

BISHOP DOMINIC YEBOAH NYARKO CONFIRMS 96 AT DIVINE MERCY CHURCH

This is an occasion that does not happen too often! It is a new Church with a new temporary structure designed to protect the faithful from the rains and direct sun heat until we have the means of building a real chapel. This is the first visit of the Bishop to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation for 96 candidates. It is Divine Mercy Sunday, second Sunday of Easter, and providentially, the same day for the canonization of Saints Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII. What a day!

At 8:30am, the faithful from the 3 communities of Abourso, Twimia Nkwanta and Nkwaeso, forming the Abourso Parish of St. Peter, have all gathered at the Nkwaeso town park awaiting our shepherd and father, Most Rev. Dominic Yeboah Nyarko, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Techiman in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana. The Mass starts at 9:30am and ends at 12:40pm.

A little over two years ago Bishop Dominic inspirationally decided to name the new Catholic community at Nkwaeso as **Divine Mercy Catholic Church**. Interestingly Bishop's own home village of Nsuta is just some 10 miles away from here. Today Bishop Nyarko recalls:

"This is great. For years we, the Catholic youth of Nsuta, used to play soccer matches and other games with our counterparts here at Nkwaeso with the hope of ever beginning a Catholic community but it never seemed to work. Apparently the Lord had a different plan from ours. It is always good to work on the Lord's own timetable."

The beauty of the procession to the Church construction grounds is marvelous to behold. The Bishop, walking half a mile, is surrounded by all the faithful. One can see the Children, youth, young adults, mothers carrying their infants at the back, fathers protectively holding the hands of their little ones who can walk and others assisting the elderly prodding along gently. Here is the wonder of our faith, our life!

Looking overhead, one can see the beauty of the choir robes with a panoramic blend of variously dressed members of the different groups and Associations such as the Christian Mothers, St Theresa of the Little Flower, Catholic Women Association and the Catholic Men's Society. Other youth groups included the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization), COSRA (Catholic Organization for Social and Religious Advancement) and KBS (Knights of the Blessed Sacrament). Most impressive of all is the presence of the diocesan Promoters of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and devotion, each holding a placard of the image of Jesus the Divine Mercy with a picture of Saint Faustina.

The participation in the Liturgy is vibrant and awe-filled. The bishop's instruction to the candidates, as typical of Bishop Dominic, is most insightful, challenging and inspiring. I was moved when the Bishop invited all to join in the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the end of the Mass. I see this as a divinely appointed occasion when all the people of God – and some for the first time – have the opportunity to proclaim "Jesus I Trust in You." The celebration is then concluded on a final note of invitation to "Let us rise up and build" (Nehemiah 2:18).