

**DIOCESE OF EVO
(Anglican Communion)**

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS/BISHOP'S CHARGE

**DELIVERED BY
THE RT. REV. INNOCENT U. ORDU, JP
BISHOP, DIOCESE OF EVO**

ON

SATURDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 2022

AT THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH SYNOD

HOLDING AT

**ST. MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RUMUOMASI DEANERY,
OBIO, RIVERS STATE**

Synod Theme

**“The Serving Community”
(Romans 12:11)**

BISHOP'S PICTURE

DIOCESAN ANTHEM

1. O praise our Lord Creator of Evo Diocese,
Come brethren, let us love, teach, and preach the gospel;
Lord, grant us grace and wisdom, the strength to spread Thy Word,
And teach us how to pray aright,
God bless our Diocese.
2. O God our Father, bind us in brotherhood and faith,
Thy will on Diocese of Evo be accomplished;
The gains of perfection is our desire, Lord we pray,
To know Thee more and more O Lord,
God bless our Diocese.

SYNOD PRAYER

Almighty and most merciful Father, The Governor of the entire created order, we Your humble servants gather once again for another holy convocation of Your church – the **First Session of The Fifth Synod** of our great Diocese. We convey our thanksgiving and praise to You that it pleased You to grant us a happy ending to the 4th Synod notwithstanding the challenges that threatened its proceedings. By Your grace and providence, we scaled through and are here today with joy. To You be all the glory!

O Eternal Father, as we consider in this Synod our roles as members of Your serving community, we pray that our faith in You and zeal for Your service will not wax cold. May we not be slothful in the business of Your Kingdom, but rather be fervent in spirit serving You and humanity.

In the time past, You endowed men, through the Holy Spirit with special spiritual gifts and talents by which they executed Your Divine mandate. At the universal outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, You manifested in us diversities of gifts according to our ability with which to grow Your church and make You known to the whole world. Enable us dear Lord, as a serving community so to apply such spiritual endowments in our Diocese for the advancement of Your Kingdom here and beyond, all to Your honour and glory through the mighty name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROTOCOLS AND GREETINGS

Your Excellency, The Executive Governor of Rivers State, Chief Barr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, CON, GSSRS, PoS (Africa),

Your Grace, the Archbishop of the Province of Niger Delta and Bishop, Diocese of Ikwerre, The Most Rev. Dr. Blessing Enyindah, JP,

Your Graces and my Lords – other Archbishops and Bishops/heads of denominations here present or represented,

The President of the Diocesan Women and Girls' Ministries and wife of the Bishop (Mama Evo), Mrs. Chinyere U. Ordu, JP, FCAI,

The Diocesan Chancellor, Sir Barr. Nlerum Amadi & all other Legal Officers of the Diocese,

The Ven. Dr. Gershinen Paul Dajur, General Secretary, Church of Nigeria, and other external and local Speakers at this Synod,

Our brethren of the House of Clergy and their wives,

Members of the National and State Assemblies here present,

The Executive Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, Hon. Barr. George Chituru Ariolu and members of your Executive Council,

Other Government functionaries including Judicial Officers and Guests of Honour here present, or represented,

Co-Chairmen – Sir Ike B.S. Chinwo and Ven. Chidi S. Worgu and members of the Diocesan Synod Planning Committee,

HRH, Eze Sir Raymond Emenike Chinda and members of the Local (Rumuomasi) Synod Planning Committee,

Our highly revered Royal Fathers, Chiefs and Elders,

Our special Nominees to the Synod,

The Diocesan Presidents of the Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF), Council of Knights/Ladies, Lay Readers Association; and the Anglican Youth Fellowship (AYF), Synod delegates from our various Administrative Blocs and churches

Other members of the Diocesan Community,

Distinguished Members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

In the name of God, We welcome every one of you to this **First Session of The Fifth Synod** of our Diocese of Evo, holding here in St. Michael's Anglican Church, Rumuomasi Deanery.

We are grateful to you for making out time out of your very crowded schedules to be present with us in this year's Synod in your various capacities as delegates, specially invited guests, friends of the Diocese or observers and more especially, for your highly esteemed presence at this presentation of our Synod Address/Charge. Your presence is a great encouragement to us and we greatly appreciate it.

OUR GRATITUDE

We thank God, our Father for all His goodness to us as a Diocese; for the strength He has given us to serve Him and for the daily revelation of Himself in diverse ways, particularly in the lives of the Clergy and the Laity; and for the tasks to which He has called us all.

On the occasion of this annual convocation of the leadership team and others in our Diocese, we wish to express our gratitude to the Chancellor of our Diocese, Sir Barr. Nlerum Amadi, other Legal Officers of the Diocese, the Clerical Synod Secretary, The Rev. Canon Gospel E. Onuchuku, and all Diocesan officials; our Diocesan Office staff, the Clergy and Church teachers, their wives, Synod delegates, members of the various Boards, Church Councils and Steering Committees of the Cathedral, Archdeaconries, Deaneries, Parishes and Station churches; the leaders of the various Diocesan Activity Groups, ministries and units, our respected Royal fathers and heads of our various communities in Evo and other friends of our Diocese for your sacrificial support and encouragement to us **particularly in the last one year.**

I thank very specially my wife, Mama Evo, Mrs. Chinyere Uchenna Ordu, JP, for standing prayerfully strong with me in all our tasks as Bishop of this Diocese.

Our equally special gratitude goes to the Co-Chairmen, Sir Chief Ike B.S. Chinwo and The Venerable Chidi S. Worgu, Sub-Committees' Chairmen and members of the Diocesan Synod Planning Committee; the Rector, The Venerable Alex Usifoh, the Priests and their wives, the Chairman, HRH, Eze Sir Raymond Emenike Chinda, Stand-in Chairman, Sir Barr. Bright Nda Owzor, members of the Rumuomasi Deanery

Local Organizing Committee for the hosting of this Synod, members of the Deanery Church Council (DCC) and all parishioners of the Deanery, for your enormous open and behind-the-scene efforts towards the success of this Synod.

We also thank the Deanery for offering to feed all Synod delegates all through the days of our stay here, at no cost to anyone.

We pray for everyone: may the Lord bless you all and continually strengthen you with His heavenly grace and vision. May He constantly reward your labours which you have carried out with unwearied zeal for the extension of His kingdom in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**OUR SYNOD HOST/VENUE- ST. MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH,
RUMUOMASI DEANERY**

Our 2022 Diocesan Synod- the **First session of the Fifth** - is holding here this week (Wednesday, 3rd - Sunday, 7th July) at St. Michael's Anglican Church, Rumuomasi Deanery. As our Synod tradition demands, we now present to you a brief history of this church right from its inception to date.

Before Christianity came into our part of the world, specifically Evo, our people had a form of worship which recognised a Supreme Being called "Chi-Okike" which literally translates to "The God that creates." They also had lesser gods at family levels called "Rukani" and gods at community levels called "Eli." The priests who ministered at these levels were called "Nde Ji Owbor" and "Nde Kwaga Eli." Worship of these gods was held in small hamlets and communities. The only shrine that brought all Evo people together was "Ehie Evo", located in the boundary between Rumuolukwu people in Oropotoma and Rukpakwolusi people in Oro Esara. This land, Ruwhu Ehie, is currently being occupied by the Nigeria Air Force. All Evo people gathered there in August of every year to thank the gods for abundant harvest. This, in brief, was the scenario before Christianity came early in the 1900s to this area which includes our present synod venue.

Early in the last century when missionary work finally began in the Niger Delta Area of Nigeria, one Mr. Joshua Hart, from Bonny (who also became the first martyr in this

area), brought the gospel to Oginigba, a community which is about five kilometres from Rumuomasi. It is from Oginigba that Christianity spread to other parts of Evo land. And in 1916, it finally came to Rumuomasi. About the year 1920, the first church was built at “Mgbu Egbelu” in Rumuomasi. Its location was in the general area between the present morning market and Amadi compound in Rumuomasi. By 1925, it was completed and provided a place of worship for Rumuomasi, Rumuezolu and Rumuolukwu. At that time, Rumuolukwu people were living at the present Air force base, very close to the run-way. Majority of Rumuezolu people at that time lived at the present Air force market. It was the World War II, which began in 1939 and ended in 1945, that caused the movement of these communities to their present positions today because the entire area was acquired to prosecute the war; it provided a military base for war planes. At the end of the war, it was used for civil aviation. And in 1980, the government of Nigeria gave the area to the Nigeria Air Force.

Between 1925 and 1928, St. Michael’s was not viable as a church for various reasons, ranging from poor attendance, personnel and the distances that the faithful had to cover to come to church. In 1928, Rumuomasi and Rumuobiokani agreed to have one place of worship at St. Andrew’s, Rumuobiokani. This amalgam did not work for long because of internal conflicts. In 1933, St. Michael’s decided to stand on their own. They sought and obtained land donated mainly by families in Rumuezolu community which was central to the three communities as they were then located. Those who led the break were Obadiah Okpobiri (who had an Episcopal church at the time), Moses Amadi, James Owhor, Isaiah Amadi, Frank Okpobiri (who was treasurer when in St. Andrew’s), Peter Elewa, Gabriel Chuku, Moses Kanu, Jonathan Onunwor, Aaron Kanu, Victor Ogwutum, Vincent Ochonma, Wagboso Emere, Samuel Ikwunga and Christopher Odum, all of blessed memory. At that time the church was a simple mud house, roofed with raffia palm thatches. Its location was at the old belfry spot, now open compound space.

In 1959, dynamic and enthusiastic young men emerged to take the challenge of building a befitting place of worship. Dickson Chinda was the youngest of the group made up of Gabriel Chuku, Clement Adele, Philip Amadi and Obasi Ochonma. A new church building was started and in 1963, it was completed. On 5th September, 1964, The Rt. Rev. R.N. Bara-Hart, Bishop of Niger Delta Diocese who laid the foundation stone, dedicated the building to the glory of God. Dickson Chinda, it will be recalled,

was the first twin baby (with his sister Adeline) that owed his survival to the arrival of Christianity.

Shell came here from Owerri in 1958. This move brought with it many stranger elements. St. Michael's grew in leaps and bounds because it welcomed everyone with open arms. In the same year, a primary school known as St. Michael's primary school was founded by the church. As at today, though taken over by the Government of Rivers State, the school was one of the biggest primary schools in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area. As a result of progress and growth of the church, the Niger Delta Diocese granted St. Michael's Church, Rumuomasi, the status of a Parish in 1981. Notable members of the Church then included S.S. Chuku, V.N. Obilor, S.B. Asonye, Fanny Wagboso and Mariah Okpobiri. This church became the first church in the former Evo District to become a parish. The pastor then was Rev. E.S.O. Amadi (now late). The enhanced status of the church caused further growth of the church to the extent that it was no longer feasible to accommodate all worshippers at the same time. Two sessions - English and Vernacular were devised. As at today, the English session has dominated the whole church to the total exclusion of the Vernacular.

The need to expand the church building became imperative. Series of meetings were held; the project was approved in principle but its execution remained on the drawing board. On the 13th of July, 1996, members of St. Michael's Church came for a programme and saw that the whole length of the northern wing of the church up to the western door and the chancel had been widened and construction work actually started. On 29th September, 1996, The Rt. Rev. S.O. Elenwo came to lay the foundation stone of the expansion being pioneered by some members of the church including W.W. Onunwor. In 1997, when Collins E.A. Ogbaegbe was the Vicar, the church took up the challenge posed by Onunwor and actually took over the construction and surpassed his dreams. In 1998, P.I. Orafu as vicar came and it was agreed to add a gallery to the construction effort. Hence, we have this magnificent building today which was dedicated to the glory of God in 2003 by The Rt. Rev. I.C.O. Kattay JP, Bishop of Diocese of the Niger Delta North (now retired Archbishop of Niger Delta Province).

It must be mentioned that many women played very active roles in the growth of this church. Some of them were Fanny Wagboso, Helen Chuku, Eunice Onunwor, Patience Dike, Maria Okpobiri, Rosanna Ogwutum and Nchelem Onunwor. Before the demolition exercise carried out by the Rivers State government, the women under the leadership of Violet Oguzor saw to the construction of a church hall, and

Nursery/Primary school from 1994 to 1996. She was assisted by Nchelem Onunwor at the time.

Deanery Status

At the meeting of the Diocesan Board of the Diocese of Niger Delta North (DNDN) held at St. Thomas Anglican Church, Diobu on 1st March, 2002, the Bishop, The Rt. Rev. I.C.O. Kattey, JP, in his address, proposed the creation of Deanery churches.

After necessary amendments of the constitution of the Diocese to accommodate the proposal were approved by the Diocesan Board at its meeting held on 16th July, 2002, and also ratified at a One-Day Synod of the Diocese on Monday, 29th July, 2002, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Diobu, St. Michael's, Rumuomasi Parish was approved a Deanery church with 7 other parishes. The formal inauguration of the Deanery by the Bishop took place on Wednesday, 20th November, 2002.

During the Decade of Evangelism, (1990-2000), churches were challenged to found new churches. St. Michael's was not left behind. To do this, land was required. This challenge was taken up by Sir Charles Chuku, the first Architecture graduate in Rumuomasi. In 2003, he gave his piece of land in the now highly prized Stadium Road, Rumuomasi, for the establishment of the Church of Resurrection. The first pastor in this church was Rev. Miebaka Luggard. This was the position until the church moved to its present site in the same axis, in 2008, in a building ceded by Ven. Isaac Tejevbo to the Niger Delta North Diocese of which St. Michael's was a part at the time. The pastors who served here were Rev. Atuegbu (2008), Rev. Mba (2009) and Rev. Samuel W. Gabriel all of blessed memory. After them were Evangelist Moses Anyatonwu, Rev. Ugochukwu Nwahaghi and Rev. Moses Anyaefena. Presently Rev. Richard Alete-Omoni (2018 till date) is taking charge of that church station.

In the spirit of evangelism and further church planting, a youth church, Olive Plants Anglican Youth Church, Rumuolukwu was established in June 2011. Bro. Chika Amadi, the then Diocesan Youth President, was the pioneer Church Teacher. He was succeeded by Evangelist Isaiah Orji (2018 - 2020) and presently, The Rev. Chukwuemeka Obani (2020 till date) who is the Supervising priest.

For the records, the present Church building and parsonage of Olive Plants Anglican Youth Church was generously built and on Tuesday, 26th July, 2016 donated as a memorial gift to the church in honour of the Late Nyenwe-eli of Oropotoma and

pioneer President of our Diocesan Council of Knights, HRH, Sir Wobo Weli Onunwor, JP by his children in fulfilment of their father's dying wish.

In response to the directive of the Bishop, St Michael's planted another worship Centre on the 30th of May, 2021, through the ministry of the present Rector, The Ven. Alex Usifoh, and Curate, Ven. Godwin B. Chinda, and the church is being administered by Evangelist Daniel D. Elijah.

Most of the church workers who started off as agents and catechists from St. Michael's have risen over time to become Reverends, Canons and Archdeacons. Two other ministers who served here, S.I. Eze and A.F. Nyanabo later rose to become Bishops of the Anglican Communion.

Nyeche Okpobiri is the first indigene and member of the church to have become an Archdeacon in 1999. Another indigene of Rumuomasi, Luke Ebere Odum was also ordained a Deacon in the 1995, priested in 1996, rose to the rank of a Reverend Canon, retired and passed on, on Monday, 7th June, 2021.

In 2003, on account of a crisis in St. Paul's Cathedral, Diobu, this church provided an administrative base to the Bishop of the Niger Delta North Diocese for three years while the crisis lasted. It hosted him together with all supporting staff.

This church also played a key role in the struggle for the creation of our Diocese of Ewo and hosting of the February 2022 Church of Nigeria Standing Committee Meeting, for the first time in the history of our Diocese, with its member, Sir Barr. Bright Nda Owhor, serving as the Chairman of the Diocesan Central Working Committee (DCWC).

This short history of the church will not be complete if mention is not made of the church workers who pioneered this mission to what it is today. It is interesting to note that the first church worker here in 1933, James Owhor, was a native, a deep baritone singer. Below is a succession of the principal church workers from 1933:

J. Owhor - 1933 – 1935

I. Nwuzor -1936 – 1937

A. S. Nwinyoko – 1938

F. Aneke - 1939 – 1940

D. Ibiam -1941

F. Emeto - 1942 – 1943

D. Akparanta -1944 – 1945

O. Orji – 1946
 J. Udemezue - 1947 – 1948
 H.N. Wodi - 1949 – 1950
 C. Uchenndu - 1951 – 1953
 L. Umeweni - 1954 – 1955
 L. Eferibe - 1956 – 1958
 S. Ogujiofor - 1959 – 1961
 E. Minima - 1962 – 1963
 A. Ikpa - 1964 – 1967
 G.W. Amadi - 1970 – 1972
 S. Epelle - 1973
 H.N. Wodi - 1974
 J.E. Solomon - 1975 – 1979
 J.S. Anyagwung - 1980 – 1981
 E.S.O. Amadi - 1981 – 1982 (with S. Dibia)
 J.E. Nwoba - 1983 – 1985 (with F. C. Azubuike)
 G.W.O. Amadi - 1986 (with J. F. Brown)
 A.N. Oburu - 1987 – 1988
 S.H. Oguzor - 1989 – 1996 (with D. Offia, J. N. Nwala)
 C.E.A. Ogbaegbe - 1997 (with E. Mbata)
 P.I. Orafu - 1998 – 1999 (with E. Mbata)
 A.F. Nyanabo - 2000 – 2001 (with C. J. Nwachukwu)
 S.I. Eze - 2001 – 2003 (with B. Mimi)
 G.M. Mpigi - 2004 (with Ollornwi)
 G.N.J. Waka - 2005-2007 (with Ollornwi, Luke Odum)
 K.O. Amadi - 2008 – 2009 (with B.A. Nwaoha Luke Odum)
 K.O. Amadi - 2009 – 2010 (with C.C. Chukwumati and B. Welekwe)
 C.C. Chukwumati - March 2010 – December 2010 (with B. Welekwe)
 C.S. Worgu - 2011 (with C. Okonkwo S.J. Ejekwu) - 2012 (with C. Chieme and S. J. Ejekwu)
 Chimaobi Nwachukwu - 2013 (with Cephas Okarefe)
 Alex Usifoh 2018 till date (with Godwin B. Chinda).

Once again, We thank the Rector of Rumuomasi Deanery, The Ven. Alex Usifoh and his dear wife, Pricilla; the other clergy, their wives, members of the Deanery Council

and all parishioners across the four churches of the Deanery, chiefs, elders and the good people of Rumuomasi community for their untiring efforts and immense contributions towards the hosting of this year's Synod, being the second to be hosted by Rumuomasi Deanery in the history of our Diocese. The first hosting was in 2012. May God bless and greatly reward the labours and hospitality of everyone in this Deanery.

OUR SYNOD SPEAKERS

1. VENERABLE IKECHUKWU GODWIN ANENE, *PhD* (Our Synod Bible Study Leader)

Venerable Ikechukwu Godwin Anene was born on 6th January, 1956 in Ihiala, to the family of Chief and Mrs. Samson Chukwuji Anene (all Late) of Umundu village in a modest community called Ohita in Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State.

EDUCATION

Ven. Dr. Ikechukwu Anene's Primary education spanned through many primary schools due to his father's civil service numerous transfers. He however concluded this level of education soon after the civil war at Central School, Atani, with flying colours. Dr. Anene's early Roman Catholic background afforded him the opportunity to have his post primary education at Christ the King College (CKC) Onitsha, a frontline Grade A school in the old East Central State (1971-1975). His tertiary education was delayed until he came into the Ordained Ministry. As a potential Clergyman, he attended the Archbishop Vining College of Theology, Akure, where he obtained his Diploma in Theology (DipTH). He turned out to be the best student of his set.

Ven. Dr. Anene had his tertiary education in the famous University of Port Harcourt and bagged the following:

- ✓ Cert. (Religion)
- ✓ B.A. (Hons) – Religious & Cultural Studies
- ✓ M.A. – African Traditional Religion (ATR)
- ✓ Ph.D. – African Traditional Religion (ATR)

CIVIL/ PUBLIC SERVICE

Upon concluding his Post Primary Education, Dr. Anene gained employment with the Ndokwa Local Government Education Board as a Teacher. After two years of teaching, he switched over to the Banking industry and joined the defunct African Continental Bank PLC (ACB) for a whopping 18 (eighteen) years and rose to the rank of Bank Manager before his call to Ministry.

MINISTERIAL PROFILE

- Catechist: 17th Jan 1999- 30th June 1999 by Rt. Rev. S.O. Elenwo
- Diaconate Ordination: 18th July 1999 by Rt. Rev. S.O. Elenwo
- Priesthood Ordination: 28th January, 2001 by Most Rev. I.C.O. Kattey
- Installed Canon: 1st December, 2006 by Most Rev. I.C.O. Kattey
- Collated Archdeacon: 10th June, 2018 by Rt. Rev. I. U. Ordu JP

CHURCHES SERVED

DNDN

St Andrew's Ang. Rumuobiokani Parish

St. Paul's Ang. Church, Aluu Parish

St Barnabas Ang. Church, Igwuruta

King of Kings Ang. Church, D/Line

St. Mark's Ang. Church, Rumuorlumeni

DIOCESE OF EVO

Church of the Epiphany, Rumuokwurusi

Church of the Holy Spirit, Elenwo District

St Philip's Ang. Church, Oroigwe District

Mount Zion Ang. Church, Eliogbolo

St Simon's Anglican Church, Okporo Deanery

St Andrew's Ang. Church, Rumobiokani Deanery

Presently at Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioizu Parish

CHAPLAINCIES

DNDN

Diocesan Council for Special Persons (Pioneer Chaplain)

Anglican Students Fellowship

Diocesan Literary Unit

DIOCESE OF EVO

Diocesan Council of Knights (Pioneer Chaplain)

Diocesan Lay Readers' Association

Diocesan Music Ministry (till Date)

Ven. Dr. Anene served God and his Church in so many distinctive capacities ranging from his days in Dioceses of Benin and Yola respectively up to this Diocese. He is gifted in Pastoral Care, Counselling, Teaching, Music, Writing etc.

Ven. Dr. Ikechukwu Anene is happily married to Patricia Afulenu Anene (nee Ugbome) with children.

We are grateful to Venerable Dr. Anene for his services over the years dating back to our years in the Diocese of Niger Delta North and since the inception of the Diocese of Evo. We also thank him for his enormous brotherly solidarity and support to our ministry way back in St. Andrew's, Rumuobiokani, Ikwerre Archdeaconry (now in the Diocese of Ikwerre) and since the start of our episcopal ministry here in Evo from 2009.

Venerable Anene will be proceeding on retirement from active ministry of the church at the end of this year.

We pray for God's continued grace upon his life, his wife and entire family and also wish him well in the years ahead.

2. THE VENERABLE DR. GERSHINEN PAUL DAJUR

(Speaker, Synod Talk on *The Joshua Example of Service*)

The Venerable Doctor Gershinen Paul Dajur, is a Born-again child of God, a priest by the call of God and a teacher by training and profession. Venerable Dajur is an indigene of Plateau State, from Pankshin Local Government. He attended Myet-Nemel Primary School in Kanke Local Government Area of Plateau State, for his First School Leaving Certificate; Government Secondary School Ampang East, in Kanke Local Government Area for his Secondary Education; and proceeded to the Federal College of Education Pankshin, for his National Certificate in Education (NCE) training. He also attended

the Christian Institute (Anglican Seminary) Jos in Plateau State, for his Bachelor's degree in Divinity; Trinity School for Ministry Ambridge, PA Pennsylvania, United States of America, for his Master's degree in Theology; and Crowther Graduate Theological Seminary, Abeokuta in Ogun State, for his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Theology. He further proceeded to Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo State, for his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Christian Religious Studies.

Venerable Dajur was ordained a Deacon and a Priest and preferred Canon and Archdeacon by the Most Rev'd Dr Benjamin Argak Kwashi, in the Anglican Diocese of Jos, in the Ecclesiastical Province of Jos. He has served as a priest in many parishes some of which are St Paul's Anglican Church, Pankshin (now St Paul's Cathedral, Pankshin); St Joseph's Church, Gurup, Pankshin; St Piran's Church, Jos; St Christopher's Church, Rayfield, Jos; and St Luke's Cathedral, Jos; as well as Chaplain at St Benedict Seminary and Convent, Pankshin; St Piran's High School, Jos, and St Luke's College, Jos, all in the Anglican Diocese of Jos. He was an Associate Priest at Grace Anglican Church, Edgeworth, PA, United States of America. As a professional teacher who is registered with the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), he has served as a teacher in St Benedict Seminary and Convent, Pankshin. He was pioneer Principal of John Kwashi Memorial College, Jivir, Pankshin. He also served as the Principal of St Piran's High School, Jos, and also as the Principal of St Luke's College, Jos, all in the Anglican Diocese of Jos. He was a lecturer at the Christian Institute Jos, and the Coordinator of the Postgraduate Programme in Theology of the Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, PA, USA in partnership with the Christian Institute, Jos. He is an Adjunct Lecturer at the Post Graduate School of St Francis of Assisi College of Theology, Wusasa, Zaria, Kaduna State.

