

OPUS *MANUUM*



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER · DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER, NIGERIA AND GHANA



Seventy-Five Years of Dominican Presence in Nigeria and Ghana.

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Beneath the Cross: *A Season for the Renewal of Our Family*

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14, 2026)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Saint Dominic,

As we celebrate seventy-five years of Dominican presence in Nigeria, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross gives us a fitting moment to look back with gratitude and to look ahead with renewed faith. The pages of this Newsletter contain many reasons for thanksgiving: the gift of new vocations, professions and ordinations; the continuing work of formation; the growth of our schools and apostolates; and the service of our brothers and sisters in different places. We also note, with gratitude, fifty years of IAOP, the Inter Africa Order of Preachers, which brings together the entities of the Order in Africa for coordination and cooperation. All these are signs of the life entrusted to us by the Lord. The Cross reminds us that this gift must always lead us to deeper conversion and a more generous response to God's love.

A jubilee is more than an occasion to remember the past. It is also a moment to ask what the Lord is asking of us now. St Thomas Aquinas teaches that the Passion of Christ reveals the greatness of God's love and moves us to love Him in return. Beneath the Cross, therefore, we are invited to look honestly at our own lives and at the life of our Family.

The growth we celebrate calls for faithful prayer, fidelity to formation, a renewed appreciation of common life and generous service of the Church. Those who came before us received the Dominican vocation as a gift and handed it on to us. We now have the responsibility to preserve it faithfully and to give it fresh expression in our own time.

I invite you, therefore, to read this Newsletter with more than curiosity about the events and activities of the Province. Let its pages become an occasion for thanksgiving and reflection. May we recognise the grace at work among us, remember the sacrifices that have brought us to this point, and allow the needs and possibilities of the present to challenge us anew. As we continue our seventy-fifth year, may the Lord renew in each of us the grace of our vocation and make our Province ever more faithful to the gift it has received, so that what we hand on to those who come after us may be stronger and more fruitful than what we received.

Fraternally in St Dominic,

fr. Dominic Eshikena, OP

PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Province of St Joseph the Worker, Nigeria and Ghana

A Province *at seventy-five*

Friars of the Province on Mission in North America gathered to mark seventy-five years of Dominican presence — with the Holy Eucharist, the jubilee of the 2001 ordination class, and a reunion of generations.



The jubilee Mass. Friars gathered for the Holy Eucharist marking seventy-five years of Dominican presence in Nigeria and Ghana.

For seventy-five years the Order has served the people of Nigeria and Ghana — preaching, teaching and building up the Church.

From the first friars on mission to the Province today, the legacy is one of faith, rigour and service.

Friars of the Province on mission convened to mark the anniversary. It opened with the Holy Eucharist, at which the Vicar, Bro. Raymond Nwabueze, preached.

The celebration also marked the jubilee of the 2001 ordination class, honoured alongside the milestones of individual friars.

Veritas — truth — remains the charism the Province carries into whatever the next seventy-five years ask of it.

JUBILEE HIGHLIGHTS

Holy Eucharist with homily by Vicar Bro. Raymond · Jubilee of the 2001 ordination class · Closing reception.

THE CHARISM

Veritas — truth — preached, taught and lived in every parish, school and community the Order has touched across West Africa.



AI and *Preaching* workshop for Brothers (6–15 years ordained) in Ongoing Formation

A workshop led by Fr. Charles Ukwè, OP, the Promoter of Ongoing Formation and presented by Fr. Michael Akpoghiran, OP.

Friars from Nigeria, Zambia, Europe and the United States gathered for an ongoing formation workshop on artificial intelligence and the Church's preaching mission. The session weighed both sides. AI has real utility in research, medicine and communication; it

also carries misinformation, fabricated quotations and ideological currents such as transhumanism. Friars were reminded that no technological advance replaces human dignity or faith in Jesus Christ, and that digital content must be evaluated critically, against Scripture

and the tradition of the Church. Drawing on St. Dominic and St. Thomas Aquinas, who each engaged the difficult ideas of their own age, the workshop asked what that engagement looks like now. The Presenter adopted a strategic framework as a Provincial Response in addressing the challenge of AI and industry 4.0 on the Church's preaching mission.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN · CARD

Comprehension of emerging digital issues · Apprehension of each friar's role · Resourcing through personnel and funding · Deployment of actionable plans.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT · INCLA, ABUJA

Fundraising and *Project Management*



Left: participants at the Institute of Consecrated Life in Africa (InCLA), Abuja. Right: the Dominican group with fellow participants.

