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DIOCESAN PULSE

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SEKONDI-TAKORADI

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SEKONDI-TAKORADI MARKS SILVER JUBILEE OF SEVEN PRIESTS



The Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi celebrated the 25th priestly anniversary of seven priests of the Diocese with a Thanksgiving Mass at the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Tikobo No. 1.

Rev. Fr. Kennedy Mensah, the homilist for the occasion congratulated the priests on their perseverance over 25 years of priesthood, acknowledging the challenges, joyous, and sad moments they have faced. He encouraged the priests to set aside all that defines them and to approach God in their brokenness continually.

He likened priests' unique role to that of social workers, explaining that the primary difference lies in the fact that their vocation is deeply rooted in faith.

He emphasized that the essence of their mission is grounded in the belief that the greatest job on earth is the salvation of souls.

He prompted parishioners of the need to keep priests in prayers stating, "Pray for priests, recognize their dedication to this noble cause as they strive to lead others toward spiritual fulfillment and healing".

Bishop of the Diocese, Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, the principal celebrant, in his congratulatory message reminisced on the days when he taught them in the seminary and expressed gratitude to them for the good work done in all their assignments.

He asked them to, "Continue with the good work and ask for God's grace to sustain you in ministry".

The Bishop thanked St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Tikobo No. 1 for their warm welcome and recognized their efforts in completing their church building.

The ceremony was graced by priests from the Diocese, religious sisters, and a host of well-wishers, including family, friends, and parishioners from the various parishes where the jubilarians serve.

Rev. Frs. Félix Kwaku Afful, Michael Kwesi Owusu, Lawrence Krah, Peter Kofi Abel, Dominic Maximilian Ofori, Peter Mensah, and Samuel Simon Annan-Donkor were honored with gifts from the Diocese and other well-wishers in recognition of their dedicated 25 years of priestly service.

ECHOES FROM THE JUST CONCLUDED GCBC ANNUAL PLENARY ASSEMBLY - OBUASI 2024

The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) held its Annual Plenary Assembly this year in the Catholic Diocese of Obuasi – tagged, GCBC Obuasi 2024.

The Assembly which lasted from November 8 -16, 2024 had its theme as “Jubilee Year: A Time to Proclaim Christ, Hope for the Church and Ghana (cf 1Tim.1:1).

Almost all the members of the 30- Member-Body were present (including 8 Emeriti, of which 4 were physically present) at the Pope John Paul Formation and Training Centre, Ofoase-Kokoben, Obuasi, venue of the Plenary.

The auspicious event has come and gone but some of its memorable programme of activities will continue to echo in our ears for sometime.

One of such memorable activities was an exciting excursion to the Anglo Gold Ashanti Mines, Obuasi, which the Bishops undertook on day two of the Plenary, Saturday November 9, 2024.



Their Excellencies excitedly came out in mufti and on reaching the Anglo Gold Ashanti Mine's office, they were further clad with protective and safety gadgets -helmet, boot, goggles, to guarantee their safety as the toured the various sections of the mines.

It was interesting to note that the Mine managers who received the Bishops were mostly Catholics. They were equally excited to welcome their Bishops. They gave inputs on the operational principles of their deep underground mining activities as against the surface mining or galamsey. There were interventions after which the Bishops were taken round some of the sections of the mines.

At the end of the excursion, the Bishops were meant to understand that proper mining as done in the Anglo Gold is far better for Ghana as a country than galamsey, and that the country has more to lose in the medium term and long term, from galamsey than its short term transient gains.

But who will deliver Ghana from the galamsey dilemma?

The Bishops have called for collective action of all citizens of Ghana (in their Communique), towards overcoming the bad effects of galamsey.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SEKONDI-TAKORADI CONCLUDES ANNUAL PRIESTS' RETREAT 2024

The Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi has successfully concluded its 2024 Annual Priests' Retreat held from Monday, 25th November, to Thursday, 28th November, at the serene Our Lady of Fatima Grotto in Nawule.

This sacred retreat brought together the clergy of the Diocese for a time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal, emphasizing the importance of deepening their communion with God and recommitting to their pastoral duties.

Guided by the esteemed retreat animator, Rev. Fr. Alphonse Amanor, S.V.D., the sessions were marked by moments of profound spiritual insights and renewal, helping the priests to recharge spiritually and reflect on their ministry as priest in the DIOCESE of SEKONDI-TAKORADI.

The retreat provided a quiet space for the priests to step away from their daily responsibilities, pray for themselves, and reconnect with their mission of serving Christ's faithful.

The Diocese expresses gratitude to all who supported the priests with prayers during this period of reflection.

Let us continue to pray for them, asking God to strengthen and guide them in their service to His Church.

May the grace of this retreat inspire renewed zeal and commitment in their priestly ministry, Amen.



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S PAST STUDENTS UNION (APSU) CELEBRATES FEAST DAY



The Saint Augustine's Past Students Union (APSU) recently commemorated their patron's Feast Day with week-long events at the Our Lady Star of the Sea Cathedral in Takoradi.

The event brought together past students of the St. Augustine's College (APSUNIANS) to reflect on and celebrate the phenomenal contributions of the first Ghanaian headmaster of the school, Bishop J. A Essuah to the school's development and all the headmasters and staff that contributed to shaping the history of the School.

Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Krah, the Cathedral Administrator and Guest of honour representing the Bishop, Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh expressed gratitude to the APSUNIANS on behalf of the Bishop for choosing the Cathedral for their conference and celebration and described all the talks and activities as crucial, instructive and relevant.

