

**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ENVIRONMENTAL PRAYER PROTEST WALK AGAINST GALAMSEY: CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME - LAUDATO SI**

**ATTENTION TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Accra: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025** We invite all media houses to cover this event and help us in our mission to raise awareness and mobilize support against illegal mining. The Catholic Archdiocese of Accra, in collaboration with the Conference of Major Superiors of Religious, Ghana, and the Catholic Lay Faithful and Professionals, will be embarking on an Environmental Prayer Protest Walk Against Galamsey on Friday, 11th October 2024, to take a stand against the devastating effects of galamsey (illegal mining) in Ghana and advocate for immediate action by Government to protect the environment, end galamsey, promote sustainable development, and ensure a livable future for generations to come.

**Specific Objectives**

1. Raise awareness about the devastating effects of galamsey
2. Advocate for the Government to declare a state of emergency to stop all forms of mining activities on the water bodies, the buffers of the river and in the forest reserves to allow for the healing of the land
3. Mobilize Catholics and Ghanaians to demand immediate action
4. Promote environmental sustainability and protection
5. Foster collaboration among stakeholders to address the issue

**Background**

Galamsey has become a national public disaster, leading to:

- Loss of lives in the galamsey pits and due to diseases linked to galamsey
- Destruction of water bodies, forests, and farmlands
- Pollution of rivers and water sources
- Loss of biodiversity and ecosystem disruption
- Health risks for communities and miners
- Economic losses and social instability

The Environmental Prayer Protest Walk Against Galamsey initiative reflects our constitutional, civil, and religious commitment to our country and its ecosystem. For this reason, the Catholic Church has consistently expressed concern and called for swift and decisive action to end

illegal small-scale mining (Galamsey). Galamsey, the existential threat, rapidly devastates our environment and poses significant health risks to Ghanaians.

The CMSR-GH, at their recent Annual Conference at St. Arnold Janssen Spirituality Centre in Bortianor Hill, reiterated their opposition to galamsey and related activities. The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) has repeatedly issued statements and voiced strong disapproval of the menace. Some Catholic Lay Professionals and Societies have issued public statements against this environmental hazard. It has become necessary that the Church's advocacy is expressed in this prayer protest walk, which commences at the Holy Spirit Cathedral, Adabraka, at 10 am. Participants shall, with placards, prayerfully walk through the Castle Road to the Ridge Roundabout, pass in front of Parliament House, and head for the Osu Presby turn through Oxford Street to Danquah Roundabout to continue towards Morning Star School to terminate at the Christ the King Catholic Church, Cantonments by 2 pm.

We shall then have our leaders present a petition to the President at the Jubilee House.

#### **Event Details**

- Date: Friday, 11th October, 2024
- Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Converging Point: Holy Spirit Cathedral from 8 am
- Presentation of Petition to the Presidency at the Jubilee House.
- End Point - Christ the King Parish, Cantonments with an Episcopal Mass with His Grace the Archbishop as the main celebrant.

#### **Expected Outcomes**

1. Increased awareness and public engagement on the issue of galamsey
2. Government commitment to taking concrete steps to address the problem
3. Strengthened collaboration among stakeholders to protect the environment
4. Increased community involvement in environmental conservation
5. Policy reforms and legislative actions to combat galamsey

#### **Organizers**

1. Catholic Archdiocese of Accra
2. Conference of Major Superiors of the Religious, Ghana
3. National Catholic Secretariat
4. JPIC
5. VIVAT
6. Accra Archdiocesan Laity Council
7. Catholic Professionals Guild
8. Ghana Catholic Youth Council
9. CYNESA

**Target Audience**

- Catholics, other Christians and Muslims
- Traditional authorities
- Civil society organizations
- Community leaders
- Environmental activists
- Government officials
- Media representatives

The Ghana Police Service has been notified of the required police escort and security arrangements.

The Catholic Faithful, the Media, and the General Public are hereby invited to join this scheduled Environmental Prayer Protest Walk Against Galamsey. For further inquiries, please contact:

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- Mr. Robert Mawuenyega - 059 582 0140.