

Brothers FIC Provincial Council



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23Rd August, 2015

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 08/2015/09

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Please accept greetings from the Provincial's office, Wa. It is our hope and prayer that this circular letter finds you all still doing fine in your respective communities and apostolates in this ordinary time. This circular letter is aimed at updating you with information of relevance in the life of the Province since the last issue.

2.0 SSNIT CONTRIBUTIONS AND NOMINATION OF BENEFICIARIES

The PC would like to draw the attention of all Brothers to ensure that, their SSNIT contributions are paid regularly by their employers. This can be checked by regularly (at least once a year) asking for statement of accounts from the nearest SSNIT office. In this way, early detection of anomalies and correction can be ensured before one gets to retirement. Secondly, it is important and urgent that all brothers use names of finally professed Brothers as their SSNIT beneficiaries. Better still, the name (real name and not the office name) of the sitting Provincial Superior could be used. These directives have been necessitated by difficulties the PC is undergoing to claim the SSNIT benefits of our recent deceased brothers.

3.0 APPOINTMENTS

Name of Brother	New appointment	Effective from	End date
Martin Balangtaa	Asst. Manager – FIC Bernardus Company Ltd.	1 St July, 2015	31 St Dec. 2016
Aloysius Porekuu	Headmaster FIC Jubilee School, Nandom	1 St June, 2015	31 St May, 2017
Gregory Tang	Pre-Noviciate Director	1 St Sept., 2015	31 St Aug., 2017
Alpitio Kog	Novitiate Director	1 St Sept., 2015	31 St Aug., 2018
Fabian Kuupille	House Superior – Kaleo Community.	1 St Sept., 2015	31 St Aug., 2018
Hans Van Wouwen	Asst. House Superior – Kaleo Community	„	„
Peter Saatuo	House Superior – Tumu Community.	1 St Sept., 2015	31 St Aug., 2018
Aaron Nee-eru	Asst. House Superior – Tumu Community	„	„

Bros. Fabian Kuupille and Isidore Aabeisie have since May, 2015 assumed the position of Principals of St. Basilide's Technical Institute and St. John's Technical Institute respectively. These appointments were made by the Director General of Ghana Education Service. They need our support and encouragement in this difficult task of reinstituting discipline/sanity in these schools.

4.0 TRANSFERS

Name of Brother	From	To	Effective date of transfer	Apostolate
Nicholas Yangtibr	Tumu	St. Louis	1 St August, 2015	In residence
Gregory Tang	Zebilla	Tamale	1 St September, 2015	Pre-Novice Master
Godfrey Debzie	Sunyani	Damongo	1 St September, 2015	In residence
Alexander Koomson Kofi	Tamale	Mt. Zion. Nandom	1 St November, 2015	FIC Jubilee School

5.0 FIC GENERAL CONFERENCE IN GHANA

Preparations are far advanced for our Congregational General Conference to take place in Wa, Ghana from 1st – 13th November, 2015 under the theme ***“Living Consecrated life through mission”***. In all, 16 brothers comprising delegates from the five provinces and the entire General Council are expected to attend. Details of the delegates are as follows:

No.	Name	Province	Arrival date & Time	Departure date & Time
1	Bro. Raphael Besigrinee	General Council	27 th Oct. @ 19.30	26 th Jan. 2016 @ 21.50
2	Bro. Martinus Handoko	„	29 th Oct. @ 19.30	16 th Nov. @ 21.50
3	Bro. Theo Suwaryanto	„	„	„
4	Bro. Guido Sukarman	„	„	24 th Nov. @ 21.50
5	Bro. Remy Nyukorong	General Treasurer		
6	Bro. Wim Luiten	The Dutch Province	27 th Oct @ 19.30	11 th Dec. @ 21.50
7	Bro. Maarten Bouw	„	27 th Oct. @ 19.30	10 th Jan. @ 21.50
8	Bro. Fransiskus Asisi Dwiyatno	Indonesia Province		
9	Bro. Giwal Santoso	„		
10	Bro. Daru Setiaji	„		
11	Bro. Martinus Dariyo	Malawi Province		
12	Bro. Henry Anthony Ibrahim	„		
13	Bro. Diego Izquierdo Gallego	Chile Province		
14	Bro. Seregeous Dery	Ghana Province	Not Applicable (NA)	NA
15	Bro. Cosmas Kanmwaa	„	„	„
16	Bro. Godwin Saabekone Kuu-ireme	„	„	„
Supporting staff				
17	Bro. Paul Sabogu	In charge of secretariat	„	„
18	Bro. Nimorious Ganee	Recording secretary	„	„

