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Mr. Florian von Tucher, Chairman of European Technology Chamber.

TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE FOR CAPE COAST

By Doreen Darko & M.E, SNAM

Fifteen Entrepreneurs who are members of the European Technology Chamber (EUTECC) and Senate of Economy of Germany were in Ghana recently to partner the Catholic Church in Ghana, individuals and companies for business opportunities and for the setting up of an industrial village

driven by technology transfer between members of EUTECC and Ghanaian businesses.

According to Mr. Florian von Tucher, the leader of the delegation, the aim of the visit was also to explore how to complement Ghana's industrialisation drive through the use of European technologies to solve human challenges as summarised in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Pope Francis To Visit Three African Countries

Pope Francis is to visit three African countries of Mozambique, Madagascar and Mauritius from September 4 to 10, 2019.

Expected to be high on his agenda are rejecting violence, promoting interreligious harmony, caring for the environment and stamping out government corruption.

"The Pope's very presence will be his principle message to the people of Mozambique," said Father Giorgio Ferretti, an Italian Missionary and Pastor of the Cathedral in Maputo, Mozambique. "Just the fact of him walking these streets, meeting the people, speaking to them will be a great message of peace."

After 15 years of civil war in Mozambique, a peace agreement was signed in 1992, concluding a two-year mediation process facilitated by the Rome-based Community of Sant'Egidio, the Catholic Archbishop of Beira and representatives of the Italian Government.

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'Implement Act 917 on Hazardous and Electronic Waste'

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Faith Actors at an Advocacy training workshop on the effective implementation of laws on Electronic waste at the National Catholic Secretariat.

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CATHOLIC
World News

Priest Helps children Who've Escaped Slavery in the DRC Mines

Fr. Willy Milayi is a Missionary of the Immaculate Conception who lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He works rescuing children who fled the coltan mines and offering them a place to live and learn a trade.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the world's top producers of coltan, a rare mineral used in the manufacture of many electronic devices, such as cell phones.

Working conditions in the DRC's coltan mines are dangerous and the workers, including young children, are often exploited.

"The exploitation of these mines is in the hands of the guerrillas," explained Fr. Malayi in an interview with the Diocese of Málaga in Spain.

"Our cell phones are stained with the blood of the 'walking dead children'."

Fr. Malayi works with children who have escaped forced labour in the mines. Many of them are living on the streets when he finds them. Some 20,000 children live on the streets of Kinshasa alone.

The Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception have started an educational centre in the city. He described the centre as "a home where they can learn a trade that ensures them a future away from the mines and to never return to the streets."

"We can't solve all the problems, but we thank God for



every one of the children we can rescue. It's a true miracle that is made possible thanks to people of goodwill," Malayi said.

The Priest recounted one boy he encountered in his ministry, who had escaped the mines and fled hundreds of miles.

Starving and grief-stricken, the boy needed someone to listen to him. "After giving him something to eat, he told me about his life," Milayi said.

The boy said that his family had been kidnapped from their house by militiamen, who took them to the forest and told them they must choose between death and mining coltan 13 hours a day.

The family chose the mines: "They worked 650 feet below the surface taking out 15 sacks of coltan a day, for which they received two dollars at the end of the month," Milayi said.

When riots broke out against the militias, they raped and killed the boy's mother and two teenage sisters. They also killed his father.

"He managed to escape. But he told me amid tears: 'I am not afraid of death, I'm a corpse and a corpse does not fear death,'" the priest said.

At the educational centre, the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception teach the children "to take care of each other," Fr. Malayi said.

ACI Africa

Appeal to National Unity After the Massacre of the Military

Instability is worsening in Burkina Faso, where on August 19, 24 soldiers died, seven others were injured while five of their comrades were reported missing during a jihadist attack.

The assault occurred in the early hours of the day in Koutougou, in the north of the Country. "The people of Burkina Faso have always remained firm in the long-lasting struggle against terrorism", said President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, who reiterated that "Burkina Faso will never give up any part of its territory, at the cost of our lives".

At the beginning of August, the President of the Bishops' Conference of

Burkina Faso and Niger, Most Rev. Laurent Birfuoré Dabiré, Bishop of Dori, had denounced the massacres of Christians carried out by jihadist groups supported from abroad who, he said, "are better armed and equipped" than the national army.

"If the world continues to do nothing, the result will be the elimination of the Christian presence", said the President of the Bishops' Conference.

The jihadist groups, according to Bishop Dabiré, pursue a precise strategy to put greater areas of the Country under their control, or at least destabilise them. "They have settled within our country little by little,

attacking the army, civil structures and the population. Now, their main target seems to be Christians. I believe they are trying to trigger an inter-religious conflict", said Bishop Dabiré.

"Insecurity continues to increase and has forced us to reduce our pastoral activities. Now it is too dangerous to travel to certain areas and I have been forced to close two parishes", the President of the Bishops' Conference denounces.

The Catholic Church represents one fifth of the 16.5 million inhabitants of Burkina Faso, whose government signed an agreement with the Vatican on July 12,

Nun Challenges Catholic Journalists in Africa "to resist armchair journalism"

A Kenyan nun has challenged Catholic journalists across the African continent to work toward verifying stories they write about and not be part of "armchair journalism."

"Resist from arm chair journalism, resist from fake news, report the truth and communicate Christ," Sr. Prof. Agnes Lucy Lando made the challenge in Nairobi, Kenya during the official launch of the Association for Catholic Information in Africa (ACI Africa), recently.

"I am challenging the Catholic journalists and the ACI-Africa team for ethical, objective and truthful reporting," Sr. Lando told hundreds of guests who turned up for the official inauguration of the latest media initiative of EWTN Global Catholic Network, ACIAfrica.

Sr. Lando who lectures at Nairobi-based Daystar University and represents Africa on the Board of the International Communication Association (ICA) was speaking on behalf of religious communicators in academia.

Addressing lamentations about negative reports on Africa,



*Sr. Prof. Agnes Lucy Lando

the Communication Professor encouraged ACI Africa to play a leading role in giving media visibility to the true image of the Catholic Church in various linguistic Regions of Africa, a

goal that could be achieved by ACI Africa journalists being part of scholarly associations where evidenced reporting is practiced.

The member of the Congregation of Sisters of Mary of Kakamega in Kenya further challenged ACI Africa team "to keep true to the spirit of EWTN founder, Mother Angelica of good memories, and carry out the evangelization through mass media in a unique way."

Speaking to the same theme of verifying news stories, Media Council of Kenya's (MCK) CEO, David Omwoyo called for reporting that promotes human life.

"I urge that the media of the Church may pause and make sure that the message they pass across is verified and true so as to assist in passing the message of good will and a message that promotes human life in all its aspects," the CEO of the constitutional body mandated to set the standard for the practice of journalism and media in Kenya told guests at ACI Africa launch.

The representative of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) at the launch of ACI Africa, Fr. Andrew Kaufa, expressed the hope that the continental news service will enhance AMECEA's "efforts to promote sharing of Church stories and the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Let us collaborate and as Church communicators we play a positive role," Fr. Kaufa who co-ordinates the Communication Department of AMECEA said.

ACI Africa

guaranteeing the legal status of the Church and committing itself to "collaborating for moral, spiritual and material well-being of the human person and for the promotion of the common good".

Christian places of worship, especially in the north of the Country, mainly inhabited by Muslims, were the target of jihadist groups after throwing out President Blaise Compaore in October 2014.

In June, the Bishops of Burkina Faso and Niger denounced that their Countries "have for years been in the grip of terrorism".

Agenzia Fides

'Implement Act 917 on Hazardous and Electronic Waste'

By Damian Avevor

Participants at an advocacy workshop on E-Waste in Accra recently have called on the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and the Environmental Protection Agency to fully implement Act 917 and Legislative Instrument (LI2250) on Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management.

They also called for the use of the Electrical and Electronic Waste Levy and Fund which offers incentives for the collection, processing, transportation and disposal of E-Waste as well as for the promotion of public education on negative effects of E-waste.

The appeals was made by participants of the workshop on Public Policy Advocacy to enhance Faith Actors and citizens' engagement for the effective implementation of public policies and laws (Act 917 and Legislative Instrument (LI) 2250) on E-waste.

The participants noted that having a sound environmental E-Waste management system would protect the environment from pollution, prevent potential health hazards to persons and also bring economic benefits to the state and the citizens, especially the youth.

Electronic Waste refers to any appliance or gadget powered

by electricity that has reached its end point of life and has thus been discarded because it is too old, spoiled or damaged. They include a wide-range of domestic and IT appliances such as air-conditioners, refrigerators, television sets, washing machines, computers, vacuum cleaners, mobile phones, and electrical bulbs.

While these discarded wastes contain some inherent valuables which are much sought after for income, they also have a high potential to harm individuals and communities or pollute the environment if not managed appropriately.

Caritas Ghana, the development agency of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference organised the Workshop with support from the Embassy of France as part of the *Care for Our Common Home Project* inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si*.

The Advocacy Workshop was attended by about 30 participants representing the National Catholic Secretariat, the Christian Council of Ghana, Federation of Muslim Women Associations in Ghana (FOMWAG), Office of the National Chief Imam, Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council, Marshallan Relief and Development Services (MAREDES), Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission in Ghana, City of God at Agboblshie, the Accra and

Tamale Archdioceses, Ghana National Catholic Youth Council and *The Catholic Standard*, a national weekly newspaper.

Speaking at the Advocacy Workshop, Samuel Zan Akologo, the Executive Secretary of Caritas Ghana said the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) issued a directive to Caritas Ghana to develop and operate local structures for sustainable E-Waste management in Ghana in 2017.

He said the Church's primary purpose and interest was to address wastes of electrical and electronic equipment

He added that there is a huge potential of safely harnessing valuables of Electronic and Electrical Equipment Waste and expressed gratitude to the German Development Co-operation (GIZ), the Embassy of France, City Waste Recycling Ltd and the Environmental Protection Agency

for their co-operation and collaboration in the Caritas Ghana's E-Waste Project.

Mr. Akologo noted that advocacy was not only in criticising Government policies but understanding public policies and regulations and facilitating citizens to make demands on decision makers. Policy advocacy, he said is also about demonstrating to Government what works best in the resolution public problems.

