



SMA chosen to be bishop in Benin



Archbishop Michel Cartatéguy SMA of Niamey, Niger lays hands on the head of Bishop Gnonhossou during the Ordination ceremony.



SMA Superior General, Fr Fachtna O'Driscoll, Bight of Benin Superior, Fr Reginald Nwachukwu SMA and Bishop Gnonhossou SMA.

On 12 February, Pope Francis appointed Fr François Gnonhossou SMA as the 2nd Bishop of Dassa-Zoumé in the Republic of Benin.

Bishop François was born in 1961 in Dassa-Zoumé. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Cotonou he studied Politics and Law in the University of Abomey-Calavi. At the same time he was involved with the Emmanuel Community in the local parish which eventually led to his joining the SMA. As part of his training he spent one year working with Fr Eddie Hartnett SMA (from Cork) in his parish in Badagry, Nigeria. He then completed his theological studies at the St Peter & Paul Major seminary in Ibadan, Nigeria and, in 1997, he was ordained as the first SMA priest from the Republic of Benin.

His first appointment as a priest was to the Vicariate of Kontagora in Nigeria, under the leadership of Bishop Tim Carroll SMA (from Millstreet, Co Cork). Six years later, after

studies in Paris, he was appointed as the Vice Superior [and later Superior] of the SMA African Foundation, which was the SMA unit responsible for training Africans who wanted to be SMA missionaries. From 2009 to 2013 he ministered in a French-speaking parish in Canada. In 2013 he was elected as a Councillor to the SMA Superior General and moved to Rome from where he was appointed Bishop by Pope Francis.

Speaking of his appointment, he recalled the historic links of the SMA and modern-day Benin [formerly Dahomey]: **"We have to give what we have received, to serve where the need is felt, and where God needs us. I see myself first as heir to Bishop de Brésillac [SMA Founder] but also as heir to Fr. Francesco Borghero"** [who founded the Church in Benin]. Borghero landed in Ouidah in 1861, the first Italian SMA in Africa. The new bishop sees himself as a link in this chain that continues to spread, so that the Kingdom of God, the good news of the Gospel is always announced in Africa.



A view of the congregation

The diocese of Dassa-Zoumé is situated in the centre of the country, stretching from the Nigerian border in the east to the Togolese border in the west. Not for nothing is it called the 'crossroads' of Benin. When it was created in 1995 it had ten parishes. Today there are fifty-one! Of the 645,000 population spread over 13,931 km² [about a quarter the size of Ireland], 57% are Catholic. Bishop François will lead a pastoral team of 120 diocesan priests, 62 nuns and more than 200 lay catechists in 51 parishes. The diocese has 40 major seminarians.

17% of the population are Muslim and 18% are followers of Traditional Religions.

His motto is '**Serve the Lord in the midst of His people**'. One of the symbols in his Coat of Arms is of three hills, symbolising the unity of the faith in the Trinity and also recalls the hills for which the Dassa-Zoumé area is noted.

Bishop François was ordained in the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Arigbo, on the outskirts of Dassa-Zoumé town on 28 March 2015. The ordination ceremony lasted for over five hours, with more than 300 priests from all over Benin and beyond in attendance. The principal Consecrator was the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Brian Udaigwe. Also present at the ceremony was the President of Benin, Doctor Thomas Yayi Boni and the entire Benin Bishops Conference as well as bishops from Togo and Niger.

One striking feature of the ceremony was the presence of at least 50 SMA priests, most of them from different parts of Africa and India. For the diminishing number of European SMAs present this was a wonderful sign of how the Lord has blessed the work of the early missionaries, from that first day when Fr Borghero landed at Ouidah.

Shortly after his birth both François and his mother fell seriously ill. His grandfather, a priest of the Traditional Religion, after consulting the Oracle, told the family that either François or his mother would die. It was for François' father to decide who should live. He chose his wife, arguing that if she lived they could have more children. But an aunt refused to accept this and insisted on taking the 4 week old baby with her to another village. When asked how she could care for the child against the Oracle she replied that she would leave all in the hands of God. At the age of five he was returned to his mother, who died in 2012. His father had died in 1995.

The SMA has seven priests from the diocese, serving in different parts of Africa as well as in Benin.

The different languages spoken in the diocese – Yoruba, Fon, French – were used throughout the ceremony. The Irish-born SMA Superior General, Fr. Fachtna O'Driscoll, drew applause when he addressed the congregation in Yoruba, which he had learnt during his years in Nigeria. When he began a Praise Song in the language the congregation joined in and it took some time for them to stop so we could proceed with the ceremony!