APSUNIAN J. C Quansah shed light on the time with Bishop J. A Essuah the first Ghanaian headmaster after the departure of Fr. Glynn. He noted that Bishop Essuah was a phenomenal Latin Master, punctual, and regular to class and who painstakingly and meticulously ensured that no one missed his lesson.

He described Bishop Essuah as dedication personified, stressing that although he was in St. Augustine's College for just a few years, he greatly impacted the school.

APSUNIAN Joseph Connel, the former headmaster highlighted ten key facts about one of Christianity's most revered thinkers, St. Augustine. He noted that St. Augustine was originally from North Africa, highly educated, travelled to Italy to teach rhetoric, converted to Christianity in 386, ordained a priest in Hippo, and later became the Bishop of Hippo.

He added that St. Augustine preached between 6000 and 10,000 sermons in his lifetime, worked miracles in his last days, formulated the doctrine of original sin, was venerated by Protestants and Catholics, and was one of the most important figures in Western Christianity.

APSUNIAN Henry Arthur-Gyan, the Headmaster of the College, gave a brief history of the college. He said St. Augustine's College is the first Catholic school established in Ghana. It is an all-male boarding academic institution in Cape Coast, Ghana started at Amissano, a village near Elmina, in 1930 to serve as a training college and seminary, he added. The school was named after St. Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430 AD and the motto of the College is Omnia Vincit Labor, meaning "Perseverance conquers All".

The celebration featured special renditions from the AUGUSCO choir, the Regimental Band and the College Cadet, the laying of the wreath at the tomb of the Bishops, talks on health and domestic safety, and free health screening..

The event was also attended by past students of Holy Child School and College (HOPSAS), Students from Holy Child College, Archbishop Potter's Girls', St. Mary's Boys' Senior High School, St. Augustine's College and the Bishop Essuah Memorial Basic School.

"GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU" - MSGR. CHAMMAS TO YOUTH

Rev. Msgr. Maher Chammas, Secretary at the Apostolic Nunciature in Ghana has assured the youth of God's presence and loving concern as they navigate the complexities of life.

In a Keynote Address during a grand durbar at the St. Mary's Boys Senior High School, Apowa at the Sekondi-Takoradi Catholic Diocesan Youth Congress, Msgr. Chammas stressed the importance of trusting in the Lord and waiting on His guidance in times of uncertainty.

Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese, underscored the Church's mentorship role in the spiritual growth of the youth. He also highlighted plans for a Youth Formation Centre, managed by the youth, acknowledging that their leadership is crucial in shaping their spiritual journeys.

Mrs. Gloria Blay, the chairperson of the occasion, emphasized the vital role the youth play in the future of the Church, urging them to defend and live their faith with confidence. She urged the youth to take the wisdom shared by the dignitaries to heart and work diligently to become strong pillars of the Church and society.

Mr. Evans Bobie, Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports, urged the youth to be agents of change and peace, particularly as the nation approaches the upcoming election year. Nana Kwamena XI, the divisional chief of Apremdo, reminded the youth that the foundations they lay today will shape their future.



Mr. Emmanuel Tweneboah, the Diocesan Youth Chairman, encouraged the youth to trust in God and utilise the Congress to renew their strength, fortify their faith, and be empowered to fulfill their divine purpose.

The Congress concluded with a Eucharistic celebration led by Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi.

The event was graced by dignitaries from the Church and the nation, adding significant value to the occasion.



SEKONDI DEANERY HOLDS CATH-KIDS VOICE COMPETITION

The Sekondi deanery of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi held her Cath-Kids Voice competition at the St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Sekondi on August 17, 2024, for all the parishes in the deanery.

This year's deanery Cath-Kids Voice competition programme was spectacular because Bible reading in the local language was added to the usual preaching contest.

At the end of the contest, 11-year-old Miss Christabel Esi Hudson, a parishioner of the St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral at Sekondi and a learner at the St. Andrew's Anglican Complex, Sekondi, emerged as the winner of the preaching category.

Additionally, Miss Josephine Abakah Arthur, a 13-year-old parishioner of the Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Nkotompo, and a learner at Ekow Nketsiah AME Zion JHS, Nkotompo won the Local Language Bible reading category.

The outstanding performance of the duo has secured them the opportunity to represent the deanery at the forthcoming Ahanta Zonal level competition on September 14, 2024, at the Our Lady Star of the Sea Cathedral's Parish Hall in Takoradi.

The winners from the Zonal level (Ahanta, Nzema, and Wassa), and the Catholic Schools level will qualify to contest at the Diocesan level.

The programme aims to equip the Children's Ministry of the Catholic Church with the fundamentals of preaching and reading the Bible in the local language.

The competition was done earlier at the Parish level, and winners from each parish were selected to preach on the theme of 'peace', and the readers were asked to read from the book of Numbers 21:1-15, followed by a randomly selected Psalm.



ST. FRANCIS SCHOOLS CLIMAX 30 YEARS OF REMARKABLE JOURNEY

The St. Francis of Assisi Schools commemorated a remarkable milestone by celebrating their 30th Anniversary on the theme "Celebrating 30 Years of Integral Catholic Education: Our Future and Prospects for a Child-Centred Education." on Saturday, October 19, 2024.

This momentous occasion featured notable attendees, including Nana Ekra Kojo IV, Chief of the Anaji Traditional Council, represented by Very Rev. Francis K. Andoh, and Nana Appiah Kubi II, Chief of the Adjomoro Traditional Area within the Nzema Traditional Area. Emmanuel Manful, the Deputy Commissioner of Immigration and Sector Commander of Takoradi, was also present.

