

# 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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## RECEPTION OF NOVICES ON FEAST OF ST. BROTHER ANDRE



On late Monday morning, 7<sup>th</sup> of January, The District members gathered at the St. Brother Andre Chapel, Brafoyaw to celebrate the feast of our beloved St. Brother Andre Bassette, transferred to this day following the former feast day on 6<sup>th</sup> January, in deference to the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

On this day the District celebrated most appropriately the reception of 13 novices into the Saint Andre Novitiate. Some members of the families of respective novices were also present, but it was mostly a Holy Cross community setting with a number of Sisters of the Holy Cross and a few persons from other religious communities in attendance.

Following the Church's prescribed rubrics for such as this reception of novices, the ceremony for this followed immediately after, not within select times during the Celebration of the Eucharist for which our

District Chaplain, **Father Bob Gilmour**, presided. In the photo at the left, are some of the new group of novices, who will soon receive their religious habits. A number of these young men have musical talent, and who contributed in splendid style to the celebration of the Mass.



Novice assembled after receiving habits

At the end of Mass, **Brother Daniel Dardo**, District Superior came up then, to preside over the formal steps toward the reception of the novices. In the distribution of the habits and other needs at various stages he was assisted by **Brothers Nicholas Arthur, Patrick Bukari, and Patrick Baah**. The young men were called forward by Bro. Nicholas Arthur, Assistant District Superior, to acknowledge their presence. These were 13 in number: **Martin Yabang,**

**Solomon Dong-Wie, Francis Xavier Bangee, Gabriel Yaw Koi, Patrick Mbroh Baidoo, Joshua KevinNkrumah, Evans Mensah, Alfred Yankson, Augustine Amissah, Philip Ekow Agyuei, Aaron Aleniabaghr, George Asare, Casimier Avietey.**

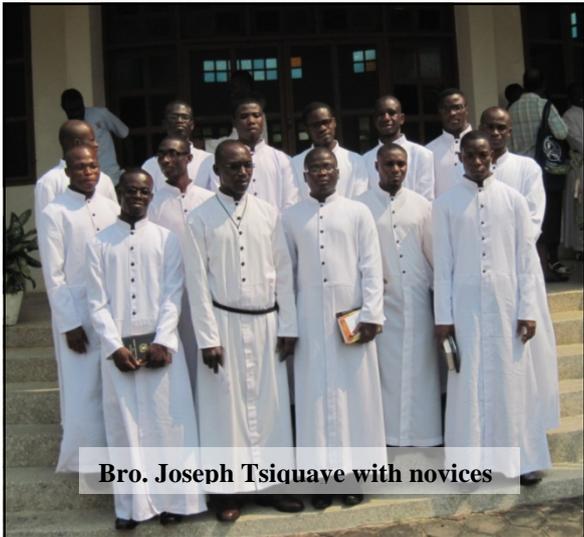


Bro. Vincent Gross leads well-wishers

Bro. Daniel respectively questioned each as to their intention to enter the novitiate program. Each having affirmed his resolve received his religious habit, after which they all processed to the rear vestibule to don their habits. They returned shortly later proceeding to the front now clothed in white to receive four additional items: Bible, Christian Liturgical Prayer Book, Constitutions of the Congregation and Directory of Devotional Prayer for the Congregation of Holy Cross. These had been respectively

blessed by Father Bob Gilmour and individually presented with appropriate remarks by the District Superior.

Bro. Daniel then called forward **Brother Joseph** Tsiquaye, Director of Novices, and **Brother Joseph Annan**, Asst. Director, and hands over the novices to their care. Of the 13 novices the eldest is 36 years of age. The average age of the remaining 12 is 25 years.



Bro. Joseph Tsiquaye with novices

The novices then formally signed their names in the **Book of Reception**, as did Brother Daniel, District Superior, Brother Joseph Tsiquaye, Director of Novices and Father Bob Gilmour, District Chaplain.

The District Superior together with his Fellow Holy Cross Religious then greeted the novices in a spirit of Christian love with a sign of peace, after which all others present came forward in like manner



expressing their love and congratulations. A final prayer and blessing concluded the program. The novices assembled on the steps outside the chapel for a group photo. After many other pictures were taken by fellow members, relatives and friends, all proceeded to the upper veranda of the Brother s House for a social gathering. A spirit of true fellowship prevailed among all for this memorable occasion all enhancing this beginning of the novitiate year for these thirteen dedicated young men.