Father François Gnonhossou is the 3rd African SMA to be ordained a bishop, following Bishops Nestor Nongo-Aziagbia and Denis Agbenyadzi, both serving in the Central African Republic.



Bishop François Gnonhossou SMA.

Hope keeps you alive

"How long more will this go on? That is the great worry tormenting many people in the Central African Republic [CAR]. We are weary from a crisis that has lasted for more than three years."

With these words SMA Bishop Nestor Nongo-Aziagbia sums up the feeling in the country which is still suffering the effects of civil unrest and interference from foreign mercenaries intent on gaining access to the country's vast mineral wealth [with the active cooperation of politicians etc]. While the number of innocent victims grows longer every day there are increasing doubts about the political will to address the underlying issues. Human rights violations are regular occurrences, particularly summary executions and the total destruction of houses and entire villages. Fields and barns have been razed so that crops are destroyed which will lead to increased hunger in the coming months. Healthcare facilities and schools remain closed in many areas due to fears about security. The country is locked into a deep humanitarian and institutional crisis alongside military and political deadlock. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that 2.5 million people are in need of humanitarian aid and that 501,980 people are at risk.

Justice cannot be evaded

Even though there has been inter-religious conflict, with terrible atrocities occurring on all sides, there is no doubt that the underlying problem in CAR is fuelled by politico-economic ambitions. And those who are fuelling the violence need to know that their crimes will not go unpunished. Amnesty International states, **"One of the main challenges that the transitional authorities in the Central African Republic, as well as the international community as a whole, are facing is the need to put an end to the current impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious breaches of human rights."**

Bossangoa diocese

Despite the above, Bossangoa diocese strives to provide solidarity, help and support to those affected by the crisis. For example, various diocesan groups [Caritas, Justice & Peace and the Catholic Education Commissions], in partnership with various UN and other foreign agencies, are supporting various programmes in the areas of health, education, nutrition, food security, emergency shelter...

One such programme helped internally displaced persons [IDPs] in the diocese, irrespective of their religion. The Emergency Response Scheme of Misean cara (an Irish company gathering together the different missionary societies [including the SMA and OLA Sisters] and lay groups to distribute money provided by Irish Aid, the official government agency distributing the Irish Foreign Aid budget) gave a grant of €15,000. This sum helped provide food and hygiene items for about 3,500 IDPs. Most notably twenty physically handicapped people in the two IDP camps in Bossangoa were provided with hand-pedalled tricycles. Most of them were Polio victims who either had no tricycles or whose tricycles had been lost or damaged during the attacks on



Distribution of rice, cooking oil and other essential goods for the IDPs.

their villages. Effectively, this money came from the Irish taxpayer, many of whom are SMA supporters. For this Bishop Nestor and the pastoral team in Bossangoa, as well as the wider SMA, are eternally grateful.

Misean Cara members are committed to working with and for the marginalised and most vulnerable people in the developing world, in solidarity with the poor in ways that transform lives while respecting the integrity of local cultures.

Misean Cara was established to support the marginalised and most vulnerable through the work of its member organisations and their partners by accessing funds and distributing them fairly and effectively according to agreed criteria and based on development effectiveness. For further information www.miseancara.ie



Some of the new tricycles ready to be sent to Bangassou.

Speaking of the ongoing situation in CAR, Bishop Nestor says, "As can clearly be seen, the crisis has not deprived us of our capacity to mobilise effort and witness to the Gospel. On the contrary, it has affirmed us in our faith and determination to commit ourselves to the service of our brothers and sisters. This endeavour is all the more praiseworthy because hope keeps you alive. As the saying goes, no matter how long the night may be, dawn will surely come. Such are the convictions that keep us on our feet and help keep us going."



Tanzania

SMA - Building



Fr Tony Gill SMA & Fr Janusz Machota SMA on Site



Laying the foundations 2013

I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last John 15:16

After 150 years the vision of Bishop Melchior Marion de-Bresillac, founder of the SMA, to preach the Gospel to the "most abandoned" still inspires many SMA missionaries. Today however, much has changed. The Gospel and its message of justice and peace is still preached but the work of the SMA has become a truly international mission. The work of generations of Irish and French SMA's has borne great fruit, the Church has been established and now there are African and Asian SMA missionaries working alongside those from Europe.