Mr. Oliver Boachie, a Technical Advisor to the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, commended Caritas Ghana for ensuring sustainable E-waste management system in the country through advocacy and public sensitisation.

According to him, Act 917 provides for the designation of an external service provider, to verify, assess and collect Advance Recycle Eco Fee on imported-electrical and electronic equipment, under the Fifth Schedule of Act 917.

He said the Act also mandates a state-of-the-art recycling facility to be constructed at Agboblshie. It will create over 22,000 self-sustaining jobs for the Ghanaian youth.

He said that Act 917-mandated Fund is to provide support for the construction and maintenance of electrical and electronic waste recycling or treatment plants and to support research in academic and research institutions.

Mr. Alexandre Foulon, Head of Co-operation and Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of France in Ghana, bemoaned the disposing of E-waste and called for protection of the environment.

Mr. Francis Samuel Koku, the Co-ordinator of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office; Madam Eunice Agbenyadzi and Safia Musah of STAR Ghana Foundation and Madam Vivian Ahiayibor, the Chief Executive Officer of City Waste facilitated the workshop.

Technology Driven Industrial Village For Cape Coast

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Speaking in an interview with *The Catholic Standard* in Accra, Mr. Von Tucher said the group was invited to Africa by Cardinal Peter Appiah Turkson, Prefect for the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Vatican. According to him, their first stop

on the African tour was in Senegal where they held similar discussions.

"There is room for two lighthouse projects to bring mustard seeds to these countries to foster economic growth not only for those two countries but the entire sub-region of West Africa", he said.

He stressed on the need for emerging economies such as Ghana to use technology responsibly to impact the lives of the people.

He explained that the European Technology Chamber (EUTECC), a registered non-profit association, supports EU technology companies to become more responsible in accordance with its slogan: *With Great Technology, Comes Great Responsibility*.

Mr. Von Tucher who is also the Vice President of the Senate of Economy, Germany, said Companies must compensate adequately for their carbon footprints in countries where they operate.

To mitigate carbon emission, he stressed that Africans must finance reforestation, help farmers with new agricultural practices and also encourage them to try old plants in new ways such as combining

moringa with cocoa.

Speaking on the environment, he said "the environment must be protected and the people must understand that protecting it is ultimately much better in the long run".

Mr. Von Tucher said the group's earlier visit to Ghana in 2017 had yielded results with the implementation of a Mustard Seed Foundation project in Cape Coast.

The ultimate aim, Mr. Von Tucher, stressed is to generate a lighthouse project in Cape Coast which will develop different clusters of companies manufacturing various products and operating in a sustainable manner to mutually benefit the investors and Ghana.

The multi-million Euros project will be replicated in other areas in demand in Ghana and the West African Sub-Region.

He noted that the *Laudato Si* is a guideline that is positioning the Church as a front liner to do the right thing. He encouraged Catholics to take on the challenge and increase awareness of the issues raised in *Laudato Si* for greater transformation towards sustainable development.

Cardinal Turkson who was with the delegation, said the joint initiative is to promote private sector participation in

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Pope Francis To Visit Three African Countries

continued from front page

When the incidents began in October 2017, many were quick to suspect Islamic fundamentalists; however, others believe the violence is more closely linked to the foreign expansion of the natural gas industry in a region where most people are very poor.

St. John Paul II's visit to Mozambique in 1988 "laid the foundations for a commitment to peace," Fr. Ferretti said. "Now, the visit of Pope Francis can be like a final seal on that process for an effective and definitive peace in the country. This is the great hope of the church

and the people for the visit of the Pope."

Pope Francis will not be visiting the areas in Mozambique devastated by Cyclone Idai in March or Cyclone Kenneth a few weeks later, but he is likely to remember the hundreds of Mozambicans who died in the violent storms and the thousands left homeless.

Franciscan Father Jean-Charles Rakotondranaivo, Superior of Franciscans in Madagascar and Mauritius, said people in the two nations "are already experiencing the effects of climate change," much of it caused by the people themselves.



Pope Francis

Particularly in Madagascar, "we are experiencing rapid and growing deforestation," he said. "In 50 years, we have lost three-quarters of our forest" to meet the demand for fuel wood and charcoal and to clear areas for farming.

Shaun Ferris, the Catholic Relief Services Director of Agriculture and Livelihoods, said soil and water management is a key focus of the agency's programmes in Madagascar

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EDITORIAL

Enforcing Laws On Hazardous Electronic Waste

About three years ago, Ghana's Parliament passed two laws to control and manage hazardous waste in the country. They are the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, Act 917 (2016) and the Legislative Instrument (LI) 2250, the Hazardous, Electronic and Other Waste (Classification), Control and Management Regulation (2016).

The combined effects of the two laws are to protect us humans, the environment, the land and the waters that sustain our lives. The laws codify waste, including all hazardous material and classify them in accordance with national and international waste reporting obligations.

Arguably, the country was doing some sort of waste management practices. But with the coming into force of the above laws, proper guidelines for sustainable e-waste recycling management were put into place. Thus, an Agency (The Environmental Protection Agency) was created to enforce adherence to the specific regulations, such as issuing permits to import or export electrical or electronic equipment.

One provision of the laws, which is of particular interest to *The Catholic Standard*, is Section 23 of Act 917, which mandates the establishment of an "Electrical and Electronic Waste Management Fund", specifically to fund the management of electrical and electronic waste. To ensure a constant flow of money into the Fund, our lawmakers mandated a specific "eco levy" to be paid by electrical and electronic dealers. This amount was to be added onto with moneys appropriated subsequently by Parliament or grants and any donations.

The above quoted law was also specific on how the fund was to be disbursed: Among others, Section 24 (f) of Act 917 clearly states that the Fund is to be used ... "to offer incentives for the collection, transportation and disposal of electrical and electronic waste"

One glaring danger to Ghana's environment is the littering of discarded electrical and electronic parts in almost every corner of the country. Discarded electronic equipment, including their various components, sub-assemblies and consumables pose incalculable hazards even in their flammable or in-organic matter, such that the mandated object of the Fund should be seen to be strictly complied with.

For this reason, this Paper commends the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference, through its charity agency, *Caritas Ghana* for organising an advocacy workshop two weeks ago on the effective implementation of productive management of E-waste in Ghana.

We join in the call on the Ministry of Science, Environment, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and the Environmental Protection Agency the workshop participants to comply with Act 917. This Paper wishes to remind the Fund Administrators that Section 24 (2f) of the law requires that incentives be offered for the collection and disposal of the above waste. Indeed, Section 28 stipulates that: *twenty per cent*

of the funds shall be devoted to the collection of electrical and electronic waste and collection centres. That Section 21(1) of the same law also makes provision for an External Service Provider (SGS) to verify, assess and collect the advance recycle eco fee on all electrical and electronic equipment from exporting countries indicates clearly the importance of proper management of the Fund.

Implementing Act 917 and LI 2250 is the surest way to confront our electrical and electronic waste management challenge. Perhaps, it is time also for the Fund Administrators to account for the fund, and make public its yearly report to Parliament on the fund disbursement.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It is said that, urgent matters should be attended to before important matters are attended to. Some matters can be important but not urgent, while some other matters can be urgent and important at the same time.

From this line of thought hangs thoughts on infrastructure deficit that the Vice Chancellor of the University of Energy and Natural Resources, Professor Harrison Dapaah stated at the fourth graduation ceremony of the university.

Professor Dapaah mentioned the lack of lecture hall complexes for each of its campuses, halls of residence for students, modern administration block and offices for staff and laboratories with modern equipment. One can imagine how well teaching, learning and research is going on in the institution.

Robert Nesta Marley once quipped, "he who knows it feels it most." If one has experienced a university where space for lectures are limited then one can understand what it means to graduate from such an institution.

Infrastructure is key to effective teaching, learning and research in every university. In a university where research is what gives meaning to all work research at the undergraduate as well as post graduate levels is key.

The poor or lack of infrastructure for both lecturers and students is more urgent than the renaming of the university. One of the reasons our country still struggles with problems is, our leaders do not treat urgent matters as urgent. Urgent matters are difficult. Urgent matters are capital intensive and need money. Our leaders are always settling for things that will give them some temporal relief.

Our way of treating critical matters leaves much to be desired. There is nothing wrong with immortalising the names of great men. In fact, it shows that we acknowledge their efforts. While it is important to name some institutions after great men

Renaming Universities, Important Not Urgent

and women, it is not an urgent matter as compared to providing infrastructure in those universities.

An urgent matter is to pursue an agenda of completing every uncompleted structure on all campuses of the university in question and other universities as well, seek funding to build more in order to ensure that every lecturer and student on any university campus across the length and breadth of this country have the serene atmosphere of embarking on teaching, learning and research.

Why must we sit and watch while some strategic institution for development suffers for infrastructure. There is so much for us to do as a country and the magic wand for lack of treating these problems is embedded in the word urgency.

Urgency in ensuring that our streets are clean; urgency in ensuring that the filth that is generated is turned into some product for development; urgency in ensuring that the abundant water resources that flows freely from our northern neighbours into our country are harnessed and not become a burden to the livelihoods and settlement of indigenes who live in the catchment areas; the urgency that the youth in this country are trained in universities that have the requisite facilities that facilitate, research, teaching and learning; and urgency in putting concrete and actionable measures bound by realistic deadlines.

The reason "our political independent mates" surpassed us is that their leaders invested time, energy and resources in pursuing urgent matters. They did this passionately. Let's learn to treat the urgent matters as urgent; while the important ones take care of themselves.

Alex Blege,
Freelance Journalist
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By Prof. Essilfie-Conduah

The beauty of surprise is it bounces impromptu. The impact it generates is either pleasant applause or gloomy grief. The latter is always wished away. Yet, it is 'if wishes were...chapels will become cathedrals'. I have quietly lived with a certain depression about this paper. The "thoughtful

It is to do with its boom in the senses of daring in stealthy steadfastness for truth spoken with grandiose circumspection and left you with spontaneous nods for its authenticity. That gained unconscionable public and governments' awe, the eager-most yearning of the public for the opinion of the Church. You see we have been brought up to believe that what a Church's newspaper or magazine says represents the authority of the church. It is the same situation with regard to the press from circular and church through private to public owned, termed often as government owned though there is a separation between the two.

