

St. Bernard's Graduate Ordained in Ghana

BY TERRANCE J. BRENNAN

If wealth is decided by how successful one is, then Duah-Agyeman is truly worth his weight in gold; and the people of the Sunyani Diocese in Ghana couldn't be happier.

Agyeman, a May 1977 graduate of St. Bernard's Seminary, was more recently ordained Father James K. Duah-Agyeman on July 23 in his native Ghana, by the same man that baptized him 17 years before to the day, Bishop James K. Owusu (then Father Owusu).

Father Agyeman came to Rochester in September 1973 to complete his studies under St. Bernard's double degree program Master's in Arts and Master's in Divinity.

"The M.Div. is completed. The M.A. needs only to be typed out formally and defended. The topic is: The adaptability of the church to socio-cultural environments," he said.

Also, for the last three years, Father Agyeman has been working with the CYO Inner City Outreach Program, organizing Ghana workshops to help dissipate the myths about Africa.

Father Agyeman



FR. DUAH-AGYEMAN

describes the basic philosophy of the outreach program as one of "raising and maintaining the self-confidence and self-respect in the youth today.

"We try to let them see the realities of life and have them grab hold of them by themselves: to bring out their talents by making them pull it from themselves."

It has turned into a very successful program that has had its share of obstacles to outmaneuver. For example, the removal of a "barricade" that prevented the black community of Rochester from an understanding of Father Agyeman.

"I, myself, was a bit afraid and insecure of myself

because it was the first time I was being hit with racism. So, I guess I temporarily lost my balance.

"But I think the wall has dissolved beautifully over the past couple of years. The suspicion or the standoffishness is broken, and I guess I've gained more self-confidence in dealing with people."

He has since continued working feverishly in preparation for the time when he will return to Ghana to continue in the work that he so dearly loves.

"When I was in my second year at St. Bernard's, I contacted my bishop (Bishop Owusu) and told him my background was strong in mathematics and that I would like to pick up my degree in math after my ordination to the priesthood. Could the diocese of Sunyani use that talent? He agreed and I started looking for schools."

Thus, Father Agyeman enrolled in the Mathematics program at the State University College at Brockport. His intended date of graduation with a Master's in Mathematics is three and a half years away.

Since he was going to stay in Rochester, a new problem posed itself to Father

Agyeman. He needed a place to live

"I spoke to Father Raymond Booth at St. Christopher's in North Chili and he offered me to stay at their rectory with him and Father Lewis Brown. I think that's really beautiful."

Father Booth also suggested that Father Agyeman's services might probably be more valuable in the inner city than the suburbs. So Father Agyeman helps out Father Paul Freemesser at St. Michael's church on North Clinton Ave. on weekends and some weekdays

It was at St. Michael's last Sunday that Father Agyeman celebrated his ceremonial first mass for the Greater Rochester Area that includes the newly ordained priest giving the people his first priestly blessings.

"When I visited the Pastoral Office last week, I stopped in to say hello to Bishop Hogan. When he came out to ask how my trip was, the first thing he did, right in the hallway, was to kneel down for my blessing."

The reflectiveness in Father Agyeman's recollection of that moment confirmed to himself that he hasn't chosen the wrong path.



Rosarians Open Season

St. Thomas the Apostle Altar and Rosary Society begins a new season this evening with a 5:30 Mass and formal induction of new members, followed by a tureen dinner at 6:30. Hostesses include (rear row, from left) Barbara Knapp, vice president; Mary Ann Petrella, president, and Shirley Pickering, secretary. In front are Jeanne Conlon, publicity chairman, and Nancy Murray, treasurer.

Dr. Jefferson To Speak Here

Dr. Mildred Jefferson, president of the National Right to Life Committee, will speak here twice on Tuesday, Oct. 18. She will consider the question, "Where does the destruction of the unborn put medicine, society and religion?" Her talks are scheduled for 3 p.m. in Lower Strong Auditorium, University of Rochester, and at 8 p.m. in Cardinal

Mooney High School, 800 Maiden Lane.

Dr. Jefferson, the first black woman graduated from the Harvard University School of Medicine, is associate professor of surgery at Boston University. She has been a leader of the Right to Life movement from its inception.

Bishops Synod to Concentrate On Catholic Teaching . . .

Vatican City (RNS) — The major working paper of the forthcoming world Synod of Catholic bishops, which will begin here Sept. 30, cites a growing revival of interest in Catholic teaching throughout the world, particularly the "growing participation" by Catholics in catechetical instruction.



Speaker

Father Paul Shanley, Cardinal Humberto Medieros' minister to sexual minorities in the Boston archdiocese, will be the principal speaker at a clergy conference on homosexuals in the Church slated for Friday, Sept. 23 at Becket Hall. That evening, at 8 p.m., he will give a public lecture on the same topic at St. Luke's Episcopal Church hall, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. The first event is sponsored by the office of the Vicar of Urban Ministry. The second is sponsored by Dignity/Integrity, a coalition of Roman Catholics and Episcopalians involved in ministry to homosexuals.

Released by Bishop Wladyslaw Rubin, secretary General of the synod, the paper noted the existence in many countries of a "religious awakening" and said one of the expressions of the revival is that "single persons, families, small groups, associations and organized movements are taking the responsibility for catechetics in an increasingly conspicuous manner."

