



Ghana Calls on Russia to End War in Ukraine

See back page

St. Victor's Seminary Climaxes 75th Anniversary

Traditional Leaders laud cordial relations with community

Story on back page

Ghana Catholic Bishops hold Workshop on Church Management



Story on page 3

Some members of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference with Facilitators and Sponsors at the Workshop. On the extreme left is Very Rev. Fr. Lazarus Anondee, Secretary General of the GCBC.



Best wishes to our readers and all Ghanaians on occasion of Ghana's Independence Day celebration on Sunday, March 6, 2022.

Ghana Catholic Bishops hold Workshop on Church Management

A one-week Workshop on the theme: *Church Management, Synodality and the Diocesan Apostolate* has been held for the Catholic Bishops and their immediate collaborators from February 28 to March 5 in Accra.

The Workshop was held in two phases with the first three days dedicated to the Bishops and the last days for Vicars General and Financial Administrators of all Dioceses in Ghana.

At a reception held at the end of the one for the Bishops, the Vice President of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference and Archbishop of Cape Coast, Most Rev. Charles G. Palmer-Buckle, described the Workshop as "a wonderful and fantastic learning experience," adding that the Facilitators made the programme very interesting with their sense of humour.

Archbishop Palmer-Buckle wished that the lay faithful had the opportunity to have participated in the Workshop "since we need the professionalism and expertise of the lay people in the Church."

One of the Facilitators and Sponsors of the Workshop, Dr. Martin Wilde of the Jacob Christian Adam Stiftung (Foundation) in Germany commended the Bishops for the attention and passion with which they followed the Workshop, adding that the Bishops "have everything required to

promote the evangelisation efforts of the Church in Ghana. What you need more is to tap the human resources available in the Church for capacity building for efficient and effective management."

The First Phase of the Workshop (February 28- March 2,) for the Bishops opened with an Orientation on Church Management Challenges. Other topics treated during the Workshop included: The Governing Office of a Bishop and a Spirituality of Administration; Synodality and Discernment of Pastoral Priorities for the Diocese; Allocating and Accounting for Human, Financial and Spiritual Capital; Allocating and Accounting for Physical and Social Capital; Synodality and Discernment of Pastoral Priorities for the Diocese; and Leadership, Vision, and Communications for Bishops.

Prof. Matthew Manion of the Villanova University, in the US who was the lead facilitator, presented the Bishops with Certificates of participation.

The Bishops in turn gave each of the Facilitators and Sponsors Kente stole and a wooden carving of the map of Ghana.

The workshop focused on the *Apostolorum Successores* (#164), the Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops.

It called to mind the need for close

coordination of all apostolic activities be they catechetical, missionary, charitable, social, family, educational, or any other pastoral end, under the Bishop's guidance in order that the Word of God might reach many different environments and people.

Thus, all the undertakings and organisations, must act together in harmony so that the unity of the Diocese which can sometimes be difficult to achieve will be more closely demonstrated.

The Workshop encouraged Bishops to create a pastoral plan for this unity to occur

taking into consideration the local Church's reality and resources.

According to the *Apostolorum Successores*, the formulation of such a plan requires prior analysis of the sociological conditions in which the faithful live their lives, so that pastoral activity may be ever more effective in addressing real problems.

It states that the plan should take account of the varied geographical aspects of the Diocese as well as the demographic distribution and composition of the population, keeping in mind the changes that have already taken place or could take place in the near future. It should encompass the whole Diocese in all its complexity, including those areas which are considered outside ordinary Pastoral Care.

'Transform Society With Truth and Love'





The Catholic Standard

VOL. 84 NO. 10

GHANA'S NATIONAL CATHOLIC WEEKLY ESTD. IN 1938 | SUNDAY, MARCH 13, – SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

PRICE ▶ GH¢2.00



JAKOB CHRISTIAN ADAM STIFTUNG

Interview with Facilitators and Sponsors of a Workshop on Church Management for Catholic Bishops in Ghana

Continued from page 4

Then two years ago we had the first Church Management Workshop for Financial Directors and the outcome was so positive that the President of the Bishops' Conference, Most Rev. Philip Naameh invited us to organise a second workshop for the Bishops and the Vicars General.

