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# DIOCESAN PULSE

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SEKONDI TAKORADI

## REKINDLE YOUR INITIAL ZEAL-BISHOP ATTAKRUH URGES PRIESTS



Bishop Attakruh encouraged the faithful to continue to support their Priests, praying for them and loving them despite their shortcomings, understanding that they too face challenges in their spiritual journey yet they avail themselves to attend to the needs of others..

He emphasized that God comes to us in such simple things as oil urging them to be good stewards of the mystery of God. The Bishop explained the uses of the Holy Oils of the Sick, Catechumen, and the Sacred Chrism emphasizing the need for the Priests to use them and apply them with reverence during the celebrations.

The Bishop congratulated all the Priests in the diocese for their efforts and good works, which were sometimes unnoticed and unrewarded reminding them that there is always room for improvement.

He was optimistic that as they renewed their commitments, it would be a renewal of their efforts to continue to improve. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the Priests' love and service to the church and humanity.

The highlights of the ceremony included the renewal of Ordination promises by the Priests and the blessing and consecration of Sacred Oils for use throughout the year for Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Confirmation, Ordination, and the dedication of Churches and Altars.

Earlier in a welcome address, Very Rev. Fr. Charles Fuakye, the Administrator of the Pro-Cathedral warmly welcomed the Bishops, Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh and Most Rev. Francis Joseph Kwaku Essien, the Priests, Religious men and women, and all present.

Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi, has urged the Priests to renew their commitment to the service of God and humanity.

In his homily during the Chrism Mass at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral in Sekondi, Bishop Attakruh charged the Priests to make themselves readily available to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of their flock as shepherds of the people.

He emphasized that Jesus knew his mission, that he was sent to bring glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, and release to prisoners reminding the Priests that since they share in the ministerial priesthood of Christ, they are equally called to serve and to give their lives for service of the people as Jesus did.

The priesthood, the Bishop noted is a gift and the Priest is called to use it wholeheartedly for service stressing that the gift enables the priest to radiate the love of Christ. He urged them to reflect on their roles as priests and how they have been Christlike to God's people.

He enjoined the Priests to reflect deeply upon their call, and what it meant to them, stressing that it will enable them to gain the strength to forge ahead with fresh enthusiasm. "Where is that zeal with which you responded"? He questioned.

The Prelate appealed to them to listen to their parishioners, know their needs and concerns, and show them the true path to holiness, to a life that is pleasing to God, reminding them of the need for people to see them as a source of relief not as a burden.



He noted that Chrism Mass is an annual event when the Local Ordinary celebrates with his priests and blesses 3 Oils that would be used throughout the diocese pointing out that the Mass also emphasizes the institution of the sacred priesthood.

The Chrism Mass is an essential liturgical celebration that symbolizes the unity and mission of the diocese, the anointing of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. It is a significant event that enriches the faith of the clergy and the faithful and strengthens their commitment to serving God and one another

## 30 GRADUATE FROM SKILLS LEARNING PROJECT

Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, the Catholic Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese has reiterated the commitment of the Diocese to empower young people with entrepreneurial skills.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony of 30 beneficiaries of the skills learning project of the Diocesan Women Development Office of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Fijai, Bishop Attakruh underscores the importance of skill acquisition and self-employment in the competitive job market.

He noted that the rate of unemployment is disheartening and appealed to the youths to desist from waiting for government employment but, rather strive to be self-employed through skill acquisition urging them to explore the possibility of acquiring skills in hairdressing, interior decoration, dressmaking, baking, and other lucrative businesses.

Bishop Attakruh paid glowing tributes to Versalis Zeal Limited for partnering with the Diocese and facilitating their effort towards training the beneficiaries through their sponsorship and commended the Diocesan Coordinator for Women and Gender issues, Ms. Linda Aggrey for ensuring the success of the project.

Emphasizing the importance of putting the acquired skills into good use, the Bishop congratulated the graduates for completing their program successfully.

He commended the teachers for imparting useful knowledge and life skills to them, and prayed for God's blessings upon them.

Rev. Fr. Thomas Gyetua Boafo, the Parish Priest on behalf of the Parish extended a warm welcome to the Bishop, the graduands and all gathered. He expressed gratitude to the Diocese for empowering the youth through the project.

Dr. Grace Ayensu-Danquah, the Parliamentary Candidate for Essikado/Ketan Constituency while congratulating the graduates for the feat they attained challenged them to believe in themselves as ladies and see their achievements so far as stepping stones to greater heights. She commended the Diocese for empowering young men and women through skill acquisition programmes stressing that she was a beneficiary of Catholic Education.

