
NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC CHURCH

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2008 Fall Edition of our Parish Newsletter

Thank You from Fr. John Appiah

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ shine on you with all of your endeavors to enable you to trust God and his goodness wholeheartedly, do justice always, and go humbly with God. It is with great gratitude that I seize this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for all the sacrifices that you undertake in support of our Notre Dame Parish in the midst of challenging times.

Thank you for your consideration and response to the Notre Dame Phase II campaign for our current and future needs along with your pledge to the *Go Make Disciples of All Nations* Annual Stewardship Appeal for our parish, Diocese, and Catholic (Universal) Church. As your pastor and friend, I witness the generosity of your time, support, and involvement in ministry that touches peoples' lives.

To all of you who made a commitment in any way, shape, or form I pray that God will bless you to fulfill your commitment. For those who are not able to make a commitment in any way, shape, or form I pray for a brighter tomorrow for you because God's goodness knows no boundary.

We are all invited and respond uniquely to make a difference wherever we live. We can all do something wherever we are in life; however, doing nothing is not an option. Remember your gifts are appreciated; therefore, I would like to challenge you to bring your gifts to fulfillment in our Notre Dame Parish. Together we can and do accomplish all of our goals. May God bless you and keep you.

Help Wanted - On the Feast of Saint Lucy, Saturday, December 13, 2008, I am inviting individuals who wish to read, serve as extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion at Mass and for the homebound, or serve in the capacity as an Altar Servers (both those who serve at the Mass in English or Spanish - 5th grade and

up), to come and be trained. I see a great need for Notre Dame Parish in the above mentioned ministries in the Church. I wish for individuals, particularly if you wish to be an extra-ordinary minister of Holy Communion, to pick up and fill out the form which is a Church requirement. The training will go from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We will no longer be publishing the ministry schedule in the bulletin. It will be mailed to individuals, posted on our website, and posted in the sacristy and vestibule.

Ghana Medical Mission - One of my favorite Latin expressions, *Omnia mea mecum Porto* (all that is mine I carry with me), succinctly expresses the gratitude that is in my heart, mind, and being. My heart is filled with eternal gratitude for my family here in the U.S.A., Germany, and in Ghana along with all the friends, parishioners, and benefactors who made the Medical Mission to Nkonya-Wurupong a reality. The deserving accolades belong to the doctors, families, and friends who saw the Medical Mission through to its success.

The joy that I feel is expressed in the smile on the faces of the people fortunate enough to be cared for by family, friends, and doctors; to be fortunate enough to have a good night sleep; and, in some circumstances, lucky enough to see another day light. Lastly, for all of you who donated meds, treasure, time, and prayer I hope God grants you a prophet's reward for helping to care for the less fortunate - a people half a world away.

The immediate mission for me is to get Juliet Opoku to the U.S. for a necessary operation. Juliet is my cousin's daughter. I am waiting for her medical records in the near future to begin the leg work.

I invite all of you to go on our Notre Dame Webb site: <http://notredamechurchtn.org/> and scroll to *Ghana Medical Mission* to view the pictures. Thank you and I will continue to pray for God's blessing upon all of you.

From our Seminarian, Dustin Collins - The transition from the college seminary to Saint Meinrad School of Theology has gone very well. I am taking five classes this semester: Old Testament, Early Church History, American Church History, Foundational Theology, and Sacraments of Initiation. Earlier in the school year, we had the installation of our school's new rector, Father Dennis. He has done a great job here as the pastor of the seminary and is leading the school into a bright future. The school has even welcomed Archbishop Kurtz. He led the community in a retreat at the beginning of the semester. His focus was on our future as shepherds of the Church. About a month ago, 14 seminarians in the fourth year of theology were ordained to the diaconate; it is good to see the Holy Spirit working strongly in the vocation of the Church. On February 10, I will be installed as a lector along with my fellow seminarians in our first year of theology. I look forward to seeing everyone during my Thanksgiving break. Thank you for your prayers and support.