

Midwest Bits and Pieces

SESQUICENTENNIAL

FEBRUARY 1, 1991



ONE LORD,
FAITH,
BAPTISM,
GOD
AND FATHER OF
WHO IS ABOVE
AND THROUGHOUT
AND IN US ALL

FINAL PROFESSION

St. Paul's Pro Cathedral, Sekondi, Ghana, was the setting for the final profession of Brother Paul Kofi Mensah, Brother Michael Amakyi and Brother Daniel Jojoe Dardoe. This joyful celebration took place on Saturday, December 29, 1990, at 10:00 a.m. The day was sunny, with temperatures in the 80's and a sea breeze blowing to move the air and make it very pleasant.

The procession was composed of the usual lead group of cross and candle bearers leading the red-capped and gowned choir. Priests, sisters and the Brothers of Holy Cross, dressed in white habits, preceded the three Brothers to be finally professed. The golden vested clergy and Bishop Sam came last in the procession. The choir sang, "Ye dze dew ma wo akwaaba" (We welcome you with joy), followed by the "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus."

Profession took place after the Liturgy of the Word when the District Superior, Brother Joseph Annan, called Brother Paul, Brother Michael and Brother Daniel forward to be examined by the Provincial. They were asked if they wished to be united more closely to God by the bond of perpetual profession in Holy Cross; if they were willing to undertake the life of perfect chastity, obedience and poverty, chosen for themselves by Jesus, our Lord, and His Virgin Mother; if they were willing to live the Gospel and rule of Holy Cross; and if they were willing to spend their lives in generous service to God's people.

The Litany of the Saints followed, to remind us and the newly professed that we have chosen to lead a life like the saints. Brother Paul came forward to kneel and sing his profession of vows. Brothers Michael and Daniel followed, reciting their profession of vows. The bishop gave the finally professed his solemn blessing, ending it with these words: "Lord, protect and guide your servants, Brothers Paul, Michael and Daniel. At the

judgment seat of your Son, be yourself in great reward. Give them the joy of vows fulfilled. Made perfect in your love, may they rejoice in the communion of your saints and praise you forever in their company. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord, forever and ever. Amen."

The bishop then blessed the medals of St. Joseph with the following words, "May those who wear these medals be reminded to imitate the life and holiness of the one whose image they bear." The provincial then presented the medals, saying, "Receive the image of St. Joseph, our patron, as a pledge of your consecration to God in the Congregation of Holy Cross. May St. Joseph assist you in fulfilling what you have promised this day." The choir then sang



Hail, holy Joseph, hail!
Husband of Mary, hail!
Chaste as the lily flower
In Eden's peaceful vale.

Hail, holy Joseph, hail!
Father of Christ esteemed
Father be thou to those
Thy foster Son redeemed.

Hail, holy Joseph, hail!
Comrade of angels hail.
Cheer thou the hearts that faint
And guide the steps that fail.

The bishop then blessed the crosses with the following words: "O Lord Jesus Christ, bless these crosses, the sign of our salvation. Let them be for those who believe a banner and assurance of victory over sin and death. We ask this of you who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever. Amen." The provincial presented the finally professed the crosses, with these words: "Remember, my sons, Paul, Daniel, and Michael, that you are crucified to the world with Jesus Christ, and that you can reach heaven only by walking on the Royal Road of the Cross." The provincial then concluded with these words: "We confirm that you are now one with us forever as a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross, sharing your life and all things in common with us now and in the future." At this point, the Sign of peace was given.

While the Sign of Peace was being given, the choir sang several songs. The Provincial was the first to give the Brothers the Kiss of Peace and was followed by the bishop, the Holy Cross religious, the clergy, other religious and then members of the families of the finally professed. At this point, the worshipers, who had been in Church for some time, seemed to use this time as a needed break. The District Superior and one of the members of the district livened the pace as they greeted the newly professed. With this, the tempo changed to a more rhythmic and less formal way of greeting. There were more than five hundred in the church and the Master of Ceremonies tried on several occasions to reduce the number coming forward to greet the newly professed but was unable to do so. However, the tears and joy expressed added much to the celebration.