The Venerable Dajur is currently the General Secretary of the Church of Nigeria, in the Secretariat of the Church of Nigeria, St Matthias House, Gudu, Abuja. He currently serves and worships at Basilica of Grace, Gudu, Abuja. He has attended many conferences, seminars, workshops within and outside Nigeria. He has written some books. He is married to one beautiful and godly female wife, Mrs. Michelle Misel Paul Dajur, and they are blessed with 3 children. The Venerable loves Jesus, his family and the people of God. He also loves reading, writing, singing of songs and hymns. He speaks Ngas, English and Hausa languages.

Venerable Dajur ministered to us at the morning Holy Communion service of yesterday, Day 3 - Friday, 5th August and also later in the day delivered the Synod Talk 3 on **Serving Heartily as to the Lord: The Joshua Example and the challenge of attaining the Nigeria of our dream.**

We thank our dear Venerable and his wife, Michelle for finding time out of his busy schedule at the National secretariat of the Church of Nigeria to honour our invitation. We also thank His Grace, the Primate, The Most Rev. Dr. Henry Ndukuba for releasing him to come to us.

3. PROFESSOR EME EKEKWE (Presenter of Synod Talk on Fighting Corruption in Nigeria’s Electoral Process and its Implication on good Governance)

Eme Ekekwe was born in Igbere in Bende local Government Area of Abia State. He had his primary education there and his secondary education in Calabar. His university degrees were earned from Canadian universities. He spent most of his working life at the University of Port Harcourt where he was hired as Lecturer 1 and eventually rose to the rank of Professor. He statutorily retired from the services of Uniport in September 2019.

At the University of Port Harcourt Professor Eme Ekekwe was

- Twice Head of Department,
- Director of General Studies,
- Assistant Director, Emerald Energy Institute
- Chairman and member of several Departmental and Faculty Committees.
- Member, School of Graduate Studies Board
- Chairman, Editorial Board of the Uniport Newsletter
- Pioneer Occupant of the Claude Ake Professorial Chair of Political Economy
- Pioneer Director of the Claude Ake School of Government.
- External Examiner to University of Nigeria, Nsukka, University of Uyo and Rhema University.

Ekekwe is the sole author of books and scores of monographs and articles published in international and local journals, book chapters, as well as editor of several books in Political Science.

Outside the University system, Prof. Ekekwe was privileged with the opportunity of serving as:

- ✓ First Nigerian Director of the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO).
- ✓ Personal Assistant to the Military Governor of old Imo State
- ✓ Chairman, Editorial Board of the Sunray Publications, Port Harcourt.
- ✓ Head of several units in the Public Affairs and Sustainable Development sections of the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC), East, Port Harcourt.
- ✓ Deputy Chairman of the Federal Government's Bitumen Project Implementation Committee
- ✓ Member, Abia State Development Committee
- ✓ Member of the Governing Council, Abia State University
- ✓ Secretary-General, Igbere Welfare Union

Professor Eme Ekekwe is the recipient of many honours and recognitions from his community (Igbere Clan), past employers and various organisations, the Dean's Lists in several academic institutions, Scholarships from the London Ontario, Board of Education, the University of Western Ontario (the Andrew Grant Scholarship) Carleton University (Teaching Assistantships), and the Government of the Province of Ontario Canada. He is currently in private consultancy on leadership and development matters, as well as a Visiting Professor at the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education and the PAMO University of Medical Sciences.

Professor Eme Ekekwe is married to Elder/Mrs. Ifeoma Ekekwe; they are blessed with children and grandchildren.

Professor Ekekwe took our Friday's Synod Talk 2 on **Fighting Corruption in Nigeria's Electoral Process and its Implication for good governance.**

We are grateful to him for honouring our invitation to come and speak to us.

PANEL OF DISCUSSANTS ON HEALTH MATTERS

1. PROF. BEST ORDINIOHA

Prof. Best Ordinioha is a 1995 graduate of the University of Port Harcourt Medical School, and a fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria in Public Health. He is currently a Professor of Community Medicine and Public Health in the department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Port Harcourt; Honorary Consultant Community and Environmental Health Physician with the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt; Director, University of Port Harcourt School of Public Health, and Head of the Environmental Health programme of the World Bank funded African Center of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-PUTOR).

He was employed into the medical school of the University of Port Harcourt in 2005 as Lecturer I, in the department of Preventive and Social Medicine, and swiftly rose through the academic rank, culminating in his appointment as professor of Community Medicine and Public Health in 2015, following a rigorous appraisal exercise.

His main research interest is on the environmental health condition of communities in the Niger Delta region, which has taken him to virtually all the communities in the region, in the course of over seventy field studies, that yielded more than sixty health impact assessment studies, the publication of over 60 research articles on the subject in local, national and international journals, and publication of the two books on the Niger delta.

Prof. Ordinioha is an Anglican, and worships in his home church, St. Matthew Anglican Church Mgbede, ONELGA, in Ahoada Diocese.

Professor Ordinioha was part of this Synod's Panel of discussants that addressed some critical health issues on Thursday, 4th July. Specifically, he spoke on the topic: **Our unhealthy environment and longevity.**

We are grateful to him for honouring our invitation to come and speak.

2. LADY (DR) NNENDA OMEODU

Lady (Dr) Nnenda Omeodu is a Public Health Physician with the Department of Community Health, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. She is presently undergoing specialty training in Public Nutrition at the University of Port Harcourt School of Public Health. She was trained as a nurse with Rivers State School of Nursing Port Harcourt before proceeding to Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, in Osun State where she obtained her medical degree (MBCHB). Dr Omeodu also has certificate in Leadership and Management in Health from the University of Washington, United States.

Lady (Dr) Omeodu Nnenda was born to Late Chief Cornelius Nyeche and Susanna Ordu in Omuokachi, Mbodo –Aluu in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. She is happily married to Eze, Sir Edison Omeodu, JP of Omofe Community in RU-Ndele, Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State, and the marriage is blessed with five children. Dr Omeodu attends St. Peters Anglican Church, Omofe Ndele and Christ the King Anglican Church, Rumuigbo New layout, Port Harcourt. She is a Lady of the Knight of St Christopher and a member of the Diocesan Board, Diocese of Ikwerre.

Dr Nnenda was also in the Panel of discussants that addressed some critical health issues on Thursday, 4th July. She spoke to us on the topic: **Useful eating tips for longevity.**

We are equally grateful to her for honouring our invitation to come and speak.

3. DR. JOSHUA UVIEROGHENE ADJUGAH

Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria.

Consultant Family Physician.

HOD, Family Medicine Department,

University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt.

B.Med. Sci. (Physiology), MBBS., FMCFM., MPH., PhD - HSM (In view).

Former HEAD, NHIS Unit, UPTH, PH.

Dr. Adjugh was also a member of this Synod's Panel of discussants that addressed us on some critical health matters on Thursday, 4th July. He spoke on the topic: **Healthy living and medical tips for longevity.**

We are grateful to him too for responding to our invitation.

THE REV. CANON OZIOMA IHEANETU

(Synod Sunday Thanksgiving Preacher)

The Rev. Canon Eustace Chinagorom Ozioma Iheanetu is the seventh of eight children of his parents. Born on the 24th February, 1980, Canon Ozioma Iheanetu was brought up in the Vicarage and consequently exposed to missionary work in his early years. Because of his parents' movement from one Church to another, he attended four Primary and two Secondary schools, including St. Poly-Joe Nursery/Primary School Ulo-ano Amandugba (Isu LGA), Central School Abajah and Community High School, Abba both in Nwangele LGA of Imo State.

Canon Ozioma Iheanetu moved to Plateau State in 1998 for further studies where he eventually had a life-transforming encounter with Christ. In the year 2000 at the age of twenty, while still in school, he answered the call to a full-time ministry and was posted as a Church Teacher to St. Peter's Church, Keffi now in Lafia Diocese, Nasarawa State on the 3rd of November, 2000. He was exposed early to teachings on Discipleship through the instrumentality of the Rt. Rev. (now Most Rev. Dr.) Benjamin Kwashi, The Rev. Canon (now Rt. Rev. Dr.) Olumuyiwa O. Ajayi, the Peace House Discipleship Ministry, Gboko and writings of Watchman Nee of the blessed memory, among others.

Between 2002 and 2007, Canon Ozioma Iheanetu experienced what he regards as his "quarry site," where he was trimmed, moulded and formed by God in the remotest parts of Nasarawa State. This experience, he believes, impacted positively upon his ministry today.

He was ordained Deacon on 2nd December 2007 and priested on 10th August, 2008 by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Olumuyiwa O. Ajayi, Bishop of Pankshin Diocese. In December 2010, he was seconded to Evo Diocese and was preferred a Canon by His Lordship, The Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu, JP on the 10th June 2018.

From 2007 till date, Canon Ozioma Iheanetu has served in the following Churches:

- Cathedral Priest, St. Paul's Cathedral, Pankshin, - 2007 – 2009
- Chaplain, Chapel of Mercy, Bishop's court, Pankshin - 2007 – 2010
- Chaplain, St. Benedict's Seminary, Pankshin - 2009 – 2010
- Curate, Holy Trinity Church Elingbu Parish - 2011 – 2012
- Supervising Priest, Faith Community Church, Eliowhani - 2012 – 2013

- Priest, St. Simon’s Church, Okporo – 2012 – 2013
- Vicar, St. James’ Church, Iriebe Parish – 2014
- Vicar, St. Nicholas’ Church, Woji District – 2015 - 2018
- Vicar, New Wine Church, East-West Road, Okporo – 2018 – 2019
- Vicar, New Covenant Church Eliminigwe Parish, Elemenwo – 2020 – date

Other areas of service include:

- Chaplain II, Adult Sunday School/Literature Ministry Evo Diocese - 2013 - 2015
- Chaplain, Public/Private Secondary Schools’ Ministry, Evo Diocese – 2016 – date
- Director of Study II, Diocesan Council for Clergy/Laity Continuing Education – 2020 – date
- Secretary of Evo Clergy Association – 2019 – date

Rev. Canon Ozioma Iheanetu is a gifted Bible teacher and a seasoned writer. He is a member of Church of Nigeria Writers’ Board and a major contributor in the Church of Nigeria Daily Fountain Devotional, Bible Study and Evo Diocesan Sunday School manual. He has authored nine best-seller Christian literatures, including *“The New Life in Christ,”* and *“I Wonder as I Wander.”* He is also the publisher of *“Faith Challenge,”* a monthly inspirational magazine that has blessed the lives of many.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from the University of Jos; Bachelor of Theology from Theological College of Northern Nigeria, Bukuru, Plateau State; a Diploma in Theology from the Christian Institute, Jos and a Certificate in Music from Royal School of Church Music, London. He has participated in many retreats, conferences and workshops meant to enhance performance in ministry. He is married to a female, Dr. Mrs. Dora Ugochi Iheanetu, an Industrial/Environmental Chemist and the marriage is blessed with four gracious children.

The Reverend Canon Iheanetu will be ministering tomorrow, Sunday, 7th August during our Synod Thanksgiving service as the Preacher.

We thank him in advance for what we trust will be a highly enriching word from the Lord through him to bring our series of meditations and reflections on the Synod theme to a beautiful end by tomorrow. May God continue to bless his ministry, his wife, and children.

OUR SYNOD THEME:

Our Synod theme for this year is “**The Serving Community**” drawn from Paul’s letter to the Romans, Chapter 12 verse 11.

Before examining this theme, we shall first x-ray the Epistle to the Romans from where the backup text is drawn.

Author

The apostle Paul wrote the Epistle to the Romans. Paul, who at birth received the Jewish name Saul, was born in the city of Tarsus located in Cilicia (Acts 22:3). His birth occurred probably between A.D. 1 and 5. Although he grew up in Greek culture, Paul remained loyal to his Hebrew heritage (Phil. 3:5). As citizens of Rome, members of his family were probably wealthy and socially influential (Acts 22:28). A Pharisee, Saul received the finest available education from the renowned teacher, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3; Gal. 1:4). Not only did Saul adhere to a life governed by the Law of Moses, but most likely, he followed its strictest interpretations laid down by generations of Jewish teachers.

Date

Paul probably wrote this letter to the Christians in Rome from Corinth between A.D. 55 and 59 on his third missionary journey, perhaps in the winter of A.D. 57. At the time Paul wrote to the church at Rome, he had never visited that church. He was preparing to go to Jerusalem and personally deliver a significant offering the churches had collected for the needy Christians in Jerusalem. He, therefore, wrote his theology and sent it to Rome because he could foresee the strategic importance of that church for the future.

Background

SETTING: The Roman church may have been formed by believers who heard Peter’s message during the celebration of Pentecost (Acts 2). Though Paul had never visited the church at Rome, he recognised the strategic significance of the church there. Thus, he shared in detail the basic tenets of Christianity with these believers.

PURPOSE: Paul had several purposes in writing to the Roman church. He wrote the Book of Romans to explain why he had been delayed in visiting the Roman believers

and to prepare the way for his anticipated visit (Rom. 1:10-13). Paul wanted the Romans to know that he had not abandoned his mission to the Gentiles. He wanted them to know he had not lost confidence in the gospel of Christ for all people (Rom. 1:6). Paul also desired to promote unity and to resolve a possible conflict between Jewish and Gentile Christians.

Audience: The letter is addressed to Christians in Rome. Paul had neither founded nor visited the church at Rome, which consisted of both Jews and Gentiles. The variety of backgrounds and interpretations within that church called for a clear, concise articulation of the work of Christ. So Paul's focus was upon Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Literary Characteristics: Paul's letter to the Romans has the literary framework of a lawyer establishing his case carefully and accurately. Of all Paul's letters, the Epistle to the Romans comes closest to being a systematic theological treatise. Through the literary form of a letter (with greeting, body of information, and closing signature) and the application of rhetorical skills of questioning argument, Paul presented a clear explanation of God's purposes throughout history, culminating in the sending of His Son for the salvation of all who would turn to Him in faith.

THEMES

The major theme of Romans is that of righteousness received as a gift from God, not achieved by works of the Law (Rom. 1:16, 17). Salvation comes by grace through faith (Rom. 3:21-31). Other themes include mankind's rejection of God's revelation, death to sin and life in Christ by the Holy Spirit's power, Christian freedom, God's sovereignty, God's plan of salvation as encompassing Gentiles as well as Jews, obedience to Christ involving sacrificial commitment, and practical Christian living.

OUTLINE

Introduction (1:1-17)

- I. The Need of Both Jews and Gentiles for Salvation (1:18-3:20)
- II. God's provision of Salvation (3:21-5:21)
- III. Sanctification and the Believer (6:1-8:34)
- IV. The Salvation of Israel (9:1-11:36)
- V. The Application of Salvation in Life (12:1-15:13)

Conclusion (15:14-16:27)

Now, we take a look at our theme proper and its backup text, Romans 12 verse 11. We shall however read from verse 9 to 11.

9. *“Let love be without dissimulation (**hypocrisy**). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

10. *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.*

11. Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.”

Paul’s letters always include a practical section instructing believers on how to live or behave daily as Christians. In this text, Paul began by an appeal to love - the primary motivating factor in Christian living. Christ-like behaviour or character includes showing genuine love (without hypocrisy), avoiding evil and holding to good; respecting others, and not **being slothful but diligent in service**, verse 11.

We are emphasising ‘**being diligent in service**’ here because this is where the focus of our Synod theme lies.

In our theme, two terms clearly stand out:

“Serving” and “Community.” What do they mean?

1. The noun **Serving**, according to the Free Dictionary, is the act of one/a person that serves. Furthermore, ‘Serving’ also means performing duties, e.g., as a member of a given community, organisation or group.
2. **Community** - derived from the Latin word *communitas*, translates to **joint possession** or **use**. It refers to “a collection or group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.” Such group of people could be geographically located with a common culture; that is, they operate under common ideals, norms and values which distinguish the community from others. Culture is widely known as the way of life of a people; the *modus* of the people’s identity.

In the light of the above definitions, the question one may be asking is whether the church is a community. The answer is definitely yes. According to the Church of Nigeria Book of Common Prayer, “the church is the body of believers in Jesus Christ who through repentance and faith are called out of sin, the world and Satan’s bondage to belong to the living God. They are the community of the New Covenant”.

Given the fact that those who belong to it share a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; they are all initiated to Him by one baptism and they all serve Him as their one Lord, Master and Saviour. They worship most often together and share in the same hope of eternal life in glory together with Him.

When we come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we become part of His community—the church. In this community, God calls us to live and exemplify the life of Jesus Christ Himself. We are not only called to worship Him and share in fellowship with one another but also to render acceptable service to Him through the specific roles He assigns or uses the leadership of the church to assign to us within the community. He does not bring anyone into His fold to sit down, fold the arms, and watch things happen. He rather calls each one of us to a life of active ministry or service that honours and glorifies Him and also edifies and encourages others with whom we share fellowship in the community of faith. **God hates idleness and slothfulness.** He wants us to be active, serving with our fellow brethren. This happens to be one of the many instructions Apostle Paul was passing on and urging the Christians in Rome to abide by. They were not to be slothful in business, i.e., not to lag behind in diligence, but fervent in spirit, **serving the Lord.**

In the Sixteenth chapter of this Epistle to the Romans, Apostle Paul wrote in glowing terms about **Phoebe** and **Junia** who excelled in their services to the community of faith. Phoebe was a woman who served others:

“I commend unto you Phoebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea. That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she had need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also” (Romans 16:1,2).

Phoebe is mentioned in only two sentences in the Bible, yet what a tribute they contain! Paul calls her **“Our Sister”**, **“a servant of the church”**, **“saint”** and **“helper.”** She had helped many including Paul himself.

Phoebe lived in the city of Cenchrea, a busy seaport nine miles east of Corinth and served as courier of the letter Paul sent to the church at Rome. At the close

of this letter, Paul reminded the believers in Rome that Phoebe was a fellow sister in the Lord, and he commended her to them and asked that they help her in any way that was necessary.

Phoebe was also a servant in the church at Cenchrea. We would probably call her a deaconess in some of our churches today. She probably watched over women converts and saw that they were properly disciplined. She cared for the sick, doing those little things that mean so much to one who is ill - providing meals, running errands, seeing that the children were cared for. She likely visited those who were suffering in prison, bringing them food as well as news that would comfort and encourage them. Then, there were functional duties to perform in preparation for worship, such as seeing that the bread was baked and the wine made available for the group to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

It is interesting to note that the word used here for "servant" is, in Greek, **diakonos**, that is, one who ministers, serves or runs errands or is an attendant, such as a waiter at a meal.

Those of us who have eaten at restaurants are aware of when we have good waiters and when we don't. The waiter's attitude often makes the difference in the kind of service we receive. If the waiter has the heart of a servant, we enjoy our meal and feel truly waited upon. On the other hand, if he does his job out of mere sense of duty, we feel cheated and do not experience good service.

As members of God's community - called to serve - we too have a choice. Will we serve out of love or because of duty? Phoebe must have had a servant's heart; she went beyond the call of duty. It may have been out of her way to go to Rome and look up certain people there. Perhaps, she had to take extra time away from her home to deliver this letter for Paul.

Another believer of whom Paul also spoke about in glowing terms was **Junia**.

"Salute Adronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me" (Romans 16:7).

“**Junia**” may have been a contraction of the male name “Junianus” but some believe Junia was a woman. For example, John Chrysostom so identified Junia and equally spoke in glowing terms of her services for the kingdom. The coupling of her name with Andronicus could suggest that the two were married.

Andronicus and Junia were Paul’s Jewish “countrymen” who had at some time, been in prison with him. Their conversions were before Paul’s, which indicates that they were among the earliest Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem. Paul stated that Andronicus and Junia were of note among the apostles - though the exact nature of their apostleship was not made clear in the text.

In any case, Junia was respected and recognised for unique commissioning as well as for outstanding contribution to the kingdom. If indeed Junia was a woman, this believer would further exemplify the already established fact that Christ commissioned both men and women to proclaim the gospel.

In the Old Testament, Joshua, whose service began in Egypt and ended in the Promised Land, who won great battles and under whom “Israel served the Lord...” (Joshua 24:31), continued faithfully in God’s service. Even at the close of his life, he was still urging Israel to serve God faithfully (v.23).

As clergymen and parishioners in our local churches and Diocese, we face a choice every day. Will we carry out the various aspects of our duties as ministers or run the diverse errands of the church as parishioners because our ordination oath or our membership of the church demands it? If we do, then we really aren’t serving anyone (except perhaps ourselves, so we don’t feel guilty). If, however, our attitude is one of love, meekness and patience, the church will be served by having the needs of those who wait on our ministry served, and they will see Jesus in us as well.

In Isaiah, we have a description of the true servant that God would send to His people (Isaiah 50 & 53). We all recognise Jesus as the servant who gave His own life out of love for us (Chapter 53). He not only served man during His earthly life, but He served us in death that we might have eternal life. And so, our Lord

Jesus Christ is our perfect model in service. He described Himself as one who came “not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28). Jesus descended so low to even wash the dirty feet of His disciples and also commands us to stoop and serve one another in the community of believers where we find ourselves.

So, what should be our attitude when we serve?

Paul tells us that “the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves”. (2 Tim. 2:24-25).

God wants us to be servants, but more than this, to have the hearts of servants, to be gentle, patient and meek. To do this, we allow the Supreme Servant-Jesus to fill our hearts with His love, so that He can serve through us.

We have each been given grace for service.

God knows that on our own we are not able to serve Him acceptably. We lack the strength to do so. So, He equips us to serve Him. Apostles Paul and Peter in their separate epistles opined that we have each been given grace or gifted for service in the community of faith – the church.

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (Eph. 4:7-11)

In order to foster the unity and growth of the church, grace has been given to every believer. This grace is a special ability that enables every member to work for the strengthening of the church. When Christ ascended into heaven after His

resurrection, he released these gifts and apportioned them by the Holy Spirit to his children (v.8). In His wisdom, He called people into different offices to serve as:

- i. **Apostles:** These people are sent to proclaim the gospel and also serve as church leaders
- ii. **Prophets:** Chosen to communicate God's message to the Church and sometimes unveil future events.
- iii. **Evangelists:** This group proclaims the gospel and harvests ripe souls for God's kingdom.
- iv. **Pastors:** They are gifted to teach the word of God correctly, etc.

In his first Epistle to the church at Corinth, Paul also spoke about:

"...diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal... But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" (1 Cor. 12:3-7, 11).

We must note that these gifts are not independent but inter-related; for example, when an evangelist wins souls, a pastor is needed to teach the word of God to disciple the souls. When an Apostle starts new churches, he can also disciple the flock as a pastor and even function as a prophet to communicate the mind of God as the Spirit wills.

Hear what Apostle Peter charges:

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10)

Serving God is one of the most important principles of the Christian faith, as believers are expected to help the church with a joyful spirit. "Love one another!" "Care for one another!" "Pray for one another!" "Encourage one another!" "Help one another!" "Counsel one another!" "Support one another!" One scripture

after another tells us of our relationship to God and others through service. Apostle Paul speaking on this subject much later in his epistles had this to say:

“... but through love, serve one another” (Gal. 5:13);

“with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free” – Eph. 6:7,8.

When God commissioned Moses and Aaron to go to King Pharaoh and demand for the release of the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt, He added that liberation would now bring them to the realm of true service to Him:

“Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, let my people go, that they may serve me” (Exo. 9:1; 8:1; 3:12, 18; 4:23).

At the naming of John the Baptist, his father, Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied and said:

“The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life” (Luke 1:73-75)

As unbelievers, we lived in bondage under Satan, sin and the world. But on repenting from our sins, God in His mercy and grace saves us from this triune enemies and He expects us to live or spend the rest of our lives here on earth in diligent and faithful service to Him. Christians are therefore saved and called by God to a life of reasonable service to Him through the community of the church; and such service gives Him pleasure. To enable us render this service however according His will, God endows us with the requisite grace or graces.

The texts above - Ephesians 4:7-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 11, 1 Peter 4:10, Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 6:7,8, Exodus 9:1; 8:1; 3:12, 18; 4:23 and Luke 1:73-75 - challenge us to use such God-given grace(s) to build His church.

Have you been able to identify the area(s) you enjoy the grace of God through which you can render acceptable service to Him through the church? How are you using such grace(s)?

May we not receive the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for service in vain!

Let us now identify some areas we can become actively involved in the service of God within a given community of believers like our local church and/or the Diocese:

- * Attending church services regularly for fellowship - worship, prayers and study of the word of God with other believers. This is the least service you can render to the church. By so doing, you encourage the ministers and also prepare yourself for the day of the Lord's return.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

- * Belonging to any one of the major activity groups of the church e.g., CMF, MU/WG, AYF as applicable to you.

