



APRIL 2017

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FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

Dear Confreres,

Of New Eras and Transitions

The year 2017 appears to have started only yesterday. However, here we are already at the threshold of Easter. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter in advance.

The year is undoubtedly a new era. We have had the world leadership scene filled with many eventful elections and transitions. Mention can be made of the Gambia, the USA, and of course, our own Motherland Ghana too. Reviewing the talks that have either led to the new governments winning presidencies or their members gaining seats in parliaments etc., it occurred to me that many had struck chords with the endorsement of their voters when they heard promissory talks such as the promise of a better life for their people through better job opportunities; booming of businesses, improved health systems or such other things as sanitizing or ridding the government bureaucratic systems of the much detested bribery and corruption etc.

What Jesus said in Jn. 10:10 that, "I have come to give life and give it to the full", certainly covers all sectors of our lives as human beings. If the above new government or leadership teams would strive to achieve all their campaign manifestoes and other promises, then they can be said to be partners of our redeemer Jesus Christ in carrying out the above mission.

As Divine Word Missionaries, like many other collaborators of Jesus, we are also called upon to take up the task of bringing the fullness of life to the people of God around us, especially, to the poor and marginalized. As a province, this era of transitions also affects us as this is our election year. We are almost concluding the process of the election of our new provincial and his council to take office come June 1, 2017. That will soon follow some obvious new leaders for some communities and districts. How well are we all prepared towards this? Are we genuinely taking the election process seriously to elect confreres who can lead the province in the direction we want to go? Am I as an individual open and ready to also offer my part in the overall leadership and co-responsibility for the Ghana province and the whole SVD at large? How would I for example answer the need to respond to a transfer request to another place, parish or ministry, and so on?

The changes occurring remind me of one of the favourite quotations of a mentor to many of us: Patrick Moroney, SVD, our great confrere and philosopher, and a one-time member of our Province, who is now back home in Ireland. He said: "To live is to change and to be perfect is to change often!" It was alleged, when the new government took over recently, that "a bit of rot" was occurring in the management of our nation. This would not have come to light without the change of government. Indeed, a saying goes that the wood rots faster when it has been left unturned in the same place for a long time!

In the course of the brouhaha around the transition period that we all in Ghana have witnessed, I had a premonition that some of us, SVDs here in Ghana may equally suffer the same woes pretty soon, as our Province is in the process of changing, as well, its leadership team. The issues of inadequate handing-over notes,



**FATHER. INTO YOUR
HANDS I COMMIT MY
SPIRIT:
WITH THESE
WORDS HE
BREATHED HIS
LAST. Lk.23:46**



**I AM THE
RESURRECTION.
ANYONE WHO
BELIEVES IN ME,
EVEN THOUGH
THAT PERSON DIES,
WILL LIVE.
Jn 11.25**

absence of handing-over notes, difficulty of “letting go” on the part of the outgoing officers, and lack of effective orientation for the successor to take-off smoothly, as was reported may equally plague our own transitions that are about to take place. It is my hope that a Christ-like approach in managing our transitions may prove fruitful to a responsible and mature as we are all called to serve like Jesus himself did: selfless service with sacrifice for the greater good. May our Saviour help us to carry out our servant-leadership role fittingly! Yes, to lead is foremost to Serve...

May the commemoration of the passion and resurrection of Christ bring us a renewal and our enthusiasm to carry out the mission entrusted to us.

George Angmor, SVD, Provincial Superior

Arrivals

- Fr. Kingsley Issifu Sagru-Larr [MEX] arrived for his holidays and has since returned.
- Fr. Benjamin Edusei Poku [BRS] arrived for his vacation. He has since returned.
- Fr. Paul Gbortsu [COL] came home for his leave. He went back.
- Fr. Pierre Avornyo [BRN] arrived to take up an assignment at CFC, Tamale
- Bro. John Bissue [NEMI] arrived for his vacation; he went back.
- Bro. Samuel Dagadu (ROM) returned to the Province for good after serving for about 10 years at the Collegio San Pietro, Rome.
- Fr. Joseph Anorkwah [GER] came home for a short holiday; he went back.
- Fr. Martin Dumas [JPN] arrived to undertake a research work.
- Fr. Francis Dolagbenu [ECU] arrived for his vacation.

