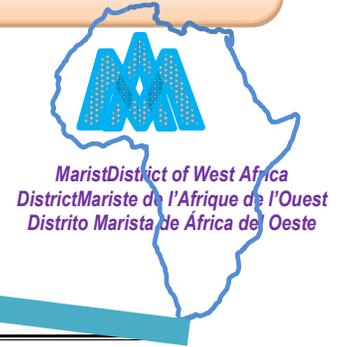


NEWS BULLETIN



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MARIST DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA



Seventeen Marist Brothers and Lay from the five countries that make up the Marist District of West Africa attended the second workshop on Sustainability project of the Marist Mission in Africa and Asia at Kwahu-Pesease in Ghana from February 20-24, 2017. The objective of this project is to promote economic autonomy and sustainability of the Marist Mission in Africa and Asia through an effective, transparent, and participatory strategic and pastoral planning.

The purpose of this workshop was to give continuity to the project and to experiment the strategic planning tools. The first day started well with a word of welcome from Br Francis Lukong, followed by self-introduction of the participants and a quick history of the sustainability project programme. After this, the two resource persons, Br. Jorge Gaio and Alexandra Rosa from Brazil,

informed the participants that matrices 1-7 were developed as tools for diagnosing problems and 8 -11 for solving them. Following this explanation, the participants were reminded that matrices 1-7 are called the Mission, Swot, Dream, Position, Blue, Model and Sustainability respectively. In the course of the workshop they learned about matrix 8, 9, 10 and 11 called Focus, Objectives, Swot and Action respectively. The learning methods adopted included watching motivation video clips with sub-titles, explanations, and working in groups.

Each day the participants worked for six and half hours in four sessions. The atmosphere was conducive and work sessions were lively and enjoyable.

(Francis Lukong)

LAWYERS AND TEACHERS' STRIKE PERSISTS IN ANGLOPHONE CAMEROON



The Lawyers and Teachers' Trade Unions of Anglophone Cameroon have been on strike and protesting since November 2016 against what they have observed as the marginalization of English Cameroon. They see the government's deployment of Francophone Cameroonians in key positions in the Anglophone justice and education sub-systems, in the socio-economic and political life, and the dismantling of the structures of development in the Anglophone Cameroon as assimilation and the destruction of the cultural, economic and political identity of the Anglophone Cameroonians. Their protests supported by disgruntled youths led to clashes with the Police, loss of human life, property and abuse of human rights, civil disobedience, ghost towns, the disruption of the courts and the schools, the arbitrary arrests of nonconformists, and the shutdown of the internet.

With deadlock in negotiations, protesters continue to intensify their call for ghost towns, no schools and the return to federalism or the restoration of statehood to Anglophone Cameroon. So far the government has neither

succeeded to convince anyone to call off the strike nor the parents to send their children to school.

It should be noted that the basic root cause of the current socio-cultural and political situation in Cameroon can be traced back to the arbitrary division of the country by Britain and France after they fought and defeated the Germans in the First World War. The British got one-fifth of German Cameroon while the French controlled four-fifths. Both territories were administered as mandated territories of the League of Nations from 1916 until 1945, and as Trust territories of the United Nations from 1945. Britain and France maintained control over their respective territories, until independence when the two Cameroons re-united following the 1961 plebiscite. For close to forty-five years from 1916-1960, British and French Cameroons acquired two colonial cultures. Regardless of their unification in 1961, these differences have remained and inequality observed and felt.



INVITATION TO THE 22ND GENERAL CHAPTER



Br. Eric Kramo

On 16/03/2017, the Superior General and his Council invited Brothers Eric Kramo to participate in the 22nd General Chapter during its whole session, and Vincent de Paul Kouassi for the 'Auxiliary Services', specifically oral translation.



Br. Vincent de Paul

MANZIANA: MID-LIFE COURSE



Brothers Joseph Mammah (Ghana), Washington Tekay (Liberia), Joachim Doua (Côte d'Ivoire) and Linus Ngam (Cameroon), are currently at Manziana attending the Mid-life course which started on March 1, and will run up to May 30, 2017. We wish them well and a happy and fruitful stay at Manziana.

