

**DIOCESE OF EVO
CHURCH OF NIGERIA
(ANGLICAN COMMUNION)**

**COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED BY THE DIOCESE OF EVO,
CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION), AT THE
END OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTH SYNOD OF
THE DIOCESE, HELD AT ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN
CHURCH, OROIGWE/ELIOGBOLO ARCHDEACONRY,
OBIO, RIVERS STATE**

The Diocese of Evo, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) held the Second Session of its Fifth Synod at St. Philips Anglican Church, Oroigwe District, Oroigwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry, Obio, Rivers State, from Wednesday, 2nd to Sunday, 6th August, 2023, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of the Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu, JP, DSSRS, Bishop, Diocese of Evo and President of Synod, with his wife, Mrs. Chinyere Ordu, JP, FCAI, President of the Mothers' Union, Women's Guild, Sisters Forum and Girls' Guild.

The Synod was preceded by a one-day Synod spread across the churches in Oro- Igwe/ Eliogbolo Archdeaconry on Saturday, 29th July 2023, where reports from Churches, activity groups and units in the Diocese were discussed.

In attendance at the Synod were the clergy and delegates from Churches and activity groups in the Diocese, as well as other Bishops, Clergy and Laity from other Dioceses within and outside Rivers State and the Anglican Communion. Among the dignitaries were the Executive Governor of Rivers State, His Excellency, Sir Siminalayi Fubara, GSSRS; Prof Julius Ihonvbere, Majority Leader, Federal House of Representatives, Hon (Barr) Kingsley O. Chinda, DSSRS, Minority Leader, Federal House of Representatives; Speaker, Rivers State House of Assembly and Member representing Obio/Akpor Constituency 1, Rt. Hon. Martin Amaewhule, DSSRS and members of the Rivers State House of Assembly; Hon Commissioner for Youth

Development, Hon (Dr.) Chisom Gbali; the Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Council, Hon. Barr. George Chituru Ariolu, and other Government officials.

Also in attendance were the Archbishop of the Niger Delta Province, Dean Elect Church of Ngeria and Bishop of Diocese of Ikwerre, The Most Rev. Blessing Enyindah, Ph.D. DSSRS, and his brother bishops. Goodwill messages were received from various Dioceses, Churches, organisations and individuals.

THE THEME OF THE SYNOD

The theme of the Synod was “Jesus: Unique in All The World” (Philippians 2:5-11). This theme challenges us to reexamine and strengthen our views of Jesus. It seeks to engage us in a scriptural evaluation of Jesus and all that make Him a unique personality, distinct or special from others.

The book of Philippians was a letter written by Apostle Paul to the first Church he established on European soil, in the Roman Province of Macedonia. It breathes a joy and confidence that can be explained only by Paul's deep faith in Jesus Christ. Paul's immediate reason for writing the letter was to thank the Philippian Christians for the gift which they had sent to him in his time of need (Phil. 2:25; 4:18). He admonished them to avoid being controlled by selfish ambition and pride, reminding them that their life in union with Christ was a gift of God's grace which they had received through faith. The letter is marked by its emphasis on joy, confidence, unity and perseverance in the Christian faith and life. Our Synod theme concludes that if we must be like Jesus therefore, we must first be servants. It is only through humble service that a Christian can truly be like Jesus.

Synod therefore:

1. Calls on Christians and all Nigerians to ensure that their services are to God and humanity. People should see each appointment as an opportunity to serve and not to exploit others;
2. Encourages Christians to imitate Christ by having a lowly heart, denying themselves and making sacrifices for others by serving them in humility;

3. Condemns Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and encourages churches to partner with like-minded institutions and organisations to curb the menace;
4. Condemns all forms of deviant sexual behaviour and calls on churches to be in the vanguard for the preservation of Bible-Based family values;
5. Calls on the church to become the primary agency for building an unshakable culture of tolerance and forgiveness in our society, eschewing hate and ethnic bigotry and violence;
6. Enjoins the Church to play a more active role in providing social services for society. Churches should own and run schools, hospitals, farms, supermarkets, skill acquisition centres, and other areas of human endeavour where government augmentation will help improve the lives of our people;
7. Reaffirms its commitment to democratic norms;
8. Encourages Christians who are so inclined, to actively participate in politics and to do so as light bearers and true disciples of Jesus Christ.

