

# 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 ROSARY MINISTRIES ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CELEBRATION

On 6th February 2010 the Holy Cross Family Rosary Ministries - Ghana organized and brought together over 600 Catholic Students' Union members to celebrate with them the Feast of their Patron - St. Thomas Aquinas. The gathering and celebration took place at Holy Cross Chapel on the campus of St. John's School - Sekondi.

The theme for this celebration was The Blessed Virgin Mary According to the Summa Theologica of St. Thomas Aquinas.

The gathering also provided the opportunity to make known to students the life and work of Fr. Patrick Peyton, CSC. In addition, it gave the opportunity for young people there present to know a little more about



our Congregation of Holy Cross, through the presence of members who shared with them in the celebration on this occasion, to encourage vocations for the Congregation

Mrs. Theresa Aryepah who has helped Family Rosary Ministries in Ghana so much was there directing the program. Fr. Bob Gilmour CSC was also there assisting - leading prayer. Bro. Patrick Baah CSC and Franciscan Friar Isaac Frempong, OFM Conv. gave talks to the gathered students.

Several other members of Holy Cross (Ghanaian Brothers) were present helping with the organization and in carrying out the program.

The Eucharistic Celebration provided an appropriate

conclusion for the day's program

Earlier, on January 2, 2010, the Holy Cross Family Rosary Ministries started off their New Year by holding a **Childrens' Marian Retreat**. The retreat was held at the Air Force Catholic Church Complex in Takoradi, Ghana, with **Bro. Patrick Baah, C.S.C** as moderator. The retreat theme was **Learning and Following in the Footsteps of the Child Jesus**. In praying the rosary with them, Patrick explained devotion to the rosary, encouraging them and their parents and family to pray together.

For the occasion children actively contributed in sharing with each other individual and group "performances". At the conclusion of the activities of this day of the Children's Marian Retreat refreshments were served to all there present.

contributor: Bro. Patrick Baah

ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE



## 80<sup>th</sup> JUBILEE CELEBRATION



Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, was a very big day on the school calendar for all at St. Augustine's—teachers, staff members, students, Old Boys (alumni) and friends, who were present to celebrate Speech and Awards Day. Preceding this day was a week of special activities commemorating this 80<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year, part of which saw students engaged in community services, musical programs, including playlets and dances, and athletic events. Over the years St. Augustine's has gained renown in Ghana as a school having a high standard for secular education and moral training at the senior high school level. Its seniors always rank well above the average performance on the

mandatory National Exam. At present there are two **Ghanaian Brothers, Ebenezer Prah and Vincent**



Augusco Color Guard prior to "passing-in-review"



Band members getting their act together



A small section of the very large crowd at program



Outside-stage for Speech and Awards Program

**Ntsiful**, on the teaching staff at St. Augustine's. as compared to several decades ago when American Holy Cross Brothers were on the teaching staff. Presumably in future years there will be an increase in Ghanaian Brothers at St. Augustine's. On Sunday the Jubilee Year celebration was concluded with a Thanksgiving Mass in the large auditorium with **Bishop Matthias Nketiah**, Administrator of the diocese as main celebrant.



## THE HOLY CROSS FAMILY TOGETHER AGAIN FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

On Friday evening 19 March the Holy Cross community members in Ghana gathered at St. Joseph's Hall on St. John's School compound to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, patron of the Brothers of Holy Cross.



The Hall is our Holy Cross formation house, which accommodates the candidacy and pre-candidacy programs. The occasion began with the Eucharistic Celebration, **Fr. Bob Gilmour** presiding, the unfolding Liturgy embellished with hymns supported by rich voices and African rhythm instruments, along with a liberal use of incense at appropriate times.



The joy of this day was enhanced by the renewal of vows by four of our Brothers: Bro. Stephen Aidoo, Bro. Stephen Arthur, Bro. Anthony Koomson and Bro. James Boachie-Yiadom. Bro. Joseph Annan, the Headmaster of St. John's School, also celebrated the anniversary of his final profession today as well. In addition, 12 young men who are considering joining our Formation Programme in Ghana, were also there with us to celebrate St. Joseph's Feastday, having come to participate in the weekend "Come and See" program.

After the Liturgy all gathered for the social hour, sharing together the joy of each other's company, the conversation enhanced with good food and drink on the lawn behind St. Joseph's Hall. Before dusk put in its full appearance, most all had departed, very possibly reflecting on the blessings of this day and many others that God has given us through St. Joseph, our beloved Patron.

source: Bob Gilmour, CSC

### COME AND SEE PROGRAM



Some 15 young men had been invited to come to St. John's School, Sekondi, to participate in a "Come and See" program on the weekend that had begun with the celebration by our Holy Cross family on the Solemnity of St. Joseph. These had been selected by **Bro. Kenneth Goode, who is the vocation Director,** from



information received in whatever way by these who had indicated their interest in attending the program. Of the 15 invited, there were actually 12 young men who did come.

They had the experience of fully sharing in the celebration on Friday evening, and on the following day they visited several of our Holy Cross houses in the Sekondi-Takoradi area, and shared in the scheduled group discussions with certain of our Ghanaian Brothers about various aspects of the religious life, and their meaning for those who live in community as a Brother of Holy Cross. Certain practical considerations were made in their own regard as to how one becomes aware that the Call is specifically given to them, expenses involved initially in their formation needs, etc. To enter the Candidacy Program, which is prior to their entry into the pre-novitiate, the applicant must have attained a high school diploma, as a general policy.

The program seemed to be well-received by all who had come. **Bro. Vincent Ntsiful** assists Bro. Kenneth, being generally assigned to vocational work in the Central Region in Ghana, with all else in the jurisdiction of Bro. Kenneth.

