

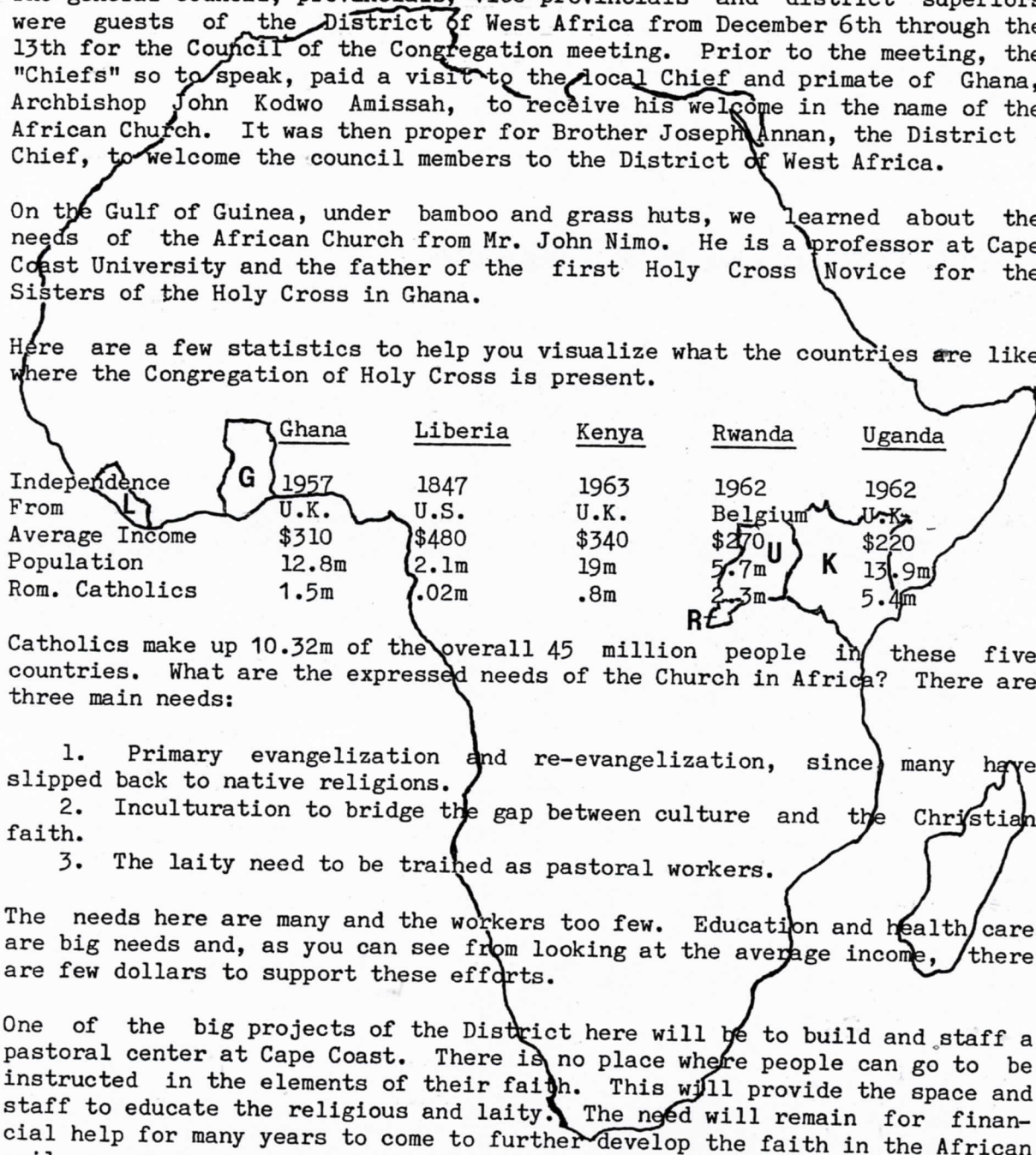
January 15, 1990

Council of the Congregation

The general council, provincials, vice-provincials and district superiors were guests of the District of West Africa from December 6th through the 13th for the Council of the Congregation meeting. Prior to the meeting, the "Chiefs" so to speak, paid a visit to the local Chief and primate of Ghana, Archbishop John Kodwo Amissah, to receive his welcome in the name of the African Church. It was then proper for Brother Joseph Annan, the District Chief, to welcome the council members to the District of West Africa.