Formal opening session of the General Conference will take place on Sunday, 1st November, 2015 at 6.00pm in the Chapel of In-Service Training Centre (ISTC) with a Eucharistic celebration presided over (hopefully) by the Bishop of Wa Diocese - Most Rev. Paul Bemile. Invitation is opened to FIC communities in the Province who would like to attend the opening session. However, for planning purposes, it is expected that communities who wish to attend must register with the Provincial Secretary not later than 15th October, 2015.

6.0 OUR STUDENT BROTHERS

6.1 Brothers studying abroad:

Bro. Augustine Kubdaar recently folded up his 2-year MA studies in Clinical Psychology at the United States International University (USIU) of Nairobi – Kenya. According to him, God has been so gracious to him. He is fine. Everything is on course and progressing so well with him. He has finished his practicum, concluded and submitted his thesis and gained clearance to graduate on 22nd August, 2015. Also in an earlier communication he hinted that he had booked his flight to come home on 1st September, 2015.

Dear Bro. Augustine, we congratulate you on your successful completion of studies at USIU as well as welcome you back home after two continuous years of being away in Kenya. As you return to your base community - Sunyani, we hope you will soon settle down to life and find an apostolate there to practice.

6.2 Brothers Studying locally – Continuing students:

Bros. Severious B.T. Sentu, Stephen Bangnabayi and Hypolite Dun-Dery have finished their last semester of MA studies at the University of Education – Winneba, Kumasi and have returned home. They however still have to complete and submit their dissertations.

Bro. Amatus Taalo got admission in June, 2015 to pursue a 2-year sandwich MA studies in Educational administration and management at the University of Education of Winneba. In the meantime, he has already finished his first semester of studies and has returned to his community.

The fulltime undergraduate studies students namely: Irenius Nimbare, Joseph Kyoore and Williams Nyuzagl are currently on holidays and will return to School in September. From September to December, 2015 Bro. Williams will remain in his community and do his teaching practice at Twunia Manfo Senior High School in Sunyani. He will return to campus in January, 2016.

Bros. Peter Claver Kuuniabom, Conrad Nakuma, Joseph Zoyah, John Bosco Miilo, Aaron Nee-eru and Nimorius Dery Ganee who are either sandwich/distance undergraduate students currently are in school in their respective campuses. We wish them all the very best and success in their studies.

7.0 PROGRESS REPORT ON FIC JUBILEE SCHOOL PROJECT AT NANDOM

In the last circular letter we reported that the construction work on the 2-Storey 16-unit classroom block FIC Jubilee School in Nandom was expected to be completed and handed over by the close of July, 2015. However, due to some technical challenges the contractor asked for one month extension of handing over date to 31st August, 2015. At the moment all main constructional work is completed with final finishing touches been done. A detached aqua-private toilet and a water tower are also being constructed. Effort is being made to also extend electricity to the building as well as mechanize the drilled borehole.

8.0 VOCATION PROMOTION:

8.1 Candidates for Pre-Novitiate

This year, two Senior Aspirants namely: Mr. Abugri Elijah and Mr. Edmond Mopuuru applied for consideration to start their Pre-Novitiate at the end of the senior aspirants contact days which took place from 15th - 18th April, 2015 in St. Louis Community, Wa. The PC in its April, 2015 meeting considered their applications alongside with all other recommendations and admitted them to start their Pre-Novitiate on 10th October, 2015 in St. Vincent De Pual Community - Tamale.

Mr. Elijah Abugri is the son of Mr. Abugri Awini and Mrs. Hannah Abugri. He is a Kusasi by tribe and comes from Bawku – Zawse. He was born on 4th April 1994 and grew up in Techiman. He is the 10th born of 13 children. His parents are converts from traditional religion to Catholicism. One of his elder brothers (Abugri Ernest) is a seminarian at St. Victor's Seminary, Tamale. Elijah completed Christ the King Technical Institute (Bawku Technical Institute) in May, 2014 and holds Certificate II in Mechanical Engineering.

