

CHURCH OF NIGERIA

(ANGLICAN COMMUNION)

PROVINCE OF NIGER DELTA

DIOCESE OF EVO

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST SYNOD

HOLDING AT

ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL CHURCH,

RUMUOKWURUSI, OBIO, PORT HARCOURT.

BISHOP'S

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS/CHARGE

DELIVERED BY

HIS LORDSHIP, RT. REV. INNOCENT U. ORDU

BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF EVO

ON

SATURDAY, 31ST JULY, 2010

THEME: "WALKING AND SERVING IN LOVE". Eph. 5: 2; Heb 10: 24; Gal. 5: 13c

PROTOCOLS

- Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi,
- Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Engr. Tele Ikuru,
- Your Grace, the Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Niger Delta, Most Rev. I. C. O. Kattey, JP,
- Your Graces/My Lords, All Visiting Archbishops and Bishops, Heads of churches,
- Your Excellency, Sir G. T. G. Toby, Former Deputy Governor of Rivers State,
- The Honourable Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Tonye Harry,
- My Lord, the Honourable Chief Judge of Rivers State, Hon. Justice Iche and Dame Ngozi Ndu,
- Distinguished and Honourable Members of the National and State Assemblies,
- The Executive Chairman of Obio/Akpor L. G. A, Hon. Prince Timothy Nsirim and other Chairmen,
- Members of the Federal and Rivers State Executive Councils,
- Learned Legal Officers of the Diocese,
- Brethren of the House of Clergy,
- The President of the Diocesan Mothers' Union, Women's Guild, Sisters' Forum and Girls' Guild, Mrs. Chinyere U. Ordu,
- Your Royal Majesties/Highnesses, Chiefs and Elders, Captains of Industry,
- Our Special Guests/Invitees to the Synod,
- Special Nominees of the Bishop to the Synod,
- Respected Knights and Ladies,
- Delegates to the Synod (House of Laity),
- Gentlemen of the Press,
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

GREETINGS, WELCOME AND GRATITUDE

On behalf of the Diocesan Board, accredited Synod delegates and the entire Anglican faithful of the Diocese of Evo, I welcome you all to this First Session of the First Synod of our One – year old Diocese.

We thank God Almighty for graciously giving us, the Rt. Rev. Innocent Uchechukwu Ordu this opportunity of serving Him and His Church here in Evo as the Pioneer Bishop. We do not have any tangible explanation as to why He preferred us for this office. He alone has the answer and we give Him all the glory and thanks. We also thank Him for guiding us, the Bishop, the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Evo through the past twelve months.

We thank all of you who are gathered here this morning to honour our invitation especially the **Executive Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Hon. Chubuiké Rotimi Amaechi** and other top Government functionaries; the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Nigeria and other heads of Churches and Christian groups and our Royal Fathers for finding time in the midst of your busy schedules to grace this **maiden outing** of our Diocese at a Synod Session. May the good Lord bless you abundantly in Jesus' Name. Amen.

On this occasion of our First Synod we wish to sincerely express our gratitude to all who have stood by us from the day of our election to our consecration as Bishop and the inauguration of the Diocese of Evo.

We hereby thank your Excellency, Rt. Hon. Chibuiké Rotimi Amaechi, Executive Governor of Rivers State and your dear wife, Dame Judith for your esteemed physical presence at the service of inauguration of the Diocese of Evo on Monday, July 13, 2009 despite your health challenge that morning. We thank you for the sumptuous lunch and gifts presented to our then Primate, Archbishops and Bishops who attended that service here at Rumuokwursi. We as Bishop of Evo have made efforts (in writing) to see you in order to express our profound gratitude and those of the Anglican faithful of this Diocese, but we are yet to receive any reply.

We thank you, the Chief judge of Rivers State, Sir Hon. Justice Iche Ndu for all your sincere roles and support before, during and since after the inauguration of this Diocese. We also thank the following: Hon. (Chief) Ike B. S. Chinwo (KSC), Member, Federal House of Representatives, Abuja, and Hon. Collins Ordu, Member, Rivers State House of Assembly, for your support and contribution to the Diocese of Evo; the Executive Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, Hon. Prince Timothy Nsirim for the interest and concern you have shown towards our Diocese and her parishes. Our gratitude further goes to Sir S. A. Wutche, Mr. G. I. Ebenezer, Sir Collins Amadi, Mr. John Okene, Sir Silas Nnodi, Mr Lawrence Chinda, Barrister Nlerum Amadi; Eze, Sir P. A. Okene, Eze, Sir T. O. A. Ejekwu, Lady Catherine Wachukwu, Mr. Gilbert Chukwu and other members of the Committee for the creation of the Diocese of Evo; our Royal Fathers, Chiefs and elders of Oro-Evo, Oro-Esara and Oropotoma clans that make up Evo Kingdom especially, HRM, Eze, Sir, Dr. Amb. King Frank Adele Eke, JP, CON, Eze Oha-Evo II, Eze Gbakagbaka of Ikwerre land, HRH Eze, Sir W. W. Onunwor, JP, Nyerisi Mbam Oropotoma, HRH Eze Sir Sydney O. Worlu (Rumuokwursi), HRH Eze G. B. Wodi (Eze Elelenwo Eto), Chief Barr. J. Wachukwu and others whose determined struggle brought about the creation of the Diocese of Evo.

We wish to note here that none of these persons has tried to subject us to any form of pressure or made any selfish demands on us in the last one year. They have all rather remained

consistent and unrelenting in their support and encouragement to us in our bid to take the young Diocese of Evo to greater spiritual and developmental heights. We commend them from our heart and pray God to continue to use them positively for the growth of His Church now and in the years ahead.

We appreciate the moral and material support and the outstanding performances since July last year of the various Cathedral, Archdeaconry, Deanery and Parish/Station Church Committees, Boards and Councils; the brethren of the House of Clergy, Diocesan Board, the Men's Christian Association, the Mothers' Union and Women's Guild, the Anglican Youth Fellowship, the Children's Ministry, individual parishioners and the friends of the Diocese.

We remain grateful to all those who have worked very closely with us in the last one year, the Acting Financial Secretary and Diocesan Central Office workers, the Clerical/Lay Synod Secretaries, the Acting Diocesan Registrar, Barr. Nlerum Amadi and other legal officers; the Bishop's and wife's administrative assistants, Rev. Chris Chukuwmati and Mrs. Chikaru Oloruntobi, our Chaplain, Rev. Chimaobi Chieme who has faithfully stood by us both day and night, the Bishop's Secretary, Mr. Benjamin Nwankwo, the Press Secretary, Mr. Kasarachi Innocent and all other workers. We appreciate you all and may the Lord reward your labours of love and care for us.

My family and I use this opportunity to thank most heartily, the Rector, Deanery Council and members of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery; HRH Eze Dr. Amb. S. N. Ejims-Wopara, the Paramount Ruler, Chiefs, Elders, Men, Women and Youths of Rumuobiokani (my home community) for the service of thanksgiving to God and grand reception organised in our honour on Sunday 9th August, 2009 and for the gift of a Ford Escape Jeep. Similarly we extend our sincere gratitude to our last Church, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Rumuepirikom Deanery (Niger Delta North Diocese) from where we were elected Bishop for the sendforth service in our honour on January 24th this year and for the gift of a Honda CRV (Ivy Tech) Jeep.

We thank each and every one of you for your support, faithful services and understanding. May God reward these and your future labours of love for His Church and us and grant you more grace to further excel in His service.

OLD AND NEW PRIMATES

PRIMATE EMERITUS, THE MOST REV. DR. PETER J. AKINOLA

That the Diocese of Evo stands today as one of such in the worldwide Anglican Communion is humanly speaking attributable to the role played by a sound great man of vision and profuse drive who increased the number of Dioceses in the Church of Nigeria from 70 to 164 and the Provinces from 3 to 14. This outstanding evangelist with expansionist zeal, administrator per excellence is none other than our *Primate Emeritus* of the Church of Nigeria, the Most Rev. Dr. Peter Jasper Akinola, DD, CON. We thank him for being a true father and a large-hearted man of God. He took on the mind Christ when it mattered most and granted with other Bishops the heart desire of Evo people to stand on their own as a Diocese. May the Lord reward and grant him a life of joy and fulfilment even in retirement.

We remain grateful as well to our Father in God, the Most Rev. I. C. O. Kattey, JP, Archbishop of the Province of Niger Delta and his predecessor, the Most Rev. Ugochukwu Ezuoke for the great roles they played to bring about the birth of the Diocese of Evo.

WELCOME TO THE MOST REV. NICHOLAS DIEKERIEHI OKOH, NEW PRIMATE OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION)

History was made on Tuesday, 15th September, 2009 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Umuahia when the Episcopal Synod of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) presided over by the now retired Primate, Peter Jasper Akinola organized a hitch-free election that saw the emergence of the Most Rev. Nicholas Okoh, a respected Archbishop of Bendel Province and Bishop of Asaba with a strong military background as the new Bishop of Abuja, Archbishop of Abuja Province and the Metropolitan and Primate of all Nigeria, Anglican Communion.

Archbishop Okoh was chosen by his brother Archbishops and Bishops based on his past records as a man of monumental achievements as a Nigerian army soldier, an excellent Church Administrator and a Charismatic preacher of the Word. He was presented to the Church, the Nation and the World at a colourful, spirit-filled service on Thursday, 25th March, 2010 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent, Abuja.

We thank him for his positive impressions about the Diocese of Evo. We were there in one of the Cathedral offices where the Bishops were getting set for the Presentation Service when he was repeatedly telling them that he was impressed with the progress being made at the Diocese of Evo. "They are doing a great work there", he declared. This confidence in Evo has recently been translated to a letter appointing us a member of a committee at the National Church level to review the Ten-year old vision of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

We thank him for this great opportunity to serve God's Church under his Primacy. We and the entire faithful of Evo welcome him as the new Primate of the Church of Nigeria and pledge our readiness to encourage the growth of his ministry as he takes the Church to greater spiritual, social and physical heights.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE OF EVO

The desire of the people of Evo who are predominantly Anglicans, to have a diocese of their own created out of the Niger Delta North Diocese dates back to 1997 when the idea was first mooted in one of the meetings of the then Evo Archdeaconry Board.

In order to actualize this dream of a new Diocese, series of behind-the-scene and open preparations and consultations took place leading to the forwarding of a formal application for the creation of the Diocese of Evo to the Diocesan Board of Niger Delta North on the 11th day of September, 2003 through the Lord Bishop, the Rt. Rev. (now Most Rev.) Ignatius C. O. Kattey, JP. Regrettably, this application did not come up until the 3rd of February, 2009 when it was formally read to the meeting of the Diocesan Board held at the King of Kings Anglican Church, D/Line, Port Harcourt.

The proponents of the Diocese of Evo had in December 2008 gone to the court of law to seek redress having waited anxiously since September, 2003 for their request to be treated.

The Diocesan Board meeting of 3rd February, 2009 set up a **Diocesan Inspection Committee** to visit the area requesting for a diocese. The report of the Committee was presented to the same Board when it met again on Monday, 23rd February, 2009 at the St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Diobu, Port Harcourt. After careful deliberations, the D. N. D. N. Board granted a Provincial approval to the application for the creation of the Diocese of Evo. Following this Board meeting was the convening of a One-Day Diocesan Synod on Monday, 2nd March, 2009 at the St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Diobu where delegates considered the recommendation of the Diocesan Board and unanimously approved the creation of the Diocese of Evo out of the Niger Delta North. The motion to this effect was moved by HRM, Amb. King, Prof. Dr. Frank Eke, JP, CON and seconded by Mr. John Okene.

Consequently, the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. (now Most Rev.) I. C. O. Kattey, JP conveyed through the Primate of All Nigeria, His Grace, the Most Rev. Peter Jasper Akinola DD, CON, the approval of the Synod to the meeting of the Church of Nigeria Standing Committee. The Diocese of Evo was thereafter created on Thursday, 12th March, 2009 at the meeting of the said Standing Committee held at Ile Ife, Osun State.

The Church of Nigeria Episcopal Synod met on Friday 22nd May, 2009, at Lokoja and there elected The Venerable Innocent U. Ordu as the first Bishop of the new Diocese of Evo. He was consecrated on Sunday, 12th July, 2009 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Yenagoa. The inauguration of the Diocese of Evo by the Primate of All Nigeria and the enthronement of the Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu took place on Monday 13th July, 2009 at The All Saints' Cathedral Church, Rumuokwursi, Obio, Rivers State.

We wish to state categorically here that the people of Evo desired and sought for a Diocese whose geographical spread would cover the entire Evo Traditional Kingdom made up of the communities of Oro-Evo, Oro-Esara and Oropotoma **with no exception**. It is well known to all however that the pastoral and lay leadership of a few churches in parts of Oro-Evo and Oro-Esara Clans, decided that their congregations would not be part of the new Diocese. The law of the Anglican Church in Nigeria as it affects Ecclesiastical Boundaries and Affiliation to Dioceses does not compel any congregation to belong to any Diocese it does not wish to be a part of. Consequently, we as Bishop do not harbour any hard feelings against those few churches that opted not to belong to Evo. Their decision however does not in any way stop us as a Diocese from developing new Anglican Congregations in those communities more so as the approval granted by the Standing Committee of the Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion to the request for Evo Diocese covers those communities whose churches are at the moment not with us. We shall therefore in a short time from now embark on the planting of new Anglican churches in the communities of Rumuokoro, Rumuagholu, Rukpakwolusi, Rumuodomaya, and Rumuobochi.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

OUR SYNOD VENUE

BRIEF HISTORY OF ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL, RUMUOKWURUSI

The advent of Christianity in Rumuokwurusi can be associated with the establishment of the colonial warrant court here in Rumuokwurusi by the colonial masters.

The colonial warrant court existed at the present site of the Ministry of Works premises (PWC yard) adjacent to the All Saints' Church premises of Chief Amadi Ikeani in Rumuwokerebe, in 1904 under what was then known as Degema Division.

At that time someone from Degema had attended court sessions at Rumuokwurusi during which he purchased some yams on credit with the promise to pay later. On the expiry of the agreed time for payment, the seller, Chief Amadi Ikeani subsequently despatched some of his subjects to demand the debt from Amakiri Iyalla the purchaser or surety to the purchaser. The persons so sent were Messrs Thomas Amadi (The son of the Chief), John Chukwu (a relation of the Chief) and Joseph Igwe. This historic journey to Degema took place in 1911.

The messengers arrived Degema on a Saturday and were received. These visitors from Rumuokwurusi noticed serious preparations against the following day being Sunday. On Sunday itself, which the Degema people call "Kala Oroni", the visitors were invited to a gathering of worshippers. This was their first experience of Christian worship. The visitors from Rumuokwurusi were excited and their curiosity for Christian life developed from there. They were greatly impressed, and resolved to take the Good News of their experience to the people at home.

Having returned home, the three men crystallized their resolve to establish a Church in Rumuokwurusi and as such approached Chief Amadi Ikeani for his permission to use his hall (Ibani) as a place of worship on Sundays. This request was granted. Christian worship was formally introduced here in Rumuokwurusi in 1911 with a congregation of seven (7) persons. Many people became interested and joined in the worship, both indigenes and non indigenes. The congregation grew in strength and number. Subsequently, the need for a Church Teacher arose. Among the early converts were Dick Nyemu, Jeremiah Otuonye, John Ezeogwu and Ezekiel Wali. Nyemu became the teacher. Others who assisted as teachers were Agwu Neribea and Paul Ogudiri both of whom were court officials. The early converts included women who became keenly interested.

As the number of the worshippers increased, the hall donated by Chief Amadi Ikeani could no longer accommodate them. It became imperative that a Church building should be erected. The Christians then appealed to Chief Amadi Ikeani (the Paramount Ruler) for a grant of a parcel of land to build a Church house. This request was also granted and a parcel of land called "Echi Eli" (Ohia Mkpa) normally used to dump or bury tabooed persons was donated. Included in the said parcel of land were parcels donated by Worlu Oriji, and Ogbonna. This constituted the original Church and school premises at the old site.

These parcels of land were cleared by communal effort, particularly by Church members. A semi permanent Church building was set up soon after made with bamboo and mud, corrugated iron sheets, sticks and thatches.

Having acquired parcels of land and experienced rapid growth of the Church, a need for a Church arose. A formal application for a Church/School Teacher was sent to the Divisional Officer of Degema who in turn redirected the said letter to the Rev. J. Mar Cole, the Superintendent of Okrika District, resulting in the posting of Mr. Peter Okujagu to Rumuokwurusi sometime in 1911.

The then Archdeacon of Egbu-Owerri Archdeaconry, Ven. Payne paid his maiden official visit to Rumuokwurusi when he was informed that Christianity had reached Rumuokwurusi. On his visit, Ven. Payne was greatly impressed by what he saw. As a result, he donated some books including “Azu Ndu” and Igbo Bible for use during school and class meetings.

In reality, Christian life was quite inspiring to the populace and there was general acceptance of Christian faith.

In 1925, the Church founded in 1911 was officially christened ALL SAINTS’ (ANGLICAN) CHURCH, RUMUOKWURUSI.

In 1926, the Church was granted licence to conduct marriages. Within fourteen years or thereabout, all the villages in Evo clan had received the good news and had established Churches. Occasionally, worshippers from the various Churches in Evo converged at Rumuokwurusi to hold meetings under the leadership of Mr. Wilfred Akah. Group status was established between 1925 and 1936. The Rumuokwurusi group was under Okrika District. All Saints’ Church Rumuokwurusi purchased its first Church organ in 1926 and the first Organist was Mr. J. S. Ogan.

As the Church continued to grow in 1948, during the period of Catechist Charles Emelugo (who later became a Deacon), the need for a new Church site for a more commodious and permanent Church building was identified following the vision of the Catechist Emelugo. An approach was made for the acquisition of a new site for All Saints’ Church. Chief Amadi Woke of Rumuchukwu and Wachukwu (Egbe) Worlu of Rumuogbuali both in Rumuorianwo were approached by the P. C. C. The two families generously donated their parcels of land constituting the present Church premises.

In 1959 the idea of building a new Church at the new site was conceived by the P. C. C. and the design of the Church building was provided by the Rt. Rev. Y. A. Fubara, the late Bishop of Niger Delta Diocese. The Church was built by communal efforts of all Rumuokwurusi people. Chief Andrew Worgu and Chief J. S. Amadi supported tremendously towards the Church building programme, and the foundation stone was laid by the Rt. Rev. R. N. Bara-Hart, JP who also dedicated it on Saturday 29th April, 1967. The first Synod of the Niger Delta Diocese was held at All Saints’ Church, Rumuokwurusi in 1984. By the grace of God, today All Saints’ Church which was the Evo Archdeaconry Headquarters is now elevated to the status of Cathedral, the seat of the Diocese. It was formally inaugurated on the 13th of July, 2009. May the name of the Lord be praised Amen.

Congratulations! All Saints’ Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi.

Names of Priest and Workers that served in this Church from 1911 – date:

UNDER OKRIKA DISTRICT FROM 1911 – 1931

S/N	NAME	RANK	FROM	TO
1.	Mr. Peter Okujagu	Agent	1911	-
2.	Mr. Andrew Yellowe	Agent	1912	1919
3.	Mr. Konigbo Koko	Agent	1920	1922
4.	Mr. Jonathan Odomele	Agent	1923	1924
5.	Mr. Wilfred I. Akah	Agent	1924	1928
6.	Mr. Isaac Wokoma	Agent	1929	1930
7.	Mr. Nnangigbo D.	Agent	1931	-
8.	Mr. Nath T. Akabo	Catechist	1932	1933

UNDER ST. PETER'S PARISH, PORT HARCOURT FROM 1934 – 1950

S/N	NAME	RANK	FROM	TO
1.	Mr. Lazarus Umekafor	Catechist	1934	1937
2.	Mr. Samuel Ndebe	Catechist	1238	Died in active service
3.	Mr. Mark Ibe	Catechist	1939	1940
4.	Mr. Jeremiah Iwora	Catechist	1941	-
5.	Mr. Samuel Ochei	Catechist	1942	1943
6.	Mr. Joshua Ugwuma	Catechist	1944	1945
7.	Mr. Benjamin Obiefuna	Catechist	1946	1947
8.	Mr. Charles Emelugo	Catechist	1948	-
9.	Mr. Enoch Mordi	Catechist	1949	1950
10	Rev. George Maduakolam	Curate	1950	-

UNDER EVO DISTRICT CUM ARCHDEACONRY

1.	Rev. F. D. Jaja	Supt./Pastor	1951	-
2.	Rev. Harry C. Nwachukwu	Supt./Pastor	1952	1953
3.	Mr. A. Abbey-Kalio	Catechist	1952	1953
4.	Rev. J. Buseri	Supt./Pastor	1954	-
5.	Mr. Wakama	Catechist	1954	-
6.	Rev. Y. A. Fubara	Supt./Pastor	1955	1959
7.	Mr. John Ngwaogu	Catechist	1955	-
8.	Mr. Kalu	Catechist	1955	-
9.	Mr. Enoch Worlu	Catechist	1957	1963
10	Rev. Godwin Asiegbu	Supt./Pastor	1960	1963
11	Mr. F. O. Onuchukwu	Catechist	1961	
12	Mr. F. Umezuruike	Catechist	1962	
13	Rev. Christopher O. Igwe	Supt./Pastor	1964	1968
14	Mr. J. J. I. Otamiri	Catechist	1966	-

CHURCH WORKERS 1970 – 2009

S/N	NAME	RANK	FROM	TO
1.	Mr. Gilber W. O. Amadi	Catechist	1971	1972
2.	Rev. Frank Agala – Okor	Supt./Pastor	1971	1972
3.	Rev. Sunday A. Nyenwe	Supt./Pastor	1973	1978
4.	Mr. Ezekiel Ajuru	Catechist	1973	1974
5.	Mr. John Wali	Catechist	1975	1976
6.	Mr. Dickson Jacob	Catechist	1976	1988
7.	Rev. Can. Lawson N. Ndu	Supt./Pastor	1979	1984
8.	Rev. Edmund C. Ogwo	Supt./Pastor	1984	1986
9.	Rev. George N. J. Waka	Supt./Pastor	1987	1988
10	Mr. Jonathan Mbatu	Catechist	1989	1990
11	Ven. E. C. Ogwo	Archdeacon	1991	1994
12	Rev. Can. D. A. T. Hart	Supt./Pastor	1991	1992
13	Rev. Can. I. W. Wopara	Supt./Pastor	1993	1996
14	Ven. F. O. Onuchukwu	Archdeacon	1995	Died in active service
15	Rev. Can. Dr. W. O. Wotogbe-Weneka	Vicar	1996	1998
16	Ven. I. W. Wopara	Archdeacon	1997	1998
17	Ven. C. N. Apia	Archdeacon	1998	1999
18	Ven. I. C. O. Kattley	Archdeacon	2000	-
19	Rev. Can. S. Gberegbara		2000	2001
20	Ven. I. Tejevbo	Archdeacon	2001	2002
21	Ven. F. N. Akah	Archdeacon	2002	2008
22	Ven. A. Ugoha	Archdeacon	2008	2009
23	Rev. Can. G. B. Chinda	Administrator	2009	Till Date

CREATION OF EVO DIOCESE

With the creation of the Diocese of Evo and subsequent inauguration on Monday 13th July, 2009, this Church, All Saints assumed the status of the Cathedral of the new Diocese. It was in this Cathedral Church that the Pioneer Bishop of our Diocese the Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu was enthroned on the same day of inauguration, having been first consecrated the previous day, Sunday 12th July, 2009 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Today, we are here assembled in this Cathedral Church for the First Session of the First Synod of the Diocese of Evo. We as Bishop and Dean of this Cathedral with the Cathedral Administrator, Priests, members of the Cathedral Standing Committee, Synod Local Organising Committee and the entire Cathedral Community welcome you most joyfully in Jesus name. Amen.