There are several other **service units** in the church. Yield yourself to the Holy Spirit and He will guide you to one or more of them where you can actively serve the church and by extension, the Lord. By so doing, you contribute to the steady growth of the church.

- * Serving as a church Warden/member of the Guild of Stewards (ushers)
- * Getting involved in the church's 'kerygma'. i.e., the ministry of proclamation and direct evangelism/outreaches (preaching) for soul-winning. The Christians of the early church did not count their lives dear but preoccupied themselves with the business of proclaiming the message of the Cross of Christ with the aim of soul winning and world evangelisation. They were determined to fulfil the Great commission as part of their service to God and many of them died one form of cruel death or the other while trying to fulfil the master's mandate. We cannot do less in our own time. God counts on every one of us. You should equally strive to have your name written on the sands of time in preaching the gospel of Christ

wherever you go. You can engage in the writing of gospel tracts for distribution to both the saved and unsaved. This is Christian service as well.

- * Praying for your Bishop, pastor and the church as a whole, following in the example of Anna, the prophetess (Luke 2:36-38). This also, is a service.

Our labours and toils in the place of prayer for our ministers, local churches and Diocese, will never be lost. We may not see the results of our labour and sacrifice immediately, but in due time they will issue into beauty and glory.

- * Prayer and deliverance ministries of the church. While engaging in this, we must take heed to avoid strange and unbiblical teachings and practices.
- * Special ministry to the shut-ins (aged, sick at homes/hospitals, prisoners, those in remand homes) as well as the destitute, orphaned/street children and those suffering from the effects of natural disasters and civil conflicts.

We serve Christ when we serve people in need (Matt. 25:40, Prov. 31:20) and personify God's love to them.

- * Ministry to schools and colleges. You can join the Diocesan Ministry to Public and Private Secondary Schools where you have opportunity to reach out to staff and students with the ministry of the word and prayer.
- * ICT, Media & Communications and other technical services of the church/Diocese.
- * Singing and playing of instruments of music in the church Choir and Gospel Band.
- * Offering spiritual mentorship and support, particularly to the youths of the church.
- * Teaching in Bible studies, Sunday School and children ministries of the church.
- * Offering counselling services in the areas of marriage and family life and other specialised fields (to young couples and youths) in the church as a mature/experienced member.
- * Being faithful to your calling as a Lay Reader and or Knight in the church.

- * Offering your home for the church's House caring fellowships; accepting to lead and/or teach there.
- * Identifying and actually joining any one of the various ministry-based Prayer groups established by the Diocese in all churches to afford members opportunity to express themselves in service to God.
- * Getting involved in the church's 'diakonia' ministries, i.e., works of humble service to others – the day-to-day ordinary tasks which abound within the church, e.g., washing of the church's conveniences (bathrooms), collection of trash, cleaning and beautification of the church auditorium/premises for worship and other meetings, cooking and serving of meals and offering of general acts of hospitality at church occasions.

The Lord desires for us to focus on doing His will from our heart each day, delighting in humble service for Him (Eph. 6:6-7) and through the day-in day-out activities of ordinary life. We must start deemphasising the spectacular – great display of God's power in our lives which is the in-thing today and begin to also look at the direction of the ordinary tasks. God is equally well pleased in them. No service for Christ is insignificant for Him to appreciate and no individual is too big in our midst to condescend to serve God in any capacity. Nothing we do for God is in vain.

- * Giving financial support to the church and to your needy ministers for the purpose of addressing some critical needs of the church and those of her members.

Those of us whom God has specially blessed with economic power (material/financial resources) should use such wealth to carry out a ministry to the poor, needy and our ministers on behalf of the church.

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life” (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

As Christians, we can borrow a leaf from the life and dispositions of Mary Magdalene and the other women mentioned in Luke chapter 8 verses 1 to 3, who engaged everything at their disposal to serve the Lord. These women ministered unto the Lord Jesus of their substance. The Shunamite woman in 2 Kings chapter 4 verse 10 extended hospitality to Prophet Elisha and “Sister” Phoebe about whom we had earlier discussed in this address also ministered to Apostle Paul. Jesus Christ wants us to use our lives, talents, time, wealth and every material possession to serve His church.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read also of the example of Barnabas in this regard. The outstanding lesson to be learned from Barnabas’ life is, without doubt, the importance of the ministry of encouragement. Barnabas sacrificially sold a field which he owned in Cyprus and generously gave the money to the apostles for distribution to those who were in financial need.

“...whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and who ever sows generously will also reap generously” (2 Cor. 9:6).

Each time we act as the above listed biblical characters, we show our appreciation for all God’s goodness upon our lives, particularly, saving us from sin and delivering us from the power of darkness.

We are therefore blessed to bless others.

- * Using your distinctive professional skills, training/exposure in strategic fields of human endeavour e.g., Medicine, Law, Engineering, Architecture, Survey, Town planning, Accounting, Finance, Security, Journalism/Broadcasting, Theatre Arts, Social Media, etc., for service in functional committees and units of the church.
- * Taking advantage of your position at notable local and international bodies/organisations/agencies to attract favours/goodwill to the church.
- * As a member of God’s serving community - the church - endeavour to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ and exemplify Him in your work/business place,

at school and in the community where you live. You should be so committed to your work and seek to distinguish yourself in these places. By so doing, you serve the Lord, His church and humanity.

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:” (Phil. 1:27)

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16)

All members of the church, whether they are office holders or not, are called to the service of the church and are to regard themselves as co-labourers with their ministers – (Rom. 16:1-3, 6,12).

Like Joshua, Apostle Paul, Phoebe, Junia and our ultimate example and pattern-king - the Lord Jesus Christ - as well as the countless men and women in Bible times and in our generation who have given and are still giving themselves to the service of God through His church, We charge every one of us in the Diocese of Evo to rise from this Synod resolving from henceforth to commit ourselves untiringly to the work of God’s kingdom through the various ministries within our local churches and the Diocese as a whole. This is what God expects us to do as our response to His gracious redemption of us from the dominion of sin and the devil. We are to do this until our very last breath on earth.

How to serve in the community

Although God demands service from us:

*“And **ye shall serve the Lord your God”***
(Exo. 23:25)

*“And now, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, **and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul”*** (Deut. 10:12),

it must nonetheless, be according to His terms. It is actually a privilege to be called to serve God in His church and elsewhere. The one who serves is not doing God a favour and so should not contemplate offering such services in a manner that God Himself will not be happy about.

And so, the question is: How do we go about our service to God in His community? The scriptures provide a number of answers to this question.

1. Every service should be God-ward and so should involve the totality of our being – our hearts and souls – Exodus 10:12.
2. We are to serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear - Heb. 12:28; Psalm 2:11.
3. Serve heartily, joyfully, cheerfully (with gladness) – Psalm 100:2; 40:8; 126:5,6; Luke 10:17, Rom. 12:8 for God’s sake without murmuring, grumbling, complaining and cursing (Col. 3:23-24; Eccl. 9:10).
4. Serve with fervency. We are to be fervent (at the boiling point) in our desire to please God (Rom. 12:11) and avoid being lazy (Heb. 6:12), idle and slothful in the business of the Lord. If the work of God demands time, we must give it. If it demands intensive study and discipline, we must discipline ourselves to work for God. Fervency in spirit is an indispensable foundation necessary for an acceptable reasonable service. God hates indifference, lethargy, lukewarmness and cold attitude to His cause (Rev. 3:15,16). He wants us to serve with fervency and zeal.
5. Serve willingly, with singleness of heart – with sole devotion to whatever task that is assigned to us or godly endeavour we are led to undertake – 1 Chronicles 28:9.
6. Serve in humility with goodwill, putting the needs of the church before our own and thinking of others before ourselves in the manner of Christ. Subordinate your ego for the greater good of the object of your service – Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 6:7.

“...Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears...” (Acts 20:18,19)

7. Serve in collaboration and peacefully with others in the church (Eccl. 4:9, Col. 3:15, 1Cor. 3:7, Amos 3:3, Prov. 27:17)
Do not seek to serve alone or chase others away by your repulsive attitude. We are not called to be lone rangers; but to work as a team (Eccl. 4:9-12; 1 Cor. 12:12-25).
8. Serve in love – (Gal. 5:13)
9. Serve soberly – (Rom. 12:3).
10. Serve faithfully like Moses – “And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after” (Heb. 3:5).
11. Serve selflessly and with dedication like Timothy – Phil. 2:19,20
12. Serve in holiness and righteousness – Luke 1:74,75
13. Serve within the limit of the spiritual, material grace and ability given to you by God – 1 Peter 4:10,11

How not to serve in the community

1. Do not serve in hypocrisy- no eye service, no pretence, merely seeking to please men and to be noticed by them and not by God. Avoid self-advertisement while serving in the community. Allow God and not men to notice you.
*“Not with eyeservice, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will **doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men**”* (Eph. 6:6-7)
2. Do not serve in pride.
3. Do not serve insisting on rewards or personal profit – 1 Cor. 10:33.
4. Do not serve with a view to exploiting or defrauding the Diocese, church/group or your fellow brethren.
5. Do not serve with the spirit of strife, division, offences and desire for vainglory or recognition/acclaim of men – Rom. 16:17, 14:21; 1 Cor. 10:32.

“Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem the other better than themselves” (Phil. 2:3)

6. Do not serve slothfully – no lethargic attitude.
7. Do not serve amidst a life of besetting/secret sins and the like.
8. Do not serve complainingly - in bitterness, anger, disrespect for others in service with you and in unforgiveness when offences come.

Rewards for Service

Service in the community of God’s people is a life we are called to live and it holds for us assurances of manifold rewards and blessings from Him, both here on earth and in the life to come.

Every employee gets paid by the employer at the end of an agreed period of time after satisfactory performance of his/her assigned tasks. As you become born again and get actively involved in the services within God’s community, He assumes the position of an employer over your life; ever ready to reward you adequately. The writer to the Hebrews describes God as “the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6b).

God will always protect whatever the scriptures say about His person. He will not disappoint. Consequently, whatever your hands find to do for God and His church as a service, do it extremely well, excellently; having in mind that the unfailing reward of God will certainly come your way at some point.

David, speaking in Psalm 37:25 said, “I have been young and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread”. The story is told of a sister who had a hunched back. She faithfully and regularly swept her local church before and after each service. On a particular day, as she was again sweeping God’s sanctuary, the hunch back disappeared. What a miracle! God definitely swept the hunch back away. That was God rewarding her. The same assurance of divine reward awaits us if we serve heartily, as unto the Lord. God is a trust worthy pay Master.

In verse 10 of the same Chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, the writer had this to further say about God on the issue of His reward for service rendered within a godly community:

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His

name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10).

Apostle Peter once showed concern over this issue of reward when he asked Jesus about what was there for him and the other disciples who had left all to follow Him:

“Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?” (Matt. 19:27).

*“And he said unto them, verily I say unto you, there is no man that has left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God sake, who shall not receive manifold more **in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting**” (Luke 18:29,30).*

Soon after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, certain Greeks came to Philip and Andrew, desiring to see Jesus. It was to them that Jesus not only gave a hint of His approaching death, but also described the reward of those who would be His servants, when He said *“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: **if any man serve me, he will my Father honour**”* (John 12:26). It is usually difficult for those who do not follow the Lord to serve Him heartily; but for those who truly follow Him, great rewards are assured.

Paul in his letter to the Corinthian Christians, admonished them thus:

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that **your labour is not in vain in the Lord**” (1 Cor. 15:58);*

And to the Galatians he declared:

“Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” – Gal. 6:7.

The principle of sowing and reaping is often used to warn about the inevitable consequences of evil deeds. But it can also be used as an encouragement to believers in

their service for Christ. God will always reward diligent, honest, sacrificial and faithful service, rendered in honour of His name.

Having delivered Israel from their Egyptian captivity, God went on to charge them to serve Him, and promised to bless and reward them in a number of ways:

*“So you shall serve the Lord your God, and he will **bless your bread and your water**. And I will **take sickness away** from the midst of you. **No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfil the number of your days...**”*

Exodus 23:25-26).

The scripture, in the Book of Job, further assures us of God’s reward if we serve him obediently.

*If they obey and serve Him, They **shall spend their days in prosperity**, And **their years in pleasures**. (Job 36:11)*

Those who serve God are also assured of His deliverance and rescue in their time of trouble (Daniel 3:17). He delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the burning fiery furnace set up by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon when the trio defied his command to bow down and worship the golden image he had made. God showed up in the fire into which they were cast as attested to by even the cruel king himself (Daniel 3:25). The fire had no power over their bodies. It was neither able to singe the hairs of their head nor destroy the coats they wore. The smell of it was equally not there on their bodies. God will always save and deliver those who faithfully call on His name, live for and serve Him. Hear His promise in Isaiah chapter 43 verse 2:

“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

We must remember that serving in the community of faith - the church - may not always be easy but we will be rewarded both here and in eternity.

Our services which bring about the spiritual growth of our local churches and Diocese are not lost. We may not immediately see the results of our labours and sacrifices but in due time we shall reap a hundredfold result – perhaps long after we have forgotten them.

Be an active member of your local church. Locate a ministry within the church, identify with it and persevere therein for the good of other church members even if you meet with challenges. As a corps of godly saints in this Diocese, let us take up our crosses of service and begin to humbly run errands, minister to, spend and be spent for God and His church- meeting its physical, social and spiritual needs and those of our fellow brethren. Service remains the only reason for which God has left us here after we embraced the faith of Christ. And so, we must brace up to serve.

Concluding thoughts

We conclude this segment of our address by reminding us that God demands spiritual service from all those of us who consider ourselves as His children.

When we serve, **we act like Christ.**

“If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14)

Service **ennobles life:**

“But so shall it not be among you:...but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all” (Mark 10:43:44)

Service **exemplifies good neighbourliness:**

*“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise**”. (Luke 10:36,37)*

Service in the community of faith demonstrates our love for God:

*“He saith unto him again the second time,
Simon, Son of Jonas, lovest thou me?
He saith unto him, Yea, Lord;
thou knowest that I love thee.
He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”
(John 21:16)*

Service to God through one another lightens life’s burdens:

*“Bear ye one another’s burdens,
and so fulfil the law of Christ...
As we have therefore opportunity,
let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them who are of
the household of faith.” (Gal. 6:2,10)*

When we serve, we succour the afflicted, relieve the needy and we share the burdens of the heavy laden.

- Through service, the church is enriched!
- Through service, we show gratitude to God for saving us.
- Whatever we do in the church and to others in need, is received by God as service rendered to Him. In other words, in ministering to the needs of others, we are ministering to God.
- In service we promote God’s glory, and the coming of His Kingdom.
- In service, we use the talents/manifold gifts entrusted to us by God to His glory and benefit of others.
- Jesus declared to His disciples “... *But I am among you as one who serves*” (Luke 22:27). Today’s society insists that we should aim to “be somebody”; “to be served.” We want the best-paying job, the highest position in our companies, and important roles at church. Yet, whatever position we are in, we can learn about service from our Saviour. We should carry out our roles and ministries with an attitude of service. Though our everyday routine is sometimes tiring, we should be thankful that our Master is always there to help us, particularly as we desire to follow His steps and willingly serve His church.

May the Lord make us fit and available for His service at all times, in every place and particularly within the household of faith.

THE DIOCESE OF EVO IN THE LAST ONE YEAR

3rd Session of the 4th Synod - 2021 Synod

This was hosted from Wednesday, 4th to Sunday, 8th August, 2021, at the All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi. We express our gratitude to the priests and all members of the Cathedral, the Chiefs and people of Rumuokwurusi, our Diocesan Synod Planning Committee, the Anglican Youth Fellowship of the Diocese who launched our Address, our guest speaker and all clergy and Synod delegates for their support and sacrifices.

The Synod resource persons were The Rt. Rev. Johnson Nwaohalama Ekwe, Phd, Bishop, Diocese of Niger West; The Rt. Rev. Sunday T.G. Adewole, Bishop, Diocese of Kwara; The Rev. Canon Timothy Olonade and Lady Bridget Dania.

We were not able to fully preside over the Synod to the end as we were admitted in the hospital for medical attention which lasted for over a month. We remain eternally grateful to God for restoring our health.

We thank everyone in the Diocese who stood in the gap to pray for our recovery.

DIOCESAN CONVOCATIONS

Nigeria's 61st Independence Day: Diocesan Solemn Assembly

On Friday, 1st October, 2021, we converged on the Church of the Holy Spirit, Paraclete Deanery, Elelenwo for a Diocesan Solemn Assembly. Held under the theme "Peace be still" (Mark 4:39), the programme featured talks by the Bishop and The Rev. James Irikefe, worship sessions, prayers for the church and nation, prophetic declarations and blessings, etc.

2021 Diocesan Discipleship/Revival Conference

This annual Diocesan Conference which aims at raising faithful disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and equally promoting spiritual revival of the Diocesan community was held from Monday, 4th to Friday, 9th October, 2021, at the various Administrative Blocs.

The theme of the Conference was "**Victory Through Christ**" (1 Cor. 15:57). Activities of the Conference began on Sunday, 3rd October with sensitisation rallies at the various Administrative Blocs, although we are informed by the Ven. Azubuike Ugoha-led Committee that the organisation and execution of this was very poor at those levels.

The conference continued on Monday, 4th and Tuesday, 5th October with a Pre-Conference Prayer/Leadership summit for the Clergy, Church teachers and wives and all other leaders. The Conference proper commenced on Wednesday, 6th to Saturday, 9th October. It featured Bible studies, talks, seminars, Panel discussion and revival/prayer sessions.

With the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020 and 2021, we were compelled to decentralise the conference in order to reduce the number of persons in attendance at a particular single Diocesan venue. The Archdeacons and Rectors were mandated to organise and oversee the activities of the Conference at their various Blocs in conjunction with the Diocesan Planning Committee. Regrettably, some of these Administrative heads and Priests chose to be lethargic about it, particularly in 2021. The result was that we did not achieve much of our desired results.

“To whom much is given, much is required” (Luke 12:48). Success of any programme will largely depend on the level of commitment the stakeholders put into it.

We were quite disappointed at the performance of some of these senior clergy men. We pray this does not repeat.

This year’s Conference will be held together at a common venue – St. Jude’s, Oginigba Deanery, from Monday, 26th September to Saturday, 1st October.

Diocesan Harvest Thanksgiving

The 2021 Diocesan Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held at St. James Church, Iriebe District on Sunday, 10th October. The theme of the Harvest was “**Harvest of Valiant offerings**” (Exodus 35:4-29). The Guest preacher was The Rt. Rev. Dr. Chidi Oparaojiaku, Bishop of the Diocese of Ohaji/Egbema, Imo State.

We thank the Harvest Committee chaired by Lady Felicia Derek-Iyo for their sacrificial and excellent performance.

This year’s Harvest will hold on Sunday, 2nd October at St. Jude’s Church, Oginigba Deanery.

Advent Ordination Service

The 2021 Diocesan Advent Ordination of Seven Priests took place on Sunday, 12th December at St. Nicholas Anglican Church, Woji District. It was preceded by a weeklong retreat for the Ordinands co-ordinated by The Rev. Canon Samson Okechukwu Abada who also preached the ordination sermon.

Those ordained were:

1. The Rev. Best Ekendia
2. The Rev. Virginus Chukwuemeka
3. The Rev. Christian Gabriel
4. The Rev. Chukwuemeka Obani
5. The Rev. Chidi Nwarie
6. The Rev. Ogochukwu Ogini
7. The Rev. Joseph Asonye

We congratulate them, their wives and families and pray that God's grace will be multiplied upon them for a more robust and fruitful ministry.

Diocesan Rededication Services

The 2022 Diocesan Rededication Service took place on Sunday, 30th January in all Churches of our Diocese. The Clergy and Church teachers in charge of churches presided over the services in their Parishes and Stations.

We worshipped at Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe Parish with some Clergy, Knights and Lay Readers Executive Committee members. Some members of the Parish were confirmed in this service by us and the Council of Knights used the occasion to present cheques to beneficiaries of its annual University Scholarship and Bursary awards.

This service, held in all churches also served to sensitise everyone in the Diocese about our hosting of the Church of Nigeria Standing Committee and Mothers' Union Executive Meetings in February.

The Diocesan faithful again converged on the All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi on Sunday, 27th February, for a general rededication and thanksgiving service for the successful hosting of the CON Standing Committee meetings.

The Diocesan Rededication services at all church levels were preceded by a week of fasting and prayers for the Diocese and for Christian unity - This was observed from

Monday, 17th to Saturday, 22nd January and another week of simultaneous crusades and revival services in all churches.

2022 Vestry Meetings of Churches

These were held across the Diocese as follows:

1. **Station Churches** on Sunday, 13th February, for election of Stations' Steering Committees.
2. **Parish Churches** on Sunday, 20th February, for the election of PCC members and Synod delegates.
3. **Cathedral, Deaneries and District Churches** on Sunday, 6th March, for the election of members of the CSC, Deanery Councils, District Church Councils and delegates to the 5th Synod of the Diocese.

Family Vigils & Diocesan Prayer Convocation

For much of last year up to 7th January, 2022, we directed every family in the Diocese to hold fortnightly Family Vigils for prayers. This was due mainly to the problem of Covid-19 and the rising challenge of insecurity at nights. We commend families that faithfully observed the vigils.

A 3-Day Diocesan Prayer Convocation was held from Thursday, 28th to Saturday, 30th April, 2022, at St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery. Held under the theme "**Our ever-present Helper**" (Psalm 46:1-11), the programme had about 650 persons in attendance for all the days and featured talks by us (the Bishop and wife), Venerables Azubuike Ugoha, Alex Usifoh, Charles Mordi, Canon Gospel Onuchuku, Bible Study by Canon Joseph Ofoegbu and several prayer sessions.

The occasion was used to equally launch our quarterly Diocesan Prayer programme: "**Hour of Answer.**"

OUR EPISCOPAL VISITS/ENGAGEMENTS

Confirmation Services

1. Sunday, 3rd October, 2021 (Samuel Ajayi Crowther Day) – Anglican Church of the Pentecost, Rumuogba Parish; **26** persons confirmed.
2. Sunday, 17th October, 2021 – Great Shepherd Anglican Church, Mgbuesilaru Parish, Okporo; **24** persons confirmed.
3. Sunday, 20th November, 2021 – Daystar Anglican Church, Youth Parish, Rumuokwurusi; **14** persons confirmed.
4. Sunday, 5th December, 2021 – St. Philip’s Anglican Church, Oroigwe District; **61** persons confirmed.
5. Saturday, 11th December, 2021 – St. Nicholas, Woji District; **49** persons confirmed.
6. Sunday, 30th January, 2022 – Bethel Anglican Church, Rumuibekwe Parish; **39** persons confirmed.
7. Sunday, 8th May, 2022 - Chapel of Grace and Knowledge; **40** persons confirmed.
8. Ascension Day, Thursday, 26th May, 2022 – Word of Faith Group of Schools, Woji; **29** persons confirmed.
9. Sunday, 5th June, 2022 – Church of Holy Spirit, Paraclete Deanery, Elelenwo; **20** persons confirmed.
10. Sunday, 12th June, 2022 – New Covenant Church, Eliminigwe Estate Parish, Elelenwo; **43** persons confirmed.

Other Churches visited for Worship

1. New Life Church, Rumuodani – 3rd April, 2022
2. King of Glory, Mini-Ewa, Rumuobiokani - Palm Sunday, 10th April, 2022
3. Faith Community, Eliowhani – Tuesday of the Holy Week, 12th April, 2022
4. Bethany Anglican Church, Pipeline, Rumuokwurusi, on Wednesday of the Holy Week, 13th April, 2022
5. Daystar Anglican Church, Youth Parish, Rumuokwurusi on Maundy Thursday, 14th April, 2022
6. Anglican Church of the Passion, Rumuodani, Elelenwo on Good Friday, 15th April, 2022
7. All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi on Easter Sunday, 17th April, 2022

8. Ebenezer Anglican Church, Trans-Woji/Oginigba Road on Sunday, 24th April, 2022
9. Anglican Church of the Messiah, New Haven Parish, Iriebe – 1st May, 2022
10. Mount Zion Anglican Church, Eliogbolo, 15th May, 2022
11. Jericho Inn Anglican Church, 22nd May, 2022
12. Rose of Sharon, Atali on Sunday, 19th June, 2022 (Fathers' Day)
13. St. Nicholas Woji District on Sunday, 26th June, 2022 for the 7th anniversary of Eze Woji – HRH, Sir Emeka G. Ihunwo
14. Christus Victor Anglican Church, Ohia-Owuru, Eli-eli, off Igbo Etche Road, Rumuokwurusi– Sunday, 3rd July, 2022
15. Chapel of Restoration, Rumuogba -Sunday, 10th July, 2022 for the thanksgiving after childbirth (Churching) of Mrs Cynthia Dandison Fiberesima.

