

Most Rev. Peter K. Atuahene  
Catholic Diocese of Goaso  
P. O. Box 28, Goaso, B/A  
Ghana, W/Africa

August 24, 2012

May the grace and peace of the Lord be with you.

The Catholic Diocese of Goaso, created on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1997, and with an area of about 6,000 square kilometers, is territorially one of the smallest dioceses in Ghana. The total population of the Diocesan area of jurisdiction is about 615,300 with now a Catholic population of 61,250. The Diocese has 47 diocesan Priests, 38 Nuns, 4 Men Religious, 23 major seminarians, 30 minor seminarians and 150 Catechists, 13 of whom are full-time and the rest voluntary.

It is predominantly rural and relatively deprived Diocese with most of the people engaged in subsistence farming. Many areas of the Diocese lack good drinking water, health services and schools. Even though the provision of these facilities should be the responsibility of the government this has not been done and the masses in the very rural areas are really suffering. Since I started applying for the inclusion of Goaso Diocese in the Mission Cooperation Program, the resources from the appeals have been disbursed to fund some of the projects in the rural areas. So far, I have been able to provide three boreholes in the remotest parts of the diocese for potable water. Each borehole costs \$5 - \$6 thousand dollars. I have also started building two clinics in some of the remote places in the diocese to shorten the journey to the main hospital in the diocese which is located between 30 - 45 miles radius from some of the remote places in the diocese... as you can imagine, the Diocese is making great efforts to help the rural communities. One of the clinics at Donkorkrom and its surrounding villages has been completed and a midwife and two attendants have started work there. We shall commission it in November, 2012.

During the next five years, the Diocese is planning to build three (3) primary schools in the remote areas for children of school going age and a Boys' Technical and Vocational School. The Technical and Vocational school is intended to help the youth learn relevant skills to empower them to gainfully engage in small scale industries for a living. It is also intended to help stem the rural-urban migration of the young people. Meanwhile lands have been acquired and, for the Technical and Vocational School, some concrete blocks have been made. All these have been done through local financial contributions.

Another area of great concern is a plan to drill thirty (30) boreholes, apart from the three already completed to provide some of the rural people and deprived rural schools with potable water. Currently, surface and underground mining activities are polluting the

rivers, and boreholes with hand pumps could be good solution. The Diocese has embarked on building two chapels for two communities.

The Diocese has a Pastoral and Training Centre which is being used for seminars, retreats, formation, and conferences. For additional accommodation (sleeping rooms) we need to build ten (10) self-contained rooms during the next three years and ensure water supply to all parts of the Centre. The utility of the Centre serves the social, political, pastoral and religious needs and is open to the general public for other activities.

Ultimately the Centre will need a means of transport for the various activities needing transportation. The Diocese is making serious efforts to raise funds for these activities.

All these projects need funds and I would be most grateful if you could assist us in any way possible. It is for these reasons that I am pleading for the inclusion of the Catholic Diocese of Goaso in the Missionary Cooperation Plan Program of your Diocese for the year 2012.

The pastoral challenges are many and it is my hope that you would be able to help.

Please, the following are the particulars of our U.S contact person and you may kindly direct correspondence to him:

**Rev. Fr. John Amankwah, Ph.D.**  
3282 Hanna Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45211  
Telephone: (513) 2572386

**Email:** [john.amankwah@gmail.com](mailto:john.amankwah@gmail.com) or [john-amankwah@mail.msje.edu](mailto:john-amankwah@mail.msje.edu)

I remain with best wishes and may the Lord bless your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

**MOST REV. PETER K. ATUAHENE**  
**CATHOLIC BISHOP OF GOASO**