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH

The word Cathedral is a derivative of the Latin word “CATHEDRA”, meaning THRONE or BISHOP’S CHAIR/SEAT, from where the Bishop expounds the scriptures.

In the contemporary Christian world, the Cathedral is the official headquarters of the Bishop, because of the presence of the “Bishop’s Chair”, and it also stands as the Principal Church of the Diocese.

This is the position the All Saints' Church, Rumuokwurusi assumed from Monday 13th July, 2009 when the Diocese of Evo was inaugurated. We congratulate all members of this church on your attainment of this new height.

On the occasion of your hosting of this historic Synod meeting of our Diocese, please permit us to educate you and indeed everyone present on what we as Bishop and the Cathedral Church represent.

We, the Bishop and this Cathedral represent the unity of the Church of God in Evo in its mission. The Bishop as the official head of the Cathedral and the Cathedral itself must be seen as basic to the life and unity of other local congregations in Evo, a sign and focus of our unity and communion.

The Cathedral is usually the place of learning and a centre of excellence. Priests, choristers and officers from other congregations should be able to come to the Cathedral Church and draw inspiration. You should therefore be ready to offer this to the rest of the Diocese.

The Bishop when in the Cathedral would have the Chief place, dignity and pre-eminence among the brethren of the Clergy and choir.

We are at liberty to hold visitations to this Cathedral or when invited by the clerk in Holy orders to whom we have delegated its day to day pastoral and secular administration. May we remind you that at such visitations by us (The Bishop), you as a dignitary and functionary – Priest, officer and stakeholder of the Cathedral Church are mandatorily required to be present. We thank you the clergy and laity of All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi for the sacrificial roles you have continued to play towards the growth of Evo Diocese. Thank you for accepting to host this Synod most joyfully and for several other meetings since last year. May the Lord reward you abundantly.

We hope to gradually grow the Cathedral to assume its full spiritual and administrative potentials.

OUR SYNOD GUEST SPEAKERS

THE RT. REV. MICHAEL OLUSINA FAPE
Bishop of Remo Diocese, Ogun State

My first time of coming in contact with him was in January this year at the Anglican Ibru Centre, Agbarha-Ottor, Delta State, during the Annual Bishops' Retreat. He had just delivered one of the lectures on the theme of the retreat and advertised his book on Anglicanism. And during the short break we met at the Retreat Clinic for the prescribed medical checkups where we got talking and ended up exchanging telephone numbers. A few days later, I learnt from the Anglican Centre in Rome that he was one of those preparing to attend a course on Ecumenism there. I called him and he was very quick to give me tips on how to easily procure my travel visa to Italy for the same course in February. And to the glory of God we met in Rome for the course and stayed in the same hotel for one week, eating the kind of food we would not like to eat back here in Nigeria.

HIS PROFILE

The Rt. Rev. M. O. Fape was born on 28th January, 1959 in Ipogun Akure, Ondo State to the family of Chief and chief (Mrs.) Elijah Fape.

EDUCATION:

He had his primary education at St. Jude's Ipogu from 1966 to 1971 and post primary at St. Paul's Secondary Modern School, Ilara Mokin between 1972 and 1974. He later proceeded to St. John/Mary's College, Owo where he was trained as a Professional Teacher and obtained Teachers' Grade II Certificate, between 1975-1978. Bishop Fape obtained two diploma certificates from Immanuel College of Theology Ibadan: Diploma in Religious Studies 1982; and Diploma in theology 1983. He also has the following in his certificate-kitty: Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Religious Studies, University of Ibadan; Master of Sacred Theology (S. T. M.) Degree (Yale University Divinity School, U. S. A.), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) Degree in New Testament Studies, University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AWARDS:

Bishop Fape has won a number of academic laurels, these include: Bishop Kale Prize for the Best Graduating Final Year Student in Religious Studies, University of Ibadan, 1987; Seabury - Walmsley Fellowship for STM Degree at Yale University Divinity School, 1989/90; Langham Trust Scholarship for a Ph.D Degree at the University of Aberdeen, 1992-1996; Langham Writers' Post Doctoral Fellowship, Oak Hill Theology College, London, 2000/01.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Bishop Fape has taught in several schools of learning. Among others is the Archbishop Vining College of Theology, Akure where he was appointed as Dean from September, 2001 to November, 2003. His antecedents as a scholar and a teacher have led him to write many books and publish several articles in circulation today both locally and internationally and in different journals. This prolific writer, Bishop Fape has been engaged as a resource person at different workshops and conferences.

ORDINATION/PROMOTIONS:

Dr. Fape was ordained a Deacon on 17th July, 1983 and priested on 8th July, 1984. He was made a Canon on 24th April, 2005 and collated an Archdeacon at the Cathedral Church of St. James, Ibadan, on 24th October, 1997. Six years later, he was elected and consecrated as the second Bishop of the Diocese of Remo on 16th November, 2003 and enthroned on 20th November, 2003, having served as the first Provincial Clerical Secretary, Province 1, Church of Nigeria, a post he held until his election as Bishop.

Bishop Fape, our Guest Speaker in this Synod is happily married to Mrs Oluwatoyin Kehinde Fape and the marriage is blessed with three children: Mojisola, folasade and Omolola.

He is our Main Speaker in this Synod. He spoke to us on Thursday morning, flew to Abuja for Saturday's Episcopal Synod leaving behind a well researched and prepared Bible Study for our meditation; flew into Port Harcourt after the Abuja Synod; took this morning's meditation and is getting poised to minister to our youth tomorrow at 7:00 am and also preach at the Main Synod Thanksgiving Service at 10:00am.

Bishop Fape, Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Remo Diocese, we heartily welcome you. Thank you for accepting to come and bless us in this First Session of the First Synod of our Diocese of Evo. History will remember you as the first ever Synod Guest Preacher in this Diocese. May the Lord bless you and your entire house and Diocese much more in Jesus name, Amen.

VEN. PROF. WELLINGTON O. WOTOGBE – WENEKA

Prof is a well-known person to a good number of us here seated. He is the second son born to an Anglican Missionary, the Late Catechist Robinson Wotogbe Weneka by his wife, late Lydia Ekeaku Wotogbe Weneka (sister to the Late Rev. Canon C. B. A. Okafor of Umuoti Inyishi Ikeduru, Owerri) at Omagwa in Ikwerre L. G. A. of Rivers State, Nigeria. He attended St. Martin's (Ang.) School Omagwa, Anglican Teacher Training College, Okordia-Zarama from where he obtained his Teachers' Grade II, Ordinary and Advanced Level G. C. E. Certificates and proceeded to the university.

At the University of Calabar, he graduated as the best in his class with a second class (Honours) Upper Division in Religious Studies in 1982. His graduate studies took him to University of Ibadan where he obtained his M. A. and PhD in 1986 and 1990 respectively, majoring in Old Testament and African Religion. He later secured employment with the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria where he rose to the rank of a Professor in 2005. He was former H. O. D, Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Port Harcourt, and presently, Chairman, Post Graduate Studies Committee.

On completion of the prescribed courses at the Trinity Union Theological College, Umuahia, he was ordained an Anglican priest in 1990, installed an Honorary Canon of St. Stephen's Cathedral, Bonny in 1995 and collated an Archdeacon in 1999 all by the Rt. Rev. S. O. Elenwo of blessed memory in the Niger Delta and Niger Delta North Dioceses.

He had had successful priestly postings to Emmanuel Church, Okoro-nu-Odo, All Saints' Church, Rumuokwurusu, Holy Trinity Church, Choba, St. Nicholas, Church Aluu/Uniport, and currently at St. Luke's Church, Emohua where he is the Vicar and Archdeacon of Emohua Archdeaconry in the now Diocese of Ikwerre. He has travelled to the Holy Land, Israel.

His past and present exposures include Zonal President, Students' Christian Movement (SCM) of Old Rivers and Old Cross River Sector, President, UNICAL Branch of National Union of Rivers State Students, Caretaker Committee Chairman, Ikwerre L. G. A. Rivers State. He has taught and examined students at undergraduate and post graduate levels at the University of Port Harcourt, is a member, Provincial Standing Committee and Member, Church of Nigeria General Synod, Director of Clergy Continuing Education in the Diocese of Niger Delta North, currently member, Church of Nigeria General Synod and Director of Education and Training in the Diocese of Ikwerre.

He belongs to Professional bodies such as the Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions, where he is the Associate Editor, National Association for Biblical Studies where he is the Eastern Zonal Coordinator. He is also editor the Journal of Nigerian Association for African Religion and Culture. He has published extensively in his area of research interest in books and journals both in Nigeria and abroad and is married to Mrs. Gloria Wotogbe-Weneka (nee Elechi Amadi of Omagwa) and they are blessed with six children: four girls and two boys and by Divine grace, they became grandparents in August 2009.

**SIR GABRIEL T. G. TOBY (Former Deputy Governor, Rivers State)
Rotary International District Governor 9140**

The third Guest Speaker in the Synod is Sir Gabriel Tamunobiebere George Toby. Born 71 years ago, Sir Gabriel is a Lay Reader in the Anglican Church, a Knight of the sacred order of St. Christopher, an outstanding Treasurer of the Niger Delta Diocese for many years, a Justice of the Peace, fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Management, Institute of Public Administrators of Nigeria, African Association of Internal Auditors, Senior Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Training Managers, Honorary Institute of Purchasing and supply Management.

Sir Gabriel Toby, a graduate of Economics from the University of Nigeria and a Doctorate Degree holder in Public Administration (Honorius Causa) of the same institution served Rivers State for two years of 8 years (1999-2007) as Deputy Governor.

In recognition of his quality performance as Deputy Governor, he was in 2006 conferred with the National Merit Award as the Most Outstanding Deputy Governor in Nigeria (National Overall Winner), 2003 – 2007 by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Prior to his becoming Deputy Governor, Sir Gabriel Toby had for many years until his retirement served the State as Permanent Secretary/Director General in almost all the Strategic Ministries and Extra Ministerial Departments of the Rivers State Civil Service.

During his tenure as Deputy Governor, Sir Gabriel served on several Presidential Committees including those on Road Transportation, Peace and Agriculture. He has held at least forty Chairmanship and committee membership positions in Government Boards, Committees, Enterprises, University Governing Councils, schools and in the Private Sector since 1994.

He is Chairman, Archdeacon Brown Education Centre, (ABEC) Woji, an establishment that provides qualitative education for young minds at the Nursery, Primary and Secondary levels.

He is currently the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council of the University of Benin, Edo State.

Sir Gabriel T. George Toby has never hidden his passion for service to God and humanity. Apart from the Church, Sir Gabriel Toby has since 1975 used Rotary International as another platform for doing what he loves to do best – volunteering and providing selfless service to humanity.

In recognition of his many years of excellent contributions to the Rotary ideal of service, he was on Saturday, 17th July 2010 at a colourful ceremony in Port Harcourt, installed the Governor of Rotary International District 9140 Nigeria for 2010-2011.

A recipient of many other awards from Rotary District 9140 and other clubs; chieftaincy titles from communities and other socio-cultural organisations, Sir Gabriel Tamunobiebere George Toby plays golf and enjoys watching sports. He is married to Dame (Dr.) Christie Toby, Lay Secretary of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) and the union is blessed with 3 children and 7 grand children.

Your Excellency, you've been a friend of Evo people. You supported their desire and request for a diocese of their own and you have continued to support the young Diocese ever since it was inaugurated. Your presence at our First Anniversary/Maiden Cathedral Lecture on Wednesday 7th July, 2010 and acceptance to come and move the only motion in this Synod is a further demonstration of your solidarity with us. We thank you and may the Lord bless you and grant you success in your new position as the Governor of Rotary International District 9140.

LADY JOY EMERUEM (*Seconder of the Synod Only Motion*)

Lady Joy Osinachi Emeruem had her primary education in Nsukka and secondary education at St. Catherine's Girl's secondary school Nkwerre in Imo State from 1970 – 1974.

She obtained a B.Sc Degree with honours in the field of Zoology from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 1980.

Lady Joy Emerum is a seasoned educationist and has taught at all levels of learning from Sunday school kindergarten class to the university level. After marriage she taught under the Imo State Education Board and attained the rank of School Principal before she voluntarily retired to start her own school, The Good Shepherd International Day care/Nursery/Primary School Rumuogba.

She is married to Sir Chief Emeruem, an Engineer by profession and a one time member of Imo State House of Assembly. The marriage is blessed with six children.

Lady Joy loves the Lord and has served in various arms of the Church. She is the Chairman of School Management Committee of the Cathedral Nursery/Primary School. She has also served for several terms as member of the P. C. C. and was harvest Chairman for 2006 and 2007 harvest years.

She is at present the Chairman of the Synod Local Organising Committee of the First Session of the First of Synod of the Diocese.

THE MOTTO OF OUR DIOCESE

The application of the founding fathers of Our Diocese to the Standing Committee of the Church of Nigeria proposed **“To Love, Teach and Preach”** as the Motto of the Diocese of Evo. It was approved.

From this Motto, it is quite clear that Evo Diocese is basically spiritual – to promote the love of Christ within the Diocese and beyond, to teach the doctrines of Christ with a view to discipling people unto Christian maturity and to preach the gospel of Christ within and outside our shores, knowing full well that it is the power of ‘God unto salvation to as many as believe’.

From this Motto, it is equally apparent what the Pioneer Bishop and successive leadership of the Diocese should be focusing on as Vision and Mission.

OUR VISION

Consequently our Vision in the Dioceses of Evo will be “To Love, Teach and Preach Christ; bringing up members filled with the Holy Spirit, rooted and grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ and prepared to make heaven at the end of their earthly sojourn.

MISSION STATEMENT

Diocese of Evo will engage in in-depth study of the Word of God and discipleship; trainings for people empowerment in Evangelism and Missions (Home and Foreign); planting of new Chapels and Churches; and the establishment of a strong and sustainable financial base through institutions and reliable development projects.

LONG TERM GOALS

In the years to come, by His grace, our long term goals would remain as follows:

1. Raising pastors/wives and laity who would share in the Vision and joyfully bear the burden in team work through training and practice
2. Mobilizing in an on-going manner, the entire membership through leadership training for the work of the Lord’s Kingdom
3. Establishing schools for the academic and spiritual nurturing of our youth across denominations, thus impacting our community and nation at large
4. Maintaining an on-going strong pastoral care and welfare ministry in our Diocese and neighbourhood and to support the weak, the poor, the widows, the orphans, aged and unemployed youths
5. Building up a strong financial base through our established institutions, establishments and other viable income-yielding projects/investments such as a printing press and a mass transit company, taking full advantage of our cosmopolitan nature and our unique environment
6. Sending out and maintaining missionaries in other Dioceses especially Missionary ones in Nigeria and much later in foreign lands
7. Upholding in support and welfare, weak Churches within our nation and in the Anglican Communion through networking and linkages

OUR SYNOD THEME

The theme for this Synod is “***Walking and Serving in Love***”. It is an initial attempt on our part to systematically develop and explain the meaning of the Motto of our Diocese to our people and to others like you, our invited guests and observers.

This year’s theme seeks to focus on an important aspect of the Motto, the believer’s call to walk and serve God and humanity in love without which embarking on the other two parts – teaching and preaching will amount to a hollow religious formalism and sham (1Cor. 13: 1-13).

The believer’s call to walk in love is an invitation to follow the example and the steps of Christ. According to Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Ephesians, chapter 5 verse 2, Christ’s example of love was demonstrated by the sacrificial offering of Himself for sin, which sacrifice went to God as an odour of a sweet smell, that is, God was well pleased with the offering and sacrifice

of Christ because it made possible the redemption of His fallen creation (Rom. 8: 8-24). Consequently, the believer's daily walk in love should be seen as his own grateful response to God for the love demonstrated by Christ and for other temporal blessings received.

What then is the type of love required of us? The love required of us is a totally unselfish love, a matter of will and action, expressed in service to the worthy (Christ and God) as well as to the unworthy (our fellow men), based upon the pattern of the love set forth in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This introduces to us the second aspect of our Synod theme: the 'Service of the believer'!

The Bible says, that God created us for a life of good deeds (Eph. 2: 10b). These "good deeds" are our service. Whenever we serve others in any capacity and in any way, we are actually serving God (Col. 3: 23, 24).

As Christians (believers in Christ) we are saved to serve God. Paul said, "It is he who saved us and He chose us for His holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was His will" (2Tim 1: 9). God redeemed us so we could do His "holy work". We are not saved by service, but we are saved for service. In God's Kingdom, everyone of us has a place, a purpose, a role, and a function to fulfil. Fulfilling our God-given function gives our lives great significance and value.

Many Christians think that being "called" by God is something only Missionaries, Pastors, Nuns, and other "full time" church workers experience, but the Bible says every Christian is called to service (Eph. 4: 4-14). Our call to salvation included our call to service. They are the same. Regardless of our jobs or career, we are called to full-time Christian Service. A "non-serving Christian" is a contradiction in terms.

The Bible says, "Now you belong to Him...in order that we might be useful in the service of God" (Rom. 7: 4). How much of the time are you – Pastor, Synod delegate, government official, worker in the public and private sector, useful in the service of God? In some Churches in China, they welcome new believers by saying "Jesus has a new pair of eyes to see with, new ears to listen with, new hands to help with, and a new heart to love others".

One reason we each need to be connected to a Church family – Diocese, Parish or Station is to fulfil our calling to serve God and other believers in practical ways. Our services no matter how visible or behind the scene are valuable and desperately needed in the Body of Christ and in the society at large. There are no insignificant ministries.

Today many local churches, communities, government, ministries, parastatals and private organizations are dying because of people, including Christians who are unwilling to serve. They sit on the sidelines as spectators while the system suffers.

God commands us to serve Him. Jesus was unmistakable: "Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve and to give my life" (Matthew 20: 28).

For Christians, service is not optional, something to be tacked onto our schedules if we can spare the time. It is the heart of the Christian life. Jesus came "to serve" and "to give" – and those two verbs should define our lives on earth, too. Mother Theresa once said, "Holy living consists in doing God's work with a smile". Such a cheerful smile can only come from a person whose heart radiates true godly love to others. Love for God and for His creation (our neighbours, Diocese/Church, Communities, State and Nation) should form the basis of

whatever form of service we choose or are called upon to render. If we have no love for others, no desire to serve others and we are only concerned with our personal needs, then we should question whether Christ is really in our lives.

Love for God is a desire for Him and a delight in doing His will. Love for others is a desire for and a delight in their good. Love is not mere fondness for others, nor pleasure in their society. The character of others may be hateful, and their society disagreeable, but still a real desire for their welfare is love (Matt. 5: 43-47; 1John 3: 14, 16, 17).

Love is positive. We demonstrate it by doing good as we have opportunity (Gal. 6: 10): by serving others, as illustrated by the Lord Jesus Christ (John 13: 15), the author of our love. Out of love, Jesus specialized in menial tasks that everyone else tried to avoid: washing the dirty feet of his disciples, helping children fixing breakfast, and serving lepers. Nothing was beneath Him because He came to serve. It wasn't in spite of His greatness that He did these things, but because of it, and He expects us to follow His example.

Our good and sincere services rendered in love to God and humanity are indestructible and unforgettable. They outlive us; in the sense that ever after we are dead and gone, our good works continue to speak and positively impact on successive generations. For example, the sincere efforts of early missionary groups like The Church Missionary Society in sacrificially coming to Africa, then known as "the dark continent" brought us the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, together with civilization, western education, health care, etc. Albert Pike said "The love we give away is the only love we keep. What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and to the world remains and is immortal".

We should walk and serve God and others and with others genuinely, without hypocrisy (Rom. 12: 9). We should love not merely in word but in deed and truth; not in saying but in doing; not in professing but in practice (1 John 3: 18), from the heart, intensely (1 Peter 1: 22).

Our walk and service in love is to be demonstrated by our not seeking our own, but our neighbour's good (1Cor. 10: 24); by not looking to our own things, but to the things of others (Phil. 2: 4); by bearing each other's burdens (Gal. 6: 2); bearing the infirmities of the weak, not pleasing ourselves, but pleasing others for what is good for edifying (Rom. 15: 1-3), Christ being the great example here also.

Our love for God whom we do not see is better understood and appreciated by Him when we apply it first to our fellow men whom we see. John writes, "If a man says, 'I love God', and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4: 20).

The clergyman who claims he loves God and to be in His service but cannot go the extra mile to attend to the deep needs of his Parish and Parishioners cannot be said to be walking and serving in love. The insensate, pleasure-loving pastor who, rather than gather and feed the flock of God committed to his care; scatters, leads astray and preys upon it (Isaiah 56: 10-12; Jeremiah 23: 2; 50: 6; Ezek. 34: 2, 3) and forsakes the sheep (John 10: 12), cannot claim to be walking and serving in love.

The clergyman – Bishop, Archdeacon, Canon, Priest, General overseer, Apostle, Deacon and Church Worker who has no regard for, who cannot see eye to eye with other clergymen or church workers like him in the same Diocese, Parish or any other part of the Body of Christ cannot claim to be walking and serving God and His church in love.

The story is told of two artists who beautified the Vatican but who were enemies. Yet each claimed to be “working for God”. Envy often parades behind the facade of religious zeal, so we must be careful lest we are consumed (Phil. 1: 15).

The Parishioner who claims to love God and to be in His service must also prove it by his sincere, prayerful and moral support to his Bishop and Pastors and by his display of team spirit with fellow parishioners.

The public servant who claims to be God-fearing, yet closes his eyes to the needs and pains of the masses he is in office to serve; who prefers to sit and watch our public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, hospitals, etc, etc collapse to the extent that lives are endangered, cannot claim to be walking and serving God and the nation in love.

The same goes for the teacher who abandons his/her classroom job in pursuit of other personal gains; the health worker whose negligence and lack of care leads to the death of patients; the judicial officer who delays or perverts justice; the police officer who betrays the trust of the nation by conniving with enemies of the society to perpetuate ills, the traditional ruler who turns against his subjects using the very authority he received from them. We can go on and on.

True walk and service in love manifests by our abstaining from everything that would injure another (Rom. 13: 10).

Duty, i.e. serving, is delight (Col. 3: 17). God must derive pleasure from it. Humanity must be edified by it. It is only through love we can achieve these.

Love is the fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5: 22; Rom. 5: 5), and we will never attain to love by any mere effort of our own, for love is not a fruit that is native to the soil of the human heart. We should follow after love (1 Cor. 14: 1; 1Tim. 6: 11), and we should urge one another to love (Heb. 10: 24), for God teaches us to love one another (1Thess. 4: 9).

We start learning to love as we let Christ live His life in our hearts; as we renounce self; renounce the flesh; crucify it; put it in the place of the cross, and let Christ live His life in us (Gal. 2: 20).

