

# 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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## HOLY CROSS FAMILY MINISTRY SPONSORS “TRY PRAYER” CONTEST

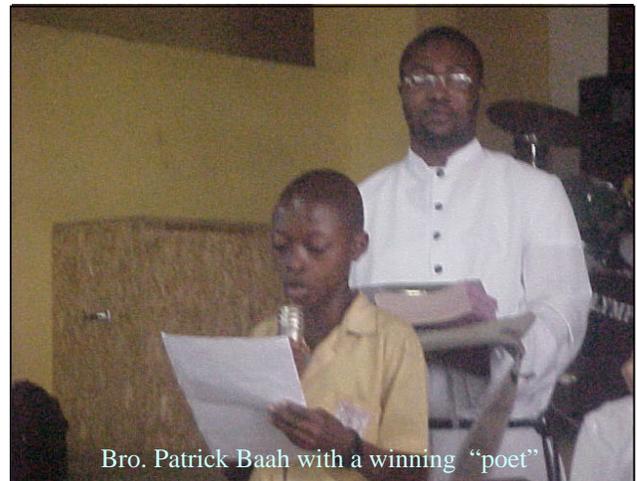
On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, was the occasion of an Awards Day for the TRY PRAYER contest sponsored by the Holy Cross Family Ministry. This was the first such activity of the HCFM of such magnitude—some 400 plus contestants having submitted entries. These were designated for three different categories: Poems by Primary School students; Poems by JSS students; and Art work from either source. A panel of six judges



had read and viewed all the entries, selecting the top five entries, which were then submitted to a second panel of three judges to select the best three from each category. And this day was that upon which the contestants eagerly awaited the outcome of those winning the awards.

Administrators of the various schools were present, along with their primary or junior secondary school students, were present for the awards ceremony at the Parish Hall of the Cathedral of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Takoradi. District members from both Cape Coast and Sekondi also had come to honor the award winners and duly acknowledge the members of the HCFM, who had so commendably undertaken this noteworthy project.

The program began with an invitation to prayer and songs of praise led by **Bro. Kenneth Goode** accompanied on the organ by **Bro. Nicholas Arthur**. The invitation to prayer was followed by a welcoming address and an introduction of dignitaries present given by **Bro. Daniel Dardoe**. **Bro. Michael Amakyi CSC** then gave a short explanation of the purpose of the Try Prayer Contest and of Holy Cross Family Ministries. The Bishop Essuah JSS School Choir then sang a beautiful song appropriate to the occasion. Keeping the program unfolding



Bro. Patrick Baah with a winning “poet”

smoothly throughout was **Bro. Patrick Baah**, who is the District Moderator of the Holy Cross Family Ministry in Ghana.

The winning student in each category would receive the gift of payment of registration fee for the national exam required for entering the next division level, as well as school fees for one year. They would also receive, as would the second and third place winners, a beautifully printed certificate, exercise books, a math set and school bag. So no small atmosphere of excitement prevailed as the presentation of awards began.

The first awards were for the Primary poetry division. Each of the three award recipients

came forward one by one to read their poems after which they were presented with their certificate and prizes. Each poem had as its theme “the family that prays together stays together”. The presentation of the primary poetry awards was done by **Bro. William Gates CSC**.

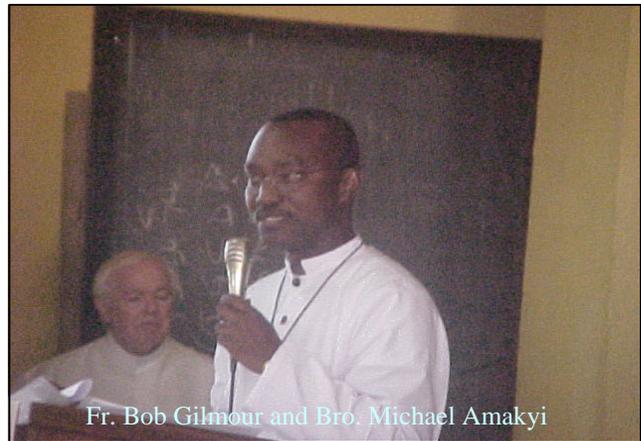
These presentations were followed by a musical interlude – a young student of beautiful voice sang an appropriate selection with organ accompaniment by Bro. Nicholas.

In the same fashion, the three finalists of the JSS poetry awards came forward to read their poems, after which the certificate and prizes were given. These presentations were done by **Fr. Bob Gilmour CSC** and **Mr. John Adena-Mensah**, special guest and Regional Manager of the Catholic Education Unit.