Mrs. Josephine Love Apprey-Sam, the headteacher, delivered a remarkable speech on the distinguished journey of the school since its inception by the Franciscan Friars Minor Conventual in 1994. She outlined the achievements as delivering high-quality Catholic education, fostering a strong sense of community, and nurturing the spiritual development of its learners.

Mrs. Apprey-Sam emphasized the dedication of the school to promoting Catholic identity and highlighted its significant contribution to the growth of the Church in the Western Region over the past three decades.

She also acknowledged the collaborative efforts of staff, students, and parents in establishing the school as a beacon of hope and education within the community.

In a keynote address, Mr. George Effah, the Regional Director of Education, extended warm greetings from all schools and education offices in the region and the Director-General of the Ghana Education Service. He congratulated the Catholic Church, past and present management, staff, and the entire school community for their remarkable achievements over the past thirty years. Mr. Effah emphasized that the school has consistently provided a vital platform for high-quality basic education, celebrating thirty years of excellence and dedication in nurturing young minds. He acknowledged the visionaries who founded the school and the dedicated educators who have guided its progress.

Friar Emmanuel Kofi Ocran, the Managing Director, expressed gratitude for the school's journey, highlighting the dedication of past and present members who have contributed to its success. Quoting Desmond Tutu, he said, "We are created for goodness, love, friendliness, and togetherness...We belong to this human family, God's family." He highlighted the importance of inclusivity and belonging in the school community.



- ST. FRANCIS SCHOOLS



Very Rev. Francis K. Andoh the Chairperson also entreated parents to take active interest and involvement in the lives and education of their children to ensure a better future. The speakers emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration as the school moves forward into the next chapter of its journey, encouraging everyone to continue fostering a nurturing environment for the students, ensuring that the legacy of St. Francis of Assisi Schools endures for many more years.

The Chairperson concluded the event with heartfelt goodwill messages, including those from Rev. Fr. Dr. Vitus Edem Yao Mensah, Provincial Custos of the Franciscan Friars, the Parent Teacher Association, and other stakeholders.

NEW DEPSOCOM DIRECTOR APPOINTED FOR SEKONDI-TAKORADI DIOCESE

The Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Fr. Stephen Ansah-Mensah as the new DEPSOCOM Director. Father Ansah-Mensah's appointment is with immediate effect.

Additionally, Father Ansah-Mensah has also been appointed as the Priest Chaplain of Holy Child College of Education, Sekondi.

Prior to his appointment, he was a resident priest at St. Dominic Catholic Church, Taifa-North, of the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra. Father Ansah-Mensah worked in his Diocese as the Parochial Vicar of St. Michael Catholic Church, Bogoso. While at St Michael, he served as the secretary to the Prestea Deanery. He was also chaplain to Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) and Catholic Organization for Social and Religious Advancement (COSRA) in the deanery.

Fr. Ansah-Mensah is the author of the book 'Hundred Reminders to Awaken You', published in both French and English. He is the founder of FACTA NON VERBA GH, a social media page where he uses modern digital platforms to communicate and spread Gospel values to a global audience.

Fr. Ansah-Mensah, is succeeding Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Dophyne, the immediate past director of DEPSOCOM who also served as the Chaplain for Holy Child College of Education in Takoradi.

As Fr. Ansah-Mensah takes on these new responsibilities, we wish him well.



"SHUN SHYNESS AND WITNESS TO CHRIST", BISHOP ATTAKRUH URGES NEWLY CONFIRMED

The Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi, embarked on a two-day pastoral visit to the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Egyam, and St. Francis Catholic Church, Ankyenin, in the Ahanta West District.

The visit, which spanned from Saturday, August 24 to Sunday, August 25, 2024, commenced with a welcoming and reception of the Bishop at the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church.

The visit culminated on Sunday, August 25, 2024, with a Thanksgiving Mass during which fifty (50) candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In his homily, Bishop Attakruh encouraged Christians to defend their faith boldly through word and action, emphasizing the importance of reading the scriptures as a guide in witnessing to Christ.

He also challenged the newly confirmed candidates to embrace their call to profess their faith with courage, urging them to overcome shyness and witness to Christ with unwavering conviction.

The celebration was graced by the presence of Very Rev. Fr. Quaicoe, Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Kojo Eshun, Rev. Fr. Celestine Owusu Darko, the Assemblyman of the town, and the Abusuapanin of the family clan.

PASTORAL VISIT TO HUNI-VALLEY



The Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese paid a pastoral visit to the Immaculate Conception Parish at Huni-Valley.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. FR. EBOO



This promotion reflects Fr. Eboo's dedication, hard work, and commitment to service in his dual roles as a priest and an officer of the Ghana Prisons Service. His promotion is not only a personal triumph but also a testament to the values of integrity, diligence, and faith.

The Diocese stands with Fr. Eboo in gratitude to God for this blessing and prays for divine guidance and strength as he takes on greater responsibilities. May he continue to inspire others and shine as a light in his ministry and service to humanity.

The Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi joyfully celebrates the remarkable achievement of Rev. Fr. Francis Eboo, who has been promoted from Superintendent of Prisons to Chief Superintendent of Prisons.

Join the Diocese in congratulating Rev. Fr. Francis Eboo on this well-deserved honor. May God bless him abundantly in all his endeavors!

CONGRATULATIONS, VERY REV. FR. FRANCIS ATTA-AIDOO!