PROGRESS REPORTS

1. MEETING WITH ALL CATHEDRAL, ARCHDEACONRY, DEANERY, PARISH AND CHURCH STATION BOARD/COUNCIL MEMBERS

At this meeting held on Friday 17th July, 2009, we proposed the restructuring of the administrative units of the Diocese to make for easier administration as follows:

- 1. All Saints’ Cathedral**, Rumuokwurusi
- 2. Rumuomasi Deanery**
 - St. Michael’s Anglican Church, Rumuomasi
 - Church of Resurrection, Rumuomasi
- 3. Rumubiokani Deanery**
 - Church of Pentecost, Rumuogba
 - Church of Messiah, Iriebe

- Anglican Worship Centre, Mini-Ewa, Rumuobiokani
- 4. **Elelenwo Deanery**
 - St. Mark's Church, Elelenwo
 - New Covenant Church, Eliminigwe Estate-Elelenwo
- 5. **Woji Archdeaconry**
 - St. Nicholas' Wojii Deanery (Proposed Headquarters)
 - Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe
 - Christ Anglican Church, Federal Housing Estate, Wojii
 - Immanuel Anglican Church Ogbatai, Wojii
 - Anglican Church of the Pentecost, Ahia-Wojii
 - Christ Harvest Anglican Church, Faith Avenue, Wojii
- 6. **Evo South-East Archdeaconry**
 - Church of the Holy Spirit, KM2 Eleme Road, Elelenwo(Proposed Head Quarters)
 - St. Matthias' Church, Atali Parish
 - St. James' Church, Iriebe
 - Holy Ghost Anglican Church, Iriebe
 - Church of the Epiphany, Azumini (Pipe line), Rumuokwurusi
 - Immanuel Church, Umuebulu 2
- 7. **St. Jude's Church, Oginigba Deanery**
- 8. **Okporo Deanery**
 - St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery
 - Anglican Missionary Church, East-West Rd. Okporo
- 9. **Oro-Igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry**
 - St. Philip's Church, Oro-Igwe
 - Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Elimgbu
 - Church of the Holy Spirit, Eliozu
 - Mount Zion Church, Eliogbolo

Council members of the areas to be affected were duly consulted and they gave their support. Thereafter, the proposal was forwarded to the One-day Diocesan Synod that took place on August 6, 2009 for ratification.

2. FAMILIARIZATION AND VISION-SHARING MEETINGS WITH MAJOR ACTIVITY GROUPS/UNITS IN THE DIOCESE

Within the first few weeks of our Episcopacy in Evo, we met with all the various activity groups/units in the Diocese. These include:

Groups/Units	Date/Venue of Interactive Meeting
Pastors in Evo Diocese	- 14/08/2009 Bishop's Office Chapel
The Men's Christian Association	- 29/08/2009 Church of the Holy Spirit, Eliozu Parish
Mothers' Union/Women's Guild	- 15/08/2009 All Saints' Cathedral Rumuokwurusi

The Anglican Youth Fellowship and all youth groups-	30/08/2009	St. Matthias' Church, Atali Parish
Anglican Children's Ministry Teachers	- 15/08/2009	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi
Diocesan Council of Knights/Ladies Auxiliaries	- 27/08/2009	St. Nicholas' Woji
Lay Readers	- 28/08/2009	St. Andrew's, Rumuobiokani Deanery
Adult Sunday School Teachers	- 06/09/2009	St. Mark's Elemenwo Deanery
Diocesan Prayer Ministry	- 05/09/2009	Oginigba Deanery

3. ONE – DAY SYNOD

After the inauguration of the Diocese, a One-Day Synod was convened on Thursday 6th August, 2009 for the purposes of adopting a constitution for the new Diocese and the appointment and election of some key Diocesan officers on **Acting Capacity** to run the affairs of the Diocese with the Bishop.

The Synod formally adopted the constitution of our Residual Diocese of Niger Delta North as our Working Document pending the drafting of that of the Diocese of Evo.

The Synod also adopted the First Bank of Nigeria PLC and Guaranty Trust Bank as the official Bankers of the Diocese.

We proposed to the Synod nine new administrative structures for the Diocese in their order of seniority and this was unanimously approved. They are as follows:

1. All Saints' Cathedral
2. Rumuomasi Deanery
3. Rumuobiokani Deanery
4. Elemenwo Deanery
5. Woji Archdeaconry
6. Evo South-East Archdeaconry
7. Oginigba Deanery
8. Okporo Deanery
9. Oro-Igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry

We made the following Diocesan appointments on Acting Capacities:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| - Registrar | - Barr. Nlerum Amadi |
| - Deputy Registrar (Lands) | - Barr. Chimezie Otuonye |
| - Diocesan Legal Secretary | - Barr. Godfrey O. Dike |
| - Senior Special Assistant
to the Bishop on Legal Matters | - Sir, Chief Barr. Mike Wodi |

- Financial Secretary - Ven. Sunday Opara
- Bishop's Chaplain - Rev. Chieme Chimaobi
- Bishop's Administrative Assistant- Rev. Chris Chukwumati
- Bishop's Secretary - Mr. Benjamin Nwankwo
- Admin Asst./Secretary to Bishop's wife - Mrs. Chikaru Oloruntobi

Other appointments were made by us in the course of the year.

The following Interim Diocesan officials were elected by the Synod.

- Clerical Synod Secretary - Ven. Chidi S. Worgu
- Lay Synod Secretary - Mr. G. I. Ebenezer
- Asst. Lay Synod Secretary - Dame Meg Orianwo
- Diocesan Treasurer - Sir Chief Ken Utchay
- Diocesan Auditors - Mr. Mgbuawaji Isiokpo
- Sir Cyril Amaewhule
- Mr. Gilbert Chukwu
- Mr. Lawrence G. Chinda
- Mr. Romanus Osai
- Lady Caroline Obioma
- Eze Sir P. A. Okene
- Promise Owhor

General Synod Members

- CLERGY - The Bishop
- Clerical Synod Secretary
- LAITY - The Acting Registrar (For Chancellor)
- Lady Bridget Dania
- Sir Silas Nnodi
- Mr. John Okene

Standing Committee Members

- The Bishop
- The Acting Registrar (For Chancellor)
- Clerical Synod Secretary

Church Of Nigeria Advisory Committee

- Ven. F. N. Akah, JP
- Eze Sir T. O. A. Ejekwu

Provincial Advisory Committee

- Ven. Azubuike Ugoha
- Sir Agu Chinyere

Primate's Advisory Committee

CLERGY	-	Rev. Canon Okechukwu Owhonda
	-	Rev. Canon Chimaobi D. Nwachukwu
	-	Rev. Canon Charles Mordi
	-	Rev. Godfrey Onyemelukwe
LAITY	-	The Acting Registrar (For Chancellor)
	-	Lady C. N. Wachukwu
	-	Sir, Engr. Chukwuma Onwuchekwa
	-	Eze, Sir, Dr. G. A. Nwanwa
	-	Mr. Gershon Amaewhule

Provincial Council Members

- The Bishop
- The Bishop's wife
- The Acting Registrar (For Chancellor)
- Clerical Synod Secretary
- The Treasurer
- The MU Secretary (For Lady Worker)

4. INAUGURATION OF MAJOR BOARDS OF THE DIOCESE:

The inauguration of the Boards of the Diocese took place as follows:

- Diocesan Board of Finance**, Monday 17th August, 2009 at the All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi
- Diocesan Board**, Thursday 20th August, 2009 at the All Saints' Cathedral Rumuokwurusi
- Location and Appointment Board**, already in place, inaugural meeting yet to be held
- Diocesan Education Board**, Sunday 7th February, 2010 in the Bishop's Office Chapel

5. VISITS TO CHURCHES FROM JULY 2009-JANUARY 2010

With a view to having a firsthand knowledge of the Churches in the new Diocese of Evo and to familiarize ourselves with the worshippers, we embarked on both formal and informal visits to the churches. The visits were carried out both on Sundays and on week days.

The first round of these visits started with our maiden worship at the All Saints Cathedral Church, Rumuokwurusi on Sunday July, 19 and ended with the New Year's Day (Naming and Circumcision of Christ) Eucharistic Service at the Church of Holy Spirit, Eliozu Parish.

6. VISITS AND COURTESY CALLS TO SOME EVO ROYAL FATHERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Within the last one year, we have paid Courtesy Visits to some traditional rulers, chiefs and elders in Evo Kingdom and some other Government officials. These include:

A) HRH, Eze W. W. Onunwor, JP (Nyerisi Mbam, Oropotoma)- <i>With some other traditional rulers and members of the Committee for the creation of Diocese of Evo</i>	-	22/7/2009
B) Chiefs and elders of Rumuokwurusi	-	26/8/ 2009
C) HRM, Eze Sir Dr. Frank Eke, Eze Oha-Evo II	-	27/8/2009
D) HRH, Eze, Sir Dr. S. N. Ejims-Wopara (Rumuobiokani)	-	28/8/2009
E) HRH, Eze Sir P. A. Okene (Rumunduru Community)	-	29/8/2009
F) HRH, Eze I. J. O. Woko	-	29/8/2009
G) HRH, Eze Sir T. O. A. Ejekwu (Atali Community)	-	30/8/2009
H) HRM, Eze Dr. J. A. Utchay, JP (Elingbu Community)	-	2/9/2009
I) HRH Eze G. B. Odum, JP (Oginigba Community)	-	5/9/2009
J) Hon. Prince Timothy Nsirim, Chairman, OBLAGA	-	8/9/2009
K) Eze Dr. Francis Amadi (Iriebe Community)	-	8/9/2009
L) Former Deputy Governor, R/S, Sir G. T. G. Toby	-	9/9/2009
M) Sir, Hon. Justice Iche Ndu, R/S Chief Judge	-	29/9/2009
N) Sir, Eze Godwin Nwanwa (Eliogbolo)	-	4/10/2009
O) HRH Eze G. B. Wodi (Eledenwo Community)	-	22/11/2009
P) Rt. Hon. Tonye Harry, Speaker, RSHA	-	3/12/2009

7. APPROVAL AND INAUGURATION OF NEW ARCHDEACONRIES, DEANERY AND PARISHES

The three new Archdeaconries whose creation was ratified at our August one-day Synod were inaugurated as follows:

1. **Woji Archdeaconry**, with the Headquarters at St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji Town on Sunday 20th September, 2009. The Ven. S. Bayo Odukoya was inducted the first Archdeacon.
2. **Evo South-East Archdeaconry** with the Headquarters at the Church of the Holy Spirit, KM2, Eleme Road, Eledenwo on Sunday, 20th November, 2009. Ven. S. C. Opara was inducted the first Archdeacon.
3. **Oro-Igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry** with the Headquarters at St. Philip's Anglican Church, Oro-Igwe on Sunday 6th December, 2009. The Ven. Chidi S. Worgu was inducted the first Archdeacon.

In keeping with existing tradition, the Headquarters churches were on the occasion of these inaugurations pronounced **District Churches** by us.

4. **St. Jude's Church, Oginigba**, historically the oldest church in Evo which applied for and received the approval of the Niger Delta North Diocesan Board as a **Deanery Church** a few months before the creation and take off of Evo Diocese was formally inaugurated by us on Sunday, 7th March, 2010. The Rev. Canon Okechukwu Ow'honda was inducted the Administrator of the new Deanery.

The Diocesan Board received applications from some Church Stations requesting to be granted Parish Status. After careful inspection based on set criteria/standards, the inspection committee headed by Ven. F. N. Akah, JP recommended and the Board approved Christ Church, Federal Housing Estate, Woji and Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe as Grade C Parish Churches.

The application from the Church of Epiphany was granted provisional approval pending the upgrading of their offices.

Holy Ghost Anglican Church, Iriebe Housing Estate was already pronounced a Parish by the Most Rev. I. C. O. Kattey, JP before the creation of the Diocese of Evo. We and the Diocesan Board decided to honour that pronouncement and consequently, that Church with its station, Emmanuel Anglican Church, Umuebulu 2 were inaugurated on 7th March, 2010 as Holy Ghost Anglican Church, Iriebe Housing Estate Parish. Rev. Chukwuemeka Okonkwo was also inducted the first Vicar of the Parish.

We wish new Archdeaconries, Deanery and Parishes well as they strive to grow unto higher spiritual, numerical, economic and infrastructural heights.

8. MISSION, EVANGELISM AND CHURCH PLANTING

The primary motive of the Church of Nigeria in creating more Dioceses has remained the extension of the Kingdom of God by taking the Anglican Church to where it has never been before and strengthening its presence in areas where it is weak.

This vision has been vigorously pursued particularly in the last ten years under the primacy of the Most Rev. Peter Jasper Akinola (Rtd). The result is that well over 500 new Anglican Churches have been planted by the new Dioceses.

The founding fathers of the Diocese of Evo gave evangelism and God's Kingdom extension as the primary motive for their demand for a new Diocese and not for portfolio leadership or the desire for a kingdom to rule. With this in mind we knew from the onset that we had a serious missionary task to contend with. In engaging in this missionary enterprise our motive is prominently to glorify God, obey our Lord's Commission, address the desperate need of men particularly in Evo and particularly those without Christ, satisfy the purpose of Christ's atoning death on the cross and the prepare ourselves and everyone else for the coming again of Jesus Christ.

At our inauguration, 28 Churches (big and small) were relinquished to us. An objective assessment of these congregations shows that only a few of them could be rated viable. Majority of them are struggling stations but with great prospects for growth given the right pastoral care. As a young Diocese desperate to make meaningful impact, we are therefore faced with the challenge of further strengthening those churches that are seen to be viable and stir up to life the struggling so they can in the shortest possible time join in our collective task of fulfilling the Great Commission.

Achievements and Intentions in this area:

1. We have set up a 15-member Missions, Evangelism and Church Planting Board which was inaugurated on Tuesday, 1st September, 2009 with Ven. Chidi S. Worgu as Chairman. The other members include

Rev. Bright Okocha	-	Secretary
Ven. Azubuike Ugoha	-	Member
Mrs. Virginia Chinda	-	√√
Bro. Chimene Elechi Amadi	-	√√
Mr. Collins Daniel	-	√√
Mr. Uche Ugwuja	-	√√
Engr. Vincent K. T. Lafua	-	√√
Lady Evang. Caroline Obioma	-	√√
Mr. Uchechukwu Chinda	-	√√
Mr. David Nwuzo	-	√√
Mr. Patrick Emuobovie	-	√√
Sir Godfrey Ohuabunwa	-	√√
Sir Amobi E. W. (Dr.)	-	√√
Lady Precious S. Amadi	-	√√

They were given the following charge:

- To work hard with the Rectors, Vicars and Supervising Priests to strengthen the existing churches in Evo, raising them to places where true seekers of God can hear His undiluted Word, worship Him in spirit and truth and experience growth
Progress is being made in this direction.
 - To survey all nooks and crannies of the new Diocese with a view to planting new churches
This has since been achieved.
 - To source funds to purchase lands and/or build infrastructures for new congregations
Nothing has yet been accomplished here.
 - To establish new and peculiar congregations as in the case of youth churches
This is yet to be achieved
 - To mobilize the clergy and lay leadership of the Diocese in order to actualise our vision
Great progress is being made here
 - To draw up a road map that will lead to the establishment of at least 22 new churches within 5 years bringing the total to 50
This is already accomplished
2. The Board shortly after its inauguration commenced the process of mobilization with an orientation programme held on Saturday, 10th of October, 2009 for all members of the Cathedral, Archdeaconry and Deanery Missions, Evangelism and Church Planting Committees. This was held at St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery. This was followed by a 2-day Evangelism and Leadership conference with the theme "Go ye therefore" (Matthew 28: 19) held on Friday 4th and Saturday, 5th December, 2009 at St. Philip's Church, Oro-Igwe Parish.
 3. A total of six new churches have been planted most of which are doing well. These are:

9. NEW CHURCHES

- A) ACMGS Chapel
- B) Anglican Worship Centre, Rumuewhara
- C) Anglican Worship Centre, Atali
- D) AWC, Mgbuesilaru
- E) AWC, Igbo-Etche Rd, Rumuokwurusi
- F) AWC, Eliozu

PLANTED BY

- St. Mark's Church, Elelenwo Deanery
- St. Philip's Church, Oro-Igwe
- St. Matthias' Church, Atali Parish
- All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi
- Diocesan Lay readers Association
- Church of the Holy Spirit, Eliozu

We commend the efforts of the Clergy, Church Councils, Evangelism Committees and Executive of the mother churches and Activity groups. For these churches, the old ones and the emerging new ones to grow, we have purposed to assign to them the right calibre of pastors who shall be encouraged to love, teach and preach Christ and the good news of what God has done for mankind through Him; and raise faithful disciples who through their lives and conduct can influence others for Christ.

4. The church is not an end in itself. It exists for mission – for the sake of the world. As Emil Brunner once said, *'The Church exists by mission, as fire exists by burning. If there is no mission then there is no church! God's plan for the world is not that the church will be saved. His plan is rather to use the church for the salvation of the world'*.

J. C. Hoekendijk expressed the meaning of mission very well when he gave one of his books the title: *'The Church inside out'*. If the church is turned in upon itself it is not the church of the self-emptying Lord Jesus Christ. The Church is only faithful to its Lord when it is turned outward towards the world.

Our salvation as Christians is meaningless unless it is linked to the salvation of all mankind beginning with those within our reach. To this end we charge our clergy and their congregations to reach out, i.e. empty themselves to their immediate communities with the message of salvation in Christ and Him alone. They should intensify their local and primary evangelism activities by taking the gospel from house to house, embark on neighbourhood crusades and indoor revival meetings. We commend the efforts of Ven. Azubuike Ugoha and his team of clergy at Okporo Deanery, Ven. Chidi Worgu and the clergy of Oro-Igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry, Rev. Chris Chukwumati and his colleagues at Rumuomasi Deanery for their special recent successful outreaches to the chiefs/elders, men, women, youth and children of their respective host communities. Other clergy should draw inspiration from the work of these brethren of the clergy.

5. More churches needed

Church planting is the rapid exponential increase of indigenous churches. It is the nesting of new churches within a given people group or population segment. While we acknowledge that there is an Anglican church in all the villages of Evo Diocese, we equally wish to point out that these villages have all grown into big towns each with several new densely populated segments/Housing Estates, very many of which lack Anglican Church presence.

We must take some bold steps to reach them for Christ. We have been on the drawing board for too long. This is the time to just do it, not minding what the cost will be.

Consequently, the following churches and groups are hereby declared ‘pregnant’ and they are to deliver new baby churches within the Evo Kingdom before next year’s second session of this Synod as follows:

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| i. | Cathedral Church | - | 2 *1 of them a youth Church |
| ii. | Rumuomasi Deanery | - | 1 |
| iii. | Rumuobiokani Deanery | - | 2 |
| iv. | Elelenwo Deanery | - | At least 1(Can actually achieve more) |
| v. | Woji Archdeaconry | - | 2 *1 of them a youth Church |
| vi. | Okporo Deanery | - | 2 |
| vii. | Evo South-East Archdeaconry- | | 2 |
| viii. | Oro-Igwe/Eliogbolo | - | 1 |
| ix. | Anglican Youth Fellowship | - | 1 |

The Diocesan Mission, Evangelism and Church Planting Board is to assist them as Midwife. May the Spirit of Christ guide and prosper you. Amen.

6. Home Mission

As we consolidate our local evangelism activities, the next phase will be to identify areas within the Dioceses in Nigeria with special needs that require attention where as a Diocese we can send missionaries to work in.

To this end we are hereby alerting our pastors to start preparing themselves for such possible short term mission assignments to other Dioceses in need. We do not know exactly when this will be but for now our focus is to strengthen as much as possible the weak links within our Diocese, and establish a strong financial base that will enable us carry out our outside mission.

We plead for understanding on the part of all even as we continue to yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

10. CHURCHES CHRISTENED

The following Churches were christened by us during the period under review.

They are:

OLD NAME	NEW NAME	DATE OF CHRISTENING
a) -	Chapel of Grace & Knowledge, ACMGS, Elelenwo	Sunday 25/10/2009
b) Anglican Worship Centre	New Wine Anglican Church, Okporo	Friday, 27/11/2009
c) -	Anglican Church of The Advent, Rumuewhara	Sunday, 20/12/2009

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| d) Anglican Worship Centre,
Mgbuesilaru | The Great Shepherd
Anglican Church,
Mgbuesilaru | Sunday, 25/04/2010 |
| e) Anglican Worship Centre,
Eliozu | The Upper Room
Anglican Church,
Eliozu | Pentecost Day 23/05/2010 |

11. ACTIVITY GROUPS

A) DIOCESAN MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

We thank the Steering Committee set up by the DNDN Diocesan MCA which received our blessing on 30th July, 2009. This Committee planned and carried out successfully three General Meetings, and a one-day Conference tagged "Okwurusi 2009" on 28th November, 2009 at All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi.

The highlights of this unique conference were the charge to men and the election of Officers. The elected Officers include:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Sir R. N. Nwagboso | President – General |
| 2. Prince Ngumezi Eziefula | Vice President |
| 3. G. A. Amaewhule | General Secretary |
| 4. Prince Chituru Daniel | Assistant General Secretary |
| 5. Arch. Charles Chukwu | Treasurer |
| 6. Godwin O. Ovunwo | Evangelism/Prayer Secretary |
| 7. Sir Chief Victor Iyalla | Organizing/Publicity |
| 8. Chief Okechukwu Akparanta | Welfare Officer |
| 9. Hones Osuagwu | Financial Secretary |

These elected Executives were inaugurated on Sunday 13th December, 2009 at All Saints' Cathedral.

REDEDICATION/INDUCTION

At the Rededication Service of Evo Diocesan MCA held on Sunday the 7th of March, 2010 at St. Jude's Oginigba Deanery, thirty-four (34) new members were inducted. St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery-3; Church of the Holy Spirit, Eliozu-3; St. Jude's Oginigba Deanery-5; New Wine, Okporo-3; Christ Harvest Church Woji-1, Holy Ghost (Ang.) Church, Iriebe, St. Andrew's Rumuobiokani Deanery-3; All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi-2; Church of the Advent, Rumuewhara-3; New Covenant, Eliminigwe, Elemenwo-3; Church of Epiphany-3; St. Nicholas, Woji District-3 and St. James' Ang. Church, Iriebe-1.

2010 FATHERS' WEEK

As part of the celebrations to mark this year Fathers' Week, the Sports Committee headed by the Chaplain, Rev. Chukwuma Anukem in conjunction with the DMCA had a Football competition in which all the Deaneries, Archdeaconries and the Cathedral participated. And at

the end of the competition, Rumuobiokani Deanery won the Golden cup, the Cathedral came second!

DMCA has been very effective in all provincial Men's Christian Association programmes. We thank them.

B) DIOCESAN WOMEN'S/GIRLS' MINISTRIES

1. The first major Diocesan Women's programme was the Prayer Retreat/One-Day Conference held between 13th and 16th August, 2009 at the All Saints' Cathedral Church, Rumuokwurusu, featuring among others, the election of officers as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| (a) Lady Lale Aminobiren | - | Secretary |
| (b) Barr. (Mrs.) Mercy Nweke | - | Assistant Secretary |
| (c) Dame Meg. Orianwo | - | Treasurer |
| (d) Mrs. Agnes Ezenta | - | Financial Secretary |
| (e) Hon. Faustina Wali | - | Public Relations Officer |
| (f) Mrs. Edith Okpobiri | - | Provost |

In addition to these elected officers, the Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union and Women's Guild, Sisters' Forum and Girls' Guild Mrs. Chinyere Ordu also appointed some other women into key positions in the Diocesan Women's/Girls' Ministries.