In Tanzania there are 22 SMA priests and seven lay Missionaries from 14 different countries. Among them is Fr Tony Gill who has worked in Tanzania for 28 years and who, this year, will celebrate fifty years as a missionary. He is based in Mwanza, Tanzania's second largest city, which is located on the shores of Lake Victoria. Fr Tony works in Pasiansi Parish as part of a team with another SMA priest from the Republic of Benin and two Dutch lay missionaries. The SMA Regional Superior, who is from Poland, also lives nearby.

True to the vision of the SMA Founder the members of this international team are all involved in a project that will both help the development of the Church and also bring social development to local people. It will also provide a valuable resource for the people of the Parish for many years to come.



Parish Centre - ready for roofing 2015

Building for the future

In the past Kitangiri, which is part of Pasiansi Parish, was just a small fishing village on the shores of Lake Victoria. It is now a growing suburb of Mwanza City. At present there are roughly 1,100 houses and their number is increasing rapidly. This expansion is mostly unregulated and as the people are poor it consists mainly of small houses that lack running water and electricity. The area has few paved roads.

Some years ago, when it became clear that the area was growing, the SMA applied to the Local Government for land. A boulder-filled plot was granted with the proviso that buildings on it would be used not only for religious purposes but also for community development activities. To secure the land a Parish House was constructed and later another was built for the SMA lay missionaries.

In 2012 preparations for building began. A multipurpose structure was designed to provide both a fitting place for worship and the Sacraments and also space for community development activities. A local fundraising campaign realised €30,000. In addition to raising these funds parishioners provided voluntary labour to level and clear the site and to break stones into chippings for the concrete used in the building. By June 2013 the foundations were laid. Over the next two years, as funds became available, the floors and walls were completed. All of this cost a total of €55,000. The extra funds needed came from the SMA in Ireland and in Holland.

The new Centre, which will be called the deBresillac Centre after the SMA Founder, is a substantial building. The ground floor contains a Church, which will also serve as a Community Hall, two classrooms and a sacristy. The second floor has offices, storage space and washrooms.

The church community in Kitangiri is now at a stage where it needs a permanent home. At present Sunday Mass is celebrated in a local school classroom. This is now much too small. There are also many church and community groups attached to the Parish that need a permanent place

To contribute to the Kitangiri Project contact the Development Office, African Missions, Blackrock Road, Cork or Donate on line at www.sma.ie

for their activities. For Fr Tony and the Parish team the next priority is to make the building weather-proof. Once this is done it will begin to be used. Special collections to raise funds have taken place locally and some donations have been made by Apostolic Work groups in Ireland. Applications have also been made to funding agencies in Ireland and England. Hopefully all of these will result in the €25,000 needed to complete the roof before the end of 2015.

Completing the electrical work, plumbing, plastering and decorating will be done when funds become available. In the meantime the faithful in Kitangiri will literally have a roof over their heads and a place to call their own.

A Busy Parish

Building a Church or Parish is not just a matter of bricks, mortar or even of putting on the roof, which at present is of particular importance in Kitangiri. The tasks of building up faith, spiritual and social development are also priorities.

These tasks have not been neglected in Pasiansi Parish which was opened by the SMA in 1999. It has three Mass Centres and a Catholic population of over three and a half thousand people. Last year there were 432 Baptisms, 242 First Holy Communions, 276 Confirmations and 39 Marriages. The Parish also has 36 active Small Christian Community groups. In addition to the SMA team, four catechists, ten religion teachers and three Sisters from a local congregation also work in the parish. There is a lot going on.

The SMA team also addresses social needs in the area. One of the Dutch lay missionaries runs a project for Street Children in Mwanza, the other coordinates the LULU Project. Fr Tony founded a self-help group for people with HIV/Aids in order to promote understanding of living with the condition and so that members could support each other. There are also other groups active in the Parish, such as youth and women's groups, choirs etc. Together with the Church community they all contribute to the social fabric of the area and all will benefit from the new Centre.



Fr Tony with Parishioners during a Baptism



Members of the LULU Group with Corine 't Hart

The LULU Project

Led by Corine 't Hart, a Dutch lay missionary, this project helps teenage mothers and other vulnerable girls to discover their talents and to plan their futures. It works with 120 young women and has twenty trained facilitators. In Swahili the word "lulu" means pearl. This name was chosen because of the "Pearl of Great Price" in Matthew's Gospel Chapter 13. This refers to the inestimable value of each person in the sight of God who, as a sign of this great love, sent his Son for our salvation. In essence the Lulu Project helps young women to see their God-given value and because of this to develop the skills through which they can care for themselves and their children.

