

HOLY CROSS TODAY - GHANA

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

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HOLY CROSS FAMILY GATHERING AT NYAME ADOM FOR EASTER CELEBRATION

“This the day the Lord has made! Let us be glad and rejoice.” Indeed, and what better way to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord than sharing once again that which is now established tradition, gathering with our Holy Cross Family in Ghana at *Nyame Adom*, the Sisters of the Holy Cross Center in Kasoa on Easter Monday. After all had arrived by late morning time the occasion began with the celebration of the Eucharist in the Sisters’ large recreation room. **Fr. Bob Gilmour**, our only Holy Cross priest in Ghana, was main celebrant, and again manifested his homiletic gift in providing a soul-stirring reflection on the Resurrection event.



It was evident in looking over the assembly that the Sisters’ community is significantly increasing its Ghanaian members. On this occasion their numbers were enhanced further by the presence of several pre-candidates, who are seriously giving thought to becoming Holy Cross Sisters.

Also, the music from African rhythm instruments, also with the organ had always

been provided by the young Ghanaian Brothers, but now some of the Ghanaian Sisters participated not only in voice, but by their playing of one or more instruments.



Following the “Peace Prayer of the Church”, the hug or handshake was a gesture for peace to one another, many using the opportunity to extend a “Happy Easter!” to one another. At the conclusion of the Liturgy some lingered to engage in further singing and dancing prior to going up to the rooftop patio and large palaver hut for more elaborate social activities.



There is a pleasing view from most sides of the second level patio of the surrounding countryside. Most significant for those who had not visited the Sisters place since last Easter, was the sight of extensive construction of new houses completed or in various stages thereof. What was a very sparsely settled neighborhood observed a year ago, is significantly developed, and surely will become a thriving community to surround the *Nyame Adom* Center, albeit the latter with its quite large campus that is more than adequate for the planned eventual K-12 classroom buildings will give no cause for claustrophobia. Much in need is the grading of the road running through the “suburb”, which has suffered the vicissitudes of heavy truck traffic bearing sand, cement and other construction materials along with heavy rains, and following the

typical pattern, has undergone absolutely no road repair since the first bull-dozer ploughed through the rough terrain to make the Sisters' property accessible. Efforts in appeals to the "powers that be" to have the

road ridges and ruts smoothed over thus far have resulted only in unfulfilled promises

While the dinner was undergoing final preparations below in the kitchen, some of the Sisters and hired staff doing the honors, there was much entertainment and pleasure on the rooftop patio. provided for by beverages, snacks,



and a variety of games, both elders and "young-uns" competing in the latter. Scrabble players, of course, seemed to be sticklers for more precise score-keeping but, however intense, all activity unfolded in fine manner, allowing for sometimes loud friendly banter. All things considered, it was a real fun time for both players and the part-time observers, eyes straying with a lull in conversation.

Dinner was served to top off the occasion with an eye-opening choice of favorite Ghanaian foods on this festive day's menu, the Sisters always deserving of a five-star rating for any given Easter Monday cuisine production.

Thank you again, dear Sisters in Holy Cross for so enriching our lives with good food, of course, but significantly more with your presence among us always!

BROTHER MICHAEL AMAKYI RECEIVES DOCTORAL DEGREE

On Saturday May 1, **Bro. Michael Amakyi** received his Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Dayton. Members of the Provincial Council and other close friends of Michael in the community, along with family members, relatives and friends were present at the occasion to offer personal congratulations to him on attaining this noteworthy accomplishment.

Brother Michael had received his Bachelor of Mathematics Degree and diploma in Education at the University of Cape Coast, after which he taught mathematics at St. Augustine's College, this being curtailed to part time teaching when he was elected as District Superior in West Africa, serving in that capacity from 1996-2005. During this time he also completed studies to attain his Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration in 2005. He shall return to Ghana in July to continue in his significant role in education.

We take this opportunity to express the District's joy with Michael in his achievement. ***Congratulations, Michael!***



HOLY CROSS COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GHANA PROGRAM

In July 2000, perhaps spirited to some degree by the reality of the new millennium, a group of some 15 Holy Cross College students came to Ghana hosted by the District of West Africa, following cooperative planning by the college and the District. Accommodations were also provided by the latter at the now renamed Holy Cross Continuing Formation Center. Successive groups have come each year for a two-week period, during which time the students experience in a significant way a mini-cross section of the Ghanaian culture, as well as become aware of the Holy Cross community in Ghana. This year's group of Holy Cross students has come to Ghana from May 10-25 to celebrate the 10th year of the Ghana Experience. The



Some HCC students at School for the Deaf trying their hands at a few of the signs.

benefits received and related upon return to HCC by those coming in the earlier years have encouraged Holy Cross College to offer this course as part of its growing Center for Global Perspectives Program. The Ghana Experience provides insight and perspective “through the eyes of faith” to assess the richness of this great African nation.