2. In keeping with my directive that the Women's Work Office be cited at the premises of Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, Elenwo due to lack of sufficient office space at the Cathedral, the women promptly responded by renovating one of the dilapidated structures to the tune of about N3m.
3. An outreach programme was organised for the widows in our Diocese on 12th December, 2009 at the Holy Trinity Church, Elingbu. It was largely sponsored by our brother, Sir Godfrey Ohuabunwa and some other notable women who donated varied items that were distributed to the widows.
4. Other outreaches were made by the women at different times to our two Diocesan Schools: ACMGS, Elenwo and the BCMSS, Rumuobiokani, our Provincial Women's President Mrs. B. G. Kattey JP, our Late Bishop Elenwo's Widow – Mrs. C. S. Elenwo, other widows of our late clergy, retired clergy and wives, Charity Homes as well as some elderly and sick persons.

In addition, the women made a donation of students' beds and cupboards – fifty each. Also, the women made a cash donation of N100, 000. 00 in aid of our sister Diocese of Ahoada whose office and equipment were gutted by fire.

5. The women have produced the Mothers' Union, Women's Guild and the Diocesan Anniversary uniforms.
6. Our Diocesan Women hosted the Provincial Women's Training/Workshop organised for Bishops' wives, Mothers' Union Workers, Women Trainers drawn from the thirteen Dioceses within the Province as well as the Provincial Women Officers, from 28th April to 1st May, 2010 at ACMGS, Elenwo.
7. We have since approved the adoption of the Sisters' Forum, an arm of the AYF, by the women of the Diocese as the only Single Ladies, Fellowship Group. By this development all other spinster groups like the Daughters of Hope have since been dissolved and the members directed to join the Sisters' Forum. It is the preference of

the Diocesan President to co-ordinate and sponsor the various spinster groups under one umbrella namely: the Sisters' Forum.

8. Girl's Guild is a Catch-them-young for Christ outfit of the Diocesan Women for our younger girls. Highlights of activities organised for them within this period of one year include seminars and workshops which were organised for Girls' Guild and Boys Brigade on 29th August, 2009 at St. Philip's Church, Oro-Igwe and Girls' Guild Conference on 25th and 26th June, 2010 at St. Mark's Church, Elemenwo Deanery. The girls also recorded a brilliant outing in an invitational Bible Quiz Competition organised by the Missionary Diocese of Enugu-North.

Perhaps, the reason behind the successes recorded by the Women Ministries in the last twelve months is the enthusiasm and readiness of the women and girls of our Diocese to make themselves available for the service of God and His Church. All the projects mentioned above were funded by the women themselves. It is worthy of mention that a good number of our churches have paid 100% of their 2009 quota to the Diocesan Women of our residual Diocese (without refund of the six months excess), and still cheerfully paid the half-year quota of our new Diocesan Women's Office which largely led to the smooth take-off of the Women's Work.

C) ANGLICAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Introduction:

On 11th October, 2009, 23 Pioneer Officers of Evo Diocesan Council were elected by members of the AYF at the Cathedral Church of All Saints', Rumuokwurusi. The principal officers include:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) Bro. F. U. Nwanwa (KSC) | - | President |
| (2) Bro. Gift Chukwumati | - | Vice President |
| (3) Bro. Silas W. Ekezie | - | General Secretary |
| (4) Bro. Handsome Worgu | - | Assistant Secretary |
| (5) Sis. Monica Echendu | - | Treasurer |
| (6) Bro. Franklin Dike | - | Financial Secretary |
| (7) Bro. Charles Chuku | - | P. R. O. |
| (8) Sis. Ruth Otuonye | - | Sisters' Forum Co-ordinator |

These officers were dedicated on 1st November, 2009, by his Lordship, the Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu at All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi. Since then the Council has relentlessly channelled her resources spiritual, human and material to the development of her members in the Diocese.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A notable achievement by the AYF in the year under review is the successful celebration of the 2010 National/Diocesan Youth Week in all the churches with the theme "***prepared for the Master's Use***" 2Tim 2: 21, and Leadership Training (Module 1) involving all levels of leaders from 19th – 21st March, 2010, at St. Nicholas' Church, Woji with the theme: "***Developing ideal leaders***".

D) COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS

On Thursday, 27th August, 2009, the Bishop held a familiarization/interactive meeting with the Knights of our Diocese and their ladies. The highlights of that meeting was the integration of all the knights and their ladies who were investistured in other Dioceses subsequent to the inauguration of the Council of Knights of the Diocese of Evo provided they pledged their loyalty and consistency in service to God and the Diocese.

The first meeting of the Council was held on the 15th of September, 2009 at the Cathedral with the sole purpose of electing a Council Executive Committee. The election was successfully held and the following persons were elected in the following order:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Eze Sir W. W. Orianwo | - | President |
| 2. Eze Sir T. O. A. Ejekwu | - | Vice President |
| 3. Sir Barr. Chief E. C. Izuehie | - | Secretary |
| 4. Sir O. Igwe | - | Assistant Secretary |
| 5. Sir Sam Amanda | - | Treasurer |
| 6. Sir Prof. A. O. Ibe | - | Financial Secretary |
| 7. Sir Silas Nnodi | - | P. R. O. |
| 8. Sir Roland O. Odum | - | Provost 1 |
| 9. Sir Chief Ben Emeka | - | Provost 2 |

In the same vein, the Ladies Auxiliary had their own election same day and the following were elected:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Lady C. N. Wachukwu | - | President |
| 2. Lady G. Okene | - | Vice President |
| 3. Lady Uzor Onweluzor | - | Secretary |
| 4. Lady Evangeline Nlerum | - | Assistant Secretary |
| 5. Lady Patience Wokoma | - | Treasurer |
| 6. Lady Prisca Weli | - | Financial Secretary |
| 7. Lady Evelyn Ejekwu | - | P. R. O. |
| 8. Lady Edna Odum | - | Provost 1 |
| 9. Lady Chioma Esimogu | - | Provost 2 |

INAUGURATION

The Executive Committee of the Council was formally presented to the Bishop on the 9th of October, 2009 consequent upon which the inauguration of the Council was fixed. History was made on Sunday, 18th October 2009 as the Diocese of Evo Council of Knights was inaugurated in a worship service held at St. Michael's Church, Rumuomasi Deanery.

COUNCIL CHAPTERS

In their bid to check administrative lapses and to ensure the participation of large number knights, chapters were created in line with the number of Deaneries and Archdeaconries in the Diocese namely, Cathedral, Rumuomasi, Rumuobiokani, Oginigba, Elelenwo, Okporo, Evo South-East, Woji, Oro-Igwe/Eliogbolo

PROJECTS:

The Council has embarked on the renovation of a hostel block at ACMGS at the cost of over N2. 5 million naira.

E) LAY READERS ASSOCIATION

At the interactive session with all lay readers in the Diocese where we made known our expectations from them which included the planting and nurturing of a new church, those present equally resolved to formally constitute themselves into a Diocesan Association of Lay Preachers/Ministers to continue to assist the ordained clergy in their day-to-day ministerial duties at the parish levels. We appointed the Rev. Canon B. A. Nwaoha to serve as their Chaplain and to organise them and raise a team of leaders for the Association through a formal election. This was achieved on Thursday 24th September, 2009 at the All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwursi and the following persons were elected into the Executive Committee of the Evo Diocesan Lay Readers Association:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Mr. C. B. Obidi | - | President |
| 2. Sir Ben Emeka | - | Vice President |
| 3. Mrs. Rachael Onunwor | - | Financial Secretary |
| 4. Mrs. Joyce Amaewhule | - | Treasurer |
| 5. Mr. ThankGod Amakiri | - | Prayer Secretary |
| 6. Mr. Christian Osonkie | - | Prayer Secretary |
| 7. Mrs. Nkechi Ejekwu | - | Welfare Officer 1 |
| 8. Mr. Chima Nwachuku | - | Welfare Officer 2 |
| 9. Mrs. Edna Davis | - | Provost 1 |
| 10. Mr. Okechuku V. Nathaniel | - | Provost 2 |
| 11. Mr. Bright Chukwu | - | Member |
| 12. Mr. Paul Chukwumati | - | √√ |
| 13. Evang. Justin Nwogwugwu, JP- | - | √√ |

We are glad to announce that the Association has since accomplished their assigned task of planting a new church with the formal take off of the Anglican Worship Centre at KM 1 ½, Igbo-Etche Road, Rumuokwursi on Sunday, 2nd May, 2010. An additional 30 new Lay readers were licensed at a Diocesan Service on Saturday, 10th July, 2010 after close to five months of intensive preparations. We commend the Association for their contributions to the growth of our Diocese and charge both old and new members to rise to the challenges of their assistantship ministry.

F) ANGLICAN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The A. C. M. was **inaugurated** on Saturday, August 15th, 2009 by His Lordship, the Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu. An interim executive was elected on the same day to lead the A. C. M. for six months until a proper constitutional election was held.

Elections were conducted on February 6th, 2010. The following emerged as officers:

(Elected/Ex-officio):

- i. Rev. Canon O. E. Igbamerun – Chaplain (Acting)
- ii. Mr. Justin Kalu – Leader
- iii. Mr. Hope Chiolu – Secretary
- iv. Miss Peace Iwezor – Assistant Secretary
- v. Mrs. Ifeoma Muanya – Treasurer
- vi. Mr. Wellborn Nchere – Financial Secretary/Acting Bible study coordinator
- vii. Mr. Osita Okpala – P. R. O.
- viii. Mr. Emeka Opara – Director Training
- ix. Mr. Thank-God Okuba – Registrar
- x. Mr. Confidence Okekem – Prayer Secretary
- xi. Rev. Canon Alex Usifoh (Ex-Officio) – Provincial P. R. O.
- xii. Engr. Kingsley Onyekwere (Ex-officio) – Provincial Representative

Evo Diocesan Anglican Children’s Ministry took Second Position at the 2009 Provincial A. C. M. Conference Quiz. Our children also came out 1st and 2nd best participants and so were asked to represent the Province at the National Quiz which took place at Ondo State in September, 2009. They could not however repeat their performance at the National level.

The Children Teachers were prompt to produce the Children Sunday School Manuals for the last quarter of 2009 and for 2010.

We are glad to announce that as part of the success story of the Diocesan Children’s Ministry, the 2010 Study Manual was adopted by the National Anglican Children’s Ministry for use in all Dioceses during the National A. C. M. meeting held on 19th February, 2010. The Ministry has just concluded their 1st Diocesan Children Conference which held between the 23rd and 25th July, 2010.

G) BOYS’ BRIGADE

Introduction:

A total of 17 officers were elected to pilot the affairs of the Anglican Communion Brigade in the Diocese on 17th October, 2009 at New Wine Church, Okporo. The following are the Principal Officers:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Capt. Raymond A. Nyeche | - | Coordinator |
| 2. Capt. Weli O. Nyebuchi | - | Asst. Coordinator |
| 3. Lt. God’swish Chinda | - | General Secretary |
| 4. Lt. Kinikanwo Chukwumati | - | Assistant General Secretary |
| 5. Lt. Ekezie Hope | - | Financial Secretary |
| 6. Capt. Ekamadu Kingsley | - | Treasurer |
| 7. Capt. Okekem F. Okekem | - | Training Officer |
| 8. Miss Jenifer Amadi | - | Welfare Officer |

ACHIEVEMENTS

The major remarkable achievement made amongst others was the successful hosting of the Annual Conference/Camp meeting at St. Matthias' Church, Atali Parish from 18th-20th December, 2009 with the theme: "***The consecrated life***". Highlights of the programme were:

- i. The Inauguration of the Anglican Communion Brigade/Dedication of the Diocesan Executives by us
- ii. The Induction by us of Sir G. C. Orianwo, Chief Alfred Amadi, Prince Ike Worlu, Lady Stella Wogu, and Mrs. Helen Ohaka as Diocesan Patrons and Patronesses
- iii. The Induction of the Diocesan Chaplain
- iv. Our induction as the Grand Patron of the Anglican Communion Brigade in the Diocese

H) THE TEACHING MINISTRY

It is only a properly disciplined congregation that can be effective in the church's witness outside. To this end, we have decided to pay serious attention to the teaching ministry through the activities of the Adult Sunday School/Discipleship Ministry led by Rev. Cephas Okarefe as Chaplain.

There is a strong link between the pastoral and the teaching ministries. A good pastor must be apt to teach. He should be able to help his flock know Christ better through his effective handling of the Word of truth- Biblical Scriptures. Some clergymen have in the past approached this vital aspect of the church's ministry with indifference. And we have since decided that this will no longer be the case.

In order to promote the teaching ministry of our Diocese, we hereby renew our earlier directive that in every Cathedral, Archdeaconry/Deanery/Parish or station, a pastor should be appointed by the Archdeacon, Rector or Vicar to coordinate the Sunday School Ministry with other lay assistants.

Adult Sunday School should be regarded as an integral part of every Sunday worship service. It should from now on take the place of the sermon at least on one Sunday in every month.

On other Sundays, it could be incorporated into the service just after the day's lessons or taken 40 minutes or 1 hour before the vestry prayers.

These 3 options are here presented to each head of the clergy team. They should mandatorily comply with them every month as anything done to the contrary will be viewed seriously.

Every member of this Diocese should see him/herself as a student of the Sunday School/Discipleship Ministry and should humbly cultivate a teachable spirit in order to grow unto Christian maturity.

Henceforth, the Annual Sunday School/Discipleship Ministry Conference will be regarded as the General/Open Conference of the Diocese. All clergy, their wives and Parishioners will be required to attend, not just the teachers alone.

An annual Bible week will also be introduced and this will hold simultaneously in all churches with expositions, inter-Deanery/Parish, groups/units Bible Quiz competitions, etc.

The Diocesan Chaplain of the Sunday School/Discipleship Ministry is hereby charged to work with the Archdeaconry and Deanery Chaplains to propose to us a Diocesan **Preparatory Manual for Confirmation Classes**. This should be ready by the end of the first quarter of 2011.

D) PRAYER MINISTRY

We are encouraged by the prayerful toils of the Diocesan Prayer Ministry with Rev. S. O. Abada as Chaplain. We urge them not to rest on their oars. The Diocesan Prayer Ministry is hereby directed to visit the churches and ensure the setting up of vibrant prayer teams at all levels.

COMMITTEE FOR THE CREATION OF EVO DIOCESE:

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The committee for the creation of the Diocese of Evo under the Chairmanship of Sir, Chief S. A. Wutche submitted its final report at the Diocesan Board meeting on Monday, 21st December, 2009, held at St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District. From the report the period of stewardship of the committee which spanned June, 2003 to 13th July, 2009 when the Diocese of Evo was eventually inaugurated. The following summary was gathered from the committee report:

1. Total income realised	-	N31, 854, 358. 80
2. To expenditure	-	N31, 806, 834. 6
3. Balance	-	N47, 524

Outstanding indebtedness by some individuals and churches amount to N41, 614, 334.

The Diocesan Board unanimously appreciated the Chairman Sir Chief S. A. Wutche and the members of the committee for a work well done.

We wish to use this medium to strongly appeal to all pledgers before and on the Inauguration Day to fulfil their pledges. It is a vow/commitment they made towards a godly cause. The money promised is still needed by the Diocese. It is not overtaken by any time or season. And we are sure that God has not written off such debts. They should please come and pay.

Once again we thank the Chairman Sir, Chief S. A. Wutche and members of his committee for their services and pray God to bless them eternally. Their report having been written submitted and accepted by the Diocesan Board and the cash balance paid into the Diocesan coffers and all members of the Committee now active members of the Diocesan Board by either election of appointment, we hereby declare the Committee on the Creation of Evo Diocese formally dissolved.

DIOCESAN CONVOCATIONS/SPECIAL SERVICES

FIRST REDEDICATION SERVICE:

In a bid to hand over the newly created Diocese of Ewo to God, a One-Day Diocesan Service of Prayer and Rededication was held at the All Saints' Cathedral Church, Rumuokwurusi on Saturday 12th September, 2009. This featured the Rededication of all Clergy, Activity Groups, Units and Arms of the Diocese for effective service to God.

SECOND REDEDICATION SERVICE:

To begin the New Year 2010 as a Diocese, the second Diocesan Rededication Service was held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery. This featured the dedication to God of all Clergy, Diocesan officials, Activity groups, Units and Arms and also the unveiling of the First Diocesan Sunday School/Discipleship Manual for 2010.

CENTRAL EPISCOPAL SERVICES:

As a matter of Policy, we decided to hold Central Diocesan Services for Confirmations, Induction into the Men's Christian Association (MCA), Admission into the Mothers' Union (MU), Induction into Women's Guild (WG) and Licensing of Lay Readers. These Central Episcopal Services were held as follows:

DATE	SERVICE	NO. OF CANDIDATES	VENUE
07/03/2010	MCA Induction	34	St. Jude's Ch. Oginigba Deanery
28/03/2010	Confirmation	45	All Saints' Cathedral R/Okwurusi <i>Palm Sunday</i>
22/05/2010	Admission into the MU	67	St. Mark's, Elelenwo Deanery
-	Induction into the WG	65	- DO -
10/07/2010	Licensing of Lay readers	30	St. Philip's, Oro-Igwe District

These candidates were confirmed, inducted, admitted and licensed after going through months of intense preparations through the clergymen appointed to prepare them.

ORDINATION SERVICES

About the 2009 Advent Ordination Service – We inherited four (4) Deacons from our residual Diocese and on Sunday 13th December, 2009 at an Advent Priestly Ordination Service, the following were ordained priest by us:

1. Rev. Gospel Eziwhuo Onuchukwu
2. Rev. Ugochukwu Lawrence Nwahaghi
3. Rev. Favour Onyemauche Iroegbulem

2010 Trinity Ordination Service – Rev. Moses Upright Anyaefena, the remaining Deacon was priested by us on Sunday 11th July, 2010 as part of the events to mark the First Anniversary Celebration of the creation of the Diocese of Evo.

DEDICATIONS

In the course of our Episcopal Visits, the following structures and assets built and acquired by our churches were dedicated

DATE	FACILITY	CHURCH
18/10/09	-Baptismal Pool	St. Michael's Rumuomasi Deanery
13/12/09	-Generator/Generator house	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi
14/2/2010	-Belfry	St. Mark's Eledenwo Deanery
	<i>Donated by the Children of the Late Rev. Canon & Mrs. Ndu</i>	
	-Parsonage/Staff Quarters	St. Mark's Eledenwo Deanery
28/2/2010	-Children's Hall/Offices	St. James' Church, Iriebe
7/3/2010	-Church Organ	St. Nicholas' Woji District
	<i>Donated by Sir & Lady Emeka Ihunwo</i>	
	-Children's Hall & Parsonage	St. Jude's Oginigba Deanery
18/4/2010	-Vicarage	St. Michael's Rumuomasi Deanery
23/5/2010	-Children's Hall/Parsonage/Offices	Church of the Holy Spirit, Eliozu Parish
27/6/2010	-Church Building	Christ Church, Fed. Housing Est. Woji
18/7/2010	-Sharp Digital Multifunctional System	St. Michael's Church Rumuomasi Deanery

11 BISHOP'S COURT PROJECT COMPLETION AND DEDICATION

One of the visible signs of our preparedness for a new Diocese of Evo was the commencement of the building of the Bishop's Court prior to its creation. As at the time of the inauguration of the Diocese, the Bishop's Court Project was at the decking stage. The challenge for a speedy completion of this magnificent edifice sparked off shortly after and more so when it was the former Primate's desire to dedicate it before retirement. The challenge was duly accepted and at the inaugural meeting of the Diocesan Board on Thursday 20th August, 2009, a 16-member Diocesan Projects Committee headed by Mr. Lawrence E. Chinda was set up to actualise the completion of the project within the remaining four months of the year. This committee was inaugurated by us on Tuesday 1st September, 2009 and thereafter members swung into full action. By the end of December 2009, the Bishop's Court was almost ready for dedication.

DEDICATION

With God on our side, the desire of our out-gone Primate was met as the Bishop's Court project was formally dedicated on Saturday, 9th January, 2010. Among the cream of personalities who graced this epoch-making ceremony were the former Primate himself, the Most Rev. Peter J. Akinola, then Primate-elect, the Most Rev. Nicholas Oko, (now Primate), our Archbishop of the Niger Delta Province, the Most Rev. I. C. O. Kattey, JP, other Archbishops and a long list of Bishops numbering over 50. There were other highly respected individuals who registered their presence during the occasion whose names we are not able to mention here. We pray God to reward as many as devoted their time, money, energy, etc, to ensure that this project was completed and successfully dedicated, especially, members of the Projects Committee, Sir Victor Dania and his Dedication Committee, some of our Deaneries and other well-meaning members of our Diocese. Please see Appendix One for a list of those who responded to our appeal last December for financial assistance towards the completion of the project and to whom we remain eternally grateful. Total amount spent so far on this project now stands at **N 34, 224, 178. 00m**

12 ARCHBISHOP PETER AKINOLA RETREAT CENTRE

The 40-room, four-storey building Retreat Centre which is located within the premises of Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School was built by St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery. This gigantic edifice was dedicated earlier the same day as the Bishop's Court.

In appreciation of the former Primate's patience, love and support for almost his last baby and in recognition of his meritorious service during his 10-year tenure, we decided to name the Retreat Centre after him, to be known as ARCHBISHOP PETER AKINOLA RETREAT CENTRE, RUMUOBIOKANI. The main hall was named after the Rt. Rev. Chidi C. Oparaojiaku in recognition and appreciation of his good stewardship of the money donated by the former Governor of Rivers State, Sir Peter Odili and entrusted to his care as the then Rector of the Deanery. The second hall was named after our Archbishop; the Most Rev. I. C. O. Kattey who was the Bishop under whose jurisdiction the project started and who also laid the foundation stone. The conference hall of the Centre bears the name of Sir Dr. Peter Odili, the donor of the initial N50 million with which the project commenced.

The Retreat Centre is open to all Churches in our Diocese as well as individuals and spiritual organizations for retreats, conferences and other spiritual activities.

TRAININGS

Our vision right from our election and the inauguration of the Diocese is to train and retrain our Pastors, wives and laity to meet the challenges of Urban Ministry especially in a new Diocese like ours.

During the period under review, the following trainings and retreats were held:

1. From the 27th of September to 3rd October, 2009, thirty-one of our delegates (comprising both Clergy & Laity) attended the Provincial Alpha Course at the St.

Paul's Cathedral Church, Diobu. Alpha is a 15-Session Practical Introduction to the Christian faith. The headquarters of the training organisation is in London from where the resource persons came to handle the training.

