



SAINT JOHN OF GOD HOSPITALLER SERVICES IN CAMEROON



**St. John of God Batibo, Douala and Nguti
North West, Littoral and South West Regions of Cameroon.
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THE "HOSPITALLER ECHO" - CAMEROON SERVICES JUNE, 2015

FROM THE MAB CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Dear Readers,

The month of June was full of exciting events surrounding the services in Cameroon. The month began with the holding of a strategic conference for the Hospitaller Services in Cameroon by the Provincial Council as a way to sharpen our saws. Cameroon is blessed with two new brothers one for first profession Bro Primus Kum and Bro Ambroise Akebe Gondi for solemn profession. This will go a long way to strengthen the services of the order in Cameroon.

The conference highlighted collective areas forging ahead in a collegial manner. Taking a step behind and making a high jump forward was a practical idea solicited by our collaborators. "Sharpen our saws" was another practical approach. In his inaugural address, Very Rev. Bro Bartholomew invite participants to "PREPARE" for

the mission in Cameroon where he acronymised it to stand for:

P – Passion and purpose

R – Respect and compassion

E – Excellent in performance

P – Patient safety, quality care and protocol.

A – Attitude of trust, integrity and honesty

R – Responsibility

E – Efficiency and team work.

I stand with a philosopher who once identified three people in the world: (1) those who make things happen, (2) those who see things happen and (3) those who do not know how things happen. I wonder where we belong. Definitely 'making things happen' is a must and not a should for the St John of Hospitaller Services in Cameroon and in line with the St Augustine Province of Africa.



*Bro. Linus Tangu
(Regional Counsellor)*

BRIEF UPDATES FROM ST. JOHN OF GOD HEALTH SERVICES

STRATEGIC CONFERENCE

The Hospitaller Services in Cameroon have been privileged this month to host a high level strategic conference from 1st to 3rd June, 2015 in Batibo. It was attended by the Provincial Superior, Vicar and Secretary. Also in attendance were all the brothers within the Hospitaller Services in Cameroon including Bros Raphael, Linus Wirnkar, Nestor, Brenda, Jacob, Patrick, Edwin, and Primus. Above all, the presence of the Manager of HospitaalBroeders in Holand in the person David Heyer motivated the sharpening of our saws.

It is a fact that many donors and collaborators would have loved to participate in the conference especially Peter Dawoh, Michael Koroma and John Mitchell, but visa problems and other busy schedules did not make it possible. It is true that your contributions made the conference a success.

The conference started with a votive mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by Bros John Oppong and Raphael Teh. The St John of God Choir made up of Batibo Health Centre staff chanted melodious songs to inaugurate the opening of the conference.



In his opening address, the Provincial Superior alerted the brothers and co-workers to sharpen the saw and prepare for a change of focus if the Hospitaller Services in Cameroon want to survive. He emphasised that sharpening our saw means “to work together as a community, team and family of St John of God and that **Our services must be policy driven:** human resource, clinical standards, finances, projects, communications, vocation promotion, employee retention etc. to keep the organization going.

The conference ended with major resolutions taken on the future of the services in Cameroon both at the community levels as well as apostolate levels. Much thanks and appreciation to all those who made the dreams of a conference come to fruition especially the host staffs of Batibo.



Closing the conference with diner, pleasantries and souvenirs to provincial and his team



VISIT TO KOANO

On the 4/6/2015, the Provincial Superior and David accompanied by Bro Linus Tangu, Michel Eke, Blasius Kum and other and Co-Workers went to inspect the water rehabilitation project at Koano village sponsored by John Mitchel. They were welcome on arrival by the entire village population who took them round the project sites. One Elder (Regent Chief) noted that “the villagers now enjoy portable water throughout Koano village”. The Nurse in-charge of the Saint John of God Health post (Josephine) also noted that “I am proud as my patients now enjoy pipe borne water connected to the bathroom and toilet”.

The day was filled with merry making including traditional dances and the sharing of “mimbu” and food. The children begged David to pass the night in their village as it was late and rainy



Provincial and David inspecting the sites and testing the water accompanied by village elders

FINAL PROFESSION OF BRO AMBROISE GONDI

The Hospitaller services in Cameroon hosted a twin program and one of it was the solemn profession of Bro Am-

broise Akebe Gondi. He is currently doing his apostolate at Yassa in Douala. The great event started with a one week retreat by Bro Ambroise in the Cistercian Monastery at Mbengwi – North West region (Bamenda). He prepared himself spiritually according to religious customs in order to embrace this great and memorable moment in the history of his vocation.

Saturday 6th June, 2015 was the ‘D’ Day where all religious in and around the Deanery including Christians represented from all mission stations in the St Sebastian Parish gathers to commemorate this great event. The main celebrant for the day was Most Reverend Bishop Francis Teke Lysinge, emeritus of Mamfe. He was assisted by the Parish Priest Fr Joseph Nchitu and other clergy such as Frs Raphael Teh, John Opong, Valentine, priest monks etc.

The service started with a prodigious bible procession led by the Catholic Women Association (CWA) of Bati-bo parish. In his homily, the prelate encouraged all young men and women to offer their lives to Christ by embracing the consecrated life of poverty, chastity, obedience and hospitality.

It was time for offertory where the CWA who have attended the occasion in their number, organized a special offertory procession which lasted

for over thirty minutes. They brought many gifts such as palm oil, yams, plantains etc. to offer to the Lord. The ceremony ended with the taking of pictures, distribution of gifts, souvenirs and lunch at the parish hall and parish house. It was a special moment. Come and see the wonders the Lord has done. The family of Bro Ambroise and delegates from his parish in Yaoundé came in their numbers to accompany their son on this great day.



PROVINCIAL AND TEAM VISIT THE NEW CENTRE AT YASSA

It was the first time since the opening of the centre in October, 2014 that the Father Provincial paid a visit to Cameroon. He was taken round the clinic where he was impressed with the works so far accomplished. He encouraged the staffs to work hard and with determination for the future of the mission in Cameroon largely depends on Yassa.

He was introduced to the laboratory unit where his attention was drawn to the microbiology unit that had just been installed sponsored by John Mitchell of St John of God Development Company Co-Dublin in Ireland. The Provincial encouraged the Laboratory Staff to take care of the property very well and



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vertise the service to other users.

WORKING VISIT TO NGUTI

The Provincial Superior and team made a courtesy call to the Prelate of Mamfe Diocese Rt Rev Andrew Nkea on Sunday 7th June, 2015. During the visit, the bishop was abreast with the current situation of the St John of God hospital in Nguti. After close to forty five minutes discussion, the Bishop thanked the delegation and promised to assist the Order in any form that they may deem necessary.

At the end of the discussion, the bishop invited the delegation for lunch as it was about lunch time. After lunch, the Provincial and his team comprising of Bro Paulinus, John Oppong, Linus Tangu continued to Nguti.

While in Nguti, the Provincial met with the Brothers, government officials, youth leaders, elders and staffs of the hospital. The aim of these encounters was to solicit stakeholders' views on the current situation of the hospital. He stressed that his plight was that of the workers and their families who are in distress as a result of the poor condition of the hospital.



Provincial Superior meets Labour Delegates for Meme and Kupe-Muanenguba and TUC President.