Parish Inaugurations

The following hitherto church stations were approved parishes by the Diocesan Board and we subsequently inaugurated them as follows:

1. Anglican Church of the Pentecost, Ahia Woji Parish on Sunday, 31st October, 2021
2. Daystar Anglican Church, Youth Parish, Rumuokwurusi on Saturday, 20th November, 2021 and 10th Anniversary celebration
3. Emmanuel Anglican Church, Okporo Iriebe Parish, on Saturday, 4th December, 2021

New Church Christening

We christened on Trinity Sunday, 12th June, 2022 the Anglican Worship Centre, Mango Estate which was planted by New Covenant Anglican Church, Eliminigwe Parish, Elelenwo on 27th September, 2020. It now bears the name **Anglican Church of the Blessed Trinity**.

Baptisms

The underlisted infants were baptized by us:

1. David Bekunumchi – Child of Mr/Mrs Mike Chukwumati, baptised on Saturday, 1st January, 2022
2. King-Jason, Anyadike - Child of Barr./Engr. (Mrs) Jim Utchay, baptised on Saturday, 26th February, 2022
3. Edenna Brain – Child of Mr/Mrs Chikeluba Nnoli, baptized on Saturday, 9th April, 2022
4. Sharon Fruitful Ngozi – Child of Rev./Mrs. O. Ogini, baptised on Saturday, 7th May, 2022.
5. Brittany Efemena Chimamanda – Child of Mr/Mrs James Ebebeinwe, baptised on the Saturday, 25th June, 2022
6. Chimdimma Mmesoma – Child of Rev./Mrs. Nzubechukwu Esomonu, baptised on Sunday, 3rd July, 2022
7. Chimamanda Purity – Child of Rev/Mrs. Dandison Okuru Fiberesima on Sunday, 10th July, 2022

New Church Plants

We commend the Rector, Canon Gospel Onuchuku, the Deanery Council and members of St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery for opening a new church at Atali on Sunday, 5th December, 2021.

In support of Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe Parish towards settling their new Church plant; we have offered them the old Rumurolu Church site and facilities of Cornerstone Anglican Church.

The congregation commenced worship services at the new location on Sunday, 2nd January, 2022.

Dedications

We dedicated the following projects within the last One year:

1. New Church building of Emmanuel Anglican Church, Okporo Iriebe Parish on Saturday, 4th December, 2021

2. New Parsonage and Children's Chapel buildings of Redeemer's Cross Anglican Church, TAP, Elenwo, on Friday, 10th December, 2021
3. CMF Multipurpose Hall and Church Water Project at St. Nicholas Woji District on Saturday, 11th December, 2021
4. New Hospital equipment for Bishop Elenwo Memorial Hospital, Rumuobiokani, on Friday, 24th September, 2021
5. New Power generating set acquired by the Diocesan Women's Work Office on Tuesday, 13th September, 2021
6. Monogramming machine for the Diocesan Women's Garment Industry– 12th October, 2021
7. Evo Transport Company with a fleet of 4 Siena Buses on Monday, 21st February, 2022,
8. A new parsonage building complex with a Bishop's lodge at St. Mark's Elenwo District on Monday, 21st February, 2022.
9. A 150 KVA Electricity generating set donated to St. Mark's Elenwo District by the retired Chief Judge of Rivers State, The Hon. Justice Dr. Iche N. Ndu on Monday, 21st February, 2022,
10. The Diocesan Printing Press House and Event Centre building on Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022.
11. A new Toyota Hiace Bus acquired by Christ Anglican Church, Federal Housing Estate Parish, Woji, on Saturday, 23rd April, 2022
12. Refurbished Altar of Chapel of Grace and Knowledge on Sunday, 8th May, 2022
13. A Keyboard donated by Mr. Aletor Solomon to St. Matthias Atali on Sunday, 29th May, 2022
14. New Family residence of Sir & Lady Chukwuemeka Ajere at Woji on Sunday, 5th June, 2022
15. A new Toyota Hiace Bus acquired by New Covenant Church, Eliminigwe Parish on Sunday, 12th June, 2022
16. 3 new Siena Buses by Woji Community for the Woji Transport Company on Sunday, 26th June, 2022

Items 7 to 10 were carried out by the Primate of All Nigeria, The Most Rev. Dr. Henry C. Ndukuba assisted by the Dean of the Church of Nigeria, The Most Rev'd Dr. Ali Buba Lamido, Archbishop of our Province, The Most Rev. Dr. Blessing Enyindah, We the Diocesan Bishop and several other Archbishops and Bishops.

Foundation Stone Laying

We laid the foundation stone of the following projects:

1. DCMF Piggery farm on our Diocesan land at Atali on Wednesday, 24th November, 2021
2. Diocesan Women's Skills Acquisition/Adult Education/Nursery, Primary/Event Centre project on Wednesday, 24th November, 2021
3. A new remodeled Gate House Project of Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, ACMGS, Elelenwo, being undertaken by the 1982 set of the Old Girls' Association on Monday, 27th June, 2022

Church Anniversaries, Individual and Family Celebrations

We celebrate and rejoice with the following churches and individuals on their anniversaries and other celebrations:

1. Daystar Anglican Church, Youth Parish, Rumuokwurusi – 10th Anniversary on 20th November, 2021
2. Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe Parish: 20th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, 5th December, 2021
3. Redeemer's Cross Anglican Church, TAP, Elelenwo: 10th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, 12th December, 2021
4. The Rev. Canon Bright Okocha on his 50th birthday celebration and unveiling of his book on Saturday, 11th September, 2021.
5. Prof. Anthony Ibe on his 70th birthday, retirement from the University of Port Harcourt and 40th Marriage Anniversary Thanksgiving on 19th September, 2021
6. HRH, Sir S.N. Ejims Wopara on his 74th Birthday/25th Anniversary of Coronation as Paramount Ruler of Rumuobiokani Community on Saturday, 16th October, 2021
7. Chief Sir (Engr.) Gibson and Lady Prof. Elizabeth Okeke on their 40th Marriage Anniversary, Prof. Elizabeth's 70th birthday and retirement from University of Port Harcourt thanksgiving on 23rd October, 2021
8. Centenary celebration of St. Matthias, Atali District on Sunday, 21st November, 2021

9. The Rev. ThankGod Amadi and wife: 20th marriage anniversary, Golden Jubilee celebration and Priestly Ordination Thanksgiving at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Elelenwo District on Sunday, 19th December, 2021
10. The Rev. Canon John Chinda: 17th Anniversary of Ordination and Canonry Installation Thanksgiving on Sunday, 19th December, 2021
11. The Rev. Collins Daniel on his 50th birthday and thanksgiving on Saturday, 7th and Sunday, 8th May, 2022.
12. Engr. Emenike and Dr. Mrs. Blessing Onyegeme-Okerenta on their 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving on Saturday, 18th June, 2022
13. HRH, Eze Sir Emeka George Ihunwo on his 7th Anniversary Celebration and Thanksgiving on Sunday, 26th June, 2022 as the Paramount Ruler of Woji Community.

Weddings

We rejoice with the following persons and their families on the occasion of their marriages:

1. Wedding of Captain Chilam Dimkpa (son of Sir & Lady Chilam Dimkpa) on Saturday, 21st August, 2021 at Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioze Parish
2. Former Miss Queeneth Onyinyechi Izuehie (daughter of Sir Barr. Emmanuel Izuehie – Lay Synod Secretary) and her husband, Princewill Aweete Abbey on their wedding on Tuesday, 19th October, 2021, at All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusu
3. Former Miss Precious Kinikachi Wokoma (daughter of HRH, Eze Sir Simeon and Lady Patience Wokoma) on her wedding with Engr. Ayotunde Ayodele on Saturday, 11th December, 2021
4. Mr. Benjamin Uduh (son of Sir & Lady Ben Uduh - our Diocesan Engineer) and his wife, Glory, on their wedding on Thursday, 6th January, 2022 (Epiphany Day) at St. Mark's Elelenwo
5. Barr. Kinikachi Chinda (daughter of Mr. Lawrence Chinda - our Diocesan Financial Secretary) on her wedding with Mr. Donald Nwoke on Saturday, 8th January, 2022, at the Church of Advent, Rumuewhara Parish
6. Sir Sunny Okere on his wedding with his wife, Ijeoma on Sunday, 16th January, 2022 at St. Mark's Elelenwo

7. Former Miss Joy Ihunda Nyeche and her husband Mr Mayokun Orekoya on Saturday, 26th March, 2022 at St. Philip's Anglican Church, Oro-Igwe District.
8. Mr Ikechukwu Ogbonna (Central Office) and his wife, Martha (nee Idike) on their wedding on Wednesday, 20th April, 2022 at St. Matthias Church, Maryland, Enugu.
9. Chidinma Okonkwo (daughter of Rev. Canon & Mrs Chukwuemeka Okonkwo) with her husband Mr. Collins Nwite on Saturday, 30th April, 2022 at St. James Church, Aguluezechukwu, Anambra State.
10. Postulant Daniel Nwabueze and his wife Adaeze (nee Amaechina) on Saturday, 11th June, 2022 at Church of the Holy Spirit, Paraclete Deanery, Elemenwo.
11. Dr. Ogumka Chieme and his wife Stephanie (nee Ugbah) on Saturday, 25th June, 2022 at St. Andrew's Rumuobiokani Deanery.
12. Engr. Nnadozie Tassie (son of Sir & Lady Chijioke Tassie) and Miss Chineze Onwuta on Saturday, 16th July, 2022, at All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwurusu.

Academic Achievements

We rejoice with the following and congratulate them heartily on their recent academic achievements:

1. Mrs Chinyere Ordu (the Bishop's wife & Mama Evo), M.Ed. in Educational Management
2. Our daughter, Uchechi, Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
3. Rev. Canon Chimaobi Chieme, M.Ed. in Educational Management, Leadership and Policy Option
4. Mrs. Gift Richard-Alete, M.Ed. in Curriculum Studies
5. Barr. Richard Chinda, PhD in Law
6. Mrs. Faith Nwahaghi, PhD in Accounting
7. Mrs. Dora Iheanetu, PhD in Environmental Chemistry
8. Mrs. Amara Abada, PhD in Accounting
9. Dr. Mrs. Chinelo Ugwu, now Professor of Guidance and Counseling
10. Hon. Dr. Lawrence Chuku, now Professor of Medical Biochemistry/Molecular Biology

New Babies

We congratulate the following on the arrival of their new babies:

1. Rev. & Mrs Ogini Ogochukwu – a baby girl
2. Mr & Mrs Ifeanyi Nwaiwu – a baby girl
3. Rev. Nzube & Mrs Ogechi Esomonu – a baby girl
4. Mr & Mrs James Ebebeinwe – a baby girl
5. Mr & Mrs Charles Benibo – a baby boy
6. Rev. Dandison Mrs. Cynthia Okuru Fiberesima – a baby girl
7. Dr. Kasarachi & Mrs Gift Innocent – a baby boy
8. Ordinand & Mrs Victor Chika Orlu – a baby boy
9. Sir Silas & Lady Chioma Ekezie – a baby boy

Our sorrows

We lost to death the following persons amongst others:

1. Engr. Chiedu Kasim (Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe)
2. Sir Chris Azubuike Elewa (St. Nicholas Woji)
3. Bro. Chuks Onyema of St. Andrew's, Rumuobiokani
4. Mrs. Grace Chiatogu Anyasodo, mother of Ven. Emmanuel Anyasodo
5. Ezinne Lolo Joyce Onyewuotu, mother of Ven. Thompson Onyewuotu
6. Elder J.B. Nyeche of St. Philip's, Oroigwe, father of Clerk Stella Nyeche
7. Dame Eugenia N. Amadi of St. Philip's, Oroigwe, mother of Prof. Joe Amadi-Echendu
8. Jekiopusenibo Adagogo Dinne Afafe-Jaja, father of Mrs Joy Madume
9. Ezinne Virginia E. Ohajianya, mother of Rev. Canon Ohajianya
10. Sir Godwin Nlerum of All Saints Cathedral
11. Ezinne Cecilia Anonye, mother of Sir Ken Anonye of New Wine Church
12. Rev. Edmund Woko (Rtd)
13. Sir Paul Chukwumati of St. Philip's, Oroigwe, former (second) President of Diocesan Lay Readers Association and father of Mr. Mike Chukwumati (Diocesan Auditor)
14. Mazi Festus Ogbonnaya Ogundu, father in-law and father of Sir Engr. Sunny & Lady Sonia Worlu.
15. Mr. Horstead Ijah, Father of Rev. Amoson Ijah
16. Elder Stephen Eleto Enwukwe, father of Sir Mike Ejims-Enwukwe

17. Sir Reginald Waboso, first President of Evo Diocesan Men's Christian Association (now CMF)
18. Elder John Mobolaji Popoola of New Wine Church, Okporo
19. Madam Fyna Akunnaya Amadi, mother of Dr. Bright Amadi
20. Mr. Vincent Chuku, foremost children's teacher at St. Mark's, Elenwo
21. Madam Mercy Wajidor Enyi, Mother-in-law and mother of Sir Promise Owhor (Diocesan Treasurer) and wife, Lady Beatrice
22. Chief Peter N. Afonwa father-in-law and father of the Rev. Canon & Mrs. Ahamefule Olluor
23. Ezinne Idah Adaegbuna Moneke, mother-in-law and mother of Engr. Max & Prof. Mrs. Chinelo Joy Ugwu
24. Mrs. Evelyn N. Dike of St. Jude's Oginigba, mother of Mr. Franklin Dike
25. The Rt. Rev. (Dr.) Sunday Andrew Iwo (JP) Rtd, father of Engr. (Dr.) George P. Iwo
26. Elder Jubilee Fila, father of Mr. Idala Fila

May the Lord comfort all members of their families and His church at large.

RETREATS, TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

During the Synod year, series of retreats, trainings and workshops were carried out at virtually all levels of the Diocese for the clergy, church teachers and wives, other leaders and members of the Diocesan Board, Church Councils and activity groups.

The clergy, church teachers and their wives held a combined Solemn Assembly on Tuesday, 28th to Wednesday, 29th September, 2021 at St. John The Evangelist Church, Pipeline, Atali, for the Word and Prayers. A prayer and leadership summit was held on 4th & 5th October at all Administrative Bloc levels as part of the programmes of the 2021 Diocesan Discipleship and Revival Conference.

This usual in-service school for the clergy and church teachers was periodically held by the Council for Clergy, laity Continuing Education.

To begin the new year 2022, the clergy, church teachers with their wives retreated for a week from Monday, 17th to Saturday, 22nd January, to seek God's face and prepare themselves for the challenge of ministry activities. This took place at New Covenant, Eliminigwe, Emmanuel Anglican Church, Iriebe Parish, St. Andrew's, Rumuobiokani and All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwurusu.

All other groups of the Diocese, the Lay Readers, Knights, CMF and MU/WG, etc., equally began the year in like manner. Details of their activities in this regard are highlighted in their respective Synod reports.

Church of Nigeria Senior Clergy Advanced Management Course

Five of our clergy – The Rev. Canon Roland Benjamin, Rev. Dr. James Irikefe, Rev. Otuka, Rev. Chukwuemeka S. Udeh and Rev. Collins Daniel took part in the Church of Nigeria-organised Senior Clergy Advanced Management course held at the Ibru Ecumenical Centre, Agbarha-Otor, Delta State from Monday, 17th to Thursday, 27th January, 2022.

The Catalyst course on World Evangelisation

The Bishop, clergy and church teachers, with their wives, were taken on this course from Monday, 25th to Wednesday, 27th April, 2022 at the Chapel of Grace and Knowledge, First Fruit Parish, ACMGS, Elelenwo. It was our 1st contact.

Developed by The Rev. Canon Timothy Olonade, a priest of the Diocese of Jos and founder of the El-Rehoboth Global Leadership Foundation, Jos, the course is a strategic mission empowerment and mobilisation training programme for world changers. The course exposed participants on how to intentionally participate in global mission while remaining relevant at the local levels.

The clergy, church teachers and their wives were challenged to take the members of their congregations through this seven-lesson course, each person starting with an initial group of 10 persons.

We trust that they have done this and that those of you who have gone through the course shall have by now developed hearts for mission and soul-winning.

May the Spirit of God set our hearts on fire!

Post vestry meetings leadership training/workshop

The annual Post vestry meetings leadership training/workshop for the leadership team of the Diocese at all levels was held at the Chapel of Grace and Knowledge, ACMGS, Elelenwo, from Thursday, 19th to Saturday, 21st May, 2022. The theme was **“Leadership and the price of commitment”** (Prov. 12:24; Luke 9:62). Talks delivered under the theme included:

1. “No man taketh this honour unto himself” by We, The Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu, the Diocesan
2. “Leadership Reflections” by Engr. Chiemeka Sylvester
3. “Developing and maintaining a stakeholder mentality” by The Rev. Collins Daniel
4. General talk on “How to develop your church” by the Hon. Justice Sika Aprioku, Chancellor, Diocese of Okrika
5. Bible Study by The Rev. Canon Gospel Onuchuku
6. Panel Discussion on “Contending with the rising challenge of empty pews in our churches by Mrs. Chinyere U. Ordu – Mama Diocese, Sir Barr. Othuke Okpighe and Postulant David Wopara.
7. A breakout session for People’s and Pastor’s wardens was anchored by Sir Barr. G.O. Dike; Treasurers and other finance officers of churches by Mr. Lawrence Chinda – the Diocesan Financial Secretary; Management staff of our Diocesan Schools by Mrs. Chinyere Ordu – Mama Evo/Principal of

ACMGS and Rev. Timothy Otuka, principal of Word of Faith, Woji. We, the Bishop, concluded with the rest of the participants.

We are grateful to Ven. Azubuike Ugoha, Rector and the Directors of Studies, Canon Joseph Ofoegbu, Canon Ozioma Iheanetu and Engr. Chiemeka of the Council for Continuing Education for their great efforts at planning and executing the special training.

A refresher training course on ministerial and ICT financial packages was organised for all Diocesan Clerks, Secretaries and treasurers of churches by the Council for Clergy, Laity Continuing Education from Thursday, 23rd to Friday, 24th June, 2022. It was held at the Diocesan ICT Youth Development Centre.

ELMI International Christian Leadership Conference (ICLC) 2022

The 6th edition of the International Christian Leadership Conference was hosted by the Evangelism, Leadership and Mission Institute (ELMI) at St. Paul's Cathedral, Garrison, Diobu, Port Harcourt, from Monday, 30th May to Friday, 3rd June, 2022. The theme for this year's conference was "Building leaders for effectiveness. The key speaker was the Ven. Prof. Chinedu Nebo.

The Archbishop of our Province, The Most Rev. Dr. Blessing C. Enyindah formally declared the conference open and the Primate of All Nigeria also addressed the conference. The ICLC has come to stay as a major annual provincial and Church of Nigeria programme targeted at developing the capacity of all in Church leadership.

Consequently, all pastors and councils of our churches are to deliberately factor this event into their local schedule of activities and budgets. Participation in it is mandatory for all who hold any form of leadership in all churches of our Diocese.

It should be noted by all that preparation, mobilisation of participants from our Diocese to this conference as well as monitoring of them and packaging of formal report to us and the Diocesan Board fall within the schedule of duties of the Diocesan Council for Clergy/Laity Continuing Education.

The Rector and Directors of Studies should particularly take note of this as we prepare for future editions of the conference.

World Council of Churches/EHAIA Consultation on Gender Inequalities and HIV

This Consultative Conference was hosted by the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative and Advocacy (WCC-EHAIA) in collaboration with the National Secretariat of the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) in Port Harcourt from Wednesday, 13th to Saturday, 16th July, 2022.

The overall objective of the consultation is “to reinforce the capacity of tutors from Theological institutions and religious leaders to unleash their full potential in the fight against Gender inequalities and HIV mainstreaming on the curricula.”

The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) – a member of the CCN and World Council of Churches' was represented at the consultation by two of our priests – The Ven. Emmanuel Anyasodo and The Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Owbor. We, the Bishop of Ewo and Chairman of the Christian Council of Nigeria in Rivers State, stood in for the National President of the CCN, The Most Rev. Dr. Benebo Fubara Fubara-Manuel at both the opening and closing events.

HOSTING OF THE FEBRUARY 2022 MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA STANDING COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL MOTHERS' UNION EXECUTIVES: OUR SPECIAL GRATITUDE

Our Diocese hosted the first of the two Church of Nigeria Standing Committee and National Mothers' Union Executive Meetings for this year 2022, from Monday, 21st to Friday, 25th February. These meetings attracted in attendance the Primate of All Nigeria and his wife, The Most Rev. Dr. Henry and Mrs. Angela Ndukuba, Archbishops, Bishops, their wives, Chancellors and other legal officers, Clergy and women delegates from the over 160 Dioceses of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

The burden of playing host to these apex leaders of the Church in Nigeria was quite heavy. Much money was required to attend to matters of venues, hotel accommodation, feeding of delegates, transportation, medical services, media/publicity, security, decorations, printing of materials, protocols/logistics, souvenirs/honoraria, etc.

We instituted a weekly raising of voluntary offerings in all churches and at major Diocesan gatherings; set up a Diocesan Central Working Committee as well as a Funds Sourcing Committee; sent out letters and also paid private visits to some government officials and friends of our Diocese for the purpose of raising financial support and sponsorship of some aspects of the hosting. The various groups of the Diocese and our schools were also levied.

By the grace of God and through the sacrificial support of our churches, groups and nearly every individual approached and of course, the efforts of the Funds Sourcing and the Central Working Committees, our funds drive efforts were very largely fruitful. Almost all the churches exceeded the amount they were levied. Some others like New Covenant, Eliminigwe Parish, donated additional amount of money.

At the end of the Day, our guests were well taken care of. To God be the glory!

May we therefore use this medium to once again express our appreciation and gratitude to the following:

- The Chairman, Sir Barr. Bright Nda-Owhor, Co-Vice Chairmen, The Ven. Charles Mordi and Sir Francis Chilam Dimkpa and all members of the Central Working Committee (CWC);
- The Chairmen/Chairpersons of the various Sub committees, Rev. Can. Kingsley Ohajianya - Prayer & Spirituality, Sir Barr. Bright Nda Owhor - Accommodation, Lady Amonia Hart - Entertainment, Sir Chief Hon. Ike B.S. Chinwo - Souvenir, Ven. Chris Chukwumati - Transportation, Lady Felicia Derek-Iyo - Business/Vendors, HRM, Sir Capt. Clement Ejiofor - Security, Sir Dr. Jossy Nkwocha - Media/Publicity, Mr. Lawrence Chinda - Finance/Due Process, Dr. Maxwell Ugwu - Venue/Facilities, Dame Christy Laguda - Sanitation, Lady Dr. Ndidi Utchay - Medical/Covid 19 Protocols, Hon. Martin Amaewhule - Protocol/Ceremonials, Rev. Can. Gospel Onuchuku - Secretariat/Registration, Ven. Dr. Ikechukwu Anene - Worship/Music, their members and those later coopted;
- The Chairman, Sir Barr. Chief Mike Ejims-Enwukwe, the co-vice Chairmen, Sir Raymond Amadi and Lady Amonia Hart and all members of the Funds Sourcing Committee (FSC) for their generous donations and funds attracted to the Diocese through others;
- The Cathedral Standing Committee (CSC), Deanery Councils (DC), District Church Councils (DCC), Parish Church Council (PCC), Station Churches Steering Committees (SCSC) & members of all our churches;
- The Presidents & members of our Diocesan CMF, MU/WG, AYF, Knights, Lay Readers;
- The House of Clergy; Clergy wives, Church Teachers and our Lay church workers;

- His Grace, The Most Rev. Dr. Blessing and Mrs. Precious Enyindah, our Archbishop and Mama Province;
- Bishops and wives of the Dioceses of Ikwerre, Niger Delta North, Okrika, Northern Izon, Ahoada, Etche, Ogoni, Ogbia and Enugu North;
- His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, CON, GSSRS, PoS Africa;
- Hon. Justice S.C. Amadi, Rivers State Chief Judge;
- Hon. Barr. & Mrs George Ariolu, the Executive Chairman of Obio/Akpor L.G.A.
- Hon. Allwell Ihunda, the Executive Chairman/Mayor of Port Harcourt City Local Government Area;
- Hon. Samuel Nwanosike, the Executive Chairman of Ikwerre L.G.A.;
- Hon. Martin Chike Amaewhule, Leader, Rivers State House of Assembly for funding much of the budget of the Protocol/Ceremonials Sub-Committee;
- The Ven. Dr. F.N. Akah, JP, Chairman, State Universal Basic Education Board, for his financial support and provision of vehicles;
- Hon. Igo Aguma and the entire Aguma family of Rebisi for financial support and provision of Hotel accommodation;
- His Excellency, Alabo Sir Dr. G.T.G. and Dame Dr. Christie Toby, Dame Ibim Semenitari who hosted the Primate, Archbishops and Provincial bishops and wives to a welcome dinner;
- The Rivers State Ministry of Health. Our special thanks go to the Permanent Secretary, Lady Dr. Ndidi Utchay;
- Sir Ama and Lady Amonia Hart, and all the staff of Dansville who sacrificially funded the feeding of all Bishops and wives, furnished and decorated the feeding halls and also served;
- Sir Raymond Amadi who provided the car and driver that conveyed the Primate and wife from his arrival to departure at no cost to us;
- Sir Ike Chinwo who also provided the vehicle and driver that conveyed the Dean of the Church of Nigeria from his arrival to departure at no cost to us;
- Apostle Joshua Onukaoha, MD/CEO of Joshua Waters Nig. Ltd., for generous supply of cartons of Joshua water for the hosting of the CoN SCM;
- HRM, Sir Capt. Clement Ejiofor who personally provided/funded the security escort patrol vehicle for the Primate and team from arrival to departure;

- Sir Anthony and Lady Rita Okugini who in addition to earlier contributions sponsored the ‘Thank You’ Dinner we hosted for members of the CWC and FSC on Saturday, 16th April, 2022.
- Their Highnesses, Eze Emeka Ihunwo, Eze Emmanuel Utchay as well as Sir Mike Epelle and others who generously launched the address of the Primate.
- Churches and those members of our Diocese who sacrificially provided free accommodation and transport services for some of the delegates. These include: Hon. Justice Iheanyichukwu Wodi, Engr. Sir and Lady Chukwuma Onwuchekwa, Mrs. Cecilia Ani, Sir Barr. Othuke Okpighe, Mr. Morgan Amadi, Mr. Douglas Chuku, Sir Rex Yakpogoro, Rev. Dr. & Justice (Mrs.) James Irikefe, Sir & Lady Chilam Dimkpa, Sir & Lady Enwuzurike Nnah, Elder Lazarus Wali, Sir & Lady Raymond Amadi, Sir & Lady Chijioke Tassie, Sir Ike Chinwo, Postulant Godwin Ovunwo, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Majebi, Sir Emeka Awanye, Hon. Sir & Lady Ugem Rogers, Sir Ifeanyi Ebere, Dame Ibim Semenitari, Sir & Lady Victor Dania, Eze Sir & Lady Emma Utchay, Mr. & Mrs. Olu Edeki, Surv. & Mrs. Gaius Assor, All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi, St. Michael’s, Rumuomasi Deanery, St. Mark’s Elelenwo, St. Nicholas Woji, Chapel of Grace & Knowledge, Church of the Holy Spirit, Paraclete Deanery, Elelenwo, St. Philip’s Oroigwe, St. Matthias, Atali, Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe, Holy City Church, Pipeline, Holy Trinity, Elimgbu.

