obeng went on to explain the official logo chosen for the chapter. He identified seven characteristics of the logo to guide the chapter reflections and discussions.

The motivation of love, The Word of God: source of our calling, source of our inspiration, **Mission to the world, interculturality, The Joy of the mission, The cross of mission.**

"To be committed to the mission we need to know what is happening in the mission field. In our pastoral context, we need to pay particular attention to 1. Globalization and 2. Urbanization. From these trends, we can identify global issues needing our response. Our focus on this mission calls for commitment. This commitment should reflect on how we do our mission ad-intra and ad-extra".

After going through Chapter preliminaries, the Provincial presented his report:

The provincial, George Angmor informed the chapter that there are 118 confreres made up of 99 clerics and 19 brothers assigned to the Ghana-Liberia Province. In general, confreres are in good health. There are 75 young men in various stages of formation. He also noted that our province stands out as one of the most international provinces in the worldwide SVD with twenty-two (22) nationalities. In terms of personnel distribution, majority of the confreres are involved in parish work.

On the province's ad-extra missionary activities, the provincial reported that the large involvement in parish pastoral ministry should be an opportunity to build up good relationships in the parishes leading to raising of funds to support the province's activities and formation works. According to him, the Provincial Council has realized the need to help every confrere to emphasize the SVD characteristic dimensions so that they can be experienced in all our parishes. He mentioned some of the new missions that are being considered in Navrongo-Bolgatanga and Ho dioceses.

The treasurer in his report noted that the province is not doing much in local fundraising and we need to develop strategies in this regard. This needs a concerted efforts and he recommends that communities take advantage of the Province Development Office to write projects to raise funds for their activities. The Treasurer thinks there is the need for good and collaborative relationship between superiors and treasurers in handling financial matters in their respective communities. He insisted that budgets must be well prepared and financial reports properly given even if a community does not depend on subsidy. Accountability is part of our religious identity. He informed the chapter of the new Finance committee in place. Though the audit reports are not yet completed, the Treasurer admits that the auditing of accounts helps the province in its financial organization.

The assistant treasurer, Godwin Fiawoyi gave additional input on the need for confreres allowance and the state of the Tesano Estate project. The project has been on hold due to consultancy and some technical difficulties. Efforts are being made to resolve the challenges and make the project a reality.

The atmosphere was good for the Capitulars at the Chapter to deliberate on issues. At the end of the Chapter, two resolutions were made and Recommendations. Fr. Andrews Obeng was elected as the Province Capitular for the General Chapter.

WORKSHOP HELD FOR LOCAL SUPERIORS

A two-day Workshop was held from the 1st – 2nd of February for local superiors of the Province. The objective was to equip the leaders with the needed skills to manage their roles as

Superiors in their respective area of work. To this end, the Superiors were taken through topics like ‘Leadership Roles & responsibility’ facilitated by Fr. George Angmor, the Provincial. Also, to impart some communication skills for effective leadership, Fr. Rex A. Vegbey, the Provincial Communication Coordinator took them through the tools needed for effective communication. The treasury led by Fr. Fred Timp and his able assistant Fr. Godwin Fiawoyi took the superiors through the rudiments of keeping financial records, budgeting, fund raising and others. Fr. Phanael Agudu, the Development office Director gave an exposé of things to consider in project application proposals. There are certain Province policies that are governing the administration of the province which the superiors should familiarize themselves with and this was handled by Fr. Marek Dabrowski, the vice provincial superior. The mission office made a presentation on Mission animation and lay collaboration and the role of each confrere in mission animation. The Provincial made us aware that the Province has adopted the MAZ (Missionar aus zeit-Missionary on time) and this would be under the mission office. *These missionaries are young people particularly from Germany and Austria who come to do voluntary work in the missions to have among others cross-cultural experience.*

To respond favourably to the provisions of SVD Cons 303.6 ...*we refrain from anything that can bring harm to a confrere's good name, we help each other through fraternal correction (see Mt 18:15). If dissension arises, we quickly seek to be reconciled (see Ep 4:26).* An important tool to combat this provision is COMMUNICATION and the local Superior is key to realize this in our Districts and other houses. Fr. Vegbey, facilitated this session to empower the leaders.

At the end of the Workshop the Leaders asked for periodic sessions like that to empower them to be up to the task entrusted them.

FAMILY FEAST 2018



The Arnoldus Family after the Mass

The DWCC Nsawam, brought together confreres and our sisters (SSpS) to celebrate this year's 2-day Family Feast. We had some games in the afternoon of the first day and a get-together after supper. In the course of dancing to the tune of some good music ‘blasting’ from the speakers, a stranger appeared from nowhere to hand over a note apparently from the chief's palace. The letter indicated that there was a ban on drumming and noise making in the area which was still in force at the time. The violation of the ban has its consequences and so we had no choice than to have a get-together for the first time without music. In any case, we had a good time that evening.

