



JANUARY 2013

2013!
75 years
of
SVD
Missionary
Activity
in
Ghana

A WORD FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,

We had a nice Family Feast celebration last week in Nsawam where we celebrated the following jubilees of our confreres: Henry Noordermeer – 50 years priesthood; B. Dan Berek – 25 years priesthood; Antonius Hibur – 25 years vows; Daniel Lenwah – 25 years vows. We also celebrated 25 years in vows of our Sisters: Kamila Kubiak and Cecilia Boateng..

This time the confreres came in very early on the 24th, especially the young ones. Many Sisters also came early. The number of confreres and sisters present for this Family Feast was probably the highest so far. It was a very meaningful celebration. Fr. Lenwah was the main celebrant for the Mass and Fr. Dan Berek preached on mission. Our congratulations again to all the jubilarians.

Talking about jubilees, the Archdiocese of Accra is remembering the first missionaries' arrival in Greater Accra 120 years ago. The SMA Missionaries landed in Accra 120 years ago and handed over the mission to the SVD after our arrival in 1938. All of us are invited for this celebration on 31st January for a solemn High Mass presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana and concelebrated by the SMA and SVD Provincials and other priests. It will be held in the CFAO car park. Being a very historic event, please do your very best to be present for this very solemn occasion.

As we have already written to you, there will be a province visitation from 17th April to 15th May. May I request the Local/District Superiors to arrange with their respective visitators the dates etc. The newsletter has all the details about who is coming to your district or community. This visitation is also in preparation for the General Visitation which will take place in October – November this year.

The Lenten Season will be here soon. I wish you a fruitful Lenten Season. Our province Lenten Recollections at Nsawam will be on: 22-23 March and 25-26 March. Mark your calendars!

Yours in the Divine Word,

Thomas D'Mello, SVD
Provincial

ARRIVALS

- Rev. Samuel Balkono (PNG) arrived on the 10th December after completing his theological studies in Papua New Guinea. *Nogat samting!*
- Fr. Anthony Amissah (KEN), arrived on 24th December for his annual holidays. *Karibu!*
- Fr. Stephen Ayisu (USW) arrived 27th December for his well deserved vacation, just on time for the New Year with the family. *Bienvenido!*
- Fr. Gabriel Afagbegee (BOT) arrived 27th December from South Africa for a two- week holiday. *Welkommen!*

DEPARTURES

- Fr. Anthony Amissah left for Kenya on the 10th January.
- Bro. Thaddeus Nyanuba left on the 14th January back to Mozambique.
- Fr. Gabriel Afagbegee, returned to his place of work in South Africa on 11th January.
- Eric Mwanje (one of the novices) left for Kenya on 14th January.

His Excellency Archbishop Michael Blume, SVD, Apostolic Nuncio to Togo-Benin arrived as Papal rep to the installation of the new President of Ghana. Accompanied by Fr. Thomas D'Mello, the Provincial, he visited the confreres at McCarthy Hill residence. He has since returned to Benin where he resides.

From the Provincial Council

Appointments

- Bro. John Akuffo has been appointed to Book Centre as part-time personnel to enable him go for lectures in the afternoons. He would continue to reside at the Book Centre.
- Fr. Francis Mustan has been appointed to the Province accounts office, with residence at the Provincial House, Castle Drive.
- Rev. Balkono is assigned to do his diaconate ministry at St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Abeka.
- Fr. Jacobson Dey has been appointed to be in charge of CCROM.
- Bro. Affum is appointed as Director of Bro. Formation and would continue to reside at the Book Centre residence.
- Fr. Rex Vegbey is appointed the Communication Coordinator for the Province with residence at St. Arnold Janssen House, Tesano.
- Fr. Kofi Ron Lange has been assigned to be in charge of introducing new missionaries to the Yendi District.

Approvals

- Benjamin Asare has been approved to go for further studies in Philosophy in Belgium.
- Fr. John Doborkoe is approved to study Missiology in Rome.

Judging a person does not define who they are; it defines who you are.

Pray for our Sick Confreres

Fr. Paul Agbeyome is recuperating slowly from ill-health. He is in high spirits but needs our prayers.