Governments that are political-party-led can own a press, if they choose. Until after independence, the Guinea Press

MY TALK

LAUDATE STANDARDO CATHOLICO



– Times, Evening News and the Spectator were Convention Peoples Party (CPP) press. I think in retrospect that the CPP made a fatal error when after independence its regime fully integrated its media to found the State press cobbled with Ghana News Agency (GNA) and Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) before the Daily Graphic was nationalized, buying out the

London Daily Mirror Group of Cecil King. At one time there was added the state publishing as well. The Times of London was the Astor family property like Lord Thompson's Fleet Street conglomerate.

[Some humour for parallel to the Archbishop's is what Times Editor Lord Astor wrote editorially against the British government's lying about the Suez engagement "you never thought her majesty's government could be such a crook." Harold Wilson's Labour government repeated that smuggling arms to Lagos during Biafran War. The same had occurred in the Indo-Pakistan conflict ending up with the state of Bangladesh.]

Back home or in terra, *The Catholic Standard* was thus primus inter pares until Rev. Fr. J.K. Damoah's debacle 50s after which this paper had ding-donged into wearing molars. The church's

influence in decline subsequently, had previously merged with what was called joint-pastoral letters. These were pointedly one-sided, it was described; and the early 90s resurgence in partisan salvos can be put behind. They were too personal and the language was often scurrilous to befit; but they were applauded for political reasons. That explains the deletion, which I have earlier indicated here to avoid raking mud.

Anyway, here is the return: "EVILS OF AFRICA FROM WRONG CHOICES" [CS Front pg. Aug 24 2019]. Contrary to the ancient view that attaches to the or a Church, what Prelates say, there is a need for grown-up conversation about making a required distinction from for example a pastoral letter or Papal Bulletin [Bull]. It

would be worth the effort once the excerpts from the paper's culled [Agenzia Fides] pleasantly enlightening reporting of the Archbishop of Kumasi [the Most Rev. Justice Yaw Anokye's remarks at a recent SECAM Assembly in Kampala, Uganda.

I am a great fan of the phraseology in the Book of Revelations—"but I have somewhat against..."I breathed a huge sigh of relief and struck five on chest that the Church is back, "no b... fears", quoting my good friend Victor Owusu. The reference to "somewhat" and Victor cues in my analysis of what I believe are germane because of relevance in the speech where the comments were highlighted for news value appropriately. The Archbishop reportedly said:

"Africa's problems are by choice. This is by choosing leaders who are not good. We have voted corrupt leaders into power by tribal lines; by fear or favour. We have chosen leaders who have not helped Africa up to date since independence. We have had good leaders who have been booted out of power by coup d'etat supported by some people or countries that have their own interests."

To be continued next week

The Pilgrims Notes

By Kasise Ricky Peparah

Dear St. Jude,

We know our problems and we know our challenges. Very well.

Every mind's working and every conversation today is about our many problems

We are aware of the increasing disappearance of morality and propriety and its consequences on family and public service. We know how that affects love of neighbour and respect for human rights and justice and fairness. We know how that affects transparency and accountability and service and leadership.

We know.

We also know how that manifests as greed and how it leads to corruption and cheating and stealing and robbery and fraud and bribery and nepotism.

We know.

We know too of how little real faith there is and how that leads to not caring about the afterlife and thus our aversion to proper and Christian behaviour. We know how salvation matters have become a disguise for enrichment, on one side, and impoverishment, on the other.

We know

We know how our shameful hunger for riches leads to senseless and unsustainable exploitation of our natural

WISH OUR WAY OUT, NO. WORK, YES!

resources to the neglect of the health of our planet today and worse still tomorrow.

We know

We know how we lust after wealth and obscene luxuries and how that leads us to trample over the basic needs of our neighbour while we stockpile to ridiculous levels.

We know

We know how our greed has led us away from our faith into the lairs of charlatans and crooks who lead us into irreversible dances with the devil and we know how our uncontrollable egos and boundless pride lead us into frequent lies and untruths and how we are able to stop at nothing to feed the bottomless troughs of our vain ambitions.

We know.

St. Jude, we also know that none else but us are the cause of our problems yet we delude ourselves into thinking that someone else will fix it or worse still, that an all-night prayer session or occasional cosmetic retreat will suffice to rectify our myriad problems.

On every lip is a blame, for another and on every hand is a finger, pointing away at another, in self-righteousness. We have lost acquaintance with honesty, which honesty should lead us into an honest evaluation of self and situation, which evaluation should promptly reveal that we, ourselves, are the problem and with the right attitude, are the beginning of the solution.

St. Jude, all of us have become



The Columnist

adept at fault-finding, outside of ourselves and thus it appears that collectively we cannot find a person to stand up and say; 'I am culpable, I am the cause'. How then can we expect to confront these challenges and how else can we solve our problems.

Our elders have made an art of blame-trading. That is how we justified independence, not that I fault self-rule or that I would have wished to have a British overlord. Even when they left, I agree, only physically, we still found a name for our enemy; 'neo-colonialist'. When that become less-fashionable, we rechristened them "the West".

That is how we got indigenous songs and musical instruments incorporated into our liturgy but now that we have them, we turn around to look down on them, preferring the English service and the piano music and the Christmas carols that invoke snow and

winter.

That is how we opted for democracy and now that we have it, we turn around to soil its pedigree with our dubious misapplications of the law and hiding behind legality and legalese to achieve our goals.

That is how we adopted free-market economics, loving globalization more than any else and now our own productivity is at a shameful low and we happily import everything from washing soap to tooth-picks.

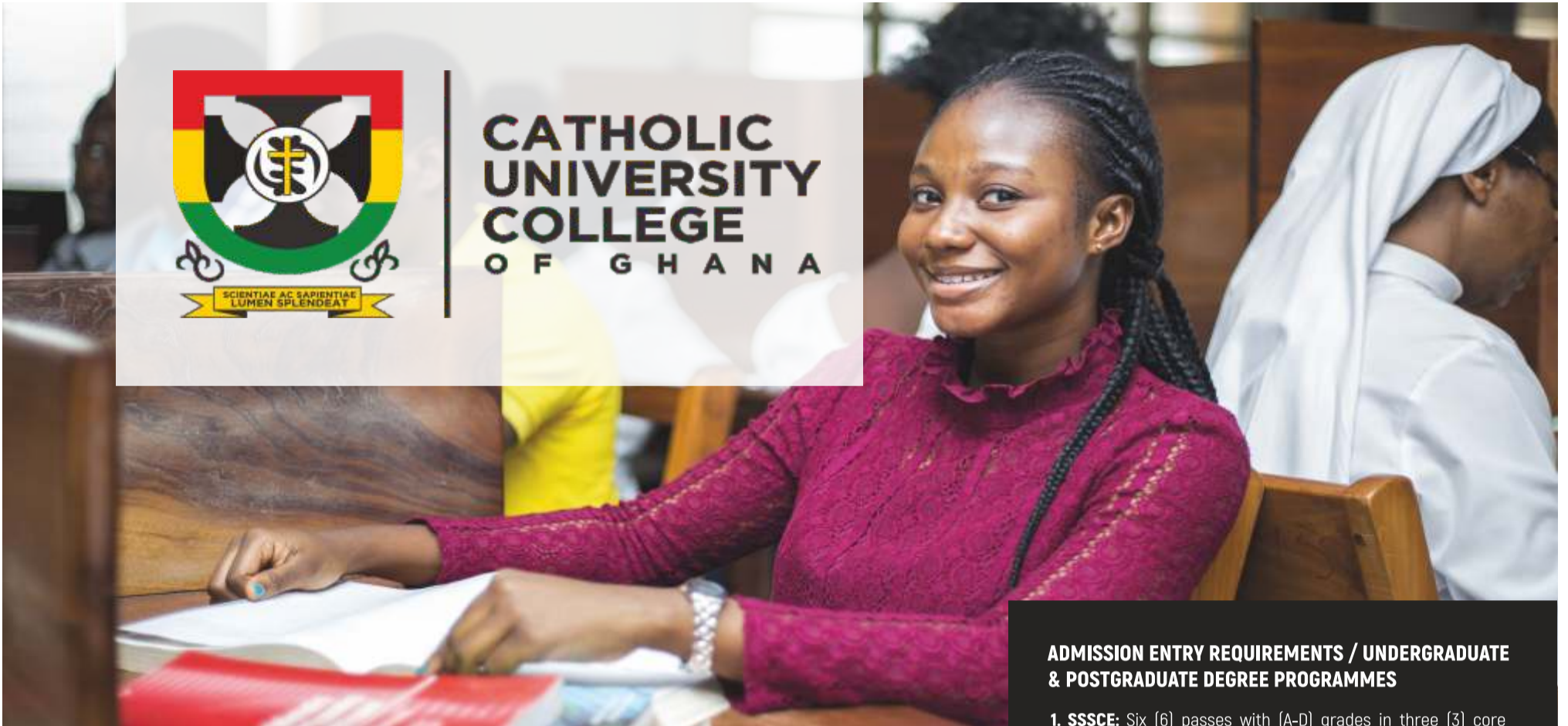
St. Jude, we know all our problems because we are the problem. From us every challenge originates and to us every solution lies but we must first wake up from our self-inflicted delirium and brace ourselves up for the existential battle that stares us in the face.

Roman Catholic youth have always led the way and so it must continue. We have the responsibility to let our candles shine. We have been given much and from us much is expected. We are called to a higher standard and we cannot afford to fail.

We must begin now to be interested in our own welfare, in the cohesion of our families, the unity and prosperity of our communities, the sustainability of our Mother, the Church and the progress of our country, Ghana. Not just by wishing it but by action, not by lip-service but by active involvement.

Dear brother, dear sister, we cannot wish ourselves out of our worries and problems, we can only work ourselves out.

St. Jude, pray without ceasing, for us, for the times are dire!



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019 ADMISSIONS IN PROGRESS

The Catholic University College of Ghana, Fiapre - Sunyani invites qualified Applicants for admission into its **Diploma, Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes** for the September 2019/2020 Academic year

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Marriage and Family Life

By Dr. John Boakye

Effects of selfishness

A selfish partner harms his lover mentally and emotionally. He may be controlling and violent. Your lover loses his or her self-esteem and may be depressed. Some become victims of sustained abuse and infidelity. Most cases, partners cannot trust each other. Communication and companionship are poor and it becomes difficult to express true love and to maintain a healthy relationship due to constant anger and conflict.