STATE OF THE NATION

RIVERS STATE

The Synod

1. Congratulates the immediate past Governor of Rivers State, His Excellency, Chief Barr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, CON, GSSRS, POS-Africa, Life bencher, on the completion of his term of office as the Executive Governor of Rivers State, and his successful screening as minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
2. Thanks the former Governor for his love, friendship and support to the Diocese of Ewo and in particular, commends him for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, (ACMGS) Road, Elelenwo and his financial support to the school;
3. Congratulates His Excellency, Sir Siminalayi Fubara, GSSRS, and his Deputy, Prof, Mrs, Ngozi, Nma Odu, DSSRS, on their

assumption of office as the Executive Governor and Deputy Governor of our dear state, Rivers State, and prays that God will fill them with wisdom, insight, strength and grace to deliver on this mandate, to bring glory and honour to His name;

4. Congratulates all other Evo Faithful who were successful at the last general elections in the State. Specifically, Hon. O.K. Chinda for emerging the Minority Leader at the Federal House of Representatives, and Rt. Hon. Martin Amaewhule on his emergence as the Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly. Synod also congratulates Senator Allwell Onyesoh, on his emergence as the Senator representing our Rivers East Senatorial District at the National Assembly, and prays God to grant all of them the grace to make life better for the electorate;
5. Commends the Executive Governor of Rivers State for the launching of the laudable Port Harcourt Ring Road Project and notes that it will be of immense significance to domestic, social and economic development of the State;
6. Implores the new administration to invest in human capital development by creating jobs as this will reduce crime and criminality in the state;
7. Commends the new administration for the ongoing promotion of civil servants and implores Government to prioritise the welfare of workers, and most critically, the welfare of its retirees;
8. Expresses concern over the rising cost of food and living in the country and urges the Rivers State Government to consider massive but appropriate investment in Agriculture as Rivers state has a clement environment in which agriculture can thrive;
9. Notes with concern, the deplorable state of the internal/link roads within our Diocese and other parts of the State; such as, but not limited to: Pipeline Rumuokwurusi, Iriebe, Okporo, Oroigwe communities in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area as well as those in Oyigbo Local Government Area. Synod therefore urges the state government to commence action to repair these roads;
10. Condemns the poor sanitary environment in Port Harcourt and other cities in the state and appeals to the Government to address this as matter of urgency;
11. Assures the governor of Rivers State, His Excellency Sir

Siminalayi Fubara, GSSRS of its continuing prayers and unflinching support for his administration.

NIGERIA

The Synod:

1. Notes with sadness that the rising prices of goods and services beyond the reach of the common man, and urges government to take urgent steps to ameliorate the suffering of the populace.
2. Notes the poor conduct of the last general elections, despite the humungous amounts given to INEC to deliver free, fair and credible elections;
3. Notes with concern, the very damning reports from International Observers on the last Presidential election and strongly condemns the intimidation, harassment, physical violence and disenfranchisement of voters;
4. Appeals to Nigerians, whether winners or losers, to resist the urge to take laws into their hands, no matter the degree of provocation;
5. Appeals to government and other stakeholders to allow members of the Presidential Election Tribunal absolute independence to hear petitions and deliver transparent and informed judgments based on the evidence before them and in accordance with the law.
6. Reaffirms its faith in their Learned Justices at the Presidential Election Panel and in the fairness of the judiciary;
7. Notes with regret, the cases of blatant nepotism, ethnicism and flagrant bias in appointments into public offices in the past and calls on the current administrations to heal the religious and ethnic divisions that previous regimes left behind.

APPRECIATION AND COMMENDATION

The Synod:

1. Thanks God Almighty for His grace which was made manifest all through the period of the Synod and also expresses appreciation to the Synod Guest Speakers: The Rt. Revd Gabriel Elabor,