Left to right: Joe, Washington, Joschim and Linus

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FORMATION OF ANIMATORS OF MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY AT BUOKROM COMMUNITY, KUMASI GHANA

A session of formation for the animators of the country's Marist Youth Ministry took place on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at Buokrom community, Kumasi Ghana. It covered topics such as the Institute's bicentenary, the youth encounter which will be held in July, 2017, the restructuring of the Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) and the identity of Marist youth in Ghana.



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CÔTE D'IVOIRE: LENT:



Even though most of the pupils of Groupe Scolaire St Marcellin Champagnat are muslims, they take active part in the Friday stations of the Cross during the season of Lent. Friday, the 10th of March 2017, was the turn of Primary 1 and 2 pupils. They read and acted the various scenes well.

MARIST PREPARATORY SCHOOL (MPS), SABIN AKROFROM, KUMASI, GHANA

Brother Francis Lukong was at Odeneho Kwadaso community from February 13–19, 2017 to be with the Brothers. During his stay there, he visited Marist Preparatory School, Sabin Akrofrom to choose the site for the new nursery school block which is now under construction. He equally saw the students in their respective classrooms, and had meetings with the administrative and teaching staff respectively. He took advantage of the occasion to thank the teachers for their collaboration with the Brothers. While commending the teachers for their hard work and diligence, he nevertheless discouraged

them from falling into the temptation of taking personal initiative of asking parents for payment for extra tuition in school.



The New Nursery School funded by Misesan Cara under construction at Sabin Akrofrom



Some pupils and students of MPS, Sabin Akrofrom



THE VISIT OF BROTHER JUAN CARLOS FUERTES TO LIBERIA



From March 5-14, 2017, Brothers Juan Carlos Fuertes, the Provincial of the Mediterranean province, Ignacio Poyatos the Provincial Bursar, and Francis Lukong, the District Superior of West Africa visited the Marist community in Liberia. During their stay in Monrovia, they held a number of meetings with the Brothers, visited the future school land at Marshalville, and spent a day at Sister Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School (SSKMCS), Barnersville Estate, a diocesan school run by the Marist Brothers. Br Daniel Taylor, the Principal, after introducing them to the entire school

during the morning devotion, announced that it was Br. Juan Carlos' birthday that day. Spontaneously, the students celebrated it by singing a Happy Birthday song. On behalf of Brothers Juan Carlos and Ignacio Poyatos, Br. Francis Lukong thanked the students for their warm-heartedness and encouraged them to take their school work seriously. Shortly after the students had gone to their respective classrooms, Br. Daniel took the three Brothers round to visit them in their classrooms and later during recess they had a meeting with all the teachers. These encounters gave them the opportunity to see the teachers and students at work and interact with them.



The following day, Br. Juan Carlos received 58 birthday cards bearing friendly messages from the students of Grade 6. In response, he thanked and encouraged them in these words, *“work hard and be a source of joy for your parents and teachers.”*

Even though the visit was brief, we were able to appreciate the socio-economic and



political context where the Brothers in Liberia live and work. It should be noted that Liberia has just recovered from the Ebola epidemic that started in 2014 in which 4,180 people died.

It should be noted that the Marist mission in Liberia was founded by the Brothers from the province of Esopus, USA. In 1986 they opened a Marist community at Pleebo and took over the running of Saint Francis Catholic Elementary and High Schools until the civil war forced them out. In 1999, they returned to Liberia and this time around, taught in various schools in and around Monrovia including Sister Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School.

During the visit, the Brothers had time to discuss, reflect and examine the contract with the Archdiocese of Monrovia, vocation promotion ('Come and See' programme and Aspirancy), and the possibility of creating a community house and a Marist owned school at Marshalville, near Monrovia.



The students of Sister Shirley Kolmer Memorial Catholic School (SSKMCS), Barnersville, Monrovia, Liberia

THE BLESSING OF OUR GOOD MOTHER SCHOOL AND MARIST COMMUNITY,
ASHALAJA, GHANA



On Friday, March 17, 2017, the Most Rev. Charles Gabriel Palmer Buckle, the Archbishop of Accra, blessed Our Good Mother School and the Marist community at Ashalaja. Present at this event were parents of the school, Marist Brothers, teachers and pupils.