The general intercessory prayers followed, in which the worshipers were asked to pray for the leaders in the Church Universal, and in particular for those in Ghana; to pray for the parents, relatives and friends of the newly professed; to pray for the salvation of all; to pray for the strengthening of Holy Cross in Ghana; and to pray in thanksgiving to God for His goodness to us.

After the intercessory prayers, the people came forward to place money in the collection baskets. They did so with a shuffle, two steps forward, and then one backward. Several from the congregation made their way to the basket a number of times.

The offertory procession followed, with gifts of bread, eggs, yams, crackers, wine and the collection baskets being presented to Bishop Sam.

Proper thanks were given at the end of Mass before the dismissal and sending forth. The finally professed were sent forth, along with the worshipers, to the recessional song:



Ding dong merrily on high in heav'n
the bells are ringing. Ding dong verilly
the sky is riv'n with angel singing
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below let steeple
bells be swangen. And i-o, i-o, i-o, by
priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime ye
ringers; May you beautifully rime your
evetime song, ye singers.

It was now 1:15 p.m. and time to move to Holy Child College for the dinner which followed. Brother Nee Wayoe and Sister Grace and her community had prepared a sit down meal for about five hundred people. The menu was chicken, rice, salad, followed by cake. Drinks were served prior to the meal.

Thus the district celebrated with joy the final profession of three of its members. The province wishes to extend its prayers and good will to Brothers Paul, Michael and Daniel on the occasion of their final profession.

West African District Superior and Council

Brother Joseph Annan was re-elected District Superior of the District of West Africa for a three year term on December 23, 1990. Brother Nee Wayoe was elected to the council, and Brothers Frederick McGlynn, William Gates and Vincent Gross complete the council. Brother Frederick will serve as the assistant district superior while Brother William will fill the post of secretary. Members of the Midwest Province congratulate Brother Joseph Annan and his council and wish them well in their endeavors for the coming years.

DISTRICT CHAPTER

The West Africa District Chapter began December 17 and concluded on December 24th. All district members, along with some invited guests, were present for it.

Among the guests were the Sisters of the Holy Cross who are working in Ghana: Sister Madeleine Therese Wilhoit, Sister Jane Chantal Method and Sister Margaret Mary Nimo.

Two Holy Cross priests were present for the chapter: Father Bob Gilmour, who was welcomed back with open arms and is there for a short visit, but hoping to be able to return in September, and Father George Killungal, from the Province of India. He will visit for the length of his visa and hopes to be able to return to assess the possibility of beginning recruitment there for Holy Cross priests.

Guests from the Midwest Province were Brother Richard Gilman, who served as moderator for the chapter, Brother Raymond Papenfuss, the West African Mission Promoter, Brother Thomas Dillman from our mission in Liberia, and Brother Thomas Moser, Provincial.

The main concern that faces the district is allocation of its personnel. They experience the same shortage that seems to exist the world over. This shortage in Ghana is further complicated by the decline in the number of Midwest Brothers and those who remain are unable to continue the same amount of service they previously were able to provide.

The expatriates are: Brother William Gates, who teaches at St. Augustine's College and supervises the community farm outside of Takoradi; Brother Frederick McGlynn, who is teaching at St. Augustine's College in Cape Coast; Brother Vincent Gross, who is supervising the construction of the new formation center at Brafuyaw; and Brother Francis Meduri, who works in the Diocesan Center in Sunyani.

The professed Ghanaian religious are: Brother Joseph Annan, the district superior; Brother Joseph Tsiquaye who is on the staff of the novitiate in Uganda; Brother Nee Wayoe, who is responsible for vocation recruitment and formation for the temporarily professed; Brother Paul Mensah, who is completing his degree work at St. Edward's University in Austin; Brother Michael Amakyi, who teaches at St. Augustine's College in Cape Coast; and Brother Daniel Dardoe, who supervises the Holy Cross Skills Project in the Sekondi/Takoradi area.

