

Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese: Diocese of St. Martin De Porres Parish

The Navrongo-Bolgatanga diocese is located in the northern part of Ghana and in one of the poorest regions of the country where the Catholic Church has been active for several decades now. The Diocesan population is currently estimated to be slightly over 2 million, most of whom live in the rural areas and are farmers. The annual rainfall is limited to one season from April to October when farming is possible. The rest of the period is characterized by dry weather conditions when agricultural activity is almost impossible.

The Navrongo-Bolgatanga diocese has a Catholic population of 143, 778. It is divided into 23 parishes and a number of quasi parishes and is served by over 72 diocesan priests, a dozen of missionary priests and some men and women religious.

The Diocese has a total land area of 31,068 square kilometres. The estimated diocesan population of 2 million people at a growth rate of 3% per annum. Forty-five percent of the population is below 14 years old. The female population is 52% and the male population is 48% with a male-female sex ratio of 9:11. The population in the Diocese is predominately rural and scattered among several small localities with some having very high population density of 260 persons per square kilometre. The Catholic population in the Diocese is said not to be stable because most Catholics are not well grounded in their faith. The Church often has large numbers of baptisms and confirmations but fewer at various aspects of sacramental life after some years.