Some quotes on effect of selfishness:

- Selfishness pervets the mind (Hellen Keller)
- If all the people in this world in which we live were as selfish as few of the people in this world in which we live, there will be no world in which we live (W. Orme)
- Almost every sinful action ever committed can be traced back to a selfish motive. It is a trait we hate in other people but justify in ourselves (Stephen Kendrick)
- Selfish people lose so much in life because even when

Selfishness- Your Worst Enemy In Your Marriage (2)

they realize they are wrong they do not know how to ask for forgiveness or show regret (unknown)

- Selfishness comes from the poverty of the heart, from the belief that love is not abundant (Don Ruiz)

- For where you have selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice (James 3:16).

- Fools find no pleasure in understanding but in airing their own opinion (Ps. 18:2).

How to get rid of selfishness

Develop a positive mental attitude about yourself, lover and the relationship. If you see your lover as good, you focus on the positive aspect of the relationship and how to help your lover by the sacrifices you make.

Know your partner well and his areas that need improvement. Daily commit to help improve your lover and make life easier for him.

Put the needs of your lover ahead of yours. If there is anything your lover wants, see it as important and just do it. Love has a price to pay for the sacrifices that you make for love. This becomes easier if you keep reminding yourself



Dr. Boakye

of the things you love about your lover.

Make conscious effort to grow virtues that enhance true love, kindness, respect, forgiving spirit, generosity, courtesy, self-restraint, responsibility in your daily life will help you overcome selfishness. For example, you are watching TV with your lover. A man usually loves exciting or adventurous film while a woman loves romantic film. If you love her, watch the romantic with her. On the other hand, a man loves privacy while a woman is focused. You want to visit a friend, he wants you to spend the time at home. Just do it to show your love.

Selfishness, your worst enemy

Selfishness has no place in a happy marriage. If you follow someone for your personal needs, your lover may later meet someone who has something better than you have to offer now and leave you later.

Put your lover first in your life and be committed to help him improve himself. If your lover gets better you benefit because you can only respond positively to his positive actions. On the other hand, if you put yourself first, you only look at what satisfies you to the exclusion of your lover. You suffer separately and jointly.

Here are some Bible verses to warn us against selfishness;

- Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain desire. Rather in humility value others above yourself (Ph. 2:3)
- No one should seek their own good but the good of others (1 Cor. 10:23)
- Turn my heart toward your statues and not toward selfish gain (Ps. 119:36)

Selfishness means you fight more and stir up controversy in your marriage and easily get empty when your needs are not met. It kills your

joy in marriage because you don't find contentment in your marriage and set unrealistic expectations.

Selfishness or empty conceit is often expressed by building oneself while tearing down someone else. It is one of the works of the flesh (Gal. 5: 20). It leads to disorder and evil practices (Jas. 3: 16)

Selfishness caused the children of Israel to wilfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved (Ps. 78:18). It caused the rich young ruler to turn his back on Jesus (Mt. 19: 21-23). Selfishness ruins friendship (Ps.18; 1) and hinders prayer (Jas. 4: 3) and is the product of earthly wisdom (Js.3:13-14).

Always remember that selfishness is the worst enemy in your marriage because it defeats God's plan of one flesh in your marriage. It will kill your relationship before it is born. Therefore get rid of selfishness in your marriage, family, church and society. Instead be united with Christ, having tenderness and compassion and being like-minded, having the same love being one in spirit and purpose (Ph. 2:2). **END**

By Dr. Andre Kwasi-Kumah

What is the prognosis for a person with Alzheimer's disease?

Alzheimer's disease is invariably progressive. Different studies have stated that Alzheimer's disease progresses over two to 25 years with most patients in the eight to 15 year range. Nonetheless, defining when Alzheimer's disease starts, particularly in retrospect, can be very difficult. Patients usually don't die directly from Alzheimer's disease. They die because they have difficulty swallowing or walking and these changes make overwhelming infections, such as pneumonia, much more likely.

Most persons with Alzheimer's disease can remain at home as long as some assistance is provided by others as the disease progresses. Moreover, throughout much of the course of the illness, individuals maintain the capacity for giving and receiving love, sharing warm interpersonal relationships, and participating in a variety of meaningful activities with family and friends.

A person with Alzheimer's

YOU AND YOUR HEALTH

What is Alzheimer Disease? (4)



disease may no longer be able to do math but still may be able to read a magazine with pleasure. Playing the piano might become too stressful in the face of increasing mistakes, but singing along with others may still be satisfying. The chessboard may have to be put away, but playing tennis may still be enjoyable. Thus, despite the many exasperating moments in the lives of patients with Alzheimer's

disease and their families, many opportunities remain for positive interactions. Challenge, frustration, closeness, anger, warmth, sadness, and satisfaction may all be experienced by those who work to help the person with Alzheimer's disease.

The reaction of a patient with Alzheimer's disease to the illness and his or her capacity to cope with it also vary, and may depend on such factors as lifelong personality patterns and the nature and severity of stress in the immediate environment. Depression, severe uneasiness, paranoia, or delusions may accompany or result from the disease, but these conditions can often be improved by appropriate treatments. Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, treatments are available to alleviate

many of the symptoms that cause suffering.

What treatment and management options are available for Alzheimer's disease?

The management of Alzheimer's disease consists

of medication based and non-medication based treatments. Two different classes of pharmaceuticals are available for treating Alzheimer's disease: cholinesterase inhibitors and partial glutamate antagonists. Neither class of drugs has been proven to slow the rate of progression of Alzheimer's disease. Nonetheless, many clinical trials suggest that these medications are superior to placebos (sugar pills) in relieving some symptoms.

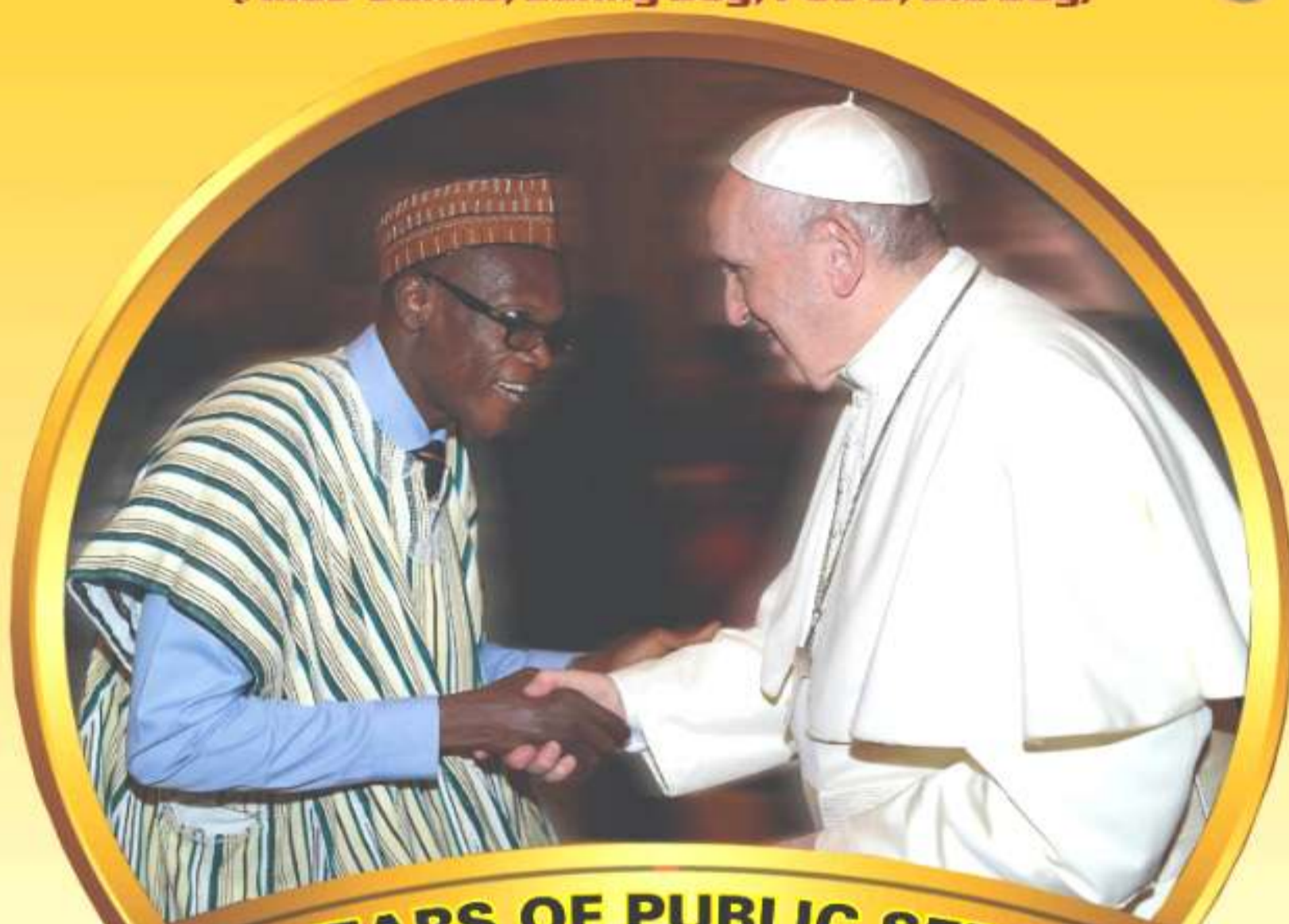
Non-medication based treatments

Non-medication based treatments include maximizing patients' opportunities for social interaction and participating in activities such as walking, singing, dancing that they can still enjoy. Cognitive rehabilitation, (whereby a patient practices on a computer program for training memory), may or may not be of benefit.

To be continued next week

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A year on and your loving memory is our keepsake with which we will never part, God has you in his keeping. We have you in our hearts.

For those we love never go away, they walk beside us everyday, unseen, unheard but always near, so loved, so missed, so very near.

Your loving family

Assist Members To Be in Communion With God

● Catholic Societies Urged



Some of the Marshallans.

By Angela Ofori Boateng

Societies in the Catholic Church have been called upon to consider ways of assisting their members who are not in communion with God to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Mr. Kingsford Arthur made the call at the 8th Accra East Regional Conference of the Knights and Ladies of Marshall held in Accra recently.

