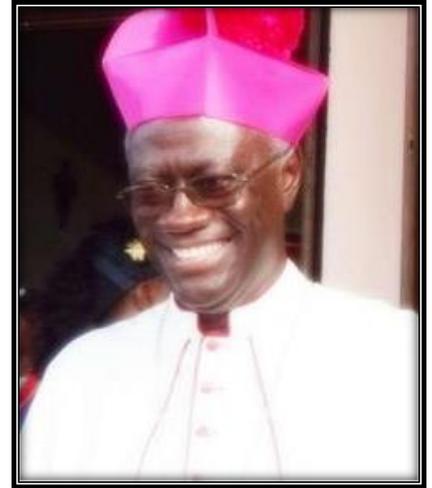




## REACHING INTO FREEPORT WITH THE ROOTS OF THE FAITH IN AFRICA

Today, the XXX Sunday in Ordinary Time, I am very happy to welcome home Bishop John Bonaventure Kwofie, C.S.Sp. (Congregation of the Holy Spirit). To my knowledge, this is the first time in our 115 Year history (1903 – 2018) that we have been visited by a Bishop from the African continent.

The Church in Africa holds a very dear place in the Sacred Heart of Our Holy Redeemer beating in Freeport, so much so that a *Ministry to Catholics of African Ancestry* (MCAA) can be counted amongst the active members of the Body of Christ at 37 South Ocean Avenue. Every February, when the United States of America asks her citizens to celebrate Black History Month, the MCAA helps call to mind for us the witness to Christ of Catholics of African ancestry; past and present. (If you would like to be a part of the “present” moment, please contact Janette Millington at (516) 675-1866 or Gary Etheridge at (516) 521-8004 and become a member of the MCAA.)



The contribution that the MCAA makes to the life of Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport, extends beyond the colour barrier that might be associated with Catholics of African Ancestry. Besides the weekly contribution of time, talent, and treasure that MCAA members offer in service to God in the Catholic Church at Holy Mass, where they have served and/or serve as Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Choir members, the group sponsors *International Night*: an annual Parish-event that with music, song, dance, and food from a variety of the world’s nations whose roots extend into the pews of Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport. Please save the date and *come home* for this year’s offering which will take place in the School gymnasium at 7:00 P.M. on 17 November 2018.

Apart from the contributions made by the *Ministry to Catholics of African Ancestry* (MCAA) group, African Priests over the years, have helped keep the Sacred Heart of Our Holy Redeemer beating as well! Most recently, it was Father Jerome from Ghana who this past summer, helped us keep rhythm with the needs of parishioners just as he did during the years (2009 – 2013) he spent with us in residence while serving as Chaplain to South Nassau Communities Hospital. And as you may have read in our Sunday bulletins or heard from the pulpit, our Parish will be expressing our gratitude for Father’s service by making his efforts to rebuild his Parish Nursery School our 2019 Out-of-Parish Mission for Lent; a nursery school by the way that Father Jerome has received permission by his Bishop to rename: **Our Holy Redeemer Nursery School!**

You may not have the opportunity to meet Father Jerome’s Bishop during his very brief visit with us, but I hope that you will take the time to express your gratitude to him for sharing with us the gift of Father Jerome. You can express that gratitude in writing to:

The Most Reverend John Bonaventure Kwofie (C.S.Sp.)  
Bishop’s Secretariat  
East Windy Ridge  
P.O. Box TD 236  
Takoradi, Ghana

In closing, it is worth noting that the Bishop’s coat of arms is the same as that of our good friend, Auxiliary Bishop Richard G. Henning: “Put Out into the Deep”. May that connection inspire you to do just that and write that letter!