The Diocesan Coordinator for Women and Gender issues, Miss Linda Aggrey traced the historical trajectory that culminated in the graduation ceremony, acknowledging the generosity of Versalis Zeal Limited. She stated that the 30 beneficiaries were drawn from the rural areas of the Diocese pointing out that among the 30 beneficiaries that graduated, 10 each acquired skills in Interior Decoration, Hairdressing, and Pastry & Bread making respectively.

The graduates were presented with certificates and items for start-up. The items included hair dryers, local ovens, and materials for interior decoration among others.

The ceremony also featured the exhibition of the products of the graduates.



# HOLY CHILD COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WELCOMES 297 NEW STUDENTS IN 18TH MATRICULATION CEREMONY

The Holy Child College of Education in Takoradi hosted its 18th Matriculation Ceremony on Monday, February 26th, 2024, at the Bishop John Martin Darko Auditorium.

The Principal, Dr. Francis Hull Adams, in an address to the gathering comprising members of the College Council, the Academic Board, Convocation, Matriculants, Invited Guests, the Clergy, and the Media, stated that a total of 1,845 qualified applicants applied for admission to the College. Among them, 297 individuals were offered admission to pursue the four-year Bachelor of Education programme.

Dr. Adams emphasized the competitive nature of this year's admission process, reflecting the college's commitment to academic excellence. He urged the matriculants, particularly the Level 100 students, to embrace the wealth of learning resources available both in print and electronically, highlighting the pivotal role of self-motivation in academic success.

Dr. Adams encouraged students to actively engage in co-curricular activities, to ensure a well-rounded educational experience.



In his closing remarks, Dr. Adams extended his best wishes to the matriculating students, expressing hope that their academic journey would be a testament to the sacrifices made by the government, parents, and guardians. He concluded with a heartfelt invocation for their success, prosperity, and enduring pride in their alma mater.

A breakdown of the 297 matriculated students for the four-year Bachelor of Education program shows that 59 will pursue Early Grade Education, 99 will focus on Primary Education, and 139 will specialize in JHS Education.



# Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese Celebrates World Day of the Sick

The 32nd World Day of the Sick was marked with solemnity and compassion as Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese, led the launch under the theme 'It is not good that man should be alone' Healing the sick by Healing Relationships.

The event, held on, Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the **Holy Child Catholic Hospital** in Fijai, witnessed a gathering of Priests, healthcare workers from the **Jubilee Catholic Hospital** in Apowa and Fijai, board members, and other stakeholders in health.

During the Eucharistic celebration preceding the launch, Bishop Attakruh emphasized the Church's mission to reach out to the sick, citing Jesus' healing ministry as an inspiration. He highlighted the Diocese's commitment to providing quality healthcare, boasting four hospitals and five clinics spread across the region.

Addressing healthcare workers, Bishop Attakruh stressed the importance of love and care in the healing process, urging them to create nurturing environments in their families and extend that love to their patients. He emphasized their calling to be instruments of God's healing mission.



Reflecting on the theme, Bishop Attakruh echoed Pope Francis's call for compassion and solidarity in caring for the sick. He urged caregivers to provide not only physical care but also emotional and psychological support, emphasizing the value of choosing life amidst societal challenges.

In his remarks, Rev. Fr. Francis Atta Aidoo, Director of the Catholic Health Service Trust of the Diocese, cautioned against discrimination and urged staff to prioritize patient care above all else. He called for a culture of accountability, respect, and professionalism to ensure the success of healthcare services.

Dr. Pius Mensah, Metro Health Director of Sekondi-Takoradi, praised the Catholic Health Service Trust for its contribution to quality healthcare in Ghana, emphasizing the divine significance of healthcare. He encouraged healthcare workers to approach their profession with passion and empathy.

The celebration included the reading of the Pope's message by Very Rev. Fr. Francis Lemaire, the Vicar General, and a visitation and blessing of the sick by Bishop Attakruh and other Priests.

Mr. Valentine Ziem, Administrator of the Holy Child Catholic Hospital Fijai, expressed gratitude to all attendees and urged them to partake in the meaningful program.



# FIVE ORDAINED AS TRANSITIONAL DEACONS IN SEKONDI-TAKORADI DIOCESE

The Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi on Thursday, January 11, 2024 ordained five young men as transitional deacons call to them to be effective in action, active in ministry and constant in prayer.

The celebration which took place at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Tarkwa brought together the Clergy, the Religious, the Laity and some Traditional leaders marking the solemn ceremony very colourful.

Delivering the homily on behalf of the Bishop, Very Rev. Fr. Francis LeMaire, the Vicar General of the Diocese identified three categories of of the Sacrament of the Holy Orders as the episcopate, presbyterate and diaconate pointing out that the diaconate is category three.

