



Catholic Archdiocese of Accra

To Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful
Catholic Archdiocese of Accra

Introduction:

My brothers in the Episcopacy, my brothers and sisters in the Priesthood and Religious life and my dear Christ faithful.

First and foremost, I would like to express my singular appreciation for the new things God is doing in the Archdiocese of Accra. We thank Him for having permitted the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to give his consent to my request and subsequently nominated two Auxiliary Bishops - Bishops Anthony Narh Asare and Bishop John Kobina Louis whose episcopal ordination we have just witnessed.

I wish to register my words of felicitations to you both, Bishop Louis and Bishop Asare, for being such an excellent gift to the Church in Accra. Congratulations! Now my joy is complete.

My dear people of God; having two or more Auxiliary Bishops is required by Church law, as Canon 403 states "*When the pastoral needs of a diocese suggest it, one or more auxiliary bishops are to be appointed at the request of the Diocesan Bishop. An auxiliary bishop does not possess the right of succession.*" However, since having two Auxiliary Bishops is a new thing in the Archdiocese, permit me to explain what they would do and at the same time not do.

Governance of Archdiocese

For easy accessibility to the Ordinary governance of the Archdiocese, I have henceforth, in consultation with the College of Consultors, classified the Deaneries in the Archdiocese into two demarcations, that is, Accra-West Deaneries and the Accra-East deaneries. The Accra-West deaneries will be made up of Kaneshie, Kpehe, Mamprobi and Osu deaneries. The Accra-East deaneries comprises Ashiaman, Battor-Ada, Madina, and Tema deaneries.

Let us take note that the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra has not been divided into two.

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Responsibilities

I have made both Auxiliary Bishops my Vicars General. I place the Deaneries in the Accra-West under the responsibility of Most Rev. Anthony Narh Asare who is also Vicar General responsible for the four deaneries in the West and Most Rev. John Kobina Louis as Vicar General responsible for the Deaneries of Accra-East. Anyone belonging to parishes and rectories, institutions, associations, etc. within the respective two-part deanery demarcation may feel free to seek the assistance of the Auxiliary Bishops as Vicars General within their office hours.

Resumption of Episcopal Duties

The Auxiliary Bishops will assume their pastoral duties and vicarious powers, as determined by me the Archbishop, with immediate effect from their reception of episcopal ordination. This is in line with Canon 404 §2 which states that “*An Auxiliary Bishop takes possession of his office when he has shown the apostolic letter of appointment to the diocesan bishop in the presence of the chancellor of the curia, who records the event*”.

Special Assignments:

Apart from other assignments given to them,

- i. Most Rev. John K. Louis will have special oversight over CIBT.
- ii. Most Rev. Anthony N. Asare will have special oversight over youth affairs in the Archdiocese without prejudice to the already established duties of the Archdiocesan Youth Chaplain.

Residences and Offices

The new Auxiliary Bishops of Accra enjoy by law permanent residences in the Archdiocese of Accra.

From 1st July,

i. Most Rev Anthony Narh Asare, will reside at the Mary Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Airport West, Accra. His office will be at Holy Spirit Cathedral premises.

ii. Most Rev John Kobina Louis will reside at the St. Bakhita Catholic Church, Lashibi, and his office will be at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Tema Community 20, Lashibi, Tema. Both Auxiliary Bishops, however, will not have direct pastorals responsibilities over the churches where they reside.

My dear people of God, this is our Archdiocese and our two newly ordained Auxiliary Bishops. Certainly, they are not newcomers in the Archdiocese and what is awaiting them as far as work is concerned. I ask for your prayers and support as they seek to respond to the exigency of work and your need. I ask you, please, let their joy be because of you and let their cry be because of you. This is the solidarity we share with the human family for as the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in Modern World affirms “the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the men of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in anyway, are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well”

Together with the priests and religious, we wish you all a happy Easter.

+ John B. Kwofie

Most Rev. John Bonaventure KWOFIE
Metropolitan Archbishop of Accra