2. One-day Retreat for the Diocesan Bishop, Clergy and Wives at the Holy Ghost (Ang.) Church, Iriebe on Friday, 9th October, 2009
3. Monday, 14th – Thursday 17th December, 2009, Diocesan Bishop/Clergy Wives Retreat at Rikky Plaza Hotel Rumuobiokani. The theme was **“The Faithful Minister”**. The resource persons included the Most Rev. J. Akinfenwa, Archbishop of Ibadan Province and Mrs. Jane Nwankiti, wife of late Archbishop Nwankiti.
4. From Monday 26th to Friday 30th April, 2009 – Diocesan Bishop/Clergy Retreat was held at the Archbishop Peter Akinola Retreat Centre, Rumuobiokani Deanery. The Robert Institute for Mission and Development, Calabar, handled the training. The Clerks and Drivers were not left out in the training. They also had trainings as follows:
 5. Training for Diocesan Church Drivers (Module 1&2) was held on Saturday 6th March, 2010 and Saturday, 15 May, 2010. The Venue was St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani. The drivers are still demanding more of this defensive driving workshop.
 6. Training for Diocesan/Parish Clerks/Typists/Treasurers
Training for this category of Church Workers was also held as follows:
 - a) 6th-7th November, 2009 – Workshop on: *Office Management, Practice/Administration* for Treasurers, Clerks and Typists at St. Simon's (Ang.) Church, Okporo Deanery
 - b) Training for Diocesan/Church Clerks/Typists on *“Work Place Skills and Office Management”* at the Bishop's Office Chapel, Rumuokwurusi on Thursday 15th – Friday 16th April, 2010
7. There was a training for Church Sextons, Acolytes/Servers on 5th June, 2010. It is obvious that these trainings are yielding good fruits as can be seen in the performance of our Church Clerks/Typists.
8. Monday 5th – Tuesday 6th July, 2010, Workshop on **Church Planting, Growth and Management** for all clergy, their wives, Diocesan officials and Church Councils/activity groups/units leaders. This was handled by a team of Church Management Consultants led by Pastor Seyi Oladimeji from Lagos as part of the activities to mark the First Anniversary Celebration of our Diocese.

We wish to reiterate here that training will continue to receive priority in our Diocese. We thank our Churches for sponsoring their Pastors and other delegates to these retreats. We also thank the Churches that were used as venues.

9. OUR VISIT TO ANGLICAN CENTRE, ROME

From 15-21 February this year, we participated in a special course: **Lead Kindly Light: Leading the Church Today**”, at the Anglican Centre, Rome.

From Quebec to Nigeria, Wales to Ohio, Burundi to Australia, twenty –one participants met in Rome from 15 to 21 February for the course *“Lead, Kindly Light: Leading in the Church Today”*. The group, including five bishops, enjoyed the hospitality of David and Margie Richardson at the Anglican Centre, and learnt from the lifetime experience and wisdom of Dame Mary Tanner. The focus of our study was the ARCIC texts, set in the

context of Anglican-Roman Catholic relations. Bill Franklin took us back to *Apostolicae Curae*. Francis Campbell, British Ambassador to the Holy See, provided a fascinating background in Vatican diplomacy. Mrs. Chaplin, wife of the British Ambassador to Italy, welcomed us to the Ambassador's residence, the Villa Wolkonsky. Fr. Gosbert Byamungu from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity unravelled some of the mysteries of the Vatican, and Bishop Brian Farrell and Monsignor Mark Langham welcomed us to the offices of the PCPCU. Fr. Jim Puglisi at the *Centro Pro Unione* described its commitment to ecumenism for many years; and Philipa Hitchen gave us a tour of the Vatican Radio. We attended a papal general audience, and were the first English-speaking group to be publicly welcomed. Later we visited the excavations surrounding the tomb of St. Peter.

Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP gave two inspiring addresses on leadership, rooted in the Dominica tradition of 'conversation' and 'disputation'. We visited the St. Egidio Community, and joined a large congregation for community vespers in Santa Maria in Trastevere. On Ash Wednesday we attended an ecumenical liturgy at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in Caravita. We were greeted at St. Paul's Outside the Walls by the Abbot, where one of our number, Bishop Dennis Drainville of Quebec, celebrated an Eucharist for the group. Then came a talk on Muslim dialogue from Abbot Timothy Wright at the Beda College. We also went on sightseeing, led by one Jonathan Boardman.

OUR NEW FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING THE DIOCESE

Over the years Dioceses in what we now have as the Province of Niger Delta were funded by the churches through the traditional quota/assessment system. With time it was observed that some parishes were either over-assessed or under-assessed. Despite the fact that quota payment was placed as a first charge in the annual financial transactions of every Parish, many church leaders dragged their feet on the matter. The result was that the centre (Diocese) was starved of needed funds for its operations. A good number of our church managers of finance preferred to consolidate their local financial base while the centre struggled for survival.

This was our experience within the first six months of our existence. After a careful study and assessment of the average weekly performances of the churches and meetings with the Clergy, Church Teachers/Clerks, Finance Boards and Diocesan Board, we decided to abolish the traditional quota payment system. In its place we received approval to fund the Diocese with effect from 1st January, 2010 through income generated from the following sources:

- Remittance of 15% of all weekly (Monday-Sunday) cash income (Church Offering/Collection, Welfare, Project, Thanksgivings, Class Fees, Effort Sundays, Annual Budget/Other Launchings, Harvest Thanksgivings, Donations etc.) generated by Churches to the Diocese.
- Churches in Archdeaconry settings (apart from the Headquarters) are to remit 10% only to the Diocese and 5% to the Archdeaconry.
- Archdeaconry Headquarters churches are consequently to part with 20% of their weekly income to both the Diocese and the Archdeaconry.

1. Major Activity groups of the Diocese- MCA, MU/WG, Council of Knights, Lay-Readers Association are to remit 10% only of their income on quarterly basis to the Diocese.
2. Special quarterly offerings by Churches in support of the Diocese
3. Offerings in Churches for the Diocese during Bishop's Episcopal Visits
4. Thanksgiving Offerings during Bishop's Consecration and Diocese Inauguration Anniversary in all Churches
5. Special Annual Diocesan Endowment Fund by individuals - every Parishioner in Evo (MISSION PARTNERS) for:
 - i Mission, Evangelism and Church Planting
 - ii Education (Development of Diocesan schools and colleges)
 - iii Investments
 - iv Special Ministries (Widows, Youth Empowerment, Retired Clergy, the Aged, Hospital, Orphanages, Prisons and Physically Challenged)
6. Income from Annual Diocesan Synod:
 - i. Registrations, Launching of the Bishop's Charge/Address, Offertories, General thanksgiving by individuals, Churches and Groups at the end of Synod
8. Clergy and Diocesan Workers' Tithes (to be deducted at source and remitted to Diocese by Treasurers)

Seven months into our implementation of the new strategies, records available show a very good performance by the various churches. The major activity groups like the MCA, MU/WG, Council of Knights/Ladies, Lay Readers and the 3 Archdeaconries have unfortunately performed dismally.

One of the sources – the voluntary Diocesan Endowment Fund has also performed far below our projection, which ought not to be so. It is voluntary and the scriptures encourage us to give willingly and cheerfully instead of waiting for an imposition. We direct all pastors to enlighten our members adequately on the need to identify with the Endowment Fund vision to enable the Diocese execute the projects specifically tied to the fund.

We are glad however to announce that the Diocese has been run exclusively with income generated through the new strategies. No form of financial assistance has come to us from anybody, agency or group outside of Evo (except of course, a few donations that came during the 1st anniversary thanksgiving service).

With what God has given us so far we have been able to pay about N3. 8m to our Mother Diocese of Niger Delta North, being outstanding debts owed by some of our Deaneries and Parishes before our take-off; effected repairs on our Diocesan office accommodation and purchased some office equipment. We have also purchased some equipment for our Diocesan Communication Unit, paid all our 2010 assessments to the Church of Nigeria and Provinces of Niger Delta; contributed fully to the Provincial Send-forth and reception of our former and new Primate, assisted some of our Churches in their projects, started a Diocesan Printing Press, funded the Bishop's Court Project, supported our secondary schools and activity groups; assisted some Dioceses – Northern Izon, Kano and Katsina towards their Mission and Evangelism; Bukuru and Jos in response to their Macedonian calls after the recent Jos Crisis; paid for the purchase of 10 plots of land at the F. C. T. Abuja for future investments, paid the sum of N2m levied our Diocese for the building of a students' hostel block at the newly

approved Anglican Communion (Former Province 2)-owned Paul's University, Awka, Anambra State.

While we sincerely thank all churches for their performances so far, we shall however not hesitate to admonish all operators of our churches finances to ensure utmost sincerity in their calculations and remittance of what ought to go to the Diocese. The new policy was not an imposition but one that passed through several painstaking levels of discussion and approval. We as Bishop of the Diocese of Evo do not have any plans to place any unnecessary yoke/burden on our churches. That is why the current arrangement allows for Churches to support the Diocese with an affordable percentage of what God our Source of supplies brings through the worshippers into their treasuries. Those who are now subtly defrauding the Diocese in the guise of protecting their local parish interest should remember that God the real owner of what they claim to be theirs, is watching their action and listening to their new distorted line of reasoning. We charge them to immediately remit back to the Diocese all they have kept back these past months in their own interest. They should remember Ananias and Saphira.

DIOCESAN INVESTMENTS

Part of our vision for our Diocese is that the Diocese of Evo should have a strong financial base that is less dependent on Churches. This is to ensure that individual churches, both old and new would stand on a sound financial footing and be able to take care of their internal needs without struggles. The only way to achieve this goal is to embark on both long term and short term investments. The intention is also that with a strong financial centre, we would be able to carry out certain responsibilities such as church planting and external missions without recourse to churches. This informed the special Diocesan Finance Board meeting held at ACMGS, Elelenwo on November 18, 2009 mainly to discuss Investment Options and Opportunities. During this meeting, the Diocesan Financial Adviser, Sir, Engr. F. I. Mbeledogu addressed the Board and presented the underlisted investment areas of interest under a corporate Entity to be known as Evo Investment Company.

1. Establishment of a Printing Press which idea had been muted by the Diocesan Adult Sunday School and Discipleship Ministry
2. Establishment of Evo Mass Transit
3. Establishment of Shopping Complexes
4. Building Houses
5. Real Estate Development
6. Clothing Industry
7. Establishment and running of Top Class Academic Institutions

Sequel to the upholding of the above investment ideas by the Board, a Diocesan Investment Committee was constituted with Sir Engr. F. I. Mbeledogu as its Chairman. Others in the Committee include the following persons:

Rev. Canon Okarefe

Sir Ken Utchay

Sir Victor Dania

Sir Morgan Amadi

Lady Stella Worgu

Mr. Emmanuel O. Chinda

Engr. Chika Chinda

Mrs. Florence Edeki

Dennis W. Echeonwu (Esq)

Sir Chief Dr. Emeka G. Ihunwo

Ven. Sunny Opara

a) DIOCESAN PRINTING PRESS

As we have mentioned earlier, the idea of a Diocesan Printing Press is an initiative of the Diocesan Sunday School and Discipleship Ministry. The Diocese saw this investment interest as laudable but felt that the dream might not be actualised if left with the above unit. Consequently, the Diocese through the Investment Committee had to take it over as machinery for its actualization was set in motion.

The launching of this primal investment of the Diocese took place at St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery on Saturday, 23rd January, 2010 during the second Diocesan Re-dedication service.

It is our joy today to announce that the Diocese now owns a Printing Press which is temporarily sited at ACMGS. A proof of the taking off of OUR Printing Press is further evidenced by the rolling out of its first products which include:

1. A. C. M. Conference Posters/Programmes
2. First Anniversary Thanksgiving Service Programmes
3. First Diocesan Synod Programme of Events, and Sunday Service envelops

Amount spent so far on this project is N9, 141, 654. 51, covering the acquisition of the following equipment:- MOZP Printing Machine, Cutting Machine, 60-KVA Sound Proof Perkins Engine Generator, Laser Printing Machine and Computers programmed for Graphics.

By this laudable development, we hereby charge all Churches to patronize OUR Press by sending their printing jobs there as this is the only way it can grow, which jobs MUST be paid for. We commend the efforts of the Investment Committee led by Sir Francis I. Mbeledogu as we look forward to other investment open-doors very soon.

b) LAND ACQUISITION

We are glad to announce to the Synod that arrangements have been completed for the acquisition of **10** (ten) plots of land at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja for future investments by our Diocese.

OUR DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

Our Mission in the area of Education has been very challenging since the formal return of Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, Elelenwo to us by the Rivers State Government two years ago. Our initial interface with government for the renovation of the dilapidated school did not achieve the desired result. So we had to do things ourselves.

Following our inauguration as the Diocese of Ewo, the two secondary schools, Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School (BCMSS), Rumuobiokani for boys, and Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School (ACMGS), Elelenwo, for girls, became part of our charge.

To enable us actualise our vision on education, we constituted an **Education Board** made up of some of the best brains, managers, and teachers in the Educational Sector to see to the day-to-day running of these schools and with a charge to explore the possibility of opening more new Nursery/Primary and Secondary schools within our Diocese. The Venerable F. N. Akah, JP heads the Board. Other members are:

1. Barr. G. O. Dike
2. Lady D. Mbeledogu
3. Mr. Felix Wodi
4. Dame Nnenda C. Anwuri, JP
5. Dame Sylverline Nwachukwu
6. Sir Dr. Samuel Egwu
7. HRH, Eze Sir W. W. Onunwor, President-Diocesan Council of Knights
8. Sir Reginald Wagboso, Diocesan MCA President
9. Mrs. Chinyere Ordu, Principal, ACMGS, Elelenwo
10. Mr. Timothy Otuka, Principal, BCMSS, Rumuobiokani Deanery
11. Prof. Joe E. Amadi-Echendu, University of Pretoria, South-Africa
12. Mr. Charles Wopara

We are most grateful to God and to members of the Board for the success already being achieved for us not only in students' enrolment, the quality of teaching and learning but also in the overall infrastructural development in these schools.

ENCROACHMENT ON ACMGS , ELELENWO LAND

Apart from the funds needed for the development of the schools, we are faced with the most distracting and shameful act of trespass on ACMGS, Elelenwo land by certain members of the community. This has been of great concern to us. We have prayed for them and do hope that God will touch their hearts to repent of this condemnable act and return the more than 60 plots of land given to the mission by their fathers. It is important that we resound our initial note of warning to those who plotted and sold out the land and to their prospective buyers, that as long as the Almighty God and this Church have not affirmed their actions, it will be in their best interest to withdraw both their present occupation and investment in that property.

RENOVATION/FUNDING OF PROJECTS IN OUR DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

At the Special Diocesan Board Session on Education and Investments held at ACMGS, Elelenwo on Wednesday, 18 November, 2009, we proposed and it was approved that the Cathedral, Archdeaconries, Deaneries and some major Diocesan activity groups should collaborate/assist the Diocese in the funding and infrastructural development of the two

secondary schools inherited by us. Consequently at a meeting of the Education Board with the Archdeacons/Administrators, Rectors and representatives of the major groups of the Diocese held on 14th April, 2010, the renovation and erection of new projects in the schools were assigned as follows:

A) BISHOP CROWTHER MEMORIAL SECONDARY SCHOOL, RUMUOBIOKANI

S/N	PROJECTS	CHURCHES/GROUPS
1	Erection of two-storey building staff quarters	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery
2	Erection of Assembly hall and chapel (2-storey buildings)	(1) St. Michael's Church, Rumuomasi Deanery (2) St. Jude's Church, Oginigba Deanery (3) Evo South-East Archdeaconry
3	Erection of a storey building for Nursery and Primary Schools	(1) St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery (2) Oro-Igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry (3) Diocesan Men's Christian Association
4	Renovation of 2 staff quarters	Diocesan Ladies Auxiliary
5	Construction of Drainage System	Diocesan Education Board

B) ARCHDEACON CROWTHER MEMORIAL GIRLS' SCHOOL, ELELENWO

S/N	PROJECTS	CHURCHES/GROUPS
1	Renovation of 2 dormitory Blocks	All Saints' Cathedral Church, Rumuokwurusu
2	Renovation of one dormitory block and one staff quarters	Diocesan council of Knights
3	Renovation of one classroom Block; Kitchen and Dining hall	St. Mark's Church, Elemenwo Deanery
4	Renovation of 2 classroom Blocks, Library and Assembly hall	Woji Archdeaconry
5	Renovation of one dormitory Block and one staff quarters	Mothers' Union and Women's Guild

This Board's decision is meaningfully being pursued by the Education Board. We are happy to announce to you that The Council of Knights, St. Mark's Church, Elemenwo Deanery, the MU/WG have already moved in and, in collaboration with the Diocese, to commence development works in the schools assigned to them. We urge other units and archdeaconries to follow suit and give our schools the much desired facelift. They will be expected to give a report of their tangible performance by the next session of this Synod.

TAKEOVER OF WOJI TOWN WORD OF FAITH SCHOOL LIMITED

Our current focus on quality standardised teaching and learning has opened a fresh window of outreach in the area of management of schools outside those originally owned by us. We have concluded the legalisation process required for effective management of Woji Town Word of Faith Group of Schools limited recently handed over to the Diocese of Evo by the Proprietors, Dame Beatrice Eke, wife and HRM, King, Sir, Dr. Amb. Frank Eke, JP, Eze Gbakagbaka, Eze Oha-Evo II for administration in line with our Mission Objectives.

As a Diocese, we are committed to the formal all round education of our children as part of our Mission. We believe that working for the recovery of the ideals of Mission-type education will contribute in great measure to a better Nigerian society. What we have lost in the 40 years of government takeover of our schools, we can achieve again with your prayers and the support

of all, both State and the people. We therefore urge the government of Rivers State to see its decision to return schools to their original owners as an invitation for the Mission Agencies to partner with the State in the task of building an egalitarian Nigerian society where righteousness, justice and patriotism will reign supreme.

FINANCIAL/WELFARE GUIDELINES FOR THE DIOCESE

As a result of the observed irregularities and inconsistencies in the payment of salaries, allowances and other welfare incentives to church workers, the need arose for us to have a well-thought out document on the regulation of financial and welfare matters based on present realities of our time. Therefore a Committee to review the financial guidelines of our residual Diocese adopted by us was set up at the Diocesan Board meeting held on Monday 21st December, 2009 at St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District. The Committee was mandated to audit/review what is being presently implemented with a view to formulating what is best and affordable by this Diocese and her churches. Members include the following:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| 1. Sir Collins Amadi | - | Chairman |
| 2. Mr. G. E. Chukwu | - | Secretary |
| 3. Mr. Emeka Izuchukwu | - | member |
| 4. Sir Eze P. A. Okene | - | √√ |
| 5. Mr. G. I. Chinda | - | √√ |
| 6. Mr. Lawrence Chinda | - | √√ |
| 7. Rev. Bright Okocha | - | √√ |
| 8. Mr. Agnes Ezenta | - | √√ |
| 9. Ven. Sunny Opara (Ag. Diocesan Fin. Sec.)- | √√ | |
| 10. Sir Chief Engr. Ken Utchay (Diocesan Treasurer) | √√ | |

The committee's terms of reference include but are not limited to:

- Review the existing Financial Policy of our residual Diocese which we are using
- Harmonize the local allowances payable in Evo Diocesan Churches
- Formulate what is best and affordable by the Diocese and churches in Evo
- An initial report was submitted to the Diocesan Board held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010. Members were asked to forward their reactions by way of memoranda to the committee.
- The committee has since submitted its final report, awaiting the final deliberations of the Diocesan Board
- It is hoped that when finally approved by the Diocesan Board, the take-off date will be January 2011

We thank and appreciate the efforts and sacrifices of Sir Collins Amadi and his Committee members in making sure this work is ready. We pray God to bless and find you continually useful in His service in Jesus Name. Amen.

DIOCESAN CONSTITUTION

The Diocese of Evo is currently using the adopted constitution of our residual Diocese. As a full-fledged Diocese, there is the need for us to have a constitution that we can refer to as our own, a constitution that will address our peculiar environment, experiences and needs. Consequently at the Diocesan Board meeting held at the Holy Trinity Church Elingbu Parish on Wednesday 3rd March, 2010, a Constitution Drafting Committee to propose a new Diocesan Constitution was set up. It has as its members:

1. Barr. Nlerum Amadi (Ag. Registrar)	-	Chairman
2. Barr. Chimezie Otuonye (Ag. Deputy Registrar, Lands)	-	Member
3. Barr. G. O. Dike (Legal Secretary)	-	√√
4. Chief, Sir, Barr. Mike Wodi (Snr. Sp. Asst. To the Bishop, Legal Matters)	-	√√
5. Ven. Chidi S. Worgu	-	√√
6. Rev. Canon C. E. Ogu	-	√√
7. Ven. F. N. Akah, JP	-	√√
8. Rev. Bright Okocha	-	√√
9. Lady Lale Aminobiren	-	√√
10. Dame Meg Orianwo	-	√√
11. Dame P. Nnosiri	-	√√
12. Engr. Odinigwe Mokelu	-	√√
13. Mr. John Okene	-	√√
14. Eze, Sir, T. O. A. Ejekwu	-	√√
15. Mr. G. E. Chukwu	-	√√
16. Mr. G. I. Ebenezer	-	√√
17. Sir Friday Nwanwa	-	√√

The Committee is expected to submit an interim report of their assignment by the next meeting of the Diocesan Board in September, 2010 and their final report by the end of the second quarter of 2011. We pray for the wisdom of God on members to enable them deliver on their assignment.

RETIREMENT OF TWO CLERGY

We announce the retirement of two Clergy from the services of the Diocese. They are:

1. Ven. S. Bayo Odukoya – Pioneer Archdeacon, Woji Archdeaconry who retired on the 31st December, 2009
2. Ven. K. O. Amadi, JP – Rector, Rumuomasi Deanery who retired on 31st March, 2010

The Diocese organised a send forth for the Ven. & Mrs. S. Bayo Odukoya at a Diocesan Advent Ordination service on Sunday the 13th December, 2009 at the All Saints' Cathedral Church, Rumuokwurusi where he preached.

A similar send forth was organised for Ven. K. O. Amadi, JP at a Diocesan Centralized Confirmation Service on Palm Sunday, 28th March, 2010 at the All Saints' Cathedral Church, Rumuokwurusi. He also preached his valedictory sermon on that occasion.

We thank immensely St. Michael's Church, Rumuomasi Deanery for according him a befitting send forth on Sunday 21 March, 2010. We do not know if St. Nicholas' Woji and the Archdeaconry organized any send forth for Ven. S. Bayo Odukoya.

We shall remain grateful to these retired clergy for their services to the Diocese of Evo and wish them robust health, long and blissful life in retirement.