The Mass of the Feast Day was presided over by Fr Fred Timp who is celebrating 50 years in vows this year. In his homily under the theme ‘religious life and our vows as religious’ he referred to Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch woman who ended up in a Nazi concentration camp because her family was caught hiding Jews in the attic of their house. She couldn't understand why she should give thanks to God for the fleas that infested their concentration camp barracks until the day she realized the prison guards wouldn't follow the prisoners into the barracks to punish or torture them - because of the fleas. They didn't want to pick up any fleas and take them home, so the flea infested barracks were a refuge, a safe haven, for the prisoners. So also our sufferings and difficulties, freely accepted as religious, often save us from far worse sufferings. We should also give thanks and praise to God for purifying us through these means. “In spite of the pains, the difficulties, the disappointments, and all the bad things that I have experienced in religious life these past fifty years have been very happy years, ... I hope that all of you who have not yet celebrated fifty years in vows will rejoice in having lived your lives as religious when you celebrate your fiftieth anniversary as much as I am rejoicing”, he concluded.

Rev Fr Alfred Anani Akoetey Ayem, SVD is 70 years and 40 in vows. Congratulations!

**THANKSGIVING JUBILEE MASS
ON SUNDAY 15TH JULY 2018 @
AFLAO
21ST/22ND AT HOLY FAMILY,
MATAHEKO, ACCRA**



Nalerigu mission begins....

by Freinademetz Communication Team, Tamale

The Church was packed with the lay faithful, members of Knights of Marshall, Community leaders and others, all for the Inauguration Mass of the SVD taking over of the administration of St. Patrick Parish, Nalerigu in the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese. This day became a reality after “several attempts made earlier to invite the SVDs until 2016, when a process had officially begun to give them a place to work in the diocese”, says the Bishop. This was followed by negotiations and feasibility studies that ended on this Parish.

Most Rev. Alfred Agyenta, the Bishop with his entourage, Lawrence Azure (Parish Priest of St. Paul Church, Walewale), Linus Anaba (the Bishop's Secretary), John Kantongi the Chaplain of the Nalerigu Senior High School and the outgoing Priest in charge of the St. Patrick Church were present to effect the handing over ceremonies. The SVD contingent was led by Fr. George Angmor, Provincial Superior which included Frs. Joseph Biju, Benjamin Asare, Alex Chandy, Pi  re Avonyo, Erasmus Norviewu-Mortty, John Kudjo Dorborkoe, Abrah  m Kposu and a bus full of seminarians from the Freinademetz House. Also present were the Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS), the SVD Brothers, the Sisters of Mary Immaculate (SMI) and the Sisters of St. Anne.

In a welcome address, the Parish Priest of the Walewale St. Paul Church, expressed his joy about the inauguration of the Quasi-Parish, and was optimistic that this would enhance the quick growth of Catholicism in the Mamprugu land, and for that matter, that stretch of the eastern corridor. He said it was a long-awaited desire for this elevation, and believed that it was through the persistent prayer, hard work and commitment of the people that this dream was being realized. Fr. Azure further thanked the bishop for the kind gesture, and pledged to support the SVDs as they began their work there.

In his opening remarks, Bishop Agyenta reiterated that the celebration marked the official entry of the SVDs into the diocese and commended them for their



readiness to work there. He said this was in an affirmation of the SVD slogan: “THE WORLD IS OUR PARISH”,

The chief shepherd of the diocese pointed out that primary evangelization is one of the fundamental charisms of the Divine Word Missionaries, and that greatly influenced their choice of the Nalerigu community which means that, that part of the eastern corridor would be fully evangelized. He thanked all the stakeholders that made this day to get this far.

He urged the faithful to work hard to elevate themselves from a Quasi-Parish, to the status of a full parish. This, he said, would require the building of administrative structures and putting in place other essential logistics. The bishop concluded by appealing to the Overlord of Mamprugu, Naa Bohagu Abdulai Mahami Sheriga (in absentia), who was represented by his spokesperson, to continue to lend the needed support to make the Church vibrant in his jurisdiction.

Later, a contract agreement was signed between the Diocese and the SVD, to signify the official takeover of the Quasi-Parish by the Divine Word Missionaries.

In an acceptance speech, Rev. Fr. Angmor thanked the bishop and the rest of the priests of the Navrongo/Bolgatanga diocese, the chiefs and the entire people of Mamprugu for warmly accepting them into their land. He took the opportunity to give a brief presentation of who the SVDs are. He pointed out that there are about two hundred (200) SVD personnel including expatriates, currently working in the province.