Fr. John Straathof: His prostate operation was diagnosed as not cancerous, good news! Apart from issues of age, John is in high spirits and hopes to return at the end of February to continue his missionary activity in the Province.

Fr. Henry Noordemeer:



He has suffered some bruises on his face and on the knee.

Arriving at McCarthy Hill Community from his Station, Obuom, to take some rest, he woke up in the early hours of the day to admire the beauty of Accra at night from the “pinnacle” of McCarthy Hill Residence.

He went to the balcony, perhaps he was attracted so much by the lights of the city and wanted to get closer to have a clearer view of the city. He may have not realised that he was at the edge of the balcony only to find himself rolling down the hill into the bushes. Being early hours, his scream did not register in the ears of the sleeping confreres. He however started to crawl to safety until the security personnel on duty noticed a movement in the bush: Fortunately, he did not

suspect the movement to be a bush pig to shoot for soup, but went to his rescue and he was rushed to the hospital. He has since been discharged and recuperating slowly. Henry, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Dates for Provincial Council Meetings 2013

Monday January 14

Tuesday Feb 12

Friday March 22

Tuesday April 16

Tuesday May 21

Tuesday June 18

Tuesday July 16

Tuesday August 20

Tuesday September 17

Wednesday October 9

Tuesday November 19

Tuesday December 10th

Province visitation starts from 17th April to 15th May

Accra, Koforidua and Nsawam Districts:	Fr. Andrew Quaye-Foli
Tema- Battor and Yendi Districts:	Bro. Jerome Agbeko
Kwahu District:	Fr. Thomas D’Mello
BA and Afram Plains District:	Fr. Mariusz Pacula
Tamale:	Fr. George Angmor

The Council members would contact the Local Superiors to fix the dates for the respective visits.

Reminder: The General Visitation is from the 15th to 30th Nov. The Visitor is Fr. Paul Budi Kleden, SVD.

NB: The Dates for Provincial Council Meetings 2013 may change due to unforeseen events that may come up. All letters to the Council should reach the Provincial Office at least three days before a scheduled meeting, otherwise it would be deferred to the next meeting.

Apologizing does not always mean you are wrong and the other person is right. It just means you value your relationship more than your ego.

UPDATES ON PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES

Development Committee

Bro. Stephen Domelevo – Chairman

Bro. Emmanuel Affum – Secretary

Bro. John Lengari

Bro. Jerome Agbeko

Fr. Joseph Mazur

Fr. Rex Vegbey

The Province asked the committee to study and recommend viable investment proposals to the Provincial and his Council. The properties to be considered are: Book Centre, Tesano land, Tuba land and Dumasua land.

The Committee has sat on three occasions to deliberate on these properties. As a first step, with a bit of a background research, the committee would like to put the Dumasua land on the table for further study. Meanwhile Bro. Jerome Agbeko is charged to see to the documentation of the registration of the land which he has reported to be on course.

The Book Centre property is also being considered. The lack of adequate parking space for other businesses to occupy part of the Book Centre is making the letting problematic. Discussions are still ongoing as different opinions are flowing in to the committee.

If you have any idea as to the profitable use of these properties, please send them to the Chairman:

Br. Stephen Domelevo 0208150821 (sdomelevo@yahoo.com)

75th Anniversary Committee

The Celebration Committee of the Province is to plan the 75th anniversary of SVD presence in Ghana and propose it to the Provincial Council for consideration. The Committee could co-opt others being confreres, priests from the various dioceses, religious Brothers and Sisters as well as lay people. In effect the following are the core members:

Bro. McDaniel Acquaaah – Chairman

Fr. Rex Vegbey - Secretary

Fr. Matthias King

Bro. Pius Agyemang

Fr. Dionisio Nellas

Fr. Jojo Monoth

Sub-Committees have been formed and are in full operation. If you would like to be part of any of the committees please feel free to contact the appropriate convenor.

