

In Anticipation of Forming a Sister-Parish

St. Martin de Porres Parish, Zuarungu was established and raised to the status of Parish in 2015. The two most exciting benchmarks in the life of the parish in recent times are the building and completion of a new 5,000 capacity Church (the major work left for the church is getting pews) and having the first ever Priestly Ordination in the Parish and in the new church.

The Parish has seven (7) Mission Parishes (called Outstations here in Ghana) and two educational institutions whose spiritual and pastoral needs are catered for by the two priests appointed to the Parish.

Besides the day-to-day work of worship, evangelisation and mission, the parish is also engaged in the following:

1. Still working on getting pews for the Church: Having become a parish, the Church that was built as a Mission church became very small for the Celebration of Mass and other liturgical activities. The biggest huddle now is acquiring pews for the newly beautifully built Church.
2. Acquiring liturgical vestments and vessels of the Mission parishes and educational institutions: These Churches are in communities quite a distant away from the Main Parish Church. Coupled with the bad roads and next to non-existent transport services in these communities, the Christians form themselves, and following a schedule, get a priest for Mass when its their turn. Rather than carrying all that is needed for the celebration of the Mass and other Sacraments, the plan and hope is to equip these mission parishes with all that is necessary for the celebration of the sacraments.
3. Psycho-Social Support: There are a lot mentally ill and psychologically disturbed individuals, who are either all together abandoned by their families or abandoned due to the cost of treating and managing their conditions. These group of people are helped by the parish by providing medications, food, and counselling. For now, most of the is catered by the priest. The bright bright side is that, these people are actually better now, living with their families while still coming in for medications, food and counselling when needed. Almost all of this group of people come from poor families.
4. Care of the Poor and Aged: This forms part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society apostolate. The main provisions are food, shelter and health assistance.
5. Sustaining the Parish School: The parish also has a school- James Brown Memorial School. The aim is to provide an equally quality education within the parish at moderate fees.
6. Assisting youth ministry and apostolate: With the challenges of secularisation and the impact of the social media, Youth apostolate in the parish has been an urgent issue. The goal is to come up with relevant and equally competitive alternatives for the youth of the parish.
7. Building three (3) Churches for three (3) Mission parishes: Currently, three of our mission parishes do not have church building and no decent place for worship. Two of the mission parishes have started building their churches and the third in just about starting. These Communities are: SS. Peter and Paul Outstation; St. Monica Outstation; and St. Patrick Outstation.
8. Drilling and mechanising boreholes for some communities: There are many communities in this parish boundary that do not still have clean drinking water. The parish, mainly through the assistance of donor agencies, is able to provide clean drinking water for these communities.
9. Outreach to Widows and Widowers
10. Establishing the St. Michael Rehabilitation and Counselling Centre: Due to the increasing rate of addictions, especially alcohol and pornography addictions, and various psychological issues, a rehabilitation centre is being planned within the parish. It will be the first and only one within the Northern part of Ghana. The land has been acquired through the personal contributions of a group of priests within the diocese.

My brother, these are the main activities of mission and evangelisation within the St. Martin de Porres Parish, Zuarungu. A lot of these activities, according the first Pastor of the Parish, are inspired by the life and witness of the Patron of the Parish, ST. MARTIN DE PORRES. Hence, the parish greeting goes:

**St. Martin de Porres;
Help us take care of the poor and needy.
St. Martin de Porres;
Pray for us.**