DONATIONS

We acknowledge with deep gratitude some outstanding generous donations from a few members and friends of our Diocese. They include:

1. Donation of six (6) plots of land to the Diocese by Eze Francis Amadi, Paramount Ruler of Iriebe Community
2. Donation of school Assembly Hall by Chief Joel Amadi for use by the Church of the Advent, Rumuewhara, planted by St. Philip's Church, Oro-Igwe District
3. Donation of a 3-bedroom flat by Mr Lawrence Chinda for the Priest at the Church of Advent, Rumuewhara
4. Making of the Bishop's throne in the Cathedral Church and the furnishing of the Bishop's Court Chapel (Marble altar table, lectern, baptismal font and 40 white plastic chairs by HRH Eze Simeon Chidi Wokoma, JP
5. Donation of two (2) plots of land along Igbo-Etche Road by Eze Sir Engr. B. A. Worgu and family for the Diocesan Printing Press
6. A clergyman and his wife who preferred anonymity donated bed-sheets and pillow cases for the new Bishop's Court
7. In response to our appeal for the furnishing of the Bishop's Court, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Majebe donated a giant deep freezer, fridge, pots and other modern kitchen utensils.
8. Sir S. A. Wutche donated a wall clock and an air conditioner for the Bishop's Court
9. Mrs. Christie Jumbo, the Proprietress/Principal of Royal Girls' Academy, Ozuoba who is also an Old Girl of the school donated a total of 53 fairly used students' seats/desks to the school (ACMGS).
10. On 13th of April, 2010, ACMGS took delivery of the donation of 100 class mate PCs, laptops with full internet facilities, and Printers by the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) and its School Access Programme SAP through Zinox Technologies Ltd (Zinox computers). The selection of ACMGS as one of the very few beneficiaries of this scheme was based on its nomination by Ms Amal Pepple, Head of Federal Civil Service (now retired) – another Old Girl of ACMGS.
11. The Provincial Women of Niger Delta donated a copy of the Alter Version of the new Book of Common Prayer to the School's Chapel of Grace and Knowledge.
12. A female member of one our churches who prefers to remain anonymous, has donated one set of executive table and chair for the office of the Principal.

There were other donations from a few others who have pleaded to remain anonymous.

On behalf of ourself and the Synod, we thank these persons for their liberality. May the Lord who alone rewards bless them and make fat their souls.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Activities to mark the 1st Anniversary of the creation of Evo Diocese and Enthronement of the Bishop took place from Sunday 4th July to Sunday 11th July, 2010 with the theme: “*Lord, teach us to number our days*” (Ps. 90: 12).

The week’s activities which were designed to reflect a period of stocktaking over the last one year since the creation of the Diocese, a look-ahead to the future, and positioning for growth and activities were planned to involve as many Church main groups as possible (Clergy, Laity, Women, Youth, etc) and to be spread across the diverse locations in the Diocese, to create a feeling of belonging and ownership by all. To this end, the week’s activities were sited at locations such as Elelenwo, Iriebe, Oro-Igwe, Rumuobiokani and Rumuokwurusu.

Prior to the commencement of the Anniversary Week proper, a TV documentary, titled “*Evo Diocese: The Journey so far*” was produced, and aired on RSTV on the week preceding the Anniversary week. The production of the Documentary was sponsored by the following individuals and organisations to whom we are ever so grateful.

1. Chief Sir & Lady Ray Amadi
2. New Idea Construction Company
3. Sir & Lady Ugo Ohuabunwa
4. Pentagon Securities Nig. Ltd
5. Eze Sir & Lady Sydney O. Worlu
6. Zan Nig. Ltd
7. Sir Engr. & Lady Ama Hart

In addition to this Documentary, there will be a special Anniversary Calendar, which will be launched during this Synod.

The Anniversary week proper was heralded on Sunday 4th July, by rallies held simultaneously by All Churches, to publicise the 2-day Crusade at Iriebe (on 8/9th July). These rallies all ended up at Iriebe, storming the environs for God, and sensitising the people towards the crusade.

On Monday and Tuesday, 5th and 6th July, a Training Workshop on “*Strategies for Church Planting, Growth and Management*” took place at St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani. This workshop, aimed at all Clergy and their wives, Diocesan Officials and all Lay Leadership of the Diocese, addressed how to make Churches grow numerically, spiritually and physically. The Training, conducted by Pastor Seyi Oladimeji of Church Management Consult (CMC), Lagos had attendance figures over the 700 delegates planned. In addition, clergy from neighbouring Ikwerre Diocese and the Bishop of Okrika Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Abere and some of his clergy also attended.

On Wednesday 7th July, the maiden Annual Cathedral Lecture took place at All Saints’ Cathedral Church, Rumuokwurusu under the Chairmanship of Barr. O. C. J. Okocha (SAN), with His Grace, the Most Rev. I. C. O. Kattay as Chief Host and His Excellency Sir G. T. G. Toby, former Deputy Governor of Rivers State as Special Guest of Honour. The evening featured two Lectures; “*The Role and Challenges of Mentoring in Churchmanship*” delivered by His Grace, The Most Rev. B. C. I. Okoro, Archbishop of Owerri Province, and “*Creation of Evo Diocese: Beyond Evangelism what next?*” delivered by the Rev. Dr. Wilson Badejo; General Overseer Emeritus of the Four Square Gospel Church, Nigeria.

A 2-day Crusade, with the theme: *“The Lord, Our Refuge”* took place at Iriebe on 8th and 9th July, with an international Guest Preacher, the Rev. George Amaoh; the Founder/General Overseer of The Word of Faith Bible Church International, Accra, Ghana. This event was favoured with very clement weather, and witnessed scores of people giving their lives to Jesus on both days. There was a Church Service with Licensing of Lay readers on Saturday 10th July, hosted by Oro-Igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry at St. Philip’s Church, Oro-Igwe. This was followed in the evening by a Choral/Variety Night at St. Mark’s Church, Elelenwo Deanery, under the Chairmanship of His Lordship, Hon. Justice Iche Ndu, Chief Judge of Rivers State, who donated cash prizes for all categories of choral and other literary presentations. In addition, one of the Guests, Prof. Walter Ollor has promised to donate trophies for future Choral Competitions.

The grand finale of the Anniversary celebrations was the Thanksgiving Service, with Ordination of one Priest on Sunday 11th July, at the All Saints’ Cathedral Church, Rumuokwursi. It was attended by a mammoth crowd. The Rt. Rev. Sosthenes Eze, Bishop of Enugu North Diocese preached the sermon on the theme: *“The Lord: Our Refuge”*, while the Rt. Rev. T. O. B. Fajemirokun, Bishop, Ijesha North Diocese was Guest Celebrant.

PROVINCIAL/CHURCH OF NIGERIA CONVOCATIONS

As a Diocese we have participated in all the major special convocations of the Province of Niger Delta and Church of Nigeria Anglican communion since our inauguration. These include:

1. the Niger Delta Bishops and Wives Provincial Council Meetings at the Diocese of Okrika, 9-10 September, 2009
2. Church of Nigeria Standing Committee Meeting at the Diocese of Umuahia, 14-18 September, 2009
3. Conference of Bishops of Missionary Dioceses (though not as a Missionary Diocese) 26th – 31st October, 2009
4. Niger Delta Bishops and Wives/Provincial Council Meetings at the Diocese of Ogoni, 17-18 March, 2010
5. Church of Nigeria Standing Committee Meeting at the Diocese of Abuja, 22-26 September, 2009
We participated in these meetings with our official delegates – Bishop’s wife, Mrs. Chinyere Ordu; the Acting Registrar, Barr. Nlerum Amadi, the Clerical Synod Secretary, Ven Chidi Worgu, the Diocesan Treasurer, Sir Kenneth Utchay.
6. Some members of our Diocese, Clergy and lay attended both the Provincial and National send forth events in honour of our retired Primate, the Most Rev. Peter J. Akinola here in Port Harcourt and at Abuja in February and March respectively; and the ceremonial service of the Presentation of the new Primate, the Most Rev. Nicholas Okoh at Abuja on Thursday, 25th March, 2010 and the Provincial reception for him at St. Paul’s Cathedral Diobu, Port Harcourt on Friday, 29 March, 2010.
7. Our Diocesan Men, Women, Youth, Sisters’ Forum and Children equally participated at their Provincial and National gatherings. We thank God for travelling mercies and fruitful deliberations.

OUR JOYS

We rejoice with all members of this Diocese whom God blessed in diverse ways. We congratulate the Rev. Favour Iroegbulem and his wife, Nkechi on their wedding in October last year, and Former Miss Chikaru Wosu, Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Bishop's wife, (now Mrs. Chikaru Oloruntobi), also for her successful marriage to James last November.

The following clergymen and wives were blessed with new babies within the last one year. They include: Ven. & Mrs. Chidi Wogu, Rev. Canon & Mrs. Okechukwu Owhonda, Rev. Canon & Mrs. B. C. Eke, Rev. & Mrs. Godfrey Onyemelukwe and the Bishop's Chaplain, Rev. & Mrs. Chimaobi Chieme. We congratulate them.

The under-listed members received appointments to higher offices at both the State and National levels:

1. Surveyor Gaius Assor - Appointed the Surveyor General of Rivers State
2. Barr. Theophilus Owzor - Appointed Federal Government Prosecutor to the Jos Crises by the President
3. Dr. (Mrs.) Elizabeth Okeke Promoted to the rank of professor of Education at the University of Port Harcourt
4. Mr. Emmanuel Umeohama Promoted Manager in First Bank Nigeria, PLC
5. Sir Jonathan Atama - Promoted from Assistant Superintendent of Police (A. S. P.) to Superintendent of Police (SP) by the Nigerian Police
6. Mr. Akudo Nnabugwu - Promoted to Senior Accountant in the Federal Ministry of Information and Communication, Abuja

We congratulate these brethren and sisters and wish them God's grace, guidance and greater success even in their new positions.

OUR SORROWS

We commiserate with all God's people in the Diocese who lost their loved ones by death within the last one year, among whom are:

1. HRH, Eze Sir W. W. Onunwor JP, a member of the Diocesan Board who lost his wife, Dame Nchelem Onunwo
2. Sir, Eze Ihekwa who lost his wife, Lady Oby Ihekwa
3. Rev. Canon B. C. Eke, who lost his father
4. Rev. Canon Leo Nwachukwu, who lost his mother
5. Rev. Samuel Obialor, who also lost his mother
6. Mrs. Hope Chinweze, the wife of Rev. Reginald Chinweze, who lost her mother
7. Rev. Ebenezer Owzor, who lost his wife, Mrs. Rose Owzor
8. HRM, King, Sir, Dr. Amb. Frank Eke, JP, Eze Gbakagbaka, Eze Oha-Evo II who lost his wife, Dame Beatrice Eke on Sunday, 25th July, 2010

May the Lord grant them the consolation of his Spirit in Jesus Name. Amen.

DIOCESAN MEDIA MINISTRY

We thank God for the array of men and women in our midst with years of experience particularly in the mass media. We see them as God's gift to His church. While we call on all professionals to humbly use their wealth of knowledge and years of experience to offer selfless services at both the Diocesan and at their local parish levels, it is however our desire in particular to constitute all our brethren/sisters in the Mass Media into what shall now be known as the DIOCESAN MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION MINISTRY. This unit of the Diocese will concentrate on publicising the activities of the entire Diocese in the Mass Media. As a growing Diocese, we must be heard and positively too. The nation and the world needs to hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as correctly preached by us and our response to local, national and international issues.

This ministry is to ensure the regular publication (on quarterly basis) of our Diocesan Magazine which we hereby pronounce "GO-TELL MAGAZINE". In doing this, serious attention must be paid to quality and excellence as anything short of these will be unacceptable to us. Members of the Ministry are:

1. Rev. Canon Chuka Opara - Chaplain
2. Sir Victor Iyalla - Diocesan Communicator
3. Mr. Kasarachi Innocent - Bishop's Press Secretary
4. Mrs. Yemi Seyi-Alabi - Member
5. Mr. Gershom Amaewhule - Member

Those wishing to be part of the ministry should please feel free to come forward.

INDUCTION AND LICENSING SERVICES

Induction into the Men's Christian Association, Mothers' Union/Women's Guild and Sisters' Forum of our Diocese will from now till the next few years be held only at the Diocesan level for each of these groups.

Similarly, licensing of Lay Readers will be held only at the Diocesan level after training.

Admission of new members into the Girls' Guild and Boys Brigade will now hold once a year only at the Cathedral, Archdeaconry and Deanery levels (no more at the Parish/Station levels). Archdeacons, Rectors and Administrators are to preside over such services.

RECORD KEEPING

We are sad to report to this Synod that our visits to churches in the last one year have revealed that a very poor culture of record keeping and accountability prevails in most places. This is most disheartening.

Pastors, church clerks and wardens now find it so difficult to preserve vital church documents and records of events in the stations.

How can we possibly know where we are heading to if we do not know where we are coming from or even where we are? Church inventories/accounts of money received and spent are

poorly kept; Preachers Books are improperly filled and in some cases not filled at all for upward of one year or more. Records of those baptized, confirmed and/or married in the Church, admitted or licensed into various groups are in some places none existent. This is shameful, more so with all our modern day education. We will continue to hold the pastors accountable for these lapses if they are not checked.

In churches where there are more than one pastor, one of the curates should be charged with the task of keeping the Baptismal, Confirmation, Marriage, MU/WG, MCA, Lay Readers and Burial Registers and the Preachers' Book. The Pastor's Warden should equally be engaged to assist. If the pastor is alone, he and his Warden should share the responsibilities.

Every church should in addition set up an Inventory/Assets Committee. Treasurers, Church Clerks and Financial Secretaries should faithfully present a monthly performance account of the Church's finances at the meetings of the Church Council.

Clergymen and their wives on transfer should be **detailed** enough in their **Handover Notes** to their incoming successors as it concerns records of assets.

On no account should any pastor demand to be sent forth when he has failed to keep the house he is leaving in order. And of course, no church from now should discuss or actually organize the send-forth of any pastor and wife until they have physically moved out and settled in their new stations. It is immoral for any pastor to stay back to either openly or subtly influence his send-forth. While we urge Church Councils and Congregations to be fair and just in the handling of such matters, we admonish Church Workers to avoid influencing decisions to that effect to favour themselves.

CHURCH WEDDING AND MARRIAGE

Marriage in every religion and culture is a happy thing. God ordained it and Jesus demonstrated his support for the marriage institution with his presence at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

As a gift of God in creation and a means of His grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh, it is the duty of the Church not only to encourage its members to go into it but most importantly, to advise and prepare their minds properly before they are joined.

The Church is strongly opposed to premarital sex. It is a sin against God and a sure way of weakening the spiritual foundation of the impending union. If however, a would-be couple is overtaken in the sin of fornication and the girl becomes pregnant before wedding, the Church does not advise the abortion of the foetus as it is also a sin against God and the unborn child. Our position remains that the pregnancy be allowed to mature and the proposed wedding kept on hold. Between two to three months after the delivery of the child, the couple would now come for BLESSING OF MARRIAGE by the priest. Such couple should be led first in proper prayers of repentance to God by the priest.

Intending couples wishing to be joined in matrimony in any of our churches should first apply in writing to the priest in charge 5 months before the date of their solemnization. The priest or his Marriage Committee should in turn interview them, examine them medically and ensure that they are adequately counselled on marriage and family life before the marriage service is

conducted. All the prescribed notes on the conduct of marriage services should be strictly adhered to by the priest.

The following persons are hereby appointed to develop a Diocesan Counselling Manual on Marriage and Family Life, within six months:

1. Rev. Canon Godwin Chinda
2. Rev. Chimaobi Chieme
3. Mrs. Uju Opara
4. Mr. Godwin I. Chinda
5. Mrs. Ijeoma Anagbogu

BISHOP'S BOYS

Sometime in the recent past in our society the expression “Mr. A is Mr. B’s Boy” was common place. The expression had just one denotative meaning and nothing more and that was that Mr. A was an apprentice to Mr. B usually in a trade or hand work. In this light, the phrase simply referred to mentorship, a practice through which the African taught the youth business, skills and societal mores. Nothing was wrong with either the practice or the phrase.

Today phrase has come to take hues that connote partners-in-crime, cheerleaders, sycophants, executors, suppressors of opponents of their principals, private armies and die-hard loyalists who lack the ability to reason for themselves. It has even crept into the Church.

Recently, I was asked if I had what the person referred to as “Bishop’s Boys”. My answer was Yes and No at the same time. How?, you may ask.

Well, let’s start by establishing the common ground that one of the marks of good leadership is the ability of a leader to raise up followers who will run with the group’s goals when the leader is no longer there. No matter how a leader is, he must have people who believe in his philosophies and views, hence, his followers, or in our modern day, societal parlance, his boys. So as a leader and mentor, I must have boys in fact, it has been one of the cardinal points of my ministry to mentor, not just clergy, but laity. So, if the phrase “Bishop’s Boys” refers to those whom the Bishop has mentored or who share his visions and aspirations, then I have them.

Before we discuss what these criteria are, shall we discuss who the Bishop’s Boy is not?

1. The Bishop’s Boy is not a sycophant of the Bishop, going round and blowing a non-existent trumpet, with no commission and no commissioner neither is he such clergy who go round their parishes soliciting goodwill and favours from parishioners, supposedly in the name of the Bishop

2. He is not a priest who intimidates other clergy, threatening them into silence, even when he is wrong, using his claimed closeness to the Bishop or one who feels he is above the law and cannot be subject to constituted authority or accept responsibility for his actions and inactions, because he comes from the “right ethnic group,” read the Bishop’s ethnic group
3. The Bishop’s Boy is not one who aims at raising his profile in his parish or among the clergy by misrepresenting the Bishop or giving clout to personal and negative policies and projects and ramming same down the throat of parishioners by crediting such personal and self-serving projects and policies to the Bishop
4. He is not a clergy that brings gossips to the Bishop and constantly hatches plans to denigrate, run down and rubbish other clergy before the Bishop through such gossips or is he one who thinks he can compromise the Bishop through gifts and money can never be one of the Bishop’s Boys
5. Such a clergy that is lazy, full of excuses, unteachable, visionless, careless, indifferent to the spiritual and physical needs of parishioners under his charge; who is at best a familiar stranger to his parishioners; one under whose charge the church depreciates on every front cannot ever be a Bishop’s Boy. Any priest whose “priestness” ends with the robe and inside is full of dead men’s bones, a whited sepulchre housing unpriestly acts and secrets, must never consider himself a Bishop’s Boy
6. The Bishop cannot consider a blind follower, one who has never taken time to seek and understand the vision of the Diocese and the Bishop or if he does understand, does not care less, a Bishop’s Boy

And if it is with the above “qualifications” in mind that the question is asked as to whether the Bishop has boys, the answer is a resounding No!, has ever been a resounding No! and will forever remain a resounding No!

Despite the rot in the system called our society and Church, there are still priests who have clung tenaciously to their call. Let’s identify them through their distinguishing characteristics. What are they?

1. These clergy have put their hands on the plough of Ministry and have no time for frivolities, titles, vainglory, in-fighting, “the booties of war” and pecks of office. They realize they have been called by the Master and that they owe him an account of their stewardship some day
2. Their overriding aim is the success and growth of their parishes, parishioners, other clergy and the Diocese as a whole. Their personal gains are subsumed under these. Moreover they take out time to seek for, understand, interpret and implement correctly at the Parish and Unit levels, the policies and programmes of the Bishop

3. They do not take evil pleasure in running down and destabilizing other Priests and their Ministries before the Bishop or other Priests neither are they self-appointed sycophants of the Bishop with the self-destroying gospel of ethnicity, favouritism, partiality and ministry-threatening gossip
4. They are not lazy, carefree, lackadaisical and unconcerned with the work given into their hands to the extent that the work suffers stagnancy, depreciation and ultimately, death
5. They do not rely on gifts and money as inroads into the Bishop's heart and confidence and they believe that the success of the Bishop and the Diocese is eventually their success as well
6. Finally, they do not consider misappropriation of funds or the dipping of pudgy fingers into God's tills as a virtue. In fact, they are ready to make personal sacrifices to ensure the work does not suffer any form of inertness.

The question again arises: are there really clergy as we painted above in our fold and society today? The answer is yes! And if the Bishop is therefore accused of having boys by virtue of his encouraging clergy who imbibe the afore-mentioned virtues, then so be it.

WHAT WE MUST ALL DO AS WE SERVE GOD IN THE DIOCESE OF EVO

By our election as Bishop, our engagement as clergymen and wives, our appointment or election as Synod delegates, Diocesan officials, Cathedral Standing Committee, Archdeaconry Boards, Deanery Councils, Parish Church Councils, Functional Committee members, leaders of Activity groups/units at all levels in the Diocese of Evo, we have all received a charge from God.

Each person's position is a privilege, a trust, a call to serve the present age and glorify God. God expects us to employ all that is good within us while depending on the Holy Spirit so as to satisfy His will.

For us to make meaningful progress and glorify God we must **cultivate Team Spirit**. Each person should be willing to see others' point of view. We must avoid clericalism. Clericalism is one trying to do the work God has called him to accomplish, all by himself, without the counsel or help of others. Clericalism is an individual placing himself over others instead of seeing himself as their servant. Those who stay in the trap of clericalism will fail to fulfil the true purpose of a church leader.

Every senior clergy – (Archdeacon, Rector, Administrator, Vicar), Committee Chairman and team leader should let the associates know his vision and what he wants to achieve. Each team member should be assigned specific roles, told what is expected of him, and also encouraged to deliver the desired results.

In Evo, we intend to multiply ministry. The operative word here is **mutuality in service and in honour**.

Every pastor or lay leader should be an **agent of transformational change**. We are to have an eye for good ideas, and be open to God-inspired change. It is a sign of stagnation for one to insist on doing things the same old way and expect a different (better) result.

We must **pay attention to speed** – Divine speed. The absence of speed has been one area where in the last one year we appear to have suffered the most frustration.

Many, particularly some clergymen to whom duties were assigned either forgot to carry out such tasks or dragged their feet until we and they came under avoidable pressure. This turtle/snail pace attitude to service will bring both the leader and his area of service to low levels.

We must **lay aside every weight that is slowing us down**. As things stand now there is the need for us to pray daily for the Holy Spirit to accelerate our lives, career and ministry in Evo.

We must however commend a few brethren of the Houses of Clergy and Laity such as the Ven. F. N. Akah, JP, the Rev. Canons Ikechukwu G. Anene, Alex Usifoh, Olufemi Igbamerun and Rev. Chris Chukwumati, Sirs Collins Amadi, Victor Dania, Francis Mbeledogu and Mr. John Okene among others who have so far delivered promptly.

As leaders in God’s house, we are to **uphold integrity**. Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. It is the most important behavioural requirement in leadership; without it everything else is nothing.

Our actions therefore, must be consistent with our most deeply felt values and beliefs. Same goes to our political, community and captains of industry.