Friars Paul Oyisi, Fidelis Ashibeshibe and Linus Ocheja took part in the Integrated International Training on Fundraising and Project Management at the Institute of Consecrated Life in Africa (InCLA), Abuja, from 9–19 September 2026. The ten-day programme brought together 28 participants from religious congregations, dioceses and institutions across Nigeria and the wider region.

Facilitated by Fr. Dr. Lord Winner CMF, it covered the seven pillars of project management: Organization, Strategy, Design, Fundraising, Implementation, Evaluation and Sustainability, combining theoretical sessions with practical workshops.

For the practical component, the Dominican group

developed a proposal for a Youth Farm and Agro-Processing Enterprise in Moniya, Oyo State, working through stakeholder and problem analysis, project design, budgeting, fundraising, monitoring and evaluation, and sustainability planning. The Brothers returned with practical tools for developing fundable projects and mobilising resources for the mission and apostolates of the Province.

IAOP Studentate Week 2026 held in Ibadan



The Opening Mass, celebrated by the Master of Students, Fr. Charles Onwordi, OP.

The annual Inter-Africa Order of Preachers (IAOP) Studentate Week 2026 took place at St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Samonda, Ibadan from Sunday, 28 June to Sunday, 5 July. It had as its theme, “The Place of the African Dominican in the Global Space,” and was packed with lots of edifying and fun activities that helped to strengthen the fraternity shared among the student brothers.

This year’s edition was one of a kind, as the committee, headed by Bro. Cyprian Edoziem, OP, incorporated some brilliant ideas that took it up a notch. One such initiative was the celebration of the Holy Mass in both local and international languages during the week — Latin, English, French, Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa.

**ONE
28 JUN** **Opening Mass.** Fr. Charles Onwordi, OP charged the brothers to discover their identity in Christ before embarking on their mission: they must first be disciples before becoming apostles.

**TWO
29 JUN** **Sanitation.** Armed with brooms, shovels, rakes and waste bins, the brothers went round the community sweeping, picking litter and clearing weeds, swaying to melodious songs as they worked.

**THREE
30 JUN** **Seminar.** Fr. Bonaventure Agbali, OP challenged the friars to aspire to greatness and to envision their unique contribution to the Order and the Church as African Dominicans.

**FOUR
1 JUL** **Movie night.** Luscious popcorn with chilled palm wine and zobo, and a screening of the 2019 thriller *Just Mercy*.

**FIVE
2 JUL** **Debate.** On “The Fight Against Poverty is Primarily a Moral Responsibility Rather than an Economic One.” Choir B, represented by Bros. Fidelis Agala, OP and Arinze Ndidigwe, OP, emerged victorious, albeit marginally.

**SIX
3 JUL** **Excursion.** A tour of the National Museum of Unity, Aleshinloye — from religious items to household appliances and farm implements, relics of pre-colonial Nigeria.

**SEVEN
4 JUL** **Sports.** Volleyball and football against the IITA team at Moniya. What matters ultimately is that the brothers had an amazing time and created beautiful memories.

**EIGHT
5 JUL** **Thanksgiving Mass.** The week closed with Mass celebrated by the prior, Fr. Paul Akpomie, OP, with the brothers dancing to the altar bearing thanksgiving items.



Ten Friars Ordained Priests at the Peak of the Jubilee Celebrations held in Ibadan



Most Rev. Roger Hounghédji, OP, archbishop of Cotonou, ordained ten priests and seven deacons on 18 July.

Months after the local celebrations marking seventy-five years of Dominican presence in Nigeria and Ghana, the much-anticipated Provincial celebration took place at St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Samonda, Ibadan from Friday, 17 July to Saturday, 18 July 2026. It brought together members of the Dominican family, friends and families of the jubilee ordinands, priests and religious, the distinguished jubilee awardees and other well-wishers.