The 75th anniversary year-long celebration has been deferred from last year to begin in 2013 into 2014. The reasons among others are that we are

SUB-COMMITTEE

Liturgy

Spirituality

Media/Publication

Protocol

*Fundraising Committee
for memorial project*

Financial

Social Activities/

Entertainment

Awards

Logistics

Security

Health

Archives and Museum

CONVENOR

Bro. Pius Agyemang

Fr. Jacobson Dey

Fr. Rex Vegbey

Fr. Andrew Quaye-Foli

Fr. Andrew Campbell

Bro. John Lengari

Fr. Julius Keeke

Fr. Matthias King

Fr. Alex Awuah

Mr. Brigadier Kwarteng

Dr. Andre Kumah

Fr. Vincent Owusu

joining in the dioceses which have equally important anniversaries in 2012/13. Among them are the Archdiocese of Accra which is currently celebrating 120 years and Koforidua Cathedral which is celebrating 100 years with the diocese celebrating 20 years.

Highlights of the proposed program would be published in due course.

Afram Plains

On the 26th December, all the confreres with the Bishop, Most Rev. Gabriel Kumordji gathered at the very spot where our confrere Frt. Denis Asiamah drowned in 2007. Confreres never had the courage to go there for their usual picnic after the incidence. A short memorial service was held and led by the Bishop in his honour. The Bishop exhorted the confreres to continue with the missionary zeal which led the Vatican to elevate Donkorkrom to an apostolic vicariate.

From the Novitiate:

Report coming from the Novitiate is that all is fine at. The sad news is that two of our novices discontinued from the formation program; Richard Botchway from Ghana has been granted sometime off the novitiate to reflect on his vocation and can re-apply after two years. He is currently pursuing professional studies at St. Paul's, Kukurantumi. The other, Eric Mwanje has since left for Kenya. We wish them all the best in their search for fulfilment in life.

African SVDs attend ARUG National Congress

The African Religious Union, Ghana (ARUG) was formed since forty years ago through the initiative of our confrere Bro. Pius Agyemang, SVD. The idea was conceived at the Pan African Laity Seminar held in Ghana in 1971 when groups attending the seminar were encouraged to form African unions not excluding the Religious. This led to the formation of the African religious Unions in some of the countries on the West coast with Nigeria spearheading the foundation. It was named "Indigenous West African Religious Union" (IWARU). A branch was then formed by Bro. Pius in Ghana with the aim of bringing the few African Religious in the country together to relax, reflect and to promote themselves as living witnesses to the religious life in a bid to enhance religious vocation in the country. Eventually, the Union saw the need for it to embrace all religious from the rest of the continent and this led to the birth of ARUG.

From the 7th-11th January, 2013 the annual National Congress was held at the Regional Seminary of St. Peter, Pedu, in Cape Coast with the theme 'Promoting Justice and Peace for effective community living'. This brought about over one hundred African religious from all parts of the country among whom were fourteen SVDs. The Episcopal chairman of Religious and Clergy Most Rev. Gabriel Kumordji, SVD,

Bishop of the Vicariate of Donkorkrom also joined midway through the Congress. He could not do so in the beginning of the Congress as he had to attend the Congress of the National Union of Ghana Diocesan Priests Association (NUGDPA) which was taking place at Ho and running concurrently with the ARUG congress. Participants included religious Provincial Superiors, active and retired in addition to the many other African religious men and women.

Three major Conferences based on the theme of the Congress were presented at the Congress:

- *Social Justice in relation to the community and the environment* was delivered Mrs. Hannah Owusu Koranteng, Associate Executive Director of Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM).

- *Promoting dialogue for effective community living* was given by Fr. Rex Vegbey, SVD, Communication Coordinator for the Divine Word Missionaries in Ghana.
- *Promoting Justice and Peace for effective community living* was presented by Bro. Joseph Kofi Tsiquaye, CSC, Director of Novices.

In the keynote address read by Very Rev. Fr. Ebo Blay the Vicar General of Cape Coast, on behalf of Most Rev. Matthias Nketsia, the Archbishop of Cape Coast, he made reference to the Year of Faith in relation to the theme of the Congress in which he sees as being in tune with the African Church's specific mission as 'a family of God'. In his address, he stressed the need for the promotion of reconciliation, peace and justice as an urgent pastoral and evangelical apostolate.

Mrs. Owusu Koranteng reminded participants that land as a natural resource belongs to the people, the dead, the living and the future and it is our obligation to preserve it.

