

HOLY CROSS TODAY - GHANA

COMMUNICATING THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF HOLY CROSS IN THE DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA

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MOREAU CELEBRATION CONJOINS TWO GOLDEN JUBILEES

On Sunday, 20 January, the District celebrated the Feast of Blessed Basil Moreau, having opted to change from the normal time on Thursday. This had been done so as to make more convenient the attending of the occasion at the District Center by all in our Holy Cross Family in Ghana and the sisters of **Bro. Vincent Gross**. The occasion was embellished by joining the celebration of the Golden Jubilees of **Bro. Daniel Dardoe**, newly elected District Superior, on his 50th birthday anniversary, and **Bro. Vincent Gross**, who made his first profession of religious vows 50 years ago on 26th January, 1958.

Fr. Bob Gilmour, was the celebrant for the triple occasion, assisted by **Fr. John Ghansah, S.J.**, of the Jesuit community adjacent to the Center. Fr. Bob gave an enriched homily concerning the life and dedication of our Founder,



Bro. Vincent renewing Final Vows

with appropriate references at times juxtaposing aspects of the Jubilarians' ministry of service here in Ghana with that of our Founder.



Vincent with his 3 sisters and friend

A major celebration of all in the Midwest Province honouring respective jubilee years of religious profession will be held in June of this year at which Vince will be present, also. However, this occasion was enhanced, giving greater joy to Vince, by the presence of his three sisters, who had set plans to visit him in Ghana at this time.

Most all of these past 50 years of religious profession have been in West Africa, the first few years in Liberia, when a combination of tropic related afflictions caused him to return to the States. But after regaining sound health after another few years in maintenance work at Hoban High School in Akron, he came to Ghana, where he has proven himself invaluable as Director of Maintenance, in addition to being a solid community person and example to our young Ghanaian Brothers. Clearly he has established many warm friendships with others outside the Holy Cross community in Ghana.

Completing the great occasion after the Eucharistic Celebration, all gathered for a picture outside Bl. Andre's Chapel before going up to the roof-top patio of the District House for social and buffet dinner, where the Jubilarians conjointly made the first cut into the cake, relating to their respective Golden Jubilee occasion.

This is the foundational charism of the Congregation of Holy Cross: to renew the Christian faith, to regenerate society, to "bring about a better time" by a constant response to the most pressing needs of the Church and society.

—The International Commission on Consecrated Life in Holy Cross
Rome, 2006

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL CELEBRATES 5th FOUNDER'S DAY

St. John's School celebrated its 5th annual Founder's Day with a full day program on Saturday, 28th February, which was followed by a special Thanksgiving Service on Sunday.

Among the guests were **Osagyefo Kwamena Enimil VI**, who is paramount chief of Wassa Fiase Traditional Area, Chairperson for the occasion, and **Mr. Henry Benyah**, Guest Speaker. The occasion began at 8:30 with an Inspection of the Guard of Honour—the Cadet Corps. The guard passed in review before the distinguished guests and **Bro. Joe Annan, CSC**, Headmaster with Cadet Officers in the background. (In Ghana, the umbrella is to the tribal chief as the staff is to our bishops in the Church).



Brs. Dan Dardoe, Joe Annan, Chief and

Diocese was the main celebrant for the occasion. The school choir did a most commendable rendering of song, and on this special occasion the band embellished the celebration, as well.

Though the school has been established some 55 years, and the Brothers of Holy Cross arriving to staff the school in 1957, the traditional Founder's Day that is celebrated in most schools throughout Ghana was only established by Headmaster Bro. Joe Annan in 2005 for St. John's School. It is now well-entrenched as a traditional event at the school and, as for the preceding occasions, it was a most joyous weekend celebration.

The occasion also served as an opportunity for students of St. John's in presentations of poetry, cultural dance and drama. Later, awards were given to the students for deserving accomplishments in academic performance and school activities. Concluding the day's program **Fr. Bob Gilmour, CSC** gave the closing prayer and benediction.

On Sunday morning, 1st March 2009, the community of St. John's gathered in the school's Holy Cross Chapel for a Thanksgiving Eucharist. **Most Rev. John Martin Darko**, Bishop of the Sekondi-Takoradi



Discussing details before Thanksgiving Mass

—photos/info Bob Gilmour, CSC

As members of the District of Holy Cross in Ghana, we take this opportunity to express our sincerest congratulations to our newly elected Provincial of the Midwest Province, Brother Chester Freel, and offer our prayerful support for God's special blessings in his new administrative ministry.

We extend to the outgoing Provincial, Brother Robert Fillmore, our deep gratitude for his continued faithful and capable service during the past six years, at times coping with limited physical well-being.