On the Gulf of Guinea, under bamboo and grass huts, we learned about the needs of the African Church from Mr. John Nimo. He is a professor at Cape Coast University and the father of the first Holy Cross Novice for the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Ghana.

Here are a few statistics to help you visualize what the countries are like where the Congregation of Holy Cross is present.



	<u>Ghana</u>	<u>Liberia</u>	<u>Kenya</u>	<u>Rwanda</u>	<u>Uganda</u>
Independence	1957	1847	1963	1962	1962
From	U.K.	U.S.	U.K.	Belgium	U.K.
Average Income	\$310	\$480	\$340	\$270	\$220
Population	12.8m	2.1m	19m	5.7m	13.9m
Rom. Catholics	1.5m	.02m	.8m	2.3m	5.4m

Catholics make up 10.32m of the overall 45 million people in these five countries. What are the expressed needs of the Church in Africa? There are three main needs:

1. Primary evangelization and re-evangelization, since many have slipped back to native religions.
2. Inculturation to bridge the gap between culture and the Christian faith.
3. The laity need to be trained as pastoral workers.

The needs here are many and the workers too few. Education and health care are big needs and, as you can see from looking at the average income, there are few dollars to support these efforts.

One of the big projects of the District here will be to build and staff a pastoral center at Cape Coast. There is no place where people can go to be instructed in the elements of their faith. This will provide the space and staff to educate the religious and laity. The need will remain for financial help for many years to come to further develop the faith in the African soil.

Summer Offerings

The Catholic Bible College of Canada announces the following summer offerings:

- June 18 - 22 The Mystical Journey. Audrey Whitson
June 25 - 29 Critical Issues in Vowed Religious Life. Thomas Maddix
July 2 - 6 Reading and Praying the Scriptures Alone or With Others.
Shean Kelly, Thomas Maddix, Audrey Whitson.
July 9 - 13 Taking A Chance on God: Experiences and Stories of Growth, Transformation and Revitalization. Thomas Maddix.
July 16 - 20 Christian Models of God: Exploring the Familiar, Recovering the Ancient, Visioning the New. Audrey Whitson.
July 23 - 27 Building the Kingdom: A Christological Exploration. Brother Raymond Papenfuss.

All courses will be held at the Catholic Bible College of Canada. The cost, \$200 per course, includes room, board and tuition. For registration or for further information, write to: Catholic Bible College of Canada, P. O. Box 1410, Canmore, Alberta, Canada TOL OMO.

Saint Joseph the Worker Farm: GHANA

St. Joseph the Worker Farm, a recent development in the District of West Africa, is a 38.5 acre tract of land in the Sekondi area. Intended to assist the district in attaining financial self-sufficiency, the farm will also serve as a demonstration school for the young adults in the nearby community to learn modern farming methods.

Initially, plantain, cassava, pepper and tomatoes have been planted for immediate consumption by the brothers. Citrus fruit, palm oil trees and pineapple will be planted for sale of the fruits for district income.

Raising chickens, both layers and broilers, sheep, goats, and pigs will be a part of the farm's activities. Thus far, chickens and sheep are present on the farm. The others, goats and pigs, are to be added shortly.

A bungalow has been built for the farm manager. Two additional bungalows are to be built to house the other farm workers. With the digging of a well to supply water for farm needs and for the farm workers, the basic infrastructure should be complete.

While the fruit and oil palm trees will take several years before they produce, it is expected that the other farm ventures will provide immediate food and income for the district.

General Visit

Brother Philip Armstrong and Father Leo Polselli conducted the official General Visit of the District of West Africa in November prior to the meeting of the Council of the Congregation. Later, they gave a retreat to the four soon-to-be novices.

District Center for Ghana

On December 7, members of the Council of the Congregation attended the official dedication of the District Center in Cape Coast. Ten trees were planted by members of the General Administration. Fathers Claude Grou, Robert Plasker and Leo Polseli, and Brothers Gerard Dionne and Philip Armstrong planted trees along the west wing of the building. Trees along the north wing were planted by Pierre Guitton from France, Thomas Smith from East Africa, Kevin Barry from South America, Simon Saint-Hillien from Haiti, and Thomas Moser from North America.

Funds for the center were collected by Brother Raymond Papenfuss. The construction was overseen by Brother Vincent Gross, Brother Frederick McGlynn and Brother Joseph Annan, the District Superior. Electricity and water have been held up for the building because of the untimely death of Father Adams, a Jesuit priest who was overseeing the Jesuit Formation Center. The building will be occupied when the water and electricity are installed and the furniture, which is being built by the Skills Project classes, is completed.