Departures

- Fr. Alex Chandy left for India to attend to his sick father; unfortunately, the father died before he arrived. He is taking his vacation.
- Frs. Fred Timp and Godwin Fiawoyi left to attend the Treasurers meeting in Kenya. They have since returned.
- Fr. George Angmor left for Lusaka, Zambia for EXECOM meeting and for his vacation. He has since returned.

Transfers and appointments

- Bro. Bruno Yirzie has been appointed to TICCS, Tamale.
- Fr. Peter Phung Ngoc Vinh appointed to St. Mary's Parish, Adeemra, Afram Plains

We remember our dead

- Maria Madziar, 83, the mother of Fr. Wladyslaw Madziar, SVD. She has since been buried. Our condolences to Fr. Wladyslaw and his family. May the soul of Maria rest in peace.
- Br. Charles MacCarthy, SVD, 32 died on the 18th of January. The doctor's report indicated that he died as a result of asthmatic attack. He has since been buried.
- Mr. Chandy, the father of Fr. Alex Chandy, SVD. He has since been buried.
- Mr. Donald Yinamyah, 75, the father of Fr. Robert Baba Yinamyah, SVD [PAR]. The Burial Mass would be on Saturday 22nd April at St. Charles Lwanga Parish. Abeka at 9.am



THANKSGIVING MASS
FR. FRANK QUAINOO, SVD
SUNDAY 23RD APRIL, 2017 AT ST. BARBARA
CATHOLIC CHURCH, AKOSOMBO
AT 9.00AM

He was ordained on the 3rd Dec. 2016 at the Divine Word Seminary Chapel,
 Tagatay, Philippines by Most Rev. John F. Du, Archbishop of Palo.
 He is appointed to the Philippines South Province

GHANA PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR VISITS LIBERIA



L-R: Fr. Mazur, Fr. Addai and Fr. Angmor

November 14, 2016 marked one (1) year of the presence of the SVD in Liberia. Hence, the Provincial Superior, Fr George Clement Angmor, SVD, who had accompanied the pioneer missionaries to Liberia, sought to return into his own footsteps to visit the vine he had planted. Thus, he arrived in Monrovia on January 21, 2017. Already upon arrival, work began. He had to meet Fr Yao Louis Awoudja, SVD who was travelling to Kenya the next day. And on Sunday 22nd January 2017, we were honoured to concelebrate with the Apostolic Nuncio to Liberia, His Excellency Miroslaw Adamczyk in his residence.

During the few days spent in Monrovia, though the Provincial had the opportunity to rest, read and discover few places in Monrovia, he also had important dealings before moving on to Zwedru. He first met with the Bishop of Cape Palmas diocese where we are currently working, Most Rev Andrew Karnley, to enquire about the impact of the Divine Word Missionaries in his diocese. Still in Monrovia, the Provincial along with Fr Joseph Mazur, who is the local superior of the community in Liberia, also met Bishop Karnley together with Archbishop Lewis Zeigler of Monrovia Archdiocese. They had fruitful discussions which yielded a visit to Immaculate Conception Parish at Pipeline Road in Paynesville (Monrovia). "It is a community of about 250 to 300 members on a good Sunday", said Fr Gabriel who is the current parish priest. The parish has a school which runs from nursery to ninth (9th) Grade (JHS 3). Sharing wall with the Parish is the Convent of the Hospital Sisters of St John of God who run a clinic just close by. Next to the Convent is the Pre-major seminary. Immaculate Conception Parish has two additional outstations just on the way out of Monrovia. It all ended with a lunch offered by the Archbishop at his residence. To end the day's activities, the Archbishop disclosed that he is offering the Immaculate Conception Parish to the Divine Word Missionaries. According to him, he ardently wishes to have the SVDs in the Archdiocese as soon as time permits.

After these fruitful days in Monrovia, it was with a warm heart that the Liberia confreres took the Provincial to Zwedru City. There, the Provincial met the confreres individually and as a community. At the community meeting, Fr George commended the confreres for the tremendous efforts they are making to bring this mission to a success. Besides, he encouraged them in their multiple challenges and finally urged them to stay united and always cooperate despite the diversity of the pastoral work and the division of labour. Besides, he also went on a tour around the current residence, the schools where some Bibles were donated on this occasion, the church and the foundations of the future presbytery. Fr George left Zwedru on 30th January 2017 for Monrovia from where he flew back to Ghana the next day.