The deBresillac Centre will be a much needed base for this group and for the valuable contribution it makes to promoting the human dignity that is at the core of Catholic Social Teaching and which the SMA sees as an integral part of its Mission. To develop further the LULU Project needs permanent meeting rooms, storage and office space. Having facilities such as running water and electricity will also be big advantages.

The project began in 2013. Now there are eight LULU groups, each with fifteen members. They meet twice each week, up to now, in a local school classroom. They follow a programme of training in life skills, managing money and healthcare. Meetings focus on topics such as dealing with the pressures of life, relationships and emotions. Participants learn about budgeting and have set up a small savings and loan scheme to save and to lend to each other. Meetings also teach practical skills, handicrafts and how to set up small income generating businesses. Another area of importance is training in relation to health care and nutrition for themselves and their children.

The Lulu project is in itself a "pearl of great price", something of great value because it helps young women to develop the strengths, confidence and maturity to plan and build futures in which they can live with the human dignity that we all, as people who have been made in the image and likeness of God, share. **May God bless this, and all the work of the SMA Team in Pasiansi Parish, Tanzania.**

SMA ARCHBISHOP CALLS FOR ACTION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN IRELAND



Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA

On 8 February last the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly welcomed its new Archbishop – Most Rev Kieran O'Reilly SMA. Ordained an SMA priest in 1978, the new Archbishop served in Liberia and Nigeria. He was later a member of the SMA Irish Provincial Council in Rome. Six years later he was elected as the SMA Superior General, a post he held until his appointment by Pope Benedict XVI as bishop of Killaloe in 2010. Less than

five years later Bishop O'Reilly was appointed by Pope Francis to succeed Archbishop Dermot Clifford in Cashel and Emly.

As the new Archbishop was already a bishop the ceremony in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Thurles was to formally install him as the Archbishop. At the entrance to the Cathedral he was greeted by the Dean of the Diocesan Chapter, Monsignor Christy O'Dwyer, and twelve men and women representing the Deaneries of the Diocese.

The Principal concelebrants were the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown, and the Archbishop Emeritus, Most Rev Dermot Clifford. Also present at the ceremony were his mother, Theresa, his brother Joseph, sisters Therese and Deirdre, other family members and SMA priests. It was heartening to see so many priests and people from the diocese of Killaloe where Bishop Kieran served since 2010. Speaking of how they felt 'losing' him to Cashel and Emly, one priest said to an SMA, "now we know how the SMA felt in 2010 when he was appointed to us."

After the Entrance Procession into the Cathedral the Apostolic Mandate was read by the Apostolic Nuncio and then the new Archbishop took 'possession' of the Chair [in Latin, 'cathedra']. Archbishop Clifford presented the Book of the Gospels and the pastoral staff [crozier], symbols of the office of the new Archbishop.

In a sign of the unity of the Archdiocese, every parish brought water from their local Holy Wells and Archbishop O'Reilly blessed it before going through the Cathedral blessing the people for whom he is now Pastor.

In January the Archbishop visited the Holy Land and spoke about how "the terrible conditions in which tens of thousands of families in Gaza are living are an assault on human dignity." During his homily at the Installation Mass, which took place on the international Day of Prayer and Awareness against human trafficking, Archbishop O'Reilly spoke of those suffering exploitation, many of whom are here in our own country.

He reminded the congregation that **"remembering the tragedy that is human trafficking does not just relate to what is happening in distant countries far away; it also concerns us, and our own**

country here. We have a responsibility to effectively challenge and tackle trafficking which exists here in Europe. Wealthy countries are a source of demand for human trafficking. You may ask: "what can we do about it?" The first step is to open our eyes to the reality that trafficking may be happening around us in our local communities. Irish people are directly or indirectly encountering the victims of trafficking. Victims have been found in different sectors of society. Very often those trapped in this world are bound by what Pope Francis calls "invisible chains." We need to stay alert to this reality and work in our local communities to eradicate it."

