

Dear Viatorians,

Please keep our Ivorian Viatorian brothers and sisters, and the entire people of Ivory Coast, in your prayers. In an act of solidarity, I ask that you personally pray for peace in the Ivory Coast. Many citizens have been killed; CNN reports that up to 25% of the population of the capital city of Abidjan has fled their homes and their city.

As you know, there are many Viatorian communities located in Abidjan, as well as in the other troubled areas of Ivory Coast: Bouake and Ferke.

I have included a few quotes from CNN to help keep you informed. Feel free to further your investigation so as we can all keep informed about what is happening in the Ivory Coast.

May the intercession of St. Viator and Fr. Querbes bring some peace and tranquility to the people of the Ivory Coast.

In St. Viator,

Tom von Behren, CSV
Provincial

*The following are excerpts from the website of CNN
(April 2, 2011)*

"In an especially grisly chapter of Ivory Coast's four-month conflict, hundreds of people have been killed in the western cocoa-producing town of Duekoue. The International Committee of the Red Cross said 800 people were shot to death. The United Nations puts the death toll so far at 330. Guillaume Ngefa, the deputy human rights director at the U.N. mission in Ivory Coast, blamed 220 of the deaths on forces loyal to Alassane Ouattara, the man recognized by the United Nations and other global powers as the rightful president of Ivory Coast. Ngefa said pro-Gbagbo forces killed 100 people." CNN

"The nation had been on the rebound from a 2002 civil war and the elections last year had been expected to help begin a new chapter that would take Ivory Coast closer to becoming a stable democracy. But the political chaos inflamed old tensions, including land issues in the nation's western region, rich with cocoa plantations that attract migrants from other parts of Ivory Coast as well as foreign workers from regional countries like Burkina Faso and Mali, said Panglungtshang of the Red Cross."

"The violence has also displaced 1 million of Abidjan's 4 million people and sent thousands fleeing across the border into countries like Liberia, which is trying to hold onto its own fragile peace."