The multi-varied unfolding events throughout the visit gave an opportunity to be with Ghanaian people, especially in interaction with youth in nearby Moree fishing village, the Sekondi area where St. John’s School-CSC Administration/staff and at OLA parish near St. Augustine’s College residence. There were conferences presenting certain aspects of the Ghanaian culture,



With St. Augustine’s basketball players

African Art Day with cultural song & dance and paintings, organized by the District’s well-regarded artist, **Bro. David Kpobi, CSC**. Also there were visits to Holy Cross communities/ministries and to Ghana’s more frequented tourist places, such as the Cape Coast Castle (Slave Museum), Kakum Rainforest with its “Tree Top Walk” on the native-constructed Suspension Bridge, and just walking about observing the Ghanaian people at their daily activities, fortunately being able to converse with many of this English-speaking nation. **Bro. John Affum** was the coordinator in charge for this year’s program, also main chauffeur in transporting the students wherever in the District bus. He was assisted by **Bro. Kenneth Goode**, both serving as tour guides where the occasion deemed it of value. A most significant

event in which the HCC students were involved was the Service Day: Christmas in May project. This entailed a major renovation of an old lady’s house in BrafuYaw, that had been discussed earlier with her.



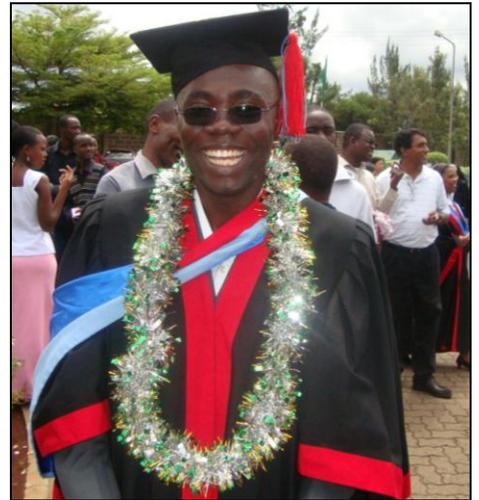
HCC’s Christmas in May Renovation Project

The house clearly was in dire need of repair. Special thanks to **Bro. Stephen Arthur**, assistant Maintenance Director at the Center, who directed this all-day venture.

As the group gathered for the final evening, May 24th, for a Farewell Social Activities and Awards, there seemed no doubt that all who had participated in this 10th year Ghana Experience, as part of their Global Perspectives Program at HCC, had truly experienced a great and memorable two-weeks, living among their African brothers and sisters here in Ghana.

BROTHER NICHOLAS ARTHUR RECEIVES DEGREE

Brother Nicholas Arthur has returned from his two-year stay with the Holy Cross community in the District of East Africa, while attending the Catholic University in Kenya. There he successfully completed a two-year course in Spirituality and Religious formation with an award of distinction in his work. He chose as his research topic “*The Challenges of Assessment in Post-Novitiate Formation Programme*”, which was motivated by his own life experience, especially in formation work. He was an assistant director of the Post-Novitiate formation program in the District of East Africa, concurrently with his classwork. Bro. Nicholas states: “The course content was good in the sense that it really covered most of the challenges as well as new perspective of the religious life in our contemplative African situation. Coupled with these theoretical orientations from the school, I had the privilege to put into practice what I was learning.” He felt that this experience as gained by the positive dynamism of the brothers and seminarians living together following the same formation program was of great benefit in understanding his own vocation in Holy Cross as a Brother, as well as understanding more fully that of the seminarians.



Bro. Nicholas feels committed to upgrading our District Formation Program. He perceives certain needs at the present time for a more solid grounding in the spirituality and charism of our congregation. He also is concerned that there seems to be a prevailing mentality among us to forget the full import of our founder’s vision that *we become educators in faith*, that we thereby touch both minds and hearts, not just impart knowledge. He considers essential as religious of Holy Cross that we are well-grounded in our single hearted search of God. People (expect) us to be “men of God” as much or more so than to be teachers, maintenance workers or ministering to others in any apostolate. *Congratulations, Nicholas!*

UPDATE: SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

Sister Alice Arkoh and Sister Comfort Arthur were received into the sisters of the Holy Cross Canonical novitiate community at St. Mary's on May 27.

Sisters Catherine Before, Evelyn Ntiamaoh, and Martina Dery are participating in the common Initial Formation Program at St. Mary's June 13-July 18. Temporary Professed sisters from around the world are involved in this event.

Sister Evelyn Ntiamaoh has been accepted for perpetual profession on September 11, 2010. The Holy Cross Family in Ghana rejoice with her.

NEWS BRIEFS

- ◆ **Brother Kenneth Goode**, District Vocation Director, following upon the success of the *Come and See* program in March, has held another program of similar nature at St. Joseph Hall-Sekondi for young men interested in becoming a Brother of Holy Cross. This time there were 19 young men, who participated in the program from Friday evening to Monday morning. About half of the young men have completed Senior High School studies and would be ready to enter the Candidacy program at St. Joseph Hall should evaluation of them and their own decision make this possible. The others are presently in their senior year, needing to successfully complete their academic work before further consideration.
- ◆ **Bro. Ebenezer Prah** was one of two teachers in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Department representing St. Augustine’s College for a program funded by the Intel Corporation, USA, which was organized by the Curriculum Research and Development Division of Ghana. The theme of the week-long program was “Integration of ICT in its Curriculum. The goal is to help teachers acquire pedagogical literary skills and develop 21st Century teaching and learning skills. This meeting was for all

schools in the Central Region. **Bro. Paul Bukari** represented St. John's School, Sekondi, for a similar program sponsored by Intel Corporation for the high schools in the Western Region.

- ◆ The members of the District gathered together on Friday evening, June 25th, at the Center for the Day of Recollection on Saturday. **Fr. Don Henfy sj, close friend from the neighboring Jesuit community,** presented two conferences of a very practical nature for living out our religious life in community.

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