Bishop Rubin described the nature and programs of the synod which will open on the theme, "Catechesis in Our Times," with particular reference to children and young people. The working paper he released will serve as the basis of discussion for the 202 participating "fathers" of the synod.

The focus of the synod, the bishop said will be on religious teaching and will continue the thrust of the 1974 Synod which treated the question of evangelization and human development.

Bishop Rubin told the press that the working document he released will be divided into three parts. The first section will give an overview of the present state of catechetics (religious instruction) in the world today.

It begins by noting that difficulties of catechetics often arise as a result of concern for obedience to Catholic teaching on one hand and the need for renewal within the Church on the other hand.

In the second section, he said, "attempts will be made to recall the criteria which are most important in discerning the authentic forms of the catechesis." He said these criteria also refer to questions presented in the first section and seek to give "doctrinal and pastoral indications" to those who work in catechesis

The third part of the

document will attempt to single out some common tasks which have been recommended during the consultation phase of the synod's program.

Bishop Rubin said the intention is to "draw to the attention of the synod fathers some priority options that emerged from the catechetical situation in the world and from reflections of a pastoral and theological nature in this situation."

During the main sessions of synod deliberations, discussions will be held in general sessions and in smaller working groups, the bishop explained

"From these discussions should emerge proposals concerning the catechesis in the modern world," he said

In addition, there will be elections of new members of the 15 member Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod.

. . . and Celebrate with Pope

Vatican City (RNS) — Bishops taking part in the month-long World Synod of Catholic Bishops will mark the 80th birthday of Pope Paul (Sept. 26) with a solemn concelebration of Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday, Oct. 16.

The Vatican also announced that on the opening day of the assembly, West German Archbishop Johannes Joachim Degenhardt of Paderborn would present a "panoramic report" on the life of the Catholic Church since the last synod of Bishops, which met in the

Fall of 1974 on the theme, "Evangelization in the Modern World."

Other Vatican announcements pertaining to the synod:

• Spanish Bishop Jose Manuel Estepa Llaurens, an auxiliary bishop and vicar general of Madrid, will serve as "special secretary" of the synod. He will be assisted by a group of 12 aides — six priests, two nuns, and four lay people

• A three-man "Commission for Controversies" will be chaired by Cardinal

Lawrence Trevor Picachy, SJ, Archbishop of Calcutta, India

The other members are African Archbishop Christophe Adimou of Cotonou, Benin (formerly Dahomey), and Bishop Luigi Maverra, the former Bishop of Chiavari, Italy

• A "Committee for Information" concerning the synodal assembly has been set up and will be presided over by Polish Bishop Andrezey Marie Deskur, president of the Vatican Commission for Social Communications

DPC

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Arthur Ratigan, who is retired; Sister Ann Habershaw, SSND, principal of Holy Ghost School, and Mercier, who is a parishioner of Our Lady of Mercy. Five new members are joining the committee; Father William Amann, co-pastor of Our Lady of Mercy; Sister Josepha Kennedy, SSJ, a DPC member who is on the faculty of Nazareth College; Richard Wardell of Corning; Mrs. Betty Anderson, Immaculate Conception, Rochester, and Edward Spall, St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin. Father Peter Bayer, diocesan planning director, will serve as liaison from the pastoral center staff.

Bishop Hogan also commented on the joint meeting of the consultative bodies the previous Sunday, noting that "the atmosphere of Sunday was just wonderful," and it was "an inspiration to me." "It is my hope that a day like that will be repeated each year," he said.

Council discussion on the proposal from St. Michael's, Rochester, concerning parish bingo games involved the wording of the proposal, the effect of regulating the number of games each week at each parish, as the proposal requests, and the best way for the DPC to proceed with the proposal. The executive committee asked that a survey of bingo games, to find out how many parishes or institutions have bingo more than once a week, and whether or not they suspend the games during religious feasts. After a vote, the council agreed to conduct a survey to determine the present situation.

The DPC committees reported on their activities. Father Joseph Jankowiak noted that the Social Mission Committee would

soon be making a proposal concerning regional hunger projects and food shelves.

Les and Gail Raymond, reporting for the Worship and Life Committee, noted that they have been working to increase communications with diocesan departments, and are "looking at ways we can try to improve homilies," noting that their intention is to assist homilists, and they are not saying that all homilies are bad.

Sister Mary Jean Smith noted that the Teaching Mission Committee is working on a statement describing the position of Catholic schools in the context of the Church's total ministry, and also is examining the Urban School Ministry Task Force report.

Frank Riesenberger of the Pastoral Organization Committee noted that the group is continuing a study begun last year to determine "what is a parish." The committee also is going to benefit from a study being done by Sister Ann Miller, RSM, on the effectiveness of regionalism in the diocese, he noted. Her findings will be reported to the council, he said.

Discussion on the effectiveness of regions and regular reports from the Diocesan Sisters Council and the Priests Council occupied much of the council's open forum. Several members expressed concern that the liaisons from the other councils did not make reports to the DPC, and requested that time be allowed for such reports in the future.

The council also seated a new member, Sister Francella Quinn, SSJ, has been elected as the liaison from the Sisters Council. Another member who was a late appointment to the council is Angel Rivera, who represents ministry to the Spanish speaking.