Another song by the Bishop Essuah school choir gave brief interlude, this being followed by the awarding of certificates and prizes to winners in the Art category. As the winning artists came forward, they respectively raised high their works for the audience to view, prior to receiving their awards.

Bro. Michael then announced the winning schools that were judged on the sum total of all entries submitted by their students. Each was awarded a beautifully crafted desk and chair made by the students at Holy Cross Skills Training Center. The overall best school in addition received a cash prize.

Bro. Michael pointed out that what we have heard and seen (the poetry and art) certainly reminds us that we have very talented young people who are the hope of the future and we must do all we can to encourage them and unleash the bundle of possibilities that each of them possesses. **Mrs. John Adena-Mensah**, in



a memorable exhortation, gave some very sound advice to parents, teachers and students.

**Bro. Robert Koomson** gave a vote of thanks to all, after which Fr. Bob Gilmour led the concluding prayer. Refreshments were then served to all.

The District wholeheartedly commends the members of the Holy Cross Family Ministries in Ghana for their noteworthy contribution by the TRY PRAYER Contest.

—Information submitted by Fr. Bob Gilmour csc  
Photos by Bro .Nicholas Arthur, csc

## **A BATTERY OF WORKSHOPS FOR TEMPORARILY PROFESSED**

During the school vacation breaks at both the university and Holy Cross Skills Training Center the temporarily professed Brothers in the District were given the opportunity to take “enrichment courses” at the District Center. Following a weeklong exposure courtesy **Bro. Bernard Klim, CSC** on the meaning and utility of Yen (see article p 4), the temporarily professed had four additional workshops by other members of our Holy Cross Family in Ghana over the next several weeks, beginning July 27<sup>th</sup> and ending July 13<sup>th</sup>. The workshops included: COMMUNICATIONS, **Sr. Helene Sharp, CSC**; HOLY CROSS SPIRITUALITY AND CHARISM, **Bro. Joe Annan, CSC**; DECISION

MAKING, **Bro. Michael Amakyi, CSC**; and ELEMENTS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE, **Bro. Tom Dillman, CSC**. The latter included: Divine Providence, Mission, Self-knowledge & Self-respect, Relationships & Friendships, The Cross & Asceticism, and Spiritual direction & Spiritual reading. There was considerable provision for group discussions throughout of the various topics introduced by the respective directors. The consensus of the temporarily professed was that the rather comprehensive battery of workshops was a significant worthwhile experience with new insights gained and others reinforced.

## EDITORIAL: TRIBUTE MOST DESERVED

Receiving the obituary notice of **Bro. Edmund Hunt, CSC**, I could not help but recall several instances in which our paths had crossed. One such time was as a scholastic at St. Edwards University, where he was its first Brother President. To accommodate the increasing number of scholastic Brothers, a half-dozen former army barracks had been procured to be renovated to become our residence on campus. We spent much time during the summer vacation undertaking this task, myself this one day sawing and nailing lengths of molding around the edges of a recently laid linoleum floor. After working sometime, another man came over to assist me. I greeted and gave my name to this assumed hired carpenter. I did a double-take as he replied, “Welcome, I’m Bro. Edmund”!

During that vacation period, this president of St. Ed’s came over a number of times to help us put our house together, being proficient in a number of “building trade” skills, it seemed, in addition to being a most capable administrator of the university. From his impetus and direction St. Edwards has continued to rise to greater prominence and ranking among universities.

Probably not many of our District members, nor our younger Holy Cross religious in other 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries, are aware that it was Bro. Edmund, along with three others in Holy Cross, who drafted our present Constitutions. This was a major revision of the former Constitutions, following Vatican II. With small modifications they were consequently approved by Rome in 1988, of which we presently abide—a most noteworthy document by any standard.

On my vacation visits to the US, I always made it a point when at Notre Dame to visit Bro. Edmund in his room at Dujarie House where he lived out his latter years. He kept abreast of current events especially relating to St. Eds and ND, happy to be given the opportunity to express his views concerning administrative policies and other issues at both. In these visits it seemed always that the “sharing” through conversation was more from his direction than from my own. Truly Bro Edmund Hunt was one of the “giants” in Holy Cross—brilliant in mind, humble of heart, of boundless energy in his ministry, a dedicated servant of the Lord! We gratefully “walk in the footprints” of such as he.

## A YEN EXPERIENCE FOR TEMPORARILY PROFESSED

In mid-June the temporarily professed religious in the District of West Africa were given the opportunity to gain significant insight into the concept of Yen as presented by **Bro. Bernard Klim** of the District of East Africa. During the weeklong workshop, the idea of Yen as a spiritual exercise of benefit to those engaged in active ministry, was presented, discussed, and practiced insofar as possible to one for whom this was a first-time experience in using this ancient form of prayer.