He reminded the Deacons that though their position as deacons is transitory but their work as deacons is not transitory pointing out that their work is the basic work of the Bishop and the Priests.

Fr. LeMaire noted that the Ordinandi have been groomed & nurtured through their formation emphasizing that by imposition of hands and prayer, they will be empowered to serve the people of God. He added that the imposition of hands and prayer come with the character of readiness to serve, stressing that they will perform duties for the Bishop Priests and all the faithful, emphasizing the important role deacons play.

Fr. LeMaire noted that responding to the call of God is becoming more challenging as a result of materialism and selfishness underscoring the importance of Humility and Service.



He lamented that humility is no longer attractive in our world today as a result of quest for power emphasizing that humility and service will make them great.

He urged the Ordinandi to be men of prayer, be facilitators, urging them not to hesitate to call for back up from fellow priests, prayer warriors, experts, benefactors as they attend to the needs of the people.

The Vicar General also appealed to the laity to continue to support the Diocese in the training of her seminarians by contribution generously through the seminary fundraising project.

The newly ordained deacons are Reverends Kyereboah Cosmas, from Aboadze, Hermans Maxwell, from Tarkwa Bansa, Sarfo Alexander, from Asankra Bremang, Coffie Emmanuel, from Asankra Bremang, Adabra Hope Kelvin from Shama.

Earlier in a welcome address, Very Rev. Fr. Michael Owusu the Parish Priest heartily welcomed the Bishop and all present stressing that with the ordination, the deacons will become the eyes and hands of the Bishop in ministering to the needs of the poor. He thanked the Bishop for the choice of the Parish as the venue for the ordination describing it as historic.



On behalf of his colleagues, Rev. Emmanuel Coffie expressed appreciation to the Bishop for ordaining them. He thanked their formators, families, parishes and all those who joined them to celebrate in their joy with prayers, counsel and their resources both human and financial.

The celebration ended with the blessing on a newly built adoration chapel for the Parish.



# ST. PAUL'S PRO CATHEDRAL DONATES TO JUBILEE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

On April 13th, 2024, the Parish Youth Council (PYC) of St. Paul's Pro Cathedral, Sekondi, embarked on a heartfelt mission to bring cheer to the Children's Ward of Jubilee Catholic Children Hospital, Apowa.

Led by their President, Mr. Raphael Samuel Eshun, and Youth Commissioner, Mr. Francis Koomson, along with other members, the PYC delivered a donation of assorted items to the Children's Ward of the hospital.

The hospital management led by Mr. Bomah expressed profound gratitude for the PYC's thoughtful gesture and urged other societies within the church to follow suit in supporting the Children's Hospital through various means.



# NUHOPSA Celebrates 50 Years of Sisterhood at Biennial Conference



The National Union of Holy Child Past Students Association (NUHOPSA) marked its 50th anniversary with a biennial conference held at the Holy Child College of Education from January 26th to 28th, 2024.

Under the theme, "Celebrating 50 years of sisterhood: A strong Association, two strong institutions," the event brought together past students of Holy Child School and College to reflect on their contributions to the schools' development and discuss the way forward.

NUHOPSA, comprising alumni from both institutions, aims to foster unity among former students and support the growth and welfare of Holy Child School and College. Over the past five decades, the association has played a pivotal role in ensuring the continuity and prosperity of both educational institutions, emphasizing the importance of quality education.

Dignitaries in attendance included Very Rev. Fr. Lemaire, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Sekondi Takoradi, Madam Georgina Ellen Mensah, NUHOPSA president, Madam Magdeline Apenteng, chairperson of the event and headmasters of St. Mary's and Fijai Senior high School, as well as representatives from other educational institutions and the Regional manager of Catholic schools for the Western and Western North Regions, Mr. Emmanuel K. Salia.

Mrs. Theresa Naana Dadzie delivered the keynote address, tracing the history of Holy Child School and the College's establishment with the support of the Society of Holy Child.



# Biennial Conference

She highlighted the guiding principles and values instilled by the sisters, including humility, simplicity, obedience, discipline, and honesty, which have shaped generations of women in Ghana and beyond. Mrs. Dadzie urged current students and alumni to uphold these values in their daily lives, emphasizing their significance in their personal and professional growth.



In his address, Very Rev Fr. Francis K. Lemaire highlighted the holistic education imparted by Holy Child Senior High School and Holy Child College of Education and further referenced it as the source of the achievements of past students across various professions. The Vicar General emphasized the importance of nurturing students not only for academic success but also for moral development.