At the direction of Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi, the Social Communications Office, is pleased to announce and extend our heartfelt congratulations to Very Rev. Fr. Francis Atta-Aidoo who has successfully completed and graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Public Health from GIMPA.

The Bishop invites all members of the diocese to join in celebrating this important milestone and to keep Fr. Atta-Aidoo in your prayers as he continues his devoted service to the Church and Diocese.

May God continue to bless and guide him.



HOLY CHILD COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WELCOMES NEW CHAPLAIN



Holy Child College of Education recently celebrated a Mass to officially welcome its new chaplain, Rev. Fr. Stephen Ansah-Mensah.

During the ceremony, Dr. Francis Hull Adams, the principal, introduced Fr. Ansah-Mensah to the students, urging them to offer him the same cooperation given to his predecessor, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Dolphyne. Dr. Adams pledged the college's full support to the new chaplain in his mission.

Miss Barbara Annan, the SRC president, also assured the chaplain of the students' commitment to supporting his ministry, promising punctuality at Masses and active participation in spiritual activities.

In his address, Rev. Fr. Ansah-Mensah expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and committed to fostering the spiritual growth of the college community, emphasizing his availability to guide and support all.

CONGRATULATIONS, VERY REV. FR. GEORGE ARTHUR!

The Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi celebrates with Very Rev. Fr. George Arthur, Deputy Commissioner of Police and Chaplain-General for the Ghana Police Service, on his remarkable achievement!

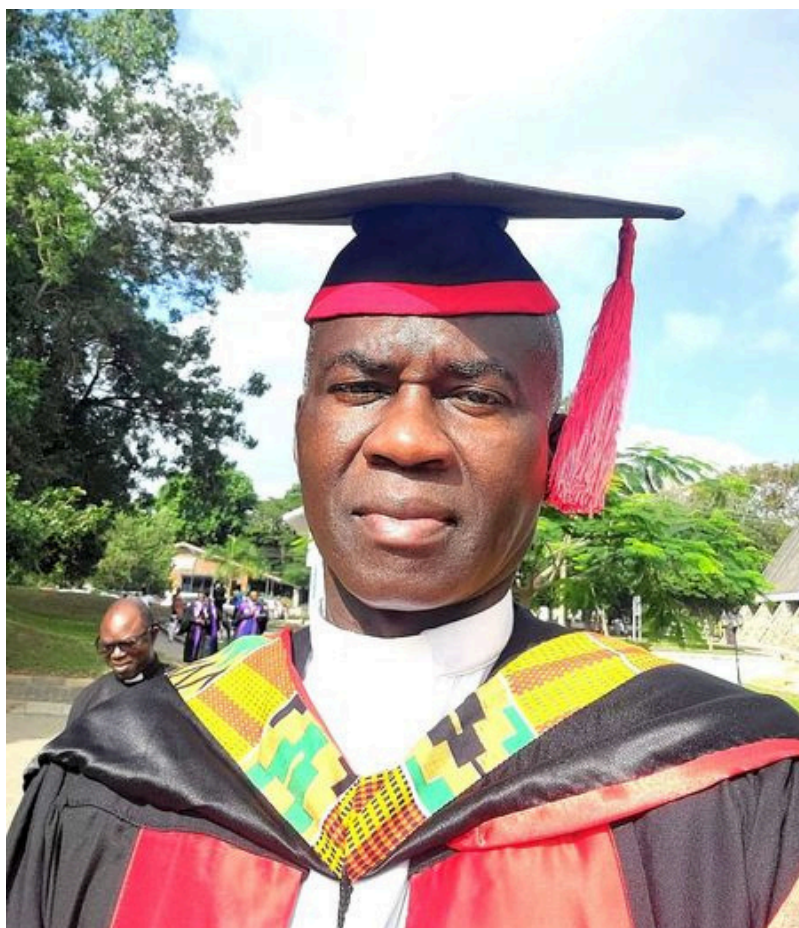
Today, Fr. Arthur, who also serves as Parish Priest of St. George Catholic Church at the Police Depot in Accra, graduated with a Master's Degree in Counselling from Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon.

In a ceremony of 169 graduands, he proudly stood probably as the only Catholic, a true testament to his commitment to faith and service.

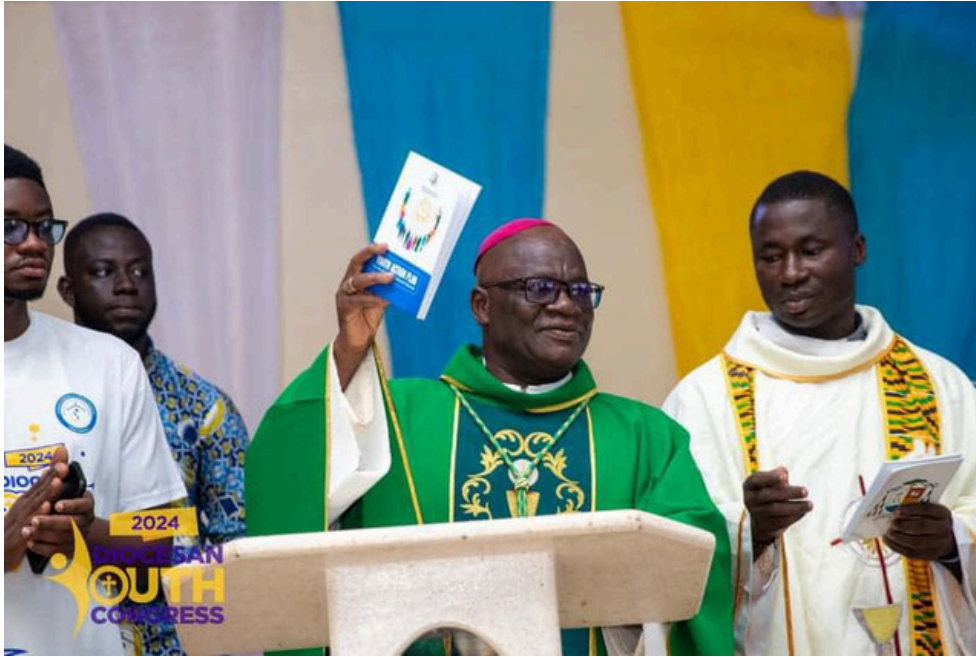
We are inspired by his dedication to supporting others through his ministry and the Ghana Police Service.

