



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 FAMILY IN GHANA GATHER FOR EASTER MONDAY CELEBRATION

On Easter Monday, April 17, the Holy Cross Brothers and Sisters gathered at Nyame Adom, Kasoa, at the Center of the Sisters for the traditional celebration of Easter Monday. The Sisters were in full attendance from their respective communities. Some 20 Brothers, who attend the Catholic University in Sunyani, decided not to make the long journey for the occasion while most others in the District were there to share the day with the Sisters. The Celebration of the Eucharist was greatly embellished by the hymns the Sisters had prepared for the



occasion. Their mellow voices, while fewer in number than the Brothers, were adequate to provide a rich blend of voices throughout the Mass.

The Sisters and Brothers shared in the social activities following the Mass, including a few games and brief interludes of the younger ones, who at times felt inclined to dance to the background music. Food

preparations were completed and the usual varieties of African cuisine were served to satisfy preferences of anyone. Activities ended at mid-afternoon with all carrying away fond memories of shared time between our Brothers and Sisters in our Holy Cross Family.



Holy Cross Today

FORMAL PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR DISTRICT CHAPTER

On Saturday, June 10, the District Meeting was the occasion for the formal beginning preparation of its forthcoming District Chapter in late December. With the exception of three members who were absent, the remaining balance of 50 professed Brothers were present for this District meeting. Of the 50 members, 27 are finally professed Brothers and three are in their 4th year of temporary vows. The latter will thus have the right to vote for nominating and electing those members proposed for respective offices.



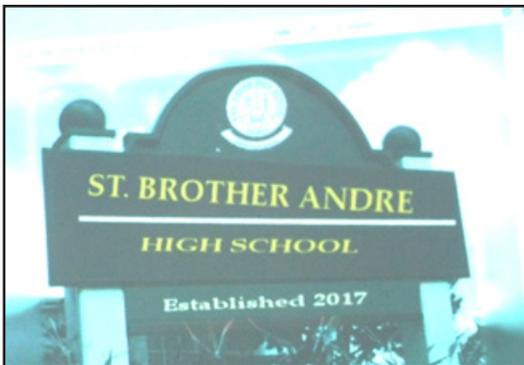
Bro. Michael Amaklyi, C.S.C., District Superior, prefaced his remarks concerning the Chapter by counseling the members of their need to have a proper attitude concerning preparations for the Chapter. The three different areas to be covered in the Chapter are: **Religious Life; Vocations and Formation; Finances.** To alleviate as much as possible the inconvenience of time and travel, the committee members each

reside in close proximity to each other and meeting areas: Cape Coast; Takoradi; Sunyani.

Bro. Joseph Tsiquaye, C.S.C., took the floor to make an impassioned plea to all that we seriously undertake the work of the Chapter. He strongly stated that “we now are at the crossroads



of the direction which we may take ... God has blessed the District of West Africa and will continue to do so, if we give our best effort to the work ahead.”



Following a lengthy discussion relating to the Chapter, **Brothers Augustus Mensah, C.S.C., Aristide Biney, C.S.C., and Ken Goode, C.S.C.**, gave an update on their respective areas of concern at St. Brother André High School, or *BRAND HS*. That last connotation will most probably be the eventual brief title used by the students for the high school.

Various means are now being taken to advertise the school (e.g. sign posts, brochures, school visits). There are three sign posts: one on the major highway at the intersection for the road into Brand, another at the Y-intersection on the road to the school and at its entrance.

Members now await information concerning their respective committee assignments, and the tedious, hopefully satisfying work therein.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR NEWLY PROFESSED HOLY CROSS SISTER

On Saturday, June 3, at the District of West Africa Center in Brafoyaw, **Sr. Georgina Acquah, C.S.C.**, participated in the Thanksgiving Mass for her Profession of First Vows upon her return from the United States. Sister Georgina made her first profession of temporary vows at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame.

"The Lord has done great things for us; filled us with laughter and music!"

This was our song as Sisters of the Holy Cross in Ghana gathered to celebrate with Sister Georgina Acquah, C.S.C., this joyful occasion. The Thanksgiving Service for religious and clergy following their religious profession or ordination is customarily celebrated in their former parishes. This gives the opportunity for relatives and friends to celebrate the occasion with them. It is often the case that it would be no small inconvenience, if not great problem for the latter to attend the original dates of respective religious profession or ordination. Sister Georgina is from Abrem-Agona parish near Elmina, in the Archdiocese of Cape Coast, in the Central Region of Ghana. She left Ghana for the United States in 2015 to continue her formation at the novitiate in South Bend, Indiana, where the Sisters of the Holy Cross have their common novitiate. She had her initial profession on May 27, 2017 after which she returned home to Ghana. The thanksgiving ceremony brought together Sisters ministering in the country, her family and friends, well-wishers and some Brothers of Holy Cross. Sister Georgina will be staying at the Kasoa community and will minister in Our Lady of Holy Cross School.