Bro. Bernard has considerable knowledge and experience of Yen over the years, having been attracted to it some twenty or more years ago while on the staff at the generalate in Rome. Through his further study and participation in a few workshops on Zen, along with his adapting this a very viable form of spiritual exercise for himself, he has become a “Master of Zen” in his own right. He has been invited to conduct Zen

workshops to various groups in numerous places—his more memorable experience being that of presenting a workshop on Zen to a group of Buddhists Monks in Germany!



Bernard also met for a few days with the four pre-novices at Moreau House in Butumayegbo at

which he presented a somewhat modified version of Zen prayer to help them develop their practice of meditative prayer in general.



After giving his time to the two different groups Bernard enjoyed another week or so with us in the District touring about Ghana for a few days. Before he left, he decided to sit in on **Sr. Helene Sharpe's** workshop on Communications, feeling that he could benefit from whatever insight he thus might gain.

We take this opportunity to express to Bro. Bernard our thanks for taking time out from his still busy ministry in the District of East Africa, where he continues as supervisor of construction and maintenance projects. While few of our young Brothers are likely to become devotees of Zen as Bro. Bernard, some have expressed the benefit it has given regarding regular attendance to their times of meditation.

### HOLY CROSS COLLEGE STUDENTS AGAIN PAY VISIT TO GHANA

On Sunday July 24, students from Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Indiana, U.S.A., visited Kakum National Forest. This group of eleven students, professors, and administrators arrived on July 19<sup>th</sup> for a two weeks visit in Ghana. They stayed at the Holy Cross Centre in Brafu Yaw.

While in Ghana, the students had great pleasure in experiencing a taste of African culture— various performances of song and dance as well as visiting multiple African landmarks. The study of African culture is one of the most important aspects of the Baccalaureate Program at Holy Cross College.

The group, accompanied by the Holy Cross brothers, visited important sites such as Assin Manso, the castles of Cape Coast and El Mina and participated in Panafest. Though the stay in Ghana was short, much was learned and a greater appreciation of African culture attained.



The group left Ghana and headed back to the US, and the incredible experience over the few weeks of their Ghana visit will carry on in each of their memories forever.

—Danny Nussbaum, Holy Cross College '06

*“The one aim of the glory of God and salvation of souls inspires (us) and gives rise to a oneness of effort which tends toward that more perfect union of hearts, which constitutes (the Congregation’s) bond and strength....Union, then, is a powerful lever with which we could move, direct, and sanctify the whole world”.... (Moreau – CL 14)*

## LETTER FROM THE SISTERS OF HOLY CROSS IN GHANA

**Sisters Margaret Mary Nimo and Sister Helene Sharp** attended the First Archdiocesan Synod in Cape Coast, July 11-21. **Sister Margaret Mary**, the only woman presenter, spoke on the topic *The Role of Religious as Agents of Evangelisation in the New Evangelising Plan for the Archdiocese*. Sister Helene served as facilitator and on writing committees.

The Sisters and candidates attended the Eucharistic Congress Mass at St. Augustine's on August 21. They enjoyed lunch at the Brothers House before returning to Kasoa.

**Sister Esther Adjoa Entsiwah** returned to Ghana on August 21 after a two year study program in the USA. The sisters and candidates

from Kasoa went to Takoradi for two days to welcome her home.

The two Candidates, **Catherine Before** and **Martina Dery** left for the novitiate in Jinja, Uganda on August 31. They will be gone for two years. Sisters Margaret Mary and Helene accompanied them and then stayed for Council meetings, the Uganda Assembly and First Profession.

The Sisters will be welcoming two volunteers from the USA to Ghana, on September 21. These are Clare and Leah, (last names not recalled), who graduated from St. Mary's College, ND in May. They want to give some service to others in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World and chose Ghana for a three-month experience.

—submitted by Sr. Helene Sharp, CSC

### *Bits and Pieces*

→ In the last issue of the DNL the teachers of secondary schools in Ghana were still on strike. It did continue for a few more weeks but was finally resolved through the continuing negotiations. The teachers received approval of the major items in their request. Classes had resumed immediately giving perhaps six weeks of formal preparation by their respective teachers of the seniors who sat for their final national exams in latter July continuing into the first week of August. It remains to be seen what effects the four months hiatus owing to the strike will have had on the exam results. The latter should be published sometime in October.

→ **Brothers Michael Amakyi and Kenneth Kunditani** represented the District at the gathering in Montreal to celebrate with the international community of Holy Cross the Centennial Celebration of the Basilica of St. Joseph, which is dated from the planting of St. Joseph medals in the ground 100 years ago in the ground upon which rests the Basilica. It was celebrated conjointly with the 160<sup>th</sup> birthday of Blessed Andre, who left this crowning point of his legacy to the universal Church.