## COME AND SEE PROGRAM

From 1st to 4th March 2013 the Brothers of Holy Cross and the Sisters of the Holy Cross held a Come and See Program at the Holy Cross District Center, Brafoyaw, Ghana. Heretofore the program was



scheduled separately for the Holy Cross Brothers and Sisters in Ghana, although both used the facilities of the Holy Cross Center for this. However, **Sr. Evelyn Ntiamoah** and **Bro. Ken Goode**, Vocation Directors, respectively, of the Sisters of the Holy Cross and Brothers of Holy Cross in Ghana had decided that there would be benefits to both communities by collaboration for this event. Thus, six young women and ten young men had been invited to come and share together their

interest and to attain a fuller understanding of our respective Holy Cross communities, presumably by which some would reinforce their desire to become a Sister or Brother in Holy Cross.



From the time of their arrival on Friday evening for getting acquainted and brief orientation to the departure following the Celebration of the Eucharist Sunday, the participants had the opportunity to share in various activities toward this aim of being able to "see" more clearly what life in Holy Cross might entail for them. In this regard, **Bro. Vincent Ntisful** presented a brief "History of Holy



Cross”, **Bro. Nicholas Arthur** elaborated on “The Call”. and **Sister Lilian Ochiel** gave further insight relating to her own experience in Holy Cross, all allowing for questioning and further discussion. Both the young ladies and men shared in sporting activities in the afternoon. Informal discussion and sharing rounded off the evening social activity

Fond farewells as the participants departed Sunday morning, hopefully one day a significant number as future brothers or sisters in our Holy Cross Family. Surely the collaborative effort was judged of sufficient worth to serve as precedence for future such programs.

### AS IS OUR CUSTOM...



On Friday evening, 25<sup>th</sup> January the Holy Cross Family in Ghana gathered for the wake-keeping of **Mrs. Charlotte Ama Dadzie** at Our Lady of Apostles Church in Cape Coast. Mrs. Dadzie is the mother of **Bro. Anthony Dadzie, CSC**. The evening service began with the District members and Sisters of the Holy Cross to pray the Church’s Evening Liturgical Prayer for the Dead. All had come forward to stand around the casket to recite or sing the psalms and canticles, under the direction of **Bro. Patrick Baah**.

Though not a member of the Church, Charlotte had been regularly attending Mass and other functions, since she was just a short distance from it. Consequently, it was deemed fitting that the Celebration of the Eucharist be held for her rather than the usual devotional service for the wake-keeping.

Again, the next morning the entire Holy Cross Family gathered at 9 AM, for the regular Funeral Mass, which that was celebrated for Mrs. Dadzie at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, where she had been a parishioner for many years before moving to the other much closer church. The Morning Liturgical Prayer preceded the Mass as before—the photos at the left were taken there. With the special bonus in prayers/Mass owing to Charlotte’s “belonging” to both Churches, truly she has been doubly blessed toward entering into eternal glory!

On Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March District members traveled a rather fractured road to Gomoa-Tarkwa where they gathered together again to celebrate the Funeral Mass and Burial of **Mr. Anthony Ekow Annan**, a younger brother of **Bro. Joseph Annan**. It is now common for the sake of convenience in Ghana to celebrate a single Funeral Mass for two or more deceased at the same time usually Saturday morning with the Memorial Mass on Sunday. Also, in this particular town it is not uncommon to have next-to-next burial places, as well. Though non-related otherwise, Anthony is now buried next to Rosina, whom he had known only as a member of their St. Joseph Parish, who now are surely more closely united in eternal glory in the Communion of Saints as brother and sister in Christ!

### ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE COAST RELIGIOUS CONVENE WITH THE ARCHBISHOP

On Saturday Feb 2, 2013, Feast of the Presentation, the religious priests, brothers and sisters in the archdiocese of Cape Coast gathered for a workshop concerning the Year of Faith, which latter **Pope Benedict XVI** ordained to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Vatican II. Holy Cross in Ghana hosted the event at its District Center in Brafoyaw. Traditionally this feast day has been chosen

each year for all religious in the archdiocese to meet with the archbishop, now **Archbishop Matthias Nketsiah**.