The temporarily professed brothers are: Brother John Aikins, who does parish ministry work in the Sekondi area; Brothers Anthony Dadzie and Michael Quaidoo-Blay, who are teaching with the Sisters of Notre Dame in Sunyani; and Brother James Sange-Donkor, who is attending school in Sunyani.

There are also four novices at Holy Cross Novitiate in Fort Portal, Uganda. They are: Brother Andrew Arhin, Brother Matthew Ashun, Brother Anthony Norviewu and Brother Patrick Quayson. It is expected that some of the present novices, as well as some temporarily professed, will continue their formation at Brafuyaw, which is due for completion around October.

The district is awaiting the arrival of Father George Kallungal and Brother Jerome Kroetsch who hope to get permanent entry visas soon. Permanent entry of religious into Ghana, which has been blocked by a disagreement between the bishops and the government, now seems to have been settled.

It is easily seen that many of the brothers are tied up in formation. This does not leave too many to mind the store. The chapter and the district council will have to continue to make sacrifices to cover all the bases.

The district has more than enough strength and good will to see itself through these growing years. With the support of the West African Mission Promoter and the Brothers of the Midwest Province, the district should continue to experience its growth so that by the year 2007 they will be able to reach the goal they have set for themselves--to become a province.

INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING FORMATION

*holy Spirit, come and shine
On our souls with beams divine
Issuing from your radiance bright.
Come, O Father of the poor,
Ever bounteous of your store,
Come, our hearts' unfailing light.*

The center under construction at Brofuyaw (Cape Coast) will house the program for continuing formation. This program is sponsored by the major superiors of women and men religious.

The goal of the program is to help temporarily professed religious in Ghana to grow in a prophetic stance as religious within the local church and society. The program will involve academic input, local experience, and guided reflections, within a community setting.

This residential program, lasting nine months, is based on scripture and inculturation. The academic division will be biblical, theological, liturgical, moral, religious and human development. Seminars and workshops will be given along with days of recollection, spiritual direction, and retreats.

Except for the seminaries, there are no Catholic colleges in Ghana that can address the post novitiate formation issues. Thus it was necessary for the major superiors to create such a program. We support this effort and hope and pray that it will be able to meet the needs of religious life in Ghana.

Wisdom

When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets hurt.



Nobody graduates from the university of discipleship. (Bro. Joseph Annan)



Brother Thomas Dillman

Brother Thomas Dillman left Ghana January 4th to make his way back to Liberia. He will pass through the Ivory Coast, where he will get an extended visa stay. His time as a refugee in Ghana ran out. Tom hopes to be able to join a car caravan and pass into Liberia without losing the van he brought from Liberia when he had to flee.

Directory Changes

Brother Thomas Dillman, P. O. Box 10-1005, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia, West Africa. (011-231) 255-694.

General's Letter on Visit

In the letter accompanying the visit report, Father Claude Grou mentions two points that are of a particular concern to the members of the province:

"I was happy to see that in the schools of your province and in Holy Cross College there appears to be a clear sense of mission. Those who are in charge of these institutions have a vision of the role of Holy Cross, and they communicate this sense of mission to others. As we suggest in the report, it is important to find ways for all the religious involved in these institutions to reflect together on our mission.

"The vast majority of the members of your province in the area live in local communities and seem to me to be happy with their community life. We perceived the local superiors as persons capable of bringing about a climate of peace and well being in the local community. Many of them realize, however, that they have never been formally prepared to fulfill the role of superior as described in our constitutions. It will be particularly important for the provincial administration to discern what type of help and support can be offered to them."

On behalf of the province, I would like to thank the members of the General Administration and Father Claude Grou for their efforts in making the visit and for the visit report.