The conference provided a platform for NUHOPSA members to discuss various projects initiated by year groups and individual alumni, as well as to celebrate their collective achievements over the years. Through collaborative efforts and a shared commitment to the school's mission, NUHOPSA continues to strengthen the bond among Holy Child past students and contribute to the legacy of quality education established by the institutions.

The 21st Biennial Conference saw the election of the following executives for a two-year term:

- President: Sister Rosina Brew
- Vice President: Sister Mary Brown
- Secretary: Sister Antoinette Matiki Otibo
- Financial Secretary: Sister Grace Mawuena Agbenu
- Treasurer: Sister Mavis Aku Bor Kunoo

# ASA SAVINGS AND LOANS LTD DONATE TO JUBILEE

## CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi, Rev. Fr. Francis Atta Aidoo, Director of the Catholic Health Service Trust of the Diocese and the Management and Staff of Jubilee Catholic Hospital in Apowa express their profound appreciation to the Board and Management of Asa Savings and Loans limited for the donation of medical items to the hospital.

The items include 4000 litres polytank, 20 plastic chairs, 4 gallons of liquid soap, 2 packets of toilet roll, 2 dust bins, a weighing scale adult, a weighing scale children, BP apparatus, 6 gallons of bleach, 3 buckets of paint, and a weighing sack.

In a letter signed by the Hospital Administrator, Daniel N Bomah, a glowing tribute was paid to the Board and Management of Asa Savings and Loans limited for their continuous support and kind assistance to the hospital.



# Inchaban and Shama Junction Parishes Unite in Annual Easter Games



The St. Joseph Catholic Church of Inchaban and St. Peter's Catholic Church of Shama Junction converged at Inchaban Roman School park for their annual Easter games celebration yesterday.

From sack races to ludo, netball to volleyball, and even card games, the day was filled with laughter and camaraderie. However, it was the spectacle of penalty kicks featuring the parish priests and parishioners aged 60 years and above that stole the show.

In a fiercely competitive display, St. Peter's Catholic Church emerged victorious with 103 points, narrowly surpassing St. Joseph Catholic Church's 95 points. Despite the rivalry, the event underscored the importance of creating unity and sociability among Catholic faithful.

Present at the Easter games was the Dean of Shama Deanery, Very Rev. Fr Samuel Ebuley Afful.

## St. Martin de Porres Hospital Grateful for Vital Equipment Donation from International Organization of Migration

The St. Martin de Porres Hospital at Eikwe in the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi recently welcomed a donation of critical medical equipment from the International Organization of Migration (IOM), a subsidiary of the United Nations.

Acknowledging the generous contribution, Rev. Fr. Francis Atta Aidoo, the Diocesan Director of Health, conveyed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the Bishop, the Health Board, and the entire facility.

The donation of essential medical equipment promises to significantly enhance the hospital's capacity to deliver quality healthcare services to the community.

Present at the donation ceremony were the MCE for Ellembele, Hon. Kwasi Bonzo, some Traditional leaders and the Management and some staff of the hospital.



# SEKONDI-TAKORADI DIOCESE LAUNCHES A COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH SCHEME FOR PRIESTS

The Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi has launched a comprehensive health scheme to cater to the healthcare needs of her diocesan priests.

Declaring the launch today at the co-workers' day celebration at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Tarkwa, Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh explained the rationale behind the health scheme, emphasizing that the Diocese is blessed with two hundred and ten (210) diocesan priests, fifty percent of whom are almost 65 years of age and therefore need special health care.



Bishop Attakruh explained the decision was taken after several consultations with the College of Consultors, Priests' Senate, and Diocesan Finance Council taking into account the dwindling nature of foreign aid and the need to prepare for future unforeseen occurrences. The scheme therefore seeks to prepare the Diocese to meet the health care challenges of the priests in the future.

He made a passionate appeal to the parishioners to support the laudable initiative by contributing the sum of two hundred Ghana Cedis (200 GHC) for each of the priests working in their parish monthly. This contribution, he said will be saved in a dedicated bank account for five years and used to cater for the welfare of the ailing and aged priests.



# "HOLY CHILD COLLEGE OF EDUCATION COMMEMORATES ST. THOMAS AQUINAS DAY WITH EDUCATIONAL TALKS AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS"

Holy Child College of Education in Takoradi recently commemorated St. Thomas Aquinas Day with a range of events held at the Bishop Martin Darko Auditorium. The festivities included insightful talks on St. Thomas Aquinas himself and on the crucial topic of mental health.

During the event, Sr. Joana Duker, Tutor, and Chairperson, encouraged students to seize educational opportunities to enrich their lives, stressing the importance of cooperation and participation for the program's success.

Mr. Benjamin Varle Semah shed light on St. Thomas Aquinas's multifaceted life as a Dominican Priest, scholar, professor, researcher, writer, and theologian.

