



2011-12 Missionary Internship Cover Letter

Scripture: "Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that He has loved us." I John 4:10
Saint: Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta
Slogan: Gye Nyame! (Ghanian phrase that means: Accept God)
Song: *Holding On* by Luke Spehar

Journal entry, Ghana, West Africa, October 3, 2010

Praise the Lord! Yesterday we visited the Matthew 25 House with Father Bobby Benson, the novitiate of the Handmaids of the Divine Redeemer and said our good byes to the children of Our Lady of Fatima School. Today, I am spending some time at the Generalate in prayer and reflection. Peggy and the interns went to Cape Coast, an old slave-trade castle west of Accra. I pray that it goes well for them. The entire trip has gone exceedingly well so far. I am grateful to God for the privilege of being in a position to help the sisters with their school. It was a blessing to see all the children. As we visited the novitiate, I was extremely overwhelmed by the gift Father Carr has shared with us. The gift of the Sisters and the witness of the local Church here in Ghana, West Africa.

As I write this, the Sisters are working on lunch. Amazing to know that they work all morning in order to see to it that we eat a good lunch. It is so difficult to receive goodness. So challenging to receive love. I offer so very little to them, personally. What is being offered, I suppose is Christ Jesus working through the priesthood. Yesterday I struggled through feelings of unworthiness. I couldn't accept the love presented to me and had to try mightily to be a gracious guest. I felt like I was a liar, a cheat, a phony and undeserving of any generosity. I suppose that is really at the root of it all. The prince of lies, the accuser generally presents these charges in the court of our souls. The accuser points his twisted and sinister finger at our sinfulness; snorts, scoffs and jeers at our own pitiful attempt to overcome human weakness. But to Christ Jesus the Lord do we look! To Him do we offer the worse version of ourselves in hopes that His mercy will somehow shed light on otherwise troubled souls. How can it be that the God who has created all things would be willing to look upon our lowliness, our deficiencies? How can it be that His Son, Jesus Christ acquitted Himself to free us from the charges of our own insufficiencies? HE IS A GOD OF LOVE! Love can do no other thing! The acceptance of love is just as important as the giving of love. In fact, acceptance is the prerequisite. "Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God but that He has loved us and sent His Son as an offering for our sins. Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another." (I John 4:10) Love is the necessary precursor to love others. For to accept God's love is to have the power to reject the lies of our own subconscious degradation. His accusation becomes our own self-destruction thereby undermining our ability to accept love. The denial of God's merciful love is nothing more than the acceptance of the wrong voice!

To believe, to have faith is to recognize this inner battle and call things for what they are. The very ability to resolutely deny the false accusations of the prince of lies, the accuser is a gift of pure grace. Open to this gift, we begin to win the interior battle of self-doubt. Listening to and accepting God's love

then becomes a matter of habit. A habit that becomes a virtue only after approaching the throne of grace countless times on our hands and knees. A battle only victorious by the sacramental grace of Confession and Eucharist.

Truth be told, the youth today seldom experience the freedom that comes in having confidence in God; an assurance of God's love. Perhaps the primary reason for the instability is rooted in a lack of receiving love. There is a huge deficit of love in their world so they have never received adequate or authentic love. As Fr. Jacques Phillip states in his book, *Interior Freedom*, "The highest and most fruitful form of human freedom is found in accepting, even more than in dominating." If they have not received the love, they can not know they are loved. If they do not know they are loved, how can they give love? A receptive heart can give love. A heart hardened to protect oneself throughout life for self preservation and survival can not give adequate love. A heart not infused with divine grace certainly will not be able to love. As Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta stated, "You can't give from an empty well."

It is no wonder that the common Ghanian symbol means ACCEPT GOD (Gye Nyame). Consider being a missionary intern and discover what it means to accept this love from our Redeemer. This year I challenge you to invite that love into your life. Receive Christ's love as the beginning of healing. Do not accept anything else than Divine Love. For Divine Love is the sword that slices through the sadistic, sly, salacious and slithering lie of lucifer. You are not a phony. As Blessed JP II states, "You are not who they say you are." Chances are you are a good person, but even this will fall short of God's glory in your life. Being good is not the goal of the Christian life. That can be achieved apart from Christ. Don't just strive to be good. Strive to be God's. Be His possession. His loved one. Receive Divine Love. Be healed by Divine Love. Accept Divine Love. Become a new creation by Divine Love. Holding onto His Divine Love allows us to let go of everything else!

I tell myself once more to accept the meal graciously. More importantly, learn to accept the Divine Meal, the Eucharist, graciously. Chances are that if we don't we aren't accepting something else in our lives —HIS LOVE.

Now & Forever!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Quinn Mann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Father Quinn Mann
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cyexpeditions.org