Fr. George Angmor with our team and school children

Join us to thank the Almighty God for making it possible for our confreres to stay and work in Liberia for the past one year. We pray for faithfulness and fruitfulness to his call and mission. And to you all, dear brothers in the Divine Word, your past, present and future support is well appreciated.

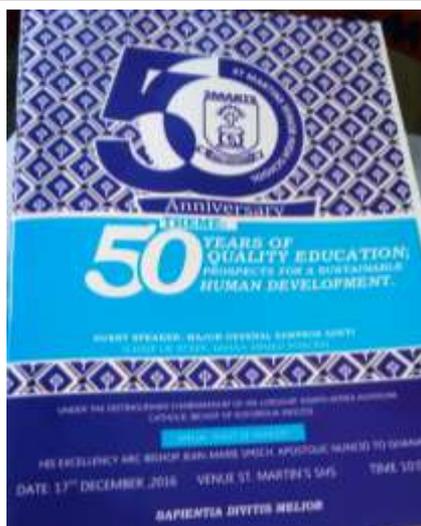
Fr Jean-Bertrand M. TCHEKPI, SVD

Funeral Committee

- + Prov. Councilor in charge of Protocols
- + A representative from the Celebration Committee
- + Director of DWCCC
- + Province Secretary
- + Province Treasurer
- + Fr. Vincent Owusu

Transport Policy Drafting Committee

- + Vice Provincial
- + Province Treasurer
- + Br. Rudy Chamenyi
- + Fr. Mathias King
- + Fr. Stephen Dogdzi



St. Martin's Secondary School marks 50 years



On the 18th December 2016 the compound of St. Martin's Senior High School in Adoagyiri-Nsawam was practically filled with students, past and present, parents, priests and religious, the Adoagyiri town folk including the traditional leaders to climax the school's year-long Golden Jubilee celebration.

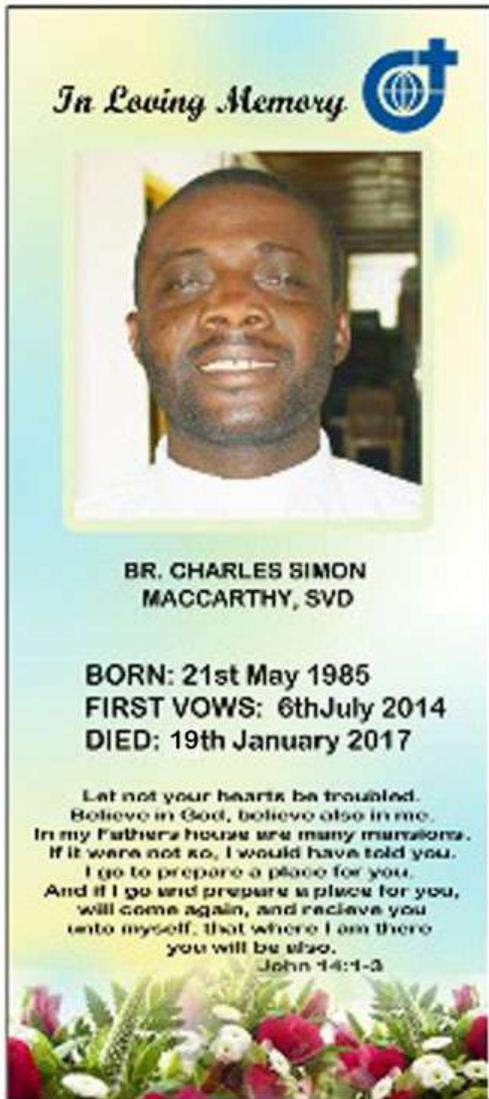
Among the dignitaries present were Most Rev. Joseph Afrifah-Agyekum, Bishop of Koforidua, who was the chairman of the occasion, Mr. Mohammed Alhassan, immediate past Inspector General of Police, Ghana and also an old student and Board Chairman of the school and Fr. George Angmor, Provincial Superior of the SVD Ghana. The Guest Speaker was Maj. General Sampson Adeti, Chief of Defence Staff, Ghana Armed Forces. Delivering his speech, under the theme, "**50 years of quality education; prospects for a sustainable human development,**" he recalled, "it was within some of these same edifices that we learned to subject ourselves to time-tested Catholic tenets, even though some of us were not Catholics." He said the result of the training is evident to see in the kind of personalities that St. Martin's has produced in society. "Standing here now so many years down the line, humbled and filled with emotions, nothing can be more gratifying than the feeling of being back where it all started - Alma mater - to interact with such great minds." Concluding, he praised Catholic education and for that matter the SVDs who founded St. Martin's.