Archbishop O'Reilly concluded his homily with the words of Pope Francis saying that it will be the blueprint for his ministry as bishop. In his Apostolic Letter Pope Francis said **"Each local Church makes its missionary impulse ever more focused, generous and fruitful. I encourage each particular Church to undertake a resolute process of discernment, purification and reform. The bishop must always foster...missionary communion in his diocesan Church, following the ideal of the first Christian communities, in which the believers were of one heart and one soul (cf. Acts 4:32). To do so, he will sometimes go before his people, pointing the way and keeping their hope vibrant. At other times, he will simply be in their midst with his unassuming and merciful presence. At yet other times, he will have to walk after them, helping those who lag behind and – above all – allowing the flock to strike out on new paths. In his mission of fostering a dynamic, open and missionary communion, he will have to encourage and develop the means of participation.....with the missionary aspiration of reaching everyone as the objective."** (#30-31 The Joy of the Gospel)

After the ceremony all were invited to St Patrick's College where Fr Tom Fogarty and a large team of volunteers had prepared refreshments for all. It gave the new Archbishop the opportunity to meet some of his flock who represented all 46 parishes of the Archdiocese. The ceremony was a tribute to the Organising Committee under the guidance of Fr Martin Hayes, Cathedral Administrator.

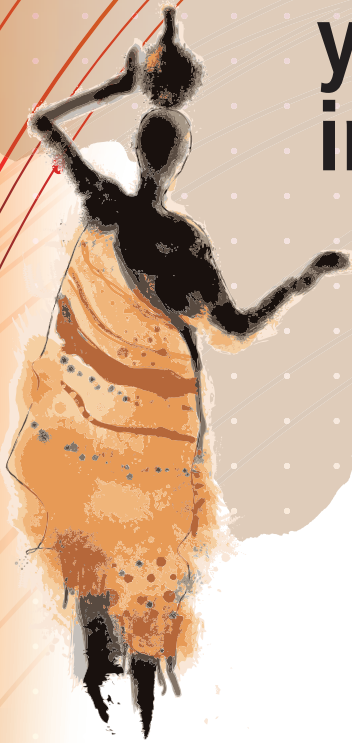
On behalf of the Irish Province of the Society of African Missions (SMA), I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA on his appointment as the new Archbishop of Cashel and Emly. We feel deeply honoured that Pope Francis has chosen him for this important office of Leadership in the Irish Church.

Along with his many personal gifts, Bishop Kieran brings a wealth of missionary, pastoral and administrative experience to his new role. As SMA Superior General for nine years, he guided the Society during a time of unprecedented change and development. For the past four years, as Bishop of Killaloe Diocese, he has become familiar with the particular challenges facing the Irish Church at the present time.

I take this opportunity to wish Bishop Kieran abundant blessings as he undertakes this new responsibility in the service of the Irish Church and assure him of the prayers and support of the members of the Province and the wider family of SMA supporters."

Fr Michael McCabe, SMA Provincial Leader

Fr. Daly celebrates 50 years unbroken service in Nigeria



St Benedict's Catholic Church, the latest church which Fr Daly is building in St Leo's parish. Since the floor went in it has been used every Sunday for Mass and catechism classes.



Fr Fintan Daly SMA

The Parishioners of St. Leo's, Challenge, Ibadan are rejoicing with their Parish Priest, Fr Fintan Daly [Mullagh, Co Galway], on the occasion of his 77th birthday and 50th anniversary as a priest. In an interview with the local Catholic paper – **The Independent** – he expressed his gratitude to the people for all their kindness and generosity since he came to the parish. He also spoke of his experience in Nigeria, being an SMA priest and offered some advice.

In the interview he advised the parishioners to **"be united and look on yourselves as a real Christian family"**. He also reiterated the words of Pope Francis in his message of helping the poor and having genuine love and respect for them. A message which is close to Fr Daly is the joy of evangelization. He stresses that many people still do not know the love, mercy and the wonder of Jesus Christ. Fr Daly feels we have a duty to bring the good news to all whom we can.

He continued saying that, "SMA priests are doing missionary work in 16 African countries. They are doing well but are facing severe difficulties especially because of the violence in the Central African Republic. They also face the serious danger of the Ebola virus, in Sierra Leone and in Liberia. Fr. Daly's fifty years in Ibadan can be divided into two areas: teaching in St Theresa's Minor seminary and then pastoral work in several parishes. As a Parish Priest he has established several parishes and built a huge number of churches all over the city. Upon reflection he feels Nigerian Catholics are doing a lot but hope they will try to do more so that the good news of Christ can be effectively brought to those who do not yet know it.