In his presentation on the topic: *Pastoral Care for the Marshallan in the light of Amoris Laetitia; The Quest*

for Financial Freedom, Worthy Bro. Arthur said although one key requirement of being a Marshallan was that the candidate must be a communicant, many members fall along the way into various relationships that do not synchronise with this requirement for very obvious reasons.

What therefore are we doing to assist our brothers and sisters who find themselves in this situation whether self-inflicted or not, he queried.

The Speaker noted that planning a wedding is both exciting and

overwhelming as short-term preparations for marriage tend to be concentrated on invitations, clothes, the party and other details that tend to drain the budget, energy and joy of the couple.

Mr. Arthur noted that very often, the lack of finance prevents many Catholics from regularising

their marriages.

He, therefore, entreated Societies, particularly the Noble Order of the Knights and Ladies of Marshall to consider the idea of organising periodic Mass Weddings funded by the Order for members who find themselves in such situations to enable them receive Holy Communion.

He also called for education and counselling on having modest wedding ceremonies to encourage more Catholics to regularize their marriages, urging those who are financially constrained to have the courage to be different and not get “swallowed up by a society of consumption and empty appearances”.

The Speaker also urged brothers and sisters who find themselves in such situations to seek assistance and counselling by approaching their Priests who are equipped with the necessary skills

to counsel them.

The Conference was chaired by Mr. Joseph Ekow Paintsil who urged members to use the occasion to reflect on how the Order can conduct its self in a way that gives members a sense of belonging and family feeling so that the Church can truly be a family of God.

On his part, Sir Fosuaba Mensah Banahene, who was the Guest of Honour at the Conference, spoke against pettiness and gossiping in the Order which makes it difficult for members to share their problems with each other.

He called on members to be each other's keeper, support one other and ensure that the Joy of the Family as stressed in the Pope's Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, is felt in the Church and extended to the larger society.

With the saying that charity begins at home, he encouraged the Order to identify and support its members who are in need.

He urged members to take time to read the Pope's Exhortation to better understand their roles is ensuring that the Church becomes a family of God.

As part of the Conference, the Accra East Region Co-Operative Credit Union was launched with a call on members to contribute to the Union to ensure financial freedom of members.

The Region also launched its quarterly Newsletter, the Rising Sun, which captures activities of all the component Councils and Courts in the Region.

KSJI Grand Convention Ends In Sunyani



*Msgr. Kumi and concelebrating Priests with the KSJI members.

Members of Knights and Ladies of St. John International (KSJI) of the Kumasi Grand Commandery recently held their third Biennial Grand Convention at the Catholic

University College of Ghana at Fiapre in Sunyani.

Dr. Evelyn Kumi Richardson, the Bono Regional Minister and the Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony, commended the

Catholic Church for its contribution to the development of the country.



Rev. Msgr. Dr. John Kofi Takyi, the Vicar General of Techiman Diocese, urged the KSJI members to lead holy lives

worthy of emulation.

A Thanksgiving Mass to climax the Convention was presided over by the Rev. Msgr. George Kwame Kumi, Vicar General of the Sunyani Diocese and concelebrated by Rev. Frs.

William Kyere, the Cathedral Administrator of the Christ the King Cathedral, Sunyani and Theotimus Gyamfi, Spiritual Director of the KSJI in the Goaso Diocese.

From Michael Akornoba

TOGBUI KODZOGA V
Chief of Kpando - Gadza
(Chairman)

60th Anniversary Launch! 60th Anniversary Launch!! 60th Anniversary Launch!!!

The Catholic Bishop of Ho, The Ho Diocesan Health Board, The Management and Staff of Margret Marquart Catholic Hospital, The Planning Committee
have the pleasure to invite you to the

60th ANNIVERSARY LAUNCH OF MARGRET MARQUART CATHOLIC HOSPITAL, KPANDO.
& FUND RAISING IN AID OF BUILDING A CHILD WELFARE CLINIC (CWC)

<p><i>Theme:</i> 60 Years of Resilient Catholic Health System in Kpando; Honouring the Past, Celebrating the Present and Building the Future.</p> <p><i>Venue:</i> Forecourt of Margret Marquart Catholic Hospital, Kpando</p> <p><i>Date:</i> 11th Sept. 2019 <i>Time:</i> 10:00am</p>	<p>To Support this Child Welfare Clinic Project</p> <p>Kindly donate to M. M. C. H Account No. 5091010000505 GCB Bank Ltd. Kpando Branch, or MTN MOMO No. 0243085277 or Call 0243085277 for any support</p>
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Most Rev. EMMANUEL KOFI FIANU, SVD
Catholic Bishop of Ho
(Guest of Honour)

Chairman: TOGBUI KODZOGA V (Chief of Kpando Gadza)

Guest of Honour: Most Rev. EMMANUEL KOFI FIANU-SVD (Catholic Bishop of Ho)

All are cordially invited



Funeral Invitation

Nana Asare Bediako, Kyidomhene, Effiduase Nana Kwasi Boateng II, Kyidomhene, Koforidua, Nana Kwaku Owusu Antwi, Kyidom Abusua Panin, Very Rev. Mrs. Helena Sarpong and the entire Bretuo family of Effiduase and Koforidua respectfully invite you to the Funeral of the late

MADAM LUCY NTIRIWAH 80
Yrs.

(Aunty Lucy)

Lying-in-state: 4:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. on Saturday 7th September, 2019 at her residence, between the Apostolic Church and the American Co-operative School, Asante Effiduase.
Family Gathering: 12:30p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Methodist School Park, Asante Effiduase
Thanksgiving Service: Sunday 8th September, 2019, Church of Pentecost, Asante Effiduase.

CHILDREN: Charles Addo (Accra), Lawyer Alhaji Ishaq Alhassan Accra), Bossman Teddy Osei-Bonsu (Effiduase), Kwame Opoku Mensah (Deceased), Paul Boamah Sefah (Kumasi), Frederick Nyarko Franklin (Accra), Lawyer George Sarpong, (Executive Secretary, National Media Commission), Lawyer Benjamin Ampoma-Boaten, "Stylish" (Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, Accra), Mrs. Emelia Ampoma Broni, "Yaa Agyemang" (Ghana Revenue Authority, Accra), Mrs. Esther Ampoma Appiah, "Aunty Ode" (MD, Sunkwah Drinking Water, Kumasi), Augustine Ampoma-Gudom (ILGS, Accra), Adelaide Aduako Ampoma, (NADMO, Kumasi).

IN-LAWS: Mrs. Elizabeth Sarpong (Yaa Serwaa) (St. Thomas Aquinas School, Accra), Mrs. Dinah Anita Ampoma-Boaten (Accra), Mr. Thomas Broni (Prudential Bank, Accra), Mr. Thomas Appiah (Italy), Mrs. Adjoa Oforiwa Ampoma-Gudom, (ASEMA),

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Advertiser's Announcement

Power Distribution Services (PDS) Brouhaha – In Defence of The Hard-Won Reputation of a Dear Friend, Martin Eson-Benjamin

By John Warmann

The saying “what are friends for” has been ringing in my ears ever since the Power Distribution Services (PDS) brouhaha broke, and I hear the good name of my dear friend, Martin Kofi Eson-Benjamin being unjustifiably sullied.

Martin has been a friend of long standing, since 1976, when I moved to Kumasi to become the Regional Marketing Representation for the then Pioneer Tobacco Company Limited. He was then a young Marketing Executive with Kumasi Brewery Limited. Our bond of friendship grew very quickly as we realised that we shared a common philosophy about life. We were driven by one faith – Catholicism, one profession – Marketing and principles of a disciplined, organised and modest lifestyle. We were and still are extremely proud of our respective heritage and highly conscious of the obligation that imposes on us, to honour and defend the family name through our good behaviour. I was his best man at his wedding.

It is my deep personal knowledge of Martin and what he stands for, and my own knowledge and experience working in MiDA during Compact I, that obligate me to write in Martin's defence.

MiDA, though set up by an Act of Parliament and under the Office of the President, is not the typical public service bureaucracy with a central command and control, where the CEO reigns supreme. MiDA works under a strict regime of governance protocols and structures set by Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to ensure transparency, insulation from corrupt practices and influences.

Genesis of the Brouhaha

Undoubtedly the brouhaha started when Government announced that it has discovered “fundamental and material breaches” by PDS in its acquisition of the Demand Guarantee required of it by the Concessionaire Agreement and announced its intention to investigate. The Government's announcement was followed by a denial and cancellation of the PDS Demand Guarantee by Al Koot.

The Minority in Parliament and Crusaders Against Corruption have publicly announced they have petitioned the US Embassy to conduct its own independent investigation into what must have been done wrongly with

the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) Concession. The US Embassy however has endorsed the Government's decision to investigate and has urged it to ensure it is thorough.

However, without waiting for the outcome of Government's investigation into the matter, the earlier announcements seemed to have opened the floodgate for speculation of what might have gone wrong and wild allegations against several persons including Martin Eson-Benjamin. Various media discussions, social media platforms and videos have all sought to question the stewardship of MiDA and Martin Eson-Benjamin.

With the Government investigation in the offing one would expect that critics would restrain themselves and be circumspect in their comments until the full details are known. Be it as it may the harm to at least one man, Martin Eson-Benjamin is so palpable, for all that he stands for in life.

MiDA's Governance & Stewardship

The MiDA Board is made up of eleven (11) voting members made up of the Chairperson, six (6) Ministers of State, representatives of Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), Private Enterprise Federation (PEF), Ghana Association of Private Voluntary Organisations in Development (GAPVOD) and the CEO of MiDA and 3 non-voting observers made up of the Board Chairs of ECG, VRA and the Resident Country Director of the MCC. Martin, as CEO of MiDA is only the principal liaison between the Board and MiDA as an implementing entity and one voting voice. If he stands accused of complicity, the MiDA Board equally stands culpable.

When I listen to Martin's accusers, their complete ignorance of how MiDA and MCC collaborate to implement the Compact, hits me like thunderbolt. To imply that the US does not know what to do with its taxpayers' money and would go to sleep after giving Ghana a grant of half a billion dollars is to say the least, naivety of the highest order.