He emphasized three key lessons for teacher trainees: commitment, thorough preparation through learning, and meaningful contribution to society. He urged the students to identify their talents and use them generously to serve the community.

Addressing mental health, Mrs. Josephine Opong Amisshah defined it as emotional well-being affecting one's thoughts, actions, and reactions.

She highlighted various causes of mental health issues such as relationship problems, stress, loss, procrastination, anxiety, and confusion.

Mrs. Opong Amisshah suggested creating awareness and seeking professional help, including counseling, therapies, and rehabilitation, as preventive measures.

In an interactive session, attendees discussed various mental health issues including depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, postpartum depression, dementia, panic attacks, schizophrenia, addiction, and mental retardation. Mrs. Opong Amisshah clarified that mental disorders are not contagious and can be identified through assessment and treatment.

Miss Barbara Annan, the SRC president, welcomed speakers, faculty, guests, and students, urging them to enjoy the celebration and glean valuable lessons from it.

The program also included an opening prayer by Miss Benedicta Arthur and a closing prayer and benediction by College Chaplain Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Dolphyne. Present at the program were Chaplaincy Board members as well as some tutors and students from different academic levels.



# ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SHAMA JUNCTION, EXTENDS EASTER SPIRIT TO

## SEKONDI CENTRAL PRISONS

The St. Peter's Catholic Church at Shama Junction in the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi earlier today made a generous donation to the Sekondi Central Prisons.

Led by Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Isaac Mensah, the church donated essential items including bags of rice, cartons of milk, gallons of oil, boxes of tomatoes, bags of gari, bottled water, toiletries, and more.

In his message to the inmates, Rev. Fr. Mensah encouraged them to use their time in prison for personal transformation, urging them to let go of bitterness and embrace forgiveness.



Receiving the donation on behalf of the inmates, Regional Prisons Chaplain Rev. Supt. Joseph Bonful expressed profound gratitude to St. Peter's Catholic Church and the broader Catholic community for their unwavering support.

He appealed for continued assistance to enhance the well-being of the incarcerated individuals.

The presentation ceremony witnessed the presence of the PPC members, chaired by Mr. Francis Adade, along with other parishioners.



## CELEBRATING FR. EMMANUEL CONDUAH

I'm excited to announce that Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Conduah has completed his doctoral dissertation defense on "Women's Leadership in Ghana's Catholic Colleges of Education: Lived Experience and Catholic Identity" at Fordham University's Graduate School of Education.

His committee consisted of Dr. Lori Wolff (Mentor), Dr. Gerald Cattaro and Dr. Mary Hughes (readers).

Let's join in celebrating his graduation on May 18, 2024!



# HOLY CHILD COLLEGE CELEBRATES 78TH FOUNDATION DAY



The Holy Child College of Education in Takoradi on March 6, 2024, marked its foundation day with a pledge to maintain the institution's core values amidst contemporary societal challenges.

Addressing a distinguished audience including the College Principal, Management, Chaplain, Alumnae, Staff, and Students, Ms Sophia Adjoa Micah the guest speaker, commended the college for its commitment to honoring its founders' vision since its establishment on March 5, 1946, alongside Holy Child School in Cape Coast.

The college, which started as a secondary institution, has evolved into a tertiary education hub, empowering countless women who have made significant contributions to society both locally and internationally.

Ms. Micah underscored the significance of the college's core values, aligning with national principles, which include:

1. Primacy of the spiritual
2. Trust and reverence
3. Development of gifts
4. Academic excellence
5. Respect for the dignity of each person
6. Concern for the individual
7. Punctuality

She emphasized the need for the college community to internalize and embody these values, serving as symbols of integrity and purpose in a society plagued by various issues such as examination malpractice, moral decadence, and societal vices.

Ms. Micah outlined practical steps to uphold the core values, urging members to:

- Familiarize themselves with the values
- Recognize the benefits inherent in living by these values
- Integrate them into daily life and decision-making processes
- Stand firm against societal pressures, exemplifying dignity and respect
- Be vigilant and security-conscious to avoid falling victim to crimes

Furthermore, Ms. Micah encouraged leveraging personal gifts for positive impact, embracing academic excellence, and seeking divine guidance through prayer.

Ms. Micah acknowledged the challenges individuals may face in upholding these values but urged steadfastness, emphasizing the importance of actions over mere words.

Dr. Francis Hull Adams delivered a speech expressing gratitude and joy for the day's celebration, paying tribute to Miss Sophia Micah's long-standing contribution to the college.

## 78TH FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION



He welcomed her appointment as the new alumni representative, foreseeing positive developments under her leadership. Dr. Adams emphasized the importance of the alumni in the college's development, highlighting their role in upholding the institution's values and reputation.