In his presentation, Fr. Vegbey drew the attention of participants of how certain individual attitudes and habits like prejudice, non-verbal negative gestures, stereotype lifestyles, gossips, formation of cliques, etc. can damage the peace, harmony and unity in the community. He continued that we need to take the admonition of Mt. 7 seriously and to think positively of others and treat others as we would like them treat us. As religious, we can only live justice, peace and effective community life if we are grounded in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro Tsiquaye on the other hand, challenged participants to practise Justice and Peace in our communities by giving each person his or her due, e.g. respect for our personal gifts and talents as well as our weaknesses, having an equitable share of what belong to the community, recognizing and appreciating the rights and the responsibilities of each member of the community.

Among the key issues discussed at the congress was the approval of a constitution of the Association which draft dates back to the beginnings of the Association in the 1970s. Following the approval of the constitution, the way was paved for a constitutional election of officers which was conducted at the congress. Fr. Cyprian Kuupol, SVD emerged the Chairman of the Association for a period of four years.

Four years in office has become necessary as the National Congress would be biennial, allowing the Executive to organise two congresses before leaving the office.

A day was dedicated to excursions which took participants to try their 'rope-walking' skills on the hanging rope-foot bridge at the Kakum National Park. It was fun, some Sisters prayed all the decades of the Holy Rosary whilst doing the walking on the dangling foot bridge. Some remarked afterwards that the Blessed Virgin Mary truly might have come to their aid, as they were no longer frightened walking on the dangling ropes of the footbridge, several meters high from the ground. The group later, visited the Elmina Castle where slaves were kept for onward transfers to the Americas and other parts of the world during the slave trade.

At the end of it all, some of the participants interviewed commented that the Congress was educative and above all was a real fun. For those who attended for the first time, many remarked that they would do everything possible not to miss the subsequent congresses of the ARUG.

SPORTING WEEK IN THE SVD FORMATION HOUSES

Human person as a “being with” is known as a social being; that is to say he lives with others. In fact, through his relationship with others human person comes to know them and discover himself as well. That is why the SVD Common Formation Centre in agreement with the SVD Philosophy House organized a sporting week marking the beginning of the formation year 2012-2013.

Besides, we know that sports not only help us to forge a bond of friendship but also and above all, help us to maintain our body healthy.

On 10th September, 2012 the St. Joseph Freinademetz Community joined the CFC community for a volleyball match. It was around 2:15 pm and surprisingly, the Freinademetz community came with drums and all kinds of musical instruments. They were playing and chanting their victory song while the CFC members were still in their rooms. On hearing the music, the CFC Coach went to see what was going on.

Noticing that the Freinademetz members were chanting their victory songs while none of his players were on the field, he got terrified. In his



confusion and not knowing which direction to take he started whistling in order to call his players. The few ones who came first to see the Freinademetz players displaying, were also scared by their singing and dancing. In their fright the CFC players asked themselves

whether they could play up to expectation. However, soon after everybody was ready, the match started. In the beginning there was pressure from both of the teams. Eventually, to cut a long story short, it ended 4-1 in favour of the CFC community. Three days later,

the community went to meet the Freinademetz community for a football match. Indeed, the Freinademetz players were well prepared for a ‘revenge’ on the CFC players.

The match was really tough. Admittedly, the Freinademetz players were up to their game. However, unfortunately for them we drew 1-1. Indeed, these games enhance the bond of friendship between the two SVD formation communities.

Frt. Michael Manga, SVD

***The most beautiful thing
is to see a person
smiling...***

***And even more beautiful
is to know that you are
the reason behind it!! If it
is the opposite, you have
something to reflect on.***

SVD Ghana Communication

Letters have gone to the various districts to organise a workshop on communication as a response to the Chapter Directives on Communication.

The proposed topics for the workshops include:

- The New Evangelization: Employing Modern Media*
- Communication in Community*
- SVD Communication Policy - Highlights*
- Workshop on specific needs of the Districts in Digital Media*

From Abroad

WELL-DONE-AYEKOO! REV. FR JOSEPH NENE SAKITE, SVD



On the 29th day of November, Thursday, I was very privileged to witness the National Award-Given Ceremony by His Excellency, Grand Chief Sir Michael Ogio, **GCL, GCMG, OBE, KSt.J**, The Governor-General of Papua New Guinea. This grand ceremony took place in the afternoon at the Government House in Port Moresby, the Capital City of Papua New Guinea.