Sister Georgina with her parents

FIRST GRADUATION CLASS AT OUR LADY OF HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

On Sunday, June 11, 2017, the Sisters of the Holy Cross celebrated the school's first graduating Class at the school in Kasoa. The students began the day by attending Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church, whose name gives appropriate recognition to the Holy Cross sisters that years earlier contributed significantly toward starting the Church in Kasoa. The program began with all students and faculty attending Mass in the Church. The school now has all grades covering the Basic and Junior High school level. In attendance were the parents of the graduates, staff of the school,



FIRST GRADUATION CLASS AT OUR LADY OF HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Continued



the sisters and some friends and benefactors of the school who all came to rejoice with the graduates.

The guest speaker for the occasion was **Mr. Kwamena Assan**, who is a member of the Associates of the Brothers of Holy Cross. In his remarks Mr. Assan strongly counseled the graduates: *“Keep God at the center of your lives and be careful with social media as you go out into the world. They are like sedimentary foundation. Form your own social media that is based on the values that you have learned from the sisters’*

‘rocks’. The (latter) are weak and frail, unlike igneous rocks, which have been formed to become very solid objects.”

Prior to establishing a school as such, the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Ghana started an After-School program in Kasoa in 2006 to assist children who had learning challenges at St. Martha’s Basic School. These children would go for their regular classes in the morning and come to the convent after school for extra classes. The sisters took them through Mathematics, English and Geography. The sisters also provided a library for the students to read and borrow books.

The coed school was, now predominately girls, started in 2007 with classrooms in the Sisters’ residence. Back then the only building on the present compound held 20 children and some 5 teachers, and Sister Esther Entsiwah, C.S.C., as Headmistress. Owing to the top quality education given since the very beginning with the Basic School, the enrollment has rapidly grown. Currently, the student enrollment is 890. There are 40 teachers and 29 non-teaching staff.

This is the first time the school is presenting candidates for the national Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). There were 27 students who sat for the exam this first year. In Ghana, a child goes through about twelve years of studies from pre-school to Junior High School after which they are eligible to register for the BECE. The BECE is mandated by the Ghana Education Service for all final year students of all junior high schools in the country. Student performance in this examination evaluates their ability to gain admission into a high school.

Our Lady of Holy Cross School is a fully-fledged school educating the minds and hearts of not only students in the neighborhood but also students from the entire Kasoa municipality and beyond.

— Sister Cynthia Godia Bienaan, C.S.C.

ICF CELEBRATES ITS TWENTY-FIFTH JUBILEE



Bro. Nee Wayoe, C.S.C.

On Saturday, May 19, the Ghana **Institute for Continuing Formation** (ICF) celebrated its 25th Jubilee with the graduation of its latest group of religious men and women and diocesan priests. The ICF program was initiated in 1992 at the Holy Cross Center in Brafoyaw. The District had constructed a 3-story building on its compound, encouraged by the Conference of Major Superiors in Ghana to do so. A decision by the latter moved it to a new location in Amissano where it would be undistracted by the other activities that now exist at the Holy Cross Center for purposes of their own. The present Director of ICF is Holy Cross **Bro. Nee Wayoe, C.S.C.** The ICF program provides opportunities for religious and clergy to grow spiritually and renew their religious commitment. This is

clarified in their brochure advertising the program:

“The Institute for Continuing Formation was founded ... under the auspices of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and Women, Ghana, is an international Formation Centre dedicated to the ongoing formation and sabbatical renewal for Religious men and women and diocesan priests; and dedicated to preparing men and women for the formation ministry in the Church. It offers a comprehensive spiritual, liturgical, collaborative, intellectual and experiential approach to learning that allows participants a sacred space for growth.”

The syllabus contains several different programs. A popular one of these is that for Temporarily Professed of several months. Note in the above that the ICF is an International Formation Centre. Consequently, this year's participants had 19 members represented by The Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria, Gambia and Ghana. Of these, there were 10 congregations and 1 diocese.

Bro. Nee has had a somewhat storied ministry over the years, which has included giving weekly talks on a local radio station, counseling students at University of Cape Coast, pastoral ministry and Novice Director. He has been given due credit for providing a truly enriched religious experience by those who have participated in the ICF programme.

News Briefs

The World Health Organization has selected a newly developed vaccine against malaria to be tested in several African countries. Despite repeated failures to find a malarial vaccine over recent years, there is significant optimism in this one. Two of these African countries are Ghana and Kenya where we have well established Holy Cross communities.



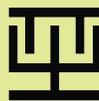
Bro. Ken Goode, C.S.C., attended the meeting of members of the Holy Cross International Finance committee in Rome in mid-May. Bro. Ken will be in charge of the financial affairs at the new St. Bro. André High School.

Bro. John Affum, C.S.C., represented the District at the International Holy Cross meeting of Formators in April. Bro. John is the District Novice Master



Bro. Joseph Tsiquaye, C.S.C., is celebrating his Golden Jubilee of religious profession on August 16. He attended the Jubilee celebration in June at Notre Dame along with all Brothers in the Midwest Province celebrating their Jubilees this year.

Holy Cross Today - Ghana is the quarterly newsletter published by the Brothers of Holy Cross living in the District of West Africa. The District belongs to the Midwest Province of Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross.



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