



REFLECTIONS

OF THE 29TH SUPREME KNIGHT OF THE
NOBLE ORDER OF KNIGHTS OF MARSHALL



Sir Kt. Victor Derx Baffour



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[September 2011 - September 2013]

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my 90 year old mother, Most Respected Lady Magdalene Ussher (Auntie Magdalene), my dear wife, Cynthia and our children Franco, Mariolla and Naana.

PREFACE

This book, ‘Reflections of the 29th Supreme Knight of the Noble Order of Knights of Marshall’, is a compilation of the addresses, messages, speeches and activities which characterized my two year tenure as the Supreme Knight of this esteemed order.

In keeping with the tradition of my illustrious predecessors who have left behind a legacy of their writings to the Noble Order and posterity, this book has been published, firstly, to the Glory of God.

I am eternal grateful to the Supreme Director, Sir Kt Vet. Dr D.S.K. Kwaw, the Past Supreme Knights and the entire membership of the Noble Order, particularly the chairmen and members of the various committees of the Supreme Council who worked tirelessly towards the realization of my objectives as the Supreme Knight.

Finally, I am thankful for the immeasurable support I enjoyed from my dear wife, Cynthia, our children, Franco, Mariolla and Naana, and my elder brother Sir Kt. Tony Baffour.

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour

Supreme Knight, 2011 – 2013



INSTALLATION ADDRESS

Supreme Director, Supreme Spiritual Director, Sir Kt Cd, Sir Kts., W/
Bros, my dear brothers.

To God be the Glory, great things he has done. Surely, Goodness and Mercies shall follow us all the days of our lives, so that as Marshallans, we can always enjoy the best of what this Noble Order has to offer.

As I express my sincere thanks and profound gratitude to the Installation team, my illustrious predecessors, whom I deeply appreciate and admire, the Supreme Council and the entire membership of the Noble Order for the honour and privilege to be installed the Supreme Knight, it is my prayer that the spirit of God which at the beginning of Christ ministry, came to rest on him to bring good news to all, will also be upon me, to bring peace, love, joy and fulfillment to all Marshallans and to all ye men of goodwill I may encounter during my tenure of office as the Supreme Knight.

My brothers, this is my prayer, this had been my prayer and this will ever be my prayer.

As I assume the leadership of the Noble Order, I pledge my total commitment to the ideals and principles of the institution.

In all humility, I sincerely promise upon my honour as the Supreme Knight, to do all in my power to promote the welfare, peace and harmony in the society.

Finally, I pledge to abide by the rules, regulations, rituals, laws, constitution and conventions of the Noble Order.

My brothers, to realize my objectives as the Supreme Knight, I will vigorously pursue an agenda which focuses primarily on two things:

1. To deepen our relationship with God, and secondly.
2. To deepen and strengthen fraternal relations and the spirit of Networking amongst Marshallans. It is my strong conviction that with these tenets, charitable acts will naturally flow from us to support

the Church, the country and humanity.

My brothers, this philosophy will be the cornerstone of my administration.

Fellow Marshallans, as a curtain raiser, to deepen the spirit of fraternity and networking within the Noble Order, a Body to be known as the Marshallan Centre for Fraternal Relations has been set up. This body will offer timely assistance, support and professional advice to brothers in need. As Marshallans, we look to the Noble Order as a haven of love and concern. We also look at this great institution as an outlet filled with caring brothers who are ready and willing to be supportive. My goal is to have The Marshallan Centre for Fraternal Relations serve as the door to this outlet.

The membership of this new body at the Supreme level include: the Supreme Advocate, Supreme Physician, W/Bro Francis Kumah, W/Bro Ato Gordon, W/Bro Kwabo, W/bro Jerry Agyin, W/Bro Gabriel Yengyyie, Bro Charles Oti Boateng, Bro Joe Essilfie, W/Bro Richard Ayih Akakpo, W/bro Theophile Ayih Akakpo and W/Bro Tony Baffour as the Chairman.

The Body will have the following brothers as advisors / consultants : Sir Kt. Andy Quaison, Sit Kt. Prof. Dr Dr Brobby, Sir Kt Oteng-Gyasi, Sir Kt Kasei and Sir Kt Dr Agbenu, Sir Kt Dr J.C. Amuah, Sir Kt. Sokpoli, Sir Kt, Ahlim Komla.

Similar bodies will be formed at all the Regional and Adult Council Levels. In view of the importance of this project, Regional Grand Knights and Grand Knights shall be ex-officio members of these bodies.

My dear brothers, the financial needs and welfare of brothers in their lifetime especially in old age and sickness should be of great concern to us all as a fraternal body. The afterlife benefits that we have in place now, has been designed and structured to take care of the needs of our spouses and children when we are no more.

Now, while we are alive and kicking we strive to ensure financial stability. Therefore, to create a financial resource for individual knights in times of need and during retirement, a Scheme to be known as Marshallan Security Trust (MST) has been established.

The scheme will offer a customized insurance programme to meet the current needs and financial plans for the future. The benefits of the scheme are mouthwatering. It will offer substantial returns to the individual and also, accrue benefits for the Supreme Council and the host councils. The fine details of the scheme which include the Trust Deeds and the Rules & Regulations have already been jointly prepared by Merban Investment Holding Ltd, a subsidiary of Merchant Bank and a team of Marshallan experts in Finance and Insurance. The final document will be formalized for implementation after conclusive meetings have been held between the Investment Committee of the Supreme Council, acting as the Board of Trustees and the management of Merban Investments Investments Ltd, the Fund Managers. The roll out of the Scheme has been scheduled for January, 2012.

As a commitment to the growth and development of the scheme, the Supreme Knight is committing GHCedis 10,000.00 as a start-up capital and initial investment.

A seasoned insurance broker Bro. Anthony Apallo will be the coordinator for MST to ensure effective and smooth coordination between and Board of Trustees and the Fund Managers.

Brothers, to spearhead and coordinate charitable acts to the church and humanity, and in consonance with fundamental principles and tenets of the Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall, an NGO wing of the Noble Order, to be known as Marshallan Relief and Development Services (MAREDES) has also been put in place..

The Objectives of MARADES among others shall include:

1. To provide physical, spiritual, economic and social relief to persons and groups affected by poverty, conflict, disaster and political circumstances.

2. To undertake relevant research necessary to influence policy change and practice especially in areas of interest to the organization, the Catholic Church and the Noble Order of the Knights of Marshall.
3. To undertake training and other capacity building initiatives with the aim of empowering poor people and communities.
4. To raise funds both locally and externally from individuals and corporate entities to support the objectives of the organization.

The registration documentation of the NGO has been completed and will be duly registered in the coming days.

The Board of Directors include Sir Kt Eddy Prah (Chairman), Sir Kt Fosuaba Banahene, W/Bro Ambrose Yennah, Bro Zan Akologo (Secretary), Bro (Dr) Andre Kwasi Kumah, Sis. Agnes Gandaa, a gender activist, Rev.Fr. Dominic Amegasithi and the Supreme Advocate.

To kick start the scheme, the Supreme Knight is donating GHCedis 2,000.00 to support the registration and initial activities of the NGO.

Supreme Director, fellow brothers to preserve the Noble Order's rich heritage and to develop a system for documentation, retrieval and storage of cherished paraphernalia of the founding fathers, Sir James Marshall and other illustrious sons of the Noble Order, a Marshallan Museum and Heritage Centre has also been established.

The Historical and Research committee of the Supreme Council chaired by Sir Kt G.M.Osei will be in charge of this centre. Sir Kt Commander Owusu Prempeh and Sir Kt Adomako will be the Advisors/ Consultants to the running of this project.

At the onset, the Museum will be located in the conference room of the Marshallan Centre until a permanent edifice is constructed.

My brothers, as a step to help promote excellence and to encourage competitive spirit amongst the councils, the Award of the Best Council

has been reintroduced. The victorious council will receive a coveted trophy to be donated by the Supreme Knight.

In addition to the prize of the silverware, the Grand Knight of the victorious council will be invited as the Guest of Honour at the Annual Grand Knights Forum.

A committee to be made up of the substantive Deputy Supreme Knight as Chairman, the Supreme Secretary, the Supreme Financial Secretary and the Executive Secretary will select the ultimate winner. Sir Kt Sam Barnes and Sir Kt Tony Kemavor will act as Advisors/ Consultants to the committee.

To ensure an efficient and effective administrative set up at the Supreme Secretariat Offices, a Marshallan with a background in Management Consultancy has been contracted to streamline our system of operations and also to organize an in-house capacity development workshop for the entire staff to sharpen their administrative acumen and teamwork.

Brothers, my vision for the Junior Marshallans is to help nurture and develop transformational leaders; leaders, who will be an asset to the church, the noble order and the society. To realize this goal, and having consulted the Supreme Youth Coordinator and other senior officers, a national delegates conference of Junior Order Organizers and other stakeholders will be held next year. This meeting will among other things be used to develop a methodology for the Junior Order meetings, with particular attention being paid to critical thinking and problem solving in their milieu and moral education.

It is my conviction that the Noble Order must become a vehicle that provides practical Christian training and a sure solid foundation so that Junior Marshallans will take their proper place in the future of the country and church.

The relevance and importance of the Mystic Psychology Course will be highlighted and promoted actively. Every support and encouragement will be made to ensure that all qualified Marshallans get the op-

portunity to go through this course.

For councils which may face difficulties to organize this programme, ostensibly, due to lack of lecturers and other logistics challenges, we shall help address this problem by looking at the possibility of developing a comprehensive sandwiched programme, coupled with the training of more lecturers.

To my brothers in Togo/Benin, I will like to assure you of a prominent surge in my administration's relations with the State council and your entire membership. Be assured that I will always be there for you.

The fraternal relations with my brothers in Liberia and London will also be strengthened and deepened.

At this juncture, I will like to recognize and appreciate the tremendous strides in the qualitative and exponential growth of the Noble Order in the Northern and Upper Regions of Ghana. I'll also like to recognize the enormous sacrifice brothers make to attend various meetings in the south. In the light of these, I would like to assure you that in consultation with my senior officers and other stakeholders, God willing, the next Supreme Council meeting will, for the first time be held in Northern Ghana.

My brothers, at an earlier meeting of the Standing Committee of the Supreme Council, it was approved that a Marian Grotto be built on the premises of the Marshallan Centre, as part of the efforts towards the process for the canonization of Sir James Marshall. I would like to assure you that, this project will take off immediately and be completed as soon as possible. As a commitment to the early development of the Grotto, the Supreme Knight on behalf of his family is donating GH-Cedis 1,000.00 towards the sod cutting, which will take place soonest. We also pledge to donate a life-size statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the Grotto.

