



GHANA

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

NINE DISTRICT MEMBERS RENEW VOWS

On Friday, July 8, seven Temporarily Professed Brothers renewed their profession of Religious Vows according to the Constitutions of the Congregation Holy Cross at the District Center, Brafoyaw, Cape Coast, in the St. Brother André Chapel during the morning Eucharist.

The seven brothers are: **Francis Bogtir, C.S.C., Eric Amoah, C.S.C., Jones Antwi Agyemang, C.S.C., Francis Afeletey, C.S.C., Dominic Joseph Moonen, C.S.C., William Tawiah, C.S.C., and Nathaniel Obbih, C.S.C.**

Their vows were received by **Br. Paul Kofi Mensah, C.S.C.**, Director of the Brother Rex Hennel Community in Sunyani. Br. Paul was also present in Sunyani to receive the profession of vows on July 7 by **Br. Francis Ewulley, C.S.C., and Br. George Ignatius Betinim, C.S.C.**



The photo above shows Br. Jones Antwi Agyemang, C.S.C., making his profession of vows before Br. Paul Mensah, C.S.C.

BR. NICHOLAS ARTHUR, C.S.C., IS APPOINTED ASSISTANT TO THE CONGREGATION'S GENERAL COUNCIL

The District of Africa rejoices in the appointment of **Br. Nicholas Arthur, C.S.C.**, to the Holy Cross General Council, as an Assistant. Br. Nicholas is 37-years-old and had been Assistant District Superior. He has spent most of his years in the Formation Ministry as director of both Candidacy and Pre-Novitiate members in the District, and teaches Biology part-time at St. John's High School. In addition to his studies in Religious Formation and Spirituality, he has served as Assistant Director of the Bishop McCauley post-novitiate program.



Holy Cross Today

DISTRICT WORKSHOP

The Holy Cross sisters and brothers in initial vows in Ghana gathered at the Brothers' District Center, Brafoyaw, for a six-day workshop, August 1-6. This was the last workshop of the three-year



curriculum planned for professed with the focus on Capacity Building. It followed from similar annual workshops that began in August 2014. As before, **Br. Michael Amakyi, C.S.C.**, District Superior, both organized and served as the main facilitator for the program. Those participating were 24 brothers of the District and six sisters representing their Holy Cross community in Ghana.



The program focused on Elements of Decision-Making and The Dispositions for Effective Decision-Making. This was augmented by guest speakers, **Fr. Francis Asante**, a diocesan priest and psychologist, regarding Decisions and Addiction, and diocesan priest, **Fr. Francis Amonoo**, concerning Decision-Making and the Church-Fundamentals of Canon Law.

The group learned that usually decisions are informed by our personal goals and mission awareness. They also learned about the relevance of the exercise of Consciousness Examen in becoming effective decision makers. There were many opportunities for interaction and activities among the group members, including different case studies to facilitate learning and understanding.



— Sr. Cynthia Godin, C.S.C.

GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND COMMUNITY

On Sunday, August 5, some 50 Holy Cross Brothers and the Brothers' chaplain, **Fr. Bob Gilmour, C.S.C.**, came together at the District Center in Brafoyaw for their annual retreat. It began with the opening remarks by **Br. Michael Amakyi, C.S.C.**, District Superior followed by dinner and then Evening Prayer. The Retreat Master was **Fr. Philip Taylor, S.P.**, who is Vicar General of the Congregation of the Servants of the Paraclete (photo at right).



The key theme of the retreat conferences were "that only by receiving the love, compassion and forgiveness of God can we religious grow into our calling and grow in our relationship with God and with our fellow brothers." Fr. Taylor is currently assigned with two professed brothers to found a community of their congregation here in Ghana.

GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND OUR COMMUNITY

Continued

Perhaps not many in our own Congregation are aware that the relatively young Paraclete congregation was founded by Holy Cross priest, **Fr. Gerald Fitzgerald, C.S.C.**, in New Mexico. Another of their priests, **Fr. Raymond Gunzel, S.P.**, was a former member of Holy Cross, and will join Fr. Taylor in Ghana next month — small world!

Fr. Philip presented a morning conference, except for the first morning, which was a quiet time for all to settle in and orient themselves to the retreat. The quiet period extended throughout the length of the retreat, even at meal times. He also gave relatively lengthy homilies along with his celebration of the Eucharist.



Dishwashing in silence, obviously no problem

A highlight of the retreat, as expressed by many in attendance, was the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each day following the morning conference until shortly before the evening Mass at 5:00 p.m. Veneration of the Blessed Sacrament was up to the discretion of the individual retreatant. A formal Holy Hour, with all present, was held at 3:00 p.m. All prayed together the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, which has a repetitive invocation to God, Father of Mercy of the Rosary “beads.”



The best musicians in our District making the retreat

The retreat ended following the evening Mass on Friday, but all remained at the Center for the next day to honor our deceased Holy Cross members of the District (see following article).

MEMORIAL DAY FOR DECEASED FORMER HOLY CROSS MEMBERS IN WEST AFRICA



prominently displayed in front of the altar.

On Saturday, August 14, the District of West Africa, including those members who had remained at the District Center following the Annual Retreat, welcomed the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Ghana to celebrate the Memorial of members now deceased who had labored in West Africa. The Service included some deceased non-members of Holy Cross who had served within our respective missions. The total number of deceased former Brothers was 24 and of the Sisters, three who ministered in Ghana or Liberia. The Memorial Service began after Mass with the Paschal Candle



After a truly inspirational reflection by **Br. Michael Amakyi, C.S.C.**, District Superior, the names of the honored deceased were separately read by the several Brothers and Sisters in attendance. As names were read, another brother

MEMORIAL DAY FOR DECEASED FORMER HOLY CROSS MEMBERS IN WEST AFRICA

Continued

or sister in the congregation came forward with candle in hand to light it from the Paschal Candle. It was then placed in the candle stand nearby. The service concluded with the singing of an appropriate hymn. All retired for a brief social on the District House rooftop.