Mr. Theothad Mor-Sarco, the headmaster of the School acknowledged the SVD for planting a potentially reformatory seed that was to nurture students to become priests and religious. This concept of religious formation institute "metamorphosed into St. Martin's Secondary School with a total student population of 92 with Rev. Fr. Jacques Nijeen, SVD as the Headmaster." After 50 years the student population is over 2000. He thanked the Chiefs and elders of Adoagyiri for generously making available land for the establishment of the school.

Awards were presented to deserving students, past and present staff.

In his closing remarks Bishop Afrifah-Agyekum reminded the students to take seriously the speeches delivered by the earlier speakers summarising them as *Knowledge is better than riches*.





As if it was a dream when the news broke out on that fateful Friday morning that Br. Charles died the previous night many exclaimed: "I spoke with him last night around 8pm", others said, "we had supper together last night"; another said, "he went to see me off last night."; I bid farewell to him" and so on...; the reality was Brother Charles was no more.

Brother Charles was the Guest master at the SVD Guest House, Accra. On that Thursday 19th January 2017, evening around 9pm, Bro. Charles and a confrere went to see some visitors off when he felt

Bro. Charles laid to rest

his asthma condition was showing signs. After applying the Vintolin (a medication that opens up the medium and large airways in the lungs) that he was carrying, it was not enough and upon arrival at the Guest House he climbed quickly to his room on the first floor of the Guest House to apply a new Vintolin he had. Upon arrival in his room, he could not reach out to the medication on his desk; he called for help and was rushed to the hospital where he pronounced dead. He was 32.

A vigil Mass was celebrated for him at St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Abeka-Accra. It was presided over by Most Rev. Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai, SVD and Bishop of Yendi. The Mass was attended by many of the Parishioners as that was his place of ministry. Confreres and other religious were present.

The funeral liturgy which was held on Friday 10th February at the same venue, saw a large number of the Parishioners and many priests and Religious. The Mass was presided over by Fr. George Angmor, SVD Ghana-Liberia Provincial Superior and the homily was delivered by Fr. Kwasioko Mensah a direct cousin of the deceased. He traced what Brother had outlined for himself, to live a religious Brother and an SVD; "in fact, he lived them; although he lived a short life he lived to the task.", He added that "when death occurs there are many questions and many attempt to give answers". He clarified that the only true answer to why Charles died at such a tender age is known to God.

The mortal remains of Bro. Charles was later transferred to the SVD Cemetery, Adoagyiri Nsawam for burial.



BISHOP GABRIEL EDOE KUMORDJI, SVD APPOINTED AS BISHOP OF KETA-AKATSI DIOCESE & ADMINISTRATOR OF DONKORKROM VICARIATE

Installation: Saturday 13th May 2017 @ 9.00am
Christ the King, Cathedral Church, Akatsi

ARUG marked 40 years.

40 years ago Bro Pius took the initiative with others to found what was known as Indigenous West Africa Religious Union, today known as African Religious Union of Ghana (ARUG). It was that occasion of 40 years that brought the Indigenous African Religious in Ghana together to mark the anniversary in a Congress that took place at St. Paul's Seminary in Accra. At the opening Mass at the Christ the King Parish, Accra, the Archbishop Palmer-Buckle basing his homily on the readings of the day which was the feast of Epiphany said the wise men were excited to see the Lord. That excitement must be an integral part of our lives as priests and religious. He said the wise men opened their treasures and gave Jesus the best gifts. "I see in these 3 gifts the evangelical counsels. Ask yourself what is my gold, my frankincense, my myrrh that I have offered to the Lord?" He left the members of ARUG those questions for their reflections.

At the opening ceremony still at Christ the King Parish, Br. Pius gave a history of ARUG. In a good will message from the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference read by Archbishop Buckle, the Bishops acknowledged the presence of ARUG in the country. "We commend the founding members, we thank you for offering various ministries in the country and we commend the leadership team". The bishops said.

The Guest Speaker Most Rev. John Bonaventure Kwofie, himself a Spiritan Religious and Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese delivered his speech on the topic 'The seed, the sower and the soil.' Basing on the parable of the sower in Mark's gospel, the bishop threw some thought provoking questions for the members of ARUG. Some of the questions he posed were: "Why do people receive the word and allow it to disappear from their lives? What do we do differently as Religious from the lay faithful?"