Congratulations, Fr. Arthur, on this milestone! May God continue to guide and bless you as you serve the Church and our nation.

The Diocese is proud of you. Congratulations!



BISHOP ATTAKRUH UNVEILS FIVE-YEAR YOUTH ACTION PLAN



The bishop encouraged the youth to seek salvation over material possessions, follow Christ's example, and support one another on the path to righteousness.

The celebration ended with the bishop's heartfelt thanks to all and a call to the youth to carry the cross of Christ in their daily lives.

Recognition was given to some youth executives for their dedicated and selfless service to the Youth Council. The Thanksgiving Mass also saw the attendance of some youth chaplains and priests of the Diocese, showing strong support for the ongoing efforts in youth ministry.

The Sekondi-Takoradi Catholic Diocesan Youth Congress culminated in a vibrant Thanksgiving Mass within which the bishop unveiled a five-year youth action plan set to launch on November 24, 2024.

In his sermon, Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh emphasized the power of gratitude, reminding the youth that a thankful heart opens the way for God's blessings.



BISHOP ATTAKRUH CONFIRMS 353 AT EFFIAKUMA

The Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi, recently paid a pastoral visit to Christ the King Catholic Church in Effiakuma. The three-day visit culminated in a grand thanksgiving Mass during which he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 353 candidates from the Parish and its outstations.

In his homily, the bishop emphasized the significance of the sign of the cross, highlighting that it symbolizes baptism and identity as children of God. He reminded the congregation that baptism empowered them to become part of God's royal priesthood.

He urged everyone to live out God's nature, emphasizing that the Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways. The bishop also highlighted the importance of unity within the church, noting that it is essential for its growth. He called on parents and leaders to actively engage and empower the youth, acknowledging their vital role in building a stronger church.

Families, he said, are the "domestic church," and parents and couples bear a significant responsibility in nurturing faith at home. He encouraged parents to create environments that facilitate growth in faith as this strengthens the wider church community.

During the confirmation, the bishop encouraged the candidates to stay rooted in the Word of God, reflecting on it daily to deepen their faith and understanding. He added that it would guide their spiritual journey and help them live out their Christian mission.

The bishop expressed joy over the warmth and love he experienced during his visit and encouraged the parishioners to prioritize God in their lives.

The Mass concluded with a word of appreciation from the Parish Priest, Friar Eugene Antwi Boasiako who thanked the bishop for his continuous support and all attendees for making the occasion a success.



“HONOUR THIS SACRED SPACE AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS UPKEEP”

- BISHOP ATTAKRUH URGES PARISHIONERS

He emphasized the significance of blessing and anointing the Church and Altar, reminding the congregation that this act sanctifies the space as belonging entirely to God. The prelate called on the faithful to honour the sacred space and take responsibility for its upkeep.

The event was a significant milestone in the Church's history, symbolizing the unity and dedication of its members.



It was a momentous celebration for the entire Catholic community of the St. Joseph Catholic Church, Wassa Juabo, on October 11, 2024, as they gathered to witness the solemn dedication of their new Church building.

The Church was founded in 1920 and officially elevated to a Parish on July 1, 2015, by the Most Rev. John Bonaventure Kwofie, CSSp, with the installation of Rev. Fr. Isaac Enyan as the first Parish Priest.

The elevation to Parish status marked a period of growth both spiritually and physically. This growth eventually led to the construction of the church building under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Gordon Owusu Cobbinah, the Parish Priest before which Rev. Fr. Peter Mensah has now taken charge of the Parish as its substantive Parish Priest.

Concelebrants at the Mass included Rev. Frs. Gordon Owusu Cobbinah, Peter Mensah and Felix Bempah.

The much-anticipated ceremony led by the Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi brought together the people of God from far and near and their well-wishers.

In his homily, Bishop Attakruh expressed profound gratitude to God for the blessings bestowed on the Church and recognized the tireless efforts of its members in completing the new building.



2024 DIOCESAN YOUTH CONGRESS HOLDS AT APOWA



The 2024 Sekondi-Takoradi Catholic Diocesan Youth Congress kicked off at the St. Mary's Boys Senior High School with series of activities including the opportunity to learn from mentors who shared valuable insights about faith, values, and personal growth.

Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi, expressed heartfelt appreciation to the youth for their active involvement in the Congress. He passionately urged them to seize the valuable opportunities provided by the church to enrich their lives and positively impact society.

Mr. Kwame Adu Mante, a successful entrepreneur, emphasized the importance of honesty, perseverance, and faith in business. He encouraged the youth to embrace the "God Factor" in their entrepreneurial journeys and to seek professional support when needed. His resilience amidst challenges inspired the audience to pursue their dreams with integrity.