Since the brouhaha broke MiDA has put out an eight-page account of its stewardship with regards the matter of PDS' selection as Concessionaire to ECG. The MiDA paper demonstrates how it consulted broadly including the public through the media, every step of the way, and worked with key stakeholders such as ECG, PURCC, Energy Commission, Ministry of

Energy, Office of the Attorney General & Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance and the Public Utility Workers Union throughout the 3 year process leading to the selection of PDS. Additionally, there are loads and loads of documentation at the MiDA website for one to read and be apprised of MiDA's stewardship.

Martin's Association with the Enterprise Group

Martin's involvement in the Enterprise Group, as a member of its Board, predates his employment with MiDA (since December 2006), and has lasted the past twenty (20) years. The Group has no dealings directly with MiDA and any talk of conflict of interest can at best be described as sheer ignorance and laughable. If even the Group has dealings with MiDA, Martin can only be described as conflicted if he has a controlling influence over the Board or when the MiDA Board accuses him of failing to recuse himself from decisions taken by the Board affecting the Group.

Does it matter that he sits on the MiDA Board with Hon Ken Ofori Atta, the founder of the Group? Not when they make up only two of a total of eleven (11) members with voting rights.

Career Before MiDA

A hardworking man, Martin's passion throughout his long-distinguished career with Kumasi Brewery, Sierra Leone Brewery, Nigeria Breweries Plc, Unilever Ghana Limited, Ghana Breweries Limited where he was the Managing Director, and as member of the Presidential Commission on Pensions, has been to prove himself in any job role given him. At no stage in his illustrious career, not even in the mercantile environment, did Martin bend the rules to benefit himself, win favours or favour anybody. He left very excellent records at every stage in his career.

Involvement with MiDAI

Martin applied and became the CEO for MiDA late in 2006 bringing his immense multinational experience into public office, an attribute that contributed in no small measure in the timely implementation of Compact I for Agricultural Reform, within the MCC allowable time frame of five (5) years. His, at the time was an impressive achievement that stood Ghana in good stead for a possible second Compact.

As CEO of MiDA, Martin was part of the team that worked to propose

the Power Reform Program to MCC for Ghana's Compact II. However, when he failed to secure a second term as CEO of MiDA for the Power Compact, Martin left for retirement, fulfilled that he had at least served his public service well, in successfully overseeing the implementation of all the diverse Project Programs under Compact I, and drawn down the entire grant of US\$547m.

Return to MiDA II & Compact II

When Martin left MiDA he never looked back and did not anticipate a return. However, in late November 2017 he was invited by the Office of the Chief of Staff to a meeting at the Jubilee House. At that Meeting, he was informed about implementation challenges that had characterised Compact II since it was signed in August 2014 and “Entered into Force” in August 2016.

If the two-year period between Compact Signing and “Entry into Force”, is instructive of how close Ghana was, to losing the Power Compact for failing in its implementation effort, the period between “Entry into Force” and November 2017, when Martin was summoned by the Chief of Staff's Office should be more instructive to his critics.

“Entry into Force, also called “commencement, is the process by which legislations, treatise and other legal instruments come to have legal force and effect”. The date of “Entry into Force” was when the five (5) year clock for Compact II started ticking. That Compact II entered into Force” on August 2016 and faced implementing challenges, necessitating Martin's invitation to the Chief of Staff's Office, technically meant that as a country we had lost sixteen (16) months, i.e. one (1) year four (4) months out of the sixty (60) months i.e. 5 years we have to implement Compact II.

I believe with the above illumination, Ghanaians in general and Martin's persecutors would begin to appreciate how dire our situation was and how Martin came to save the situation. As a country we stood the risk of losing Tranche II worth US\$192m, under the Compact, until we did things differently. Time obviously was of the essence.

In the meeting with the Chief of Staff, Martin was asked to assist with the search for a new CEO to fast track the implementation process. He was

continued on page 14

CHARITY TOWARDS OUR NEIGHBOUR

By Most Rev. Peter K. Sarpong

LOVE TOWARDS OUR ENEMIES

Our enemies are those who do us harm, spiritual or temporal or those who wish to do us such harm. It is clear from Matthew 5:44-46, that we should extend our love to our enemies. “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. If you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”.

The reason why we should love our enemy is that because he is our enemy does he cease to be a human being destined to enjoy fellowship with Christ. Often, we act as enemies of God but He forgives us. Romans 5:8-10 says; “whilst we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son”. Our Lord died forgiving his enemies; “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing” (Lk 23:34). All this does not mean we should love our enemies with a special love but in a general way.

Loving our enemies may help to convert him. If the salvation of the *anima* of the enemy requires it, the offended party should show particular sign of respect and love towards the offender. The common signs of friendship which we owe even to our enemies differ according to persons, places and time. We may deny the common signs of friendship for a time in order to manifest our just indignation at the sorrow caused by our enemies or in order to procure the good of the enemy or to make him realize the evil he has caused. We should always forgive the injuries we receive, drive away thoughts of vengeance and hatred, rejoice at the prosperity of our enemies, sympathize with our adversity and sincerely wish him good.

How many Ghanaians are able to do this? Yet, Prov. 24:14 says; “Do not rejoice when your enemies fall and do not let your hearts be glad when they stumble. We should leave vengeance to God who says; “Vengeance is mine, I will repay” (Rom 12:17-19). Hatred, desire for vengeance, etc. are by their nature grave sins, but they should not be confused with natural aversions for another or indignation at harmful conduct of another.

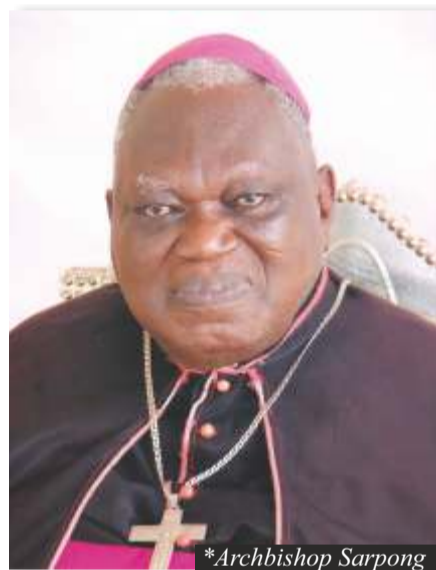
We may wish our neighbour evil, even death itself, if our intention is to secure his goods or that a father may not squander the family fortunes. The answer that Jesus gave to St. Peter when he asked how many times he should forgive his neighbour shows that we must be able to forgive everyone everytime.

The goal of forgiveness is mercy. Nowhere is it said that forgiveness or mercy means indulgence towards evil, towards scandal, towards injury, or sin or insult. Reparation for evil and scandal, compensation for injury and satisfaction for insults are all conditions for forgiveness. Therefore, we need not renounce our rights to reparation or compensation for damages, even through judicial action, but as far as possible this should not be done as it is generally done with rancour, hatred. The offender is bound to ask for forgiveness. If two persons mutually offend each other, it is the one who offended first or who has the greatest guilt that should ask for forgiveness.

But in general, it is good to ask both to ask for forgiveness because, often, one falsely thinks that he is right and the other wrong.

The apology need not always be expressed. In many cases, it is implied in a special remark of attention or in a courteous greetings. Sometimes, it is good to talk over the matter because in such talks, points of difference of misinterpretation and the causes which gave rise to enmity are cleared. If one has made the efforts at reconciliation without success due to the bad will of the other, it is sufficient that he should maintain an openness for reconciliation in his heart.

We should never love sin but we must always love the sinner. It is not a matter of being content with doing what is strictly obligatory but rather we must put into practice the words of the Lord. *But I say to you, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you* (Lk 6:27ff.). There is a tendency for people of one economic system or one party to consider those of the others as enemies. This is wrong. Fostering hatred towards other nations is a sin. In elections, we



*Archbishop Sarpong

should vote for those who love peace and who can enter into dialogue in collaboration with the other party. To vote for people who have an intense hatred towards other nations, other parties, other races, other professions, is totally wrong.

Pastorally, if in confession, a penitent says that someone offended him and he nevertheless pardon the person but does not speak to him or does not want anything to do with him, the confessor should exercise great prudence especially in the case of one who goes to confession seldom or one who is in danger of death. The truth is that the offended party may find it very difficult to reconcile himself with the injury received. Certain temperaments cool down only slowly. The confessor should endeavour to induce the penitent to overcome the hostile spirit through prayer for those who have offended him. It is also good to remind the penitent that usually both sides share the faults. He could be reminded of the loving kindness of God towards the just and the unjust. The penitent could be told that God perhaps is testing our neighbour.

The love of enemies is easily one of the most difficult virtues to practise. All the same it is one of the distinguishing features that define the Christian.

To be continued next week

Rev. Msgr. Prof. Stephen Ntim

In my last article, titled *Mid-Year Budget Review and Concerns of the Vulnerable in The Catholic Standard*, I mentioned that by and large, the Mid-Year Budget Review is on course, especially regarding all the major benchmarks of the macroeconomic indicators as well as the Budget's propensity towards efforts on social interventions.

Poverty reduction through the Free SHS concept, responding to youth unemployment through the recruitment some 97, 373 University graduates into employment, etc. are all commendable.

However, these interventions notwithstanding, if efforts towards the eradication of the following five major social problems confronting us: a) corruption and corrupt institutions; b) inadequate power supply in the cities and in the remotest rural areas, c) lack of good drinking water with its antecedent health hazards; d) agriculture and food security, e) ethnicity and tribalism, poverty would continue to become a cycle difficult to disentangle ourselves from.

Corruption and Corrupt institutions

There is copious empirical research evidence that suggest that the economic and social cost of corruption is enormous. Corruption affects economic growth in variety ways. It affects the level of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, investment activity, international trade and price stability negatively. It has a tendency to bias the structure of government expenditure.

It is estimated by some economists that for example, an increase of corruption by just about one index point have a tendency to reduce GDP growth by 0.13 percentage points. GDP per capita may also be reduced by about US\$425.

Findings from the Breton Woods institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund show that corruption detracts investors. It reduces the productivity of public expenditures and distorts the allocation of resources and therefore minimizing economic growth. Corruption continues to undermine the Ghanaian economic growth.

