



GHANA

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

Holy Cross Today

DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



On the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saturday August 15, the Holy Cross Family in Ghana gathered at the District Center to celebrate for the first time its deceased members on this special Remembrance Day. It was decreed at the last District Chapter that we would be cognizant of the many men, priests and brothers in Holy Cross, who had given dedicated service for whatever number of years in the District and who are now deceased. While this was predominately in Ghana, those who served in Liberia were remembered as well. During their tenure there that single mission at St. Patrick's High School had also been affiliated with the District of West Africa. Later, because of various logistic and financial factors, Liberia was given separate jurisdiction under the Midwest Province.

The celebration of this Remembrance Day followed the regular celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption as a Post Communion Memorial Service. **Br. Michael Amakyi, C.S.C.**, District Superior, gave the address. In remembering our District ancestors, the Paschal Candle was placed at the front center of the sanctuary for this occasion and was lighted.

The Sisters of the Holy Cross came to Ghana, responding to an invitation to do so by the Brothers of Holy Cross, and owing to its relatively slow beginning, considerably later than the Brothers had only one deceased member for this occasion, **Sr. Madeline Therese, C.S.C.**, who died earlier this year.



Holy Cross Sisters and Brothers alternated in calling out the names of the deceased, these respectively honored with a large picture held overhead by given Holy Cross Sisters or Brothers while proceeding up from the back of the chapel. A candle was lighted from the Paschal Candle and placed in the

DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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candle stand next to the large frame on which the individual pictures were placed.

Br. Joseph Tsiquaye, C.S.C., the first Ghanaian to make his religious profession of vows in Holy Cross, gave the tribute to all being remembered. He had come to know most of these during his many years in ministering with his former colleagues. It was a soul-stirring presentation, and “Big Joe,” himself became somewhat overwhelmed in his reflecting on times closely shared with one or the other, had to pause at some length a few times during his delivery to regain his composure. **Sr. Esther Entsiwah, C.S.C.**, gave the tribute for the

Sisters of the Holy Cross.

The service closed with the singing of the Cross of Our Hope with dismissal following the Final Blessing. Most all present proceeded up to the District House rooftop for the special social event with food and beverage. The District plans to celebrate this Remembrance Day every year on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption.

WORKSHOP FOR DISTRICT TEMPORARILY PROFESSED



The vacation break from academic work for the scholastic brothers and others involved in ministries otherwise met again for a special 8-day workshop at the District Center beginning Sunday, August 2nd. The moderator for the workshop was Br. Michael Amakyi, C.S.C., District Superior, with assisting animators Brothers Nicholas Arthur, C.S.C., and Paul Mensah, C.S.C. The theme of this year’s workshop was CAPACITY BUILDING.



The workshop this year was the continuation of last year’s leadership course being organized to equip the young temporary professed brothers and sisters of Holy Cross with leadership qualities. This would enable the participants to acquire leadership skills to contribute significantly to a well-ordered practical functioning in personal relationships within the community and ministries and external activities.

There were 31 participants in this year’s program, 25 Brothers and six Sisters. The program included various topics for them to seriously consider, such as learning awareness, time management, reflective practice, organizing effective meetings, stewardship and accountability, integrity, and change adjustments and change management. The animators addressed topics looking at spiritual life, community life and professional/apostolic life.

The eight day workshop ended with the animators helping the participants to come out with some self-affirmative statement that will be a guide, a help and an encouragement for the participants to achieve their goals in life.

DISTRICT MEMBERS ANNUAL RETREAT



The members of the District of West Africa gathered at the District Center from Sunday evening August 9th - 14th for its annual retreat, 48 of its 51 in number being present. Fr. Raymond Tangonyire, SJ was the director, someone familiar to many of us owing to the Jesuit Claver House being our next door neighbor with Fr. Raymond around at times. He presently is a parish priest at St. Anthony Church in Accra.