As I bring my address to a close, I will like to stress that - Now is the time, for me, for you my brothers and for us all to build on the legacy of the founding fathers and the dream of other illustrious sons of the noble

order, who have left indelible marks on the Marshallan shores of time.

Individually and collectively, we should strive for excellence, so that posterity will grade us properly in the history of the Noble Order.

I will like to pay homage to many brothers and well wishers, many of them, Sir Knights, Worthy Brothers and other brothers I very much cherish, for their encouragement, mentorship and support that has brought me to this stage of my Marshallan career. I wish I could have the honour to publicly acknowledge their yeoman's role in my life, but recognizing their sensibilities and sense of humility, to remain anonymous, at least for now, I say thank you and will ever be grateful.

To my brothers in Council 71, Dansoman, and others in other councils in Greater Accra and elsewhere, and especially to members of a committee which started meeting without my knowledge to plan and execute the installation activities, my sincere thanks and eternal gratitude to you all.

Finally, Supreme Director, My Lord Bishop, Sir Kts, Worthy Brothers, in all humility do I accept the honour and privilege as your new Supreme Knight, committed to serve, with Clear Conscience, Pure Motives and a Solid Character.

Thank You, Merci beau coup and God Bless us All.

LANDMARK PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **Construction of Marian Grotto (Our Lady of Marshallans) at the Marshallan Centre, Sekondi.**
Chairman of Grotto Management Committee, Sir Kt. Dr. Amoah
- **Establishment of Marshallan Security Trust**
Chairman of Board of Trustees, W/Bro D.D. Dawlah
- **Establishment of Marshallan Relief and Development Services (MAREDES)**
Chairman of Board of Directors, Sir Kt Eddie Prah
- **Establishment of Marshallan Centre for Fraternal Relations**
– Chairman, Sir Kt Tony Baffour
- **Completion of fully furnished twin hermitage at Franciscan Prayer Centre at Saltpond.**
Project started by Sir Kt Tony Kemavor
- **Launching of Revised Mystic Psychology Course.**
Project initiated by Sir Kt Eddie Prah.
- **Re-Launching of Best Council Award, after 20 years.**
Project initiated by Sir Kt Vet. Dr. E.S.K. Kwaw, in 1987.
- **Establishment of Marshallan Medical Fund to be launched in January, 2013.**
Co-ordinator, W/Bro Dr Andre Kwasi Kumah
- **Led a delegation of Historical and Research Committee to meet the Nuncio on the process for the Canonization of Sir James Marshall.**
- **Maiden Annual Retreat for the Leadership of Supreme Council at Brafo Yaw, Cape Coast.**
- **First Supreme Council meeting to be held in Northern Ghana. (Tamale)**

- **First National Forum of Junior Order Organizers held in Kumasi.**
- **Hosting members of Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference to Cocktail and Dinner at the Marshallan Centre in Sekondi**
- **Paid official visits to 21 Councils, 5 Regional Councils, 4 Courts and 2 State Council Meetings.**
- **Consecrated Council 108, Pokuase, Council 109 New Aplaku, and Council 110, Breman Asikuma.**
- **Strategic Plan for the Noble Order of Knights of Marshall.**
Chairman of the Committee, W/Bro Ambrose Yennah, Vice Chairman, Bro. Zan Akologo
- **Management Training for Staff at the Marshallan Secretariat in Sekondi.**
Management Consultant, W/Bro Ambrose Yennah
- **Final Phase for the consecration of first Council in Sierra Leone by the end of the year 2013.**



Our Lady of Marshallans Grotto



Consecration of Our Lady of Marshallans Grotto



Consecration of Hermitage at Franciscans Prayer Centre, Saltpond



Delegation of Historical and Research Committee to the Nuncio on Sir James Marshall Canonization



Planting of commemorative tree at Sod-Cutting of Marian Grotto, Sekondi



Presentation of Best Council trophy for 2012 to Council 10



A presentation by MAREDES to support inter-ethnic clashes at Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo District in the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese.



Re-launching of Mystic Psychology course - Training of Trainers workshop in Accra

FROM THE SUPREME KNIGHT'S DESK



SUPREME KNIGHT'S MARSHALLAN DAY MESSAGE - MAY 2012

As we celebrate the feast day of the Noble Order, Marshallan Day, I send you fraternal greetings on behalf of the Supreme Council and Grand Court.

We celebrate this day with various activities that underscore the element of Love in our Marshallan identity, and also in gratitude to God for his blessings on the Noble Order.

Marshallan Day is of great significance to the members of the Noble Order and the entire Catholic community because of the role played by Sir James Marshall in the reestablishment of the Catholic Church in the year 1880, after the church had been inactive for over 250 years in the then Gold Coast.

As we commemorate this year's feast day, let us reflect on our role as Marshallans in the promotion of peace and the entrenchment of democratic rule in Ghana and the West-African sub-region.

Thanks to God, democratic rule can be felt, although to different degrees, in our homeland and other sister nations in the sub-region. The road to our present destination has been long and difficult, however with determination and tenacity to create for ourselves an oasis of peace, we have been able to bring our nations to where we are today.

Peaceful democratic rule is paramount for the total development of our countries and the people.

Peace can only be certain when the citizen's personal freedom is evidently assured because he or she is governed by the rule of law. Such a milieu exists when democratic rule is entrenched. In the light of the tenets of the Noble Order, the Marshallan, therefore has a duty to himself and his neighbor to be an instrument of peace.

Democracy is simply a call to respect divergent opinions and harness differences for the total development of the people. Different political parties are essential for true democracy to be practiced. The differences in political ideology should however not divide us. Rancour and acrimony need not characterize our politics; after all, the goal of each

political persuasion is to achieve good and peaceful governance of our country. Elections should therefore not be about inciting people against each other but a healthy contest of ideas.

Let us we examine events that transpired during the recent biometric registration exercise in Ghana. As Marshallans, do we stand by and bring to naught what we have so far gained? Can we imagine the anguish we may be sentencing our people should there be a civil strife? The cost will be too much for us to bear.

To avert this looming and disturbing image it must be the duty of every Marshallan to double his/her effort towards deepening democratic rule in Ghana and the sub-region.

We will mount a crusade to caution all against acts, omissions, hate speech, and inflammatory utterances that threaten the peace and stability of our country.

We must condemn such comments that seek to incite violence and desist from justifying them.

Our security services are also urged to act in fairness, independently without fear or favour in the discharge of their duties.

The National Media Commission must as a matter of urgency, be resourced to take steps to ensure that there is sanity in the media landscape, and media houses and personnel that incite violence must be sanctioned.

Finally let us pray for and work towards the maintenance of peace in our motherland and ensure that we put an end to everything that does not promote peace, especially conflict and violence.

May our Lady, Queen of Marshallans continue to intercede for us.

Sir Kt . Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

SUPREME KNIGHT'S MARSHALLAN DAY MESSAGE - MAY 2013

I bring you fraternal greetings on behalf of the Supreme Council and Grand Court of the Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall.

Marshallan Day is of significance to the members of the Noble Order and the entire Catholic Community because of the yeoman's role played by Sir James Marshall in the reestablishment of the Catholic Church in the year 1880, after the church had been inactive for over 250 years in the then Gold Coast.

As we commemorate this year's feast day, let us reflect on how best we can be guided by humility to be effective evangelists. I have been motivated to dwell on this theme by the gesture of humility shown by our Lord Jesus Christ when he washed and kissed the feet of his disciples the night before he was crucified. I am further moved to write about this issue because of a new sense of humility and simplicity of our new Pope, His Holiness, Pope Francis has brought to the papacy. Recall that the new Pontiff, renowned for his modest life as a Cardinal has for now decided not to move to the palatial apartment at the Vatican and opted to stay in a small suite, eating with other priests in a common dining room and shunning some of the pomp and pageantry of his new office. He has also shunned the papal limousine and continues to wear the creaky black shoes that he had on when he arrived in Rome for the conclave.

Let us be guided by the humility of Jesus Christ, the humble Lamb of God who did not seek to exalt himself but lovingly lowered himself so that we can be exalted.

My dear brothers and sisters, there are two images of the church; one which evangelizes and comes out of herself, and the worldly church living within herself, of herself and for herself.

Instead of being a church that only welcomes and receives people, we must try to be a church that actively reaches out to men and women who do not actively participate in parish life or do not know much about it and hence are indifferent. We must also try to reach out to people who are far away via digital means, the internet and brief messages. This can be done alongside the traditional ways of organizing missions in public squares where we gather to pray and celebrate Mass etc.

The time has come for us as Marshallans to avoid the spiritual sickness of a church that is wrapped up in its own world. When a church becomes like this it becomes self-referential, it grows sick and will age prematurely.

As a Noble Order we are urged to help establish a church that comes out of herself and moves to the peripheries, not only geographically, but also the existential peripheries to confront the mystery of sin, of pain, of injustice, of ignorance, of misery and indifference to religion.

We must help the church to be a fruitful mother, who gains life from the sweet and comforting joy of evangelizing.

Fellow Marshallans, as we commemorate this feast day let us be remindful of the assurance and command of Christ that – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded – And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age”.

For us to undertake effective evangelization, I urge you to recognize the importance of renewal of your faith. This must be a priority. We must present faith as a gift that must be passed on, a gift to be offered to others and to be shared as a gratuitous act.

Let us also shun ostentatious lifestyles and adopt simplicity mindful of the plight of the poor people.

As we celebrate the Marshallan Day, a magnificent Grotto christened ‘Our Lady of Marshallans’ is being blessed today at the Marshallan Centre in Sekondi by Most Rev. Joseph Osei Bonsu, Supreme Spiritual Director and President of the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference. The edifice was constructed to deepen the spirituality of Marshallans and other Christians who may go there to pray. It is also to help advance the process for the canonization of Sir James Marshall as a saint.

On behalf of the Supreme Council I extend my eternal gratitude and appreciation to all brothers and sisters who in diverse ways help in the construction of the Marian Grotto. May God Bless You All.

