

**The First Job of a Missionary Is to Work Himself Out of a Job:
Ghana from District to Province
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In December of 1957 Brothers Rex Hennel and Eduardo Michalik landed in the Takoradi Harbor, Ghana, to take over the administration of St John's High School. They took over this administration on January 1st, 1958. I was privileged to join the team in 1959. I remember very well after the sendoff ceremony at Sacred Heart Basilica an elderly Brother called me aside and said "Remember, Raymond, the first job of a missionary is to work himself out of a job." This advice always was in the back of my mind.

In 1960 we were 6 Brothers working at St John's. We talked a great deal about our future and decided we should work towards establishing a Ghanaian Holy Cross community. At this time there was a good deal of political tension. It was the time of the cold war and in developing countries the leaders were playing the East vs the West. Every week there were at least three articles in the national newspapers attacking either the US or the Catholic church. We wondered about our future. It was around this time that we opened up a mission in Liberia in case we would be sent away from Ghana. Fortunately, we had a visit from an assistant

Superior General, Brother Theophane. He toured the country and then told us that politics should not concern us and that we should move forward with our plans to invite young Ghanaians to join our community. We built St Joseph Hall on the campus on St John's for students who were interested in becoming brothers. One of the very first to join was Brother Joseph Tsiquaye, now one of the senior members of the West African Province. This took place in the early 60's. Our first candidates were sent to the States to make their novitiate. This met with limited success and we needed to have our novitiate in Ghana. We purchased a building not far from St John's, called Butumagyebu, which became our novitiate.

In 1967 Ghana became a District giving them a degree of independence to make their own decisions as to how to move forward. In order for our African community to grow it was clear we needed a place they could call their home which was not associated with any school. In 1986 a search was made and eventually we found a place where we could establish our district headquarters. It is called Brafoyaw. Over the years this has developed into the central headquarters for the district. There is a large building for offices and rooms for Brothers. There is a novitiate, a Continuing Formation Center, a Chapel and a second building for Brothers. The last stage of the formation program was the

building of a scholasticate at Sunyani, near the Catholic University where our young Brothers continue their education.

Remember the advice I was given—The first job of the missionary is to work himself out of a job. Briefly, this is how it worked out.

1957 The arrival of the Brothers in Ghana.

1962 Five year later the first candidates enter St Joseph Hall

1967 Just 10 years later Ghana became a District.

1979 Twelve years later Brother Joseph Tsiquaye became District Superior. For the last 44 years the District has been led by Ghanaian Brothers, Bros Joe Tsiquaye, Joe Annan, Michael Amakyi, Paul Mensah, Dan Dardoe and John Affum who is now their first provincial.

Brother Michael Amakyi was District Superior for 9 years and is now the head of the education department at Cape Coast University.

Brother Dan Dardoe took over the Technical School and built it into a major educational institution. Brother Nicholas Arthur for many years was an assistant to the Superior General.

Rother Nee Wayo is now an assistant General in charge of the formation programs for the entire congregation. He once served as novice master and then

for many years headed the continuing formation program for Ghanaian religious.

He has given retreats to many diocesan priests.

Brother Ken Kunditani has taken over the administration of a leprosarium in the northern part of Ghana.

Fr Bob Gilmore, a Holy Cross priest, spent many years in Ghana building up the IT programs, teaching and keep a picture remembrance of important events in the life of the community.

2023 the District of Ghana becomes an independent province within the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The necessary experience and manpower to become a province was there.

There must also be a number of ministries that the Brothers are engaged in. The Brothers teach in 3 high Schools: St John's in Sekondi, St Augustine's in Cape Coast and Brother Andre High School in Kasoa. Brother Andre is a private boarding school for both young men and women. There is also Holy Cross Technical School in Anaji developed to provide technical education to enable young men and women to find good employment. At the Technical School there is also a Home of Hope, a facility to give housing and care to "At Risk" young men from the area. They can study and grow in a protective environment. There is

also a Continuing Formation program, a place that provide leadership training programs for the youth and other types of meetings. There is a primary school and the Brothers recently took over the administration of a leprosarium.

A short time ago the Brothers had a "Come and See" program where they introduce the religious life to a group of young men who are showing interest in becoming Brothers. There were 18 men in attendance with 6 of them being university students. There are now nearly 50 Ghanaian Holy Cross Brothers. One is an assistant Superior General. There are no American Brothers now working in Ghana. Clearly, we have followed the advice of our elderly Brother. We have worked ourselves out of a job.