COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF RELIGIOUS - GHANA (CMSR - Gh) AT THE END OF ITS OCTOBER 2026 PLENARY ASSEMBLY HELD IN WA IN THE UPPER WEST REGION OF GHANA
4TH – 10TH OCTOBER 2026

1. GREETINGS

The Conference of Major Superiors of Religious-Ghana (CMSR-Gh) extends warm greetings to the Bishops of Ghana, Major Superiors, Consecrated persons, clergy, collaborators and all people of goodwill.

2. PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Conference of Major Superiors of Religious-Ghana held our biannual Plenary Assembly at the In-Service Training Centre in Wa, from 6 to 9 October, 2026. The gathering brought together Major Superiors and delegates representing over 20 Congregations of consecrated women and men to reflect on the theme, **"SYNODAL PATHS TO MISSION SUSTAINABILITY: WALKING TOGETHER IN HOPE".**

Through prayer, reflection, dialogue and capacity-building sessions, participants examined how Consecrated persons and their institutions could sustain their mission through greater collaboration, responsible stewardship, institutional renewal and fidelity to their respective Charisms.
The Assembly reaffirmed that the mission belongs to Christ and that Consecrated persons are called to serve as stewards and collaborators in the mission entrusted to the Church.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND GRATITUDE

The Assembly expresses its sincere gratitude to God for the gift of communion, discernment and renewed commitment experienced throughout the gathering.
We thank the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Wa, Most Rev. Francis BOMANSAAN, M.Afr., and the Diocese of Wa for their hospitality and support. We are grateful to the Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana, His Excellency Most Rev. Julien KABORE, for his virtual address and solidarity, and to the Episcopal Chair for Clergy and Consecrated Persons, Most Rev. John Kobina LOUIS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Accra, for his presence and guidance.

We also acknowledge the contributions of the keynote speaker, Friar Joseph Kwame BLAY, OFM Conv., and Dr. Hippolyt PUL of the Institute of Peace and Development, whose presentations and facilitation enriched the Assembly's deliberations. Our appreciation goes to the CMSR-Gh President, Sr. Dr. Lucy HOMETOWU, SMMC, and the Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese of Wa, Very Rev. Fr. John KUUPIEL, and all who contributed to the successful organisation of the Assembly. Finally, we thank all Major Superiors, delegates, collaborators and host communities for their participation and commitment to the shared mission of the Church.

4. SYNODAL PATHS TO MISSION SUSTAINABILITY: WALKING TOGETHER IN HOPE

The theme "Synodal Paths to Mission Sustainability: Walking Together in Hope" invites Consecrated persons to reflect on how the Church's mission can remain fruitful amid changing pastoral realities, vocational challenges and financial pressures. It reminds us that the mission belongs to Christ, not to individual Congregations or Institutes of Consecrated Life. In *Vita Consecrata* (1996, #1, 3, 46-49), Pope St. John Paul II presents Consecrated life as a gift to the Church, closely linked to communion and mission. The challenge, therefore, is not for us to preserve our Institutes of Consecrated Life, but to ensure that these Institutes continue to serve Christ and his people faithfully.

i. Discerning and working together

Synodality calls the Church to listen, discern and share responsibility for its mission. In *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013, # 31,120), Pope Francis emphasises missionary communion and affirms that the entire baptised are called to participate actively in evangelisation. For religious Institutes, this means that Major Superiors should not discern mission priorities in isolation. Members, local Churches, collaborators and the communities served should contribute meaningfully to the process. As the Final Document of the Synod on Synodality (2024) emphasises, communion, participation and mission belong together. Our different Charisms should therefore become a source of strength, encouraging Congregations to share expertise, collaborate in formation and develop joint responses to common challenges.

ii. Mission sustainability

Sustainability involves more than financial stability or institutional survival. It requires spiritual vitality, sound leadership, responsible resource management, adequate formation and fidelity to each congregation's charism.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013, # 27), Pope Francis calls for missionary transformation rather than the mere preservation of existing structures. Religious institutes must therefore continually assess whether their ministries remain relevant and serve the needs of the Church and society.

This requires responsible financial stewardship, succession planning, investment in future leaders and openness to collaboration. Some ministries may need restructuring or new forms of expression. Such decisions should be guided by prayerful discernment and fidelity to the Gospel, rather than institutional self-interest.

iii. Collaboration

In *Redemptoris Missio* (1990, # 76, 85), Pope St. John Paul II highlights cooperation in missionary activity and the importance of mutual giving and receiving. This is particularly relevant to CMSR-Gh, whose members can achieve more by sharing resources, knowledge and expertise than by addressing every challenge independently. Hope gives this collaboration its spiritual foundation. Romans 5:3-5 reminds us of the relationship between perseverance and hope, while *Laudato Si*' (2015, #159) highlights our responsibility towards future generations.