The event started at 10.00am with the arrival of the Archbishop. He was received at the entrance to the school by Br. Paul (Head Master) and led him in procession by the flower girls and the school choir to the celebration ground where he went round and greeted the pupils. At the beginning of the Mass, Br. Paul read a welcome address during which he gave a brief history and description of the school, thanked the Archbishop for his care and welcomed others guests including Marist Brothers from Kumasi and Accra, Rev. Fr. Mathias (the School Chaplain), the parents and the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) members.

In a quick response to the Head Master's welcome



address, the Archbishop told the pupils that they are a gift from God, and thanked the Marist Brothers for creating the school at Ashalaja. During homily, he made the pupils repeat several times the following line from Psalm 104; **Remember the wonders the Lord has done.** After they had mastered it, he told



them that they are the wonders of God, and that knowing the fact was a big lesson for them. After telling the pupils more about the wonders of God, he advised them to tell their parents about it once they had returned home that day.

After Communion, School Prefect read his speech. He started by acknowledging the presence of all the invited guests notably the Archbishop of Accra, as it was his maiden official visit to their school. He told the Archbishop that the pupils of Our Good Mother School take physical, academic and spiritual activities of their school seriously. Consequently, he thanked the Marist Brothers for providing them conducive environment and promised that they would make proper use of it.



Before the final blessing, the PTA Chairperson, on behalf of the parents, and in the presence of the Archbishop, donated musical instruments to the school. After praying over the musical instruments, the Archbishop blessed the water and went round sprinkling it on all the school buildings and the Marist community house.

Before leaving Ashalaja, the Archbishop, *inter alia*, reminded the Brothers that *"the school is a privileged place of evangelization"* and encouraged them to be serious about it and use it as well to promote vocations. The day ended in a convivial atmosphere and everyone went home feeling happy about the day's event.

**DIARY: EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES :
September, 2016 to August, 2017**

September – October, 2016:	District House Accra, Ghana
October 24-30, 2016:	District Council (Tatum)
November 7 – 12, 2016:	Canonical Visit (Tatum Community)
November 12 – 18, 2016:	Canonical Visit (Mbengwi Community)
November 19, 2016:	10 th Anniversary Celebration of St. Albert's College, Bafut
November 18 – 25, 2016:	Canonical Visit (Bafut Community)
Nov. 30, - Dec. 3, 2016:	Canonical Visit (Yassa Community)
December 26 - 31, 2016:	Extended General Council (Nairobi, Kenya)
December 30, 2016:	Ghana: Final Profession of Br Eric Kramo at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Abelenkpe, Accra
December 28, 2016:	Cameroon: Final Profession of Br Celestine Tayu at Tatum
January 3 – 6, 2017:	Annual general Meeting (AGM) of the CSAC at MIC, Nairobi
January 9 – 10, 2017:	Workshop (Initial Formation) at MIC, Nairobi
January 11 - 14, 2017:	Student Brothers, MIC, Nairobi, Kenya
February 12 – 17, 2017:	Canonical Visit (Kwadaso Community)
February 17 – 22, 2017:	Canonical Visit (Buokrom Community)
February 23 – 28, 2017:	Canonical Visit (Novitiate Community, Kumasi)
March 6 – 11, 2017:	Canonical Visit (Monrovia Community)
March 13 – 18, 2017:	Canonical Visit (Ashalaja Community) ???
March 26 – April 1, 2017:	Canonical Visit (Korogho Community)
April 1 - 8, 2017:	Canonical Visit (Bouaké Community)
April 17-22, 2017:	District Council Meeting (Korhogo)
April, 18 – July 1, 2017:	Preparation for Final Profession (Venue : ICF, Cape Coast, Ghana)
May 15 - 21, 2017:	Novitiate Community, Kumasi ???
June 13 - 15, 2017:	Board of Governors' Novitiate, Kumasi
June 17, 2017:	First Religious Profession (Venue: Novitiate, Kumasi)
July, 2017:???	District Council Meeting (Venue: Chad)
July, 9-16, 2017:	Annual Retreat in Cameroon and Chad (Venue: Tatum)
July 22-29, 2017 :	Workshop on Initial Formation (Venue: Nairobi)
July 31- Aug. 5, 2017:	MIC Budget Meeting (Venue: Nairobi)
July/August, 2017:	Annual Retreat in Ghana /Ivory Coast /Liberia: (Date and Venue)???

NB: The above calendar of activities is subject to modifications.

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