We are careful to note that All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi, St. Andrew’s Rumuobiokani Deanery, Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School, Rumuobiokani and Bishop Elenwo Memorial Hospital served as venues for the meetings.

We thank the priests, the CSC, Deanery Council, Principal, Management and staff of BCMSS & BEMH for their sacrifices and for the release of their Diocese-owned facilities for the event.

The Diocese however supported them with over N30 million in the upgrade of their facilities.

We appreciate the Chaplains, The Rev. Chukwuemeka S. Udeh, Postulant David Wopara and members of the Diocesan and churches’ Prayer squads, prayer teams of the women, the clergy wives and everyone or group that devoted their time and energy to intercede for the national gathering.

While with us for the Standing Committee Meeting, the Primate of All Nigeria, His Grace, The Most Rev. Dr. Henry C. Ndukuba took time off to dedicate the following projects of the Diocese:

1. Evo Transport Company with a fleet of 4 Siena Buses on Monday, 21st February, 2022,
2. A new parsonage building complex with a Bishop's lodge at St. Mark's Elelenwo District on Monday, 21st February, 2022. The funds for this project were largely donated by the Executive Governor of Rivers State, His Excellency, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, CON, GSSRS, PoS (Africa)
3. A 150 KVA Electricity generating set donated to St. Mark's Elelenwo District by the retired Chief Judge of Rivers State, The Hon. Justice Dr. Iche N. Ndu on Monday, 21st February, 2022,
4. The Diocesan Printing Press House and Event Centre building at the premises of Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School, Rumuobiokani on Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022.

We thank His Grace, the Primate.

Special Donations

Reports of other outstanding donations, sacrificial contributions and projects carried out by individuals, families and groups of our churches as contained in their various Synod reports have been read and are hereby thankfully acknowledged by us.

Permit us to particularly mention the fencing of 60% of the Church premises of Living Waters Anglican Church, Eliogbolo by the Church Teacher, Mr. Felix Obidi and his family, the soon to be redeemed pledge of 3 plots of land for the new Church station of Holy Trinity, Elingbu Parish by HRH, Eze Emmanuel Utchay (KSC) and family and the ongoing effort to acquire a permanent site and also build a church for the Anglican Church of the Beatitudes, Harmony Estate, Rumuokwurusi by an anonymous child of God.

The donation of a plot of land to St. Matthias Anglican Church, Atali District by Sir & Lady Silas Ekezie and a joint donation of 1/2 plot of land to Anglican Church

of the Pentecost, Rumuogba Parish by Sir Eddy Emeka Wopara and Pastor & Mrs Bonnie Sunny Ebirika for the new church plant of the parish.

We also received a donation of a parcel of land at Iriebe from Hon. Blessing Boma Nsiegbe which she passionately desires should be used for a new Church plant. She has furthermore pledged the sum of One Million Naira to facilitate the erection of a temporary structure for the take-off of worship services there.

Consequently, we have assigned this piece of land to the Anglican Church of the Messiah, New Haven Parish, Iriebe, for the planting and nurture of a new Church station there as soon as we take possession of the offered land.

In support of our Church-planting endeavours, we received a voluntary donation of the sum of Two Million Naira from Her Excellency, wife of a former Deputy Governor, Dame Dr. Christie Toby. The money is already being spent on her preferred church station.

To these our mothers and sisters in Christ – Hon. Blessing Nsiegbe and Dame Toby and many others persons, we say THANK YOU for their generous support towards the expansion of God’s kingdom through the Diocese of Evo. May the Lord greatly reward them and enlarge their coasts on every side.

DIOCESAN ACTIVITY GROUPS, UNITS AND MINISTRIES

1. Diocesan Christian Men's Fellowship (DCMF)

We are quite happy with the increasing revival taking place amongst our men's fellowships across the Diocese. We highly commend the Executive of the DCMF led by Sir Engr. Sunny Worlu, the President-General, for the change in narrative.

The annual General meeting and Diocesan conference of the Diocesan Christian Men's Fellowship-'**Okwurusi 2021**' was held at All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi from Friday, 17th to Sunday, 19th September, 2021 with the theme "Powered for valiant works" (Gen. 2:5).

The conference featured Bible studies, talks on the theme, the President-General's address and the annual DCMF Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, 19th September, 2021.

A new Diocesan Executives were elected to hold various offices for three years. They are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Sir Sunny Worlu | - President-General |
| 2. Sir Emeka Awanye | - Vice President |
| 3. Sir Ken Anonye | - General Secretary |
| 4. Mr. Chinweike Mbas | - Assistant Secretary |
| 5. Mr. Dennis Onyemaechi | - Treasurer |
| 6. Mr. Isioma Dibia | - Financial Secretary |
| 7. Mr. Emmanuel Iroegbu | - PRO |
| 8. Evang. Princewill Ovunwo | - Evangelism Officer |
| 9. Mr. Chukwuemeka Azodo | - Prayer Secretary |
| 10. Mr. Isaiah Jaja | - Welfare Officer |
| 11. Mr. Anthony Chinda | - Provost 1 |
| 12. Mr. Iriah Edeghere | - Provost 2 |

Our men participated in all regional and national gatherings of the Christian Men's Fellowship such as the Supra East (Joint Provinces of the East) Visioneering Workshop at Goshen Retreat Centre, Owerri, from Wednesday, 7th to Friday, 9th July, 2021; the Church of Nigeria Strategic Steering Leadership/Planning meeting at Faith Plaza, Bariga, Lagos, from 26th to 27th August, 2021.

This meeting was anchored by the Institute for National Transformation. Our President-General, Sir Sunny Worlu, participated in the meeting.

Our DCMF President, Secretary, Sir Ken Anonye, Engr. Clinton Amadi, Mr. Faithful Chuku, Mr. Michael Momoh and Mr. Hope Chiorlu, accompanied by the Chaplain, Ven. Thompson Onyewuotu, took part in the first National Convention of the CMF held at the Cathedral of St. James the Great, Oke Bola, Ibadan, from Wednesday, 29th September to Saturday, 2nd October, 2021. The theme was “Men as Agents of God’s Reign” (Isa. 52:1-10).

- **Project**

On Wednesday, 24th November, 2021, we officially laid a foundation stone of the DCMF piggery farm project at our Diocesan land at Atali. The Pen on completion, will house more than 20 pigs at a time. A Staff Quarters has also been built to accommodate some of the farm workers.

- **2022 Father’s Day Celebration**

The Christian Men’s Fellowships of our various churches celebrated this year’s Father’s Day with diverse activities from Monday, 13th to Sunday, 19th June. At the Diocesan level, a Couples Dinner was held at the All Saints Cathedral hall for men and their wives from across the Diocese. The men of Okporo/Rumuogba Archdeaconry hosted the event which we attended and also ministered with the DCMF chaplain. Father’s Day Thanksgiving Services were held in all churches including Rose of Sharon, Atali, where we worshipped.

We thank the President-General and members of his Diocesan Executives as well as those from over 30 churches who paid us solidarity visit after service on Sunday, 19th June. We thank them immensely for the generous gifts presented to us. May the Lord grant our men/fathers great increase in all their genuine endeavours in life! May the fire of revival continue to burn in our men until Jesus returns. Amen!

2. Women and Girls’ Ministries (MU/WG, Widows, SF, GG)

As usual, the Women and Girls’ Ministries of our Diocese were quite busy since the beginning of the Synod year. They held their annual conferences, retreats, trainings/workshops and outreaches for soul-winning and to persons in need.

- **Conferences/Retreats**

The **2021 (12th) Diocesan Women’s Conference** was held at St. Andrew’s Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery from Wednesday, 24th to Sunday, 28th November under the

theme: “Zealous for good works while we wait” (Titus 2:13-14). The Conference began with the **Diocesan service of Induction and Admission of women into the Women’s Guild and Mothers’ Union.** **145** women were inducted into the Guild while **140** of them were admitted into the Mothers’ Union. Several other activities such as evangelism/outreaches (including morning cry), visitation, fasting and prayer, Bible study and teachings on the theme and special presentations by the various Diocesan Prayer Groups of women, also took place. The Conference ended with the Annual Women’s Harvest and Thanksgiving Service.

The Diocesan Women Prayer Conference was also held. It was hosted by the Anglican Church of Pentecost, Rumuogba Parish, from Friday, 18th to Saturday, 19th February, 2022. The theme was “Serve the Lord heartily through prayer” (Col. 4:12, 3:23). There were also other conferences by the **Widows’ Fellowship, Sisters Forum, the Girls’ Guild and the Clergy/Church workers children.** Details of these are contained in the Synod Reports.

We commend those clergy and Church Teachers’ wives who have continued to gather in the Bishop’s Court Chapel of Refuge every Saturday morning to pray for the ministries of the Bishop, their husbands, the Diocese and other matters. May the One who ever lives to make intercession for the saints always pray for them.

The **2022 Mothering Sunday** was celebrated with diverse programmes and activities across the churches of our Diocese under the theme “The Christian Woman, a servant of the Church” (Rom. 16:1,2). The weeklong activities started on Monday, 20th and ended on Sunday, 27th March. They included community cleaning, shop-for-free, welfare/medical outreach, visits to notable individuals, etc.

- **External Missions**

The women hugely supported the Sisters’ Forum in their outreach to the Diocese of Etche which took place from Saturday, 12th and Sunday, 13th March, 2022.

They women again travelled to the Diocese of Ogoni for another Outreach from Friday, 10th to Saturday, 11th June, 2022. The outreaches to Etche and Ogoni featured evangelism, distribution of food items, clothings and free medical examination and treatment.

The Diocesan women were rostered to worship at the Rose of Sharon, Atali for the month of May this year. Their approach to this assignment brought a great turn-around

in the spiritual narrative of that Church. The women carried out aggressive evangelism within the church's environs every Sunday morning before the start of worship.

They also organised a free medical outreach to those living there and along Igbo-Etche Road, distributed food and water and also carried out spiritual classes for the new converts.

In all these outreaches, scores of souls were won to our Lord Jesus Christ and the faith of several others strengthened. We commend our women and girls.

- **Projects**

The Diocesan Women Garment Industry and Wafer production have continued to enjoy the patronage of some members of the Diocesan community, our churches and those outside our Diocese.

We continue to encourage all of us in the Diocese including owners of private schools to support the efforts of our women by patronising the services of their clothing factory.

For the enhancement of the operations of these two investment outfits, the women purchased and installed a brand new 22KVA Generator worth over N4.1 million and also a brand new Monogramming machine worth over N6.3 million. They have since been dedicated by us and are now in use.

The women have resumed work at their Skills acquisition/Adult Education Centre project at our Diocesan land at Atali. Development at the site was halted due to shortage of funds and the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. We laid the foundation stone of the facility on Wednesday, 24th November, 2021.

May the Lord continue to provide for our women and strengthen their hands at work!

We commend Mrs. Chinyere Ordu, the Bishop's wife and President of the Women and Girls Ministries for her able leadership, prayers and support for our episcopacy and the Diocese.

In the same vein, we appreciate and commend all staff of the women's work office and the various investment outfits, the Vice presidents and other wives of the clergy and church teachers, members of the Diocesan women Executive and all women of the Diocese for their untiring efforts at advancing God's agenda through our Diocese. The Lord greatly increase you in all spheres.

3. Anglican Youth Fellowship (AYF)

We commend the leadership of the Anglican Youth Fellowship, past and present, for their efforts at growing and strengthening our ministry to the youths.

We are equally grateful to all our Diocesan Youth Ministry Chaplains – Rev. Collins Daniel, Postulants Ndukwe Daniel Nwabueze and David Wopara for their zeal and commitment towards the activities of our Youth fellowship, including the youth corps members.

Our Diocesan AYF served as Chief launcher of our Synod Address of last year and actually performed beyond our expectations. From their report to Synod, the youths supported that address with as much as ₦7,100,000.00. It was a great performance for which we commend the outgone president, Miss Chile Ariolu, and her team and all the youths who committed their energy and resources towards that huge task.

The AYF successfully held their statutory programmes – the Annual General Meeting of 2021 which took place at St. Philip’s Oroigwe from Thursday, 16th to Sunday, 19th December, periodic general meetings and combined worship and the 2022 National Youth Week which was observed in all churches from Monday, 2nd to Sunday, 8th May under the theme: “Be strong and courageous” (Joshua 1:9).

They also participated in all Niger Delta Provincial and Church of Nigeria-organised youth programmes such as the Joshua Generation International Youth Conference (JGIYC) convened by our Primate at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja, from Monday, 18th to Saturday, 23rd April, 2022. The theme of this second edition of the JGIYC was “The manifestation of the sons of God” (Rom. 8:19). A total of **216** youths from our Diocese participated in the Conference. This is highly commendable!

Conferences and other programmes of the Sisters’ Forum and Youth Stars were equally carried out. The Sisters Forum embarked on an outreach to the Diocese of Etche in March this year with the focus on their fellow young ladies.

- **New Diocesan Executive**

The Evo Diocesan Anglican Youth Fellowship now has a new Executive committee following the successful election held on Saturday, 15th January, 2022 at the Cathedral.

The new officers are:

1. Bro. Arinze Sunday Ibekwe - President

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2. Bro. Chima Favour | - Vice President |
| 3. Sis. Chioma Akwuobi | - General Secretary |
| 4. Bro. Emma Praise Nwogu | - Asst. General Secretary |
| 5. Bro. ThankGod Akubuiro | - PRO |
| 6. Bro. Meme Okechukwu | - Treasurer |
| 7. Sis. Chinomnso Ohaeri | - Financial Secretary |
| 8. Sis. Hope Ernest Amadi | - Sisters' Forum Coordinator |
| 9. Sis. Ogechi Asiegbu | - Asst. Sisters' Forum Coordinator |
| 10. Bro. Wamadi Akpenuchi | - Prayer Secretary |
| 11. Sis. Destiny Amadi | - Asst. Prayer Secretary |
| 12. Bro. Chimerem Anyanwu | - Evangelism Coordinator |
| 13. Sis. Nkemdirim Okogbue | - Asst. Evangelism Coordinator |
| 14. Bro. Gift Jonathan | - Welfare Coordinator (Male) |
| 15. Sis. Lois Adele | - Welfare Coordinator (Female) |
| 16. Bro. Francis C. Weli | - Youth Star Coordinator (Male) |
| 17. Sis. Faith Okpara | - Youth Star Coordinator (Female) |
| 18. Bro. Joseph Ukoba | - Provost 1 |
| 19. Bro. James Hanachor | - Provost 2 |
| 20. Bro. Wachukwu H. Joshua | - Sports Coordinator |
| 21. Bro. Justice Amachree | - Asst. Sports Coordinator |

We congratulate them. May the Lord grant them the grace for their new roles.

We commissioned them on Sunday, 30th January, 2022, in the Bishop's Court Chapel of Refuge.

We thank the youths for their Father's Day visit and gifts to us. The Lord richly reward you all.

4. Anglican Children's Ministry (ACM)

We thank our Diocesan children ministry chaplains – The Rev. Canon Olufemi Igbamerun, Rev. Samuel Nvene and all teachers across the churches for their sacrifices in building up the spiritual lives of our children. May the Lord graciously reward them!

Our teachers and selected children participated in all trainings, conferences and meetings of the Anglican Children’s Ministry held at the Provincial and National levels between July 2021 and June this year.

Internal Diocesan activities were also held such as the 12th Diocesan Teachers Conference which took place at St. James Church, Iriebe, from Thursday, 22nd to Sunday, 25th July, 2021, the 2021 Diocesan Quiz competition which took place on Sunday, 25th July at Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe Parish - at which Rumuomasi Deanery ACM took the first position with 16 points, followed by Iriebe Archdeaconry with 14 points and Okporo/Rumuogba Archdeaconry with 12 points as first and second runners up.

Other programmes carried out included Evo Children Rejoice – 30th October, 2021 at St. Mark’s Elenenwo, Children Christmas party in some churches in December, the 2022 Diocesan Children’s Week -Wednesday, 25th to Sunday, 29th May, as well as the Diocesan Children’s Singing Competition held on Saturday, 28th which produced the following results:

- a. 1st Position - Oroigwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry
- b. 2nd Position - Elenenwo Archdeaconry
- c. 3rd Position - Woji Archdeaconry

• **New Diocesan ACM Officers**

The following Diocesan officers were elected/appointed during the 12th Diocesan Teachers conference:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Engr. Emeka Opara | - Leader |
| - Mr. Hope Chiorlu | - Secretary |
| - Sis. Phoebe Obua | - Assistant Secretary |
| - Lady Adebisi Chuku | - Treasurer |
| - Mrs. Chioma Felix Otto | - Financial Secretary |
| - Mr. Ifeanyi Anthony Ekeocha | - PRO |
| - Mr. Evans Odili | - Asst. PRO/Welfare Officer |
| - Mrs. Anthonia Kabor Obowu | - Training Coordinator |
| - Mr. Uchechi Emeaghara | - Registrar |
| - Mrs. Joy Nwaiwu | - Prayer Secretary |
| - Sis. Oluchi Aguocha | - Bible Study Coordinator |

- Mr. Wellborn Nchere - Ex-officio
- Mrs. Ifeoma Muanya - Adviser to the ACM Chaplain

• **Donation**

A couple, Dr. Chituru and Mrs Anthonia Obowu of St. Nicholas, Woji District made a donation of 50 chairs to the Diocesan ACM for use by our children. These chairs have since been distributed to the following Stations and Parish – King David, Iriebe, Beulahland Nvuigwe-Woji, Chapel of Restoration, Rumuogba, New Life Church, Rumuodani-Elelenwo and Anglican Church of Pentecost, Ahia Woji Parish.

We thank this couple and pray for God’s greater blessing upon them.

• **2022 Diocesan Teenstars Conference**

This year’s Teenstar conference with the Theme “Serving Heartily as to the Lord” and Sub-Theme “My Best for Him” (Col. 3:23-25; Eccl. 9:10 & Heb. 12: 1-2) was held from Wednesday, 13th to Sunday, 17th April, 2022 at Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls’ School, Elelenwo. It was the 8th session of the Diocese of Evo Teenstar Conference, jointly organised by the Anglican Children’s Ministry (ACM) and the Anglican Youth Fellowship (AYF) for the teenagers and youth stars of the two units. The aim of this annual conference is to create a platform where teenagers of our Diocese would be nurtured and equipped to help them function optimally as ambassadors of Christ and also to mould them to be leaders after the person and character of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This year, the programme took a different dimension with the introduction of various schools with a well-structured curriculum, intended to run for three years after which all successful candidates will be graduated. The schools and their focus for this year were as follows:

School of Leadership was facilitated by a group of Certified John Maxwell Trainers in Port Harcourt, led by Rev. Collins Daniel, the AYF Chaplain. The training was based on the John Maxwell, iCHOOSE curriculum. Unit One of the iCHOOSE leadership programme, covering, CHOICE, GROWTH, ATTITUDE and COMMITMENT, was adequately handled.

School of Anglicanism facilitated by Canons Joseph Ofoegbu and Ozioma Iheanetu focused on the History of the Anglican Church and Church of Nigeria, Administration and hierarchy in the Anglican Church as well as the Anglican liturgy, music and chants.

School of Ministry covered Introduction to Ministry and Discovering your Ministry. This was facilitated by Rev. Canon. Olufemi Igbamerun - ACM Chaplain - and Engr. Nnaemeka Opara - the ACM Diocesan Leader - all of the Diocese of Evo.

School Of ICT featured introduction to ICT and Digital Responsibility and was facilitated by Mrs. Kabor Anthonia Obowu, the Evo ACM Diocesan Training Coordinator.

School Of Entrepreneurship was jointly facilitated by Rev. Samuel Nvene - ACM Chaplain 3 and Mrs. Kabor Anthonia Obowu. It focused on Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Problem-Solving Skills.

5. Diocesan Council of Knights

The Diocesan Council of Knights has the following Vision and Mission Statements:

To be a strong, dependable pillar of support, spiritually and physically to the Church as well as serving as an organisation that practices true Christian love and fellowship; diligently embarking on a new brand of evangelism through faithful defence of the Christian faith, sponsorship and development of Christian schools, hospitals and the award of scholarships/bursaries to indigent students, empowerment of widows and youth as well as other gainful Christian ventures.

We are pleased to inform this Synod that to a great extent, the Council, with Sir Dr. Emenike W. Amobi as President, did remarkably well in the last one year in keeping with the above vision and mission statements.

Within the period in review:

- ✓ The membership strength of the Council now stands at 290 Knights and ladies.
- ✓ Council chapters were created in all our Administrative Blocs with Executive Committees.
- ✓ The Council remained consistent in her support to Emmanuel Anglican Church, Okporo-Iriebe (now a Parish), her assigned mission field.

- ✓ Empowered **24 widows** in the Diocese at the 2021 Synod Thanksgiving Service with the sum of **N50,000 each** to boost their businesses.
- ✓ Awarded academic bursaries to 37 University students of the Diocese for the 2021/2022 academic session. Each student received a cheque for N100,000.00 at the presentation service presided over by us at Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe Parish on Sunday, 30th January, 2022.
- ✓ To further support this gesture of the Council, one of the knights with his lady has offered to pay the grants of two of the beneficiaries in the fields of Engineering and Accounting till their graduation.
- ✓ Still on Educational support, another Knight and his lady from Okporo/Rumuogba Archdeaconry began last year to support the Diocese with the sum of N1,000,000.00 annually towards the payment of the school fees of 10 indigent secondary school students. This will last for 3 years. Beneficiaries will receive their cheques in tomorrow's Synod Thanksgiving Service.
- ✓ Instituted prizes and incentives to encourage students of the knights House at Word of Faith School Woji.
- ✓ They purchased a Hiace Bus for the Council's logistics
- ✓ Reviewed the Council's Constitution
- ✓ Held the 10th edition of their annual charity/welfare luncheon to raise money for their numerous programmes and outreaches.
- ✓ Participated in all Provincial and National Joint Council of Knights meetings, conference and retreats.

