

The Greater Accra Regional Council and Court of the Knights and Ladies of Marshall have been reconfigured into three new regional councils and courts to enhance effective administration and accommodate the growth of the Noble Order in the Greater Accra Region.

The then Greater Accra Regional Council and Court were carved out of the Eastern Regional Council and Court in October 1989.

The new regions which were reconfigured at the weekend at the University of Ghana, Legon during a two-day Regional Conference, are the Accra East, Accra West and Tema regions.

The crème-de-la-crème of the Noble Order, led by the Supreme Knight, Sir Kt. Bro Anthony C. Kemavor, the Supreme Director, Sir Kt. Veteran Bro. Dr Commander Edmund Kwaw and the Grand Lady, Most Respected Lady Sister Mary Agegee, supervised the installation and consecration of new regional officers and the councils and courts.

The Accra East Regional Council and Court are led by Worthy Brother Paul Alphonse Essel, the Regional Grand Knight and Respected Lady Sister Cecilia Gonzalves-Cosmos as the Regional Noble Lady while the Accra West Region is led by Worthy Brother Peter Amonoo McCarthy with Respected Lady Sister Cecilia Bobie as the Regional Noble Lady. Worthy Brother Wilberforce E. Bedu-Mensah is the Regional Grand Knight for Tema Region with Sister Cecilia Essien as the Regional Noble Lady.

Interestingly, all the new Regional Noble Ladies have Cecilia as their first names.

In a speech after the New Regional Grand Knights and Regional Noble Ladies had been legally, ritualistically and constitutionally installed, W/Bro. Bedu-Mensah noted that the task ahead of them was very enormous and urged all the members to be steadfast and actively participate in all programmes and other activities planned within their respective regions.

He said the leaders have agreed to occasionally plan programmes that would bring all knights and ladies in the three regions together and fraternize.

Respected Lady Sister Bobie, for her part, said the creation of the new three regions should not be seen as bodies of competition and cautioned members against seeing their colleagues from other regions as a threat.

The Supreme Knight, Sir Kt. Anthony Kemavor, commended the all the leaders in various capacities, particularly those in the Greater Accra Region who have worked tirelessly over the years to sustain the Noble Order.

He reminded the leadership of the newly created regions that support for the Catholic Church was central to the object of the Noble Order and, therefore, called for individual and group action in the parishes to be made visible and faith enhancing.

The Parish Priest of the St Peter's Catholic Church, Osu, Rev Fr Dominic Amegashitsi, who spoke on the theme of the conference, "In Solitude with God" noted that distraction was a major hindrance for people not been able to be in solitude with God.

"One of the dangerous aspects of distractions is the fact that we scarcely notice that we are distracted. Distractions are like cancerous growth on our spiritual life and they give birth to many unwholesome conditions; dissatisfaction with others, a critical attitude towards others, a restless desire to justify ourselves, an unhealthy tendency to criticize others among others," he noted.

Rev Fr Amegashitsi said the qualities that Jesus Christ demanded of Christians was a kind of unwavering commitment and the ability to resist retaliation when faced with rejection or misunderstanding.

"There are people who have hurt and harmed us; people who have damaged and destroyed our good name; people who have misjudged and maligned us, others have blackmailed us in order to attain success. All these, we must forgive and we must let it come from our hearts," he said.

In a lecture on the topic, "The challenges of leadership for the Marshallan in the 21st century, the Supreme Auditor, W/Bro. Ambrose Yennah, said in the midst of religious, political, economic, cultural and social challenges, there was the need for committed and dedicated leaders who would stand up for justice, righteousness and peace.

"In all this, any politics without principles, education without character, science without humanity and commerce without morality are dangerous and should be avoided," he said.

That, he said, therefore, called for courage and power to confront by reaching out for new possibilities and results to bring about change in the status quo saying that "the fear to confront can cause paralysis and mediocrity will prevail until it is confronted."

W/Bro. Yennah said managers maintain the status quo but leaders should be challenged to work to change the status quo.

"The road to being a successful leader is not straight, there are curves called failures, there are loops called confusion, there are speed bumps called friends, red lights called enemies and caution lights called family," he said.

He, however, said because of the engine called determination, one had a spare tyre called perseverance, an insurance called faith and a driver in the person of God leaders to arrive at their destination called success.