The retreat schedule included a morning and afternoon conference and Holy Hour each evening with the Celebration of the Eucharist at noon and Morning and Evening Prayer in Common. This was a shared retreat in that after a usual one-hour conference there would be a short break giving pause for all to ponder and then returning for another hour, give or take, to share with others whatever they felt moved to speak. No doubt one might infer that some had been able to resolve in this way something that had been some problem that possibly had inhibited them for sensing a full joy and meaning in their religious life. Fr. Raymond seemed to prefer giving his conference

while standing, although sitting in referring to passages from Scripture that would relate to the given topic of the conference. But also he frequently referred to Scripture at relevant points throughout his presentation. He would state what these references were that would be used, then taking advantage of those with a Bible at hand to read the given passage for the sake of both variety and involving his audience.

The first conferences were to encourage a serious pondering of our past and how we have viewed life's unfolding events in our lives, usually starting with our becoming a Brother of Holy Cross. There was an opportunity for sharing after each conference of whatever we felt of worthwhile to both ourselves and the others. This was for some an opportunity to let go of that which has been inhibiting our full openness in our relationships to God, community and ministry.

For the last Holy Hour with Benediction, those on retreat were encouraged to write down on a slip of paper something of significant value that they had gained during the retreat. The slips were then collected and brought in a crucible, in which they were burned as an offering to God, and to reinforce its application in ones' life.



A very impressive sound as 51 Brothers, many with quality voices resonating with each other proclaiming "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!"

We have reason to hope with a renewed confidence in God's love, forgiveness and concern for our well-being for whatever unfolds in the future. Aspects of our lives such as community, prayer, use of TV, cell phones, dealing with loneliness and aloneness, and solitude in our lives (chosen or imposed) are important areas of reflection if we are

DISTRICT MEMBERS ANNUAL RETREAT

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to grow in our awareness of God's presence in our lives. Where there has been hostility in relation to others, this can be transformed as hospitality in the fullest sense of the word. The primary place of Hope, a theological virtue along with Faith and Love, gives momentum to an active Faith manifested in full measure of Love of God and neighbor.



District Members, with Fr. Raymond, center, following the Celebration of the Eucharist.

THE AFRICAN ASSEMBLY OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Brothers of Holy Cross hosted the Sisters of the Holy Cross from East and West Africa, who gathered for their African Assembly at the Holy Cross District Center, Brafoyaw, Ghana, on August 17th - 20th. **Sister Cynthia Godia Binaan, C.S.C.**, has submitted the following:



Srs. Esther Entsiwah and Sharlet Wagner

This year, the Sisters of the Holy Cross in the Area of Africa participating were from East Africa and Ghana, **Sister Angela Golapi Palma, C.S.C.**, a member of the General Leadership Team and **Sister Sharlet Wagner, C.S.C.**, also a member of the General Leadership Team and the Liaison for Africa to the General Leadership Team. Sister Sharlet also served as the facilitator of the Assembly. Sister Golapi had lived in Kasoa, Ghana for five years where she ministered in parishes and schools. Sister Sharlet also lived and ministered in Kasoa. **Sister Esther Entsiwah, C.S.C.**, Area Coordinator, welcomed sisters Golapi and Sharlet back to Ghana after their several years of being away.

On the first day after a prayer ritual to begin the assembly, Sister Sharlet led the sisters in reflecting on the year of Consecrated Life. She used the 'three-theme fold' provided by Pope Francis for the year of consecrated life: Looking to the past with gratitude, living the present with passion, and embracing the future with hope. In her reflection Sister Sharlet reminded the sisters of their call to servant-leadership and encouraged them to find inspiration in their Holy Cross ancestors who were saints and also human. Sisters broke into smaller groups to reflect on and discuss some questions she provided to guide the discussion.

THE AFRICAN ASSEMBLY OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

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There was a special thanksgiving Mass to celebrate the two silver jubilarians from Africa; **Sister Margaret Mary Nimo, C.S.C.**, from Ghana and **Sister Angelica Birungi, C.S.C.**, from Uganda. There was a free afternoon for sisters who wanted to visit places like the Cape Coast Castle and Township, their convent in Takoradi and Kakum National Park.

It was a very sacred moment for the sisters; coming together to discuss matters that affected their life together. It was also a time for sharing stories with one another and to know what was going on in the each other's life and a time for reunion as they are unable to see one another regularly due to distance and busy schedules.