He further encouraged students to join the alumnae group and celebrated the presentation of infrastructural support by alumnae, stressing the significance of collective efforts for the college's advancement.

Dr. Adams concluded with a call for continued dedication to the college's progress.

The alumni donated a rechargeable public address system to the college.

## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2024 BY CATHOLIC HEALTH FACILITIES IN SEKONDI-TAKORADI DIOCESE

The Star of the Sea Cathedral in Takoradi on Thursday, February 22, 2024 hosted the various Catholic Health Facilities within the Sekondi Takoradi Diocese for a review of their activities for the year 2023.

Representatives from institutions such as Jubilee Catholic Children Hospital Apowa, Holy Child Catholic Hospital Fijai, and Father Thomas Alan Rooney Memorial Hospital Asankregwa, among others, converged for an assessment of the preceding year's accomplishments. The objective was clear: to evaluate past endeavors and chart a course for enhanced healthcare delivery in the future.

Under the distinguished patronage of the Vicar General, Very Reverend Father Francis Kofi Lemaire, and guests including Dr. Kofi Sunderland, former Metro Director, Mr. Nicholas Adomako, Regional Disease Control Officer, and Madam Eva Amuzu, DDNS Effia Nkwanta Regional Hospital, the event unfolded with a sense of purpose.

Dr. Paul Ntodi led the Diocesan Health Board Team, joined by the Diocesan Health Director, Rev. Fr. Francis Atta Aidoo, underscoring the collaborative spirit driving healthcare initiatives within the Diocese.

After enlightening presentations by each participating facility, recognizing their unique contributions, the ceremony ended with a special meritorious award was bestowed upon Dr. Cooper of St Martins De Porres Eikwe, symbolizing excellence in service and dedication to the community.





# Declining Catholic Population, Soaring Religious and Priests - Fr. Blay, OFM, Asks Why?

The African Religious Union of Ghana (ARUG) commenced activities marking the climax of their Golden Jubilee celebration dubbed ARUG @ 50 with an opening ceremony held at Christ the King Catholic Church, Effiakuma.

In his keynote address on the theme, ARUG beyond 50: The role of the African Religious in Evangelisation in Ghana, Rev. Fr. Joseph Blay, OFM, highlighted the remarkable contribution of Indigenous Religious to the Church including 2 Bishops for Africa (Botswana & CAR), 6 Bishops for Ghana as well as many Generals and General Counsellors.

He traced the historical trajectory that culminated in what is known as ARUG today emphasizing the search for African Religious identity and mutual support as the motivating factor while paying glowing tributes to the Pioneer Indigenous Religious.

Fr. Blay emphasized that evangelization entails “Bringing the Good News into all strata of humanity and through it transforming humanity itself from within its criteria of discernment, its determinant values, its sources of inspiration, its designs for living, opening them up to a total vision of humanity.”

Drawing attention to the unsettling trend unveiled by the 2021 Population and Housing Census that showed a decline in the Catholic population vis-avis the phenomenal increase in Priests and Religious in the last 50 years, Fr. Blay asked the question what are religious men and women not doing right?

This question was necessitated by the paradoxical growth of religion that is not reflected in the growth of Catholic numbers. He noted that the trend of a 2.5% loss of Catholics every 10 years is worrisome adding that if not checked, there may be no Catholic in Ghana by 2060.

Fr. Blay outlined the numerous challenges facing the indigenous Religious as sustenance and self-reliance, family demands and expectations, knowledge and use of the vernacular, pentecostalism, and relationship with Diocesan Bishops.

He made several practical recommendations as a way forward, including the need for redefinition of the Union, consolidation of communion, direct pastoral involvement, relationship with Parish Priests, common social mitigation programs, as well as discipline and commitment.

In conclusion, Fr. Blay stated that to survive 50 years, testify to the relevance of ARUG stressing that though the achievements of ARUG are not tabulated, they are evident.

He made a passionate appeal to the Major Superiors Conference of Ghana to help consolidate the achievements of ARUG and to solidify this union as a common forum for members of all institutes of consecrated life and apostolic societies to meet.

The opening ceremony was under the distinguished Chairmanship of Rev. Br. Prof. Michael Amakyi, CSC.



# HOLY CHILD COLLEGE OF EDUCATION CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Holy Child College of Education in Takoradi marked International Women's Day with a series of events and activities aimed at recognizing the invaluable role of women in society and celebrating their achievements worldwide.

The college community came together to commemorate the day with various programs highlighting the accomplishments and contributions of women in diverse fields, including education, politics, science, and the arts.