In one of the national newspapers, *The National*, The Governor-General announced some

awards in the 2012 Independence's Honour List. Such national awards and appointments were given to persons who have genuinely dedicated themselves to the service of the people and the country, Papua New Guinea within different ranges of time-frame.

The Governor-General presented different categories of awards to these noble persons. The first was those invested with the Insignia of the "Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu," with the title of "Chief, '**GCL**'". The second group was to persons invested with the Insignia of an "Officer of the Order of Logohu, '**OL**'". Moreso, other persons were invested with the Insignia of a "Member of the Order of Logohu, '**ML**'". Again, some persons were awarded with the Insignia of the "National Logohu Medal, '**LM**'". The rest were those invested with: the Insignia of the "Cross of Medal Service Medal, '**CMS**'", "Distinguished Military Service Medal, '**DMS**'", "Distinguished Police Service Medal, '**DPS**'", "Meritorious Emergency Service Medal, '**MES**'", "Meritorious Public Service Medal, '**MPS**'", "Meritorious Community Service Medal, '**MCS**'", and "Commendation Valuable Service Medal, '**CVS**'". The last but not the least, some persons were invested with the Insignia of a "Companion of the Order of the Star of Melanesia, '**CSM**'" and finally, were persons invested with the "Meritorious Community Service Medal, '**MCS**'".

The Orders of Papua New Guinea consist of three separate Orders. Namely, The Order of Logohu ("LOGOHU" being a term in Motu- a tribe in Papua New Guinea) for the nation's popular icon, the Bird of Paradise as its principal Order, The Order of the Star of Melanesia and The Order of Valour.

The **Order of Logohu** comprises four classes; namely, Grand Companion, Officer of Logohu, Member and National Logohu Medal. The Order of the Star of Melanesia has one class- that of Companion. Finally, The Order of Valour as the last class also has one class as that of the Cross of Valour.

"Papua New Guinea citizens who are appointed to any of the Orders are members of that particular Order, and other persons who are citizens of other countries are 'honorary' members."

The eligibility and selection criteria for the above enumerated awards were as follows:

1. Appointments as Grand companions of *Logohu* shall be made for pre-eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service, normally sustained over a period of no less than 20 years to Papua New Guinea or to humanity- and which can demonstrate sustained sustained commitment. This award is limited to 50 living persons, not including the Governor-General and honorary appointments.

2. Appointments as Companions of the Star of Melanesia shall be made for distinguished service of a high degree in any field to Papua New Guinea and to the Asia Pacific Region, particularly the Melanesian nations or to humanity, considered to be inspirational and significant at the national level or sustained over a period of no less than 15 years.
3. Appointments as Officers of Logohu shall be made for distinguished service to the nation or local community, sustained over a minimum period of 10 years.
4. Appointments as Members of Logohu shall be made for commendable service in a particular area of endeavour, or a combination of areas of service to the nation or a local community, normally for a period of at least 7 years.
5. The last but not the least, awards of the National Logohu Medal shall be made to persons who have rendered exemplary service in their careers of profession or industry group or to the community generally over a period of at least 5 years.
6. Finally, the Medals of The Orders shall be awarded to persons for distinguished or meritorious service in the State services and the community, normally for a minimum period of 3 years.

Amongst those who were acknowledged by the nation was Rev. Fr Joseph Nene Sakite, SVD. Fr. Sakite, has served the people and country of Papua New Guinea since 19 years now. Within this period, he has received three different types of national awards. The first was received in 2000, when the nation celebrated her Silver Jubilee, the second was in 2005, during the country's 30th Independence's Anniversary and finally and joyfully in this year, 2012 when he received an award as 'Officer of LOGOHU'. His award was granted based



on the **Third Criterion** above for noble service to the Catholic Church and the community of *Simbu* Province in Papua New Guinea (the Province where he is currently serving).

Fr Sakite! we are proud of you as Ghanaians, and as an SVD with your current award as an “**Officer of Logohu**”; which you have been honoured with. **AYEKOO! WELL-DONE! CONGRATULATION!**

BY REV. SAMUEL BALKONO NABARE, SVD

Fr. Erasmus Kormla Norviewu-Mortty, SVD receives awards.