Concluding, he said we need to rediscover the charismatic nature of our respective congregations and to live the passion of our founders. He urged all religious to have read at least a good book on what it means to be a religious as a continuous refreshing tool to religious life.



Opening session with Bishop Kwofie as the Guest Speaker supported by Archb. Buckle and Bishop Kumordji, SVD

At the concluding Mass of the Congress at St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Abeka, Bishop Boi-Nai of Yendi called on ARUG to explore African spirituality and how to integrate African values into our liturgy especially celebrating and living the vows. He touched on the issue of family members and Religious: "we bring family members into our communities without telling anybody in the community" he said. Another point he touched on was ethnocentrism in our religious communities. He said also that we should be circumspect when it comes to issues of separation from our respective congregations and departure. "Some take Leave of Absence and they are left on their own without anyone caring for them especially spiritually". He concluded that as Africans we need to do something about these things.



Bro. Nii Wayo receiving an award for his contribution to ARUG



Men and women religious and friends from St. Margaret Mary Parish, Dansoman warming up for the football tournament.



Family Feasts 2017

Once again the Arnoldus family gathered at Nkwatia-Kwahu at the SVD Ghana Novitiate for the annual Family Feast (southern sector). It started with games where our confreres and sisters interacted in different games. There were varieties of activities in the evening where novices and confreres and sisters displayed their hidden talents in singing and dancing. It was a lovely evening.

The following day's activities took place at KwahuTafo where the Mass was celebrated. The Mass was presided over by Fr. Marek Dabrowski, Vice Provincial. Jubilarians were acknowledged and presented with gifts. The sermon was delivered by Sr. Lilia, SSpS.

Fr. Patrick Ofori retires

After retiring from school ministry, Fr. Pat as we affectionately call him retires from active pastoral ministry after his 75th birthday. He was the pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Dansoman. A handing over ceremony was held at the Parish where Fr. Pat the outgoing Parish Priest handed over to Fr. Francis Mastan the in-coming Priest-in-charge in the presence of Fr. Joseph Arthur, the Diocesan Financial Administrator, Fr. Thomas Batuyre, the Dean of the Mamprobi Deanery and Fr. Rex A. Vegbey, SVD Accra District Superior.



Fr. Mastan is assisted by Fr. Mathias King and Fr. Bernard Adjei Appiah is the chaplain to Margaret Mary Senior High School.

In a farewell celebration organized by the Parish, Fr. Pat thanked the Parishioners for the great support he received from them and asked for the same support for his successor Fr. Mastan.

Local Treasurers held financial workshop

The Province Treasury brought together all the local treasurers of the Province for a week's workshop on financial administration. The participants were taken through the rudiments of financial administration in the province as well as tutorials of the software employed by the province in its financial transactions.

The treasurers are the following:

Fr. Fred Timp	-	Provincial Treasurer
Fr. Godwin Fiawoyi	-	Ass.Provincial Treasurer
Br. Godwin Gatefe	-	Treasury/Tesano
Br. John Akuffo	-	Accra/McCarthy Hill
Fr. Sampson Fenuku	-	Tema/Battor
Bro. Stephen Bonsu	-	Koforidua
Bro. McDaniel Acquaaah	-	BrongAhafo
Fr. Dionisio Kopong	-	Afram Plains
Fr. Ireneus BoliLolan,	-	Yendi
Br. Emmanuel Affum	-	Novitiate
Fr. Samuel Adu	-	Freinademetz House
Fr. Deepak Tiga	-	CFC, Tamale



The AFRAM Treasurers

AFRAM ZONAL TREASURERS WORKSHOP 2017, NAIROBI-KENYA

“Each institute is to establish suitable norms concerning the use and administration of goods, by which the poverty proper to it is to be fostered, protected, and expressed” (Canon 635, para. 2). The spirit of this canon is captured aptly in our Const. 210: “Our poverty has a missionary character. It calls us to generously place time, talents, and work and community goods at the service of our missionary tasks. Only to the extent that earthly goods serve the kingdom of God can their use in the Society be justified.”