Unfortunately, the archbishop had double events unavoidably scheduled for this same day, the first being at St. Augustine's College after which he would meet with us. But fortunately, the archdiocesan Religious Committee had already planned a program to discuss how this Year of Faith related activities might be planned. Various speakers made introductory remarks, among whom **Bro. Joseph Tsiquayae**, whose number of years as a professed Ghanaian religious appropriately made him the choice to give some insight to all of the twists and turns in the sometimes adverse journey on the road toward the growth and development of religious life in Ghana. It was well-received. Then followed group discussion on the given theme: Year of Faith.

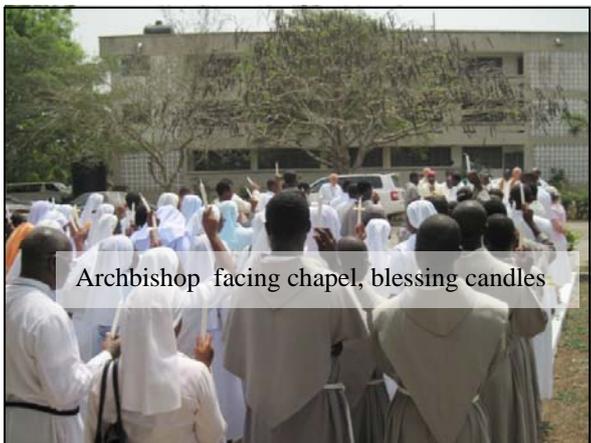


**Bro. Joe Tssiquayae addressing group**

For a more productive sharing of views among the some 80 religious priests, brothers and sisters gathered in St. Bro. Andre Chapel the large group was divided into 10 smaller groups of 8 members each, in finding ways to make the Year of Faith more meaningful for each community and its members and those to whom we minister. Following this the discussion groups returned to the chapel, and an appointed spokesperson for each group stated in general, with some specifics, what had transpired. These statements were retained by the secretary of the archdiocesan religious committee for future review and appropriate publication.



On this occasion, also, our District of Holy Cross was honored when **Bro. Joseph Annan** was elected as the new Director of the Archdiocesan Religious Committee. Bro. Joseph Annan now also assists **Bro. Joseph Tsiquayae** in directing the novices.



**Archbishop facing chapel, blessing candles**

Shortly after the religious had completed their lengthy session relating to the Year of Faith, it was good news to hear by cell phone that Archbishop Matthias was now on his way from his earlier commitment at St. Augustine's College to now meet with us. With his arrival, preparations were completed for the celebration of the Feast of the Purification. The traditional procession into the chapel was made from a point outside with all present holding lighted candles. The archbishop deferred from giving the homily, choosing to speak at the end of Mass

on the more relevant matter of relationship of religious to him and of relationship between religious communities.. He expressed his appreciation for the contribution all religious have made in the archdiocese, but did state that he felt there should be a more determined effort in organization of the religious, which he felt was quite lacking. However, he really did not elaborate in giving a more detailed explanation of his thoughts in this regard. The archbishop seems to be highly regarded by all of those over whom he has been appointed in the archdiocese.

The day's program was concluded with all convening on the District House rooftop patio for snacks, refreshments, and socializing.

## **NEW WATER RESERVOIR FOR THE SUNYANI BROTHER REX HENNEL HOUSE**

Things are gradually shaping up for the Scholastics in their new **Brother Rex Hennel House** in Sunyani, the latter so named to honor Brother Rex, who was the Superior of the first Holy Cross community in Ghana, also Headmaster of St..John’s School where the Brothers would teach. Under his command with the supporting staff of the other Brothers, the school soon attained renown for academic excellence. Now living in the house are six scholastic Brothers all attending Catholic University in Sunyani under the direction of **Bro. Ken Goode**, who is also Director of Vocations.

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February, a new water tower on the compound was dedicated by **Very Rev. Fr. Simon Gyansa Tabiri**, diocesan priest, who is the Brothers chaplain, and celebrates Mass each day for them. Present on this occasion were **Bro. Daniel Dardo**, District Superior, a few other Brothers not

attending classes at this time and Sisters of the Holy Spirit, who are neighbors of the Brothers. The Sisters and Brothers come together each Wednesday to celebrate the Eucharist.

