

A joyous evening at Cliftonville. Br Felix is ordained Deacon. 25th February 2008.

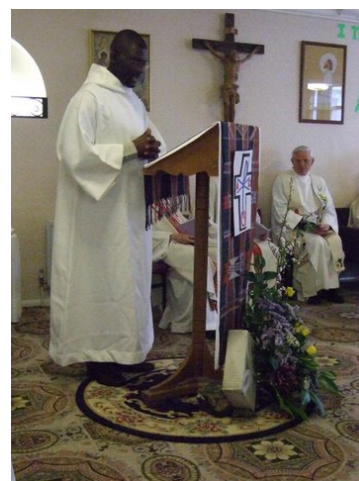


At 12.40 pm seven confreres from the English region piled into a mini bus and set off for St Anselm's Institute in Cliftonville in the county of Kent. Fr Martin was at the wheel and guided us unerringly to our destination. There was still an hour and a half to go before the ordination ceremony was due to start.

As always at St Anselm's Institute, we received a very warm welcome and were offered tea, coffee and some very tasty scones. Fr Aidan joined us soon after our arrival. There was a real air of excitement about the place and it was clear that a good deal of hard work had gone into preparing the evening. Bishop John Hine, an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Southwark had generously agreed to come and ordain our confrere.

The student body at St Anselm's has an international character with students from Africa and India and elsewhere. A quick glance at the order of service revealed that our celebration was to have a decidedly African flavour with hymns and chants in Lingala and Swahili.

The chapel at St Anselm's was very cosy and homely. A formidable cortege of male and female religious gathered in the road outside. After a rather chilly wait we sent off for the chapel with singing and cries of joy. The order of service for the diaconate centres of the theme of service. The bishop reminded us all of our duty to be at the service to God, the world, the Church and each other. Br Armand animated the singing by choir and congregation. The bishop's M.C. Brother Lawrence guided us serenely through the ceremony without any apparent hitches.



After the ceremony we all crossed the road to the dining hall where a sumptuous meal awaited us. Bro Armand was busy with the camera so we hope to have an excellent record of the evening. After the meal there were speeches and the presentation of gifts. Br Felix gave a speech thanking his confreres and the staff and students for all that they had done for him.

It was clear that our confreres, Felix and Armand are held in high esteem both by the Staff and students of St Anselm's.



Congratulations Felix.