Finally in our quest to be guided by humility as a virtue for effective evangelization, may we always be inspired by the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

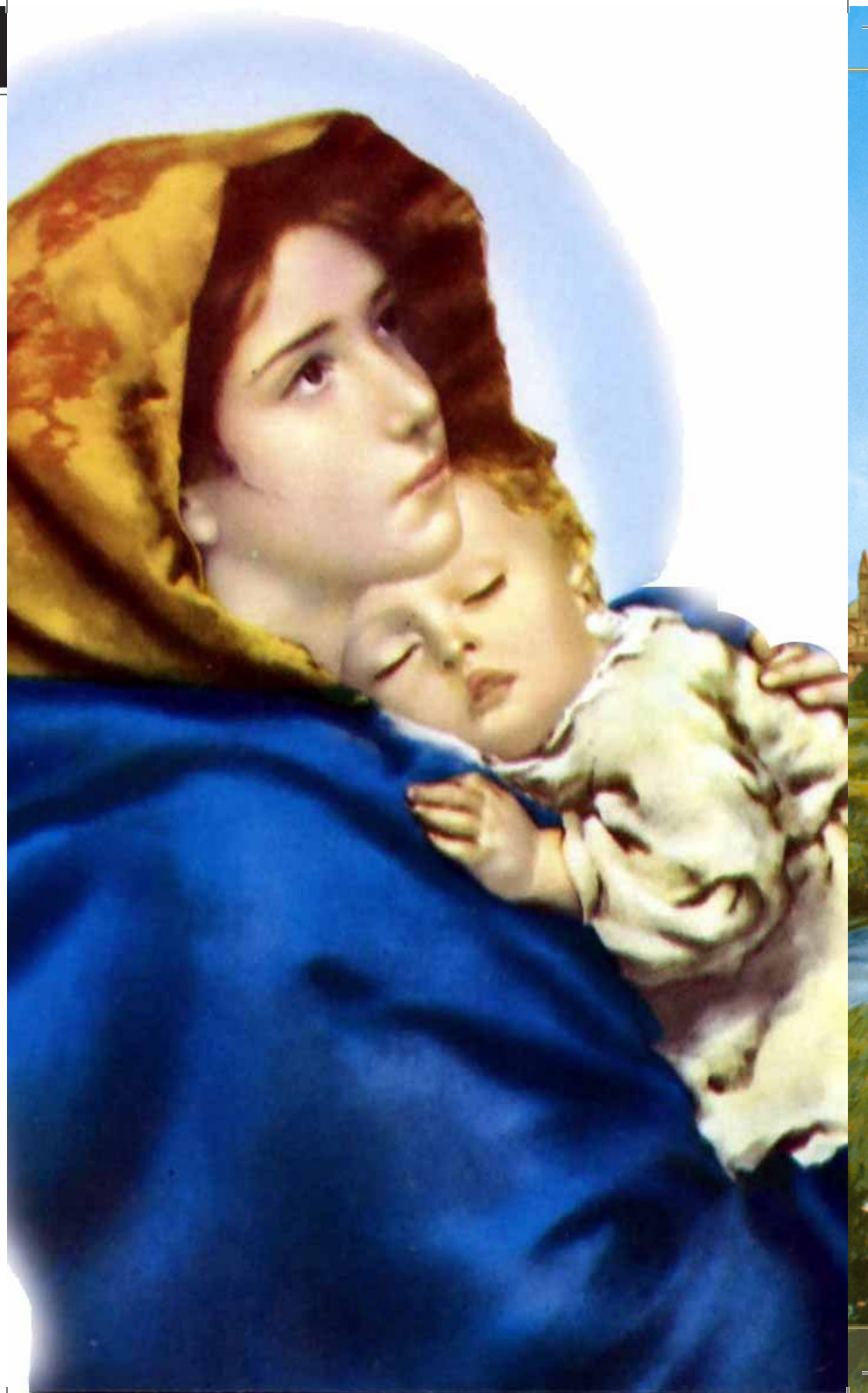
for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

I wish you a Happy Marshallan Day!

Sir Kt Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)







FOUNDERS DAY MESSAGE - NOVEMBER, 2012

I bring you warm and fraternal greetings from the Supreme Council.

This year, as the dawn of the day breaks to usher in Founders Day, the Grand Lady and the Supreme Knight will for the first time be joining our brothers and sisters in Liberia to celebrate the occasion. We hope that this will strengthen the fraternal ties with our fellow Marshallans in this part of the West African sub-region.

As we recall this day which has been instituted by the Noble Order to pay homage and honour the memory of our founding fathers, let us remember the objectives which guided these gallant men to form the society in 1926. Realizing the role catholic lay men and women could play in the church, the Noble Order was founded with the aim of bringing young Catholics together for effective lay apostolate and catholic action, and also to provide a friendly social forum for Catholics who may otherwise be attracted to non-Catholic friendly societies.

My brothers and sisters, as we commemorate this day, I urge you as Marshallans to endeavour to regulate your lives and conducts, that it may bring credit upon yourselves and the Noble Order. We continue to be proud of the membership of this honourable society, therefore I implore you to observe a high standard of public morality, dignity, honour and self-discipline in your various fields of endeavours. Let your lives so shine before the world that the world may see the beauty of the Noble Order and the Holy Mother the Catholic Church.

My dear brothers and sisters, we are called to holiness as our Heavenly father is holy, and with the spirit of God dwelling in us, it is my prayer that you will exhibit unblemished character by living above reproach as far as religious and cultural intolerance, economic greed, and sexual immorality are concerned.

Furthermore as loyal members of the Noble Order, I urge you at all times to abide by the oath of your membership and commit yourself absolutely to be a loyal, faithful and true member of the Marshallan Fraternity.

As a Marshallan called to be brave, fearless and bold, I urge you never

to compromise your conscience in any way but to display the discretion and dignity worthy of a true knight or lady of the Noble Order.

I appeal to you to dispose yourself to receive the divine graces which will be available during the year of faith recently declared by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XI. It is my prayer that whilst you try to deepen your faith in God you will also have faith in your selves and in the power of your own personal convictions.

My brothers and sisters Ghana will soon be holding national elections. As Marshallans be reminded of the love, unity and fraternity which must exist between us all. Therefore I entreat you to amicably settle differences between each other. I urge you us Marhallans to continue to be agents of peace to ensure the unity, and stability of the country.

Let us pray that the face of God will shine on the good people of Ghana during this election season.

Finally, as we celebrate this important feast day, we lift our hearts to the indomitable spirit of the Founders of the Noble Order; a spirit that drove the vision and sacrifice of our forefathers to found this organization. On this day, as Marshallans we should remember that by virtue of the Noble Order we enjoy the privilege of a rich Christian life — one filled with unity, love, charity and service.

Long Live the Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall.

Long Live the Holy Mother the Catholic Church.

God Bless us all

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)



At Re-union Conference Opening Session, Kumasi, August 2013



Dignitaries at Installation Banquet



Dancing at Installation Banquet



In the Church of Sepulchre-Jerusalem, at the Spot where Christ was crucified, visited during the Marshallan Pilgrimage

Prayer

of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek

to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are par-
doned;
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life. Amen

LOVE AND FRATERNITY IN FULL FLIGHT – OCT 2011

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

The choice of the theme for this maiden issue has been greatly inspired by four landmark events during which I was pleasantly overwhelmed by the love and spirit of fraternity which embodies our noble order.

The first of these was my installation as the 29th Supreme Knight of the Noble Order and the subsequent thanksgiving service at S.S. Peter & Paul Church at New Aplaku, Accra.

Then followed the sod cutting of a Marian Grotto at the Marshallan Centre whose construction is being spearheaded by brothers and sisters of Council 71 and Court 63, Dansoman.

The third of these events was the meeting of kindred brothers of International Alliance of Catholic Knights in Dublin, Ireland.

And finally, my encounter and interaction with Marshallan brothers in London, who at a short notice turned up in impressive numbers to welcome the Supreme Knight.

It was refreshing and heart-warming that as these events unfolded, the common theme which reigned supreme and run through the activities was the display of love and the presence of a strong spirit of fraternity.

We should always be reminded that the highest motivation to exhibit love is to endeavour to see God in the people we encounter, as the spirit of God dwells in each one of us.

Along those same lines, we should also be guided by the fact that in practicing fraternity among ourselves we connect with the spirit of God that rests in the Marshalling we encounter and associate with.

It is my prayer that the establishment of the Marshallan Centre for Fraternal Relations, with the aim of deepening the spirit of fraternity and networking within the order will help us strengthen the fraternal relations that embodies us as Marshallans.

It is also my desire that the advent of our NGO, Marshallan Relief and Development Services (MARADES), with the objective to spearhead and coordinate charitable acts to the church and humanity, will spur the natural flow of charitable acts from us to support the poor, the needy and the marginalized.

Finally, I fervently pray that with these tenets, we shall strive to preserve the honour, dignity and unity of the noble order whilst at the same time maintaining our own dignity, honour and integrity as individuals.

**Fraternally yours,
SIR KNT. DERX BAFFOUR
(SUPREME KNIGHT)**

FOUNDERS DAY MESSAGE FROM THE SUPREME KNIGHT - NOV 2011

Fraternal Greetings from the Supreme Council.

Every 18th day of November, we as Marshallans remember the solid foundation that was laid by 13 noble men of our society; a foundation 85 years old, and upon which we continue to build the church with the aim of winning every soul to Christ.

Brothers and sisters, as we celebrate the foresight of these noble men, it is appropriate for us to take a closer look at the reasons which guided the founders to form this society, to see how relevant those reasons are today and how we measure up to the inherent challenges.

Jesus commanded his apostles to be the fishers of men. In obedience to this call of our Lord, the founding fathers were challenged to form this society.

In the year 1926 there was an urgent need to form a Catholic society whose ideals attracted young Catholic laymen to stay true to the teachings of the Holy Church rather than drifting to societies whose belief were against those of the Catholic Church. In 1926, the movement of catholic laymen was from one society to another. The subject of concern was therefore a loss of the Catholic identity.

In 2011, the Catholic Church faces even stronger challenges. Today, the problem is no longer an intra-denominational drift from one society to another, but a loss of catholic laymen to newer Pentecostal and Charismatic churches. Today, the Holy Church faces persecution of its teachings, its beliefs and its people.

Brothers and Sisters, as we celebrate our Founder's day, we need to ask ourselves, why are people not flocking en masse to our church? Why are Catholics moving to these mushrooming churches? Are we doing enough as Marshallans to prevent this exodus?

Are we living lives that illuminate the light of Jesus? Do our actions render us opaque to the light of Jesus? Are we actively playing our role as fishers of men?

In 1926, the Noble Order of the Knights and Ladies of Marshall was formed with the goal of bringing to a halt, a drift of Catholics from the teaching of the Holy Mother the Catholic Church. What are we also doing in 2011 to stop a similar drift in our time?

On a day like today, as we gather to celebrate the lives of our founders, we should take the opportunity to reflect on their ideals and goals. We should revisit the motives and aims which formed the basis of the formation of our enviable society 85 years ago. We should re-dedicate and commit ourselves to these goals with the same zeal and vigour as those 13 young men did in 1926.