Consecrated persons must therefore look beyond immediate difficulties and prepare for the future through sound formation, responsible leadership and sustainable ministries. Hope is not passive optimism; it requires courageous decisions, renewal and trust in God's continuing presence.

The theme challenges us to place Christ's mission above institutional self-interest. Synodality teaches us to discern together, sustainability calls us to act responsibly, and hope gives us the courage to persevere.

5. KEY REFLECTIONS

The Assembly reflected on the understanding that synodality requires listening, discernment, participation and shared responsibility in the life and mission of the Church.

In his keynote address, Friar Joseph Kwame BLAY, OFM Conv., emphasised that Christ is the initiator and owner of the mission. He challenged consecrated persons to move from ego-centred projects to Christ-centred ministries, placing their Charisms and resources at the service of the wider Church.

The Assembly further recognised that mission sustainability extends beyond financial resources. It encompasses spiritual, vocational, leadership, institutional and charismatic, as well as financial and material sustainability.

The capacity-building workshop facilitated by Dr. Hippolyt PUL encouraged participants to rethink sustainability, recognise available assets and resources, and ensure that their ministries remain relevant and responsive to the signs of the times.

In a virtual address to participants, the Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana called on religious institutes to deepen synodality through discernment, collaboration and shared responsibility, ensuring that their communities, schools, hospitals, formation houses and social ministries remain faithful instruments of Christ's mission rather than ends in themselves. Amid changing vocational realities, financial pressures, intercultural communities, institutional demands and emerging challenges such as artificial intelligence, the Nuncio encouraged consecrated persons to become sowers and weavers of hope, reading the signs of the times through the eyes of faith and serving together with renewed courage, charity and trust in the Holy Spirit.

In his closing homily, the Episcopal Chair in charge of Consecrated Persons, Most Rev. John Kobina LOUIS, stressed that sustainability requires faith, collaboration and conversion of heart. He reminded participants that renewal must go beyond restructuring to embrace a deeper spiritual and missionary transformation.

6. RESOLUTIONS AND STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

Following its deliberations, the Assembly identified the following strategic priorities to strengthen the Conference and support the mission of its members:

i. Institutional strengthening

The Conference will prioritise stronger governance, organisational systems, leadership development and Secretariat capacity. It will also pursue improved communication, digital transformation, knowledge management and performance monitoring to enhance its service to members.

ii. Resource mobilisation and financial sustainability

The Conference will work towards a diversified and sustainable resource base through strategic donor engagement, partnerships with development agencies and the private sector, joint funding proposals, improved fundraising capacity and the exploration of appropriate alternative income sources. These efforts will be guided by responsible stewardship and fidelity to the mission of the Church.

iii. Collaboration and strategic partnerships

The Conference will strengthen collaboration among member congregations and deepen engagement with dioceses, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ghana, government institutions, civil society, academia, development partners and other relevant stakeholders.

Priority areas for collaboration will include formation, vocation promotion, education, healthcare, youth ministry, safeguarding, social development and the sharing of personnel, expertise and resources.

iv. Strengthening member Charisms

The Conference encourages member institutions to preserve, deepen and creatively express their Charisms in response to contemporary spiritual, social, economic and environmental challenges. Particular attention will be given to vocation promotion, formation and continuing formation, leadership succession, institutional memory and the responsible transmission of charisms to younger generations.

v. Promoting synodal mission sustainability

The Assembly calls on Major Superiors and member institutions to embrace participatory discernment, local co-responsibility and succession planning. Mission priorities should be discerned through listening to members, local Churches, collaborators and the communities served.

The Assembly further encourages congregations to strengthen shared initiatives and develop institutions that can sustain their mission across generations, while ensuring that structures remain at the service of the Gospel.

7. CALL TO ACTION

The Assembly calls on all member institutions to translate these commitments into practical actions within their respective communities and ministries. Major Superiors and Consecrated persons are encouraged to place Christ's mission above institutional self-interest, strengthen mutual support and pursue renewed forms of collaboration in responding to the needs of the Church and society.

The Conference also calls for a renewed commitment to the formation of future leaders, responsible management of resources and ministries that uphold human dignity, serve vulnerable communities and respond to emerging challenges. We reaffirm the strategic direction of the CMSR-Gh as "**Different Charisms, One Mission, Stronger Collaboration, Sustainable Impact**".

8. CONCLUSION

The October 2026 Plenary Assembly presented to us a moment to reflect and renew our commitment to the mission of Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide our discernment, strengthen our collaboration and renew our commitment to consecrated life and service to the Church in Ghana.

May Mary, the Mother of the Church, accompany us as we seek to make our Charisms fruitful and our mission sustainable for generations to come.

*Different Charisms - **One Mission**!*
*Different Charisms - **Stronger Collaboration**!*
*Different Charisms - **Sustainable Impact**!*



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Tuesday 20th October 2026