

HOLY CROSS TODAY - GHANA

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

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REFLECTION: CHRISTMAS 2012

Christmas reveals the magnitude of God's love for us--
The Father gave to us His Son, Jesus, now one with us,
Who in his humanity is the absolute revelation
Of God's compassion, mercy, and boundless love for all mankind.

In this Holy Season let us reflect
On this wondrous mystery of the Incarnation—
By humbling Himself, the Son gains for us awesome dignity,
The Father embraces us as sons and daughters in Christ—
Now brothers and sisters to each other in the love of His Spirit.

In this New Year of grace, may we live out each day in gratitude to God,
As instruments of His peace, joy, hope, and love.

—Editor



CELEBRATING: CLOSING THE YEAR OF THE BROTHER WITH PROFESSION OF FIRST VOWS OF FOUR NOVICES

On Saturday, 20th October 2012 the Holy Cross Family in the District of West Africa, along with relatives, friends and the local Church, gathered at the Holy Cross District Center at Brafoyaw to celebrate two major events: the closing of the Year of the Holy Cross Brother, and the



Bro. Henry professing his religious vows

Profession of First Vows by



All congratulating the four newly professed

our four Holy Cross Novices. On this occasion that was held outside the St. Brother Andre Chapel there was given protection from rain and/or sun by an extensive outlay of canopies for the some 400 or more people there assembled. Fortunately, the heavy rains of the night before had ended and God providentially provided a bright and sunny day



All asking God's blessings on the newly professed

Bro. Daniel Dardoe, CSC, District Superior gave Welcoming Remarks for the occasion, as the celebration began at mid-morning with a dozen or more religious or diocesan clergy, and supporting the congregational singing, the Cathedral youth choir capably rendered the music, as well as providing their own renditions alone. Our District chaplain, **Fr. Bob Gilmour, CSC**, was the main celebrant enhancing the Liturgy with his singing of individual parts in it that are most often recited, his voice continuing without blemish over the years. Again, **Bro. Paul Bukari, CSC** kept things moving along in smooth fashion, and Bro. Daniel received the Vows of Profession.

Bro. Joseph Tsiquaye, Director of Novices, gave the homily for the occasion in which with no small display of emotion he included his personal witness of his years as a Brother of Holy Cross beginning with the initial Call to this religious vocation to his present 45th year as a professed religious in the District of Ghana. Bro. Joseph was the first professed Ghanaian Brother in the District.

The novices making their profession are: **Brothers Maxwell Kofi Kyeremeh, Paul Asenso-Mensah, Philip Jackson and Henry Entsiwah**. They are shown at the right with the large portrait of St. Bro. Andre Bessette that **Bro. David Kpobi** had painted a year ago for the celebration of the inception of the Year of the Brother Oct. 17, 2011. The portrait was prominently displayed some 10 yards to the right of the outside altar for this day's occasion. This photo followed the liturgical celebration, at which time the novices are wearing their black cords given to complete the process of their profession of their religious vows.



Truly we have been blessed in the past few years with an increasing number of young Ghanaians entering our West African District in the Congregation of Holy Cross. We pray that our lives in Holy Cross may lived out in gratitude to the Lord for all that He has done for Holy Cross especially in Ghana.

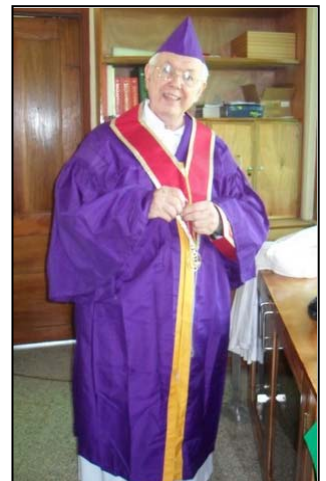
FATHER BOB GILMOUR, CSC, GIVEN SUPREME HONORS

From the 26th to the 28th October 2012 the Supreme Council of the Noble Order of the Knights of Marshall were at the Holy Cross District Centre, Brafoyaw (Cape Coast) for a weekend of recollection and to invest their Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Bob Gilmour, C.S.C. with the rank of Honorary Past Supreme Knight.



Clearly, this honor seems most deserving in view of his distinguished service as chaplain to the Knights of Marshall over the past 30 years.

Fr. Bob continues as the only Holy Cross priest in the Holy Cross District of West Africa as the District Chaplain, Secretary on the District Council and Steward. There now are three members of the District are in



the Knights of Malta and four in the Knights of St. John in Ghana.