A solid foundation has been laid by the 13 founding fathers, what is expected of us is to hold on to the beliefs and ideals, nourish them and see them flourish. The future of the church and our noble society certainly depends on what we are able to do today.

On this occasion of our Founder's Day:

I salute our founding fathers.

I salute you my brothers and sisters of the Marshallan fraternity,

I pray that we will continue to emulate the ideals of our founders.

Enjoy this day in the spirit of unity, charity, fraternity and service and be true and dedicated fishers of men for Christ.

**SIR KNT. DERX BAFFOUR
(SUPREME KNIGHT)**

THE MARSHALLAN AS AN APOSTLE OF PEACE IN THE NEW YEAR – JAN 2012

In its infancy, a new year, just like any new beginning, is always invigorating. Newness generates excitement like a new baby in a household, a new job, a new house, a new shirt, new regalia. It really does not matter at which point in life's trajectory one finds him or herself; the feeling of excitement is the same all around. Therefore what a wonderful time it is to be an apostle of peace in a world which has just been ushered into a New Year.

At the beginning of the creation story, the world was formless, and darkness was over the surface (Gen 1:2). Now, happenings all over the world mirror the formlessness of times past. There is great confusion and disruption of cosmic proportions hovering over the lives of many. There is so much violence and chaos in our world: violence against the unborn, children, the aged and the defenseless. There is war against life and reckless misuse of God-given and irreplaceable natural resources. There is much injustice in global politics, in economic policies and between cultures. There is a lack of peace in the world.

A real and new commitment to peace, targeted at the hearts of people is needed. Jesus taught that it is from the hearts of men and women that all impurities originate (Mark 7). That would therefore be the place to initiate peace and have it spread from there into the world.

Are mission to be apostles of peace was ordained by Jesus. In the Gospel of the apostle John, Jesus tells us: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (JN 20: 22). Let us live our lives in such a manner that gives meaning to this very popular song, "Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out of you and me..." And finally, may we also reflect deeply on the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi asking that the Lord makes us instrument of peace.

The Marshallan Centre for Fraternal Relations will soon roll out programmes and guidelines to help deepen the spirit of fraternity and networking among Marshallans. Let us use that to bring peace to ourselves, our brothers and sisters, into our homes, the church and our communities.

In Christ, every new beginning promises a bright ending. The Spirit of

God hovers over this New Year as it did over Mary, the Mother of God, whom the Church celebrates on New Year's Day. In our prayers to her, may our Lady of Peace make us into apostles of peace.

**SIR KNT. DERX BAFFOUR
(SUPREME KNIGHT)**

TRAVELLING THE MYSTIC ROAD TO SUCCESS – FEB 2012

Recently I had the opportunity to preside over at the closing ceremony of a Mystic Psychology Course at Council 71 and Court 63, Dansoman, where 43 brothers and sisters graduated. In the ensuing discussion that followed the ceremony, participants openly expressed their satisfaction with their growth throughout the course. They described the spiritually, emotionally and psychologically transformation they had encountered. There was a consensus that the attributes and skills they had acquired would help them deepen their relationship with God and their neighbours.

I am therefore inspired to write on this theme in the light of my experience at that ceremony. I would like to highlight the relevance and benefits this course offers to us as Christians, Catholics and Marshallans. 'The Mystic Road to Success' undoubtedly is a course of scientific instruction dedicated to helping Christians achieve happiness, health and fulfillment. The teachings, when accepted and practiced sincerely in the right spirit, guide the practitioner along 'The Mystic Road to Success.' The course had been designed purely for the development of mental faculties and the resulting ability of the individual to accomplish greater things in life. It is important to note however, that if these teachings are used in an attempt to gain an unfair advantage or further an ulterior motive, they would be made ineffective, powerless and may be potentially harmful to the practitioner.

As Marshallans, 'The Mystic Road to Success' should ideally be a permanent part of our lives. You should never permit an unpleasant thought to linger on your mind. You should replace it with thoughts of things as you wish them to be. You should think as though you already have that which you desire and be thankful to God for it. As you therefore prepare mentally to own these desires, they will gradually take form and become yours materially. Never say 'I WILL HAVE', always use the present tense, 'I HAVE.'

Finally, to those Marshallans who have had the privileged to take this course, I urged them to put into practice what they have learnt and endeavour to manifest the fruits of the spirit as espoused in Galatians 5:22-23 – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness

and Self Control – in your lives. To those who are yet to avail themselves to this course, I urge them to speed up the process.

Fraternally yours

SIR KNT. DERX BAFFOUR
(SUPREME KNIGHT)

ACHIEVING A REFRESHING AND QUALITY LENTEN SEASON – MAR 2012

During Lent, we seek a renewal of mind, body and spirit. With Self-denial, Fasting and Simplicity, we as Christians, are able to grow in character and shed those influences that hinder our relationship with Jesus Christ.

In this season we also strive to develop a better understanding of both our relationship with God and our earthly responsibilities. To achieve these, we should be reminded of following activities which promote religious meditation in our lives: Prayer, Scripture reading, Repentance, Self-denial, and Charity.

Brothers and Sisters, pray every day during lent. Prayer is a form of meditation which has been shown to have positive effects on both the body and the mind. When we pray in truth, we are at one with God.

In addition to prayer, it is important to read and meditate with the Word of God in mind, especially with aspects of the scriptures which pertain to Christ's journey to the cross. In so doing, we are made aware of the nuances of the life and passion of Christ, and its implication to our lives.

The first act of repentance is to acknowledge our faults and reflect on them. The Lenten season is a time to be introspective, reflecting upon our mistakes during the past year. This is an opportune time to make a fresh start in different aspects of lives which are not pleasing in the sight of God.

Self-denial, which includes Fasting, entails giving up on bodily desires, particularly in this season of Lent. In denying ourselves of desires of the flesh we do not seek to put ourselves in a state of unhealth. Rather, we strive to heighten our awareness of all vices that taint our mind, body and spirit. In abstaining from food, alcohol, or intimacy we learn how to abstain from vices that harm our relationship with God.

As members of a fraternal society with a rich pedigree of support to the community and humanity, we must increase our acts of charity during this season. Charity works offer a form of spiritual reflection through the act of giving up what we have to assist someone in need.

Finally, our thoughts and deeds must be consistent with our Holy Father's Lenten Message for this year which warned against what he calls 'Spiritual Anaesthesia,' which numbs people to the suffering of others. The suffering of others is not only physical or material, but it is also spiritual. As Marshallans, we must be encouraged to remember our spiritual responsibility towards our neighbours and also endeavour to reach out to people indulging in sin.

Brothers and Sisters, best wishes for a refreshing Lenten season.

Faternally yours

SIR KNT. DERX BAFFOUR
(SUPREME KNIGHT)

BEHOLD, THE MARSHALLAN SECURITY TRUST IS BORN - LET'S EMBRACE IT – APR 2012

The initiative by the Supreme Council and the Grand Court to establish the Marshallan Security Trust was launched at the recent Grand Knights and Noble Ladies Forum in Kumasi. The financial scheme is set to take off in April this year.

As we roll out the scheme it is important to highlight some of the specific objectives for the establishment of this initiative.

Brothers and sisters, the purpose of this security trust is to create a financial resource for individual brothers and sisters to fall back on in their old age. Looking beyond the present, it also ensures that members make provision for the immediate sustenance of their spouses, children and loved ones.

At the individual level, financial benefits from this scheme can be used to supplement pensions or social security benefits of members who retire in the formal sector. And for other members in the informal sector, the security trust can serve as their primary pension scheme or as a supplement to some other arrangement they already have. Furthermore, when members reach the end of their active working life, financial benefits from this scheme can be used to fulfill required financial obligations necessary for membership in the noble order.

As a whole, the Noble Order will also benefit from this initiative, and the resources will be used to continue laudable projects for the church and humanity.

My dear Marshallans, as we consider our financial future, both as individuals and as a whole, we should be reminded that the difference between a life of prosperity and poverty has a lot more to do with our saving and investing habits, than with our income. By partaking in the Marshallan Security Trust, we are taking a huge step towards controlling our lives and ensuring financial success, even in retirement.

As we celebrate the birth of the Marshallan Security Trust, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the Board of Trustees, Bro. D. D. Dawlah, Resp. Lady Felicity Acquah and Bro Anthony Apallo and the Fund Managers, Merban Investments Holdings Limited for the

yeoman's role they have played to bring the scheme this far. Many thanks also go to Sir Kt Anthony Okyere for his donation of the promotional materials and the Supreme Director, Sir Kt Vet. Dr. E.S.K. Kwaw for the encouragement and fraternal blessings to this project.

Finally, I urge you all to wholeheartedly embrace the Marshallan Security Trust and ensure its success for our benefit and that of future generations of Marshallans.

Fraternally yours

**SIR KNT. DERX BAFFOUR
(SUPREME KNIGHT)**

SUPREME KNIGHT'S MARSHALLAN DAY MESSAGE - MAY 2012

As we celebrate the feast day of the Noble Order, Marshallan Day, I send you fraternal greetings on behalf of the Supreme Council and Grand Court.

We celebrate this day with various activities that underscore the element of Love in our Marshallan identity, and also in gratitude to God for his blessings on the Noble Order.

Marshallan Day is of great significance to the members of the Noble Order and the entire Catholic community because of the role played by Sir James Marshall in the reestablishment of the Catholic Church in the year 1880, after the church had been inactive for over 250 years in the then Gold Coast.

As we commemorate this year's feast day, let us reflect on our role as Marshallans in the promotion of peace and the entrenchment of democratic rule in Ghana and the West-African sub-region.

Thanks to God, democratic rule can be felt, although to different degrees, in our homeland and other sister nations in the sub-region. The road to our present destination has been long and difficult, however with determination and tenacity to create for ourselves an oasis of peace, we have been able to bring our nations to where we are today.

Peaceful democratic rule is paramount for the total development of our countries and the people.

Peace can only be certain when the citizen's personal freedom is evidently assured because he or she is governed by the rule of law. Such a milieu exists when democratic rule is entrenched. In light of the tenets of the Noble Order, the Marshallan, therefore has a duty to himself and his neighbor to be an instrument of peace.

Democracy is simply a call to respect divergent opinions and harness differences for the total development of the people. Different political parties are essential for true democracy to be practiced. The differences in political ideology should however not divide us. Rancour and acrimony need not characterize our politics; after all, the goal of each political

persuasion is to achieve good and peaceful governance of our country. Elections should therefore not be about inciting people against each other but a healthy contest of ideas.