Based on the recommendation of the 10th AFRAM Zonal Assembly held in 2016 and inspired by the above statements, the treasurers of the twelve PRMs in the AFRAM zone met in Nairobi, Kenya for a workshop from 23rd January to 5th February, 2017. The workshop comprised eighteen participants, and four facilitators from eleven different

nationalities namely, Congo, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Poland, Slovakia, Togo and USA. The main facilitator was Fr. Stephan Gerdes, the treasurer general. He was supported by Frs. Dariusz Garbaciak, the provincial treasurer of the Chicago Province, Janusz Horowski, the director of the development of office of the Chicago Province and Ms. Pamela Achieng, the external auditor of the Kenya/Tanzania Province.

The aim of the workshop, captured in the welcome address of the zonal coordinator, Fr. Joseph Kallanchira, was to offer an ongoing formation for the participants who are entrusted with the responsibility of administering the material goods of the society. It was also in response to resolution 1.1.3 of the 17th General Chapter, which stresses on financial self-reliance of provinces and regions as a priority for the Society.

Financial self-reliance is not only about raising funds, but also training good financial administrators, having sound and reliable accounting system and good budget planning and control. The topics covered at the workshop were: Fund Raising, Project Management, Investments, Basic Financial Accounting/Reporting and Financial Administration in the Society (GATG).

To conclude, I would like to say that the workshop was successful and really helpful. It was time well spent. It was a kind of “conversion experience” for all the participants as it brought to light the importance of being entrusted with the administration of temporal goods in the Society; and to render good account of one’s stewardship. It is a worthy ministry!

*Godwin Fiawoyi, SVD
AFRAM Zonal Coordinator of Treasurers*



ORDINATION 2017

**Rev. Abraham Dzibitor, SVD on Sat. 29th
July 2017 at Helu Fodome at 9.00am**

**Thanksgiving Mass: Sunday 30th July 2017 at
Sacred Heart Cathedral Ho-Bankoe, 8.00am**

Final Vows and Diaconate Ordination of Rev. Abraham Dzibitor, SVD



It was great joy and jubilation in the state of Rondonia, when the faithful and the Divine Word Missionaries gathered to celebrate the Profession of Final Vows and Diaconate ordination of Frt Abraham Kwasi Dzibitor on the 18th of December 2016. The event took place in Our Lady of Penha Parish in the remote city of Alta Florestad' Oeste in the State of Rondonia in the northern part of Brazil. This was the first time the Divine Word Missionaries organised such a celebration in the district since assuming the mission in the year 2000. The celebration brought together a lot of faithful from various parts of the country including friends from the State of Parana and Confreres from Sao Paulo. The ordination mass was presided by Dom Jose Luiz Bertanha, SVD, Bishop of Registro in the State of Sao Paulo. It was concelebrated by a dozen of priests including our SVD confreres Maciej Suszczynski, Vice Provincial of BRC; Thaddeus Obuya, a Provincial Councillor and Director of OTP and Irène Komlan Dossou, Parish Priest of Penha.

Also present were Frs Cirineu Kuhn, Diretor of Verbum Filmes in Sao Paulo, Gilvaldo Miranda, SVD Vocation Director, Luciney Paulino Flora, Rondonia District Superior, Fr Thiago Sergio Miranda, a diocesan priest from Alvoradad 'Oeste and Pastor Marcelo Peter of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Alta Foresta. There was an impressive representation of religious sisters of different congregations including the SSpS sisters coming from various part of the state of Rondonia.

The rites of profession of Final Vows took place at the beginning of the mass in the presence of thousands of faithful gathered from all the fourteen zones of the parish and other surrounding cities. The vows were received on behalf of the Superior General by Fr Maciej, who represented the Provincial Superior, Fr Edson Castro da Silva. Bishop Bertanha performed the ordination rites and called upon the faithful to pray for Frt Dzibitor in his missionary service and to fulfil his diaconal duties with love and dedication. The whole congregation was full of joy and admiration of the charism and the missionary initiatives of the Divine Word Missionaries.

As part of the activities leading to the profession and ordination, there was celebration of a triduum and a vocation drive in all the zones of the parish. The Our Lady of Penha Parish is made up of fifty seven basic communities divided into fourteen zones. The purpose of the triduum was to create mission awareness and promote vocations to the priestly and religious life. Among the congregations that participated in the three day event were Divine Word Missionaries, SSpS sisters, Franciscans Sisters of the Parish Apostolate, Franciscan friars, Carmelite Monks, Redemptorist sisters and diocesan priests. On the celebration day, all the zones gathered in the city for prayers, praise and worship organised and led by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to prepare the atmosphere for this historic event in the region.

