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DIOCESAN PULSE

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SEKONDI TAKORADI

HOMETOWN OF GHANA'S FIRST CARDINAL ELEVATED TO PARISH STATUS



Nsuta Wassaw, the hometown of Ghana's first Cardinal, was filled with joy as Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh elevated St. Mary's Catholic Church to a Parish status on Sunday, March 12, 2023.

During his pastoral visit to the town, Bishop Attakruh expressed his gratitude to the faithful for their unwavering love for the Church, which was demonstrated in their support for all the clergy who have served the Church.

The Prelate took the opportunity to thank all the Priests who have worked in the community and charged the faithful to do more to support the Church now that they have attained Parish status.



The highlight of the visit was the sacrament of confirmation, which saw forty-four candidates receiving the sacrament. Bishop Attakruh reminded the newly confirmed of their responsibility as soldiers of Christ, encouraging them to defend Christ and the gospel and witness to the love of Christ in whatever they do.

In a solemn ceremony, Bishop Attakruh installed Rev. Msgr. James Margaret Mesu as the first Parish Priest of the newly elevated Parish. This appointment marks a new chapter in the life of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and the faithful look forward to the leadership and guidance of their new Parish Priest.

The Catholic community at Nsuta Wassaw began in the year 1923 and was given a quasi-Parish status on November 9, 2010 by the late Most Rev. John Martin Darko when he appointed Rev. Fr. Vincent Dan Teiko as the first resident Priest of the community.



CATHOLIC ABAATAN KUW LAUNCHES 80TH ANNIVERSARY



The anniversary was launched at the Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church, Shama, in the Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi on January 29, 2023.

The theme for the celebration is "80 Years of Catholic Abaatan Kuw: The Impact of Good Parenting in the Ghanaian Society at Large".

Very Rev. Fr. Samuel Ebulley Afful, the Parish Priest of Shama, presided over the launching ceremony.

In attendance were priests from the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese, parishioners, relatives of the lay founders, a representative from the National Council of Women, Women's Council Co-Ordinator for Sekondi-Takoradi, members of the association, and some invited guests.

The picture captured some of the association's dignitaries, including Madam Cecilia Essel (National President), Mrs. Felicitas Kuukua Woode-Eshun (National Vice President), Mrs. Cecilia Augustina Quaicoe (Past National President), and Mrs. Veronica Ofori Mensah (Grand Advisor).



INFRASTRUCTURE CRISIS LOOMS AT HOLY CHILD COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Holy Child College of Education Takoradi is facing an infrastructure crisis as it admits a record number of applicants.

The college received 1,869 applications for admission this year, a significant increase from the previous year, and admitted only 297 students highlighting the seriousness of the situation.

The institution is calling on stakeholders to support it in addressing the challenge. The college needs to expand its infrastructure facilities to accommodate more students, and it is essential to do so urgently to avoid a crisis.

The Principal of the College, Dr. Francis Hull Adams made this revelation when he addressed the matriculating students during the 17th Matriculation Ceremony held on Monday, March 14, 2023, at the Cornelia Connelly Hall

He made a passionate appeal for support to the needs of the college to the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), past students, and individuals.

Addressing the matriculating students, Dr. Adams reminded them that the distance between the matriculation ceremony and their graduation ceremony is not so long.

He urged the students to be regular in attendance at lectures, shun deviant behaviours, and work hard towards achieving academic excellence.

Dr. Adams stated that Holy Child College of Education focuses on providing holistic training that enables students to fit into every part of the world.

The principal encouraged students to join various clubs and societies to develop their affective and psychomotor domains. These include the Fire Cadet, cultural troupe, College Choir, Amnesty International, Debaters and Writers club, HIV AIDS club, and GESI club, among others.

Dr. Adams stated that the institution has zero tolerance for examination malpractices and any form of hooliganism.

He urged the students to show respect to their colleagues and lecturers, be modest and decent in their approach to issues, and uphold the oath they took during the matriculation ceremony.



CARING FOR OUR PRIESTS: SEKONDI-TAKORADI DIOCESAN PRIESTS ASSOCIATION REFLECTS ON IMPROVING WELFARE

The Sekondi-Takoradi Diocesan Priests Association on Thursday, March 16, 2023, gathered at the St. Kizito Pastoral Center- Apowa for a meeting to reflect on the theme "Improving the welfare of the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocesan Priests: Synodality towards prudent investments."

The association's president, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Dolphyne, welcomed the members to the gathering, emphasizing the importance of supporting priests in carrying out their duties with love and dedication.

During the meeting, Fr. Dolphyne drew attention to the significance of caring for the welfare of priests, highlighting references from scriptures and Church documents.

He encouraged the association members to collaborate and find ways to improve their welfare through prudent investment and careful management of resources.

At the meeting, two presentations were given. The first presentation, titled "Prudent Investment through Financial Assets: The Welfare Fund Approach," was delivered by Mr. Emmanuel Cudjoe, the Head of Securities Trading at Black Star Brokerage, and Mr. Adjei Boateng, CFA, the Chief Investment Officer of Black Star Assets Management.

The second presentation was on the topic of "Investment Opportunities Available in the Local Economy" and was given by Mr. Alex Agyei-Amponsah, the Director of Commercial and SME Banking at Fidelity Bank Ghana Ltd.

The Bishop, Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, expressed his gratitude to the executives for organizing a successful meeting and to the Diocesan Priests for responding positively.