CS: Between two years and now, what have you seen in the two workshops as positive and as negative.

Mr. Konopka: I think it is a very positive development and great honour to us that almost all the Bishops, Vicars General

and Financial Administrators took part in the Workshop. And we see greater awareness of good governance in both our own and in the work of our local partners in Ghana.

CS: What was the cost involved in organising this Workshop?

Mr. Konopka: The success of the workshop was very much based on the academic input of lecturers from Villanova and St. Thomas both Catholic Universities in USA. However the Workshop is a gift of our love so we will not talk about money at all.

CS: Yesterday at the closing session of

the Bishops' Workshop, Archbishop Palmer-Buckle who is the Vice President of the Conference talked about the need for this kind of programme for lay people. Do you foresee anything like that for a selected group of lay people in Ghana?

Mr. Konopka: As



Mr. Konopka

Archbishop Palmer-Buckle said, it is true there are highly professional lay people in Ghana who support the Bishops and the

Clergy and take their responsibilities in building up the Catholic Church in Ghana. So it is in the interest of the Church as well to use the skills and talents of the lay people.

CS: What advice would you give with regard to teaching Church Management in the Catholic Universities.

Mr. Konopka: I would like to encourage the Bishops to set up a Church Management Programme in Ghana and to use local expertise. I think the Bishops here will know how to proceed with this subject. Together with our friends from the US we would accompany this with great sympathy.

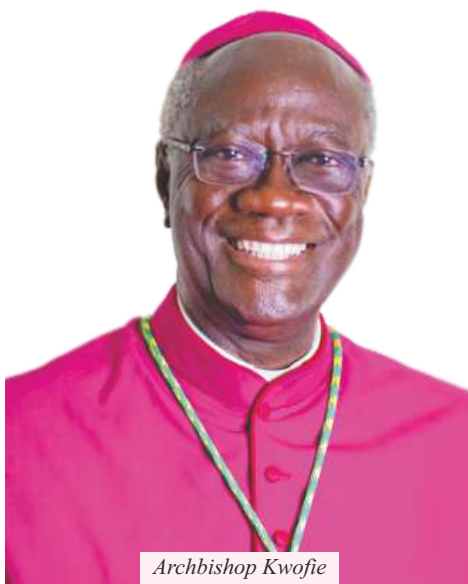
CS: How do you find Ghana?

Mr. Konopka: When I come here it is like coming out to visit friends. Ghana is such a beautiful country, you are a maturing democracy accompanied with a booming private sector. And I wish the Catholic Church in Ghana will develop both in members and spiritual richness.

CS: Thank you very much and I wish you a safe flight back.

– Archbishop Kwofie

By Angela Ofosu Boateng



Archbishop Kwofie

The Metropolitan Archbishop of Accra, Most Rev. John Bonaventure Kwofie, CSSp., has called on Catholics to remain resolute in the Catholic faith and not be swayed by other Churches.

He made the call when he paid a Pastoral visit to the Our Lady of Assumption (OLA) Parish at New Achimota, Accra, during which he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to about 100 Parishioners.

The Confirmandi were from the OLA Parish and its Outstations – St. Daniel Comboni

Church, Tantra Hills, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Chantan and St. Cecilia Church, Ofankor North.

The Archbishop lamented that some Catholics even after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation still left the Catholic Church to join other Churches and asked the Confirmandi to make a solemn promise never to leave the Church.

Making reference to the recent Housing and Population Census, he said it was evident that the Catholic Population in the Country was gradually dwindling and called to mind the need for the Church to renew and revive its evangelisation zeal to win back lapsed Catholics.

Evangelisation, the Archbishop said, is not done only by Word of mouth but by deeds as well,

and charged the Confirmandi and indeed all Catholics to evangelise with their lifestyle and character so that others will see Christ in them and be moved to follow Him.

The Church built on Christ does not and must not go down, Archbishop Kwofie reiterated, adding that we all have a responsibility to ensure this does happen.

Rev. Fr. Francisco Machado, MCCJ, the Parish Priest, who preached the homily, called on the faithful to desist from projecting falsehood, intolerance, envy, dishonesty and other evil behaviours but be true witnesses of God's love for humanity by always

Continued on page 3