"International Women's Day is an opportunity for us to reflect on the progress made towards gender equality and to renew our commitment to promoting the rights and empowerment of women," remarked Ms. Amy Bondzie-Hanson, the guest speaker for the program.

The celebration also featured cultural performances and interactive sessions aimed at creating dialogue and raising awareness about issues affecting women both locally and globally.

The International Women's Day celebration at Holy Child College of Education underscored the institution's commitment to promoting gender equality and creating a supportive environment where women can thrive and fulfill their potential.

As the world continues to strive towards gender parity and women's empowerment, events like these serve as a reminder of the progress made and the work that remains to be done in achieving full gender equality.



# AFRICAN RELIGIOUS UNION OF GHANA (ARUG) CELEBRATE GOLDEN JUBILEE

The African Religious Union of Ghana has commenced the activities marking climax of its 50th Anniversary celebration at the St. Kizito's Pastoral and Catechetical Centre, Apowa, in the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese.

The event, taking place from January 4 to January 8, 2024 under the theme: ARUG Beyond 50: The role of the Religious in evangelization in Ghana brought together African Religious working in the Arch/Dioceses all over Ghana.

The opening ceremony kicked off with a Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Bishop of the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese, the Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh as held at Christ the King Catholic Church, Effiakuma.

Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh, in his homily, extended a heartfelt welcome and hearty congratulations to the ARUG, emphasizing with profound appreciation the role of the Religious in Evangelization.

He reminded the Religious that the different gifts and charisms are Inspired by one and the same Spirit emphasizing the need for unity of purpose and common vision.

He stated that 50 years is a time to pause, stop, look back, look forward, listen to our hearts for God speaks there, stressing the need for ARUG to move on with vision.

He noted that John's epistle could be summarized in one word love pointing out that love must be practical as exemplified by Jesus who loved and gave his life for us, urging us to incarnate Jesus in our lives and all we do.

Evangelization he added is to love and to lead people to the love of God urging the Religious to eschew bitterness and disaffection that diminishes our appreciation of God's love for us.

Bishop Attakruh added that Jesus calls us everyday, we must say Yes to Jesus should be every day. When we discover the treasure Jesus, then we would be able to invite others to follow.

The Prelate exhorted the Religious not to be discouraged by obstacles but see them as opportunity to overcome and strengthen their faith and resolve to feel the urgency to go and spread the love of God.



# ARUG @ 50

Rev. Fr. Bernard Adjei Appiah traced the history of ARUG, highlighting the aims and objectives as: Better understanding of Religious life within the African context in order to make it meaningful to the African Religious and the world; fostering dialogue among the various Religious Congregations for a better communal witness of Christ's love; promoting justice and peace for effective community living; fostering the spirit of promoting vocations to the Religious life and promoting ongoing formation programs for all Religious.

Fr. Adjei intimated that as a way forward ARUG hopes to research and study the Biblical Foundation of the Religious life, the various Religious life styles Charisms and habits, current interpretation of the vows in the light of Vatican II and the different apostolates such as youth apostolate, Biblical apostolate, Catechesis, Family life.

Rev. Fr. Jacobson Dey, SVD president delivered a warm welcome address, expressing gratitude for the presence of Most Rev. Gabriel Palmer Buckle and Bishop John Baptist Attakruh He highlighted the motto of ARUG as "We live together, we pray together, work together to proclaim the love of Christ to the world".

In a good will message, the President of Sekondi-Takoradi Catholic Priests Association while congratulating ARUG @ 50 said the celebration will make a significant impact in the life of African Religious serve as a catalyst for a continued collaboration, shared vision and urged them to look forward in hope and enthusiasm for the future.

There were goodwill messages from the Major Superiors of Ghana and other pioneer members of ARUG.



# BEHOLD THE BISHOP-ELECT



## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Msgr. John OPOKU-AGYEMANG as Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Konongo-Mampong. His appointment is officially announced today, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March in the Vatican (Rome). Furthermore, Bishop Emeritus Most Rev. Joseph Osci-Bonsu has been appointed as the Apostolic Administrator of the said Diocese until the canonical installation of the Bishop-elect.

The news is released from the Apostolic Nunciature by His Excellency Most Rev. Henryk M. Jagodziński, the Apostolic Nuncio.

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024  
Apostolic Nunciature  
ACCRA



(Encl. Bishop-elect *Curriculum Vitae*)

# Dignitaries at the Cape Coast Ecclesiastical Provincial Youth Quiz and Study Session





# Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi

BISHOP'S SECRETARIAT  
J46 CORKTREE AVENUE  
P.O.BOX TD 236  
TAKORADI, GHANA

**CIRCULAR NO. 04/24**  
**REF. NO. CL/20/S-T**

April 13, 2024

TO: THE CLERGY,  
RELIGIOUS AND CHRIST'S FAITHFUL  
(DIOCESE OF SEKONDI-TAKORADI)

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR REV. FR. ANTHONY ENGLYSHE  
AND VERY REV. FR. SAMUEL EBULEY AFFUL**

May the peace of the risen Lord be with you!