Columba Hall Retreat

The annual Columba Hall Retreat is scheduled to take place from Friday evening, April 6 thru Wednesday evening, April 11. Father Ken Grabner, C.S.C., chaplain at the Brothers Center, will present the conferences. Holy Week Services, Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday are available at the Brothers Center and Notre Dame Campus to complete the retreat. Limited housing is available at Columba Hall.

The Missionary Oblates
of
Mary Immaculate
present

YOUTH AND VOCATIONS

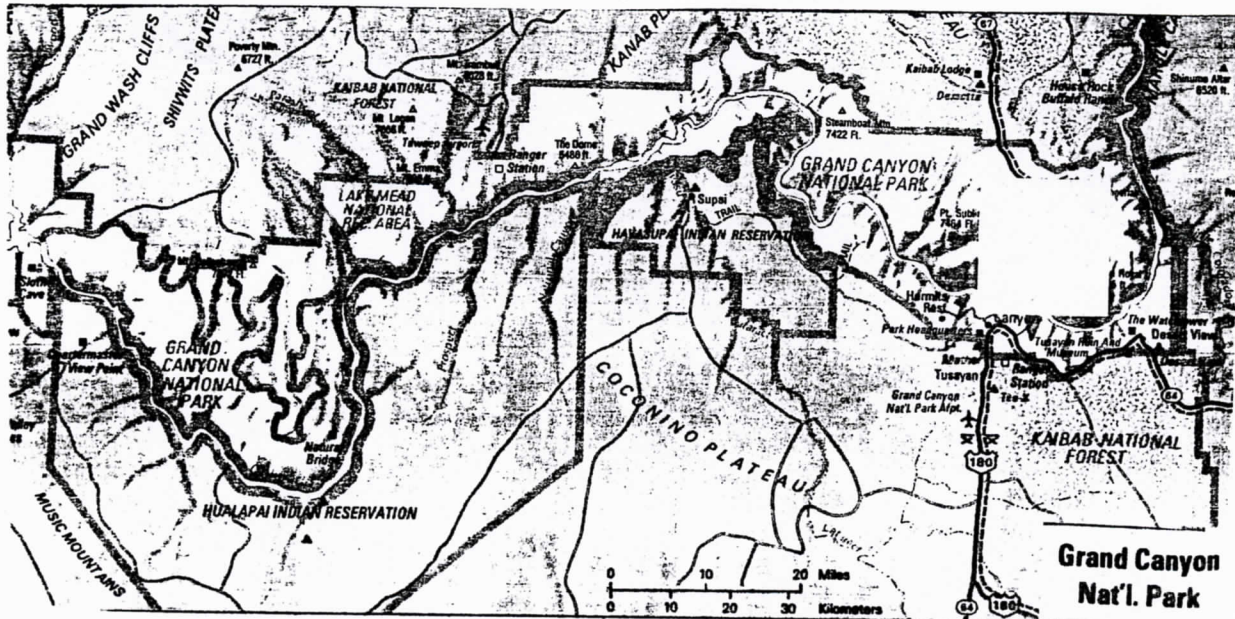
January 8-11, 1990

Oblate School of Theology
and
Casa San José
San Antonio, Texas

4:00 **Workshops**
(to be repeated on Wednesday)

* "Ten Homespun Rules for the Laborer" (Bro. Joe Barry, CSC)
Guidelines for enriching your youth program





Cartograms

Brother Howard Metz at Holy Cross High School in New Orleans points out to people who are concerned about the world's overpopulation that if each person were to be given one square foot of the Grand Canyon in Arizona, all five billion of us would fit in the canyon. Two conclusions seem to follow: either the world is not overpopulated, or else the Grand Canyon is larger than most of us have imagined.

Helping Hands

This past summer, Brothers William Mewes and Sylvester Quaye spent part of their holidays teaching at St. Patrick's High School in Monrovia. Brother Daniel Dardoe spent a little more than a month assisting Brother Thomas Dillman with maintenance work on the school buildings.