Ghana is the leading exporter of cocoa. The allocation of resources that should accrue from the sale of cocoa for example is reduced when the CEO of the Ghana Cocoa Board is alleged to pay himself far more than the Head of State. That extra money that goes into one person's pocket deprives the State from providing good classrooms conducive for effective teaching and learning in the most deprived parts of this country. What is the consequence? Dehumanizing pictures of our young children sitting under trees for instruction.

But the fundamental question is: Are we really poor as a nation? Are we not endowed with resources by Mother Nature? It is one thing patting ourselves on the shoulders purely on the basis of macroeconomic indicators data and one thing ensuring that structures put in place to check the siphoning of the national purse by individuals are also working. Without checking this constantly and consistently, poverty will still be a hurdle to eradicate.

Inadequate Power Supply

The electricity industry is a basic and significant industry of the national

CONFRONTING OUR MAJOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS



*Msgr. Ntim

economy, which is closely related to economic development. Electricity is a driving force of economic development. The shortage of power supply seriously affects the healthy development of the national economy and can cause large economic losses.

Negative effect of power shortage is significant. The effect varies in indifferent sectors of the economy. In terms of hard power shortage, the industrial sector suffers the most. The economic cost of power shortage is considerable, and the main reason for it is the specific administrative pricing. Low electricity price would precipitate insufficient construction and hard power shortage that in the short run would result in soft power shortage.

In order to solve the problem of power shortage completely, power system reform is inevitable. This is especially so within the context of the high price Ghana is paying for current supply of power. The 2019 Electricity Supply Plan Report viewed against 2018 in terms of peak and energy demand shows that the projected demand for 2018 in Ghana was 2,523.49 MW.

This notwithstanding by the end of year 2018, the power system had recorded a maximum coincident peak of 2, 525.0 MW- an increase of some 367. MW. Translated into percentage language, it comes to about 17.01% over the 2017 peak of 2, 158. MW. These are consumption without losses. When factored into the picture, energy consumption with losses the figures go much higher.

The implication is that Ghana might continue to experience power supply challenges for some time notwithstanding the billions of cedis paid to power suppliers. This amount of money spent for power supply has to be paid for and one of the ways is to increase taxes to raise needed revenue by Government. Power supply is certainly not unrelated to fuel requirements and other associated costs.

In the considered view of this Writers, Power Supply and its associate costs would continue to be a perennial nagging challenge on our economy mitigating against effective social intervention of the indigent and the most vulnerable. This is because any increase in taxes especially fuel has ripple effects on the daily income especially of salaried workers who suffer the most. They are taxed at source from their income.

To be continued next week

Advertiser's Announcement

Power Distribution Services (PDS) Brouhaha – In Defence of The Hard-Won Reputation of a Dear Friend, Martin Eson-Benjamin

continued from page 12

summoned again to another meeting soon after and this time instructed to go to MiDA and take over as Interim CEO. Martin had serious personal reservation about returning to MiDA to replace the incumbent CEO, but with the assurance that both Government and MCC seriously desired the change he took up the challenge in December 2017 as Interim CEO of MiDA. Much revision had already been done to elements of the Compact, including reduction of the concession period from 25 to 20 years and increase in local shareholding from 20 to 51%, all of which Government negotiated with the MCC during the course of 2017, prior to Martin's return. There were no additions to the list of bidders, international and local partners to what Martin came to inherit. All speculations about new additions are without basis.

Mandate to Claw Back Lost Project Time

Back to MiDA, Martin's mandate was clear; to claw back lost time, put the ECG Private Sector Participation (PSP) Project back on track to enable the country to access the US\$190m Tranche 2.

Clawing back lost project time is no mean task as the process compacts all the subsequent program activities into a shorter time frame of implementation, calling for very intensive working hours. And so, at a time when many of us, his peers have long retired from active service, and are resting Martin, who turns 70 years this year, remains standing and active and selflessly serving his country to the best of his knowledge and capacity.

Speeding up the Procurement Process

In the eight (8) months following his appointment, Martin worked diligently with the MiDA Team to run a competitive procurement for an acceptable Concessionaire. A Concessionaire was announced in April, 2018. A Government of Ghana Committee

(GoGC) was put together to negotiate the terms of engagement. Thereafter, Cabinet approval was obtained, and Government of Ghana (GoG) and ECG signed the relevant Agreements with Messrs PDS, the Concessionaire. Parliament's approval of the Transaction Agreements was also obtained, enabling the Transaction to reach financial close before the 6th September, 2018 deadline. MCC therefore obligated the Tranche 2 Funds

of UD\$190m to be released when the requisite Condition Precedent is met and the Transfer occurs.

The PSP tender was not without challenges including last minute withdrawals and disqualifications which I am sure MiDA as an entity can speak to in greater detail and clarity. Knowing how MiDA works primarily as an aggregator of inputs and process coordinator, I am absolutely certain there were no individual or unilateral decisions throughout the process that can be faulted on MiDA and Martin as CEO, as the court of public opinion has sought to impress since the brouhaha broke. MiDA and Martin, rather and at all material times have worked in collaboration with relevant stakeholders; an assurance elaborately documented in the MiDA document release.

The MiDA document clearly details all the processes that led to the selection of PDS as Concessionaire to ECG. On page 3, paragraph 6, there is a categorical statement that MiDA was not a member of the Proposal Evaluation Panel. Yet Martin stands indicted by the court of public opinion to have acted as an agent for some interested persons to hand out a national facility.

Unappreciatively, Martin inherited a limited implementation timeframe and a Compact with as many as 45 Conditions Precedent that needed to be executed before the Transfer Date of December 18, 2018, exactly one (1) year only after his recall from retirement.

Conditions Precedent

It is instructive again, to explain what a Condition Precedent (CP) is, for the better appreciation of readers. In contract law, a Condition Precedent is an event which must occur, unless its non-occurrence is excused, before performance under a contract becomes due i.e. before any contractual duty exists. Conditions Precedent could be a showstopper(s) to a treatise or contract unless it is waived. When a CP is changed to a Condition Subsequent (CS) it allows the contract to proceed, and time for the beneficiary party to meet the requirement.

The Compact Agreement that Parliament of Ghana approved in 2014 had forty-five (45) CP to be met by December 30, 2018, or remainder changed to CS. To ensure that the parties met the deadline a CP Committee was set up by Government of Ghana. The 21-member committee was drawn from the Office of the Attorney-General and

Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy, Energy Commission, PURC and ECG. MiDA's role was that of a coordination unit, aggregating information, providing advice to Government and facilitating the timely execution of activities by the parties to the Transaction Agreements.

Notwithstanding the setting up of a CP Committee, of which MiDA had no controlling influence, the Transfer Date deadline had to be shifted three times.

Despite the fact that time was of the essence, MiDA singled out two CP i.e. the Bulk Service Agreement (BSA) Payment and Lease Payment Security, and advised Government not to change them to CS; and to ensure compliance, MiDA recommended a shift of the Transfer Date from December 30, 2018 to March 1, 2019. MiDA's recommendation was duly approved by the Board and stakeholders (reference page 6, paragraph 2). So, it is a blatant untruth to allege that MiDA and Martin varied a key CP to a CS to favour PDS.

Bank Versus Insurance Guarantee

Essentially the BSA Payment Security and Lease Payment Security were to provide demand guarantees to ECG about PDS' payment commitments i.e. rent for its leased asset and commission on tariff revenues.

MiDA's paper clearly indicates on page 6, the mitigating circumstances that compelled PDS to request a change from a Bank Guarantee to Insurance Guarantee in fulfilment of the Demand Guarantee CP.

Even though the argument that an Insurance Guarantee offers lesser security than a Bank Guarantee has been dismissed by insurance experts, Martin's persecutors continue to insist wrongdoing on his part. PDS' difficulty in raising a Bank Guarantee has been misconstrued to mean their lack of requisite financial capacity to be Concessionaire to ECG, even though the difficulty which was not within their control to manage is clearly shown on page 6, paragraph 3 of the MiDA's document.

Veracity of Al Koot's Denial

All of page 7 of the MiDA document release, talks about the international uniform rules for demand guarantees and the due diligence that surround them including the extra step MiDA took to have an unprecedented additional layer of security i.e. inclusion of a "legal cut-through" that enables ECG to have direct access to Al

Koot in the necessary event of a claim. With all that information how on earth can anyone describe MiDA's stewardship as "shambolic" and "monumental mess" and accuse Martin as an agent for anyone, to steal a state facility?

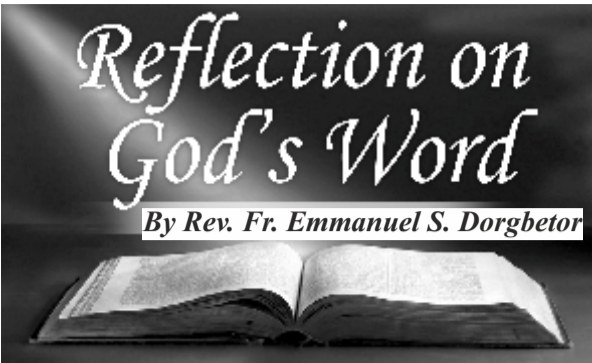
Following the very strict adherence to Compact Guidelines and all the related protocols, the hallmarks of how MiDA operates and implements the Compact, it is very difficult to appreciate how MiDA and Mr. Eson-Benjamin would be negligent in their duties and could so blatantly gang up with some interested parties, with a view to destroying their hard work and to dupe Ghanaians, all for their own selfish ends.

Martin himself is at a loss as to what the real issues are with Al Koot and the guarantee that PDS sought from them through Cal Bank and Donewell and is as eager as any Ghanaian to know the outcome of the Government's investigation. If indeed there are some elements eager to defraud the state over the ECG PSP, they will not be in MiDA or in alliance with Mr. Eson-Benjamin. Martin is a true patriot who passionately wishes the best for his country. He shows no political colours and his mantra is that "**Ghana has no business remaining where it is today and that we must brighten our corner**"

Conclusion

In conclusion, Martin is a friend who I can vouch for, and I find the unjustifiable attacks on his hard-won reputation totally unacceptable, regrettable and a sad reflection of us as a society that can harm people with reckless abandon. There is no excuse for being so uncaring to damage a person without proof, more so one sacrificing his personal comfort to serve Mother Ghana. I can only wish his critics would be a lot more circumspect in their utterances than they have done throughout the whole brouhaha.