Mr. Edmond Mopuuru was born on 25th September, 1988 and hails from Nandom-Biiriguan. Mr. Joachim Mopuuru and Mrs. Agnes Piirigbee are his parents. His father is a farmer while the mother is a house wife. He is a product of St. Basilide's Technical Institute, Kaleo having offered carpentry and joinery. He had his advanced studies in the same course at Tamale Polytechnic and completed in June, 2015.

For the year-long accompaniment of the Pre-Novices, Bro. Gregory Tang has been appointed for this task. This appointment is for 2-years. We wish to thank Bro. Greg for his availability and readiness to help out in situations like this.

8.2 **Junior Aspirants Contact Days**

This year's Junior Aspirants Contact Days (JACD) took place at Kaleo - Thy Kingdom Come from 20Th – 22Nd August, 2015. The theme for the encounter was "Come and see" (John 1:39). Bro Irenius Nimbare was the resource person and gave an input on the theme and facilitated the group discussions. In all, there were 8 Junior Aspirants in attendance.

By same medium, we wish to re-echo the need for all brothers to put hands on deck in our vocation promotion effort. This is a responsibility for all Brothers and not a sole job for Bro. Clovis – The Aspirants Coordinator. All communities are expected to have local Aspirants leaders to spear head the local vocation promotion efforts in the neighboring schools and parishes. We notice that while some communities are doing excellently well in this respect, the efforts of some other communities needs serious redoubling.

9.0 **INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS, HOLIDAYS AND SICK BROTHERS**

9.1 **Bro. Jos van Dinther:** He left for home leave in June, 2015 and is expected back in September, 2015.

9.2 **Bro. Cosmas Kanmwaa:** He was part of Conference of Assisted Secondary Schools (CHASS) delegation to Finland to attend the 12Th Convention of the International Conference of Principals under the theme "Leading educational design". They left on 28Th July, 2015 and have since 11Th August, 2015 returned to Ghana. In talking about his Helsinki experience, Bro. Cosmas has this to say:

"About two thousand participants from over thirty countries participated. The conference was opened to all Principals or Headmasters and Mistresses from all over the world. Thirty-Two Headmasters and Mistresses attended from Ghana. It was a four-day conference which offered keynote addresses and workshops. All keynote addresses were held in one large hall and the workshops which were numerous were organized concurrently in about thirty four separate rooms. The Topics for the keynote addresses included the following:

- * THE FINNISH MIRACLE describing how the Finnish people were able to transform their educational system from a poor one to a very vibrant one. They occupy the top spot in the world.*
- * LEARNING HIDDEN FEATURES OF SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION SYSTEMS*
- * CREATIVITY, CARE, AND CRITIQUE-ON DESIGNING THINKING ORGANIZATIONS.*
- * ETHICS AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION.*
- * FROM LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS TO MOTIVATION ENVIRONMENTS.*
- * HOW EFFECTIVE PRINCIPALS LEAD CHANGE; LESSONS FROM GREAT SCHOOL LEADERS*

From the topics one would realize that they were addressing educational development both at the school level and also at the national level where educational policies are shaped. CHASS as a body had a lot to learn from other conferences around the globe especially in offering alternative policies to the government as far as educational policies are concerned. In countries where educational policies are discussed and shaped by experienced educationist and bodies such as

CHASS, they lead to enormous developments but when there is so much political interference or total hijacking, then it tends to lower educational standards. At the school level, we had a lot to learn from experienced educational leaders in employing creativity, ethics, motivational strategies, designing workable plans and ways of creating learning environments for our students.

After the conference which was very successful by all standards, we (the Ghanaian Heads) had the opportunity to visit ESTONIA a small country of about 1.5 million people. It is two and a half hours from Helsinki by ship. WE were all amazed at the massive infrastructural development in both Finland and Estonia. Two common tools for their success stories are honesty and hard-work. The people pay heavy taxes and the government makes sure that they get quality education and health care for free. They also enjoy good salaries, good roads, effective transport system and respect everywhere. In all, it was a trip worthwhile the cost and I hope the next conference will meet me alive."