In spite of the economic recession, corruption, mortality and violence that Nigeria has been faced with Fr Daly thinks that **"in spite of the difficulties, you must have hope. If we have hope it will inspire us to improve the situation in every way that we can. We must strive to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We must strive to do our work efficiently. One of the best ways for showing love for our neighbour is to do our work well."**

For the future Fr. Daly would like to continue the missionary work he is doing with the SMA for as long as he possibly can. He says that he leaves the future of his work in the hands of God.

25 more SMA priests

2015 will see the ordination of twenty-five more priests for the Society of African Missions. India and Nigeria have five each, Togo [4], Benin Republic [2], Kenya [2], Ivory Coast [2] and the Philippines [2] (see article on back page) and one each from the Central African Republic, Ghana and DR Congo.

Our Irish supporters, members of the Family Vocations Crusade [FVC] are hugely instrumental in the training of the 2015 Ordination class. They pray for vocations and contribute to the huge financial costs of training 300+ seminarians in 16 seminaries throughout Africa, India, Philippines and Poland. To find out how you can support the education of our seminarians contact the nearest SMA House [addresses on back page].



Rev Wilmer and Christopher express their thanks to all following their Ordination. Ad Multos Annos!

Please remember our deceased supporters and our SMA and OLA missionaries in your prayers.

Fr Sexton Doran (Loughinisland, Co Down), served in Nigeria, Zambia and Ireland, aged 81 years on 9 September 2014.

Sr Mary Columban Enright (Feohanagh, Co Limerick), served in Ireland, aged 92 years on 16 September 2014.

Sr Nora Culleton (Newtown, Co Offaly), served in Nigeria and Ireland, aged 91 years on 3 October 2014.

Fr Thomas Furlong (Ballybricken, Co Waterford), served in Nigeria, England and Ireland, aged 90 years on 6 October 2014.

Miss Bridget Feeley (Cork), an Honorary Member, who died on 10 October 2014.

Fr Anthony J Butler (Dublin), served in Nigeria, England and Ireland, aged 73 years on 16 October 2014.

Sr Imelda Hurley (Counkilla, Co Cork), served in Nigeria, Ghana, USA and Ireland, aged 89 years on 18 October 2014.

Fr Daniel V Murphy (Cork), served in Nigeria and Ireland, aged 82 years on 19 October 2014.

Sr Mary Vincent Buckley (Kinsale, Co Cork), served in Nigeria, Ghana and Ireland, aged 88 years on 9 November 2014.

Sr Roisin Cox (Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh), served in England, Nigeria and Ireland, aged 82 years on 1 January 2015.

Sr Mary Rosarii Kelly (Woodford, Co Galway), served in USA, Nigeria and Ireland, aged 82 years on 8 January

Sr Kathleen Sweeney (Knocknagree, Co Cork), served in Nigeria, Ghana and Ireland, aged 87 years on 26 January 2015.

Fr John Casey (Cork), served in Nigeria and Ireland, aged 84 years on 2 March 2015.

Sr Rosalie Bowles (Cork), served in England, Nigeria and Ireland, aged 77 years on 16 March 2015.

Lord God, welcome our deceased SMA supporters, benefactors and missionaries, into the peace of your Kingdom. Reward the good they have done; forgive their faults.

May they pray for us and, one day, may we all be reunited in our eternal home. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Philippines celebrates two new deacons

After an interval of eight years the SMA community in the Philippines celebrated the ordination of two new deacons – Rev Wilmer Cacao and Rev Christopher Lumagbas. The ordinations took place in the magnificent SMA Good Shepherd Parish church at Las Pinas where SMA priests have ministered since 1985. Since then many of the parishioners have become SMA Mission Partners, supporting the work of the SMA through their prayer and financial contributions. Hosting the Diaconate Ordination of two more SMA members was a great joy for those Mission Partners who have supported the missionary work for so long. Parishioners gathered from the seven chapels of the parish creating great excitement and prayerful energy – all so grateful to God for the blessing of these two newly ordained missionaries for Africa.

The other twelve students were inspired to continue on their journey of discernment – encouraged that perhaps one day they too will commit their lives to the work of God's mission through the SMA. They will be ordained priests this May and will leave for Africa after their holidays to join the Filipino SMA team in either Ghana or Tanzania.

One of our Filipino seminarians, Mariel Somalo, will also be going to Africa for his Pastoral [Stage] programme in Tanzania.

It was a breath of new life and encouragement for the work of mission and the life of the SMA in the Philippines District-in-formation which was founded thirty years ago by SMA Fathers John McCormack and Pat Kelly.



The deacons-elect await the Call to Ordination with their families in the background.

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