Sr. Calista Tetteh CSC, a lawyer, passionately spoke about discovering one's vocation, especially in religious life. She shared her journey into religious service, highlighting the joy and fulfillment of embracing one's calling. She encouraged the youth to be attentive to God's signs and to seek His guidance in finding their paths.

Nana Yaw Kesse, News Editor at Peace FM, shared his experience balancing fame with humility. He stressed the importance of staying true to one's Catholic faith, even in the public eye, and encouraged the youth to embrace humility, seek wisdom, and acknowledge divine grace in all their pursuits.

Hon. Andrew Amoako Asiamah, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, discussed the role of faith in politics. He advised the youth to stay firm in their faith and integrate the teachings of the Church into all aspects of their lives, especially in making decisions that impact society.

The session was interactive, with the mentors addressing questions from the youth, leaving the participants deeply inspired. The Congress continued with a durbar and a vibrant evangelism procession through the streets of Apowa accompanied by a brass band.

16 COUPLES TIE THE KNOT AT MASS WEDDING IN EFFIAKUMA



The Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese, recently officiated at a mass wedding for sixteen couples at Christ the King Parish in Effiakuma.

The mass wedding was part of a series of activities marking the Bishop's three-day pastoral visit to the Parish.

In his homily during the nuptial Mass, Baptist Attakruh, centered his message on the sanctity of family life, reminding the couples of the sacred covenant they were entering. He emphasized the importance of love, trust, and faith as the foundation for a strong and lasting family bond.

With the congregation as witnesses, the couples exchanged their vows, pledging their love and commitment to each other before God. Their exchange vows and pledge of commitment to a lifelong journey of love and faith filled the church with excitement and happiness.

The ceremony concluded with a special blessing from the Bishop, who prayed for the couples' continued strength, unity, and faith, asking for God's guidance and protection over their families as they embarked on this new chapter of life together.

In attendance were Friar Eugene Antwi Boasiako, Friar Emmanuel Kofi Ocran, Friar Daniel Pal, Friar Emmanuel Adjei Nsiah, Friar Derrick Bressey, and Friar Christian Ahiawodzi.

Bishop Attakruh and the concelebrating priests prayed over each couple, invoking God's blessings and asking for His divine grace to guide them in their marriage journey.

The parish community for the occasion included family members of the newly wedded, friends, and parishioners from Christ the King Church, Effiakuma, Immaculate Conception Church, Anaji, and St. Augustine Church, Effia.



WASSA AKROPONG DEANERY CATECHISTS HOLD SEMINAR



The Wassa Akropong Deanery of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi holds a two-day seminar for its catechists, focused on the theme: "The Church's Evangelization on Electoral Peace: the Role of Christians/Catechists".

The seminar began on Friday, October 18, and ended on Saturday, October 19, aimed at equipping catechists with the knowledge to foster peace during the electoral process. Mr. Daniel Boateng, the District Director of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), was the keynote speaker.

Mr. Boateng emphasized the importance of civic responsibility and how the church can be a beacon of peace in times of political tension.

Rev. Fr. Francis Mensah, Parish Priest of Wassa Afransie and Chaplain for the Deanery's catechists, emphasized on the need for catechists to fully understand the peace the Church advocates for, especially during election seasons. He urged participants to embody this peace in their communities.



To encourage dialogue and unity, representatives from Ghana's two leading political parties, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC), were invited to share their thoughts.

The event also included speeches from local leaders, including the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE), the police, and traditional authorities (Nananom), all advocating for a peaceful electoral process before, during, and after the elections.

The seminar was graced by Very Rev. Fr. Charles Fuakye, Parish Priest and Dean of the Wassa Akropong Deanery, and Rev. Fr. Sylvester Asare, Parochial Vicar of the Wassa Akropong.

JUBILEE CATHOLIC CHILDREN HOSPITAL CLIMAXES 5TH ANNIVERSARY



The Jubilee Children Hospital, Apowa in the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, celebrated its 5th anniversary with a grand Durbar at the St. Kizito Pastoral and Catechetical Centre in Apowa.

The celebration was on the theme: "Strengthening Partnership and Sustaining Excellence in Children's Health."

Rev Fr. Dr. Francis Atta Aidoo, Health Director of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Catholic Health Service Trust, Board of Directors, staff, patients, and partners, including Ahantaman Rural Bank, for their steadfast support over the years.

He emphasized that despite the challenges facing the hospital such as limited space, inadequate equipment, staff age and mix, and staff accommodation, the facility has not wavered in its commitment to providing compassionate and high-quality healthcare.



Fr. Atta Aidoo highlighted the achievements and successes of the past five years, affirming the community's trust in the hospital. He also encouraged the community to stay involved, especially in ensuring peaceful and fair elections.

Nana Ama W'aky3 III, on behalf of the Municipal Health Director, commended the hospital for its continuous support of the municipality and urged it to continue its excellent work.

Very Rev. Fr. Francis Lemaire, the Vicar General of Sekondi-Takoradi and the Chairperson conveyed gratitude on behalf of the Archbishop of Accra, Most Rev. Bonaventure Kwofie, and the Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese, Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, for the hospital's outstanding contribution to healthcare in the region.

The event saw goodwill messages from the Board of Directors and Prudential Bank, appreciating the dedication of the staff.

Donations from Tobinco Pharmacy, Ahantaman Rural Bank, and other benefactors further showcased the community's commitment to the hospital's mission.

SEKONDI-TAKORADI DIOCESE BIDS FAREWELL TO DR. PELLIO

Dr. Theresia Paulina Pellio has retired after dedicating eleven years of service as the sole surgeon at the St. Martin de Porres Catholic Hospital, Eikwe, in the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese. She will return to her homeland, Germany.