- **New Diocesan Executive of the Knights**

On Easter Eve, Saturday, 16th April, 2022, the Knights and their ladies gathered at the Cathedral to elect a new Diocesan Executive Committee. Those elected are:

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| i. | Dr. Emenike W. Amobi, KSC | - President |
| ii. | Sir Raymond Amadi | - Vice President |
| iii. | Sir Derek Iyo | - Secretary |
| iv. | Sir Prince Daniel | - Assistant Secretary |
| v. | Dame Ursula N. Egege | - Financial Secretary |
| vi. | Sir Promise Adele | - Treasurer |
| vii. | Dame Akudo Nnadozie | - PRO |
| viii. | Sir Okechukwu Nyeche | - Protocol Officer 1 |
| ix. | Sir Rexgard Ihejirika | - Protocol Officer 2 |

They were inaugurated by us on Sunday, 19th June, 2022, in the Bishop's Court Chapel of Refuge.

We are grateful to the leadership of the knights with their Chaplain, The Ven. Charles Mordi for their untiring support and encouragement to our ministry and vision for a strong and viable Diocese. We thank the new Executives for their Father's Day visit to us.

May the Lord strengthen your hands at work!

- **Hosting of the 23rd Joint Council of Knights National Delegates Conference**

Our EVO DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS will be **hosting the 23rd edition of the Joint Council of Knights National Delegates Conference from Thursday, 24th to Sunday, 27th November this year.** In preparation for this flagship gathering of knights from all over the nation, the Diocesan Council of Knights has set up a Working Committee headed by Sir Barr. Bright Nda-Owhor to plan for a successful hosting of this annual event. We pray for God's grace for all members of the Committee and urge all knights in the Diocese and the entire serving community of the Diocese to support our Council as it aims to deliver another first class hosting of guests across the country.

6. Diocesan Lay Readers Association

Members of this Body of readers and preachers continued with their role of offering pastoral assistance to the clergy of the Diocese.

We thank their leader, Dame Meg Orianwo and several others for not failing in their ministerial responsibilities.

In the year under review, the Lay Readers Association carried out a number of programmes and activities such as Exchange of pulpit, quarterly General meeting, the annual Diocesan Conference which took place at St. Jude's Oginigba Deanery from Friday, 10th to Sunday, 12th September, 2021, the service of the renewal of the vows of licensing on Sunday, 6th February, 2022 at Holy City Anglican Church, Pipeline, Rumuokwursi, annual crusade held around Ebenezer Anglican Church, Trans Woji/Oginigba Road from Friday, 1st to Sunday, 3rd April, 2022.

We thank the Association for their spiritual and material contributions towards the growth of that station -Holy City, particularly the construction of a new parsonage building completed and dedicated by us on Saturday, 10th July, 2021. May the Lord shelter and shield all our supportive lay Readers in Jesus name, Amen.

- **Election of new Officers**

At the general meeting and election held on Saturday, 11th September, 2021 at St. Jude's, Oginigba Deanery, a new Treasurer and Financial Secretary were elected in the persons of Mrs. Rebecca Ozuzu and Mrs. Edith Dibia respectively.

The President, Dame Meg Orianwo and all other officers were returned to their offices unopposed.

The Lay Readers Association with the support of the clergy will be serving as the Chief Launcher of today's Bishop's Synod Address and Charge. We are looking forward to a great performance- Naira rain from them as the Lord enables them.

7. Lay Workers Association

Members of this body include the Clerks, Administrative Secretaries, Drivers, Sextons, Yardmen, Cleaners of the Diocese and churches.

In the year under review, the Lay Workers Association carried out a number of programmes and activities such as Clerks and Administrative Secretaries General Meetings, End of Year Fellowship/Love Feast and Beginning of the year 2022 retreat/fasting & prayer.

On 10th December, 2021, new officers of the Association were elected at their meeting held at St. Mark's Elelenwo District.

They are:

1. Mr. Augustine Akandu - Chairman
2. Mrs. Rachael Nwaegerue - Vice Chairperson
3. Miss Blessing Obidi - Secretary
4. Mr. Collins Danison - Assistant Secretary
5. Mrs. Chika Ifedioramma - Financial Secretary

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 6. Mr. Michael Abua | - Prayer Secretary |
| 7. Miss Constance Anyasor | - Treasurer |
| 8. Mr. Barnabs Osiri | - PRO |
| 9. Mr. Azubuike Nwaokoro | - Provost |
| 10. Mrs. Ogochukwu Madu | - Welfare officer |

We are grateful to the leadership of the Lay Workers Association with their Chaplain, The Rev. Canon Godfrey Onyemelukwe, for the overall support to our ministry and vision for a strong and viable Diocese. We also congratulate the new executives and pray for God’s wisdom and grace to lead effectively.

8. Other Diocesan Chaplaincies, Ministries & Units

We have gone through the reports submitted to Synod by the Diocesan Lay leaders and Chaplains of the various Chaplaincies, ministries and units of our Diocese. We wish to commend their efforts in the last one year aimed at enhancing the further growth of our collective ministry in the Diocese. May the Lord bless each and all of them for their labours!

We charge all Synod delegates to take some time to go through these reports in order to keep themselves abreast of the progress made and the challenges confronting these arms of the Diocese.

9. Prayer Groups of Men, Women & Youths

We commend the Supervising Chaplain, Diocesan Coordinators, leaders and members of all the Prayer groups of men, women and youths, for all their positive activities carried out within the last one year.

We have closely monitored the performances of these groups and noted that a good number of them are yet to fully understand and best interpret the purpose of their establishment.

Leadership is key in the life of every organisation. The performance of some of the chaplains, coordinators and leaders of these groups have been quite dismal. Having existed together for close to five years now, we think that it is time for the various

groups to come up with leaders chosen exclusively by them. Having been together for these number of years, we believe that members now know and understand themselves better and so can determine who leads them.

Consequently, we direct that the various Prayer Groups at all levels (churches and Diocesan) should urgently meet and elect new leaders to coordinate their affairs for the life of this Synod. This exercise must be completed before the end of September this year. The Diocesan Superintending Chaplain of all prayer groups, Ven. Chidi Worgu and priests/church teachers in charge of churches are to ensure that this directive is carried out unfailingly. Names of those elected by each group at all levels should be forwarded to us in writing not later than 30th September.

INSTITUTIONS OF THE DIOCESE

1. DIOCESAN EDUCATION BOARD & SCHOOLS

We give thanks to God for the continued steady progress being made by our three Diocesan Secondary Schools - Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School (ACMGS), Eledenwo, Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School (BCMSS), Rumuobiokani and Woji Town Word of Faith Group of Schools (WTWoF), Woji.

We commend the leadership of the Diocesan Education Board headed by Sir Victor Dania and the commitment and dedication of the principals and staff of the three schools, who have continued to make personal and collective sacrifices towards the success of the schools. The Education Board has continued to exercise overall governance of the schools ensuring quality spiritual, moral and academic standards.

Additionally, the Board has been charged with overseeing the Parish schools to ensure that they, like the Diocesan Schools, met the Diocesan and Government standards, negotiating the purchase of the Woji Town Word of Faith Group of Schools and progressing plans and actions towards the establishment of our new Model Secondary School, the Seed of David Academy.

- **Our Three Diocesan Schools**

The combined (Secondary, Primary and Nursery) student and pupil population of our schools presently stands at 1,738.

This is a decline from 2020/2021 academic year figure of 1,937. We are optimistic and trust God that the expected improved academic standards and our ongoing infrastructure upgrades will lead to optimum populations.

- **Performance in External Examinations**

The result from the recent JAMB examinations were very encouraging, with a large majority of our students scoring over 200 marks. Notably, two students, Master Neo Ijaware of Word of Faith and Miss Joyce Orlu of ACMGS scored 311 and 309 marks respectively, which are among the highest scores in the state. We are very proud of this achievement and congratulate both the parents and the schools.

The schools have already started running curricular aimed at presenting candidates for international examinations such as Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). Already, 8 of our students scored 1,000 marks and above in

recently conducted SAT examinations, and universities are already contacting them for admissions and possibly, scholarships.

Already and to the glory of God, two of our students, one each from ACMGS and BCMSS has been awarded part scholarships worth \$5,000 to study at the San Francisco State University in California, United States of America.

Evo Diocesan Schools are now in the process of affiliation to the Earth University of Costa Rica which offers scholarship opportunities to our students wishing to further their studies in the field of Agriculture.

We charge the Diocesan Education Board to continue to work relentlessly towards improved national and international academic standards as well as the performance of our students in external examinations.

To this end, additional remedial measures are to be carried out in the major areas of teaching and students learning and preparation for examinations, recruitment, reward and motivation of teachers, inspection/monitoring and appraisal of teachers.

- **Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)/Path to School Improvement Visit/Certification Process**

ACMGS, Elelenwo is on the verge of earning accreditation as one of the USA-based Association of Christian Schools International approved and member schools in Nigeria.

Subsequent to the Path to School Improvement (PSI) two-year training organised for some ACSI member schools, which three Management Staff of ACMGS participated in, the Nigeria office of the ACSI on Tuesday, 26th June, visited our school on notice for a path to School Improvement affirmation.

The 7-man affirmation visit team spent 13 hours assessing the school's adherence to ACSI's already set educational standards for international recognition and approval. At the end of the exercise which centered on the school's facilities, documentation and culture, ACMGS, Elelenwo scored above the minimum quality standards, that is, required important points of the evident level and therefore was pronounced qualified for the paths to School Improvement Certification - a step to the much sought-after ACSI accreditation process.

We congratulate our Sir Dania -led Diocesan Education Board, the Professor Joy Ugwu -led ACMGS Governing Board, the Principal, Staff, students and parents of ACMGS for

this level of achievement and charge them to remain steadfast in their service until the final accreditation is secured.

- **Staff Training and Development**

Training and retraining of staff continue to be a top priority in all our schools. Last November, We, with the Education Board Chairman, Sir Victor Dania, the principals of ACMGS, Word of Faith and the Performance Improvement Coordinator, The Rev. Canon Olufemi Igbamerun attended a 3-Day Conference organised by The Christian Education Summit Team (CEST) at the National Christian Centre, Abuja from Thursday, 11th to Saturday, 13th November, 2021. The theme was “Towards Effective Christian Education for National Transformation.”

About the same time (14th to 22nd November, 2021), The Principal of BCMSS, Rumuobiokani, The Rev. Canon Chieme Chimaobi led the Vice principals Academics Senior of BCMSS and ACMGS and Junior for BCMSS to Finland for a professional Development Training course for school management.

- **Infrastructural Development**

In an ongoing effort to upgrade all the infrastructure and facilities in the schools, the Master plans are being updated, and some projects are being executed including the **new 3-storey 500 capacity Dormitory project at ACMGS, Elelenwo**. So far, the Diocesan Board has released the sum of **N100, 000,000.00** (One Hundred Million Naira) only to facilitate the speedy completion of this project. This is in addition to the **83 million Naira** already committed to the project by the school.

Towards the hosting of the meetings of the Church of Nigeria Standing Committee and National Mothers Union Executives, massive upgrade of facilities were carried out by the management of **BCMSS** at a great cost to the school. The Diocese supported these renovations with the sum of N7,000,000.00 (Seven Million Naira).

At **Word of Faith** some modifications were carried out to incorporate the relocated offices of the Principal and Vice, and the Arts Gallery.

2022 Children’s Day Celebration

This event was celebrated on Friday, 27th May by the Evo Diocesan Schools at BCMSS, Rumuobiokani. ACMGS, Elelenwo took first position in each of the 3 categories of the march past competition: Nursery/Primary, Secondary and Teachers.

- **FIDA Essay Competition**

An Essay writing competition was organised by the International Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA), Rivers State Chapter, on 27th May, 2022, out of 40 essays from 20 schools that participated in the competition, ACMGS, Elenwo, took overall first position, with the essay written by Miss Sonia Richard (SS1A).

- **Special Donations/Support and 3rd Party Interactions**

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Rivers State Governor, His Excellency, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike (CON, GSSRS, PoS Africa) for initiating the rehabilitation of the roads and drains on the Elenwo School Road.

- **ACMGS Elenwo**

The ACMGS Old Girls Association of North America, for the 5th consecutive year, gave bursaries of N50,000 to each of the 54 SS3 students. The PTA also donated and installed 15 Smart Interactive Boards, complete with all accessories in classrooms/laboratories and the Conference Room. This is a very significant ICT advancement for which we commend the PTA.

The **1982 Set** of the Old Girls has embarked on a project of Reconstruction and Beautification of the school's gate and the Gate House. This is in preparation for the forthcoming celebration of the 40th anniversary of their graduation from the school and thanksgiving service scheduled to hold from 22nd to 25th September, 2022.

- **BCMSS Rumuobiokani**

The BCMSS Old Boys Association was formally inaugurated on 3rd October, 2021 at a ceremony performed by us, the Lord Bishop. This is a very welcome development and we hope that the Old Boys Association will quickly rise up to the challenge of bringing together old class and school mates, as well as supporting their alma mater in all ways possible.

The Old Boys Association has donated a new sign post to the school.

- **WOFGS Woji**

As part of their ongoing project, the WOFGS PTA donated ten (10) new desktop computers to the school in addition to the 5 donated last year.

On behalf of the Diocese, we wish to thank all those who have consistently supported the Schools over the years, notably RSUBEB, NDDC, Rotary Club, PTAs, Old Students of the School as well as the various Groups and Churches within the Diocese.

We pray that the good Lord rewards them abundantly, while we also charge them to do even more to raise these Diocesan schools to the level we desire.

- **Parish Nursery/Primary Schools**

The Parish Schools in the Diocese, now include St. Nicholas Education Centre, Woji, which has just started operating, in addition to the following existing ones:

- All Saints' Nursery/Primary School, Rumuokwurusu
- St. Michael's Nursery/Primary School, Rumuomasi
- St. Mark's Nursery/Primary School, Elelenwo
- Holy Ghost Nursery/Primary School, Iriebe,

Despite the efforts of the Education Board, much still needs to be done by the Parish Schools in the areas of administration, furnishing, quality of teaching staff and environmental upkeep to bring the schools up to the quality standards required by the Diocese of Evo.

Henceforth, Parish schools must not remain in temporary accommodation for more than 5 years before moving to a more permanent accommodation, and where (semi) permanent accommodation has been provided, the partitioning must be rigid and fixed, and the furniture, the approved Government specifications, not plastic seats and tables.

Parish Priests must take ownership and responsibility for the Parish Schools under their jurisdiction. We shall hold them accountable for the standards of those schools. To address the seeming reluctance of Parish Schools to improve, the following measures will come into immediate effect:

- a) All Parish Schools must have governing bodies (Education Committees or however named) which will exercise oversight responsibility for the schools, and will appoint an Inspection (sub) committee to ensure that quality and statutory standards are maintained.
- b) The Head Teachers of each School, must have a qualification in Education, (NCE, B. Ed, PGDE, etc.) and will henceforth be required to submit monthly reports to the

governing body, with copies to the Parish Priest and the Diocesan Education Board. These reports will contain as a minimum the following.

- i. Feedback on key findings from Inspection visits by the local or Education Board's Inspection Committee, and remedial actions taken or needed.
 - ii. Conditions of Facilities, including furniture, fittings, toilets, lighting, safety and environmental issues etc.
 - iii. Teaching staff (numbers, vacancies, performances etc.) and teaching aids (including textbooks, notebooks, visual aids etc.).
 - iv. Visits and comments from parents and other 3rd parties
- c) The Synod Reports from the Administrative blocks with Schools will henceforth include a specific paragraph giving an appraisal and statistics on such schools.
- d) For staff training and development, the Parish Schools staff should be henceforth carried along in relevant training programmes organised for Diocesan Nursery/Primary School staff.

- **Seed of David**

We are also pleased to announce that Layout designs for this school have been completed to our satisfaction and we have given our approval for the further development of the designs.

We are rather disappointed that whereas it was agreed on a collective effort by all Architects in the Diocese to produce the Architectural designs, only Diocesan Architects 1 & 2 have been involved so far. This should not be, and we again implore all the other architects in the Diocese to join hands to produce final designs that we can all be proud of.

- **Outright purchase of Word of Faith Group of Schools, Woji by the Diocese of Edo**

To the glory of God, the Diocese has successfully negotiated the outright purchase of the Word of Faith Group of Schools from the Word of Faith Ltd, at a sum of **N250,000,000.00** (Two hundred and fifty million naira) only; and as approved by the 1-Day Synod on Monday, 13th June, 2022, the sum of N170,000,000 (one hundred and seventy million naira only) has been paid upon our signing of the Sale/Purchase Agreement with the Vendor on Monday, 27th June, 2022. We commend the Education

Board, and members of the Diocesan Legal and Finance teams for diligently seeing this through.

We also commend the Word of Faith Limited for their magnanimity and the cordial and transparent manner in which the negotiations were conducted.

We thank BCMSS for donating the sum of **N5,000,000.00** (Five Million Naira) to the Diocese in support of this purchase.

2. BISHOP ELENWO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Our Diocesan hospital - Bishop Elenwo Memorial Hospital was established with the vision of it becoming an excellent destination for Christian and wholesome health delivery with a staff strength of 20 personnel in different. The hospital offers the following affordable health care services to the general public:

- General consulting and drugs
- Laboratory investigation and diagnostic tests
- Hospitalization
- Annual physical examination
- Antenatal care/delivery
- General surgeries
- Accident and emergency services
- Eye clinic
- X-ray and Scan

From June 2021 to May 2022, the hospital attended to a total of **1,688** (One Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty-Eight) patients. This definitely represents a drastic increase when compared to past years.

On Friday, 24th September last year, we dedicated the newly installed X-ray and Ultra sound machines of the hospital acquired by the Diocese.

We decided with effect from January this year to wean the hospital from the breast milk of the Diocese. Consequently, the hospital now pays all its staff without the financial support of our office. We have since the inception of the hospital been responsible for this.

The hospital has finally signed the memorandum of understanding with the Songhai (HMO) on behalf of the Diocesan Board for the implementation of the Health Insurance Scheme approved by the Board for members of the clergy and their families.

Other achievements made by the hospital and their future plans are detailed in the Synod report.

We thank the Rivers State Ministry of Health for all the support given to the hospital.

The efforts of the Hospital Management Board headed by Lady Dr. Ndidi Utchay as well as the services of the entire hospital staff are hereby appreciated.

3. DIOCESAN INVESTMENT BOARD

We commend the staff of our **Diocesan Printing Press** for their untiring efforts at sustaining the day-to-day business of the investment outfit despite the present challenge of inadequate operational machines.

We look forward to the movement of the Printing Press to its new location at the Printing Press/Event Centre complex at Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School, Rumuobiokani premises as soon as funds are available for us to acquire some more urgently needed machines and also complete the final phase and furnishing of the entire facility which has already been dedicated.

The Diocesan Books, Stationery and Vestment Shop has continued to make appreciable progress and we look forward to its increased performance in the years ahead. Our desire to relocate the shop to a part of the old Cathedral building has so far not come through despite the huge amount of money committed to the remodeling exercise.

We have continued to commit resources to the **Agricultural Farm at Atali** with the hope of attracting good harvests in the shortest possible time. Crop planting at the farm has resumed with 1000 plantain suckers planted to reinforce the few surviving ones.

Work on the Farm House has reached advanced stage and will shortly be completed. A borehole has also been sunk there.

We charge the Diocesan Investment Board to work harder at the farm towards a better result to justify the huge financial commitments we have made in that sector.

As earlier reported, the **Evo Transport Company** was dedicated by the Primate during the meeting of the Standing Committee in February, this year.

We have provided all that has been requested for by the Investment Board to make the company fully operational. We are however not pleased with its slow take-off.

We are holding the Investment Board as well as the legal team accountable for this. We do not understand why the registration of the company with the relevant government agencies is dragging unduly. Whatever progress that has been made so far is nothing compared to where we projected to be by now.

4. BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

This Committee was set up to provide solutions to the twin problems of unemployment and poverty particularly among our teeming youths.

Our team of Advisers on Economic Empowerment - Dame Priscilla and Sir Chidi Osuji - have done a lot to change the story of a number of persons within the limits of resources made available to them from the Diocesan Budget.

Within the period under review, the Committee screened and selected **51** persons out of the many who applied to be economically empowered by the Diocese. They were offered training in the areas of catering services, fashion designing, hair dressing, laundry services, auto mechanics, baking and barbing. **41** of these trainees successfully graduated from the scheme and have since been empowered for self-reliance with starter packs and tools in their chosen areas of focus. Items distributed to them on Sunday, 27th February during the combined Diocesan Rededication Service in the Cathedral included **10** gas cookers, **21** sewing machines, **21** electric motors, **3** washing machines, **2** sets of hair dressing equipment, **1** local oven and 1 kerosene stove. Applicants who desired computer training were referred to the Diocesan ICT Centre for attention.

For the period under review, we only spent the sum of two million Three Hundred and Thirty Thousand Naira on these beneficiaries. The paucity of funds has been a major constraint on our part towards achieving economic prosperity for indigent members of our Diocese.

We are therefore appealing to all in the Diocese who are willing to support our vision in this regard to please come forward and partner with us.

We thank Engr. Chris Onyemaizu who in the course of the year, assisted us with the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Naira. The Lord richly bless him and his family in Jesus name. Amen.

We are equally encouraged by the activities of the Ash Colour prayer groups - Daniel, Sarah and Fidelity - led by Sir Mike Epelle for their activities in this sector. The Lord bless them abundantly.

We charge all who have been trained and empowered to put into proper use their acquired skills and also the starter packs and tools received from the Diocese. By so doing, they would be justifying our efforts at changing the economic narratives of their lives.

5. DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The Directorate of Social Welfare of the Diocese exists to extend welfare services to the needy on behalf of the Diocese.

From the funds provided by the Diocese as well as support from members of the Directorate, visitations have been carried out to retired clergy as well as orphanages at Rumuokwursi, Elemenwo and Rumuokwuta. With cooked food provided by some Administrative Blocs, the Directorate for the second year running, went to some streets and highways in Obio/Akpor, Port Harcourt and Eleme Local Government Areas during the Christmas season to feed the hungry. They printed gospel tracts which were distributed on the occasion and also preached the Word of God.

We charge members of the Diocese to support the ministry of the Directorate with cash donations and other welfare materials.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL (10% & 15%) REMITTANCE TO THE DIOCESE IN 2021

AWARDS TO BEST PERFORMING CHURCHES AND GROUP

Category A (15%) For the Cathedral, Deanery churches and St. Nicholas, Woji

1st Position – St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery with a total remittance of **N24,735,668.13**, an improvement on their 2020 performance of N19,674,578.75.

Category B (15%) District Headquarters churches

1st Position – St. Mark’s Anglican Church, Elelenwo with a total remittance of **N6,588,564.10** a drop from performances of 2020 - N6,806,104.30 and 2019 - N12,092,453.40.

Category C (10%) Parish churches:

1st Position – New Wine Anglican Church, Okporo, with a total remittance of **N3,207,601.93**, an improvement on their 2020 performance of N2,769,171.70 which was a drop from the N4,342,540.40 of 2019.

Category D1 (15%) Stations

1st Position – Daystar Anglican Youth Church, Rumuokwursi, with a total remittance of **N1,065,920.00**, an improvement on their 2020 performance of N909,890.00 which was a drop from the N1,427,570.00 of 2019.

Category D2 (10%) Station churches (Stations under the Archdeaconries):

1st Position – Anglican Church of the Passion, Elelenwo, with a total remittance of **N1,046,564.07**, an improvement on their 2020 performance of N883,428.03.

Category E (10%) Worship Centres:

1st Position – Anglican Worship Centre, Interlock, Iriebe, with a total remittance of **N107,140.00** – a lower performance from that of 2020 N152, 195.00.

Category F (10%) Diocesan Activity Groups:

1st Position – **MU/WG (Women’s Work Office)** with a total remittance of **N3,919,735.26**, an improvement on their 2020 performance of N3,161,141.00 and a lower performance from that of 2019 - N4, 893, 608.17.

Category G (10%) Archdeaconries:

1st Position – Okporo/Rumuogba Archdeaconry with a total remittance of **N109,373.50**, higher than the performances of 2020 – 77,620.00.

We commend these churches, Okporo/Rumuogba Archdeaconry and the Women’s ministries of our Diocese for their performance. The Lord greatly reward them!

SOME MAJOR DECISIONS OF THE DIOCESAN BOARD IN THE LAST ONE YEAR

1. New Salary Structure

Following the approval by the Joint Provincial Councils East of the Niger of a new salary structure last year for all clergy and church workers, the Diocesan Board after careful deliberations on the matter also gave approval for its implementation in our Diocese with effect from January this year.

This is coming after the last salary review exercise carried out by the Joint Provincial Councils of the East in the year 2011.

While thanking the Diocesan Board, for the goodwill to us all, we advise all our clergy and their churches to ensure strict adherence to what has been approved and refuse the temptation of introducing any additions or subtractions not approved by us.