Let us we examine events that transpired during the recent biometric registration exercise in Ghana. As Marshallans, do we stand by and bring to naught what we have so far gained? Can we imagine the anguish we may be sentencing our people should there be a civil strife? The cost will be too much for us to bear.

To avert this looming and disturbing image it must be the duty of every Marshallan to double his/her effort towards deepening democratic rule in Ghana and the sub-region.

We will mount a crusade to caution all against acts, omissions, hate speech, and inflammatory utterances that threaten the peace and stability of our country.

We must condemn such comments that seek to incite violence and desist from justifying them.

Our security services are also urged to act in fairness, independently without fear or favour in the discharge of their duties.

The National Media Commission must as a matter of urgency, be resourced to take steps to ensure that there is sanity in the media landscape, and media houses and personnel that incite violence must be sanctioned.

Finally let us pray for and work towards the maintenance of peace in our motherland and ensure that we put an end to everything that does not promote peace, especially conflict and violence.

May our Lady, Queen of Marshallans continue to intercede for us.

Fraternally yours

SIR KNT. DERX BAFFOUR
(SUPREME KNIGHT)

DEVELOPING PURE THOUGHTS AS MARSHALLANS – JUN 2012

Brothers and Sisters, the human brain no doubt is a fascinating component of our bodies. Even with the most advanced products of scientific research, we have not been able to rival what has been given to us by God with the gift of life. With our brain, we are able to sense, to recognize, to understand, and to remember countless things. With our brains we can keep track of countless important details that keep us alive. And all of this without conscious decisions on our part. The influence of our thoughts on our being is profound.

In Philippians 4:8, the apostle Paul addresses the church, stating:

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

My dear Marshallans, one thing we must be careful about is the type of material we give our brains access to. Since the brain is like a sponge, it retains all the information it receives. One question we should ask ourselves is, ‘Would I feel comfortable if my thoughts are played out on a movie screen for the entire world to see?’ Are we confident that the things we think about are true, honorable and right? Are we also confident that our thoughts are lovely and admirable such that they are worthy of praise?

What we think about can have a very strong impact on the way we handle a situation or view a series of events. Our thoughts shape our actions. And if left unchecked, these can turn into negative character trait very quickly.

Brothers and Sisters, the Lord wants our minds to be pure and useful for the tasks he has planned for us. It is difficult to serve the Lord truly when a person is considering thoughts of revenge, envy, hate or other negativities. The apostle Paul understood this and challenged the Philippians to think about things that were honorable, true, lovely, admirable, and worthy of praise. This way, their actions would match their thoughts.

Once again, would you feel comfortable if your thoughts were shown

on a movie screen for all to see? It is not too late to allow God to perform some 'editing' so our thinking is in line with His. The question is whether you are willing to let him do it. If we are able to take that list of healthy thoughts outlined by St. Paul and apply it to our daily lives, we will be well on our way towards building a healthy mind; a mind pure and ready to perform God's work.

**Sir Kt Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)**

PS - Let us support the Church and the Noble Order by registering our vehicles and other properties with the Quality Insurance Co. Ltd. Let us also be active contributors to the Marshallan Security Trust.

DEVELOPING HUMILITY AS A MARSHALLAN – JUL 2012

My dear brothers and sisters, there is no doubt that the words we speak have enormous power. They can make us erupt into laughter or bring tears to our eyes. They can influence, inspire, shock and manipulate. They can build, and they can destroy. Some words have different effects on different people. One such word is Humility. Some people love the word and all it stands for. Some almost fear it and interpret it synonymously with a lack of self-confidence and temerity. To the contrary, practicing Humility improves relationships across all levels, it reduces anxiety, it encourages more openness and paradoxically, it enhances one's self-confidence.

Like most virtues, it is one thing to talk about and entirely another to practice it. Brothers and sisters, how then do you bring Humility to your interactions with your fellow Marshallans, your neighbours and workmates? How can the Marshallan uphold the hallmarks of Humility: that is, to live in modesty, shun pretenses, never boastful and avoid the temptation of believing that you are superior to others?

Some people may say that Humility is all about maintaining our pride about who we are, about our achievement, about our worth but without arrogance. Approaching our daily endeavours with Humility is very important because we are then able to keep our eyes open to innovation and our ears tuned to new ideas that might previously have been discarded.

For Marshallans in leadership positions you must learn to admit your failures about something. Not only does admitting wrong prevent further disaster, it opens a possibility for everyone. It is easier to trust and follow a leader who isn't perfect, because we know none of us are. You must also be willing to learn the habit of laughing at yourself. When a leader laughs at himself or herself, it lightens up and levels the space. It also brings freedom to being human.

You must learn to say sorry. Admitting full responsibility for a wrong and authentically apologizing is brave. It is inspiring. Also by admitting that others are better than you is a genius of Humility.

As Marshallans aspiring to develop the virtue of Humility, you must

have the ability to deflect praise toward those who deserve it for a number of reasons. Giving credit to others keeps you from becoming self-conceited. In addition, it allows those who had a contributing role to experience the success as well. Praising others also shows our personal desire to be a servant, a true mark of leadership.

My brothers and sisters, Humility doesn't come naturally to many people. To this end, you must commit yourselves to God daily, asking him to help you live lives that reflect his character. If you are constantly looking for glory and praise, then your priorities are wrong. Jesus made it clear that we are to simply do the things he asks us to do and reflect any praise we might receive away from ourselves. Our purpose is to do what He asks, and in the end that is more important than any elevations to high office, honours and awards we might receive.

Finally let us remember that true merit, like a river, the deeper it is, the less noise it makes.

Fraternally yours

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

PS. I will like to thank all Marshallans who are insuring their assets with Quality Insurance Co. Ltd. (QIC), and I entreat others to start. It's important to insist and state on the insurance form that your agent is The Knights and Ladies of Marshall. This will enable you and the Noble Order to enjoy the commission benefit. Fellow Marshallans, let us also secure our future by being active contributors to the Marshallan Security Trust.

LET'S SUPPORT MAREDES, THE MARSHALLAN NGO – AUG 2012

Some weeks ago, MAREDES donated money and relief items to support people affected by the recent inter-ethnic clashes in the Bunkpuru-Yunyoo district within the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese. The donation was headlined by both the print and the electronic media, thereby underscoring the relevance of the activities of this organization. I would like to congratulate the Board of Directors, and Marshallans who have been supporting MARADES for their good work.

The Marshallan Relief and Development Service (MAREDES) is an NGO of the Noble Order which aims to augment its works of charity. MARADES seeks to be a vehicle that will more effectively roll out the charitable works of the Noble Order with the specific focus of empowering the poor. This will be achieved by undertaking the relevant research necessary to influence policy change, and offering training and other capacity building initiatives.

Brothers and sisters, to help MARADES achieve its objectives, I urge you all to be a part of the activities of the organization. For the NGO to make maximum impact and reduce operational costs, Marshallans are encouraged to volunteer their time and skills towards the implementation of relief and developmental activities. The organization will therefore depend on the wide spectrum of talents, expertise, and competence of our membership when the need arises, and trustfully we can count on your co-operation.

As part of the efforts to raise funds in support of the activities of MARADES, a deal has been negotiated with the Quality Insurance Company (QIC), titled 'Special QIC/Knights and Ladies of Marshall Insurance Package.' The deal will require QIC to pay back to the Noble Order, a percentage of all premiums collected from Marshallans who insure their vehicles and other properties with the company. The funds collected from this arrangement will be channeled towards the initiatives of MARADES. For the Noble Order to enjoy the benefits in this deal it is important that brothers and sisters interested in joining the scheme identify the Knights and Ladies of Marshall as his/her agent in the transaction.

To help promote competitive spirit in this endeavor, a Board Member

of MARADES, Sir Kt. Fosuaba Banahene has graciously donated two trophies to be donated annually to the council and court that enlists the most of its membership to insure their properties with QIC. Grand Knights and Noble Ladies should collate such information and forward it to the secretariat of MARADES, through the Supreme Council and the Grand Court.

Meanwhile we welcome on board, Sir Kt. Gyedu Adomako, who has joined the team as the Acting Administrative Manager of MARADES. We trust that he will bring to this organization his rich experience after extensive involvement in The Red Cross.

Finally, keeping in mind the fleeting nature of our time in the world, we shouldn't hesitate in performing acts of kindness towards our fellow Marshallans and people we encounter. Do not neglect the chance to help someone because the opportunity might not pass your way again.

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

CHOOSING FAITH OVER FEAR AS MARSHALLANS – SEP 2012

There is no doubt that we are living in very turbulent times and this obviously gives us plenty of reasons to fear. Our world these days seems to be in a continuous state of war and crises. The job market and businesses are dismal, natural disasters wreak havoc, and stories of crime dominate the headlines. However, as Marshallans we know that fear should have no place in our lives, but how can we ignore what is going on around us?

Basically, there are two paths you can walk: faith or fear. It is impossible to simultaneously trust God and not trust God. Another way of saying this is that you cannot both obey and disobey Him. Partial obedience is disobedience. So my brothers and sisters which road are you travelling?

Unfortunately, some people who read the bible and believe in God nevertheless choose to live with fear. Seeing others experience hardship, they start wondering if it could happen to them. Someone at your office loses his/her job, and then you start wondering whether you will be next. Someone died in an accident, then the worry also starts, I could die too. But, my dear Marshallans, this kind of logic places your circumstances above your relationship with God.

If the world and the system can get you to think like this, then the battle over your mind had been lost. But when you focus on God rather than your circumstances, whatever the situation is, you win. The scripture tell us in 2nd Timothy 1:7 that God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love and discipline.

Be mindful that fear stifles your thinking and actions. It creates indecisiveness that results in stagnation. I have known talented people who procrastinate indefinitely rather than risk failure. Lost opportunities cause erosion of confidence.

Fear hinders you from becoming the people God wants you to be. When you are dominated by negative emotions, you cannot achieve the goals He has in mind for you. A lack of self-confidence undermines our belief in what the Lord can do with your lives.

Fear can drive you to destructive habits. To numb the pain of overbearing distress, some people turn to things like drugs and alcohol for artificial relief.

Fear steals peace and contentment. When you are always afraid, your life becomes centered on pessimism and gloom.

My brothers and sisters, what are you afraid of? – poverty, rejection, unemployment, sickness, or death? Everybody will definitely face and encounter such realities at some point. All you need to know is, God will never reject you. The Scriptures assures us that God will meet all your needs. He feeds the birds of the air and clothes the grass with the splendor of lilies. How much more, then, will He care for you, who are made In His image. Just obey the heavenly father and leave the consequences to Him.