Dr. Pellio, affectionately known as "Dr. T," has shown unwavering commitment to patient care, both in service and financial support, leaving an indelible mark on the hospital and the community.

A heartfelt farewell Holy Mass and a resounding send-off celebration took place on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at the hospital's forecourt. Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi, presided over the ceremony and expressed deep gratitude for Dr. T's dedicated service to the Diocese, St. Martin de Porres Hospital, and the people of the Ellembele District.

Rev. Fr. Francis Atta Aidoo, Health Director of the Diocese, recounted Dr. T's many achievements and thanked her for her invaluable contributions to healthcare in Ghana, particularly at St. Martin de Porres.



The Diocesan Health Board, Nana and his elders of Eikwe, a representative of the MP—Armah Boah, the DCE, and the District Director of Health, among others, graced the occasion.

On Wednesday, October 23, 2024, the Bishop, Curia staff, and Dr. Paul Kwaw Ntodi joined Dr. T for a farewell lunch at the Secretariat, wishing her all the best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.



CONGRATULATIONS, FRs. LOBIANCO AND MARINO!

The Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi rejoices and celebrates Fr. Lobianco and Fr. Marino on their remarkable achievement as they graduate from the Catholic University, Fiapre, with a Master of Public Health degree!

Their dedication to learning and commitment to serving others is an inspiration to us all.

Join us in congratulating them on this milestone, and in praying for God's continued guidance and blessings in their ministry and new field of expertise.

May they continue to touch lives and communities in even greater ways!

CONGRATULATIONS FRs. THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SEKONDI-TAKORADI IS PROUD OF YOU



ST. JOHN'S CELEBRATES SUCCESS AT GH-STEM OLYMPIAD

The St. John's Senior High School, Sekondi, proudly joined the GH-STEM Olympiad for the first time this year, a national competition organized by the Ghana Olympiad Academy in partnership with the Science Education Unit - GES, giving Grade 10 and 11 students a platform to excel in STEM.

Among the 16 participants, four students, Emmanuel Abakah-Middley, Kenneth David Korley Kisseih, Elijah Kwabena Crosby, and Fredrick Kafui Doe, shone brightly, earning gold in the preliminaries and advancing to the grand finale in Accra.

Emmanuel Abakah-Middley claimed the Overall Champion title, bringing home a gold medal, a championship plaque for the school, and a fully sponsored trip with the Ghana Olympiad Academy.



Kenneth Kisseih also excelled, placing 18th and securing further STEM training. A huge congratulations to these talented students for their hard work and remarkable achievements, making St. John's School beam with pride.



PAPAL HONOUR FOR MRS BAIDEN-AMISSAH

Her Excellency Mrs. Angelina Baiden-Amissah was honored with the prestigious Grand Cross of the Pian Order on the 22nd of August, 2024.

The award was conferred at the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City by Archbishop Peña Parra, Substitute for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State, on behalf of Pope Francis.

The Pian Order is a distinguished Papal Order of Pius IX, considered one of the highest honors the Pope, as Supreme Pontiff and Sovereign of Vatican State, can bestow. It is awarded for outstanding personal service to the Pope and the Papacy.

The Grand Cross is the highest Papal accolade given to laypersons, typically awarded to ambassadors accredited to the Holy See after two years of distinguished service, and to Catholics globally who have made exceptional contributions to the Church and society, especially in the international arena.

Mrs. Baiden-Amissah is a parishioner of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Shama, and her recognition is a testament to her accomplishments and a great honor for the entire Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese.



A DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR AXIM DEANERY CATECHISTS

A day of recollection was held for catechists in the Axim Deanery at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Esiam, under the theme "Advocating for Peaceful Elections: The Role of Catechists".

The session was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Cosmos Kyereboah and saw the participation of Rev. Fr. Anthony Dadzie (Deanery Chaplain for Catechists) and Rev. Fr. Joachim Onuoha (Parish Priest of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church).

The event brought together 45 catechists from across the Deanery, providing an opportunity for reflection, spiritual renewal, and meaningful discussions on their role in fostering peace before, during, and after elections.

Let us continue to pray for our catechists and their ministry.



SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Theme: Jubilee Year: A Time to Proclaim Christ, Hope for the Church and Ghana (cf. 1 Tim. 1:1)

The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) held its Annual Plenary Assembly from November 8 to 16, 2024, at the Pope John Paul II Formation and Training Centre, Ofoase Kokoben, Obuasi Diocese, in the Ashanti Region. This assembly, inspired by Pope Francis's Jubilee Year 2025 theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," focused on proclaiming Christ as the hope for the Church and Ghana.

1. Acknowledgements:

The plenary was graced by key dignitaries, including the Apostolic Nuncio, government officials, and political leaders. The Bishops expressed gratitude to the Obuasi Diocese for their hospitality and emphasized their engagement with the local community, including visits to parishes and the AngloGold Ashanti Mines.

2. Jubilee Year:

The Jubilee Year, rooted in Biblical tradition (Leviticus 25), is marked by liberation, restoration, and renewal. Pope Francis describes it as a moment for a personal encounter with Christ, urging Christians to reflect on the past, live fully in the present, and look to the future with hope.

3. A Time to Proclaim Christ:

The Bishops reiterated the Church's mandate to proclaim Christ as Lord and called for renewed strategies to address the crisis of faith among Catholics, the declining Catholic population in Ghana, and the need to re-evangelize lapsed members.

