

June 19, 2008 Email Report

**From: Father Peter Sutinga, Damongo Diocese, Ghana**

In brief our radio station is working well. As a community radio, we have to broadcast everyday in about 7 local dialects because not every body understands English and for this the communities are happy because they can understand what is happening around them and in the world. The communities love the local programs and are happy to contribute in making them especially radio discussions where some pertinent community issues are discussed for the good of all in the community.

As the new acting Cathedral Administrator of the St. Anne' Parish, in addition to my work as the director of communications for the Diocese, I have the following to share with you concerning pastoral physical needs of our Parish. As a young diocese all the Parishes are now being cut off from any financial support from the diocese to operate. As such each parish has to find something doing that can help sustain the physical needs of the people, the poor especially children and women. On Children: Children's Education is a priority for us. Some parents because of the high illiteracy rate do not want to send their children to school especially girls. they want them to marry early so that they can take their bride price in the form of money or cows. So, most of the children even in the nursing schools and primary already have a big problem with sponsorship. Some, especially girls become dropouts as a result and some end up with pregnancy and unplanned babies. So, sponsoring children's education is a priority especially the girl-child to pursue high education and to become responsible people in society. In most of our outstations or village stations, Kindergarten children sit under trees for classes and they are exposed to all the weather hazards, rain, cold and dust. That is another area we need help. We are also trying to support our many orphans in schools who are often neglected and seen in the community as a curse and to give them meaning in life by letting them interact with their fellow fortunate children with parents. This will help them to grow and to avoid having low self esteem in society.

Faith sharing: We have very little communities and villages where we have community leaders who play the role of small Christian community leaders in prayer service and gospel sharing during their meetings. These prayer leaders are not well educated. Some are dropouts from school who are working as leaders in their various communities. I intend to give some training to empower them, to offer better services to their communities. This will entail weekly workshops where facilitators will give them up date or input on how to conduct prayer service, share the word of God with others and above all to know much about doctrines of the Catholic Church. This is something I have been dreaming of doing and it can be of help to us. These are some of the pastoral physical needs we have on children and faith sharing.

Thank you very much and my regards to all the Knights and the Parishioners of Nativity of Our Lord. I miss all of them but they are in my prayers.

Yours in Christ

Fr. Peter Claver Sutinga