Our heavenly father understands your disappointments, suffering, pain, fear and doubt. He is always there to encourage your hearts and help you to understand that He is sufficient for all of your needs. When you accept this as an absolute truth in life, you will find that your worrying will stop.

Fraternally yours

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

PS - The spirit of unflinching fraternity and charity of the Noble Order was at its best when during my recent visit to Lome, Togo to attend the State Council meeting, I witnessed the donation of a 60-seater bus from Sir Kt Jerome Kugbe and Sis. Kugbe. This kind gesture from the brother and sister was to support and ensure the financial sustainability of the State Council and Court. Kudos to them.



Sir Kt. Derox Victor Baffour



Most Respected Lady Janet Edith Mmieh

REFLECTIONS ON THE MARSHALLAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND AND OTHER SITES – OCT 2012

My dear brothers and sisters, following the tradition of the Noble Order to undertake a pilgrimage to the Holy Land every 2 years, I joined 40 pilgrims to visit Israel, Italy, Lourdes (France) and Fatima (Portugal).

The pilgrimage began with visits to the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, to Cana, Mount Camel, Mount of Beatitudes, a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, a visit to River Jordan, a trip to the Mount of Temptation in a cable car, and to the Basilica of Nativity in the Manger Square where Christ was born. This was to be followed by visits to the Mount of Ascension, the Garden of Gethsemane, walking along the 14 Stations of the Cross (Via Dolorosa), and praying at the Wailing Wall.

With the conclusion of the visit to the Holy Land, the cradle of our faith, the pilgrimage took us to the St. Peters Square in Rome for a Papal Audience, visits to the Tombs of Popes, the Vatican Museum, an open bus ride to the Vatican Gardens, the Catacombs, St Paul's Basilica, St Padre Pio's Shrine, and a Mass with the Ghanaian Catholic Community In Rome. The pilgrimage was rounded off with a fulfilling and satisfying spiritual experience at the Marian Grottos in Lourdes and Fatima.

The trip was enriching for all participants. On a personal level, my encounter with the Pope during the Papal Audience was a moment to cherish. The Holy Father truly radiates Love and Holiness. In a conversation between him MRL Margaret Essilfe and myself, he assured us of his prayers for a peaceful election in Ghana, and divine blessings for our families and the Noble Order.

Fellow Marshallans, as pilgrims, it was an undisputable that we were all thrilled, excited and proud about the rich heritage of the Catholic Church. Furthermore, our faith in God has been deepened, giving us the strength to be active agents in the establishment of God's Kingdom on the earth.

Finally, as I sat in the plane to fly back home, I became convinced after deep reflection and meditation about the importance of Positive Thinking. The tenets of positive thinking are dependent on a strong faith in the word of God. Scriptures says that "But even the very hairs

of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.” My brothers and sisters, I encourage you all to have a positive outlook every day. I urge you to focus on the things and outcomes you want and not the things and outcomes you don’t want. Never put out into the universe you are having a bad day. Rather, in your moments of despair, remember that The Lord watches over his people and has plans for our best interest.

Fraternally yours

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

FOUNDERS DAY MESSAGE - NOVEMBER, 2012

I bring you warm and fraternal greetings from the Supreme Council.

This year, as the dawn of the day breaks to usher in Founders Day, the Grand Lady and the Supreme Knight will for the first time be joining our brothers and sisters in Liberia to celebrate the occasion. We hope that this will strengthen the fraternal ties with our fellow Marshallans in this part of the West African sub-region.

As we recall this day which has been instituted by the Noble Order to pay homage and honour the memory of our founding fathers, let us remember the objectives which guided these gallant men to form the society in 1926. Realizing the role catholic lay men and women could play in the church, the Noble Order was founded with the aim of bringing young Catholics together for effective lay apostolate and catholic action, and also to provide a friendly social forum for Catholics who may otherwise be attracted to non-Catholic friendly societies.

My brothers and sisters, as we commemorate this day, I urge you as Marshallans to endeavour to regulate your lives and conducts, that it may bring credit upon yourselves and the Noble Order. We continue to be proud of the membership of this honourable society, therefore I implore you to observe a high standard of public morality, dignity, honour and self-discipline in your various fields of endeavours. Let your lives so shine before the world that the world may see the beauty of the Noble Order and the Holy Mother the Catholic Church.

My dear brothers and sisters, we are called to holiness as our Heavenly father is holy, and with the spirit of God dwelling in us, it is my prayer that you will exhibit unblemished character by living above reproach as far as religious and cultural intolerance, economic greed, and sexual immorality are concerned.

Furthermore as loyal members of the Noble Order, I urge you at all times to abide by the oath of your membership and commit yourself absolutely to be a loyal, faithful and true member of the Marshallan Fraternity.

As a Marshallan called to be brave, fearless and bold, I urge you never

to compromise your conscience in any way but to display the discretion and dignitary of a true knight or lady of the Noble Order.

I appeal to you to dispose yourself to receive the divine graces which will be available during the year of faith recently declared by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XI. It is my prayer that whilst you try to deepen your faith in God you will also have faith in your selves and in the power of your own personal convictions.

My brothers and sisters Ghana will soon be holding national elections. As Marshallans be reminded of the love, unity and fraternity which must exist between us all. Therefore I entreat you to amicably settle differences between each other. I urge you us Marshallans to continue to be agents of peace to ensure the unity, and stability of the country.

Let us pray that the face of God will shine on the good people of Ghana during this election season.

Finally, as we celebrate this important feast day, we lift our hearts to the indomitable spirit of the Founders of the Noble Order; a spirit that drove the vision and sacrifice of our forefathers to found this organization. On this day, as Marshallans we should remember that by virtue of the Noble Order we enjoy the privilege of a rich Christian life — one filled with unity, love, charity and service.

Long Live the Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall.

Long Live the Holy Mother the Catholic Church.

God Bless us all

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE BY SUPREME KNIGHT & GRAND LADY – 2012

“Glory to God and Peace to His people on earth” – Luke 2:14

This popular bible verse commonly referred to during the Christmas season continue to resonate more loudly through the present generation. Unfortunately we are face with a myriad of challenges and that call for concerted efforts by all of us to be agents of peace to ensure that this message becomes relevant in our turbulent world.

During this season, let us pray for the infusion of God’s Grace and Power to purse the agenda of brining God’s kingdom in our homes, communities, churches, workplaces and to humanity.

As the Holy Father, His Holiness, Pope Benedict XI declares a year of Faith in the Church, let use this season not only to deepen our faith in God but also in ourselves.

We continue to urge you to lead such lives that will make us worthy members of the Noble Order.

Finally, may the Peace of Christmas be with you and your families.

God Bless us all

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

MRL Sis. Janet Edith Mmieh
(Grand Lady)



Supreme Knight and Wife, Cynthia

LIVING THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW YEAR AS MARSHALLANS – JAN 2013

Each New Year presents a gift of 525,600. What we do with the gift of these minutes determines the quality of our life, the level of our happiness, the value of the memories we create and the difference we can make in the world.

Our lives are determined by how we choose to live our 525,000 minutes each year. Minutes spent stressed or worrying are wasted and none of our unused minutes can be saved for the next year. None can be given to others and unused ones will be lost forever. When we look at the New Year from this perspective, it helps us realize the gift we've been given.

Therefore, in this New Year as the clock begins to tick, bringing my tenure of office as Supreme Knight to a close, I would like to share with you some thoughts' on how best to start spending your 525,000 minutes.

Firstly, spend time with people you love. Cherish your family and the Marshallan fraternity of brothers and sisters. You will realize that when you look back at a year, the things that usually stand out are times spent with loved ones, and the moments of connection with one another.

Be positive. Realize you do have a choice, and choose to be positive in your thoughts and your actions. Trust yourself and your abilities. Just because something didn't yet work out as planned, doesn't mean it won't work out. Keep moving in the right direction. There is always a way and you can't lose unless you give up.

The world is evolving very fast amidst phenomenal changes. My fellow Marshallans, I urge to embrace change. Resisting change is like trying to swim upstream. Instead, expand your world. Learn about other cultures and celebrate your differences and find common ground.

I entreat you to love life! Do what you love and love what you do. Happiness comes from spending minutes doing things that bring you joy.

Listen to your inner voice. Many times, wisdom comes to us in silence. Also strive to live with faith and hope as a part of your life instead of

apart from them

Spread kindness. Connect with one another. Share a smile. Perform random acts of kindness. Give away things you don't need. Share love and resources with others, remembering that blessing flows more easily through a stream without a dam.

Always be yourself. You are unique. You are special, so let your light shine. You have no limitations except those that you place on yourself. Dream BIG! Dream big dreams and trust that you're on the right path to make them happen.

Finally, my dear Marshallans, I urge you to welcome and embrace the new year. A new year filled with more than 525,000 minutes is waiting for you. Invest them well. Make each one of them count, and have a blessed and very Happy New Year!

Fraternally yours,

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

BUILDING ON A LEGACY OF SACRIFICE AND SERVICE – FEB 2013

My dear Marshallans, our fore-fathers were inspired and had the vision to found this Noble order and by virtue of their sacrifice, they left behind a legacy built on a platform of peace, unity, charity, fraternity and service. By virtue of their sacrifice, we are able to enjoy the privilege of a rich Christian life. As members of this organization, it's our duty to emulate their examples in sacrifice and service to our neighbours, the church and the Marshallan society.

The theme of this message is motivated by discussions among the leadership of the Supreme Council and the Grand Court, during which we recognized the tremendous sacrifices office bearers and officers make to keep the Noble Order going. The running of each Council and Court is a task that demands significant commitment from members of the administrative team, captained by the Grand Knights and Noble Ladies. Therefore to acknowledge the effort and toil of brothers and sisters who serve as Grand Knights and Noble Ladies, the leadership decided that additional trimmings will be made to their regalia. The membership of this Noble order is proud of our members who strive with love, and tireless efforts to continue to build our community. By honouring our Grand Knights and Noble Ladies, we hope to encourage and remind other brothers and sisters of the duty of service.

We are aware of the role played by honorary members of office in advising the leadership of the society. We are also extremely appreciative of their active involvement in guiding the growth of our society.

I entreat all of us to avoid acrimonious sentiments as these only destroy the harmonious relationships we share. Rather, as a society, let us celebrate our leaders and encourage each and every member to find ways to be of service, whatever our calling maybe.

Finally let us keep in mind that service to man is service to God. In sacrificing to build a stronger society we fulfil our duty to God.