A very talented group of musicians.

They were grateful to Sister Sharlet for steering the meeting and for her very thoughtful contributions. They were also grateful to Sister Golapi for her presence and all her insights and contributions. It is always a great pleasure when the Brothers and Sisters can collaborate as was done on this occasion assisting encouragement and support of each other.

THE HOLY CROSS FAMILY CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS



Living and Loving in the Holy Cross Family partaking of the one Bread.

On Saturday, September 19th, District members along with our Holy Cross Sisters gathered at the District Center to celebrate the Feast of our Patroness - Our Lady of Sorrows. A sizeable number of some 65 Sisters and District members were present for the occasion. The chapel no longer gives the appearance of a small attendance now that both the Sisters and District have undergone significant increases in members in the past few years.

The celebration began at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Br. Andre Chapel with our District chaplain, **Fr. Bob Gilmour, C.S.C.**, as celebrant for the Mass, assisted by **Fr. George Bonnah**. The homily was given by Fr. Bonnah,

who is President of the Archdiocesan Priests Association. A truly splendid blend of voices and African instruments with Fr. Bob in usual good voice, rendered a beautiful liturgical ceremony, followed for a Feast Day Meal on the Rooftop.



An occasion for sharing our pleasure and joy in our Holy Cross Family .

OUR LADY OF SORROWS – MOTHER OF HOPE

It was at the foot of the Cross that the Mother of Jesus mystically experienced the thrust of the sword into her own soul as it pierced the heart of her Son – she now comprehended the words of Simeon, which before, she only had pondered. Our Lady of Sorrows more than any other person shared with her Son in the bearing of His Cross. And not despairing, her Hope endured, surely supported by the words of the Angel Gabriel—the promise that the Lord God would make Jesus a king, whose reign would last forever. **She above all others comprehended fully what Fr. Basil Moreau, our Founder, would later proclaim: “O Crux Ave Spes Unica!”** Clearly, Mary is both Lady of Sorrows and Mother of Hope. We, who are Mary's sons and daughters in Holy Cross can turn to her in our need with full confidence: Mater Dolorosa, Mater Spei, help us as we strive to become men and women with Hope to bring to a very troubled world.

News Brief

A lot of activities during the vacation break were hosted by St. Augustine's College relating to use of its facilities. From 2nd – 8th some 800 pre-teenage Catholic youth attended a generally oriented religion course entitled School for Jesus. The following two weeks, August 9 – 24, the Catholic Students Union (CATSU) held a vacation school, which also included significant prayer and worship services along with classroom academic enrichment.



More than a thousand persons, who are involved in the Charismatic Movement in Ghana journeyed to Cape Coast for a special convocation on August 21- 23 at St. Augustine's College.



About 4,000 youth from all over Ghana met in Cape Coast from August 21 – 22 for the Third Ghana version of the celebration of the World Youth Day. They closed the program with an evening service, which included a candlelight procession with each holding a lighted candle as they paraded through the city. A marvelous sight to behold.



Holy Cross hosted the OLA (Our Lady of Apostles) Sisters for their Foreign Mission Program at the District Center September 7 – 27. Some 26 Sisters, who are to take up ministries outside Ghana, will be given an orientation or “inculturation” to familiarize them with what they will experience in the culture where they shall minister. Some of the Sisters will perhaps face no small challenge when beginning their ministry, for example, in hospitals in Islamic countries.

*How true it
is that God
lovingly protects
and encourages
everyone who
recognizes their
own weakness
and trustfully asks
the help of his
Providence.*

Blessed Basil Moreau, 1842

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On Sunday, September 20, four young Ghanaians: **Isaac Insaideoo, Richard Owusu Manu, and Michael Quayson** and **Augustine Sam** entered the St. Andre Novitiate for the year's novitiate program. It was a simple celebration in conjunction with Evening Prayer attended by District members residing at the District Center. The new novice master is **Br. John Badu Affum, C.S.C.** The new assistant novice master is **Br. Francisco Gillette, C.S.C.** Assisting the Novitiate community is **Br. Joseph Annan, C.S.C.**



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