4. Christ, Hope for the Church:

The Bishops emphasized the centrality of Christ as the cornerstone of the Church's mission. Christ provides salvation, reconciliation, comfort, and peace, making Him the ultimate source of hope for individuals, the Church, and the nation.

5. Christ, Hope for Ghana:

With 71% of Ghanaians professing Christianity, the Bishops stressed that faith in Christ must influence all aspects of national life, including environmental care, leadership, and moral values.

6. Ecological Citizenship:

Acknowledging the environmental degradation caused by activities like illegal mining (galamsey), the Bishops called for collective action, urging:

- Government to enforce laws against illegal mining.
- All Politicians to prioritize environmental protection.
- Regulatory Bodies to be more vigilant and honest about their duties and operations.
- Chiefs and Queens, ie. Traditional Leaders to safeguard their territories.
- Local Communities to protect their environment as stewards of creation.
- All Catholics Clergy and Faithful to reject donations from dubious sources and resist involvement in illegal activities.
- All other Religious Leaders, especially Christians and Muslims to show fidelity to the dictates of the Bible and Quran respectively, which enjoin on them to care for God's creation.-
- All Citizens to be reawaken to the truth that Ghana is the only earthly home we have as a people.

7. General Elections 2024:

The GCBC called for peaceful, fair, and credible elections, emphasizing the need for political parties and citizens to avoid hate speech and uphold democratic values. They reiterated their commitment to fostering national peace.



SUMMARY OF COMMUNIQUÉ

8. Strained Relationship Among Arm of Government:

The Bishops call for institutional forbearance among the arms of government.

9. The Protracted Conflict in Bawku:

The protracted conflict in Bawku remains a major concern. The Bishops appealed for dialogue, reconciliation, and an end to political interference in finding lasting peace. They warned of a looming humanitarian crisis in the region due to displacement and lack of access to basic services.

10. Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill

The Bishops reaffirmed their support for the *Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill,* urging the President to assent to the Bill promptly. They emphasized preserving traditional family values while avoiding discrimination.

Conclusion

The Bishops encouraged reflection, renewal, and a reaffirmation of faith in Christ during the Jubilee Year. They called on Ghanaians to rely on the grace and truth of Christ to overcome national challenges and build a future of unity, justice, and prosperity.

Prayer and Hope:

The communiqué ended with a call to look to Christ as the eternal hope of the Church and nation. The Bishops invoked blessings for all, urging faith and commitment to shared values.



SEKONDI-TAKORADI DIOCESE HONOURS DECEASED CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS

The Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi celebrated Mass for her departed Clergy and Religious on November 4, 2024, at the St. Mary's Minor Seminary in Apowa.

In a heartfelt homily delivered during the Mass, Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, the Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi, shared a moving message of hope and resilience.

Reflecting on the words of Job, “My Redeemer lives,” he reminded the faithful that even amid trials, we are anchored in the unwavering promise of God’s presence. This powerful truth provides strength, reassuring us that we will see God’s face, no matter the depths of our sorrow.

The Bishop further highlighted St. Paul’s message, “Hope does not disappoint because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”

He emphasized the unwavering love of Christ, who sacrificed Himself for us despite our flaws—a love that transcends death and binds us eternally to God. This special Mass honored the lives of those who have returned to their Maker and reminded us of the lasting impact of faith and dedication.

Let us cherish the memory of the Clergy and Religious who have shaped our lives and enriched our diocese, trusting in the profound connection between faith, love, and community.

Following Mass, the congregation visited the Clergy cemetery, where they prayed and lighted candles on the tombs of the departed Clergy.



FR BEBODU LAID TO REST

The mortal remains of the late Very Rev. Fr. Paul Erzoah Bebodu were laid to rest at the clergy cemetery at Apowa in the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi.

In his homily at a Requiem Mass held in honour of the late Fr Bebodu at the Our Lady Star of the Sea Cathedral in Takoradi, Most Rev. Joseph Francis Kweku Essien emphasised the importance of faith in God and urged Christians to prepare for death since no one knows the day and the hour they would be called to their Maker.

Bishop Essien said no matter how painful death can be, Jesus assures His followers of a better place with Him. So as Christians, "we should not be overly saddened by death". He encouraged Christians to respond to the demand of Christ by striving to be perfect, as He, the heavenly Father is.

Referencing the story of the rich young man in Matthew 19, he admonished Priests and Religious to endeavour to leave everything behind and follow Christ. He urged them to eschew competition for the acquisition of worldly things.



The Requiem Mass was presided over by His Eminence, Peter Cardinal Appiah Turkson, and concelebrated by Most Rev. Charles Gabriel Palmer Buckley; Most Rev. Matthias Kobina Nketsiah; Most Rev. Joseph Francis Kweku Essien, Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, and Most Rev. Samuel Nkuah-Boateng; Priests from the Dioceses of Sekondi-Takoradi and Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast, a delegation from SECAM, and other dioceses in Ghana.

Additionally, representatives from the St. Peter's Regional Seminary, Pedu, and the English-speaking community from Grand Bassam were present.

Fr. Bebodu was born on June 30, 1947, ordained on July 25, 1976, and died on July 17, 2024 after a dedicated life of service to the Church communities in Ghana and Canada.

He was a Biblical Scholar, Lecturer, Formator, and Pastor, and lived out his motto: Teach me, O Lord, to make your word part of my very existence.

He also served as an Assistant Secretary General to the National Catholic Secretariat.

RANDOM PICTURES FOR THE MONTH



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