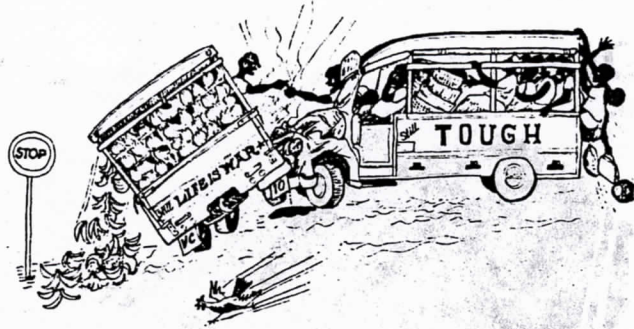
Suggested Reading

In the letter announcing the 1989 provincial visits, Brother Thomas wrote: "If you come across something that you feel should be made available to the community, send it to us for consideration".

In a letter to Brother Thomas, responding to this request, Brother Maynard Rabidoux suggested Paul VI's Evangelico Testificatio, which deals with renewal in religious life, and the new code of canon law for religious, including the Apostolic Constitution, by Pope John Paul II, for our Brothers.

Referring to Evangelico Testificatio, Maynard wrote: "These gems from the Magisterium have provided me with many hours of meditation on what is, without any possible doubt, the Holy Will of God for me regarding my life as a religious".

Travel in Africa Presents Problems



Brothers Joe Tsiquaye and Bill Mewes attended the meeting for African Formation in Rwanda in November. The Accra airport was closed for runway repairs and this forced them to take a taxi to Togo when the scheduled bus did not run. Another taxi got them to the Lome airport where, after a ten hour wait, they caught a plane for Nairobi, Kenya. They spent the night with the Holy Cross Community at Dandora and then caught a plane the next day for Kigali, where the meeting was to be held. On the return trip, they had a three hour wait at the Kigala airport and twelve hours at the Nairobi airport. After stops in the Cameroons, Nigeria and Togo, the plane finally reached Accra. The runway having been repaired, the plane was able to land.

Survey and Gathering Committee

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In September the Survey and Gathering Committees met and nominated brothers for a single new committee to complete the work of reporting the survey results and to follow up on the initiatives of this past gathering in June. The Provincial appointed the following brothers from among the nominees to the Forging Our Vision Committee: Robert Fillmore, Pedro Haering, Kenneth Kane, Robert Livernois, Thomas Maddix, David Martin, Thomas Minta, Raymond Papenfuss and Charles Smith.

The committee has met twice, September 30 and November 19. At its first meeting it accepted the following as its assignment:

a. See that the results of the survey are reported to the Midwest brothers in such a way that the results will lead the brothers to recommendations that improve our province life and procedures.

b. Continue the discernment begun last year which would determine collectively the mission direction for our province. This might include a June forum.

The reporting will be done in three phases. In phase one, the committee will look at those results showing a high level of consensus. In many instances, these will reflect decided shifts from the results of our '77 study. In January, a second reporting will focus on items where there is a decided lack of consensus. In February, all the findings of the '89 survey will be reported.

Divorce and the Extended Family



Brother James Greteman signed a contract with the Ave Maria Press for another book. The book, to be published this spring, will be for the family and friends of divorced couples. The tentative title is: Divorce and the Extended family. Recently he has given three workshops at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

THANKS

Brother Robert Siegel will go to press in March for the Feast of Saint Joseph with "Holy Cross Brothers". We of "Bits and Pieces" and "Holy Cross Brothers" take this opportunity to thank you for your contributions. Keep them coming...you are the news...your brothers enjoy reading about you.

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Have you been thinking about the Cartogram by Brother Howard Metz? There are 5,280 feet per mile. The square of one mile equals 27,878,400 square feet. 27,878,400 square feet per mile divided by the 1987 worlds population of 5,000,000,000 billion equals 179.4 square miles needed to house the folks. The square root of 179.4 square miles is 13.4 miles. So that 13.4 miles times 13.4 miles will give you the 179.4 square miles. This space is represented on the Grand Canyon map by the white square.

Teaching Communities

The provincials of Teaching Brothers Communities will meet April 25 at the Christian Brothers Provinciate in New Rochelle, New York. This is a follow up from the August meeting of Major Superiors to discuss a survey presented by Sister Eleace King. She points out that vocations to teaching communities are very few. Some formal recommendations will be put forward for discussion at this meeting.

Nepal

Brother John Harris, who entered the Associate Priests/Brothers Program at Maryknoll, New York, on August 28, 1989, completed his program on Saturday, December 9, 1989, when he took part in the Maryknoll Mission Sending Ceremony at the Maryknoll Society Chapel. John will return to Nepal as a Maryknoll Associate under a three year agreement with Maryknoll.