## **ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL - SEKONDI** **SIXTH FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION**

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010 St. John's celebrated its Sixth Founder's Day on which day, the occasion also including a Speech and Awards Day, the latter being a high point in the celebration with many students being awarded for accomplishments in respective areas of academic excellence and/or other noteworthy contributions in the life of the school. The occasion is always well attended by "Old Saints" (alumni) and friends of St. John's to whom **Bro. Joseph Annan, Headmaster**, gave his special welcome as "members of our family home". Also present were many Holy Cross community, some who are Old Saints of the school, many distinguished persons in areas of Education in the Western Region, Heads of institutions, members of the Press, along with staff and students of St. John's.

The theme for the Founder's Day celebration was "**Stability In Education Policy in Ghana, A Pre-requisite for National Development.**"

In his Welcoming Address, Bro. Joseph alluded to the renown that the school has in the Western region, which is considered by many educators in the region as being one of the best, as supported by the competitive National Exams. Regarding the latter, the performance of St. John's students on the WASSCE2008/09 national exam, showed a significant, steady improvement with 95.5% passing, and two-thirds of its candidates qualified for admission into tertiary institutions. The aim is to have the seniors score 100% in all subjects and to qualify for admission into tertiary institutions from 2011 onwards.



On a different tack, Bro. Joseph voiced his criticism of the "powers that be", who do not take seriously the criticisms, suggestions and recommendations from the Heads of institutions. It is the latter, who implement the worthy goals of education in Ghana, but who at various educational forums have their recommendations, substantive of worth, treated with little value, if not disdain. Relating to this, Bro. Joseph strongly noted that St. John's could not

*The (Ministry of Education) does not take seriously the criticisms and recommendations from the Heads of institutions...The challenge becomes even more demanding when Heads of second cycle institutions are told to run their schools on fees fixed in 2006/7 academic year, that is 4 years ago."*

admit even a single student if no additional classrooms, dormitory blocks and other related accommodation spaces are provided by the Educational Ministry owing to lack of infrastructure for 2010/ 11 academic year and beyond, which has been presented to the government but for which nothing seems to be done. Bro. Joseph expressly stated, "We cannot continue to manage and be innovative as they always

want us to do when there are so many restrictions. In fact it seems imminent that Heads of institutions will break down if government does nothing about this situation...The challenge becomes even more (demanding) when Heads of second cycle institutions are told to run their schools on fees fixed in 2006/2007 academic year, which is 4 years ago. Has nothing changed in the past 3 or 4 years?"





Bro. Daniel Dardoe, distributing an award

In his concluding remarks, Bro. Joseph made a “passionate appeal” to Old Saints to consider reactivating and restoring the defunct Alumni Office, expressed his hope that “together we shall achieve greatness.”

Then followed the guest speaker’s reflection on the special significance of this day for all there present and for the local community, as well. Then after the speech by



Students their “Sundav” crowns

the Senior Prefect, various awards were given by the **Bro. Daniel Dardoe, District Superior**, presiding.

The occasion began earlier in the morning with the Saints Color Guard/Cadet Corps , who performed with precision their

marching and especially, “Passing-in-Review” before the visiting dignitaries. The Cadet Corps is “influenced” to some degree by the fact of the locally based navy in Takoradi, thus encouraging their adoption of the white navy uniforms. In most other schools the cadet corps wear a more familiar olive green of the army



At the end of the program a social at which food and drinks were served

allowed a further opportunity for Old Saints, especially, to renew friendships and exchange memorable events of their unfolding lives in their days at St. John’s, as well as with former teachers still at hand to whom they owe their formative years in education at the school.



### UPDATE: SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

Two young women candidates, **Monica Assifuah-Nunoo** and **Cynthia Godia Bienann** have entered the Sisters of the Holy Cross Candidacy Program in Ghana. The Sisters now have also two novices, **Alice Arkoh** and **Comfort Arthur** in novitiate at St. Mary’s College.

Work is just getting underway for the second building of Holy Cross School at Nyame Adom in Kasoa, which will be necessary for classrooms to accommodate grades 3 to 6 to complete their basic school program. The photo shows the ground area in the foreground for this construction, and in the background is the first building which accommodates grades K – 2.

### NEWSBITS

- At the Holy Cross Educational Center in Kasoa, **Bro. Stephen Arthur** is completing the enclosing of the property to ensure security against encroachment, especially, and construction of foundations for the first school building will soon be underway. Plans are set to begin with education at the Senior High School level

● **Bro. Daniel Dardoe**, District Superior, attended the men's Major Religious Superiors' meeting March 16-19 in Obuasi. Of the services rendered by the organization, one concerned the matter of procuring visas for religious traveling outside the country, which often runs into needless snags and inconvenience making it difficult to obtain visas. A significant change occurred in bringing together under one administration the formerly separated Men's and Women's Major Religious Superiors, which should provide a more efficient and effective modus operandi in many areas of concern.

● While on his vacation in the US, **Bro. Tom Dillman**, was given the opportunity once again to speak in four hometown parishes in Evansville, Indiana on four respective weekends, to appeal for funds in behalf of the Ghanaian Poor and marginalized to whom he has a special ministry to provide assistance in areas of food and medicine. Members of St. Philip's, St. John's (Newburgh), St. Benedict's and Christ the King parishes were most generous to enable the ministry to continue to provide this assistance over the next two years.

● **Brothers Anthony Koomson** and **Vincent Ntsiful** are respectively assisting the regular coach for the basketball and soccer teams, respectively at St. Augustine's College.

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