Fraternally,

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

AS MARSHALLANS LET US ENJOY THIS LIFE AS IT IS – MAR 2013

Dear Marshallans, this message is inspired by the general theme of re-birth and renewal that embodies the Lenten Season and the joy of the Easter festivities. I encourage you to "Embrace today as it enfolds before you and release yesterday as its curtain is drawn behind you". It's a simple way to remind you to enjoy this life as it is and leave behind all the worries and burdens that weigh us down.

The heart which harbors ill feelings and fails to forgive is a heart that can't experience the greatness and love that surrounds it. If you truly want to live a life filled with peace, success, and happiness, then you must learn to forgive and let go. Therefore brothers and sisters, it's time to stop being weighed down in life, let go of all your hurts and give them to God. Our heavenly Father can bear them.

Brothers and Sisters, when we are free of our burdens, we are able to avail ourselves to be selfless, rather than selfish. A sincere giving heart is never weary, but one that's constantly consuming is hurting. When you avail yourself to others, it inspires others to act kindly towards you. It's one of the basic laws of humanity. Selflessness revives our soul and connects us to our Creator. It's the heartbeat of life. To truly experience all that life has and can be, you must look past yourself.

Finally my brothers and sisters belief is the most powerful glue in existence. It doesn't matter what is thrown your way, when you believe, there is nothing that can tear you away from your greatness. It's that feeling that pushes you to fight when the world tells you it's over. Without belief, life has no true purpose.

My message for the month will not be complete without asking for your prayers for our new Pope, His Holiness Pope Francis I. I feel delighted, very consoled and deeply satisfied that he can find in his heart, a place reserved for the poor and a burning desire for a genuine renewal of the church. I pray that he inspires us all towards a global renewal of the church.

Fraternally,

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

STRENGTHENING THE SPIRIT OF NETWORKING AMONGST MARSHALLANS – APR 2013

My brothers and sisters, during a discussion with some friends weeks ago, the general feeling was that in order to get ahead and be successful in the system today, the old adage of ‘whom you know’ doesn’t hold entirely anymore. Rather, we now operate in a system that is driven more by ‘who knows you’. By building an extensive social and professional network, the hardworking and persevering Marshallan can achieve great individual and professional success.

Brothers and sisters, we belong to an organization with a membership of rich professional potential. As Marshallans we aim to support each other spiritually, emotionally, financially and materially. What can we, therefore, as an organization do to strengthen the spirit of networking to assist each other in securing employment for our unemployed, career advancement to others, further the business dealings of our brothers and sisters and to provide legal advice to brothers and sisters in times when needed?

The Marshallan Centre for Fraternal Relations was established to address these challenges. This institution is to serve the role of an umbrella body for all welfare committees and ensure that the Noble Order becomes a haven of love and concern. This body is also charged to facilitate the timely provision of assistance, support and professional advice to all brothers and sisters in need.

I therefore urge all councils and courts to establish very well resourced Welfare Committees, whose responsibility is not restricted to only visiting the sick and the aged, but also to promote, advance and deepen the spirit of networking amongst Marshallans.

I strongly believe that when we all look out for each other, our web of fraternal connections will certainly enhance the vibrancy of this Noble Order.

Fraternally,

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

AS MARSHALLANS LET'S DEVELOP THE VIRTUE OF PATIENCE – MAY 2013

Words such as At Once., Now, Immediately and Deadlines readily come to mind regarding the fast-paced lifestyle many of us find ourselves in. We expect traffic signals to turn green the instant we approach them. We expect ready to answer to our prayers etc. etc. But what happens when our desires don't materialize in what we consider to be a timely fashion? We may experience frustration, grumpiness, possibly even anger.

As one of the fruits of the Spirit, patience is a character trait God desires to produce in us (see Galatians 5:22-23). Yet the only way to really learn what it means to be patient is to experience it firsthand. Patience no doubt is an unveiled gift.

Noah lived in a time when lawlessness and sin were the rule, not the exception. Imagine his reaction when God told him about his plan to destroy humanity! Picture Noah's reaction when God told him to build a boat, giving him specific dimensions and directions! Imagine having to wait 120 years to see it happen! I wonder if Noah ever said to himself, "Okay Lord, things are getting worse instead of better. Aren't you going to execute your plan? After all, it's already been fifteen years!" Thankfully, Noah learned the lesson of patience, trusted God's timing, and was spared from the flood as a result.

Our response when something doesn't happen on schedule speaks to how well we have learned to be patient. Maybe God has something better just around the corner. He will let you know when he's ready--or perhaps when you're ready.

"Finally, my dear Marshallans as we strive to develop the virtue of patience let us remind ourselves of the wisdom inherent in these words by our Lord "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts, and my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

Fraternally,

Sir Kt Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE – JUN 2013

Dear Marshallans, I recently read a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: “If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry.” The measure of our success therefore should not be defined to our particular career or what we earn but on our character and what we give.

I am motivated to write on this theme to encourage marshallans to avoid mediocrity and the lack of persistence in various fields of endeavours. Whatever our role, our position, our organization, or our lot in life, we should strive for the best. The desire to pursue perfection and excellence is a heavenly quality. When our Heavenly Father created the universe he realized that all that he had brought into existence was perfect. Moreover He always gave us His very best, His son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins. Excellence does not mean being the best but being your best, understanding that variation makes all the difference in the world. Excellence is being better than you were yesterday. Excellence means matching your practice with your potential.

My brothers and sisters as we pursue excellence in our various fields of endeavors, let us be mindful that, effective leaders accomplish seemingly impossible tasks because they never give up. They never buckle under. Despite mounting criticism, intense opposition, and overwhelming obstacles, they persevere with determined resolve. They refuse to throw in the towel.

Often, the easiest thing would be to quit. Just give up, give up to the opposition, give in to the words of the critics and forget about one’s dream and return to the comfort and convenience of mediocrity. When you are tempted to quit, resist. Press on in the face of the temptation to quit and until the war is over, we must fight to the end.

Finally as we pursue excellence as Marshallans, I urge you to pay attention and ALWAYS express what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. It is not a superficial luxury but an urgent necessity. It is being a light in the darkness.

Fraternally yours,

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

AS MARSHALLANS LET'S DEVELOP THE VIRTUE OF PATIENCE – JUL 2013

Words such as At Once., Now, Immediately and Deadlines readily come to mind regarding the fast-paced lifestyle many of us find ourselves in. We expect traffic signals to turn green the instant we approach them. We expect ready to answer to our prayers etc. etc. But what happens when our desires don't materialize in what we consider to be a timely fashion? We may experience frustration, grumpiness, possibly even anger.

As one of the fruits of the Spirit, patience is a character trait God desires to produce in us (see Galatians 5:22-23). Yet the only way to really learn what it means to be patient is to experience it firsthand. Patience no doubt is an unveiled gift.

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Fraternally,

Sir Kt Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)



Pix with Members Of A Knidred Order At The Vatican



Sir Kt. Derx Baffour with some Supreme Knights of International Alliance of Catholic Knights at a meeting in Dublin, Ireland

**FRATERNAL MESSAGE AT A LECTURE ON 'CAN
CATHOLICS JOIN THE FREEMASONS'
BY MOST REV. JOSEPH OSEI BONSU, ON 6TH MARCH, 2013**

I bring you warm and fraternal greetings from the Supreme Council and Grand Court of the Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall.

Let me congratulate the leadership of the Knighthood Forum for putting together this lecture in the face of certain challenges.

It will be recalled with pleasure that among the array of reasons for the establishment of the Noble Order of Knights of Marshall In 1926 was the need to create a congenial social forum for the Catholics who otherwise would have and probably may be attracted to join other lodges or fraternal societies.

Being one of the trail blazers of this initiative, it is our prayer that this lecture will explain, strengthen and entrenched the Church's Teachings on the Freemasonry and the Catholic Church.

God Bless the Knighthood Forum

God Bless the Knights of St. John Int. and the Ladies Auxiliary

God Bless the Knights and Ladies of Marshall.

**SIR KT. DERX BAFFOUR
(SUPREME KNIGHT)**

MMMM LECTURES 2012 - WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE SUPREME KNIGHT

Salutation

The Marshall Mureau Murat Memorial Lectures was instituted by the Noble Order in 1989 on the occasion of the Centenary of the death of Sir James Marshall. This was to honour him and the two pioneer Catholic Missionaries, Rev Frs. Augustine Mureau and Eugene Murat.

Sir James Marshall was an illustrious and outstanding Catholic who championed and spearheaded the reestablishment of the Catholic Church in the Gold Coast after nearly 250 years of the demise of the Church, following the departure of the Portuguese from our shores who first established the Catholic Church in 1482. His efforts and perseverance to this cause led to the Pontifical Office for the Propagation of Faith at the Vatican to create the Prefecture of the Gold Coast and entrusted the task of Catholic Evangelization to the SMA. The pioneer SMA missionaries to set foot in this country to plant the seed of Catholicism in year 1880 were Rev Frs Augustine Mureau and Eugene Murat.

Sir James Marshall thus stands on the same pedestal as St Gregory the Great, who was also instrumental in the pioneering missionary role played by St Augustine in the establishment of the Catholic Church in England.

The missionary initiative and legacy of Sir James Marshall prompted the founding fathers of the Noble Order to immortalize him with the naming the Noble Order after him – Hence the Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall. Coincidentally it is a mirror image of Knights of Columbus in America which took the name from Christopher Columbus who also brought the Catholic Church to America.

A similar logical event took place in South Africa where the Knights of Da Gamba was named after Vasco Da Gama who discovered and brought Christianity to South Africa.

Brothers and Sisters, the MMMM lectures have been instituted to offer a platform for a critical, penetrating and stimulating discussion on various issues and concerns of life. Thus this forum is the Noble Order's contribution to help promote a new sense of mission and evan-

gelization in the church. Hence the theme for this year's lecture "The Role of the Church in the Promotion of good Governance, Justice and Peace in the sub region seek to achieve that.

Finally, it is instructive to note that as Sir James Marshall, Rev Frs Murat and Mureau collectively sowed the seed of Catholic Culture in our land, the MMMM lectures seek to nurture it, and our distinguished speaker for today, Rev. Monsignor Dr Stephen Ntim will no doubt help to do this with honour and distinction.

You are most welcome. God bless us all

SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES - 2012

THEME - THE MARSHALLAN - IN SEARCH OF A PURE HEART AND STEADFAST SPIRIT

Sir Kts, Most Respected Ladies, W/Bros, Resp. Ladies, Brothers and Sisters, I bring you Warm and Fraternal Greetings from the Supreme Council.