Fr. Angmor again said, the taking over of the St. Patrick Quasi-Parish by the SVDs was happening in the 80th year of the existence of the congregation in Ghana, and that the Navrongo/Bolgatanga had become the 8th diocese the SVD is currently working in the country and in Liberia, two dioceses.

The Provincial Superior then officially introduced Fr. Biju to the congregation and urged the people to cooperate with, and help him learn their language and culture which were essential for the mission. In a quick response, Fr. Biju said he was humbled to be appointed as the first SVD Priest in charge.

The spokesperson for the Mamprugu Traditional Council, Mba Tarana John Grumah, in a goodwill message conveyed the Paramount Chief's word of gratitude to the bishop and the SVDs. He expressed the readiness of the Traditional Council and the entire people of Mamprugu to assist in providing anything materially necessary to support the missionary activities.

Rev. Fr. John Kantongi, expressed gratitude to the bishop, the traditional rulers and all the members, for all their efforts and support to the St. Patrick Church. He also pledged his support to the new Priest in charge.

The St. Patrick Church was opened in the year 1967 as an outstation under the St. Paul Parish, Walewale. Per the political demarcation, it is specifically situated in Nalerigu in the East Mamprusi Municipality in the Northern Region, with Gambaga as the Municipal Capital. As a Quasi-Parish now, it will have under it: St. Thomas Catholic Church - Sakogu, St. Theresah Catholic Church – Gambaga, St. Anthony Catholic Church - Langbinsi and St. Monica Catholic Church - Samini, as outstations. The current numerical strength of the Quasi-Parish excluding the faithful from the outstations is about Five Hundred (500).

SVD takes a Parish in Monrovia

On the 24th of January 2018, the Liberia Mission opened a new page in its history. A new SVD mission has been opened- Immaculate Conception Parish, Pipe Line Monrovia.

Memory lane

The whole story began with the visit of Fr. Heinz Kulüke, the Superior General of the SVD's in February 2016. Prior to his departure, he mentioned in a very casual way that it would be good to have a house in Monrovia, at least two or three rooms where we could stay when we come to Monrovia on business trips and to accommodate visitors to our missions. Discussions started and the interest in getting a place grew, leading to feasibility works to that effect. That was a big task. On several occasions, I was asked (*even by the local clergy*) if the Divine Word Missionaries is an NGO working for the Catholic Church or if we

Parish Priest.

In the course of our search a few proposals came up and in the end we settled on the Immaculate Conception Parish, Pipe Line. The question came up as to who would staff the new mission.

The Provincial Council appointed Fr. Louis Awoudja to be the first SVD Parish Priest in Monrovia with another confrere yet to be ordained to join him later in October. Meanwhile Bro. Wisdom Agbovi appointed to Zwedru to help us with his professional knowledge in building in the Cape Palmas Diocese would be in Monrovia till the other confrere arrives.

With the contract with the Bishop signed, 28th January, a day before St. Joseph Freinademetz Day was set by the Provincial and his Council for the opening of the Monrovia mission. Thus, the Monrovia mission would be under the patronage of the first SVD missionary, St. Joseph Freinademetz.

On the 24th of January 2018 in a simple ceremony led by the Most Rev. Lewis Zeigler the Archbishop of Monrovia the administration of the Immaculate Conception Parish at Pipeline- Paynesville, Monrovia

As the Archbishop continued he said: The prophet is Jesus, who at the end of his mission sent his Apostles into the world to preach the Word of Truth to everyone. "Today, I have the privilege to introduce to you some of the men Jesus Christ sent to announce the Word of Truth to the world. The priests you see at my side and a Religious Brother seating among you, are the members of the Divine Word Missionaries Congregation, men who are called by God to continue the mission of Christ in this world and in this particular case, here in the Immaculate Conception Parish. Accept them as you accepted Christ."

Then the Archbishop asked me to introduce the missionaries to the congregation and to give them the last piece of advice. On this I recalled from my memories the words of Archbishop Zimion of Katowice at the time when I received the Mission Cross: *There is no place in the entire Universe that the living would not have faith. Even the devil has faith, the only thing the devil and the so-called "unbelieving" world is lacking is the LOVE OF GOD. Therefore, I ask you as the one who sends you in the name of the Church to the world; On your journey of*



Fr. Louis, the new SVD priest-in-charge



Concelebrants during the Mass



A section of the congregation

are Catholics or one of the Pentecostal Churches who try to find their way into Liberia.