The two-part event commenced on 17 July with a symposium at the Dominican University Multipurpose Hall, anchored by the provincial archivist, Fr. Paschal Ugwu, OP. It featured a video presentation on the exploits of the first Dominicans

in Nigeria and brief lectures by members of the Dominican family, with a musical rendition by three student brothers and a drama presentation by the University of Ibadan choir.

In his charge to the newly ordained, the Ordaining Prelate of the Jubilee Priests and Deacons, Most. Rev. Roger Hounghedi, OP, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Cotonou, Benin Republic, encouraged them to draw from the depth of Dominican contemplation as they undertake the ministries entrusted to them. In fidelity to the motto of the Order, they must be resolved to contemplate deeply in order to be well equipped to hand on to others the fruits thereof.



ORDAINED PRIESTS

Frs. Paul Chukwu, OP; Jeremiah Hunponu, OP; Charles Albeze, OP; Fidelis-Mary Ashibeshibe, OP; Raphael Ikechukwu, OP; Kenneth Okeme, OP; Reginald Okocha, OP; Jonathan Adegoke, OP; Walter Ezeadikwa, OP; Linus Ocheja, OP.

ORDAINED DEACONS

Revs. Ambrose Ejeh, OP; Vincent Obasi, OP; John Odibei, OP; Valerian-Paul Ugonabo, OP; Ekene-Maria Chinweoke, OP; Daniel Olofu, OP; Peter Olu-Oni, OP.

Five Friars make profession of Solemn Vows



Saturday, 8 August 2026 — the solemnity of Our Holy Father Dominic.

Saturday, 8 August 2026 was a memorable day at St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Samonda, as five friars vowed obedience to God, Blessed Mary, Blessed Dominic and his successors till death. The day was most fitting for the solemn celebration, as it was also the solemnity of Our Holy Father Dominic.

The celebration, graced by priests, religious and lay persons, began at 10am with the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. The Prior Provincial, friar Dominic Eshikena, OP was the chief celebrant and homilist. He encouraged friends and family, both biological and religious, to be a strong support system for the friars.

The prior of the community, friar Paul Akpomie, OP, in his vote of thanks, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed in various ways to the formation of the newly solemnly professed brothers till date.



THE NEWLY SOLEMNLY PROFESSED

Friars Martin Afolayan, OP; Fabian Dania, OP; Victor Eze, OP; John James-Udoette, OP; and Blaise Batite, OP, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After the Mass the brothers sang the customary thanksgiving song, and the newly professed cut their cake at the unanimous spelling of the name **DOMINIC**.

Friar Celestine Agwu marks Twenty-Five Years of Priesthood

The atmosphere was one of immense joy at the Dominican Centre for Human Resources Development (the Dominican Farm), Moniya on Sunday, 9 August 2026, as Fr. Celestine Agwu marked twenty-five years of tireless service in the Lord's vineyard. It was in fact a tripartite celebration: the sendoff of the Batch 8 trainees and the feast day of the chaplaincy, Catholic Church of the Transfiguration, fell on the same day.

The celebration began at 9am with the sacrifice of the Holy Mass, with Fr. Celestine Agwu as chief celebrant. In attendance at the reception were the Prior Provincial, Fr. Dominic Eshikena; the Prior of St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Fr. Paul Akpomie; the Subprior, Fr. John-Mark Igboalisi; the Master of Students, Fr. Charles Onwordi; and a host of other friars.

In his opening address, Fr. Uchekukwu Odikpo, the acting Director of the Centre, revealed that the anniversary had been planned without the celebrant's knowledge, as it was intended to be a surprise.

Various persons were called upon to say a few words about *Mazi*, as the celebrant is fondly called. Chief among the character traits mentioned were his diligence, attentiveness and caring nature. In his appreciatory remark, Fr. Celestine expressed profound gratitude to God, the farm staff and his Dominican brothers, especially his contemporaries who gave him a soft landing at the threshold of his vocation.



He also extolled the dedication and lively spirit of the outgoing Batch 8 trainees, and encouraged them to stay true to all they had learnt during their time in the centre. Enlivened by melodious renditions from the chaplaincy choir, the event came to a close with the closing prayer led by Fr. John-Mark Igboalisi.