APPOINTMENTS

We have earlier in this address stated that we believe in multiplied or shared ministry. The Bishop does not and will never pretend to know everything. At our One-day Synod last August, we appointed some persons to hold key Diocesan positions apart from those elected. We thank everyone for services however rendered for the past twelve months and now wish to confirm the following appointments barring any unforeseen developments:

S/N	DIOCESAN POSITION	APPOINTEE
1	Registrar	Barrister Nlerum Amadi
2	Registrar (Lands)	Barrister Chimezie Otuonye
3	Legal Secretary	Barrister Godfrey O. Dike
4	Snr. Special Adviser to the Bishop on Legal Matters	Sir Barrister Mike Wodi
5	Bishop’s Chaplain	Rev. Chieme Chimaobi
6	Bishop’s Protocol Officer/Administrative Assistant	Rev. Chris Chukwumati
7	Bishop’s Press Secretary	Mr. Kasarachi Innocent
8	Diocesan Medical Advisers	Lady Dr. Ndidi Utchay Dr. Keziah Maduagwu Dr. Bright Amadi
9	Diocesan Engineers	Prof. A. O. Ibe (KSC) Eze B. A. Worgu (KSC) Engr. Chukwuma Onwuchekwa (KSC)
10	Diocesan Architect	Sir O. C. Chukwu
11	Diocesan Surveyor	Surv. Gaius Assor
12	Bishop’s Nominees to the Diocesan and Finance Boards	Sir (Chief) S. A. Wutche Sir Victor Dania
13	Adviser on Community Relations	Eze T. O. A. Ejekwu (KSC)
14	Adviser on Governmental Relations	Chief (Hon) B. S. Ike Chinwo (KSC) Hon. Collins Ordu Mr. Solomon Eke

15	Director of Logistics	Mr. John Okene
16	Diocesan Communicator	Sir Victor Iyalla
17	Adviser on Industrial Relations/Diocesan Youth Empowerment	Eze S. C. Wokoma, JP (KSC)
18	Adviser/Chairman, Investments Committee	Sir F. I. Mbeledogu
19	Bishop's Verger	Mr. G. I. Ebenezer
20	Advisers on Security Matters	Sir Jonathan Atama (ASP) Sir G. C. Orianwo
21	Chairman, Diocesan Projects Committee	Mr. Lawrence Chinda
22	Chairman, Diocesan Welfare Evangelism (Action and Outreach)	Sir Collins Amadi
23	Bishop's Commissaries in Lagos	Mr. Okey Nyeche Mr. Victor Wodi
24	Bishop's Commissary in Abuja	Engr. Seyi Alabi
25	Adviser on Missions and Evangelism	Sir Nnamdi Ohuabunwa
26	Chairman, Diocesan Missions, Evangelism and Church Planting Board	Ven. Chidi Worgu
27	Directors of Clergy and Church Workers Education (Training and Re-training)	Ven. A. A. Omubor Rev. Canon I. G. Anene
28	Chairman, Diocesan Education Board	Ven. F. N. Akah, JP

CHAPLAINS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Men's Christian Association | -Rev. Canon Okechukwu Ow'honda |
| 2. Women's Ministries (MU/WG/SF/GG) | -Rev. Ebenezer Ow'hor |
| 3. Anglican Youth Fellowship | -Rev. Hosanna Nnaenwi |
| 4. Anglican Children's Ministry | -Rev. Canon Olufemi Igbamerun |
| 5. Lay Readers | -Rev. Canon Ikechukwu Anene |
| 6. Council of Knights and Ladies | -Rev. Canon Alex Usifoh |
| 7. Ministry to Royal Fathers, Chiefs and Elders | -Rev. Canon Godwin Chinda |
| 8. Public and Private Secondary Schools | -Rev. John Chinda
-Rev. Favour Iroegbulem |
| 9. Adult Sunday School/Discipleship Ministry | -Rev. Cephas Okarefe
-Rev. Reginald Chinweze |
| 10. Woji Town Word of Faith Schools Ltd. | -Rev. Canon Charles Mordi |
| 11. Anglican Communion Brigade | -Rev. Moses Anyaefena |
| 12. Diocesan Prayer Ministry | -Rev. Samson O. Abada
-Rev. Bright Welekwe |
| 13. Youth Corps Members and BCMSS, Rumuobiokani | -Rev. Gospel Onuchukwu |
| 14. College Chaplain, ACMGS, Elemenwo | -Rev. Kingsley Ohajianya |
| 15. Industries | -Ven. Azubuike Ugoha
-Rev. Lawrence Nwahaghi |
| 16. Sports | -Rev. Chukwuma Anukem
-Rev. Samuel Fedigha |
| 17. Clergy Children | -Rev. Confidence Gura |

18. Diocesan Guild of Stewards	-Rev. Chukwuemeka Okonkwo
19. Diocesan Music Ministries	-Rev. Samuel Obialor
20. Hospital and Clinics (Visitation)	-Rev. Canon Leo Nwachukwu
21. Retired Clergy	-Rev. Chimaobi Nwachukwu
22. Diocesan Media and Communications Ministry	-Rev. Canon Chuka Opara

MEMBERSHIP OF BOARDS OF THE DIOCESE

1. The **DIOCESAN BOARD** Shall be constituted by the Bishop as Chairman, Diocesan Legal Officers, all persons elected into Key Diocesan, Provincial and Church of Nigeria positions by the Synod, all Archdeacons/Administrators, those appointed by the Bishop into other positions including **only** the Anglican Children's Ministry Chaplain; one clerical representative, two Lay representatives (one male and one female) and Treasurers elected from the Cathedral and each of the Archdeaconries and Deaneries, the Presidents and Secretaries of the MCA, Women's Ministry (MU/WG), Diocesan Women Worker, Presidents and Secretaries of the AYP, Council of Knights, Lay Readers Association, Coordinator of the Diocesan ACM and Principals of all the Diocesan secondary schools.

Similarly, the **DIOCESAN FINANCE BOARD** shall be constituted as follows:

- The Bishop - Chairman
- The Bishop's wife/President, MU/WG
- All Diocesan Legal Officers
- Clerical and Lay Synod Secretaries
- The Diocesan Financial Secretary and Treasurer
- The Archdeacons and Administrators
- Diocesan Auditors
- Cathedral/Archdeaconry/Deanery Treasurers
- Presidents of MCA, Council of Knights, Lay Readers and AYP
- The Chaplain and coordinator of the Diocesan Anglican Children's Ministry
- Chairman, Diocesan Education Board
- Chairman, Diocesan Projects Committee
- Chairman, Diocesan Investments
- Chairman, Diocesan Welfare (Actions and Outreach)
- Chairman, Diocesan Missions and Evangelism Board

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS AND LOCATION BOARD:

- The Lord Bishop -Chairman
- Bishop's wife
- Diocesan Legal Officers
- Clerical and Lay Synod Secretaries
- Diocesan Financial Secretary
- All Archdeacons, Rectors and Administrators
- One representative each from the Cathedral, Archdeaconries and Deaneries
- Any other officer so invited by the Bishop

NEW BISHOPS

Since after our election, consecration and enthronement last year, other new bishops have been elected, consecrated and enthroned in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

These include:

S/N	NAME	DIOCESE
1	Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Adekunle	Egba
2	Rt. Rev. Joseph Olusola	Ijesha North-East
3	Rt. Rev. Justus Nnaemeka Mogekewu	Asaba
4	Rt. Rev. Babatude Ogunbanwo	Ijesha South-East
5	Rt. Rev. James Olaoti Akinola	Igbomina West
6	Rt. Rev. Ezekiel Dahunsi	Idoani
7	Rt. Rev. Ralph C. Ebirien	Niger Delta
8	Rt. Rev. Dabo Asaju	Bishop Theologian
9	Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Oko-Jaja	Niger Delta West
10	Rt. Rev. Chamberlain Ogunedo	Mbaise
11	Rt. Rev. Samuel O. Ogundeji	Egba West
12	Rt. Rev. Oluseyi Oyelade	Ife East
13	Rt. Rev. Abraham Akinlalu	Oke-Osun

We congratulate them, their families and Dioceses and wish them well in their new Episcopal positions.

THE NEW NATIONAL CAN PRESIDENT

We use this medium to congratulate the new President of the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor. We urge him as brothers in the same venture to ensure he leaves the association better than he met it. Let us set a good example of what leadership should be using our own association. We wish him God speed.

STATE AND NATIONAL ISSUES

As a church we are the conscience of the nation. Part of our stewardship is to speak out on crucial national issues and areas of concern for the good of the people of the state and nation.

RIVERS STATE

We in the Diocese of Eyo commend the giant strides the Rivers State Government is making under the leadership of the Executive Governor, the Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi in the areas of new roads construction, building of modern classroom blocks in our educational institutions; new health, sporting and housing facilities especially the Greater Port Harcourt City Project. We are particularly impressed that this developmental revolution is taking place within barely three years of the Governor in office. May the Lord strengthen your hands in the service of the State.

We however urge the Governor to do everything possible to counter attempts to frustrate the good intentions of Government by those to whom important Government projects are assigned either as contractors or monitoring agents. We are worried about the slow pace of work at some of the roads and other project sites.

We also appeal to the Governor to remember some of our communities whose roads are in very deplorable and almost impassable conditions. Iriebe is one of such communities. Those who live there are Rivers people and Nigerians. We strongly request the Government to do something about that community and very urgently too, to alleviate the sufferings of the inhabitants.

Finally, efforts should be redoubled at making Port Harcourt a true Garden City, some of us with a strong sense of hygiene are getting increasingly uncomfortable with the filthy state of some parts of the city. The challenge posed to our public hygiene by street trading and hawking should be quickly addressed. We desire a cleaner city and state.

ON NIGERIA'S 50TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY:

We congratulate the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan and the great people of Nigeria on our imminent Silver Jubilee Celebrations as an independent nation.

We thank God for keeping us together as one people in spite of the too many challenges we have had to contend with. As we celebrate, we should spare some moments to think about what we can do in the next few years to address our lingering leadership problem, collapse of public infrastructure, decline in our educational standards from the primary through secondary, to the tertiary levels, general lawlessness manifesting in militancy and criminal kidnapping of fellow Nigerians and foreign nationals by some jobless and faceless Nigerians, erratic and in most places, zero power supply, corruption in high and low places, electoral malpractices and fraud, poor hygiene and crippling unemployment.

God in His goodness has given us virtually all we need to stand as an independent nation. But so far we have demonstrated to Him that as a nation we are very poor stewards of Divine endowments. It is quite unfortunate. Other nations of the world particularly some in Africa such as South Africa, Egypt and Ghana, are now ahead of us in many areas. In different parts of the city of Port Harcourt, one sees advertisements inviting Nigerians to apply for admission into Ghanaian Universities, and everyone - the rich and the not so rich are rushing their children to that country for studies. We crave the best wherever it exists but lack the will to provide same for ourselves. One wonders if the streets and National dailies of Ghana and other nations are dotted with advertisements for admission into Nigerian Universities. We must think again and now is the time.

NEW INEC CHAIRMAN, 2011 ELECTIONS AND ZONING

We salute the recent appointment by President Goodluck Jonathan and subsequent confirmation by the Senate of Professor Attahiru Jega, a former president of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) as the new Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

May we remind the learned professor that his new position is a call to national service. It is not an invitation to protect and subtly champion the cause of any political party, ethnic

group/geopolitical zone, or even religious group. The position of the Chairman of INEC is not the same as Academic Staff Union activism. He must belt up.

It is quite instructive that all former Heads of State in this country nominated him. All the political parties and civil society groups appear to favour his appointment. This is an indication of trust which should not be betrayed by him or his commissioners.

Towards the 2011 general elections, we counsel him to avoid being dragged to the gallery of the gladiators. He should be courageous, firm, just and unbiased and deliver an acceptable and credible election to all Nigerians. An acceptable and workable ballot system should be devised. He should not let the Nigerian electorate and the watching international community down.

The Government at all levels in the country should allow INEC to be truly independent and the choice of the people must be allowed to prevent.

If all things go well before and during the elections, those who emerge winners should be magnanimous in victory and losers gallant in defeat. Nigerians should see elections as a game in which there will always be winners and losers.

Those who tamper with the electoral process should be arrested, arraigned in court and if found guilty, punished.

ON ZONING

On the ongoing debate over zoning, we advise those championing this cause in favour of a particular section of the country, those who see the leadership of this country as their birthright at the expense of others to be careful and quickly consider a rethink.

Zoning is unconstitutional. It is not the same thing as adherence to Federal Character or spread in appointment to national positions.

Zoning eliminates excellence and imposes mediocrity and mediocre on a nation that desperately needs to develop. With all we have gone through as a nation, only the best will be good enough for us now at all levels notwithstanding where those at the steering wheel come from. All we need is a better tomorrow for our children and those who can guarantee this through quality leadership should be encouraged not sacrificed on the altar of zoning.

APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

We thank God for His gracious provisions for the Diocese of Evo so far and we trust that in His faithfulness He will not abandon us to groan under the weight of the needs we have to address urgently as a young Diocese.

God uses men on earth to do his work also on earth. The Diocese of Evo like every other young Diocese is in a hurry to grow and catch up with others. And much of what we have to do requires much money.

We need money to acquire land for the new churches we intend to plant and also develop their physical infrastructure. We are one of those Dioceses that cannot boast of a **new vehicle** of our own. What we have is an old L300 Toyota bus that is reputed for incessant break-downs.

We are committed to the education of our youths; it is part of our overall mission and goal. And so we need money to develop our schools – erect hostels, classroom and laboratory blocks; and possibly open more schools.

We need to establish some viable and profitable business ventures like a clothing (tailoring) company, a Mass Transit Company, embark on life-enhancing social actions – to the youth, the aged, special persons, the retired clergy in our midst and also contribute to the life of the communities where we are in.

We are yet to have a **befitting cathedral building**.

We would like to take over the payment of the monthly salaries and allowances of pastors, church teachers and evangelists in some of our old but still struggling and the newly established stations. This, we think might help them concentrate properly on their assignments. We invite you to come and partner with us in the payment of such workers.

Above all, we need to support other less-endowed Dioceses and Churches outside Evo which are constantly looking to us for assistance.

For reasons we cannot quite explain, we are one of those Dioceses that took off without a ‘parental’ parting support or even the traditional government support which we saw when other new Dioceses were inaugurated. Please permit me to state here that it was not for expected government support that the people of Evo asked for a Diocese. I need to say this to avoid my last statement being misunderstood. It will however not be out of place if the government comes to our aid in any way possible.

We are therefore appealing for financial support from all and sundry to enable us develop more rapidly.

We are very much accountable, and any form of support received from any individual, group or even the government will be properly utilized and accounted for.

May the grace to give generously be multiplied unto you. Amen.

FUTURE SYNOD VENUES

We wish to announce the venues for our Diocesan Synod Meetings for the next five years. This advance notice is to enable early future preparations. They are:

1. 2nd Session, 1st Synod (2011) – Oro-Igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry
2. 3rd Session, 1st Synod (2012) – Rumuomasi Deanery
3. 1st Session, 2nd Synod (2013) – Okporo Deanery
4. 2nd Session, 2nd Synod (2014) – Rumuobiokani Deanery
5. 3rd Session, 2nd Synod (2015) – Evo South-East Archdeaconry

CONCLUSION

We thank you for your patience in listening to us deliver this maiden Synod address. My wife, Chinyere and I appreciate each and every one of you, your prayers, love and care since the past one year. We look forward to enjoying more years of fruitful working relationship with every

one of you. It is humanly not possible to recount what everybody has done. But God has adequately taken note of what each person has done and He will reward you accordingly.

Now to the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, the only wise God be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

APPENDIX ONE

LIST OF DONORS TOWARDS THE COMPLETION OF THE BISHOP'S COURT

PAYMENT OF BISHOP'S COURT APPEAL FUND

NAME	AMOUNT PAID
Mr. Godwin W. Amadi	50,000.00
Sir Nnamdi Mbelu	100,000.00
Sir Victor Dania	100,000.00
Sir C. Onwuchekwa	100,000.00
Sir Dr. S.T. Orumu	100,000.00
Alabo A.G. Oweredara	100,000.00
Chief Eldward Badubulachi Nwagboso	50,000.00
Ven Omubor A. Adokiari	50,000.00
Sir Chief Amadi Worlu	200,000.00
Chief O.C. Wali	100,000.00
St. Mark's Church ,Eleenwo Deanery	100,000.00
Sir Ben Emeka	1,000,000.00
Mr. Promise Eze Wodi	150,000.00
St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani	200,000.00
Chief Ezebunwo Adele	100,000.00
Dr. Worgu Glory Ovunda	50,000.00
Chief Dr. Emeka G. Ihunwo	400,000.00
Sir W.W. Onunwor	250,000.00

Elder Solomon Nwachukwu	200,000.00
Sir Prof A.O. Ibe	50,000.00
Chief Samuel Anunobi	50,000.00
Sir (Chief) Ike Chinwo	500,000.00
Sir F.I. Mbeledogu	30,000.00
Sir (Eze) T.O.A. Ejekwu	100,000.00
St. Michael's church, Rumuomasi	250,000.00
St. Nicholas Anglican Church, Woji	200,000.00
Sir Chief S.A. Wutche	100,000.00
Sir I.N. Amadi Jp	10,000.00
Mr. Lawrence Elewah Chinda	50,000.00
Sir (Arch.) Charles Chuku	100,000.00
Tuesday Women's Fellowship	20,000.00
All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwrusi	300,000.00
Chief Adele Ogbonda	100,000.00
Mr. C.B. Obidi	50,000.00
Mr. Amanze Okere	50,000.00
St. Philip's Church Oroigwe District	100,000.00
Sir Cyril Amaewhule	200,000.00
Sir K.C. Anyabele	100,000.00
St. Mark's Elenwo Deanery	50,000.00
Diocese of Evo Council of Knights	50,000.00
Mr. Jonathan O. Amadi	100,000.00
Eze Amb. Dr. G.B. Odum JP	50,000.00
Chief Mekaka M.O. Wobo	100,000.00
Mr. And Mrs. Igboeli	50,000.00

Sir Cyprian C. Elewa	50,000.00
TOTAL	6,210,000.00

APPENDIX TWO

LIST OF BISHOP'S NOMINEES TO THE FIRST SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF EVO

2010-2012

S/N	NAME	CHURCH	REMARKS
1	Sir Hon. Justice Iche Ndu	St. Mark's Church, Elelenwo Deanery	
2	Dame Ngozi Ndu	St. Mark's Church, Elelenwo Deanery	
3	Sir Chief Alex Orakwue	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
4	Sir Chief Chijioke Tasia	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
5	Sir Onyema Ubani	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
6	Dr. Joy Ugwu	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
7	Lady Joy Emeruem	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
8	Sir Sam Uwaezuoke	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
9	Engr. Seyi Alabi	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
10	Lady Stella Worgu	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
11	Sir Victor O. Dania	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
12	Sir S. A. Wutche	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
13	HRH Eze S. O. Worlu (KSC)	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
14	Sir Chief Barr. J. O. Wachukwu	All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	
15	Sir Chief Chima Ejims	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
16	Dame Nnenna Ejims	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
17	Chief Weli I. Ejilemele	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
18	Mr. Kennedy Amadi	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
19	Sir Dr. Emenike W. Amobi	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
20	Mrs. Sylverline Majebi	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
21	Mr. Jonathan Ijok	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
22	Mr. Charles Wopara	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
23	Mr. Abiona Usikalu	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
24	Dr. Keziah Maduagwu	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
25	Dame Lauretta Enwezor	St. Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumuobiokani	
26	HRH Eze W. W. Onunwor JP (KSC)	St. Michael's Anglican Church, Rumuomasi	
27	Hon. Charles Amadi	St. Michael's Anglican Church, Rumuomasi	
28	Sir Ray Chinda	St. Michael's Anglican Church, Rumuomasi	
29	Sir Ray Elewa	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
30	Mr. G. N. Igwe	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
31	Engr. S. I. Nwachukwu	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
32	Engr. Chukwuma Emezie	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
33	Surv. Chituru Obowo	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
34	Mr. Emmanuel A. Ogbonda	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
35	Hon. Derek Iyo	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
36	Barr. Kingsley Chuku	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
37	Hon. Dr. Lawrence Chuku	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
38	Lady Chioma Esimogu	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
39	Lady Gladys Ihunwo	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	
40	Hon. Solomon Eke	St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Woji District	

41	HRH Eze G. B. Wodi	St. Mark's Ang. Church, Elemenwo Deanery	
42	Dame Comfort F. Chinda	St. Mark's Ang. Church, Elemenwo Deanery	
43	Sir Charles Chinda	St. Mark's Ang. Church, Elemenwo Deanery	
44	Sir Chief Ike B. S. Chinwo (MFHR)	St. Philip's Ang. Church, Oro-Igwe District	
45	Elder Godwin Ogele	St. Philip's Ang. Church, Oro-Igwe District	
46	Sir Walter Ifezue	St. Philip's Ang. Church, Oro-Igwe District	
47	Elder Edwin Wopara	St. Philip's Ang. Church, Oro-Igwe District	
48	Sir Roland Okolo	Church of The Holy Spirit, Elemenwo District	
49	Dr. Moses Ohiosimo	Church of The Holy Spirit, Elemenwo District	
50	Mr. Benneth Ordu	Holy Trinity Ang. Church, Elingbu Parish	
51	Lady Dr. Ndidu Utchay	Holy Trinity Ang. Church, Elingbu Parish	
52	Hon. Martins Amaewhule	Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioza Parish	
53	Sir Chilam Dimkpa	Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioza Parish	
54	Lady Prisca Worlu	Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioza Parish	
55	Mrs. Joyce Ewubare	Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioza Parish	
56	Dr. Moses Idehen	Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioza Parish	
57	Sir Adele Wogu	Anglican Church of Pentecost, Rumuogba	
58	Sir Dr. Sam Egwu	Church of Epiphany, Rumuokwursi	
59	Chief Vincent Wopara	Church of The Advent, Rumuewhara	
60	Lady Chibuzor Anyabele	New Wine Ang. Church, Okporo	
61	Sir Kingsley C. Anyabele	New Wine Ang. Church, Okporo	
62	Engr. George Agbogu	Church of the Holy Spirit, Elemenwo District	
63	Sir Morgan Amadi	St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery	
64	Sir Nathaniel Amadi-Worlu	St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery	
65	Sir Friday Onukem	St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery	
66	Chief Ikechukwu Ugochukwu	St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery	
67	Lady Victoria Emelu	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
68	Mr. Tobias Nzerem	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
69	Dame Roseline Ordu JP	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
70	Sir Ugo Ohuabunwa	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
71	Sir (Engr.) Ama Hart	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
72	Sir Prince Adubasim	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
73	Engr. George Iwoh	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
74	Mr. Innocent Dike	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
75	Sir Bishop Ebisi	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
76	Lady Tina Ohuabunwa	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
77	Sir Henry Imoni	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
78	Dame Yinka Edeghere	Church of Pentecost, Rumuogba	
79	Mr. E. S. Pepple	St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery	
80	Dame Sylverline Nwachukwu JP	No. 10 Circular Road, Elekahia H. Estate.	
81	Mr. Godwin I. Chinda	All Saints' Cathedral Church, Rumuokwursi	
82	Mr. Omoba Joseph Olaseni	St. Nicholas' Church, Woji District	
83	Mr. Godwin W. Amadi	St. Philip's Church, Oroigwe District	
84	Mrs. Enitona Adele	Church of Holy Spirit, Elioza Parish	
85	Mr. Ernest Chinwo	St. Nicholas, Woji District	
86	Sir Emmanuel Aminobiren	St. Mark's Church, Elemenwo Deanery	
87	Mr. Chris Onukem	St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery	

APPENDIX THREE

ANGLICAN PRIMATE TO JONATHAN, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

DECLARE EMERGENCY IN ABIA

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, the Most Rev'd Nicholas Okoh yesterday urged President Goodluck Jonathan and the National Assembly to declare emergency in Abia State following the kidnapping of four journalists in the State.

Rev. Okoh said Jonathan should use his federal might as the insecurity in the South-East is already beyond the capacity of the governors to handle.

Briefing reporters in Abuja during his maiden press conference on the State of the nation and that of the Church, the Archbishop is worried that 40 years after the horrors of the Civil War from which we are yet to fully recover: "we have now set out on another war; against ourselves. This is self-destruction, he said".