After this initial rather discouraging experience I turned for help to those who knew us and in Monrovia I found the FMM Sisters. I tried to negotiate with them the sale of their former Provincial House. They offered to share a portion of the land at "Beach House". Finally, one of the FMM sisters told me that the Salesians of Don Bosco wanted to leave the St. Joseph Parish. Through the encouragement of Most Rev. Lewis Zeigler the Archbishop of Monrovia I went to the St. Joseph Parish and met the Parish Priest. He almost asked me to leave his office upon hearing from me the intention of the Salesians to leave the Parish. "If we have the intention to leave the Parish would we have renovated the church and I being appointed here barely two weeks ago as a Parish Priest?" he reacted. I was devastated by the reception of the

was officially handed over to Fr. Awoudja, Louis, SVD. He was accompanied by Bro. Wisdom Agbovi SVD and I representing the Provincial Fr. George C. Angmor SVD.

On Sunday 28th January during the Holy Mass officiated by Archbishop Lewis Zeigler, Fr. Louis Awoudja SVD was officially announced as the new Parish Priest of the Immaculate Conception Parish. In his homily, the Archbishop said that what characterized present time is the search for truth. People, hope for someone who will bring truth into their lives; people search for truth analyzing the speeches of the political leaders and celebrities of present time, but there is only one place where we can find the truth, and that is, in the Bible – the Word of God. Then he quoted from the First Reading: *"Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among you, from your own brothers; to him you must listen.'"*

love the people you meet with the love God loves you and by this LOVE they will know and believe in God. As I continued, I said; So, my brothers, Fr. Yao and Bro. Wisdom I am asking you to love the people entrusted to you today by the Archbishop of Monrovia. And you the parishioners of Immaculate Conception I ask you; love them too. And, you will grow in Faith and Love of God together for the glory of God's Kingdom.

After the Mass, the people invited us for a meal with the Archbishop and some of the leaders of different organizations in the Parish.

The new page of the Liberia Mission has started. We pray that we will be able to live up to the expectation Christ and the Local Church of Monrovia; May the Sts. Arnold and Joseph be with us.

Fr. Joseph Mazur. SVD

PARENTS' VISIT TO THE NOVITIATE: *a reflection*

Recently a workshop on the topic "Religious Life and Family Relationship" was organized for Novices and postulants of the SVD, HDR, Redemptorist and the SSpS at the SVD Novitiate. It was facilitated by Most Rev. Vincent Boi-Nai, Bishop of Yendi Diocese. One of the major points that was emphasized strongly by the Bishop among other things was that there is a bridge of connectedness between a religious and his or her family which cannot be neglected or overlooked. As a result, religious need to foster a strong and good relationship between them and the family both at the individual and the congregational level. This he said can also serve as a form of support for the individual members of the Congregation.

Drawing a few lessons from the workshop, I see the parents' visit to the Novitiate as a step in the right direction since it provides that medium which fosters a good relationship between the families and those in formation and the society.

Introduced some years ago, the parents' visit to the Novitiate has become an annual activity of the Novitiate programme. This year's visit which took place in January saw the parents of the novices visiting for a period of three days.

The three-day interaction was one of great significance for the novices, the parents/guardians as well as the entire novitiate community. It was an opportunity for the parents to first of all see their sons whom they had not seen for quite some time, and vice versa. Secondly, it served as an opportunity for the parents/guardians to know more concerning the life of their sons in the novitiate and above all get a first-hand information about the kind of life being embraced by their sons as well as about the Society of the Divine Word which they are preparing to become members. It was also an opportunity for establishing a bond between the SVD and the families of the Novices.

The visit was graced by the parents/ guardian of the Ghanaians, Togolese and Beninese novices except the parents/guardians of those from Kenya, Madagascar and Mozambique who could not attend due to distance. However, even in their absence these novices were not left as "Orphans" as they were massively represented by the Christian Mothers in the Kwahu district who came to show their love and concern for them.

As part of the activities, there was a presentation on the holistic view of the life in the novitiate, about the religious life and the Society of the Divine Word delivered by the novices and the novice directors. The parents and the Christian Mothers had the opportunity to visit our farm and to see some of the initiatives being undertaken by the novices. They also joined us for prayers and Mass.

As a matter fact, reflecting on the visit of our parents, and situating it in the context of the workshop mentioned earlier, those who initiated this programme need to be commended as well as those who have sustained it till now.

By Paul Amuzu, Novice

RIP, SR AGATHINA, SSpS



Sr. Agathina Adele Miss who was working in Ghana for the past 50 years left Ghana on 12th October 2017 to seek medical care, "when we saw her off at the airport, we had no clue that it was our last parting words with her. All of us thought that we

were going to meet each other again" said Sr. Dinah, SSpS Ghana Provincial Leader, only to receive the sad news of her death on the 18th January in Steyl.