The attacks on Martin Eson-Benjamin and his so-called involvement in a grand scheme to 'steal' or 'appropriate' the assets of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) for himself and some people in Government are totally without merit, unfair and a very wicked attempt at smearing his hard won reputation. We cannot live in a nation where wild allegations are allowed and left unproven.



22ND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR C

Readings: Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Theme: Humble yourself before the Lord; He will lift you up

What counts for greatness in our understanding? Who is a great man or woman in our eyes? Who is an honourable person or a boss according to society's references? Well, some may consider the very rich individuals in the neighbourhood as great. Some may tick that very eloquent and vocal public speaker for the big-man title. Yet again, some may believe that the tall, giant, fat bellied one with many children as asset possibly is a great man. These are but few and similar yardsticks which we use to accord greatness and respect for people.

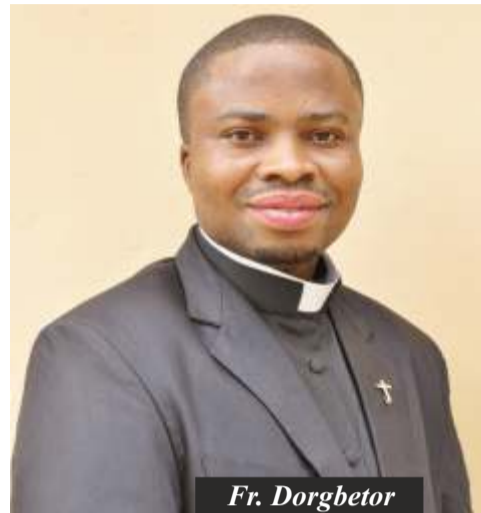
Unfortunately, on this twenty-second Sunday of the Church's Liturgical calendar, God, through the instrumentality of the Church, has surprised us by the three Readings. The readings redefine for you and for me what actually constitutes true greatness. The world has a one-sided or narrow description of who is great and prominent, or what is flamboyant and to be craved for. And almost every day, we are given to believing that the world's way is really the best.

Paradoxically, for the Christian, greatness should be measured by intelligent humility and reasonable self abasement. The believer's understanding

is influenced by his or her dependence and constant association with Jesus, the humble Lamb of God. St Paul rightly describes the Lord Jesus elsewhere thus: *Though He was in the form of God, Jesus did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:11).*

The little said about the humility of the Son of God even to death, the better. Thus, the entire salvific mission of our Saviour has become the yardstick and pacesetter for His followers, those who come to Him have faith in Him, and for all humanity that lives after Him.

Sirach is straightforward on this teaching: "Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favour with God." So we see that genuine humility goes with divine reward. Every self abasement done for the purpose of making others feel at



Fr. Dorgbetor

home and welcomed is recognised by God certainly.

For instance in the Gospel of today, Jesus warns us to wait before taking high places as guests at the table lest we might be asked to step down if someone more important arrives. Truth is, there will be greater persons than you! This is more than a mere lesson about dinner etiquette. His is a precious piece of advice on how to find our true place in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus advises hosts not to invite people who would be expected to repay them to dinner. Instead, everyone who would like to offer table fellowship to anyone ought to invite (more significantly) those who cannot repay. And these unfortunate fellows shall include the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. This is where real blessings

can be found. This is true greatness.

In these sayings, beloved, Luke gives us not only advice on how to approach the end times but also on how to live according to Jesus' vision of a good society. Luke's Gospel goes on to advise all of us, ordained and Laity, on how the Church must be part of bringing about this society. It is yet another example in Luke's Gospel of the reversal the kingdom brings about: the toppling of those regarded by humans, the establishment of the "nonentities" and lowly (read Mary's *Magnificat* in Luke 1:46-56).

Friends in Christ, there are many people who are in need of our help. Some need food, some need clothing, some need jobs, and some need money to buy their needs until they can find a job. Jesus tells us in the Gospel this week that we should give to the poor all that we can – even though they cannot pay us back.

Having been inspired by this Good News, may we now open our hearts and listen to Jesus as he tells us to give to others even though they cannot pay us back. The good news, however is that he promises that God will see what we do and will reward us. What kind of reward do we receive for giving to others? To be eligible for God's blessings, let us be humble people of faith. A proud Christian is not a follower of the humble Master; at best he is only taking a stroll into vanity. Amen.

By Rev. Bro. Pius Kwaku Agyemang, Director of the S.V.D. Pastoral Liturgy, Sacred Music And Culture Ministry.

MUSIC IN CATHOLIC LITURGY (5)



Rev. Bro. Agyemang

THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIST AND OTHER INSTRUMENTALIST:

Singing is not the only kind of music suitable for liturgical celebrations. Music performed on the organ and other instruments can stimulate feelings of joy and contemplation at appropriate times.

This can be done effectively at the following points: an instrumental prelude, a soft background to a spoken Psalm, at the preparation of the gifts in place of singing, during portions of the communion rite, and the recessional. (MCW, No. 37)

The proper placing of the organ and the choir according to the arrangement and acoustics of the Church will facilitate the celebration. Practically speaking, the choir must be near the director and the organ.... The choir must perform without distraction; the accosting ought to give a lively

presence of sound in the choir area and allow both tone and word to reach the congregation with clarity. Visually, it is desirable that the choir appear to be part of the worshipping community, yet a part which serves in a unique way. Locating the organ console too far from the congregation causes a time lag which tends to make the singing drag unless the organist is trained to cope with it. A location near the front pews will facilitate

congregational singing. (MCW No. 38)

With the current strong emphasis on congregational singing, parishes now need qualified organist, expert in playing for congregational singing, more than at any previous time. The pastor should provide a competent musician or be willing to provide training for his organist.

The qualified organist will be able to select, teach it to the congregation and perform it well with regard to tempo, comfortable range and musicianship. If there is a cantor, the organist and cantor must cooperate in joint leadership. If there is no cantor, the organist must fill that role also. Ideally, however, the roles of cantor and organist should be performed separately.

If instruments other than a pipe organ are used to lead the congregational singing, they should be amplified properly in order to provide correct rhythm and maintain pitch. All too often the song leader's voice is over-

amplified while the instruments are inaudible. This tends to discourage an otherwise enthusiastic congregation. Here again, the success of a group of instrumentalists depends on leadership. The finest organ played cannot lead a congregation effectively, and a fine group of instrumentalist without trained leadership cannot do so either.

THE ROLE OF THE CHOIR

A well-trained choir adds beauty and solemnity to the liturgy and also assists and encourages the singing of the congregation. The Second Vatican Council, in speaking of the choir, stated emphatically: *Choirs must be diligently Promoted' provided that 'the whole body of the faithful may be able to contribute that active participation which is rightly theirs.'*

At times, the choir within the congregation of the faithful and as a part of it, will assume the role of leadership, while at other times, it will retain its own

distinctive ministry.

This means that the choir will lead the people in sung prayer, by alternating or reinforcing the sacred song of the congregation, or by enhancing it with the addition of a musical elaboration. At other times in the course off liturgical celebration, the choir alone will sing works whose musical demands enlist and challenge its components. (MCW, No> 36)

- Choirs are to be diligently promoted by the reason of the liturgical ministry they perform, and the great extent to which they enhance the liturgical experience.

- The choir should assist and strengthen congregational singing especially, in its attempts with less familiar music.

- The choir can also enhance the people's singing by:

Having the men and women's voices in the choir alternate in leading the singing of hymn verses;

Adding harmony or employing descants (solo, choral, or instrumental) to the melodies or refrains sung by the congregation.

To be continued next week



Technology Driven Industrial Village For Cape Coast

continued from page 3

the realisation of the SDGs. He added that the implementation of the SDGs does not only involve government programmes and funding but also private sector activities and funding.

Speaking at a day's Forum of the delegation and Ghanaian business men and women in Accra, Cardinal Turkson said it was to create partnerships for an *inclusive growth*.

"Our gathering is a private sector initiative, promoted by a Church body, *Mustard Seed Foundation* of the Archdiocese of Cape Coast, to promote the

realisation of the SDGs, as a tool of inclusive growth", he said.

According to Cardinal Turkson the Forum is also to facilitate cooperation between Ghanaian and European companies in innovative future industries.

"These will hopefully be the fruit of joint efforts of the European Technology Chamber and Ghanaian partners (both private and Government). Bringing European companies into Ghana, to help Ghana's industrial upgrade, this initiative can help to build the industrial

backbone of Ghana into a leading bridge for industrial cooperation between Ghana and Europe", he explained.

He noted that the 70th Anniversary Celebrations of the United Nations included a recall of the original aims of the Organisation to include not only a rule-based international order with the United Nations at its core, but also prosperity, the recognition of human rights and Dignity.

He added that the SDGs at its induction in 2015 was described as a "comprehensive programme of inclusive growth and a human dignity narrative that leaves no one behind".

Pope Francis To Visit Three African Countries

continued from page 3

"where more than 50% of all households can be classified as food insecure, and 90% of the country's population lives on less than \$2 a day."

Pope Francis' social-environmental Encyclical, "*Laudato Si'*," was "a brilliant document," Ferris said, and its message "is the message of the decade" because climate change and ecological degradation are real and strongly contribute to poverty, hunger, conflict and migration.

Father Rakotondranaivo sees the Pope's repeated condemnations of corruption and his teaching on politics as service as another essential message for the region, particularly for Madagascar.

Unfortunately, he said, having political and civil responsibility too often is seen "not as a service but as a great privilege, a way to enrich oneself. Generally, politicians get rich very quickly. Madagascar is a country rich in natural resources, but the population is very poor. The inequality between a handful of rich and the poor majority is blatant. It is time to wake politicians up to focus more on the common good." *CNS*



Final Funeral Celebration

Mrs. Christiana Dora **FRIMPONG**

a.k.a Afia Buruku

Final Funeral Rites: 7th September, 2019

Venue: Medie (Accra-Nsawam Road) at Dove Event Spot (Cell Home Hotel), former Medie Goil Filling Station.

Final Funeral Rites : 8:00 am – 6pm

Thanksgiving Mass: Sunday, September 8, 2019

Venue: St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Medie

Time: 9:00am (Second Mass)

Widower: A.L. Frimpong



All friends and sympathisers are cordially invited.