The effect of what is happening in the South-East, according to Rev. Okoh, will take at least 10 years to recover from. He described the crisis as self-inflicted wound.

Rev. Okoh said: "During my visit to the South-East, I was saddened by the apparent breakdown of law and order in Aba and environs; how criminals have virtually shut down social and economic life in the area through violence, brigandage and kidnapping of the high, middle and low class people in quest for money. If what I saw at Aba is anything to go by, and the wave of wanton destruction is not curbed, the communities will be completely ruined. There is no viable life anymore; no good roads, the markets are in decline, banks are forced to suspend operations due to incessant robberies.

"I appeal to leaders in the Church and communities to organize and put up proposals for the resolution of the matter so as to avoid terrible devastation."

"We humbly call on Mr. President to recognize that the insecurity in the South-East is already beyond the capacity of the Governors in the area to handle, and to lend it his federal might."

"Crime has hit an all-time high; ritual killers are on the prowl with little defence to the man and woman, boy or girl on the street; high profile hired assassinations have not been resolved creating an ominous culture of impunity among the powerful in society".

On the over N6 billion to be spent on the nation's 50th anniversary, Rev. Okoh cautioned that the money would be a waste if it is meant for merry-making and not for infrastructural development, adding that the dreams and expectations of our founding fathers, prior to and at independence have not been met.

As the 2011 elections is fast approaching, he advised everyone to pray for Jonathan to achieve a free and fair election, adding that the appointment of Prof. Attahiru Jega as the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is a welcome development.

He said: "Our president has promised both local and International communities a unique election of one-man-one-vote: that the elections will be free and fair. We call upon all to pray for him to be able to achieve this.

Rev. Okoh wished the new President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) successful tenure and urged him and all denominational leaders to protect the interest of Christians and speak against homosexuality, lesbianism and bisexual lifestyles under any guise.

(Culled from *The Nation Newspaper*, Thursday July, 15, 2010)

APPENDIX FOUR

ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF NIGER DELTA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION)

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ALL SAINTS CATHEDRAL, BORI, OGO NI DIOCESE ON 17TH TO 18TH MARCH, 2010

The meeting attended by the bishops of 13 dioceses of the province and their delegates chaired by the Archbishop of the Province Most Rev. I.C.O. Kattey, had its theme as “*Let brotherly love continue*” (Heb. 13:1) and issued this communiqué:

1. The council is grateful to God who has been extremely good to Nigeria, but for Him we would not have come out of the attendant political tension that resulted from the president's ill-health and political manoeuvres that greeted the elevation of His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Jonathan to the position of Acting President. We must always remember our president, Umaru Musa Yar-Adua in prayer.
2. We express our appreciation to the retiring Primate of the Church of Nigeria, the Most Rev. and Mrs. Peter Jasper Akinola for his visionary and dynamic leadership in the church of God.
3. We congratulate our Primate-elect, the Most Rev. and Mrs. Nicholas Okoh for their election and pray that God will equip and use them for the furtherance of the Kingdom work in Nigeria and beyond as they assume the office of Primate of Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) on Thursday March 25th, 2010.
4. We commend the meritorious service of the Rt. Rev. and Mrs. Adolphus Amabebe, the retired Bishop of Niger Delta West Diocese as well as the Rt. Rev. and Mrs. Gabriel Pepple of Niger Delta Diocese who will retire in a few months' time and wish them well in their retirement.
5. We join all well-meaning people all over the world in condemning all the senseless murder of innocent people, especially women and children in Jos, Plateau State and environs. All human beings whether Christians, Muslims, Animists or Hindus are God's creations, made in the image of God. No murderers will go into heaven, “whoever hates his brother is a murderer” (1John 3:15). We must not go back to the middle ages when religious people killed other people in the name of God.
6. We noted with great dismay the dearth of basic infrastructure in Ogoni land and hereby call on the government to reverse the trend.
7. We appeal to all Christian leaders especially in the Niger Delta to educate their members that God should come first in everything they do and not to compromise their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Most Rev. I.C.O. Kattey, JP

(Archbishop)

Thursday March 18, 2010

APPENDIX FIVE

COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA

(ANGLICAN COMMUNION)

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Standing Committee of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the leader of the Most Rev. Peter J. Akinola, Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria, met at the Basilica of Grace, Gudu District, Abuja from March 22 – 24, 2010. 131 bishops, 114 clergymen and 59 members of the house of laity were present.

The theme of the meeting was “Follow Me (says the Lord)” and at the conclusion the Standing Committee issued this Communiqué:

2. THE PRIMATE AND THE PRIMATE ELECT OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA

Leadership for an unprecedented season of growth and vitality in the Church of Nigeria and the worldwide church. Over the past ten years we have grown from 76 to 161 dioceses with more than 20 million active members. We have also seen the Church of Nigeria take a major leadership role in the global Anglican Communion and in the wider Church.

We also congratulate the Most Reverend Nicholas Okoh, the Primate-elect as he begins his new ministry. Archbishop Nicholas Okoh has already given many years of faithful service to the church of Nigeria as a deacon (1979), priest (1980), bishop (2001) and Archbishop (2005). He has shown a readiness to engage with the big issues that confront our church and the nation. We look forward to his ministry among us.

3. QUESTIONS OF CONCERN FOR OUR NATION

CRISIS IN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP – Meeting together as the Standing Committee of the Church of Nigeria, we were conscious that failure to adhere to the constitution has led us to the present leadership crisis in our nation. We are without accurate information on the health and present circumstances of our elected president. We are grateful for the courageous initiative taken by Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, Acting President, and we assure him of our prayers. We call on the National Assembly to remedy the situation immediately and to remember that the purpose of government is to serve the common good.

ELECTIONS PREPARATION – We also realize that the 2011 General Elections are approaching rapidly and we urge all stakeholders, including the current members of the National Assembly and INEC to put aside all selfish concerns for the conduct of free and fair elections throughout the Federation. We further recommend that the Federal Government adopt the ‘Justice Uwais’ Committee Report and quickly conclude the

process of constitutional amendments. It is essential that we implement a programme of voter education to restore hope for the electorate.

POST AMNESTY REHABILITATION AND VISIBLE DEVELOPMENT- We implore the Government and its agencies to put in motion all necessary instruments for the rehabilitation of the ex-militants of the Niger Delta Region. No effort should be spared to enhance the physical development of the region that will both encourage a life of peace and enhance additional security.

JOS MASSACRES: We were sorely grieved by the news of the gruesome attacks in villages around Jos in Plateau State, that have left hundreds of men, women and children and many more severely wounded. We condemn these attacks and all those involved in them, especially those cases where our own military forces were indicted. We call on the Federal Government to arrest, prosecute and punish those responsible. We have also noted with great concern the recent announcement by the Lybian leader, Colonel Muamar Ghaddafi, that Nigeria should be divided by region into two halves along the traditional line of partition. We consider his unwelcome interference into our common life to be inflammatory and we call on the Federal Government to continue to use all diplomatic avenues to express our total rejection of this outrageous proposal. We believe that his comments are, however, a warning that we must all work to overcome the prejudices that still divide us and do more to strengthen the unity of all regions of our nation.

EDUCATION CRISIS – The National Examinations Council just released the 2009 Senior School Certificate Examinations and the results reveal an abysmal performance by the candidates with less than two per cent of them (out of more than 246,000) having passed five subjects with credit. This result is an indictment of our entire educational process and calls for urgent steps to be taken by the Federal and State Governments to address the underlying causes of this catastrophe. We believe that one vital step would be to learn from the gains being recorded by those mission schools in states where they have been returned to their original mission proprietors.

BANKING REFORM – We commend much of the ongoing banking reforms aimed at restoring confidence and competitiveness in an increasingly global economy. However, we caution against policy inconsistencies that could jeopardize the interest of the citizenry and foreign investors especially in the real sector economy such as agriculture and manufacturing.

SECURITY CRISIS – The spate of violence, attacks on life and property and mysterious unresolved, high profile assassinations throughout the country are of particular concern to the church. The security agencies comprising of the army, police, state security service and immigration services need to be totally reformed and strengthened through the provision of the latest technology and equipment to be able to perform their constitutional tasks of protecting our citizens against internal and external aggression. We also believe that our citizens should cultivate a participatory approach towards security by forming neighbourhood watches to help curb the rising wave of crime in our cities and towns.

In this fiftieth year of our nation's independence we believe that it is vital and non-negotiable that all of our citizens believe themselves to be safe and secure. As we

continue to pray for our own people and also those who are recovering from the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile and the recent landslide in Uganda. We look to God for his mercy and protection.

4. CONCLUSION:

“To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy, to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!” Amen.

In Christ's service

THE MOST REVEREND PETER J. AKINOLA
(Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria)

APPENDIX SIX

CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION)

ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF NIGER DELTA

DIOCESE OF EVO

**AN ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE RT. REV'D INNOCENT UCHECHUKWU ORDU,
BISHOP, DIOCESE OF EVO AND PRESENTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE ONE-DAY
SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE HOLDING AT THE ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL,
RUMUOKWURUSI ON THURSDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 2009.**

PROTOCOL

- Venerable Archdeacons and Members of the House of Clergy,
- The Bishop's Wife, Mrs. Chinyere Ordu
- Our Learned Diocesan Legal Officers
- Distinguished Deanery and Parish delegates to Synod,
- Bishop's Special invitees to Synod
- Your Royal Highnesses
- Respected Knights and Ladies of St. Christopher, Good Shepherd and St. Mary,
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

Today, we assemble here in this Cathedral Church of All Saints to make history. It is the first One-Day Synod of the new Diocese of Evo which was inaugurated on Monday, 13th July, 2009 and we, the Rt. Rev. Innocent Uchechukwu Ordu, enthroned as its first Bishop. We welcome you all to this event and with pleasure. We thank every one of you, for sparing your precious time, to be part of history today. When the history of the Diocese of Evo shall be written in

future, the younger generations shall read about your individual and collective roles in today's Synod meeting. Thank you one and thank you all.

CREATION OF THE DIOCESE OF EVO

Much has been said, written and is still being said about the creation of the Diocese of Evo. There are persons who insist that there is no future for the new Diocese given the circumstances that led to its creation. On the contrary, we, as Bishop believe that there is a very glorious future for the Church of God in Evo and for the entire people of Evo Kingdom. Our conviction is based on the fact that even if there was to be a foundational problem, the publicly tendered apology of July 13 by the people of Evo and the statement by the Primate of All Nigeria that "We have reconciled" have gone a long way to resolve every spiritual air of uncertainty and cloud of darkness over the Diocese. And we maintain with the Primate that we have reconciled both with God and Man.

We believe that Evo Diocese and our election as Bishop have been part of God's original end time plan. We must remain thankful to Him for giving us the opportunity to stand to join the other parts of the Body of Christ to advance the purposes of God on earth beginning with our 'Jerusalem', Evo. The Diocese of Evo is a gift of God handed down to us in His mercy and grace. It is not the making of any man. Consequently, we advise against all outburst of pride and feeling of having arrived. God expects us to act humbly and soberly and continually find out what His will for the new Diocese is and endeavour to do it.

The Diocese of Evo was not created only for Evo people but for all God's people who desire to serve Him freely and sincerely while living and doing business in the geographical area called Evo. In heaven we shall not be received on the basis of where we come from but on the basis of our faith in the One Lord Jesus Christ. We urge every one of us therefore to eschew all forms of ungodly ethnic/tribal sentiments and divisions and allow the Spirit of God to guide us in all our thoughts, utterances, actions and opinions.

The Motto of our Diocese is "To Love, Teach and Preach". These constitute some of the central messages of both the old and the new testaments. We cannot be working for Gold with hearts full of hatred, bitterness and strife. If we cannot love our neighbours whom we see, how can we prove that we love God whom we do not see? Evo Diocese will grow and prosper in love. It is only when there is love that our gospel will impact on our hearers. An Evo Diocese built on the solid foundation of God's love will have nothing to destabilize it, now and in the future.

Our Mission and Vision is to place the Diocese on a solid, spiritual and physical foundation. We shall be committed to the pursuit of peace and reconciliation, effective training, teaching/discipleship Ministry, intensive preaching of Christ Jesus as Lord of all, Redeemer and Saviour from sin. To this end we direct all churches to make evangelism, Church planting, revival and growth their primary areas of focus.

Considering that the Diocese of Evo is situate in an urban and cosmopolitan setting, we shall emphasise secondary evangelism – the establishment and proper funding of existing institutions like schools, mission houses and other viable forms of investments. The aims in this regard are to use these avenues to present Jesus and the good news of His Kingdom to the world; and to place the Diocese on the path of self-sufficiency through meaningful investments.

In summary, our vision is to become one of the leading Dioceses in the world, preparing people for heaven at the return of Jesus; making Christ real and accessible to all; and drawing into the church, people of all age groups – children, youths and adults.

We have accepted to serve God and you His flock, through our office of Bishop. We do not claim to know everything. Consequently, we invite all Clergy and Laity to come forward and offer useful, godly counsels devoid of selfish intentions, to assist us in the task of building the new Diocese. God will give us the wisdom and discernment to do away with suggestions that He does not approve of.

PURPOSE OF THIS ONE DAY SYNOD

This Synod is being convened to put in place the needed structures that will enable the new Diocese take off properly. At the moment, there are no laws and policies guiding our day-to-day administration; there are no officers/officials, no bank account in the name of the Diocese of Evo and so on. This Synod is hence requested to adopt a constitution as a working document for the Diocese and to elect some key officers **on acting capacity** to run the affairs of the Diocese under the Bishop.

While we hope for a formal notion to adopt a constitution for our new Diocese and the election of officers at the end of this address, permit us to further propose for Synod ratification some adjustments in the administrative structures inherited from our mother Diocese, DNDN, for effective governance. After due consultations with the leadership of our various churches, we present the following new administrative structures for the Diocese of Evo in their order of seniority:

- 1. ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL CHURCH, RUMUOKWURUSI**
- 2. RUMUOMASI DEANERY**
 - i. St. Michael's Church, Rumuomasi
 - ii. Church of the Resurrection, off Stadium Road, Rumuomasi
- 3. RUMUOBIOKANI DEANERY**
 - i. St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani
 - ii. Church of the Pentecost, Rumuogba
 - iii. Anglican Missionary Church, Mini-Ewa
 - iv. Church of the Messiah, Iriebe
- 4. ELELENWO DEANERY**
 - i. St. Mark's Church, Elemenwo
 - ii. New Covenant Church, Eliminigwe, Elemenwo
- 5. WOJI ARCHDEACONRY**
 - i. St. Nicholas' Church, Woji Headquarters
 - ii. Christ's Church, Woji Estate
 - iii. Bethel Anglican Church, Rumuibekwe
 - iv. Immanuel Anglican Church, Ogbatai, Woji
 - v. Anglican Church of the Pentecost, Ahia-Woji
 - vi. Christ Harvest Anglican Church, Faith Avenue, Woji
- 6. EVO SOUTH-EAST ARCHDEACONRY**

- i. Church of the Holy Spirit, Elemenwo – Headquarters
- ii. St. Matthias Church, Atali Parish
- iii. St. James’s Church, Iriebe Parish
- iv. Church of Epiphany, Azumini, Rumuokwurusi
- v. Holy Ghost Anglican, Church, Iriebe
- vi. Emmanuel Anglican Church, Umuebulu II

7. OGINIGBA DEANERY

St. Jude’s Church, Oginigba

8. OKPORO DEANERY

- i. St. Simon’s Church, Okporo
- ii. Anglican Missionary Church, Eliowhani, East-West Road

9. ORO-IGWE/ELIOGBOLO ARCHDEACONRY

- i. St. Philip’s Church, Oro-Igwe Headquarters
- ii. Holy Trinity Church, Elingbu Parish
- iii. Church of the Holy Spirit, Eliozu Parish
- iv. Mount Zion Anglican Church, Eliogbolo

With this new arrangement in place, the administrative unit known as Evo Archdeaconry is hereby dissolved. We however direct the former Archdeacon, Ven. Azubuiké Ugoha and the Executive of his Archdeaconry Board to ensure that all administrative records of the old Archdeaconry are properly assembled and handed over to the office of the Bishop. Similarly, all monetary and physical assets of the said Evo Archdeaconry are now to revert to the Diocese of Evo. The workers shall be reassigned to both the Diocese and other units.

At a recent meeting held between the Bishop and the Archdeacon, Vicars and Treasurers of Churches in Evo Archdeaconry, it was discovered that nearly all the churches are heavily indebted to the Archdeaconry including Okporo and Oginigba Deaneries that left without clearing their huge debts to the Archdeaconry. We have since directed such Parishes and the two Deaneries to without further delay, clear their debts to the Diocese of Evo. Vicars of the affected stations should ensure compliance.

We hereby commend the women of Evo Archdeaconry under their immediate past leadership of Mrs. Precious Ugoha for transferring all their monetary assets worth over N600, 000. 00 to the emerging Evo Diocesan Women’s work. God bless them for their understanding and prompt response.

THE BISHOP’S WEEKLY ROUTINES AND SCHEDULE OF VISITS

Barring the unforeseen, the Bishop shall for now be available to attend to inquirers and groups on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00am daily.

Visit of the Bishop to Churches will be both formal and informal. Archdeacons, Rectors and Vicars of Archdeaconries, Deaneries and other Churches will be notified of the formal Episcopal visits while the Bishop will not be under obligation to inform any pastor of his informal visits. Rectors, Vicars and station Pastors should forward to the Bishop copies of their

schedule of weekly programmes to enable the Bishop determine when to join them quietly in worship, prayer and study of the Word.

DIOCESAN WOMEN'S WORK

Due to constraints of accommodation, the Women's Work Office of the Diocese will for now be located at the Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls Schools premises, along School Road, Elenwo – in one of the School blocks which the Evo Diocesan Women have decided to renovate. We look forward to the full provision of office accommodation for all major arms and units of the Diocese here at the All Saints' Cathedral Premises, Rumuokwurusi.

CLERGY/LAITY

The Clergy are God's messengers, watchmen, stewards and under-shepherds of His people. We thank them for the roles they have played over the years in providing pastoral care and cure for the laity who constitute the spiritual flock of God. We appreciate all who responded to our request to join us in Evo as Clergymen in the building of the new Diocese. They include all pastors of Evo extraction whom we are hereby specially welcoming home.

Clergymen should always remember their call by God to work with the Bishop and with their fellow Priests, as servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. They are to proclaim the word of God, as teachers and preachers, call their hearers to repentance and in Christ's name absolve and declare forgiveness of sins to the people. We hope to build a clergy body that operates in love, care, mutual respect, obedience and godly discipline. We will not encourage gossip, blackmail and character-smearing of each other by the clergy. The Clergy are called to lead by word and example.

The laity on the other hand, are the members of the Church other than the Clergy. They are to assist the ordained ministers serve them better since they (the Clergy) cannot do all the jobs. In doing so however, the laity must be careful not to trample upon the Clergy.

The Clergy equally need care, love, respect and protection from the laity. We should not allow an atmosphere of hate, suspicion and rivalry to reign. The Clergy and laity are not at war with each other; they are not competing but are called to work together.

APPOINTMENTS

For ease of administration and proper pastoral care and oversight in the Diocese, the following **acting appointments** are hereby announced:

DIOCESAN LEGAL OFFICERS

1. Registrar – Barrister Nlerum Sunny Amadi
2. Registrar (LANDS) – Barrister Chimezie Otuonye
3. Diocesan Legal Secretary – Barrister Godfrey O. Dike
4. Senior Special Assistant to the Bishop on Legal Matters – Barrister Mike Wordi

BISHOP AND WIFE'S OFFICERS

1. Bishop's Chaplain – Rev. Chimaobi Chieme

2. Administrative Assistant to the Bishop – Rev. Chris Chukwumati
3. Bishop’s Secretary – Mr. Benjamin Nwankwo
4. Administrative Assistant/Secretary to the Bishop’s Wife-Miss Chikaru Wosu

CHAPLAINCIES

1. Clergy Education (Directors of Studies)-Ven. Akuro Omubor and
Rev. Canon Charles Mordi
2. Adult Sunday School/Discipleship Ministry – Rev. Cephas Okarefe
3. Men’s Christian Association – Rev. Canon Okechukwu Owhondah
4. Women’s Ministries – Rev. Ebenezer Owhor
(MU/WG/SF/GG/ASF)
5. Youth Ministries – Rev. Gospel Onuchukwu
6. Council of Knights – Rev. Canon I. G. Anene
7. Anglican Children’s Ministry – Rev. Canon O. Igbamerun
8. Ministry to the Royal Fathers – Rev. Canon L. E. Odum
9. Retired Clergy and the Elderly – Rev. Roland Benjamin
10. Lay Readers – Rev. Canon Ben Nwaoha
11. Missions, Evangelism and Church Planting Board –
Chairman – Ven. Chidi S. Worgu
12. Industries – Ven. Azubuike Ugoha
Rev. Ugochukwu Nwahaghi
13. Diocesan Music Ministries (Choir and Band) – Rev. Samuel Obialor
14. Diocesan Prayer Ministry – Rev. Samson Abada
15. Hospital Ministry – Rev. Canon Leo Nwachukwu
16. Literature and Communications – Rev. Canon Chuka Opara
17. Secondary Schools – Rev. Hosanna Naenwi and Rev. Favour Iroegbulem
18. Diocesan Education Board Chairman – Ven. F. N. Akah JP
19. Sports – Rev. Chukwuma Anukem
20. Ordinands/Bishop’s Examining Chaplains – Ven F. N. Akah, JP
Ven. Akuro A. Omubor
Rev. Canon Chimaobi Nwachukwu

Other appointment will be announced in due course.

CONCLUSION

I want to recognize in a special way the roles played by the members of the committee for the creation of the Diocese of Evo led by Sir Sam A. Wutche, before and after the approval of the application for the new Diocese by the Church of Nigeria Standing Committee. We also thank the Chairman of the Central Planning Committee for the Consecration of the Bishop, the Inauguration of the Diocese and Enthronement of the Bishop, Sir Eze Princewill A. Okene; Chairmen and members of the various sub committees; Ven. Dr. Prince Orafu – Chairman and members of the Niger Delta North-Evo Diocese Inauguration Committee.

We acknowledge the great roles and support of our son and brother, the Honourable, the Chief Judge of Rivers State, Sir Hon. Justice Iche Ndu; the former Deputy Governor of the State, Sir

G. T. G. Toby; our Royal Fathers, Chiefs and elders of Evo Kingdom in the struggle for the actualization of the new Diocese of Evo. To many others who played significant roles especially the Primate of All Nigeria, His Grace, Most Rev. Peter J. Akinola DD, CON; the Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Niger Delta and the Bishop of our residual Diocese, His Grace, the Most Rev. I. C. O. Kattey, JP in making sure that we have our dream Diocese, we say thank you and God bless.

To members of the Committee on the creation of the new Diocese, we direct that you prepare your stewardship account and report and be ready to present same to the Diocesan Board as soon as it is convened. Once again, we thank you for sincere efforts.

I thank you all for your patience in listening. May God bless us, guide us all in the remaining part of our deliberations today and finally lead us safely back to our various destinations in Jesus name. Amen.

THE RT. REV'D INNOCENT ORDU
Bishop, DIOCESE OF EVO