The SSpS organized memorial Masses for her in two places where she shared life and mission for many years: At St. Michael Catholic Church, Nkawkaw on 9th February, 2018 and at Martyrs of Uganda Parish, Mamprobi, Accra on 16th February, 2018. *May her soul rest in perfect peace.*

REGENTROPFEN COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES
ReCAS

ReCAS is a member of African-German Entrepreneurship Academy (AGEA)
ReCAS offers French, Sign Language as well as Professional and Career Development courses to its students at NO extra cost
At ReCAS we teach Know-How and Do-How

PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

DEGREE PROGRAMMES

- B.Sc. Business Administration (BBA)
- B.Sc. Accounting
- B.Ed Basic Education
- B.Sc. Computer Science
- B.Sc. Agriculture for Social Change

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

- Dip. in Business Administration (DBA)
- Dip. in Accounting
- Dip. in Basic Education
- Dip. in Computer Science
- Dip. in Agriculture for Social Change

Private Mail Bag,
Bolgatanga, Upper East Region,
Ghana – West Africa.
+233 240 018 325 / +233 542 929 999
Email: info@recas-ghana.com / Website: www.recas-ghana.com
Join The Pacesetters... ReCAS, Promoting Talents!

BIBLE PASTORAL MINISTRY

Coordinator: Fr. Andrews Obeng, SVD



DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES - GHANA

BIBLICAL PASTORAL MINISTRY

MENU FOR 2018

<p>COURSE 1 CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF EVANGELIZATION (10-DAY RESIDENTIAL)</p> <p>DATE: 22ND JULY TO 1ST AUGUST 2018</p> <p>VENUE: DIVINE WORD CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER, ADOAGYIRI-NSAWAM</p> <p style="background-color: white; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;">FEE Gh¢500</p>	<p>COURSE 2 DEI VERBUM (40-DAY, RESIDENTIAL)</p> <p>DATE: 1ST AUG TO 10TH SEP 2018</p> <p>VENUE: DIVINE WORD CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER, ADOAGYIRI-NSAWAM</p> <p style="background-color: white; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;">FEE Gh¢700</p>
<p>COURSE 3 BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP (1-DAY NON-RESIDENTIAL)</p> <p>DATE: 10TH NOVEMBER 2018</p> <p>TIME: 9AM - 5PM</p> <p>VENUE: ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN SPIRITUALITY CENTER, BORTIANOR HILLS (OFF TUBA KOKROBITE ROAD)</p> <p style="background-color: white; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;">FEE Gh¢10</p>	<p>COURSE 4 BIBLIODRAMA (1-DAY NON-RESIDENTIAL)</p> <p>DATE: 17TH NOVEMBER 2018</p> <p>TIME: 9AM - 5PM</p> <p>VENUE: ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN SPIRITUALITY CENTER, BORTIANOR HILLS (OFF TUBA KOKROBITE ROAD)</p> <p style="background-color: white; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;">FEE Gh¢10</p>

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES AND BOOKING,
CONTACT REV. FR. ANDREWS OBENG, SVD,
THE COORDINATOR FOR BIBLICAL PASTORAL MINISTRY,
ON **+233243936638**

MISSION

Coordinator: Fr. Stephen Dogodzi, SVD

Fund Raising

Fundraising in the mission office has seen a lot of improvement.

Sources: Offerings from giving of retreats to groups in parishes, donation from friends, Lenten envelopes, sale of mission stickers and mission market. The mission market initiative to raise funds was started only last year. It has the potential of being one of the main sources of raising funds for the office in the future. The greater part of the sources of fund raising is from SVD run parishes. The question is, when we are no longer working in those parishes, will there be fund raising sources still? It is a big question that the office is trying to answer and find solution to before it happens. It is one of the big challenges that the office foresees in the near future. It is necessary to talk about the need for confreres to encourage parishioners of their home parishes to support the SVD worldwide missions. This, when done well will widen the base for the source of fund raising. Again I will like to call for the need to streamline fund raising activities in the province since there are so many fund raisings going on in the province.

COMMUNICATION MINISTRY

Coordinator: Fr. Rex A. Vegbey,

"Communication is key to one's success and happiness as a religious". This was contained in the content presented to the Novices in a weeklong Workshop that took place at the Novitiate from the 12th -16th of February. The aim of the Workshop was to equip the novices with the tools to acquire competency in communication within the context of Faith and Society. The Workshop treated topics such as The Church and Communication (Vat. II), The SVD Communication Ministry going through the History, Chapters Documents, SVD Constitution, SVD Communication Policy, effective writing for reading and to deliver to a congregation. They were taking through the practical aspect of it by each writing an article and delivering before a camera. An important aspect of a happy community living is communicating effectively in community. Thus, the novices were led to identify and find solutions to some of the worrying issues of communication in community living.

