

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

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE DIOCESE OF EVO, CHURCH OF
NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION) AT THE END OF THE
SECOND SESSION OF THE FOURTH SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE
HOSTED BY TRINITY ARCHDEACONRY AT ST. MATTHIAS
ANGLICAN CHURCH, ATALI DISTRICT, OBIO/AKPOR LGA,
RIVERS STATE**

The Diocese of Evo, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) held the Second Session of its Fourth Synod at the St. Matthias Anglican Church, Atali District, Trinity Archdeaconry from Thursday, 13th to Sunday, 16th August, 2020 under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of the Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu, JP, 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 preparatory Synod held at the same venue on Saturday, 1st August, 2020.

All programmes of the Synod were held in strict compliance with established COVID-19 protocols.

In attendance at the Synod were other Bishops, clergy and laity from within and outside Rivers State and the Anglican Communion. The Governor of Rivers State, Chief Barr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, CON, GSSRS, PoS (Africa); the Leader, Rivers State House of Assembly and member representing Obio/Akpor Constituency 1, Hon. Martin Amewhule; the Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Council, Hon. Prince Solomon Abel Eke, and other Government functionaries also attended the Synod.

Synod also received goodwill messages from sister Dioceses of the Anglican Communion and other well-meaning organisations.

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: Rt. Rev. Dr. Babatunde Ogunbanwo, JP, Bishop, Diocese of Ijebu South West; and Ven. Dr. Christian

Iwuagwu-Amatu, Vicar, St. Mary's Harmondsworth, London, UK for sharing with the delegates the word of God and their knowledge and experiences.

2. Appreciates the Governor of Rivers State, Chief Barr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike; the Leader of Rivers State House of Assembly and member representing Obio/Akpor Constituency 1, Hon. Martin Amewhule; the Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Council, Hon. Prince Solomon Abel Eke; and other government officials for their support and presence at the Synod.
3. Commends the Paramount Ruler, HRH, Eze Sir T. O. A Ejekwu, the Chiefs, Elders and entire people of Atali Community as well as the congregation of Trinity Missionary Archdeaconry for the successful hosting of the Second Session of the Fourth Synod.

THE THEME OF THE SYNOD

The theme of the Synod was "Stronger and Better Together" (Psalm 133, 1 Cor. 12:14, Eccl. 4:9-12).

The unity of all Christians is an essential and basic feature of practical biblical doctrine, postulating a basic understanding of human life and human purpose that directly affects our behaviour and attitudes to our fellow men.

Synod therefore:

1. Notes that envy, injustice, Hypocrisy, Tribalism, Nepotism, Ethnicity, unforgiving spirits and such vices are things that create disunity in the body of Christ and calls on the body of Christ to eschew such vices.
2. Believes that things like church and traditions, differing biblical interpretations, parochial concerns, sentiments and interests of a local congregation stand in the way of unity.
3. Notes specifically that the Church in Nigeria is not together and that is why it is exposed to all forms of preying in the country and calls on them to be united.
4. Challenges Christian Churches to get acquainted with media technologies which are beneficial for the advancement of the gospel to avoid the kind of adverse spiritual effects of not gathering

in one place as being experienced presently as a result of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic.

5. Affirms that unity is good for all the people, and particularly the people of God and believes the biblical injunction and universal truth that as a people, particularly children of God, we are stronger and better together. (Psalms 133)
6. Acknowledges that the best group is not the one that is made up of perfect friends, brothers, sisters and relatives but one in which each individual members learn to live with the imperfections of others and yet admire other persons good qualities.
7. Believes the Church which Christ has built and continues to build is sure to last, and being believers who are the building blocks, they must let God shape them and assign them places in the structure with a view to their becoming part of the strong solid edifice.
8. Acknowledges mission as the focus of the church but calls on it to have vision and mission for economic viability and sustainability.
9. Notes that the rise of social media has opened new avenues for evangelism and stressed the need for the church to imbibe digital competences.
10. Notes the importance of history in any organisation and calls on the church to secure and archive its important documents.

RIVERS STATE

The Synod:

1. Commends the government of Rivers State under the leadership of His Excellency, Chief Barr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, for the concern and interest he demonstrated towards the health of Rivers people, especially in the wake of the Coronavirus infections (COVID-19), and the zeal he applied in the fight against the pandemic.
2. Lauds the Governor for the numerous people-oriented projects particularly the completion and commissioning of the Rumuokwurusi – Elemenwo – Akpajo Road now renamed Justice Iche Ndu Road, and the on-going construction of flyover projects

at Rebisi, Rumuokoro, Rumuogba, Rumuola and Oromeruezingbu, and also for striving to give the city of Port Harcourt a brand new look.

3. Draws the attention of His Excellency to the urgent need for yet another fly over at Rumuokwurusi/Elimgbu Junction (Tank Junction) as this will certainly reduce the level of suffering and enhance the flow of traffic in this part of East/West Road.

STATE OF THE NATION

The Synod:

1. Joins the Governor of Rivers State, Chief Barr. Nyesom Wike, to thank the Federal Government for the refund of the sum of over N78 billion to Rivers State being part of the money spent by the state on the construction and rehabilitation of some federal roads in Rivers State.
2. Condemns the alarming trend of rape and sexual assault cases in the country and calls on governments at all levels to take stringent measures to check this menace.
3. Commends the National Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and other Civil Society Organisations and the media for their roles in raising awareness against the incidence of rape and sexual assaults that have become the new epidemic in town.
4. Expresses concern over the extreme poverty and environmental pollution in the Niger Delta Region despite the huge resources at the disposal of the states and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).
5. Condemns the level of alleged corruption involving members of the Board and Management of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and key officers of the National Assembly in the finances of the commission and therefore calls on President Muhammadu Buhari to immediately freeze the accounts of NDDC and carry out a total overhaul of both the Ministry of the Niger Delta Affairs and the Niger Delta Development Commission.
6. Expresses concern over the spate of insecurity in the country, particularly the unwarranted killings going on in the Christian-

dominated Southern Kaduna, in Kaduna State; armed banditry and activities of Boko Haram in the Northern part of Nigeria; the menace of herdsmen, armed robbery and kidnappings in the entire country.

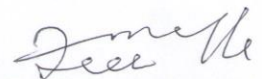
7. Calls on the Federal Government to wake up from its deep slumber and end the bloodbath and restore the sanctity of life, and also the International Community not to keep quiet over the security situation in Nigeria.

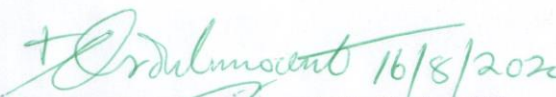
THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

The Synod:

1. Notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused global social and economic disruptions which have consequently thrown up new challenges in the world and encouraged the church to take necessary steps to grapple with the "new normal".
2. Acknowledges that the global coronavirus pandemic has shown no respect national boundaries, culture, race, religion, political or social status etc., and has the world that to take more seriously those simple but critical health/personal hygiene protocols that had long been abandoned.
3. Notes that for the nation Nigeria, the pandemic has exposed the extent of neglect and decay of the healthcare delivery system and facilities, and the urgent need to overhaul the health sector.
4. Enjoins everybody to observe the recommended preventive measures by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Federal Ministry of Health against COVID-19 pandemic.


Rev. Can Gospel Onuchuku
Clerical Synod Secretary


Sir Barr. Nlerum Amadi
Chancellor


The Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu, JP
Bishop/President of Synod