Fr. Erasmus embarked on his doctoral research works at the Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia since the last quarter of 2008. It was a journey of hard work which largely paid off when he was awarded the degree, Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership (or School leadership) after defending the thesis: “**Principals’ Strategies For Improving The Academic Achievement Of Students Of Disadvantaged Rural Junior High Schools In Ghana.**”

The purpose of this research was to identify leadership and management practices, skills and attitudes employed by principals of disadvantaged rural schools in the Saboba locality in Northern Ghana that create an environment that fosters high standards of student achievement

Erasmus concluded that “the Principals (or the Headmasters) who crafted and disseminated a school vision and mission with their staff and students, and successfully involved parents and community via their shared vision and mission, were able to rally the entire school community towards a positive change that transformed low academic standards and enhanced better academic achievement of their rural students”. Other assertions arrived at are outlined in the research work which would be published in due course.



Although Erasmus’ PhD degree was conferred on him since the 7th of August 2012, the official doctoral degree graduation ceremony took place on the 19th January 2013 at Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Present at the Graduation ceremony were Most Rev. Don Sproston, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Perth Archdiocese, Australia, Very Rev. Tim Norton, SVD, the Provincial Superior of the SVD Australian Province, Rev. Fr. Joseph Tran, Fr. Erasmus’ good friend and Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Mission Parish, Craigie; where Fr. Erasmus presently lives. Others were Mr and Mrs Patrick Cunneen (good Parish friends of Erasmus), Dr. Neil McNeill (a Parish friend, and an educational researcher colleague of Erasmus) Mr. Fred Soale, the Ghan Consul of Perth, and Representative of the Ghana High Commissioner to Australia, Mr Francis Leong (Director of Catholic Mission of the Perth Archdiocese,) and many well-wishers and friends.

In addition, Erasmus’ PhD research work has been acknowledged with distinction and was awarded the Lawrence McGrath Prize of “outstanding academic achievement in School Leadership Research” in a separate ceremony organised by the Edith Cowan University at its Mount Lawley Campus in Perth, Sunday, the 20th of January 2013.

In a Skype interview with the ‘awardee’, this is what he said: “I know that the Lord is always in charge, and I am most grateful to Him for giving me these opportunities through, Bishop Vincent Boi-Nai, Fr. Francis Naduviledatu, Fr. Thomas D’Mello, Fr Fred Timp, Fr. Alphonse Amanor, and through the entire Ghana SVD Province, who supported me, just like the Edith Cowan University and the Australian Government who had faith in me and offered me the scholarship for my studies. I also thank the Lord for this humbling experience and knowledge towards an enhanced service of His people with my educational skills in Ghana and elsewhere”.

Erasmus, we say *Ayeekoo* (well done) for the achievements. We are looking forward for your return to contribute to the education apostolate of the SVD in Ghana.



From Yendi

As confreres were in the midst of rejoicing and celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour on Christmas day, news came in that Tarzan, the lovely dog of our confrere Fr. Joachim Mika had passed away. The joyful mysteries for Joachim especially sharply changed to the sorrowful mysteries



Those who have had contact with Tarzan would agree that he was a lovely pal and kept our District House safe from intruders. Joachim, we believe that there would be another Tarzan soon. Accept our sympathies.

In a related dog story...

Loyal dog continues to attend mass at church where owner's funeral was held

Story by Dylan Stableford, Yahoo News | Thu, Jan 17, 2013 (<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/sideshow/loyal-dog-attends-mass-church-funeral-153655088.html>)



A loyal dog whose owner died late last year has apparently been showing up for Mass every day for the last two months at the church where the funeral was held. Tommy, a 7-year-old German shepherd, used to accompany his owner, Maria Margherita Lochi, to services at Santa Maria Assunta church in San Donaci, Italy, according to the Daily Mail, and was allowed to sit at her feet.

Tommy at Santa Maria Assunta church (Nikonarte Fotografia/Daily Mail)

After Lochi died, the dog "joined mourners at her funeral service" according to locals and "followed after Maria's coffin" as it was carried into the church. Tommy, a stray who was adopted by Lochi, has been showing up "when the bell rings out to mark the beginning of services" ever since. "He's there every time I celebrate mass and is very well behaved," Father Donato Panna told the paper. "He doesn't make a sound." None of the other parishioners has complained, Panna said, and villagers give the dog food and water and allow him to sleep nearby.

