



## FIRST MILESTONE ON THE HILL

(From accounts by Mother Mary Tarcisius and Miss M. E. Booth)

The 13th February 1966 made history for the Archdiocese of Cape Coast when three Ghanaians made Profession of First Vows in the Congregation of the Infant Jesus.

Basically it was the ancient ceremonial of the Consecration of Virgins known to St. Ambrose and St. Augustine but there were many West African overtones that

Rev. M. M. Joachim, S.H.C.J. (right), Superior in Cape Coast, had her special part to play in the ceremony for this Congregation as yet without its own religious superiors.



would have delighted those who drew up the *Constitution on the Liturgy*.

The African has a great sense of his own people. Here, the *Christian* family of Cape Coast

**The Offertory Procession to the Archbishop's throne.**

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gathered around Archbishop Amissah as he reached the first milestone in his establishment of this wholly Ghanaian foundation, which the Society of the Holy Child Jesus have fostered for him. — though no congregation in the Church works alone, for the mustard tree has many roots. It was then entirely fitting that Rev. Mother



**Sr. Mary Laurence pours her cruet of wine in the chalice, as the deacon, Very Rev. C. Hulsén, Rector of the Major Seminary looks on.**

should have led the professed-elect into St. Francis Cathedral.

Though the solemn Pontifical Mass (with many priests in the sanctuary), was in Latin and His Grace's eloquent sermon in English,

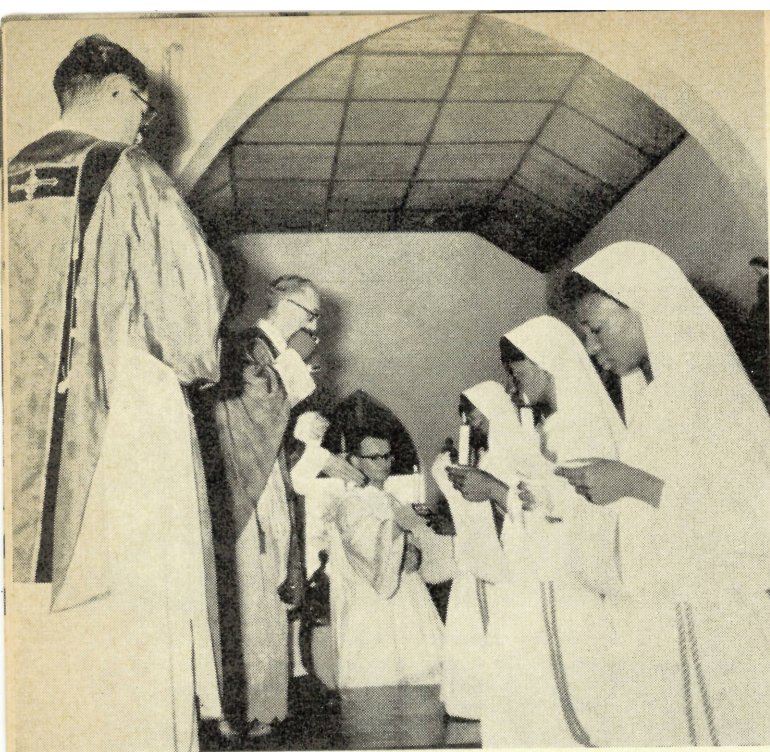
**Sr. Margaret Mary receives her ring, as Mother Ursula O.L.A. stands beside her.**



**Sr. Margaret Mary receives the Precious Blood at the hands of His Grace, Archbishop Amissah.**

Mary Francis, H.H.C.J. Regional Superior of the Handmaids of the Holy Child and Rev. Mother Ursula, O.L.A. Regional Superior of Our Lady of the Apostles Sisters should be sponsors with Mother M. Tarcisius during the profession and that eleven congregations of Sisters (one of which was Anglican)





The milestone is reached: The three Sisters of the Infant Jesus pronounce their religious vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.



sung in the vernacular. All processed to the Archbishop's throne, the sisters offering the bread and wine for the Eucharistic Banquet and their parents the food for the nuptial meal, or *Agape*. Could anything more clearly symbolize the oblation that these parents —

the Very Rev. Father Menyah made a brief commentary in Fanti from the pulpit.

But where the Early Church met African tradition most perfectly was in the procession of gifts at the Offertory. The Entrance Procession was formed of priests and religious sisters with candles; this time the Crossbearer led the professed-elect and their parents and attendants as a rousing hymn was

religious life — were being asked to make at that moment?

Despite the size of the Cathedral, every word of the profession ceremony could be heard. Vast crowds of seminarians, Sisters, choir, and laity received Holy Communion from the Archbishop and Cathedral Administrator, the Knights of Marshal standing with drawn swords. Few must have been professed with such solemnity.

Lunch and cake-cutting was followed by His Grace's reception. Some of the guests found all this rather mystifying and one of them was heard expressing surprise that Sisters *could* be so happy!



Mother M. Fintan prepared the feast and cakes for each of the three Sisters. Sr. Mary Immaculata is on the right.



Richard Demel

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