2. Health Insurance Scheme

In addition to the revised salary structure for our clergy and workers, the Diocesan Board also approved the introduction of a health insurance scheme for all clergy, Church Teachers, their wives and four other members of their families (specifically children) who are not more than 21 years of age. The scheme is to be administered by the Songhai Health Insurance Scheme in partnership with our Bishop Elenwo Memorial Hospital. We thank all our churches for heeding to the Board's directive for them to register the pastors with their families serving in our churches.

By this development, our ministers are compulsorily required to access their medical treatments in our Bishop Elenwo Memorial Hospital, particularly in the areas of treatment covered under the scheme.

3. Weekly Offering in Aid of Some Special Needs

The Diocesan Board also approved that churches should take weekly (Sunday) special offering (in the place of the offering for the hosting of the Church of Nigeria Standing Committee meeting) to assist some aspects of our annual Diocesan Budget. In addition, two Sundays/weeks shall be set aside for churches to remit to the Diocese 100% of their income received from all budgetary/offering heads for such chosen weeks. One of these two 100% Sunday remittances will be on the anniversary Sunday of our Diocese.

Proceeds from these offerings and 100% remittances will be used by the Diocese to attend to matters relating to the Province, the National Church, our theological institutions, welfare and support to Dioceses, etc. With this development, churches will no longer be assigned any amount of money in support of the annual Diocesan budgets.

We are however to emphasise here that each church is assigned a minimum amount of money that they must generate for the year from this offering in aid of special needs.

Similarly, the following Diocesan Groups are henceforth to support the Diocesan annual budget with the specific amounts that shall be assigned to them as Assessment or Quota. The Groups are the Diocesan Christian Men's Fellowship (DCMF), Council of Knights, Lay Readers Association and the Anglican Youth Fellowship. These groups are to ensure that whatever the amount assigned to them is cleared before the end of the year.

They will no longer be required to support with 10% of their annual income generated. Only the Women's ministry will go on to support the Diocese with 10% of their total income having demonstrated faithfulness in this regard over the years.

4. Prohibition of the retrieval of special/occasional thanksgiving offerings by Diocesan/Church activity groups

The Board passed a resolution that effective from the 30th Day of September, 2021, all Activity Groups (CMF, MU/WG, AYF, ACM) at all levels of the Diocese shall no longer retrieve the thanksgiving offerings made by them at the altar during their Conferences, Fathers' Day, Mothering Sunday, Youth and Children's Week services. Special offerings/donations could be raised to support whatever projects such groups may want to embark upon for the period, such should not be brought to the Altar.

Where the Bishop is present in any church to officiate at the above stated services, the thanksgiving offerings for the occasion by the celebrating groups shall to go to the Diocese 100%.

NEW DIOCESAN CONSTITUTION

For more than a year now, we have been revising our present Diocesan Constitution as directed by the Church of Nigeria. A number of areas have been critically reviewed to meet up with the requirements of the National Church and also to address some other

internal challenges. The Diocesan Constitution Review Committee headed by the Chancellor, Sir Nlerum Amadi has carried out a painstaking revision exercise based also on inputs from a cross section of the Diocesan faithful.

We shall in this Synod meeting give our final collective approval to all the sections considered and thereafter forward it to the Church of Nigeria Committee of Reference which will be sitting to look at our proposals during the September 2022 meeting of the Standing Committee in Abuja. Their final recommendations shall be presented to the Standing Committee for hopeful approval.

REASSIGNMENT OF SOME STATIONS TO ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCS, CHURCHES AND ACTIVITY GROUPS

With effect from 1st January, 2023, the following churches will become a part of the Archdeaconries of their geographical location. They shall cease to remain in their present administrative blocs. They are:

1. Our Saviour Christ Anglican Church, Rumunduru (presently a Station of the All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwurusu) will now join the Oroigwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry as a Station under the office of the Archdeacon who shall be the Vicar.
2. Holyhill Anglican Church, Elioizu (presently a Station of St. Andrew's, Rumuobiokani Deanery) will also join the Oroigwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry but as a Station under the Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioizu Parish. The Vicar of Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioizu shall also be the Vicar of Holyhill.
3. St. John, the Evangelist Church, Atali Pipeline (presently a Station of St. Andrew's, Rumuobiokani Deanery) will become a part of Trinity Archdeaconry as an Archdeaconry Church with the Archdeacon as the Station Vicar.
4. Chapel of Grace and Knowledge, ACMGS, Elenwo shall withdraw from the Holy City Anglican Church by 31st December this year and concentrate on the nurture of its two Station churches- Light of the World and Good Tidings.

The Diocesan **Lay Readers Association should remain at Holy City** and strengthen that Church as its mission Station until the end of this Fifth Synod.

5. Ebenezer Anglican Church along Woji-Slaughter (Oginigba) Road shall remain the mission station of the Diocesan Christian Men's Fellowship (DCMF). The DCMF should without any further hesitation return to that Station and cater for it unto spiritual, numerical, financial and infrastructural maturity.

6. The Diocesan Women's Ministries (MU/WG) are hereby assigned the Christus Victor Anglican Church as its new mission station.
7. We thank the knights for all their sacrifices towards the spiritual and physical growth of Emmanuel Church, Iriebe Parish since we assigned the station to the Council. Emmanuel Anglican Church is now a Parish. To God be the glory. The Council of Knights may now withdraw from Emmanuel Church. In keeping with the saying that "The reward for a job well done, is more work" and in the Spirit of the continuing ministry of the Church, we hereby assign to the Diocesan Council of Knights and Ladies, the following Church Stations as their new mission fields: **True Vine Anglican Church, Abuja Estate, Iriebe, and The Great Physician Anglican Church, Atali.**
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with our valiant Knights! Amen.

YOUTH CHURCHES ARCHDEACONRY

In four years' time, we shall be creating a YOUTH CHURCHES ARCHDEACONRY in the Diocese. We hereby reiterate our directive to all Administrative Blocs from Cathedral to Iriebe to plant and nurture at least one Youth Church in any area of the Diocese which will be a part of the new Administrative Bloc. Archdeacons and Rectors who intend to remain relevant in this Diocese are hereby advised to take this directive seriously in their own interest. Already, one year has elapsed with no Bloc acting positively so far.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS (2022 -2024)

We use this medium to express our sincere appreciations to all who had held one elective or appointed office in the Diocese in the past few years. We recognize and appreciate your equally sincere sacrifices and labours and pray God to richly reward you in all the areas you excelled in the service of the Diocese.

This being a start of a new Synod, we are glad to make the following Diocesan appointments:

DIOCESAN OFFICIALS

The Legal Officers *(Members of Synod and all [3 major] Boards of the Diocese and their respective Cathedral, Archdeaconry Board, Deanery/Church Councils)

1. **Diocesan Chancellor** - Sir Barr. Nlerum Amadi
2. **Registrar (Lands)** - Barr. Chimezie Otuonye
3. **Deputy Registrar (JEPC/ADR)** – Sir Barr. Godfrey O. Dike
4. **Legal Secretary 1** – Sir Barr. Bright Nda Owhor
5. **Legal Secretary 2** – Lady Barr. Sonia Worlu

Other Diocesan Officials

1. **Financial Secretary** – Mr. Lawrence Chinda *(Automatic Member of Synod, Diocesan, Finance and Archdeaconry Boards/PCC)

2. **Administrative Assistants to the Bishop**

- Rev. Canon Samuel Fedigha }
- Rev. Michael Terhemba Jov } Members of Synod & Diocesan Board

3. **Bishop's Chaplain** – Ord. Herbert Anson

4. **Protocol Officers** – Dr. Kasarachi Innocent }
- Hon. Mike Azuonwu } Members of Synod & Diocesan Board
- Dame Akudo Nnadozie }

5. **Directors of Logistics**

- Mr. Chika Amadi
- Engr. Adolphus Chuku

6. **Diocesan Engineers** – Sir Engr. Kennedy Uzuegbulam
- Engr. Risidor Ekezie

7. **Diocesan Architects** – Sir O.C. Chukwu
Arch. Chiedozie Okoroafor

8. **Diocesan Surveyor** – Surv. Gaius Assor

9. **Archivist** – Dr. Grace Jaja

Members of Synod & Diocesan Board

10. **Editor-in-Chief** – Go-Tell Magazine – Dr. Kasarachi Innocent

ADVISERS TO THE BISHOP

Finance & Budget Matters

- Lolo Agnes Ezenta }
- Ms Atonye Wilcox } Members of Synod, Diocesan & Finance Boards

Security Matters – Dame Forstina Aririsuku – Member of Synod, Diocesan & Finance Boards

Diocesan Medical Advisers

- Lady Dr. Ndidi Utchay – *(Chief Medical Adviser)* Member of Synod, Diocesan and Finance Boards
 - Dr. Lisa Orianwo
 - Dr. Chinenyeike Edmund
 - Dr. Ogwumka Chieme
- } Members of Synod only

Legal Adviser to the Diocesan Schools and Hospital

- Sir Barr. Emmanuel Izuehie - Member of Synod & Diocesan Board

Advisory Committee on Skill Acquisition and Economic Empowerment

- Dame Priscilla Nosiri - *(Chief Adviser)* Member of Synod, Diocesan & Finance Boards
- Engr. Chris Onyemaizu
- Lady Elsie Nlerum Amadi
- Mrs Joy Madume
- Mr Gabriel Amadi

Youth Concerns/Revival

- Sir Mazi Sam Azoka
 - Barr. Chinedu Ogbonna
- } Members of Synod & Diocesan Board

Diocesan Music – Mr Ndunaka Chukwu - *Member of Synod & Diocesan Board

Community Relations – Mr John Okene - *Member of Synod & Diocesan Board

Governmental and Public Affairs

Dame Ibim Semenitari - *Member of Synod & Diocesan Board

Bishop’s Nominees to the Diocesan Board

- Sir Chief G.I. Ebenezer
 - Sir Chief Mike Ejims Enwukwe
 - Sir Harold Okoye
 - Sir Promise W.O. Owbor
- } *Also, members of Synod

Diocesan Commissaries

- **Abuja** – Sir Chike Chinda, Sir Victor Wodi
 - **Lagos** – Miss Scholastica Onwughara
- } *Members of Synod

Diocesan Co-ordinator of Home Fellowship & Family Life Unit

- Mrs Ijeoma Anagbogu - *Member of Synod

DIOCESAN COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND DIRECTORATES

**(All Chairmen of Diocesan Committees, Directorates & Boards are automatic members of the Synod, Diocesan and Finance Boards)*

1. Synod Planning Committee for the Fifth Synod (2022-2024)

- i. Sir Ike B.S. Chinwo -**Co-Chairman**
- ii. Ven. Chidi S. Worgu -**Co-Chairman**
- iii. Clerical Synod Secretary
- iv. Assistant Clerical Synod Secretary
- v. Lay Synod Secretary
- vi. Assistant Lay Synod Secretary
- vii. Chairman Clergy Welfare Association
- viii. Secretary, DCMF
- ix. Secretary, MU/WG
- x. Women's Office Worker
- xi. President, Diocesan AYF
- xii. Secretary, Knights' Council
- xiii. Secretary, Lay Readers Association
- xiv. Diocesan Communicator
- xv. Protocol Officers
- xvi. Director of Logistics
- xvii. Diocesan Treasurer
- xviii. Diocesan Financial Secretary
- xix. Bishop's Advisers on Security
- xx. Host Archdeacon/Rector
- xxi. Chairman, L. O. C.
- xxii. Bishop's Chaplain(s)
- xxiii. Lay Secretaries of Diocesan Administrative Blocs
- xxiv. Any other appointee of the Bishop
- xxv. Diocesan Chancellor and Legal Secretary – Ex-Officio

2. Projects Committee

- i. Sir Promise Wodi – **Chairman**
- ii. Sir Engr. Uzoma Odumodu
- iii. Mr Friday Chuku
- iv. Engr. Boma Kemuel
- v. Sir Engr. Maxwell Egwuagu
- vi. Engr. Tamunoyowuna Ronald G. David-West
- vii. Amb. Adol Ibeka
- viii. Sir Eddy Emeka Wopara
- ix. Engr. Ibekwe Chinonso
- x. Mr Eze Isiguzo
- xi. Chief Charles Eleto
- xii. Diocesan Engineers and Architects - Ex-Officio

3. Harvest Committee

- i. Ven. Charles O. Mordi – **Chairman**
- ii. Engr. George Iwo - **Vice Chairman**
- iii. Rev. Canon Hosanna Naenwi
- iv. Rev. Canon Ahamefule Olluor
- v. Mrs Nkiru Onyewuotu
- vi. Lady Eka David Chinda
- vii. Mr Ojoh David
- viii. Hon. Fineman Olungwe
- ix. Sir Emeka Awanye
- x. Lady Rita Okugini
- xi. Lady Chibuzor Anyabele
- xii. Sir George Agbogu
- xiii. Mrs Oris Assor
- xiv. Mr Wenenda Amadi
- xv. Mrs Cecilia Ani
- xvi. Surv. Badume Weli
- xvii. Mrs Florence Ogoloma
- xviii. Engr. Nonso Olemeforo
- xix. Mr Friday Chuku
- xx. Mrs Ijeoma Onunwor
- xxi. Mr Henry Ihegara
- xxii. Mr Precious Anero
- xxiii. C.T. Daniel Nwabueze
- xxiv. Chief Godspower Eleto
- xxv. Mr Allwell Amadi
- xxvi. Mrs Comfort Kasim
- xxvii. Representatives of DCMF, MU/WG, AYF, ACM, Knights, Lay Readers & Diocesan schools.

4. Discipleship/Revival Conference

- i. Ven. Alex Usifoh – **Chairman**
- ii. Rev. Canon Chimaobi Chieme – **Vice Chairman**
- iii. Rev. Canon Ozioma Iheanetu
- iv. Rev. Kingsley Imenwo
- v. Rev. Chukwuemeka Obani
- vi. Rev. Chibuzor V. Chukwuemeka
- vii. C.T. Felix Obidi
- viii. C.T. Itekena Marshall
- ix. C.T. Temple Elenwo
- x. Lady Bridget Dania
- xi. Evang. Michael Chibueze Ezeoke
- xii. Mr Erdman Esere
- xiii. Mrs Happiness Worgu
- xiv. Mrs Peace Onuchuku
- xv. Mrs Blessing Nda Owbor

- xvi. Mr Nnaemeka Opara
- xvii. Mrs Hope Ernest Amadi
- xviii. Bro. Chimerem Anyanwu
- xix. Miss Glory Enwereuzor
- xx. Miss Eunice John
- xxi. Bro. Isaiah Oriaku

5. DIVCCON Co-ordinating Committee

- i. Rev. Canon Samuel Fedigha – **Coordinator**
- ii. Rev. ThankGod Amadi
- iii. Rev. Frankincense Chukwuma
- iv. Postulant Festus Amamba
- v. Postulant Isaiah Orji

6. Diocesan Missions, Evangelism & Church Planting/Development Board

- i. Rev. Canon Kingsley Ohajianya- **Chairman**
- ii. Rev. Canon John Nkuene
- iii. Rev. Canon Bright Welekwe
- iv. Rev. Collins Daniel
- v. Rev. Chukwuemeka S. Udeh
- vi. Rev. Virginus C. Chukwuemeka
- vii. Postulant David Wopara
- viii. Postulant Cherechi F. Ndukuba
- ix. Postulant Godwin Ovunwo
- x. Mrs Grace Ofoegbu
- xi. Mrs Favour Anukem
- xii. Dame Meg Orianwo
- xiii. Dame Nkiru Egege
- xiv. Mrs Stella Ogbonna
- xv. Mr Arinze Ibekwe
- xvi. Sis. Chioma N. Akwuobi
- xvii. Mr Ijok Jonathan
- xviii. CT Wamadi U. Akpenuchi
- xix. Mr Emmanuel Wopara
- xx. Bro. Chimerem Anyawu

7. Education Board

- i. Sir Victor Dania - **Chairman**
- ii. Dr. Nnamdi Ekeocha - **Secretary**
- iii. Rev. Canon Femi Igbamerun ***Performance Improvement Coordinator of Schools**
- iv. Hon. Martin Amaewhule
- v. Prof. Chinelo Joy Ugwu
- vi. Lady Njideka Ebisi

- vii. Dr. Azubuike Weli
- viii. Sir O.J. Kamalu
- ix. Sir Barr. Emmanuel Izuehie – **Legal Adviser to the Board**
- x. Ms. Atonye Wilcox
- xi. Lady Dr. Nkechi Promise Adele *Representative of Council of Knights
- xii. Dr. Richard Chinda *Representative of DCMF
- xiii. Mrs Pauline Onyedinma*Representative of MU/WG
- xiv. Sir Barr. G.O. Dike *Representative of PTA
- xv. Engr. Ikechi Steve Chigonum *Representative of Old Boys
- xvi. Dr. (Mrs) Gladys Ogan *Representative of Old Girls
- xvii. Principal of ACMGS, Elenwo
- xviii. Principal of BCMSS, Rumuobiokani
- xix. Principal of WTWoF, Woji

8. Bishop Elenwo Hospital Management Board

- i. Lady Dr. Ndidi Utchay - **Chairman**
- ii. Dr. Bright Amadi
- iii. Dame Meg Orianwo
- iv. Pharm. Ijeoma Okey-Ewurum
- v. Sir Chief Barr. G.O. Dike
- vi. Sir Barr. Emmanuel Izuehie -**Legal Adviser**
- vii. Dr. Ismael Jaja
- viii. Dr. Chinenyeike Edmund
- ix. Sir Dr. Emenike William Amobi
- x. Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Owhor - **Chaplain**

9. Investment Board

- i. Sir Chief Gilbert E. Chuku - **Chairman**
 - ii. Sir Engr. Sunny Worlu – **Vice Chairman**
 - iii. Rev. Chukwudi Theophilus
 - iv. Engr. Adolphus Chuku
 - v. Lady Lois Oke
 - vi. Sir Chidi Osuji
 - vii. Dr (Mrs.) Blessing Onyegeme Okerenta
 - viii. Sir Silas Ekezie
 - ix. Mr Felix Otto
 - x. Lady Josephine Ejims-Enwukwe
 - xi. Mr Michael Momoh
 - xii. Miss Sonia Ariolu
 - xiii. Mr Lawrence Chinda – **Diocesan Financial Secretary**
- } *Diocesan Event Centre Management

10. Directorate of Diocesan Media & Communications

- i. Sir Dr. Jossy Nkwocha – **Diocesan Communicator 1/Chairman**
- ii. Sir Chief Ernest Chinwo - **Diocesan Communicator 2**

- iii. Dr. Kasarachi Innocent
- iv. Rev. Canon Femi Igbamerun ***Bishop/Clergy Information**
- v. Rev. Canon Joseph Ofoegbu
- vi. Rev. Chukwudi Theophilus
- vii. Rev. Michael Terhemba Jov
- viii. Mr James O. Ebebeinwe
- ix. Mr Martins Wachukwu
- x. Mr Ernest Amadi
- xi. Mr Emmanuel Wopara
- xii. Mr Kevwe Collins
- xiii. Mr Obinna Nwasike
- xiv. Mr Michael Onia
- xv. Mr ThankGod Akubuiro

11. Directorate of Ecumenism, Interfaith & Inter-Diocesan Relations

- i. Ven. Okechukwu Owhonda – **Director**
- ii. Rev. Canon Ahamefule Olluor
- iii. Rev. Henry Odu
- iv. Rev. Richard Alete-Omoni
- v. Rev. Pythias Onyeme Anointed
- vi. Rev. Gift Chukwumati
- vii. Post. Cherechi Ndukuba
- viii. Dr. (Mrs) Faith Nwaghahi
- ix. Mrs Stella Amadi
- x. Mrs Doris Amadi
- xi. Mrs Edith Akparanta

12. Directorate of Civic and Political Affairs (DCPA)

- i. Mr Charles Daniel – **Diocesan Desk Officer** *Member of Synod & Diocesan Board only
- ii. Dr. Richard Chinda
- iii. Dame Ibim Semenitari
- iv. Sir Ugem Rogers
- v. Mr Chika Amadi

13. Directorate of Social Welfare

- i. Lady Bibian Nnoli – **Chairperson**
- ii. Rev. Canon Chukwuma Anukem
- iii. Rev. Canon Confidence Gura
- iv. Bro. Stanley Onwuchie
- v. Dame Christie Laguda
- vi. Dr. Chinenyeike Edmond
- vii. Mrs Stella ThankGod Amadi
- viii. Mrs Eva Anunobi
- ix. Postulant Boniface Onu
- x. Barr. (Mrs) Christiana Cliff-Nwenea

- xi. Lady Chioma Ekezie
- xii. Bro. Gift Jonathan
- xiii. Miss Chile Ariolu
- xiv. Mrs Aleruchi Chukwumeka Orlu
- xv. Sir Chief Brain Ogbonda

14. Council for Clergy, Laity Continuing Education (CCLCE)

- i. Ven. Emmanuel Anyasodo - **Rector**
- ii. Rev. Canon Joseph Ofoegbu - **Director of Studies**
- iii. Rev. Collins Daniel - **Director of Studies**
- iv. Mr Sylvester Chiemeka - **Director of Studies**

B. Church Teachers In-service Training

- i. Ven. Ikechukwu Anene
- ii. Rev. Canon Ugochukwu L. Nwaghahi

15. Diocesan Sports Council

The Executive Committee:

- i. Sir Enyioma Onuoha - **Chairman** *Member of Synod only
- ii. Mr. Alaribe Onyedikachi - **Vice Chairman**
- iii. Chetachi Ikeya - **Secretary** *Member of Synod only
- iv. Richman Chukwu - **Assistant Secretary/PRO**
- v. Onyedikachi Akwara - **Treasurer**
- vi. Rev. Canon Hosanna Naenwi - **Chaplain 1**
- vii. Rev. Moses O. Anyatonwu - **Chaplain 2**

Others:

- i. Chiemela Emmanuel
- ii. Mr Richman Chukwu
- iii. Mr. Chiedozie Ochulor
- iv. Tony Ejiri Aggrey
- v. Mr. Onyedikachi Alaribe
- vi. Mr. Onyedi Wilberforce Okwaa
- vii. Mr. Tony Chinda
- viii. Mr Adiele Nyeche
- ix. Edmund Esere
- x. Rizidor Ekezie
- xi. Rev. Kingsley Imenwo
- xii. Engr. Chuks Nwajifeobi
- xiii. Mr Felix Ibor
- xiv. Post. Nwabueze Ndukwe Daniel
- xv. Mr Bright Ndala
- xvi. Vicar Ordu
- xvii. Mr Chetachi Ikeya

- xviii. Amachree Justice - Representative of AYF
- xix. Sir Oki Godspower – Representative of BCMSS, Rumuobiokani
- xx. Mr Raymond Abba - Representative of ACMGS, Elemenwo
- xxi. Delight Okereke - Representative of WTWoF, Woji

CHAPLAINCIES

Co-ordinating Chaplains of all Chaplaincies and Prayer Groups

– Ven. Chidi S. Worgu & Rev. Canon Chimaobi Chieme

**(Members of Synod & Diocesan Board)*

1. **Diocesan Christian Men’s Fellowship (DCMF)** - Rev. Dr. James Irikefe
2. **Women (MU/WG) & Girls Ministries** –Rev. Canon Samuel Obialor
3. **Anglican Youth (AYF) & Corps Members Fellowships**
-Rev. Collins Daniel
-Rev. Kingsley Imenwo
4. **Anglican Children (ACM)/Clergy & Church Workers Children’s Ministries**
-Rev. Samuel Nvene - *Member of Diocesan Board
- Rev. Best Ekendia

B. Lay Coordinator of Clergy & Church workers children’s ministry

- Mrs Philomena Ezigbo

Evo Council of Knights – Ven. Emmanuel Anyasodo
- Rev. Canon C.J. Kemakolam } *with effect from 1st
December, 2022

5. **Lay Readers Association** –Ven. Godwin Chinda
6. **Adult Sunday School, Discipleship, Literature/Publications**
- Rev. Canon Sampson Abada
- Rev. Canon Chwukwuemeka Okonkwo
- Rev. Dr. James Irikefe
- Mrs Barinem Collins Daniel
7. **Guild of Stewards** - Rev. Anderson Owzor
8. **Sports Ministry** –Rev. Canon Hosanna Naenwi
-Rev. Moses Anyatonwu
9. **Private and Public Secondary Schools-** Rev. Isaac Ezeokpo
- Rev. Chibuzor V. Chukwuemeka
- C.T. Itekena Marshall
10. **Royal Fathers, Chiefs, Elders & Retired Clergy**
- Rev. Canon Samuel Ejekwu
-Rev. Gift Chukwumati
11. **Family Life/Home Fellowship Ministry**
- Rev. Canon Gospel E. Onuchuku
- Rev. Maduakona Paul Ezigbo

12. Industrial, Business & Workplace Chaplaincy

- Rev. Richard Alete-Omoni
- Rev. Chukwuemeka Obani
- Postulant Cherechi F. Ndukuba