Five Novices Receive the Dominican Habit

The reception of the habit on the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, 6 August 2026.



The rite. A novice kneels to receive the habit of the Order.



The vesting. The white habit is placed on a novice.



Clothed. Newly vested in the habit of St. Dominic.



The five. From left: Stanley, Tochi, Kosisochukwu, Kwame and Emmanuel.

There was a special joy at St. Paul's Priory, Oyigbo, Rivers State, on Thursday, 6 August 2026, as five Dominican novices received the habit of the Order of Preachers on the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

They moved from their ordinary white shirts and black trousers to the habit of St. Dominic — a transfiguration of appearance that points to a deeper transformation of life, and to the preaching of the Gospel.

ST. PAUL'S PRIORY, OYIGBO

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2026

ST. PAUL'S PRIORY, OYIGBO

RECEPTION INTO THE NOVITIATE

Ten Pre-Novices received into the Novitiate

The Prior Provincial receives ten young men at Vespers on the Feast of Pope St. Pius X, 21 August 2026.



Vespers. The community gathered for prayer in the priory chapel.



The homily. The Prior Provincial prepares the ten for the journey ahead.



The book. Candidates signing the book of admissions.



Fraternal welcome. The new novices receive the kiss of peace.

On the evening of 21 August 2026, the Prior Provincial received ten young men into the Dominican Novitiate at St. Paul's Priory, Oyigbo. Vespers preceded the rite: he blessed the Dominican cross, each candidate received it and signed the book of admissions, and the community gave them the fraternal welcome.

Received into the novitiate: Bros. Emmanuel Enemona Ademu, Baidoo Dennis Essilfie, Stephen Chibuikem Bernard, Frankduff Chinedum Gbulie, Moses Stanford Kangwa, Joseph Stephen Odey, Wisdom Chigozie Okoh, Chekwube Jovita Omeh, Theophilus Akwasi-Addo Lumor and Paschal Obiechina.

Seven friars, *One Vocation*

Five friars made simple profession and two made solemn profession at the Holy Mass presided over by the Prior Provincial, friar Dominic Eshikena, OP, on the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Newly professed. The friars after Mass at St. Paul's Parish, Oyigbo, holding the Constitutions of the Order.

On 22 August 2026, the day the Church keeps the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, seven friars offered themselves more deeply to God at St. Paul's Parish, Oyigbo.

Asked what they had come to seek, the candidates answered that they came to ask the mercy of God and of the Prior Provincial — a reminder that profession rests not on human strength but on grace.

In his homily the Prior Provincial set before them the seriousness of the commitment. Profession is not the conclusion of a journey but a deeper beginning: the vows ask continued conversion, fidelity and generosity, lived out daily in prayer, community, study, ministry and service.

The five then professed, received the Constitutions and signed the documents at the altar as hymns to St. Dominic were sung.

The rite of solemn profession followed, the Litany of the Saints chanted with all kneeling, before the two made their vows and signed the book of profession.

Brothers travelled from as near as Enugu and as far as Rome, and after the final blessing the newly professed went down the aisle in a thanksgiving dance.

SIMPLE PROFESSION

Friars Stanley Tobechukwu Anisiobi, OP; Michael-Francis Tochi Chikwe, OP; Emmanuel Chisombia Ejinkeonye, OP; Francis Kosisochukwu Nwodo, OP; and Kwame Junior Osei, OP.

SOLEMN PROFESSION

Friars Stephen-Mary Asare, OP; and Kizito Ojochegbe James, OP.



The Constitutions. A newly professed friar receives the rule of life of the Order.



The Litany. The candidates for Solemn Profession prostrate as the saints are invoked.



The kiss of peace, by the Master of Novices

Exploring New Frontiers *in Akwa Ibom*

The Prior Provincial meets Professor Augustine Udoh at Itak and Bishop John E. Ayah, 23–24 August 2026.

The Prior Provincial met with Professor Augustine Udoh of the Mary and Joseph College of Entrepreneurship, Management and Technology, Itak, on Sunday, 23 August 2026, to explore possible collaboration with the Dominicans. The College empowers young people through vocational and entrepreneurial training, farming, food preservation, packaging and other productive activities. Professor Udoh expressed his desire for a Dominican friar to serve as Rector and for the establishment of a chaplaincy. He also sees the centre as a possible avenue for youth development and the promotion of Dominican vocations. The Prior Provincial requested a formal petition and agreement clearly outlining the nature and responsibilities of the collaboration.