JPIC

Coordinator: Peter Kabutey, SVD

1ST ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH

A memorial Holy Mass was held at the SVD guest house, Adabraka, Accra in honor of Br. Charles McCarthy whose 1st anniversary of death fell on 19th January, 2018. Present at the Holy Mass were some SVD confreres working in the Accra District, SSsP sister, some members of staff of the guest house and some lay faithful who usually attend the Mass at the Guest House.

The Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Fred Timp SVD and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Peter Kabutey SVD. The readings were chosen for this purpose. In the homily, Fr. Fred stressed that indeed the death of Br. Charles was a shock to all of us. But our faith tells us that just as the son of the widow of Nain was restored to life by Jesus, we also believe that Br. Charles would be restored to life in Heaven because Br. Charles finished with his work on earth and had gone to rest. He encouraged all of us also to do what is expected of us too.

Meanwhile, two of the confreres were at Br. Charles grave side the day before to pray for his soul at Nsawam, where he was laid to rest. May the soul of Br. Charles rest in peace. Amen.

Fr. George Kudzo Adzato [IBP]

Fr. George, a Ghanaian-born is currently working in the Irish-British Province of the SVD. He is currently ministering in Dublin 15, in the parish of Mountview. "Since my preference is to work with the poor and the marginalised, I see myself in the right place", he said. He was home recently for his vacation and he shares with us his mission experiences.



I arrived in Ireland three years ago. The first day of my arrival in Ireland is still fresh in my mind. The cold I experienced that very day is something I cannot forget. And how I worked with Fr Tim patiently as he designed the programme for new missionaries. Thanks to him for the help I had at the beginning of my missionary journey in Ireland.

In preparing for the mission, I can say that the formation program before going to Ireland offered me the opportunity to be well prepared for the mission. The second thing for me is the mindset, as I

believed from the. beginning that mission is all about self-giving; and it's one of my guiding principles.

In fact, Ireland was the third choice I made and never expected it so when I was appointed to Ireland, I told myself I will try and make the best out of it and that is what I am doing.

In an answer to the question on how he coped with the Irish culture, the weather and the people? He said, "As a missionary, I knew I was going into a different culture. I therefore entered the culture as a child ready to learn. I am also beginning to like the Irish weather. Just like all other places in the world, I met both welcoming and unwelcoming people. However, on a more serious note I have enjoyed the company of many and even some accepted me as part of their families."

He thinks that priests and religious in Ireland must involve or give way to the faithful to participate in the life of the Church. This would make them feel they are the people of God and the Church is for them.

I know there is hope. But the future could be brighter if the bureaucracy is broken. The Gospel must not be compromised. It must be the centre of the life of the church. Not only that, the sacraments especially the Eucharist must be celebrated with dignity. The involvement of the people is a must to see the Church move forward.

As a Ghanaian, what I have learnt from here is that the church should be the voice of the people and not being politically biased in challenging the political leaders. To the confreres in Ghana he says “use the Ghanaian family concept of togetherness to work as a team avoiding individual projects that can be detrimental to the SVD. We should be living witnesses of the Gospel.”

Bangladesh Mission

By Fr. Mariusz Pacula, SVD




I arrived safely at Chittagong airport together with Fr. Stanislaus and Fr. Cyprian Pinto at the beginning of the year. Sr. Nisha Rita welcomed us warmly on behalf of the archbishop. We took off from the airport to the bishop's residence which is 10 kilometres away but due to heavy traffic it took us almost two hours to reach. For the first time we experienced the heavy vehicular and human traffic in Bangladesh. At the Bishop's residence, a number of priests and lay faithful heartily welcomed us by offering us bouquet of flowers as local customs demand.

We were hosted at the cathedral parish house. Later on we met the bishop and the diocesan curia. During this meeting we were briefed about the country Bangladesh and about the diocese. We got the impression that Catholic priests in this Islamic country are accorded high respect. The Bishop encouraged us to carry any religious signs on us to show that we are Christians. He assured us that we should not have any fear in showing openly that we belong to the Catholic Church. We arrived at Jamal Khan parish house that was recently renovated. The parish house is beautiful and homey. There was a short handing over ceremony where all necessary documents were handed over to us and but a brief explanation of the finances of the parish was given us. We visited a few places in Bangladesh before the official taking over was done.


On 15th January 2018, the feast day of our founder, Saint Arnold Janssen, we dedicated Bangladesh Mission to God's providence and guidance. During the ceremony, Fr Cyprian Pinto was installed as the parish priest of Jamal Khan, Immaculate Conception of the BVM Parish. Fr. Cyprian was introduced to the parishioners and they accepted and assured him that they were ready to cooperate with him to develop the local church and promote the work of salvation.