- 9.3 **Bro. John Bosco Bongnea:** Since March, 2015 he has not been feeling well. Over this period, he has had specialist consultation and treatment at Korle- Bu teaching hospital but all these interventions did not seem to be of much help as his health state kept on degenerating each passing day. Consequently, he had to leave for The Netherlands on 7Th August, 2015 for treatment. We hope the Doctors out there would eventually diagnose and find a lasting treatment for him. Bro. Bosco, know that we are solidly behind you with our prayers.
- 9.4 **Bro, Stephen Custers:** Information reaching us together with photographs on Bro. Stephen indicates that, he has made great strides in his recovery process and his speech has returned to normalcy. According to reports received, he was finally discharged from Hospital on 20Th August, 2015 after almost 5 continuous months of Hospital admission.

We continue to keep him in our prayers. The PC is grateful to the General Council, the PC of the Netherlands and all our Brothers in the Netherlands, the Doctors and our friends who in various ways helped to find treatment for Bro. Stephen. May God bless you all.

10.0 WORKSHOP ON LEADERSHIP

Resolution 3 and 4 of our 2012 Provincial Chapter enjoined the current Provincial Council to engage in leadership training courses and developmental programmes to enhance the human development of brothers, their leadership skills as well as their appreciation of leadership. In pursuance of this goal, the PC has decided to organize a leadership workshop for all the Brothers in September, 2015 at St. Louis Community - Wa. The date of arrival is Friday, 4Th September, 2015 at 5.00pm. Super will be at 7.00pm followed by opening of the workshop. The rest of the proposed daily time table will be made available to you at the opening session.

The workshop will be facilitated by the Provincial Superior of the Missionaries of Africa (Rev. Fr. Dominic Apee. M.Afr.). The workshop will be geared towards leadership formation based on Faith and Praxis. Faith and Praxis is a leadership formation team based in Rome. They have been running this workshop since 2010 which accordingly have benefited many congregational leaders from many African countries to include: Uganda, Burkina Faso and Rwanda. Fr. Apee is not only a beneficiary of this programme but has over the years helped the team to deliver same workshops in Burkina Faso and to the Conference of Major Superiors of Religious, Ghana.

The complete course is usually given in two modules of 6 intensive days followed by months of application of the content learned. However, given the difficulties we have in getting convenient time to organize workshops of this nature, we propose to have the first phase of the course in 3 intensive days. Then based on the outcome of phase 1, we could then consider the phase 2 later this year or next year.

11.0 FIC COMMON RETREAT

The Provincial Councilors and the PC Secretary had their annual retreat at Centre for Spiritual Renewal - Kumasi from 30Th July – 5Th August, 2014.

The common retreat for all Brothers will take place in St. Louis Community-Wa from 8Th - 14Th September, 2015. The theme chosen for these days of reflection is “*Servant leadership: Promoters of peace, unity and fraternal communal living*” The retreat would be facilitated by Msgr. Thomas Anamoo, a Lecturer at St. Victor’s Major Seminary in Tamale. Brothers, who intend to participate in this retreat and have not yet registered, are reminded to immediately register with the Provincial Secretary to facilitate planning.

12.0 ENTRY INTO CANONICAL NOVICIATE, RENEWAL OF VOWS & DEPARTURE.

12.1 **Pre-Novices:** Mr. Cletus Saanu has successfully completed his Pre-Novitiate and has been admitted in to the Canonical Novitiate. He will make the entry on 14Th September, 2015, at the end of the common retreat at St. Louis Community in Wa. Mr. Collins Aserbire Atariwa-am on his part has been asked to discontinue his initial formation. As hinted elsewhere, Bro. Alpitio Kog has been appointed as Director of the Canonical Year Novitiate.

12.2 **Renewal of Vows:** On the 14Th September, 2015, Bros. Nimorious D. Ganee, John Bosco Miilu, Irenius Nimbare and Aaron Nee-eru would renew their vows for 3-years each. Bro. Francis Sarfo on his part has also been granted permission to renew his vows for 2-years. While we congratulate them on this bold step made by them in renewing their religious vows, we hope and pray that the Lord who calls and missions would carry them through to the end.