COME AND SEE PROGRAM



The “Come and See” program has become a regular part of the District’s vocational recruitment program. It is to help those who have expressed a serious interest in the vocation of the Brothers of Holy Cross, if not an immediate intention of becoming a Brother, to gain further insights about the religious life, especially as it pertains to the Brothers of Holy Cross. The members of Holy Cross in Sekondi area chose the 52nd Independence Day weekend for Vocation Promotion work at St. Joseph Hall on St John’s campus, hosting the first “Come and See” program in the year, which was held from the 6th of March to the 9th of March. The second “Come ad See” program will be held in Cape Coast/Brafoyaw areas in the middle of this year. The 6

young men, ages 21 to 30, who participated in the program formed a good first impression as well as indicated strong interest in joining us.

The three-day program involved activities such as a welcoming dinner, introduction of aspirants and the brothers, common prayer and recreation together, a talk, touring our ministry cites, houses and interviews. One aspirant hails from Nigeria, while the rest came from the Western, Central, Brong Ahafo regions of Ghana. **Brother Kenneth Goode, C.S.C.**, the Vocation Director, met these young men at their respective bus depots to transport them to the Candidates’ house. Part of the program included a tour of our places of ministry and community houses, as well as a brief visit to the ocean beach, which many had never seen before, the latter quite impressed

Brothers Paul Bukari, C.S.C., Patrick Baah, C.S.C., Matthew Sabogu, C.S.C., shared their religious experience with these young men. The experiences of these brothers were very much appreciated by the aspirants as they (the aspirants) indicated in their final remarks. **Rev. Fr. Robert Gilmour, C.S.C.** the District Secretary and director of the Pre-Novitiate program took his time to give the aspirants a tour to the Pre-Novitiate house and explained the program to them. He also shared with them a brief story of Blessed Fr. Moreau and Blessed Brother Andre. **Brother William Gates, C.S.C.** was the food master. Both he and **Bro John Badu Affum, C.S.C** interviewed the aspirants to understand more fully their perception and aspiration regarding the Brothers vocation.

Brother John Badu Affum, C.S.C., gave the main talk on the theme: **“I have called you by Name: You are mine!” (Is. 43:1).** He emphasized the meaning of this expression, reminding them of God’s loving concern and special design for them whereby each can best follow Jesus to bring the Good News of Salvation to all people.

—Bro. John Affum

PROFILE: BRO. DAVID KPOBI

Bro. David Kpobi, District of West Africa, was invited to participate in a special program in the US at Notre Dame under the direction of **Fr. Steven Gibson, CSC.** The purpose of the program was to enable David to make digital-video movies for promotional work in our Congregation, with emphasis on the unfolding events and various aspects of our ministry in Ghana. He also sharpened up on his skills as a computer software technician with some input from **Bro. Richard Johnson.**

However, there is another facet of David’s capabilities. Many are becoming aware that David is a highly gifted artist, which has been shown since his entrance into Holy Cross as a pre-novice at the Moreau House in Butumagyebu. David always seems to have a canvas and paints at hand to fill in his free time with this favourite hobby. If a canvas is not at hand, then a wall may offer the opportunity for doing a mural. Moreau House perhaps contains his



greatest “collection”. where he embellished a number of walls with beautiful murals. He has added to his repertoire of paintings with murals in other District houses, such as novitiate and Holy Cross Formation Center.



David’s ministry as part of his novitiate experience, was working with children in the nearby School For the Deaf, in which he introduced selected students to artistic painting. His contribution was so appreciated that the school’s administrator made serious proposals that he be retained there at the end of his novitiate. (NB: The “Moreau backdrop” in the previous article above, is also one of David’s murals).

While at ND some months ago David painted this mural at the Indiana/Midwest Provinces’ Administrative Offices within one week. It is 8 ft X 4 ft in size, including curtain at top of photo, It was deemed worthy of including in this issue of our District newsletter for your viewing pleasure, as well.

NEWS BRIEFS

● On 2nd February, Feast of the Purification, the religious and clergy in the Archdiocese of Cape Coast met with Auxiliary Bishop Matthias Nketiah for a general dialogue concerning diocesan affairs, especially in relationship to individual religious communities in the diocese. Unfortunately, Archbishop Cardinal Peter Turkson was unable to be present owing to an emergency request to meet with an archbishop in Cote D’Ivoire concerning a matter of grave importance. However, the meeting with all of us there present seemed to be a profitable exchange with voices expressing needs and concerns from many, all of which were duly responded to and noted by the bishop to be given to the cardinal upon his return.

Following the meeting all convened at a point some hundred yards from the Cathedral for a Candlelight Procession and Mass.

● On the 5th of January a tragic bus accident occurred in which two Franciscan priests: **Emelio Gallo** and **Peter Kuupine** and **Sr. Mary Assumpta** of the Holy Child community, who were passengers, were killed.

● During the Lenten season, **Bro. Paul Mensah**, has been conducting a class for the temporarily professed Brothers in the Cape Coast area. Topics presented relate to Spirituality and other theological topics.

● A new entrance gate for the westside drive had been completed just a few days before St. Augustine’s College celebrated its Speech and Award’s Day on Saturday March 21 and Sunday’s Thanksgiving Service. The design of its canopy is that of the Ashanti stool, somewhat relating to an oriental origin. A second gate of equal design and size is now being constructed at the eastside drive.

— Editor Bro. Tom Dillman
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