MAFOLUKU, LAGOS

The Prior Provincial subsequently met with Bishop John E. Ayah on Monday, 24 August 2026, to discuss the pastoral and practical implications of the proposed Dominican presence. The Bishop recommended careful legal documentation, surveying of the land and a thorough review of all agreements by a lawyer. He emphasised that the collaboration should primarily serve as a charitable initiative for youth formation and empowerment. The possibility of chaplaincy and parish administration was also discussed. According to the Bishop, accommodation remains a major consideration, with the possibility of beginning with two friars and expanding the residence over time.



Mary and Joseph College. The gate at Itak, Ikono LGA.



With the Bishop. The Prior Provincial, Bishop John E. Ayah and Rev. Fr. Ray-Maria Umoh, a diocesan priest of the Diocese of Uyo and the only member of the Dominican Priestly Fraternity of Nigeria

Project Update: *St. Catherine of Siena Medical Centre*

A site meeting on the St. Catherine of Siena Medical Centre project was held on Tuesday, 8 September 2026, with some Provincial officials and the project technical team.

The project commenced in 2015, with the design undertaken by Fr. MaryVin Ubili and approved in September 2021, while construction began in 2022. Construction progressed until October 2024, when work was halted, with some materials subsequently lost, damaged or washed away by flooding.

Following renewed discussions between core Provincial Officials, the Head of the Development Office in Nigeria, and the Interim Administrator of the St. Catherine Medical Centre with the engineering, architectural, quantity surveying and M&E teams, the project scope was reviewed. It was agreed to maximise the existing structure and remodel the facility into a modern diagnostic hospital.

Section C will be prioritised and developed as a functional, stand-alone hospital, with Sections A and B to follow subsequently. The revised facility will provide consulting rooms, emergency services, laboratory, CT scan, operating theatre, maternity services, wards, pharmacy and diagnostic units. The design will also provide for nursing stations, doctors' call rooms, private self-contained rooms, adequate waiting capacity and facilities for physically challenged patients.

The meeting also recommended the relocation of the septic tank and soakaway to a more suitable location within the hospital premises.

Work is expected to resume with the aim of completing the current phase before the 2027 elections, with an immediate Bill of Quantities to cover the structural and roofing works.



On site. Officials and the technical team at Mafoluku.



The technical team. Reviewing the drawings.

Commissioning and Blessing of the *Jaundiroom*

On the Feast of St. Matthew, St. Catherine's Medical Centre, Mafoluku, Lagos, opened a new room for the care of newborn babies, dedicated in honour and memory of the late Ann Amadi.



The blessing. The new Jaundiroom is commissioned and blessed after the Holy Mass.

On Monday, 21 September 2026, the Feast of St. Matthew, St. Catherine's Medical Centre, Mafoluku, Lagos, witnessed the commissioning and blessing of the newly established Jaundiroom, dedicated in honour and memory of the late Ann Amadi. The occasion brought together members of the Dominican Family, staff and healthcare professionals of the clinic, Dominican Sisters, parishioners, invited guests, friends and well-wishers who gathered to give thanks to God for the completion of the facility and to celebrate this significant milestone in the care of newborn babies.

The ceremony began with the Holy Mass celebrated by the Prior Provincial and concelebrated by some Dominican priest-brothers. Among the concelebrants were Rev. Fr. Augustine Awodipe, the Administrator of the clinic; Rev. Fr. Taiwo Oluyemi, the Socius; and Rev. Fr. Felix Unuesiri, the Syndic.

Following the Mass, the new Jaundiroom was formally commissioned and blessed. The establishment of the facility marks an important development in neonatal healthcare, particularly in the early detection, monitoring and treatment of newborn jaundice.

It is envisioned as a response to the needs of families who may otherwise face difficulties accessing timely and appropriate care for babies affected by jaundice.