I regret to announce to you the funeral arrangements for Rev. Fr. Anthony Englyshe and Very Rev. Fr. Samuel Ebuley Afful.

**DATE:** Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024

**VENUE:** Star of the Sea Cathedral, Takoradi

**TIME:**

6.00 am	Reception of the Bodies
6.30 am	Viewing of the Bodies
9.00 am	Office for the Dead
9.30 am	Funeral Mass

**INTERMENT:** Clergy Cemetery, St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Apowa

Please, pray for the bereaved families and for the repose of the souls of Rev. Fr. Anthony Englyshe and Very Rev. Fr. Samuel Ebuley Afful.

With prayerful wishes, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

MOST REV. JOHN BAPTIST ATTAKRUH  
Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi



# TRANSITION TO GLORY



SEKONDI-TAKORADI DIOCESE

*Funeral Arrangement*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024**

*Venue: Star of the Sea Cathedral, Takoradi*

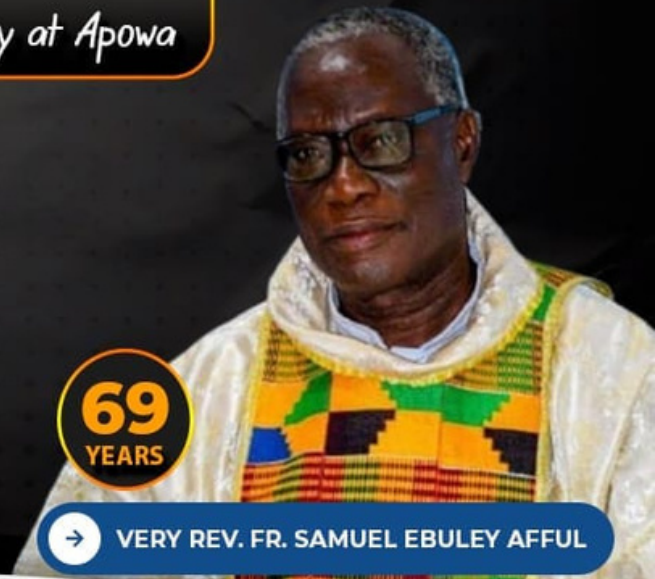
- > 6:00 am: Reception of the Bodies
- > 6:30 am: Viewing of the Bodies
- > 9:00 am: Office for the Dead
- > 9:30 am: Funeral Mass

*Interment: Clergy Cemetery at Apowa*



**61**  
YEARS

→ FR. ANTHONY ENGLYSHE



**69**  
YEARS

→ VERY REV. FR. SAMUEL EBULEY AFFUL

**LIVE** DEPSOCOM SEKONDI-TAKORADI

SEKTADI TV

MAY THEY REST IN PERFECT PEACE. AMEN



**CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF LIBERIA**  
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT**  
**GAYE TOWN, OLD ROAD, SINKOR**

Cell#: +231-888-910-825/775-585-713  
Email: cabicol231@gmail.com

April 12, 2024

His Excellency  
Most Rev. John Baptist Attakruh  
Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi  
GHANA

Your Excellency,

**Re: Message of Sympathy**

It was with heavy hearts and profound sadness that we learned about the fatal car accident which led to the demise of Very Rev. Samuel Ebuley Afful as well as injuries sustained by Most Rev. Joseph Afrifa-Agyekum, Bishop of Koforidua, Very Rev. Fr. Francis Kobina Arthur, Very Rev. Fr. Albert Amakye, and Very Rev. Philip Tandoh.

The Bishops, Priests, Religious and Laity of the Catholic Church of Liberia have asked me to transmit to Your Excellency our profound sympathy for this tragic event especially for the death of Very Rev. Fr. Ebuley Afful who was a formator and lecturer to many of our priests in Liberia at Sowutuom. Please convey our words of sympathy to the clergy, religious, laity and the family of Fr. Ebuley Afful.

While death is always a sad event, our belief in the resurrection gives us hope during this time. We will offer Masses for the repose of the soul of Fr. Ebuley Afful and also for the recovery of all those who were involved in the accident.

Assuring you once more of our prayerful closeness during this time of bereavement, I remain

Devotedly yours in the Risen Lord,

Rev. Fr. Dennis Cephas Nimene  
Secretary General  
CABICOL





# RANDOM PICTURES FOR THE MONTH



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