PORTRAIT: BROTHER STEPHEN ARTHUR

Bro. Stephen Arthur made his final profession of vows last year in December with little time before publishing that District Newsletter to give adequate coverage of him and his ministry, who significantly contributes to our District needs. He is deserving of due recognition now following his final profession of vows as a Brother of Holy Cross. In his, first year or two of his active ministry, Stephen contributed to various needs at the District Center, and “on loan” to other Houses, using his woodworking and basic maintenance skills. under the direction of **Bro. Vincent Gross**. In the past few years Stephen has had two young men employed in woodworking projects for income. He soon tried to establish a viable Chicken farm on the Center compound through contributions from friends and relatives, which he felt would provide income to District finances. The initial undertaking was successful enough to warrant the District to give Stephen a subsidy toward increasing the size of both facilities toward providing for the purchase of additional chickens. In the first few years the profit from the operation had been primarily used for further expansion of the facilities and increasing number of layer chickens and egg production. At present there are some 1500 chickens from young fryers to older layers, which produce some 90 dozen eggs daily. Prospects for realizing some profit seem now more favorable of attaining as the supply of eggs is on close parity to the demand by regular customers.



Bro. Stephen has now been appointed as director of the new production unit at the Skills Center in Anaji (Takoradi area), precluding his work at the chicken farm. Temporarily **Bro. Vincent Gross**, Director of Maintenance at the Center is overseeing the chicken farm, while reviewing the viability of the poultry outlay. (The next issue will present a full story on this new enterprise).

TRY PRAYER, IT WORKS!" CONTEST IN GHANA

The annual Try prayer contest in Ghana for Holy Cross Family Ministries ended in October with presentation of prizes to deserving schools and individual school children. In recent years Ghana has participated in this annual Holy Cross Ministry project, which has been held in many countries over the past 17 years. The "Try Prayer! It Works!" contest is to encourage children to express their faith through art, poetry and prose. Entries in the contest can be in the form of artwork, a poem, or an essay, and the contest is open to all children in primary and Junior High Schools are "enrolled in a Catholic school"



A record number of 15 primary and 13 junior high schools participated this year, with most all schools



in the Western Region joining those in the Cape Coast area. The program for naming winners in the contest, in which respective awards were given, was held in Cape Coast at the Holy Cross District Center. Those submitting entries this year were commended for the high quality of their work.



Ministries. History has it that, while a seminarian, Father Peyton was stricken with severe tuberculosis. At one point, a frustrated physician said, “Try prayer! We have done all we can for you.” Father Peyton, believed that it was in praying the Rosary that he was miraculously healed through the intercession of the Blessed Mother. This experience, coupled with his strong family life as a youth in Ireland, where his family prayed the Rosary each night, inspired Father Peyton to devote his life to Mary, Mother of God, and to the spiritual well-being of the family. His famous slogan, “The family that prays together stays together,” still resonates today.

This year’s theme: “Fear not, I am with you!” focused on The Visitation, the Second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. The “Try Prayer! It Works!” contest derives its name from an experience in the life of Fr. Patrick Peyton, founder of Holy Cross Family



HOLY CROSS FAMILY IN GHANA AT CHRISTMAS

The members of the District of West Africa and Sisters of the Holy Cross in Ghana gathered once again for celebrating Christmas at the District Center in Brafoyaw. It was as always an occasion of which we truly shared together a very Merry Christmas!

Fr. Bob Gilmour, CSC was celebrant for the



Christmas Liturgy at a late morning hour, at which time we shared in a most meaningful way in joyful praise and thanksgiving this Christmas Day together. Following this all moved to the Brothers House rooftop patio for the remaining activities of the day. And lastly with fond farewells exchanged at a mid-afternoon hour we concluded this beautiful day of

celebration of joyful sharing and camaraderie.

NEWS BRIEFS

- **Bro. Patrick Baah**, Director of the District's Holy Cross Family Ministry, attended the International meeting of all the directors in the Holy Cross Family Ministries programs that was held in the Boston area of the USA in mid-November.
- The District Superior, **Bro. Daniel Dardoe**, and **Fr. Bob Gillmour** attended the Council of Congregation meeting in Rome in mid-November.
- **Bro. Joseph Annan** returned on October 22nd from the meeting of the Congregational Finance Committee that was held at Notre Dame.
- **Bro. Paul Bukari**, Chairman of the District's Peace and Justice Commission represented Ghana at the International Coordinators Meeting in Rome in early December.
- **Bro. Ken Goode**, Director of Vocations in the District of West Africa, attended the Congregational meeting of Directors in Rome the second week of December.
- **Bro. Vincent Ntsiful** went to Rome on December 30th to attend the final meeting for the present members of the Congregation of Holy Cross Forum. A new group representing each of the Provinces, Districts or Vicariates of the Congregation for the next two-year term.

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