Frt Abraham Dzibitor was admitted into the Divine Word Missionaries in 2007. After his philosophical studies in St Joseph Freinademetz House in Tamale, he did his novitiate in Nkwatia-Kwahu and professed his first Vows on 10th July 2011. He was sent to Democratic Republic of Congo to continue his formation and studied theology in Kinshasa. In 2014, he opted for OTP in the Brazil Central Province and did his pastoral experience in Rondonia where he stayed in rural communities and visited families and organise mission outreach to promote the characteristic dimensions of the SVD.

As part of his OTP program, he also worked closely with youth groups, the Charismatic Renewal and promoted pastoral communication in the Parish. He helped instituted the Knights and Ladies of the Altar in the Parish and helped actively in the formation of the laity. Rondonia is one of the deprived states of Brazil. It is predominantly an agricultural area of simple and modest Brazilians who migrated from other states in the late 70s in search of better farming lands. The Catholics are very devoted and dedicated to the new evangelization and the pastoral activities of the church. The Divine Word Missionaries arrived sixteen years ago and run two parishes in the diocese of Ji-Parana.

The ordination was a historic and memorable event in the life of the people. Other SVD confreres who participated in the celebration were Frs Gorantla Prashanth Kumar, Parish Priest of Santa Luzia, Danilo Mafficini of Sao Paulo, Wilfridus Ribun of Alto Alegre, Adrianus Abun and Yupin Duan, assistants priests of Penha. There were several dignitaries, city administrators, other Christian denominations and church societies and organisations that witnessed the event. Several citations were read and presented to Frt Dzibitor to recognise his missionary zeal among the local communities.

IF MY CONFRERE HAD KNOWN AT WHAT HOUR...LUKE 12:39

Reflecting on some happenings in recent days, I cannot wait but to entitle my article with a quote from Luke's Gospel. As Religious and Priests, we many times preach on the above text as regards our preparedness to meet God's second coming. In addition to the above popular commentary on this Lucan text, I would like to share something pressing to alert us.

Considering the number of sexual abuses in the country, the Australian Federal Government in 2013 established a Commission named the Royal Commission to delve into the various abuses which had occurred in various circles. According to one of the Commission's findings, "Nearly 2,000 Church figures, including priests, religious brothers and sisters, and employees were identified as alleged perpetrators..."¹ In the same report, a victim's mother is alleged to have said, "The Catholic priesthood give God a bad name. They're a disgrace. They are unremorseful".¹

In an attempt to protect the reputation of the Church and the dignity of the perpetrator (priest or religious), the Bishops and Superiors kept covering up the reported cases of abuse and in the long run, the culprits were transferred to other parishes or communities where they executed their nefarious acts again. Now the big questions are: why didn't the Church report those abuses to the police? Were they (abusers) not taught in their seminary formation that to abuse a child was a crime? and so on? The saddest part is that bishops are being implicated; Religious Superiors, Parish Priests and Community leaders are being implicated for failing to report their confreres and sisters who were culprits.

You may think they happened yesterday or a year ago. Sorry, some happened in the 1950's, 60s etc. Some of the victims are already in their 70s and 80s. As the adage goes, to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Dear Confreres, I don't want to believe any of us is doing same or has done it already. It is about seven decades now and people are being held for it today. I entreat all of us to beware for we do not know when the thief (our hidden sexual life) is coming out. I just want us to understand that the State has power to bring the Church to accountability. May we all be on guard in our parishes and let us also be conscious of the fact that, whatever thing we are doing, the State can call us to account should it be against human rights.

Ert. Clement Baffoe, SVD
Clement.baffoe@divineword.com.au
Australia Province, Melbourne.

Bro. John Bissue, Operation Manager, Nemi

We had a chat with Br. John during his vacation. He is the operation manager and treasurer of *Centro ad gentes, Nemi*.

According to him, the place is a spiritual centre which was built for renewal programmes for the SVD. In 2006 the General Chapter resolved for a renovation of the centre and be opened to the General public for religious usage. In 2008 the centre became fully



operational. Bro. John was appointed as the treasurer for the community, the centre and SVD courses in 2014 and a year later the operation manager's role was added to his job.