Since I entered Bangladesh with a tourist visa, I had to go back to Poland in order to get a Missionary visa through Bangladesh embassy in Poland. We need your prayerful support as we strive to settle and do mission work in Bangladesh. My regards to all confreres of the province.

NEWS BITS



PRIESTLY ORDINATION



of
Rev. Pius Gregory Oduru Owusu SVD
by
Peter Cardinal Appiah Turkson

Date: Sunday, 3rd June, 2018
Time: 3:00 P.M.
Venue: St. Augustine Seminary SVD
Address: Arnold-Janssen-Straße 30
D-53757 Sankt Augustin
Germany

"I do not consider being a missionary a sacrifice I offer to God, but the greatest gift God has given me."
St. Joseph Freinademetz

- ❖ St. Augustine's Parish, Asesewa organized a farewell mass for Fr. Emmanuel Azure. He leaves to Rome on 28th April to begin his studies in Licentiate in Canon Law at the Gregorian University for three years.
- ❖ Pray for our novices who have started their 30-day retreat.

- ❖ Fr. Daniel Lenwah has been appointed the substantive Headmaster of St. Dominic Senior High Tech School at Pepease.
- ❖ Fr. Martin Kog Ninnang has been appointed the acting assistant headmaster of St. Peter's SHS. Congratulations to them!
- ❖ John Schlitz has been granted the permission to take a medical leave.
- ❖ Fr. Jozef Mazur (District Superior Liberia) has requested for transfer to his home province, Poland.
- ❖ Fr. Samuel Adu has been granted permission to come to Ghana for his summer programme to collect data for his research.
- ❖ Fr. David Agah has also been granted similar permission to go to France to learn French as part of his studies in Rome.
- ❖ Fr. John Straathof has been granted a compassionate leave to visit his terminally ill siblings in the Netherlands.
- ❖ Admission to Postulancy: Fifteen young men have been admitted to begin their formation at the St. Joseph Freinademetz House in Tamale.



Bro Peter van Ufelen, SVD, RIP

Brother Peter van Ufelen, SVD popularly known in Ghana as 'abor ahen' a name given to him by his staff at his last station, the Divine Word Catholic Conference Centre (DWCCC). According to Bro Pius Agyemang, he would always show his wrist watch to any worker who came to work late and would ask in twi in a heavy Dutch accent 'abo ahen?' meaning what time is it, pointing to his

wrist watch. Since it sounded funny and became part of the morning ritual at DWCCC, he was named 'abo ahen'.

Born on 5 December 1930 in the Netherlands entered the seminary but was unsuccessful in his studies and had to withdraw after 6 years. However, his zeal to the religious life made him to come back a year later to become a brother candidate in Teteringen.

He had his novitiate in Deurne and made his first vows on 8 May 1955. and on 15 July, 1958 he received an appointment to Ghana. He went to England for 3 months to learn the English language. On 26 January 1959 he travelled to Ghana via Rome, where he arrived in Accra on 4 February 1959. That same evening Henk Jansen takes him to Koforidua. There was his first disappointment: Every time he wanted to do something, Henk told him: 'Leave that to the Ghanaians'. So there was not much opportunity to teach Gregorian at the minor seminary. Fortunately for him, his pastor was replaced by Theo van Eyndthoven, a totally different person, with whom he could make proper use of his talents.

On 1 May 1961 he made the final vows and appointed to St. Peter's Secondary School in Nkwatia- Kwahu where he taught music, the driver who transported building materials from Accra for the construction of the school. In addition he was the bursar of the school.

In 1969 Bro Pete took part in the Renewal Course in Nemi and upon his return he was assigned to the Bursary at St. Paul's technical School in Kukurantumi where he worked for three years before he becoming the manager of the SVD Guest House in Accra from 1974-1980. He wrote "Because of my attitude of serving and having the talents of good organization, I naturally ended up in places where those talents were needed. Moreover, I never had to say "No" to a new challenge." He was involved in pastoral work helping Fr. Henk Noordermeer conducting communion services in the outstations. He was a prolific story writer and was a columnist in the Province Newsletter under the caption: From Peters' desk.

In 1980 he took a long leave and offered a hand in the mission office in the NEB province for half a year before returning to Ghana in 1981 where he was assigned to the Catholic Conference Centre in Nsawam - Adoagyiri, to succeed Fr. Sjef van Paridon. He becomes his successor. His years at CCC saw tremendous changes at the centre and still remembered by the people of Adoagyiri.

