

PRESTEA CATHOLIC SCHOOL, GHANA

Prestea Catholic School is situated in the Old Mining Town that was started in 1928 in the Western Region of Ghana, West Africa. The mining brought people from all over the country to Prestea due to creation of employment. The growth in population necessitated the need for education, and the Society for African Missionaries brought priests to take care of souls coupled with education. They started first to build a school and to worship in the classrooms on Sundays before the Church was built. This school educated many doctors, bishops, priests, lawyers and other varieties of vocations. These included my Late Bishop Charles Sam of Sekondi–Takoradi Diocese, who sent me to La Crosse Diocese; Dr. (Deacon) Anthony Mensah (Milwaukee) of blessed memory; and myself. When Archbishop ListECKI was my Bishop in La Crosse, I took him to Ghana for a visit and we went to see my old dilapidated school. He could not believe this was the school I attended. Then he told me to build a new school. When we returned to USA, after a couple of months, he was made the Archbishop of Milwaukee. But hope was alive and on my Silver Jubilee to the Priesthood, my St. Paul Church parishioners asked me what I wanted as a gift and I told them I needed a new Catholic School at Prestea. They built the first floor of 6 classrooms, and I came to do appeals in the Archdiocese and I am finishing another floor of 6 classrooms. I now have to do this appeal for the third floor (and the) Principal's Office, Staff Common Room, Dining Hall for the Students, Restrooms, etc.

I have the fervent hope that this appeal will enable me to complete the above, and, with the present pandemic, (to make the school) a safe environment, (which is) a lot of work now.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to our Archbishop Jerome ListECKI, the Mission Office and parishes and individuals who have helped the school reach this far. God bless you all abundantly.

Fr. James Arthur

All Saints / St. Martin De Porres Parishes.