Since his appointment there have been on-going courses: Dei Verbum, Third age renewal, interculturality and formation courses for formators.

In addition, the centre organises retreats opened for all, at least once a month. Participants are religious female and male including lay faithful from other countries in the European zone.

Also, services are provided for General Chapters for religious congregations and conferences for lay organisations.

“I would say in my three years so far, the patronage of the centre has been very encouraging and the income for the centres has helped to upgrade the centre to an appreciable standard. The centre is 100% self reliant.”, said Br. John.

His general impression is that he is happy with the job as it is his area of competence and he thinks we can make it as SVDs if we put the right people at the right place. “It is my hope that the centre would be able to support SVD projects in the future”, he concluded. *By Rex A. Vegbey, SVD*



Fr. Kingsley Sagru-Larr, Mexico

Fr. Kingsley is a Ghanaian SVD missionary who has been working in Mexico for the past six years. As a seminarian, he had his Cross-cultural experience there and opted to serve the people in that country when he was ordained. He was home recently for his holidays and we caught up with him to share with us some of his missionary experiences.

He said he was working as a pastor among the indigenous group Zapotecos with nine outstation churches. Practically all the inhabitants in that community are Catholics, although the Pentecostals are making attempts to penetrate the area they remain committed to their catholic faith; even some of the communities would just not allow them to come there.

One outstanding characteristic of the local church community is that the people own the church; they elect their parish councillors with the Priest having no part to play. Church governance is practically in the hands of the people, they know what to do; they do not depend on the priests; even the key to the church is in the hands of the political authority of the community. Every family is levied every year to raise funds for the celebration of feast days. As part of his apostolate he raises funds to help the needy, single mothers, widows, the aged, the sick etc.

I asked Father, what can we learn from the Zapatecos and this is what he said: “the commitment of the people to maintain the church is immense. In Ghana for example, it appears the people look to the priest to work; over there the priest has no power to change their decisions not even a government official”.

After four and a half years in the parish, he went to study pastoral theology in the Pontifical University of Mexico in answer to the pastoral challenges in the 21st century. Having completed the studies he was assigned to Chiapas, an indigenous community where he has been for about six months. They are five confreres attending to the pastoral needs of 98 communities. He works in the parish, gives courses to seminarians, pastoral agents, and church groups, etc.

In conclusion I asked him if he has any message for the confreres of his home Province, Ghana and this is what he says: “The confreres are working well and the province seems to have experts in various areas of apostolate. However, I urge the confreres to work together and to work more with the lay faithful since they have a lot to offer if we guide them well. There should be a way that the Parishes we manage in the various dioceses can support the province financially”.

He said he is happy there and more happier to have one Ghanaian confrere in the person of Fr. Emmanuel Arthur going to join him although there are other African confreres in the Province. “I wish all my confreres well in their places of work”, he concluded.

COMMUNICATION MINISTRY

Coordinator: Fr. Rex A. Vegbey, SVD

On the 1st Sunday of Lent, we launched the JESUS FILM in the local languages in Twi, Ewe, Ga, Dagaare, Dagbani, Gurune. Please contact the Catholic Book Centre & Verbo Media or contact me 0208291717 for your copies.

WORTH REMEMBERING**April**

03	Wumborti Bakilatob	Birthday
03	Patrick Moroney	Birthday
04	Ronald Aming'a	Birthday
07	Hugo Huber	+2014
07	Dominic Minggu	+2014
09	Andrews Obeng-Aboagye	Birthday
09	Charles Kporfor	Birthday
09	Theodore v. Eijndthoven	+ 2000
10	Marek Dabrowski	Birthday
13	Bawerima Bruno Wensan'na	Birthday
15	Archbishop A. Noser	+ 1981
15	Jean Michel Randriambololona	Birthday
17	Stephen Osei Asante	Birthday
18	Cletus Hodapp	+ 1967
19	Alex Awuah-Osei	Birthday
20	Harold Lauck	+ 1990
21	Konrad Dreyer	Feastday
23	George Angmor	Feast day
23	Bosco O'Connor	+ 2008
25	McDaniel Acquaaah	Feast day
25	Emmanuel Anyomi	Birthday
25	Marek Dabrowski	Feastday
25	Marcus Hipólito	Feastday
26	David K. Tengey	Birthday
26	Joseph Skorupka	+ 1982
29	Thomas D'Mello	Birthday

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	Mortty	& 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	Birthday
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