He was called to his home province and worked in Belgium for a short while before he was requested to offer a hand during the construction of the McCarthy Hill residence. He made sure that McCarthy Hill got the right trees and the right landscape. In 1992 when his mother became seriously ill, Bro Pete left for the Netherlands, to be closer to her mother. It was during that time he went to Nemi for the second time and returned to Ghana. Ill health did not allow him to stay long in Ghana so after 33 years of working in Ghana, he left for good to his home province. He did not have it easy, he wrote, 'It is mainly the loneliness that sometimes affects me because of so little contact with the outside world'. Since he has left Ghana quite suddenly, he was looking forward to go back to Ghana to bid proper farewell which he did on his 40th anniversary of vows in 1995.

In the Netherlands, Ghana was in his heart; at every party he wore his colourful Ghanaian shirt and sung Ghanaian songs with a Ghanaian confrere. His health started to deteriorate when on Valentine's day, Ash Wednesday 14th February 2018, Brother Peter van Ufelen, aka 'abo ahen' died in peace. He was buried on the 21st February, at the cemetery of the Mission House.

SVD GHANA ORDINATIONS: In view of the 125 years of the Archdiocese of Accra, we have been invited to join the Archdiocesan ordinations and this would take place in Accra in August 2018.

WORTH REMEMBERING**May**

01	Joseph Addai	Feastday
01	Kingsley Sagru-Larr	Feast day
01	Cyprian Kuupol	Birthday
01	Joseph Panabang	Feast day
01	Albert Ziem	Birthday
02	Gideon Davordzie	Feast day
03	Jacobson Dey	Feastday
03	Jojo Monoth	Feastday
03	Peter Wildenburg	+ 1984
04	Francis Allah	Birthday
05	Joshua Garibah	Birthday
05	Alexander P. Chandy	Birthday
05	Simon Vire	Birthday
08	Samuel Doe	Birthday
08	Stanislaw Gergont	Feast day
09	Samuel Aboo	Birthday
09	Józef Pieczykolan	+2014
10	Samuel Yaw Adu	Birthday
10	Bruno Yirzie	Birthday
10	Jacques Nyssen	+2015
11	Fabian Cofie	Birthday
12	John A. Asiedu	Birthday
13	Eugene Agyapong	Feastday
14	Matthias King	Feastday
14	Mathias Yaadar	Feastday
14	John McKillip	+ 1979
15	Samuel Victor Kusaga	Birthday
15	Marcel Danyo	Birthday
16	Déomba Honoré Karo	Feastday
17	Paul Ayitey	Birthday
18	Mariusz Pacula	Birthday
19	Joseph Youta Djiba	Birthday
19	Paul Agbeyome	+2014
20	Bernard Assenyoh	Birthday
21	John Ohene Akuffo	Birthday
21	Charles S MacCarthy	Birthday
22	Emmanuel Anyomi	Feast day
22	Emile K Dzokpe.	Feastday
22	Emil Setsoafia	Birthday
25	Boniface Issaka	Birthday
25	Fr. Otto Welter	+ 2003
26	Wladyslaw Madziar	Birthday
27	George Wilson	+ 1985
30	Frank Quainoo	Birthday
31	Charles Kporfor	Feastday
31	Maxwell Wullar	Birthday
31	Alphonse Elsbernd	+ 1997
31	Patrick Murphy	+ 2011

JUNE

02	Marcel Kakrabah	Feastday
02	Erasmus Norviewu-	Feastday
02	Morty &	Birthday
03	Charles Simon MacCarthy	Feastday
05	Godfred Koranteng	Birthday
05	Boniface Issaka	Feast day
06	Marvin Gyasie	Birthday
06	Norbert Agyei	Feastday
07	Franklyn Nubuasah	Birthday

07	John K. Tumawu	Birthday
07	June Lee	Birthday0
08	Joachim Mika	+2014
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
12	Joseph T. Djabaré	Birthday
12	John Dorborkoe	Birthday
13	Eugene Agyapong	Feast day
13	Augustine Amanor	Feastday
13	Anthony B. Amissah	Feast day
13	Moses Awinongya Asaah	Feastday
13	Anthony Dugay	Feast day
13	Antonius Hibur	Feastday
13	Anthony Lawer Djimatey	Feastday
13	Anthony D. Mensah	Feast day
13	Anthony Michael Muchui	Feastday
13	Joseph Hus	+ 1988
14	Emmanuel Fianu	Birthday
15	Lambert Azieve	Birthday
15	Francis Damoah	Birthday
16	Raymond Guidrey	+ 2011
17	Marouwele Pitcholo	Feastday
18	Francis Mastan	Birthday
19	Déohomba Honoré Karo	Birthday
19	Gabriel Sosu	Birthday
20	Bernard Tang	Birthday
20	Emmanuel Danso	Birthday
20	Charles Johnston	Feastday
20	Hans van Kempen	+ 2006
21	Dionisio Nellis	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	John Jerome Asidigbe	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	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	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