→ On Saturday and Sunday, August 13-14, the archdiocese of Cape Coast held a Eucharistic

Congress with St. Augustine's campus hosting the occasion, the very large athletic field being used for this. Eucharistic devotions were held Saturday evening, and the Celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday, the latter with talks following the Mass extending until late afternoon. Ghana's recently appointed Cardinal Peter Turkson was the main celebrant and speaker at the occasion for which all the archdiocesan priests and bishops were present along with a roughly estimated 20,000 parishioners.

→ From August 26-28, Friday evening to Sunday evening, 13 young men had accepted the invitation by **Bro. Michael Amakyi**, Director of Vocations to attend a "Come and See" weekend experience of sharing with a half-dozen of younger temporarily professed Brothers at the District Center, including visits to Moreau House Pre-novitiate, Skills Vocational Training Center and St. John's Secondary School.

There seemed to be a very good impression made on all attending from comments expressed by the participants and the District members sharing the experience with them. It would seem to bode well for the future with at least a few of those present expected to follow through on their intent to join our Holy Cross community.

→ During the vacation break between school years a special 3-week educational program has been scheduled at St. Augustine's College for some 200 Junior Secondary School students. This has been inaugurated at the request of Cardinal Peter Turkson of the Archdiocese of Cape Coast. Students have come from many different areas in Ghana, but all are Catholic. The academic work is embellished in no small way by a daily Celebration of the Eucharist, preceded by a half-hour of reflection including talks and hymns. A voluntary assembly for further reflection in prayer and song of shorter duration is also held at the end of the school day. **Brothers Kenneth Goode** and **Paul Bukari** teach Social Studies classes, while **Nicholas Arthur** teaches Science, each for two classes per day.

→ One day early morning time in Mid-August those of us here at Augusco, who were attracted by the loud sound of a very low flying military helicopter over the Brothers' residence, were astounded to see it suddenly drop down to land on the soccer field below. A relatively short time later another helicopter, also military—newly purchased by the Air Force from Russia we later learned, settled down beside it. There was some problem with the rotor causing the emergency landing of the first helicopter we later found out. While our own students had left a week earlier for their vacation, there were many children and enough older persons flocking in from the surrounding area to share in the excitement of sitting within some 20 yards of the 'copter viewing all the action. After some 5 hours, the injured 'bird' was repaired, after

which the two helicopters headed back to their base—and only then did the crowd disperse.

→ It has been no small inconvenience to all in Cape Coast who live on the west side of the large lagoon some ¾ mile from St. Augustine's for the past 6 weeks, since construction began to replace the large culvert that had deteriorated to an unsafe condition to support heavier vehicles on the road over it. The only other access from St. Augustine's into town is either by a long circuitous route to a junction some 5 km north of the town before being able to come back down into the main business area. For taxis it has been a grand increase in revenue, doubling the number of fares for those traveling from Augusco's side of the lagoon into town. One now needs to pay regular fare for each taxi ride to the lagoon and again on the other side. Fortunately the regular fare is only 1,000 Cedis, that is about 11 cents! Not all that insignificant, however for the low-income Ghanaian, and many thus do walk a mile or more to the lagoon so as to pay for only one taxi fare. This gifted sidewalk superintendent has learned from his chat with the foreman of construction that all is to be completed by September's ending. And it well may reach that deadline the way things are progressing—the culvert as such has already been completed with countless wheelbarrow loads of concrete poured into the wooden forms.

Editor – *Br. Tom Dillman, CSC*

*Assisting with Pictures – Fr. Bob Gilmour, CSC*

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**In the wake of such catastrophic destruction in life and property as by Hurricane Katrina it is well to reaffirm our Christian Hope and trust that, whatever the evil confronting us in our existential situation from the violence of nature or humankind, God's grace is sufficient to our need. It is in God that we move and have our being, and Christ, who is irreversibly victorious over all evil, eradicating its power to separate us from God's love, or to rob our humanity of its intent in freedom and power to love God and neighbor. Indeed it is Hope that enables us to continue to do our utmost motivated by a true compassion to help, insofar as possible, those who are afflicted, and consequently to become more sensitive in our daily lives to the needs of those around us. It is Christian Hope that enables us to have a "pessimistic realism" (Karl Rahner's) to accept the imperfection of our world and humankind that sometimes manifests itself in so painful a manner in our lives, and keep positively focused on contributing to the "building up of God's kingdom on earth" through, with, and in Jesus Christ toward its ultimate fulfillment in glory and our own conjointly with it.**