"I've not heard one bark from him in all the time he has been coming in," Panna added. "He waits patiently by the side of the altar and just sits there quietly. I didn't have the heart to throw him out—I've just recently lost my own dog, so I leave him there until Mass finishes and then I let him out."



A dog lies near the casket of a fallen Navy SEAL in 2011. (The Atlantic)

Examples of this type of extreme canine loyalty are incredibly common.

In 2011, a fallen Navy SEAL's Labrador retriever lay down next to his owner's casket at a funeral service in Rockford, Iowa, refusing to leave.

The heart-wrenching photo of the scene, taken by the SEAL's cousin and posted to Facebook, soon went viral.

And on Tuesday, a 60-year-old man's dog watched and waited for 30 minutes for the fire department to rescue his owner, who had fallen through thin ice into the freezing waters of the Colorado River: Nearby hunters witnessed the accident and called 911. But while they waited for help, the man's dog refused to leave the scene. Like a worried relative in the waiting room, the dog paced back and forth, trying to reach the man, who repeatedly waved the dog off, fearing for its safety.

"This is simply who dogs are," Dr. Karen Overall, an animal behaviour expert, told Yahoo! Shine. "We have had a close, cognitive, emotional and working relationship with dogs for tens of thousands of years, and we

and we have both been changed by that history. Dogs are heroic to us because they live up to that relationship."Canine loyalty extends beyond humans.

Last year, a male pit bull refused to leave the side of a female pit bull who had been dead on the side of a road in Phoenix. According to local news reports, the male pit bull stayed with her for more than 14 hours.

Joke

The Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks, his father said, Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.

The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair ... and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.'

You're going to love the Dad's reply:

The Dad replied: 'Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?'

News Flash!!

**SSpS Ghana Provincial
Leader Elect:**

SR. DINAH ABENA OFOSU, SSpS

2013-2016

**AFRAM Zonal Assembly in Zimbabwe,
from 3 to 10 of February 2013.**

February

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

March

02	Marek Kowalik	Birthday
03	Stephen Ayisu	Birthday
05	McDaniel Acquaaah	Birthday
05	Asafu-Adjaye, Edward	+ 2006
06	Rene Derinck	+ 1965
07	William Kane	+ 2001
08	Osei, Anastasius	Birthday
11	Agudu, Phaniel	Birthday
11	Motzko, Thomas	+ 2009
15	Davordzie, Gideon	Birthday
15	Tiet, Peter	+ 1981
17	Patrick Kodom	Feastday
17	Patrick Moroney	Feastday
17	Oduro, Owusu Pius	Birthday
17	Patrick Ofori	Feast day
18	Powathu Chandy, Alex	Feastday
18	Thomas Halleran	+ 2004
19	Djiba, Joseph Youta	Feastday
19	Jozef Mazur	Feastday
19	Joseph Panabang	Feast day
19	Panamthanam, Joy	Feastday
19	Joseph Sakite	Feastday
19	Joseph Sprehe	Feastday
21	Benjamin Adusei-Poku	Feastday
21	Tawiah-Richmond Paul	Birthday
21	Matthew Yeng	Birthday

***Please send your comments,
reports, articles,
news, copies of your old
memorable photos, etc. to the
Ghana Province Communication
Office through the province
address***

Or via email:

svdcommunications@yahoo.com

You can also consult our

SVD Ghana web site

At: www.svdghana.org

March continues

22	Boguslaw Berek	Feastday
23	Marcel Kakrabah	Birthday
23	Patrick Twi	+ 1995
24	Koutandji, Janvier W.	Birthday
24	Gabriel Kumordji	Birthday
24	Gielata, Boleslaw	+ 2008
25	Acquaah, McDaniel	Feastday
27	Andrew Campbell	Birthday
27	Theodore Smeets	+ 1998
28	Gregorius Boss	Birthday
28	Bowers, Joseph O.	Birthday
28	Mukinisa, Germain	Feast day
28	Henry Noordermeer	Birthday



What is happening here?