The event also featured a public lecture on infant jaundice care, providing an opportunity to raise awareness about neonatal jaundice and the importance of early intervention. The ceremony further included the presentation of an award in recognition and appreciation of contributions towards the initiative. Another significant highlight was the launching of a book, adding a literary and commemorative dimension to the celebration.

The commissioning and blessing of the Jaundiroom was therefore not only a celebration of a new healthcare facility but also an expression of gratitude, remembrance, service and hope. Dedicated in memory of Ann Amadi, the facility stands as a practical commitment to improving the wellbeing of newborns and supporting families in need. The event concluded in an atmosphere of joy and thanksgiving, with prayers and good wishes for the success of the initiative and for the continued service of St. Catherine's Medical Centre to the community.



The book launch. A copy of the new book is presented to guests.



The award. Recognition for contributions towards the initiative.

Our Lady, *Seat of Wisdom*

The Prior Provincial blesses the new statue of the Blessed Virgin during his visit to Dominican Schools, Oyigbo as part of his canonical visitation to St. Paul's Priory, Oyigbo.



The Provincial sprinkles holy water over the newly erected image.



Gathered. Friars, staff and guests at the garden shrine after the blessing.

The Provincial blessed a new statue of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, during his visit to Dominican Schools, Oyigbo. The rite took place at the garden shrine on the school grounds, where the image of the Blessed Virgin — crowned and enthroned with the Child Jesus — now stands.

Friars of the Oyigbo community, members of staff of Dominican Schools, Oyigbo, and guests gathered around the shrine for the blessing, and remained afterwards for photographs.



Enthroned. The image in its new garden setting.



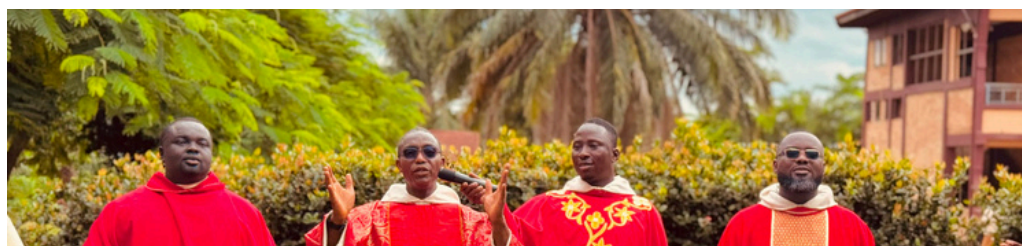
Friars around the statue of the Blessed Mother and her Son, the infant king.

Visitation: *Dominican School, Namong*

The Prior Provincial celebrates Mass with the pupils and meets the staff, 9 July 2026.



The homily. Preaching at the school Mass with the pupils.



After Mass. The Prior Provincial with the friars who concelebrated at the school.

Visit of the Prior Provincial to the Dominican School, Namong on 9 July 2026 as part of his visitation to Ghana.

He was accompanied by Brothers Raphael Amoah and Felix Boateng, as well as Brother Wisdom Sampana, the director of the School, and met with the staff of the school after Mass with the pupils.



The staff. Teaching and non-teaching staff at the school block.



Together. The community gathered in front of the school buses after the meeting.

ORDINATIONS · 11 JULY 2026

Emmanuel Amponsah Ordained to the Priesthood

Three of his brethren were ordained to the diaconate at the same celebration, in the Province's seventy-fifth anniversary year.



Ordained. The newly ordained deacons with friars of the Province outside the church after the ordination Mass.

Friar Emmanuel Amponsah, OP was ordained to the priesthood on 11 July 2026. At the same celebration three Brothers — friar Michael Owusu, OP, friar George Fordjour, OP and friar Edward Mensah, OP — were ordained deacons.



Ordained priest. Fr. Emmanuel Amponsah, OP after the ordination Mass.



Blessing. Prior Provincial kneels for a blessing from His Grace, Most Reverend Peter Kwasi Sarpong, Archbishop Emeritus of Kumasi.



Courtesy call. Friars with Archbishop Gabriel Yaw Justice Anokye, 8 July.

Fifty Years of the Inter-Africa Order of Preachers

Dominicans from across Africa and the Curia gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Samonda, Ibadan, from 28 August to 4 September 2026 — first in colloquium, then in general assembly.



