

Father Garry Jenkins, St Dominic's Mission Bomi County, Liberia

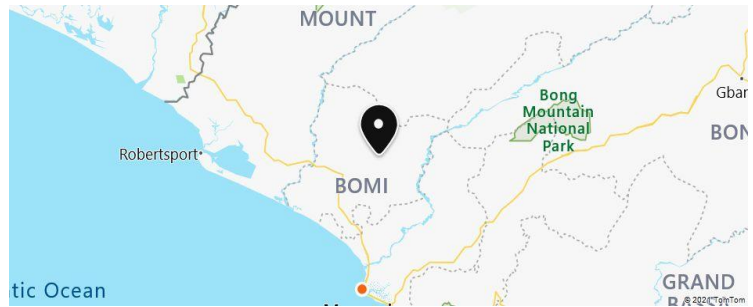
25th August 2022



Dear Friends at Holy Innocents',

I hope you are all well: and that the hot weather you've been

enduring, hasn't been too over-bearing.



It already seems a long time since the Golden Jubilee celebrations of my ordination to the priesthood on May 14 – 15. Sadly, I think that may have been the last public appearance of our local ordinary, Archbishop Zeigler.

It was sometime during July, that the archbishop spent several days in St Joseph's Catholic Hospital. I did visit him afterwards at his house, but he didn't look too well. On Monday, August 1, he returned to hospital. I drove from Bomi three times to visit him, including the day before he died. I considered him a dear friend, knowing him before he was ordained a priest: a humble, unassuming person. Archbishop Zeigler will be laid to rest, later this morning: R.I.P.

I want to thank you for your continued support. As we approach September and October and the reopening of colleges and universities, I am, trying to meet the requirements of our 6 students in the local Bomi Community College and several of our students at Stella Maris Catholic University, in Monrovia. This year, there is an additional 'challenge', as our SMA Liberia District has been asked to meet part of the tuition for our six young men, who are at the major seminary, studying for the priesthood. I am seeking help from friends, to help a little, if possible, please.

As I may have mentioned before, I am trying to plan for the future with respect to 'sustainability' of the mission: so that when the Lord calls me, the young priests, may have a means to pursue their ministry, particularly in being able to reach the communities in the more remote areas of the country.

On the parish farm at Beafine, Emmanuel Boakai along with helpers Able and Dominic, have successfully planted and nurtured 642 oil palm and 768 cocoa saplings. There are over 2,000 oil palm trees waiting on 'nursery. Next year, we will try to clear more bush in order to extend the farm. Moreover, we are also hoping to purchase an additional 500 cocoa saplings.

With the current heavy rains, the bush grows very quickly, so at the beginning of each month during the Wet Season, we are having to employ seven local farmers to do 'circle weeding' around the palms; otherwise, wild animals will destroy the tender trees, which happened last year.

As well as taking the sick to hospitals in Monrovia, I am a frequent visitor these days to the capital, advocating on behalf of some of our former students, who are now graduating from college.

Moses, with a BSc in social work, is now the social worker at the Cathedral School and he is

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also 'on call' for two other high schools in Monrovia. Amos, who has graduated with a BSc in Agriculture, is employed on a large model farm, which is owned by the Mamba Point Hotel: the hotel and farm are owned by a Catholic Family, who also support our ministry to the Leper Colony. With Western Cluster now working on the nearby Bomi iron-ore mountain, Nicholas, who will graduate in December with a BSc degree in in civil engineering, has been promised employment in January. John, who has recently graduated with a BSc in Environmental Science, is expected to start work with the National Environmental Protection Agency, a government agency, in October.

This week, Thomas Seh, the son of our late catechist, has just received good results, having recently sat for the High School leaving certificate. He has already passed the entrance to Teacher Training College and begins his studies next week.

There are two visitors here this week: Fr Henry Somah, who helped me here for a number of years after ordination. Fr Henry is now assisting Fr Tom Ryan in Manchester. And Sr Teresa Roberts, an OLA Sister (Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles), from Ghana, who is staying with Sr Natelle while the other two sisters are away on vacation. As Sister Teresa speaks the 'Fanti' language, the fishermen and their families in Robertsport, will be very excited on Sunday, when Musa will help to drive them there, for Mass.

With kindest regards,

Fr. Garry.