The theme for this year's regional conference is especially important, particularly in these days when the world is filled with many challenges. To achieve the ideals of the Noble Order, the Marshallan needs to cultivate a pure heart and a steadfast spirit

Brothers and Sisters, as followers of Christ, we are constantly swimming against the current of worldliness. We are incessantly bombarded with temptations of social vices. Abstaining from these desires of the world is a constant battle; one seemingly impossible to win. These vices are so prevalent in our society that oftentimes, we attempt to justify our actions and normalize them. Brothers and Sisters, our actions, however, speak volumes about our faith—it shows our character, which is a reflection of our values.

Fellow Marshallans, the scriptures urges us in this fight against worldly ways. 1st Peter 2:11-2 says, "Dear friends, I urge you as aliens and strangers in the world to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." These desires are like a cancer that eats away at one's soul and character.

Infidelity and sexual indiscretion destroys families and leaves people bruised and damaged. The obsession with material and worldly things renders people enslaved by debt and encourages corruption, deception and all kinds of scams to take advantage of others. Bitterness and hatred incite violence in the home and in the world. Laziness encourages a sense of entitlement rather than diligence and productivity.

My brothers and sisters, these things make it impossible for us as Marshallans to grow in the way of Christ. We lose our unique identity as Marshallans because we are enslaved by our desires and emotions.

Living a holy and faithful life requires two things: Firstly, avoid what is destructive; next, practice what is good.

Brothers and Sisters, if we really want to walk in the path of Christ as children of God then we need to stop giving in to sinful desires. The book of Galatians spells out these destructive thought and habits. In Galatians 5:19-26, we are made aware of these sinful desires.

We are called to abstain from sinful desires such as sexual immorality, marital unfaithfulness, pornography, jealousy, bitterness, resentment, hostility, and an unforgiving spirit which poison everything else we do with a negative outlook.

We are also advised to desist from preoccupying ourselves with things that lead us to obsess, steal, spend ourselves into bondage, or manipulate others.

In addition, we are advised against the need to be always right, which leads us to distort truth, justify our sin and makes us unable to listen to anyone else.

We are to avoid lust for power which leads us to pervert justice and manipulate people and Finally, we are to shun the sinful desires of jealousy, bitterness, resentment, hostility and unforgiving spirit which poison everything else we do with a negative outlook.

In conclusion, my brothers and sisters, to search for a pure heart and steadfast spirit would mean that we are constantly aware of our limitation and have the ardent desire to live according to the spirit of the Lord which directs us to goodness. We must see the need for a new heart, a different way of thinking, and a right spirit and attitude.

Dear Marshallans, I urge you to live a clean life. It is simple advice. If you do what is right, you will have no regrets and you will foster a continual and deep fellowship with God. The search for a pure heart and a steadfast is never easy, but it's always worth the effort.

I wish you a fruitful conference. God Bless You All.

Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE NOBLE ORDER OF KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF MARSHALL ON HOMOSEXUALITY AND LESBIANISM

The Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall has noted with concern, the increasing presence of homosexuality and lesbianism in our country. The Order will like to firmly state that we reject and abhor this practice, which goes against Divine law and our cultural way of life.

We are saddened by these developments because the bible clearly states that homosexual/lesbian practices are acts of depravity and morally wrong. In the Book of Leviticus chapter 20 verse 13, we are warned that “If anyone lie with a man as with a woman, both have committed an abomination: Let them be put to death. Their blood be upon them”.

The Noble Order’s stance on this issue is consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church that the sexual expression of love is found, according to God’s plan of creation, uniquely in marriage, that is, in the permanent union between a man and a woman. Therefore, the sexual expression of love must allow for the eventual creation of new life.

We join the Catholic Church in its opposition to gay marriage and the practice of homosexuality and same-sex relationships. We however, affirm the dignity of homosexuals as people created in the image of God. The Church and its members must therefore treat them with dignity and accorded respect, justice and pastoral care. While recognizing and defending the human rights of each person, we as a Catholic society do not recognize as part of these rights, the engagement of acts that we believe to be morally wrong.

Homosexual persons like all sons and daughters of God are called to chastity. We believe that by the virtues of self-mastery that teach all of us inner freedom and with the support of prayer and sacramental grace, we can and should gradually and resolutely approach this perfection.

Finally, we call on all Ghanaians to serve as gatekeepers of the moral and cultural fiber of our nation by promoting sound and acceptable family life in this country. Furthermore, we urge parents and teachers particularly in boarding schools to take concrete steps to insulate our

children from any gay practices and all other sexual improprieties.

May God continue to bless our homeland Ghana.

**Sir Kt. Derx Baffour
(Supreme Knight)**

**Most Respected Lady Janet Mmieh
(Grand Lady)**



A session of the Marshallians at the Re-union Conference, Kumasi.

8th MARSHALLAN RE-UNION CONFERENCE - WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE SUPREME KNIGHT, SIR KT. DEX BAFFOUR

His Excellency, John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana

Otumfour Osei Tutu 11 the Asantehene

Nananom

The Vice – Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

The Supreme Director

The Supreme Spiritual Director

The Grand Lady

Priests and Religious

Sir Kts, Most Respected Ladies, Worthy Brothers, Respected Ladies, Brothers and Sisters of the Noble Order of the Knights and Ladies of Marshall

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our invited dignitaries for the honour done the Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall by accepting our invitation to grace the 8th Marshallan Re-union conference. We are extremely happy to have you among us this morning. You are warmly welcomed to the conference.

To you my brothers and sisters of the Marshallan fraternity, I, on behalf of the Noble Order extend a hearty welcome to you all for making it to this conference.

Marshallan Re-union conferences are held every five years. It is one conference that most members of our fraternity look forward to because it is

a time that we gather as one people, a family of marshallans worldwide to renew our solidarity and loyalty to the Catholic Church, our nation and our noble order, therefore, we have gathered here today as people of different nations and persuasions, united in our common brotherhood and faith in God under the banner of the Catholic Church. In our diversity we shall share fellowship, pray together, learn from each other's experience, network for business opportunities and reflect on the chosen theme of the conference.

Brother Chairman, since our last conference 5 years ago, the society has faced a myriad of challenges and at the same time made significant strides to make ourselves very relevant in the society. We have encountered a global system which is being ruled by materialism, a system where greed, selfishness, envy and corruption have taken deep roots. We are faced with a situation where the spirituality of some of our members have been questioned and sometimes compromised. We have lost some of our members because, either we could not meet their expectations, or our standards were too high for them.

As a society we could also have done more, to influence policies and brought smiles on the faces of a lot of people who are marginalized, disadvantaged and suffering in poverty.

However in the light of these setbacks and disappointments, the noble order has made significant inroads to meet our ideals, and it is gratifying to state that our achievements have been phenomenal.

The past 5 years have been characterized by a good number of marshallans placing their rich human resources at the disposal of the church, country and humanity. At all levels be it political, social, economic, cultural and spiritual, marshallans have played key roles to help renew the face of the earth. For example, recently a marshallan in Liberia was sworn in as the Chief Justice of that country.

The period under review has seen impressive growth in the membership of the Order. A State Council and a State Court have been established in Togo/Benin. 18 new councils and 17 new courts were consecrated. 5 regional councils and courts were also brought into existence. Total

membership of the Noble Order has increased by 18%. Today, the society could boast of 110 councils and 105 courts.

Inroads for the establishment of the Noble Order have been made in Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and La Cote D'Ivoire. In line with this, the consecration of a new council and court in Sierra Leone has been scheduled for the end of the year.

The spirituality of the Noble Order has been deepened and enhanced with the re-launching of the Mystic Psychology Course for members.

In addition to this, a magnificent Marian Grotto has been built and consecrated at the Marshallan Centre in Sekondi very recently. The construction of this edifice was to help deepen and strengthen the spirituality of brothers and sisters and also to promote the canonization process of Sir James Marshall whose name we revere for the role he played in the re-establishment of the Catholic Church in Ghana.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the Noble Order has also within the period constructed and consecrated a fully furnished twin hermitage at the Franciscan Prayer Centre in Saltpond to accommodate dignitaries who may go there for reflection and to pray.

It is heartwarming to know that in the eyes of the hierarchy and other members of the church, our support to the training and upkeep of Seminarians has been touted as legendary.

The Order has also been consistent in organizing biennial Pilgrimages for its members to visit various holy sites in Israel, Lourdes (France) Italy and Fatima (Portugal).

Brother Chairman as our commitment to make the Noble Order more relevant in the society and in our quest to help strengthen the spirit of fraternity amongst ourselves while enhancing our individual and collective financial resources, a number of initiatives have been rolled out. These include:

1. The Marshallan Endowment Fund, with Sir Kt Katinka Dr Donkor

Fordwor as Chairman, has been established to support the developmental projects of the church and humanity. The fund presently has over GH¢220,000.00 in its investments.

2. The Marshallan Security Trust, this is a financial engineering put together to offer customized insurance schemes to members and to promote financial security for members in their old age and at anytime that they are in need. The Board of Trustees has W/Bro D. D. Dawlah as Chairman.

3. The Marshallan Investment Fund with Sir Kt. Joseph Harley as Chairman has been established to assist members meet their annual financial obligations to the Noble Order.

4. The Marshallan Relief and Development Services, (Maredes) is the NGO wing of the Noble Order, with Sir Kt. Eddie Prah as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Maredes has since its establishment a little over a year ago been providing complementary development and social services to communities and the marginalized.

5. The Marshallan Centre for Fraternal Relations chaired by Sit Kt. Tony Baffour is a body established to facilitate the strengthening of fraternity and the spirit of networking amongst marshallans and

6. To help cater for brothers needing urgent medical care, the Marshallan Medical Fund to be coordinated by W/Bro Dr. Andre Kwasi Kumah is due to be launched by the Supreme Council in January, next year.

Bro. Chairman, our resolve to address the needs of the youth and equip them with the requisite skills to be transformational leaders and to play critical roles in the society, has remained resolute and undaunted and has thus, facilitated the establishment of the Association of Students Marshallans in the Tertiary Institutions.

Finally, as I welcome you all to this conference, let us as Marshallans endeavor to pay homage to our founding fathers by living up to the tenet of the Noble Order.

Let us also strive to build on their legacy and the dream of the other illustrious sons and daughters of the Noble Order who have left indelible marks on the Marshallese shores of time and by this, our light will so shine before the world that the world may see the beauty and goodness of our Noble Order.

You are most welcome. Thank you and God bless us all.



My mother, Most Respected Lady Magdalene Ussher, from whom I draw tremendous inspiration as a Marshallan





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