Fifty years. The Archbishop of Ibadan, Most Rev. Gabriel 'Leke Abegunrin, with the Dominican Family after the closing Mass of the golden jubilee.

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

A two-day programme organised and moderated by Fr. Georges Alahou, OP, IAOP Councillor for Intellectual Life, on the theme “Religious Beliefs and Practices in Africa: Contemporary Challenges and Prospects”.

Keynotes came from Fr. Prof. Anthony Akinwale, OP, Fr. Prof. Dokun Oyeshola, OP, Fr. Paul Akinmayowa Akin-Otiko, OP, and Fr. Prof. Liboire Kagabo, OP, with shorter papers across four panels and a closing benediction by Bishop Emmanuel Ntakarutimana, OP.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The assembly ran from Monday, 31 August to Friday, 4 September. Days began with Morning Prayer and Mass at 6:30 a.m. and closed with Vespers, with sessions of reports, addresses, group discussions and elections in between.

A solemn jubilee Mass, celebrated by the Archbishop of Ibadan, Most Rev. Gabriel 'Leke Abegunrin, with the Master of the Order as homilist, closed the week. A festive dinner followed, and the IAOP cake was cut amid the enthusiastic spelling of “IAOP”.

WHO WAS THERE

The Curia. Fr. Gerard Timoner III, Master of the Order. Fr. Roger Gaise, Socius for Africa. Fr. Florentino Bolo, Socius for Apostolic Life. Fr. Raul Gomez, General Secretary.

Our Province. Fr. Dominic Eshikena, host Provincial. Delegates: Frs. Bonaventure Agbali and Paul Akpomie. Former coordinators: Frs. Chris-Angelo Otuibe and Cletus Nwabuzo.

Guests. Fr. Philippe Denis (South Africa). Sr. Sapience Ndayimana (Federation of Dominican Monasteries). Mr. Fredrick Nseh (Lay Dominicans, Cameroon). Miss Miriam Achunulo (African Dominican Youth Movement).

NEW COORDINATION TEAM

Fr. Félix Unuesiri, OP
Province of St. Joseph the Worker,
Nigeria and Ghana
Syndic

Fr. Julio Candeiro, OP
Provincial Vicariate of Angola
Justice and peace, and the Dominican Family

Fr. Georges Alahou, OP
Province of St. Augustine in West
Africa
Formation

Fr. Symphorien Nttagiriwa, OP
Provincial Vicariate of Rwanda and
Burundi
Intellectual life

ELECTED 3 SEPTEMBER · THREE-YEAR TERM



Keynote. Fr. Prof. Anthony Akinwale, OP.



Coffee break. Friars fraternising.



The homily. The Master of the Order.



Host Province. The Master with our friars.

Vows for life, an Assembly of renewal, *a journey to our roots*

Between 15 August and 17 November the Delegation of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom marked final and first professions, four silver jubilees, its 19th General Assembly and the departure of three sisters for the Order's European homes.



Twofold celebration. The newly professed and the silver jubilarians cut the cake with friars, religious and guests at Regina Pacis Catholic Church, Sangotedo, 15 August 2026.

FINAL PROFESSION & SILVER JUBILEE

15 AUGUST 2026 · SANGOTEDO, LAGOS

In the spirit of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Delegation marked a twofold celebration: the Final Religious Profession of three sisters and the Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession of four. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Francis Obafemi Adesina, Catholic Bishop of Ijebu-Ode Diocese.

The occasion was graced by the Dominican Friars, with the Prior Provincial represented by Fr. Oluyemi Taiwo, OP; the Dominican Sisters of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii; priests, religious men and women, family members, friends and well-wishers. It was a solemn, joyful and unifying celebration, marking a significant milestone in the lives of the sisters and in the life of the Delegation.

FINAL PROFESSION

Sr. M. Anthonia Ikhuemhosa Adoghe, OP; Sr. M. Chioma Perpetua Ezumezu, OP; Sr. M. Cynthia Banjuare Agbor, OP.

SILVER JUBILEE

Sr. MarirLucia Nkeiruka Agboifo, OP; Sr. Rosemary Odinaka Okolie, OP; Sr. M. Susan Chinyereugo Njoku-Paul, OP; Sr. M. Clementina Wusaru Oti, OP.