12.3 **Departure of Bro. Fidelis Naab Gyiireh:** For very personal reasons he has decided not to renew his vows and thus has asked to return home. By letter of 20Th August, 2015 the General Council approved of his request. He hopes to return home by 30Th August, 2015, to start a new life after a resettlement package has been given him. The Provincial Council on behalf of the Brothers, is grateful to Fidelis for the contributions made to FIC through his community and apostolate over the past 3-years.

13.0 FIC JOURNEY TO SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT 2014/15

On 4Th July, 2015 the Coordinator of the FIC Journey to Spiritual Enrichment (FIC-JSE) organized an evaluation meeting for participants of the 2014 FIC-JSE. The evaluation gave a critical look at the personal covenant each participant made at the end of OASIS. At the end of this meeting, it was proposed that a meeting be convened for all brothers who ever made the FIC journey for sharing of experiences. It is hoped that this encounter will be a source of cross inspiration and further enrichment for each of you.

In view of reducing travelling expenses, the planned meeting is scheduled to come off on Friday, 4Th September, 2015 at 3:00pm at St. Louis Community, Wa. Please be so kind to inform Bro. Albert Ketelaars by email (ketelaarsalbert@gmail.com) or on phone No. 0208 952 449 of your coming.

14.0 BEREAVEMENTS

Since the last circular letter up till now many Brothers have lost close relatives and dear ones. They include Bros. Godwin, Severious Sentu, Conrad Nakuma, Fabian Bezel, Alpitio Kog, Godfrey Debzie, Irenius Nimbare and Clement Naagpire. We pray that these Brothers and their siblings would find consolation in the promise of the resurrection in their grieve over the loss of their dear ones.

In the same string, we recognize that a number of brothers also loss relatives during the period. By virtue of distance and other commitments, not all of us could be present to grieve with you. Nevertheless, we were united in spirit praying for the peaceful repose of the souls of the dead.

15.0 MEMORIAL FUNERAL MASS FOR THE LATE BRO. JOHN Van WINDEN

On Wednesday, 19Th August, 2015 we go the sad and shocking news from Maastricht of the death of Bro. John Van Winden. This sad news was relayed to all brothers of the Province, the following day. For sake of the young brothers who perhaps had only heard about Bro. John but never had the change to know him whiles he was alive, I will say something brief here about him.

The late Bro. John was among the pioneering group of FIC Brothers to arrive in Ghana in 1967. Because of his special gifts, expertise and human qualities he was used more often like a universal spanner till his return to the Netherlands in 1989. He championed various forms of development works particularly in the Nandom area. Prominent of these projects included among others design and construction of Nandom Secondary School and Nandom Vocational School (NVS) (Now St. John Technical Institute). He was the main brain behind the establishment of NVS and nurtured this school to maturation before his repatriation to the Netherlands in 1989.

In recognition of his immense contribution to education in the Nandom Traditional Area, especially in the training of the youth in the area of technical/vocational education, which has greatly brought about development and improvement in the livelihood of many in the traditional area, the Paramount Chief, Sub-Chiefs, elders and people of the Nandom Traditional Area at their 25Th anniversary of the Kakube Festival in December, 2013 gave him an award. However, for reasons of advanced age and frail health Bro. John could not come himself to Ghana for this award. His younger brother, Prof. Frans van Winden accompanied by his wife Jos Van Winden -De Lay had to do so on his behalf.

The PC has decided to organize a memorial funeral mass on **Monday, 24Th August, 2015 at 7.00pm at the Provincial** House to pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of the late Bro. John van Winden. His funeral mass and burial will also take place in Maastricht on the same day in the afternoon. It is expected that all Brothers of St. Louis and Kaleo Communities would attend in their numbers. Invitation is opened to brothers of the other Communities who would like to attend.

16.0 CONCLUSION

So far, these are the tit-bits of update information we have for you. Some information contained here might be obsolete news for some brothers/communities yet still we think it is vital that all brothers are kept posted with all relevant developments in the Province. We thank you all for your cooperation enjoyed so far.

May the God who calls and missions, continue to shepherd us in our ministry and living together as Brothers. Stay blessed.



23-08-2015

Br. Seregeous Dery
Provincial Superior
(On behalf of the Provincial Council)