A full contingent of the Holy Cross family in Ghana participating in the Memorial service

ARCHDIOCESAN VOCATION PROGRAM FOR HELPING YOUTH



In the large Augusco auditorium, the 1,500 children wait for Mass to begin

Some 1,500 mostly pre-teenage Catholic students coming from Junior High Schools in the Cape Coast Archdiocese arrived Monday, August 1 at St. Augustine's College to attend a one-week vocation program, presenting the youth with an opportunity for awareness of their relationship to God and others through religious and social activities. This year the younger students had a separate program to provide a meaningful and shorter program for their age level. The vocation awareness program schedule included Mass in the morning, some religious instruction, social activities and physical exercise throughout the day.

A candlelight procession was held one evening with each student carrying a lighted candle as they sang familiar hymns while parading through the campus. The next morning there was a plethora of buses from respective schools and churches arriving early to carry away all participants. A remarkable task given the short time to accommodate transportation for such a large group.

CATHSU SPONSORS VOCATION HIGH SCHOOL



Br. Dominic Moonen, C.S.C.,
with students

Some 200 young men and women arrived on August 15 to attend the annual Vocation School Program at St. Augustine's College. The former greatly outnumbered the latter, which marked a considerable difference from previous years. The program ran three weeks and was focused on helping the students in their respective academic levels. The goal was to enrich their basic skills in the "3 Rs": reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. The schedule also provided for Mass and other religious activities several times each day. It is hoped that the program will help the students undergo both spiritual growth and increased awareness of oneself in relationship to both God and others in this encounter with their peers.

Fr. Patrick Appiah, St. Augustine's chaplain, was a coordinator of the program taking care of the religious activities including Mass each morning. Fr. Appiah collaborated with other priests and deacons in the area who assisted him with homilies at Mass and also at other liturgical or religious activities. They also were available for student counseling or other personal reasons.



Br. Francisco Gillette, C.S.C.,
speaks to life as a
Holy Cross Brother



Morning exercises in the school parking area

On the final day of the program a representative from each of the various religious communities in the archdiocese spoke about the nature and ministry of their respective communities. **Sr. Renatta Juta Essien, C.S.C.**, spoke on behalf of the Holy Cross Sisters in Ghana.

The program always seems to attract a fair number of students, this year of less number, due to the fact the younger students mentioned in the above article were separated from them. After the morning Mass on September 1, most all students were on their way home and quiet prevailed on the campus until the return of the students for the new school year, just two weeks away.

Reflection

We praise you O Lord; as we see your magnificence and beauty that is reflected throughout creation. These stallions with powerful stride and pounding hooves press ahead, expressing an urgency in their desire to reach some goal, that is instinctively manifest, may it perhaps be with just an exhilarating sense and delight in their fluid motion as they skim the surface of the plain.



So too, O Lord, may we with equal urgency and strong stride, in joy and delight, respond to the call you give to us in each unfolding day of our lives to generously respond to your will, conjoined with sincere gratitude to love you with the freedom of our humanity, which we humbly accept as your wondrous gift to mankind alone in all of your creation, created to your image and likeness!

News Brief

Brothers Eric Amoah, C.S.C., and Jones Agyemang, C.S.C., are fulfilling their “Year of Service” required of all graduates from college here in Ghana. Br. Eric will be at St. Augustine’s College, Cape Coast, and Br. Jones will be at Holy Cross Vocational School, Anaji.



At the Holy Cross District Center on Saturday, August 27, a full morning workshop was held for five Brothers in preparation for their Final Profession this coming year. These are **Brothers Francis Bogtir, C.S.C., Jones Agyemang, C.S.C., Eric Amoah, C.S.C., Francis Afeletey, C.S.C., and William Tawiah, C.S.C.** The workshop, which focused especially on Commitment to vows and community, along with perseverance as a consecrated religious in Holy Cross, was directed by **Br. Tom Dillman, C.S.C.**



Br. Francisco Gillette, C.S.C., has entered the Catholic Theological Union for a two-year program in Religious Educational Formation for encouraging formators for leadership in the global Church at St. Bro. André High School.

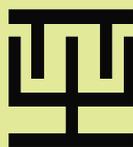


Holy Cross Ghanaian **Sisters Callista Tetteh, C.S.C., and Cynthia Godia Binaan, C.S.C.,** have begun studies toward attaining Bachelor Degrees at the University of Cape Coast.

*We can count
on God's help
if we can devise
means for making
virtue attractive
to young people.*

Blessed Basil Moreau, Founder

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.



On Saturday morning, September 17, all of the Holy Cross Family in Ghana gathered at the District Center to celebrate the patronal Feast of our Lady of Sorrows. Conjoined with this, due honor was given to **Br. Joseph Annan, C.S.C.,** on the occasion of his 40th Jubilee, which previously he had celebrated with the Midwest Province Jubilarians in June at Notre Dame.



The Provincial has approved the appointment of **Br. John Affum, C.S.C.,** as the Assistant District Superior to replace **Br. Nicholas Arthur, C.S.C.,** who has been appointed to the General Council of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Rome. The Provincial has also approved the appointment of **Br. Paul Bukari, C.S.C.,** to serve on the District Council. **Br. Daniel Dardoe, C.S.C.,** will be the Director of Candidates and the Pre-Novitiate.



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