He urged the executives to ensure that such meetings happen as often as possible, as they are an educative occasion for the priests. In agreement with the bishop's suggestion, members of the association decided to meet two times a year.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with members committing to finding ways to improve the welfare of the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocesan Priests. As they continue to serve the Lord and His people, they are reminded of the importance of caring for one another, supporting one another, and working together towards a common goal.



BISHOP ATTAKRUH CONFIRMS 160 CANDIDATES AND CONSECRATES ALTAR AT HUNI-VALLEY

Most Rev John Baptist Attakruh on Sunday, March 19, 2023 presided over the confirmation of 160 candidates and the consecration of a new mable altar at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Huni-Valley.

In his homily, Bishop Attakruh emphasized the importance of fully embracing the Catholic faith and living a life that reflects the teachings of the Church.

He also urged the congregation to support the newly confirmed candidates in their spiritual journey.

The Prelate also reminded the community of the importance of the consecrated altar and called on them to give it the respect it deserves. Bishop Attakruh further commended the Parish Priest and Dean of the Prestea Deanery, Very Rev. Fr. Michael Blay-Morkeh and the entire parish for their growth in faith.

The event was attended by Priests and some Religious working in the Prestea Deanery as well as parishioners from all the outstations of the Parish with other invited dignitaries.



ST ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC SCHOOL EMERGES AS WINNERS OF INDEPENDENCE INTER-DISTRICT QUIZ COMPETITION

Bogoso, Western Region - Students from St Anthony of Padua Catholic School in the Effia Kwesimintsim Municipal Assembly (EKMA) have been declared winners of the highly contested 8th edition of the Western Region's Independence Inter-Districts quiz competition for basic schools. The competition, which featured about 18 basic schools representing 14 districts in the Western Region, saw only seven schools making it to the final.

Defending champions VRA International School in Shama District faced stiff competition from St Anthony of Padua Catholic School, St. Augustinus preparatory school, Goldfields School Complex, Peace International School, Christ Leading, and Nana Amoakwah Model School.

Hosted by the Prestea Huni-Valley District on Thursday, March 2, 2023, the finals were intense, with each school displaying an impressive level of knowledge and understanding. The quiz competition, which aimed to test the knowledge of the students on Ghana's history and general knowledge, saw St Anthony of Padua Catholic School claim victory with 43 points. Goldfields School Complex in Tarkwa came in second place with 39 points, followed by Peace International School with 38 points.

St Anthony of Padua Catholic School's team, comprising Frederick Long Cofie, Esther Edwin, and Hannah Kontoh, impressed the judges and the audience with their remarkable performance. The school's victory in the Western Region's Independence Inter-District Quiz Competition for basic schools is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

The program was held at St. Augustine's School in Bogoso, and it was witnessed by representatives from the various districts in the region. The organizers of the competition commended the participating schools for their effort and urged them to continue to strive for excellence in their academic pursuits.



DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION MEETS PARISH COMMITTEE FOR COLLABORATION



On March 18, 2023, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission convened a meeting with members of the parish liturgical committees from the Shama, Sekondi, Takoradi, and Apowa deaneries. The meeting aimed to discuss the roles and functions of the parish liturgical committee and to emphasize the need for collaboration between lay faithful and priests in ensuring a beautiful celebration of the liturgy. During the meeting, the Chairperson of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Very Rev. Fr. Peter Kofi Abel, welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of adequate preparation before the celebration of any liturgy.

Very Rev. Gordon Boadi Miezah, a representative of the National Liturgical Commission, also explained the role of the commission at the national level and its efforts to improve the liturgy of the Church.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Gyim-Austin used the document *Sacrosanctum Concilium* of the Vatican II to address the participants, stressing the need to follow rubrics to avoid liturgical aberrations.

Rev. Fr. Wilfred Bebodu expressed concern about the choice of songs used in liturgical celebrations that do not bring out the theology of the liturgy.

The meeting concluded with a call for continued collaboration between lay faithful and priests to ensure a beautiful celebration of the liturgy in the Church.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY INAUGURATES NEW CONFERENCE AT SHAMA JUNCTION

On Sunday, March 12, 2023, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) inaugurated its newest Conference at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Shama-Junction, Shama District of the Western Region. The inauguration took place during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the Resident Parish Priest, Rt. Rev. Fr. Isaac Mensah, delivered an inspiring admonition to the newly inaugurated officers and members. He urged them to uphold the virtues of the founders of the Society and the patron saint, St. Paul, in promoting the seven corporal works of mercy as recorded in the gospel of Matthew 25.

The Diocesan President of the SSVP, Brother John Mensah Woode, also addressed the congregation, encouraging all parishioners to join and support the Society since it is an international organization. The Convener of the newly inaugurated SSVP conference congratulated the Society members and urged them not to relent in their efforts to help the poor and needy in the parish.

The following members were introduced to the parish as the Executive Committee to oversee the affairs of the Society as a conference:

Bro. Charles Akpo (President)

Sist. Nana Mensah Kane (Vice President)

Brother Emmanuel Asford Prah Jnr. (Secretary)

Brother George Brookman Arthur Jnr. (Treasurer)

Sister Helena (Youth Coordinator)

Bro. Stephen Amoah (Program Advisor)

The occasion was graced by the presence of 57 SSVP members from other conferences in the diocese, including Garrison, Star of the Sea Cathedral, Kwesimitsim, Sekondi Pro-Cathedral, and Shama.

The SSVP is an international Catholic organization that provides assistance to the needy and promotes Christian values. The inauguration of the new conference at St. Peter's Catholic Church is a welcome addition to the society's efforts to help those in need in the Western Region.



RANDOM PICTURES FOR THE MONTH



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