19TH ASSEMBLY · 18–22 AUG

Dominican identity, evaluated and renewed



Deliberation. A sister speaks during the Assembly.

The Assembly met under the theme “Dominican Identity: A Radical Configuration to Christ through Conversion and Renewal,” with the reflection given by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Taiwo, OP. The Prioress General, Sr. M. Viviana Sisack, OP, and the Assistant General, Sr. M. Paulina Chioma Ogbonnaya, OP, joined the Sisters of the Delegation. It opened with the solemn Enthronement of the Word of God.

FIRST PROFESSION · 29 AUG

Two novices make their first vows



Prostration. The novices before the altar during the rite.

MaryJane Ngwu and Judith Christak made their First Religious Profession during the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Taiwo, OP, at the International Novitiate for Africa, Ogungbade, Ibadan, Oyo State. We thank God for the gift of their lives, and for the courage and generosity with which they have responded to His call.

DOMINICAN ROOTS · 8 SEP–17 NOV

Three sisters set out for Italy, France and Spain



On pilgrimage. Sisters at the start of the journey to our roots.

The three sisters professed on 15 August, with five others from Pakistan and Uganda, will visit places associated with Our Holy Father Dominic, St. Catherine of Siena and Mother Gerine Fabre, our Foundress. The journey is to deepen their appreciation of our congregational heritage and their commitment to the Charism entrusted to us.

A *love letter* to God

An all-night celebration of worship, music and thanksgiving brought Catholics and Christians from other traditions together in one song of praise.



Lifted in praise. A lead vocalist carries the night's song of thanksgiving.

St. Dominic's Parish hosted the 2026 Extravagant Praise Concert under the theme "Love Letter to God," drawing Catholics and Christians from other traditions into an all-night celebration of worship, music and thanksgiving.

The programme opened with the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From the altar, the gathering moved into a vibrant night of praise, with singers and worshippers from different Christian communities lifting one voice in gratitude.

"MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD."

LUKE 1:46 · THE MAGNIFICAT

As dawn approached, the celebration returned to the mystery of the Assumption. With Mary, the assembly joined in the Magnificat—giving thanks for God's faithfulness and proclaiming the greatness of the Lord.

More than a concert, the night became a shared act of faith, unity and thanksgiving: a memorable love letter offered to God through music and worship.



One assembly. Worshippers gather for a night of faith and music.



Joy in motion. The praise team leads the congregation in song.



Together in thanksgiving. Clergy, religious and members of the praise team.

Upcoming events

Visitations, meetings and celebrations in the Province from October to December 2026.

OCTOBER 2026

3–5	Canonical Visitation to All Saints' Parish, Imota
5	Virtual Meeting with all Pastors
15–18	70th Jubilee celebration of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Gusau
22–26	Canonical Visitation to St. Dominic Priory

NOVEMBER 2026

3	Provincial Workshop on Safeguarding and Professional Standards
18–19	Provincial Council Meeting
21–28	Canonical Visitation to St. Thomas Aquinas Priory
30	Virtual Meeting with all Priors and Superiors

DECEMBER 2026

10–11	Visitation to the Province's Supporters and Benefactors
14–17	Provincial End-of-Year Evaluation and Planning Retreat (Provincial Council and Officials)
23	Christmas and New Year Message from the Prior Provincial

To praise, *to bless, to preach*

The quarterly newsletter of the Province of St. Joseph the Worker, Order of Preachers, Nigeria and Ghana.



This edition gathers the news of the Province for July to September 2026 — the zenith of the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration.

Ordinations at Ibadan, professions and the reception of the habit at Oyigbo, and the visit to the Dominican Schools.

Photographs are courtesy of the Dominican Media and from the houses/communities concerned.

Material for the next issue — life of the brethren at home and abroad, news, photographs and reports from apostolate, priories, parishes and houses of formation — is welcome at any time. Kindly send to newsletter@dominicans.ng

The next issue will carry the news of the Province from October to December 2026.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

News, photographs and reports for the next issue are welcome from every brother and sister, apostolate, priory, parish, community and house of formation.

Laudare, benedicere, praedicare — to praise, to bless, to preach.