The water supply for the house has been provided by a deep well to which a pump is attached. However, the water pressure



has not been satisfactory for supplying water at upper stories of the house, especially when the demand is heavy. The new water tank, which is some 5 ft or so above the height of the house, and which is adequately filled by the pump at low-demand times, enables the pressure even at the top floor to be quite satisfactory for all water demands at normal times.

The photo of the Rex Hennel House was taken from the top maintenance walkway of the water tower, as evidenced by its railing in the lower right hand corner of the picture. Though distorted by the non-orthographic perspective from the camera, the



house clearly is a fine-looking building. There are 18 rooms for residence on the two upper floors—chapel, kitchen utility and storage rooms and conference room on the first floor.

All will be enhanced, of course, by proper landscaping when the rainy season begins in a couple months to soften then now hard soil and allow a more convenient, less arduous task for this. However some gardening and planting of fruit trees, plantain and bananas has been done to a small extent, to already provide some small contribution to the menu for mealtimes in the house. The size of the land area is some 7 acres to allow for a modest size orange, banana and plantain groves

## DISTRICT CELEBRATION FOR FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, the Celebration of the Solemnity of St. Joseph began at 4 PM in St. Joseph



Hall chapel on the St John's School compound in Sekondi with some 50 Holy Cross Family members present, which included our young men in formation and several Holy Cross Sisters from their nearby Takoradi community. The music in the relatively small chapel resounded in jubilation as the celebration of the Liturgy unfolded, embellished by the inclusion of renewal of temporary religious vows by four of our young District members: **Brothers Stephen Aidoo, Anthony Koomson, James Boachie-Yiadom and Augustus Mensah.**

In his homily for the occasion, Fr. Bob Gilmour prefaced his remarks honoring St. Joseph calling to mind the fact that for perhaps several centuries, the Church rather glossed over devotion to St. Joseph, only gradually developing reaching in this modern era to a very significant degree. And Holy Cross, though the Lord's humble servant, St Brother Andre, has perhaps contributed more than from any other source toward this recognition of, and devotion to, St. Joseph.

Our usual social following community gatherings again proved a delightful occasion of sharing in this celebration of St. Joseph our special patron in Holy Cross.

To recall, [Saint Joseph's Oratory](#), the Roman Catholic basilica on Mount Royal in Montreal Canada, which was completed in 1967, is the largest church in Canada, and the huge copper dome is the second-largest in the world after [Saint Peter's Basilica](#) in Rome. There are more than 2 million people visiting this awesome structure every year, to benefit from the uplifting of mind and hearts, if not healing of some affliction.



### **NEWSBITS**

- The main program of activities with speech and awards for **St. John's Founders Day** was held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February with the Thanksgiving Mass Sunday morning to bring to a close the weeklong celebration of the event.
- Funeral rites were held on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February for **Most Rev. John Martin Darko** (Bishop Emeritus) who died 12th January, 2013. Bishop Darko was a good friend of the Brothers of Holy Cross, especially those at St. John's Secondary School. On many Founders Day anniversaries, Bishop Darko was the celebrant for the Thanksgiving Mass for these occasions.
- **Bro. Nicholas Arthur**, Director of the District's Candidacy Formation Program, attended in latter January a symposium with focus on Religious life, Formation, and Vocation Promotion. While there was significant benefit in sharing various aspects of respective formation programs, it was decided that for effective implementation of that which was best in each program to serve as guideline for all, there shall be a general visitation to the various formation houses throughout the Congregation of Holy Cross.
- On March 12, all teachers in Ghana for Basic, Junior and Senior High schools, with rare exception in a few localized areas, went on strike to obtain an increase in salaries. Clearly, there is just cause in the teachers demands, who despite a continual increase in cost of living owing to an inflation of the Cedi currency, have not received any increase in pay for several years. Already, at the outset of their parliamentary considerations following national elections in December, members of parliament chose to increase their own interests by an extravagant increase in salaries, which should make them sensitive to fact that teachers and other government employees, have similar and just cause in their grievance with the government. The fact that such little benefit has trickled down to the many in Ghana from the declared rich revenue from the new oil production in Ghana's offshore deposits, serves as even more motivation

for the teachers. Our District Justice and Peace Commission is presently reviewing the situation to see what involvement they might have to further the success of the teachers in their strike.

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