13. CHAPLAINS OF DIOCESAN INSTITUTIONS

- i. **Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School, Rumuobiokani**
 - Rev. Ogochukwu Ogini &
 - Rev. Dandison Fiberesima

- ii. **Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls School, ACMGS, Elenwo**
 - Vicar, Chapel of Grace & Knowledge, Elenwo &
 - Rev. Christian Tasia

- iii. **Woji Town Word of Faith (WTWoF)**
 - Vicar of Christ Harvest Anglican Church, Faith Avenue, Woji &
 - Rev. Uchechukwu Chinda

- iv. **PAMO University, TAP, Elenwo** – Supervising Priest of Redeemer’s Cross

- v. **Archdeacon Brown Educational Centre (ABEC), Woji**
 - Ord. Herbert Anson

- vi. **Rehabilitation Centre, Iriebe** – Rev. Frankincense Chukwuma

- vii. **Bishop Elenwo Memorial Hospital (BEMH)**
 - Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Owhor

14. Diocesan Lay Workers – Rev. Canon G. Onyemelukwe

15. Anglican Communion Brigade – Rev. Canon John Chinda
- Rev. Christian Gabriel

16. Music Ministry – Rev. Canon Ozioma Iheanetu
- Rev. Amoson Ijah

17. Prayer Ministry – Rev. Chukwuemeka S. Udeh
- Postulant David Wopara

18. Body of Professionals - Ven. Azubuike Ugoha
-Rev. Canon Bright Welekwe

Diocesan Prayer Groups of Men, Women & Youths

S/N	GROUPS	MINISTRY FOCUS	CHAPLAINS/ *SUPERVISORS (For women's groups)
1	RED/GOLD (Peter, Deborah, Phoebe & Love)	Ministry to struggling churches. *New Church plants.	Ven. Chidi Worgu/Mrs Blessing Igbamerun
2	WINE RED (Paul, Lydia & Goodness)	Church planting, Local & External missions.	Rev. Canon Kingsley Ohajianya/Mrs Stella Ogbonna
3	PURPLE (David, Nehemiah, Priscilla, Pleasant stones)	Welfare of church members, visitation, follow-up/Discipleship	Ven. C.D. Nwachukwu/Mrs Happiness Worgu
4	ASH (Daniel, Sarah & Fidelity)	Job Placement, Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment	Ven. Azubuike Ugoha/Dr (Mrs) Faith Nwahaghi
5	CREAM/ORANGE (Samuel, Joana, Esther & Joy)	Ministry to the Bishop, other ministers, church workers and their families.	Rev. Canon Chimaobi Chieme/ Mrs Peace Onuchuku
6	SKY BLUE (Joshua, Abigail & Peace)	Ministry to families, communities & Diocesan Educational Institutions	Rev. Canon Ahamefule Olluor/Mrs Nkiru Ohajianya
7	YELLOW (Luke, BVM, Faith & Victory)	Ministry to the sick and Health institution. E.g., BEMH	Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Owhor/Mrs Goodluck Anyasodo
8	LEMON (Joseph, Elizabeth & Kindness)	Ministry to persons living with disabilities, street children, commercial sex workers, Addicts, etc.	Rev. Canon Ugochukwu Nwaghahi/Barr. Mrs Mercy Nweke
9	ROYAL BLUE (Barnabas, Emmanuel, Dorcas & Success)	Ministry to widows, orphans, retired clergy and the aged.	Rev. Canon Bright Okocha/Mrs Blessing Ogu
10	PINK (St. John the Apostle, Hannah & Excellence)	Ministry to children (ACM & G.G.) and pregnant women.	Rev. Sam Nvene/Mrs Caroline Chinda
11	GREEN (Timothy, Lois, Olives & Ruth)	Ministry to teenagers and youths (AYF, B.B. and Corp members).	Rev. Collins Daniel/Mrs Grace Ofoegbu

Retreat for all Appointees before Take Off

We shall formally communicate these appointees in writing in addition to this announcement and also invite them to an 'orientation retreat'.

However, each appointee will firstly be required to indicate their readiness to serve or otherwise to us in writing before coming for the retreat.

Those who do not write and equally fail to attend the retreat would be assumed to have turned down the appointment. Such persons shall thereafter be replaced.

Bishop's Nominees to the Fifth Synod (2022-2024)

Sir Ike B.S. Chinwo – **Coordinator** *Member of Diocesan Board also

Sir Richard Chike-Ehie – **Assistant Coordinator of Bishop's Synod nominees**

Cathedral

- i. Sir Chief Raymond Amadi
- ii. Sir Tony Onweluzor
- iii. Lady Uzor Onweluzor
- iv. Professor Mrs. Lizzy Okeke
- v. Lady Bridget Dania
- vi. Sir Engr. Okey Amadi
- vii. Sir Harold Okoye
- viii. Mrs Ibinabo Obuoforibo
- ix. Sir Samuel Uwaezuoke
- x. Prof. Anthony Ibe

Rumuomasi Deanery

- i. Mr Williams Adele
- ii. Mrs Agatha Amadi Njor
- iii. Sir Chike Okechukwu

Rumuobiokani Deanery

- i. Sir Ama Hart
- ii. Lady Amonia Hart
- iii. Sir Mike Epelle
- iv. Sir G. I Ebenezer
- v. Engr. Chike Nwachukwu
- vi. Engr. George Iwo
- vii. Mr Ndunaka Chukwu

Woji Archdeaconry

- i. Sir Raymond Elenwoke
- ii. Sir Promise W.O. Owhor
- iii. Lady Gladys Ihunwo
- iv. Dame Ibim Semenitari
- v. Sir Chief Gad Harry

Oginigba Deanery

- i. Eze Sir J. E. Chidamati (JP)
- ii. Comrade Nyema Amadi

Oroigwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry

- i. Hon. Martin Chike Amaewhule
- ii. Sir Jonathan Amadi
- iii. Mrs Cecilia Ani
- iv. Mr Clinton Amaewhule

Trinity Archdeaconry

- i. Engr. Enyinnaya Eruba
- ii. Sir Prince Chigozie Eche
- iii. Engr. Christian Amadi
- iv. Barr. (Mrs) Chidinma Otuka

Elelenwo Archdeaconry

- i. Sir Eustace Uche Okafor
- ii. Dr Azubuike Weli
- iii. Sir Edward Ike - Chinda
- iv. Lady Josephine Ejims - Enwukwe
- v. Mrs Joy Madume
- vi. Sir Emeka Awanye
- vii. High Chief Daminabo Chinda
- viii. Mrs Diseph Gideon - Krama
- ix. Sir Emenike Onubogu
- x. Mr Mike Mukoro

CoHS, Paraclete Deanery, Elelenwo

- i. Mr Kingsley Eze
- ii. Engr. Festus Edeawe

Okporo/Rumuogba Archdeaconry

- i. Lady Wobiandu Amadi
- ii. Hon. Ugem Rogers
- iii. Sir Prince Tony Orji
- iv. Mr Douglas Chuku
- v. Mrs Edith Ordu
- vi. Chief Chekwes Godspower N. Ordu
- vii. Barr. Igochukwu Onukem
- viii. Sir Friday Nwanwa
- ix. Sir Jonathan Iwezor
- x. Mr Sunny Obasi

Iriebe Archdeaconry

- i. Chief Godspower Eleto
- ii. Eze Jeremiah Worenwu

Youth Delegates

- i. Mr. Chika Amadi
- ii. Miss Sonia Ariolu
- iii. Miss Chile Ariolu
- iv. Bro. Rufus Eziamara

NIGER DELTA PROVINCE

1. Archbishops Presentation Thanksgiving

The Province held a service of thanksgiving to celebrate the election and presentation of our Archbishop and wife, The Most Rev. Dr. Blessing and Mrs. Precious Enyindah. This took place at St. Peter's Cathedral, Isiokpo, Diocese of Ikwerre, on Sunday, 29th August, 2021.

The Primate of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) presided over the service.

2. The Second Niger Delta Provincial Council Meeting for 2021 was hosted by the Diocese of Ahoada at St. Paul's Cathedral, Ahoada from Wednesday, 15th to Thursday, 16th September, 2021.

It was presided over by our new Archbishop, The Most Rev. Dr. Blessing C. Enyindah, JP. The meeting of the Provincial Women Executives also held on the same date and venue and was presided over by the wife of the Archbishop, Mrs. Precious Enyindah. The theme was **“Let us arise and build.”**

The Bishops and wives rose from this meeting and visited us on Thursday, 16th at our Court in Rumuokwurusi to thank God and empathise with us following our hospitalisation and discharge from August to September, last year. We deeply appreciate His Grace and Mama Province as well as the Bishops in attendance with their wives.

The Primate had used the opportunity of his attending the All Nigerian Anglican Clergy Conference holding in Port Harcourt in August last year to visit and pray with us in the hospital and also supported financially towards our medical bill.

3. Provincial Bishops and wives Retreat was held in Port Harcourt at Oak Haven Hotel, GRA, Port Harcourt from Monday, 6th to Friday, 10th December, 2021. Deliberations centered around the theme: **Fighting a common cause** (1 Kings 19:17).
4. The first Provincial Council/MU Executive meeting for 2022 was hosted by the Diocese of Ogoni at All Saints Cathedral, Bori, from Wednesday, 16th to Thursday, 17th February, 2022. The theme was: **“What is in your hand?”** (Exodus 4:2).
5. The 2022 Provincial Prayer Convocation was held at St. Peter's Cathedral, Isiokpo, from Thursday, 7th to Sunday, 10th April, 2022. The theme was **“Our ever-present Help”** (Psalm 46:1-3).
6. Hosting of the CoN Senior Clergy wives Retreat
Our Province of Niger Delta will be hosting the next Church of Nigeria Senior Clergy wives retreat from Monday, 15th to Saturday, 20th August, 2022. Our Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, Elelenwo will serve as the retreat venue.

CHURCH OF NIGERIA

1. ALL ANGLICAN CLERGY CONFERENCE

The All Anglican Clergy Conference was hosted by the Province of Niger Delta at St. Paul's Cathedral, Diobu, Port Harcourt from Monday, 23rd to Friday, 27th August, 2021. The Conference theme was “**Effective Anglican Ministry in the 21st Century**” (1 Tim 4:6).

The Conference attracted clergymen from all over the country within the ordained ministry of the Anglican Church. It featured daily worship, Bible expositions, lectures, talks, seminars and revival sessions.

Our Diocese was represented in the Provincial Planning Committee by The Ven. Charles Mordi – the Clergy Chairman, The Ven. Chris Chukwumati and Rev. Canon Gospel Onuchuku. The Committee was headed by our Archbishop, The Most Rev. Dr. Blessing C. Enyindah.

2. STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING: LAGOS September, 2021

The second meeting of the Church of Nigeria Standing Committee and National Mothers Union Executive for 2021 was hosted by the Diocese of Lagos at Archbishop Adebola and Mrs. Oluranti Ademowo Christian Resource Centre, Faith Plaza, Bariga, Lagos, from Monday, 20th to Friday, 24th September, 2021.

Presided over by the Primate of All Nigeria, The Most Rev. Dr. Henry C. Ndukuba and his wife, Angela, the meetings were held under the theme: “Abiding in Christ: God's Panacea in an unstable world” (John 15:1-8).

The highpoint of the convocation was the reading of the Primate's address on Wednesday, 22nd September and the presentation of awards for outstanding leadership performance on the Governors of Rivers State, Chief Barr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, Ogun State, Adedapo Olusegun Abiodun and the Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Emmanuel Akin Abayomi.

3. DIVINE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE (DIVCCON) 2021

The 11th Edition of the Divine Commonwealth Conference usually organised by the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) was held at the National Christian Center, Abuja from Monday, 8th to Friday, 12th November, 2021.

Presided over by the host/convener, our Primate, The Most Rev. Dr. Henry C. Ndukuba, the Conference had as its theme: “**Quit you like men**” (1 Cor. 16:13)

The Conference features included daily morning devotions, Bible studies, prayer sessions, seminars, ministrations in songs, testimonies, address by the Primate and prayers for all participants by the officiating ministers and Bishops in attendance.

We, your Bishop, presented a paper on **“The Ministry of the laity”** at the General Seminar 2 while our Priest and Diocesan Prayer Chaplain, The Rev. Chukwuemeka S. Udeh led in the opening Day prayer session tagged ‘Prayer Rain.’

The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osibanjo, also addressed the conference.

On attendance, we made all necessary efforts to emerge the Diocese with the highest number of participants at the conference. This did not happen as our efforts could only fetch us the 3rd position this time around from the 2nd position we had held for two consecutive conferences.

We commend the efforts of our Diocesan DIVCCON Coordinators and the churches and groups that mobilised their members to attend. We also thank the churches that provided their buses for the trip to and from Abuja.

We appreciate all our past efforts at achieving a top-class registration and physical attendance to this annual spiritual convocation of our National church.

We are however not quite pleased that we have not been able to actualise our desire. Sponsorship and attendance of our members should henceforth be taken as a project and an event to invest in and plan towards. May we call on everyone whom God has particularly blessed with financial resources to commit a part of them towards the sponsorship of some members of our Diocese who desire to attend DIVCCON but are unable to foot the required expenses.

God will surely reward you with greater increase in all your godly pursuits.

The 2022 DIVCCON holds from Monday, 7th to Friday, 11th, November, at the same venue.

4. ANNUAL BISHOPS’ & WIVES’ RETREATS

The yearly retreat of the Bishops of the Church of Nigeria took place at the Ibru Ecumenical Centre, Agbarha-Otor, Delta State, from 3rd to 7th January, 2022. It was presided over by the Primate of our Church, The Most Rev. Dr. Henry Ndukuba under the theme: **“It is the Lord: Fresh encounter with the living God”** (John 21:1-15).

The retreat afforded the Bishops the opportunity for worship, prayers, study of the scriptures, talks, and reflection for renewed vision and direction for leading the Church of God in the year.

Similarly, the Bishops’ wives held their 2022 beginning-of-the-year retreat at the Cathedral of St. Faith, Diocese of Awka, Anambra State from Wednesday, 5th to

Saturday, 8th January. The theme of the retreat was “**Walk in the Spirit**” (Galatians 5:16).

5. STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING: EVO FEBRUARY, 2022

The first of the two meetings of the Church of Nigeria Standing Committee and the Mothers Union National Executive for 2022 was hosted by our Diocese from Monday, 21st to Friday, 25th February.

The Standing Committee Meeting was presided over by the Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria (Anglican Communion), His Grace, The Most Rev. Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba, while the Meeting of the Mothers Union Executive was presided over by the wife of the Primate/Mama Nigeria, Mrs. Angela Ndukuba.

The gathering attracted all Archbishops, Bishops and wives, Officers of the Church of Nigeria, Legal Officers, Clergy and women delegates of the various Dioceses of the Church of Nigeria, etc. The theme was “The Christian’s Dual Citizenship and responsibilities” (Matthew 22:20-22).

Events for the four-day meetings were held at the All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwursi, St. Andrew’s Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery and Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School, Rumuobiokani.

The highpoints of the meetings were:

- The Primate and wife’s arrival on Sunday, 20th February,
- Formal welcome and reception of the Primate and wife, the Archbishops, Bishops, their wives and other delegates on Monday, 21st February; and evening prayer,
- Daily morning worship with Bible studies from Tuesday to Thursday,
- Keynote Address by the Governor of Delta State, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa, on the topic: “The Christian and Responsibility” on Tuesday, 22nd February,
- Meetings of the various Houses – Bishops, Clergy and laity as well as the women on Tuesday, 22nd February,
- The presentation of the addresses of the host Bishop and Archbishop and their wives, the Primate and his wife and the Governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike respectively at the opening ceremonies on Wednesday, 23rd February,
- Special Awards for Courageous and Purposeful Leadership in Challenging Times by the Primate and Church of Nigeria to Governors Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta State on Tuesday, 22nd February; Samuel Ortom of Benue State, Babagana Zulum of Borno State and then Minority Leader of the Senate, Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe on Wednesday, 23rd February; and
- Episcopal Synod on Thursday, 24th February amongst other activities.

We thank the Primate and Wife for considering our Diocese for the hosting of the national meeting of such magnitude. It was our joy and pleasure as a Diocese to play host! To God be the glory for everything!

6. ADVENT SUNDAY 2021 AND ST. MATTHIAS DAY 2022 COLLECTIONS

Our Diocese joined the others in the Church of Nigeria to observe the two Sundays of special offerings and 100% remittance – the Advent Sunday 2021 collection and that of Saint Matthias Day 2022/Anniversary of the inauguration of the Church of Nigeria.

For the Advent Sunday offering, a total sum of **₦5,916,426.46** was raised by all our churches while for Saint Matthias offering, we raised a total sum of **₦7,852,216.00**

7. JOSHUA GENERATION INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE (JGIYC)

The second edition of this Conference initiated and convened by our Primate, The Most Rev. Dr. Henry C. Ndukuba took place at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja, from Monday, 18th to Saturday, 23rd April, 2022.

Youths of our Diocese led by the Diocesan AYF President, Bro. Arinze Ibekwe and Chaplain, The Rev. Collins Daniel actively participated in the Conference.

Highlights of the Conference activities included the welcome and official opening ceremony by the Primate, Daily morning glory/Devotion, Bible studies, addresses by Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Sunday Dare, represented by the then Minister of State for Education, Mr. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, workshops, Panel Discussion, expository talks on the theme: "The manifestation of the sons of God" and commissioning and closing ceremony by the Primate.

The Joshua Generation International Conference was birthed to raise disciples and leaders who are devoted to God and distinct in all areas of life. The conference seeks to achieve this through intentional teaching and discipleship, etc.

We commend the youths who participated at the conference and the various Administrative Blocs and churches that supported their attendance with funds. From now on, every church and Administrative Bloc should make financial provisions for the sponsorship of selected youths to the conference.

8. RETURNEES FROM THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

For some years now, our Communion has quietly battled with the challenge posed by the emergence of the Orthodox Anglican Church – a strange group that has not only taken off in Nigeria but has gone as far as recruiting quite a good number of our Church

of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) priests of virtually all ranks into their fold. A good number of the affected priests decided also to quit for some other reasons.

We are happy however to report here that after a period of interactions, conversations and counselling with them and based strictly on pastoral approach led personally by our Primate, a good number of them have willingly accepted to return to the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) while reaffirming their loyalty and obedience to the Order of Ministry as obtained in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

A total of 81 of such priests were involved in the return, back to the Church of Nigeria.

They have been taken through a period of fresh orientation led by our Archbishop and have since been posted to Dioceses across the country. One of them is billed to join us here in the Diocese of Ewo.

9. TRANSLATIONS, ELECTION, CONSECRATION, ENTHRONEMENT OF NEW BISHOPS & PRESENTATION OF NEW ARCHBISHOPS

A. TRANSLATIONS

- i. The Rt. Rev. Idris Zubairu of the Diocese of Bari was translated to the Diocese of Sokoto to replace The Rt. Rev. Dr. Augustine Omole, now late.
- ii. The Rt. Rev. Olukayode Adegbogun, suffragan Bishop in the Church of Nigeria North America Mission (CONNAM) elected and translated to the Anglican Diocese of Trinity (ADOTT).
- iii. The Rt. Rev. Prof. Dapo Asaju, Bishop Theologian of the Church of Nigeria, translated to the Diocese of Ilesha.
- iv. The Rt. Rev. Manasses Okere of the Diocese of Isuikwuato/Umunneochi was translated to the Diocese of Ukwu.
- v. The Rt. Rev. Olushola Ajayi of Ekiti-Kwara was translated to Ekiti Diocese.
- vi. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Oko- Jaja of Niger Delta West was translated to Niger Delta.
- vii. The Rt. Rev. Williams Aladekugbe of Oyo Diocese was translated to Ibadan-North.
- viii. The Rt. Rev. Cornelius Adagbada of Oke-Ogun was translated to Ekiti West.

The translations of Bishops Zubairu and Adegbogun took place at the Episcopal Synod which held at Bethany Anglican Church, Faith Plaza, Bariga, Lagos, on 23rd September, 2021; that of Bishops Asaju and Okere took place at our St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery, on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, while that of Ajayi, Oko-Jaja, Aladekugbe and Adagbada took place at the Episcopal Synod held at the Archbishop Vining Memorial Cathedral, Ikeja, Diocese of Lagos West, on Saturday, 2nd July, 2022.

B. NEW BISHOPS

- i. The Rev. Canon Ishaya Ganyida Baba (now Rt. Rev.) – Bishop of Zaria
- ii. The Ven. Rambi Raphael Wonoli (now Rt. Rev.) – Bishop of Bari
- iii. The Ven. Kingsley C. Obuh (now Rt. Rev.)– Bishop of Asaba

These three new bishops were consecrated on Sunday, 3rd April, 2022 at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Ake, Egba Diocese. They have since been enthroned.

Other new Bishops were elected on Saturday, 2nd July, 2022 at the Episcopal Synod held at Archbishop Vining Memorial Cathedral, Ikeja, Diocese of Lagos West. They are:

- iv. The Ven. Benjamin Enwuchola – Bishop-elect of Otukpo Diocese
- v. The Rev. Canon Prince Christian Ayim – Bishop-elect of Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Diocese.
- vi. Very Rev'd Dr. Isaac Adeyemi Adeniji - Bishop elect of Ilaje Diocese.

C. NEW ARCHBISHOPS

- i. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Humphrey Bamise Olumakaiye, Bishop of Lagos was on 23rd September, 2021 at Bethany Anglican Church, Faith Plaza, Bariga, Lagos, elected the new Archbishop of the Province of Lagos. He replaces The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Olusina Fape. The now Most Rev. Dr. Olumakaiye was formally presented on Sunday, 7th November, 2021 at the Cathedral Church of Advent, Life Camp, Gwarimpa, Abuja Diocese.
- ii. The Rt. Rev. Simeon O. Borokini, Bishop of Akure was elected the new Archbishop of Ondo Province on Saturday, 2nd April, 2021 at the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter, Ake, Abeokuta, and formally presented on Sunday, 3rd July, 2022 at Archbishop Vining Memorial Cathedral, Ikeja, Diocese of Lagos West.
- iii. The Rt. Rev. Rev. Abiodun Olaoye of Osun North Diocese was elected as the new Archbishop of the Province of Ibadan.

We congratulate the translated Bishops, the newly elected ones as well as the new Archbishops and wish them, their Dioceses and Provinces, well.

10. RETIREMENTS

The following Bishops have retired from the active ministry of the Church.

- i. The Rt. Rev. Samuel Sowale (Ilesha)
- ii. The Rt. Rev. Samuel Kelechi Eze (Ukwa)
- iii. The Rt. Rev. Nnaemeka Justus Mogekwu (Asaba)
- iv. The Most Rev. Christopher T. Omotunde (Ekiti)
- v. The Rt. Rev. David Bello (Otukpo)
- vi. The Most Rev. Segun Okubadejo (Ibadan North)

vii. The Rt. Rev. Cornelius Ralph Ebirien (Niger Delta)

We congratulate them and thank God for their years of active service to Him and His church and pray for many more years of good health for them and meaningful contributions to the ministry of the church

11. OBITUARY

We regret to inform the Synod of the death of the following fathers in God, retired Bishops of the Church of Nigeria:

- i. The Rt. Rev. Prof. Augustine Iwuagwu (Aba)
- ii. The Rt. Rev. Taminu Aduda (Gwagwalada)
- iii. The Rt. Rev. Abraham O. Awosan (Oke-Osun)
- iv. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Peter Adebisi (Lagos West) and
- v. The Rt. Rev. Gabriel H. Pepple (Niger Delta). Late Bishop Pepple is being buried today, 6th August, 2022 at St. Stephen's Cathedral, Bonny.

May the Lord grant the comfort of the Holy Spirit to members of their families and as well as their Dioceses. Amen.

12. ANNUAL CHURCH OF NIGERIA CONFERENCE OF CHANCELLORS, REGISTRARS & LEGAL OFFICERS

The eleventh edition of the CONAC Chancellors, Registrars and Legal officers Conference was held this week from Monday, 1st to Thursday, 4th August, 2022, at the CONAC Headquarters, St. Matthias House, Gudu District, Abuja. The theme of the Conference was "Behold, I will do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19).

The Conference is organised every year to acquaint Diocesan legal officers with the developments in the church and their roles and responsibilities to their various Dioceses.

ECUMENICAL MATTERS:

Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN)

We were elected the Chairman of the Rivers State chapter of the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) on Wednesday, 25th August, 2021, when our Diocese hosted the State Assembly at All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi.

Others elected to serve the State Council in other capacities include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Rt. Rev. Marvelous Kalu | – Vice Chairman |
| 2. Sir Bamidele Wicklife | – Secretary |
| 3. Elder Francis Oruye | - Asst. Secretary |
| 4. Deaconess Affiong Williams | - Treasurer |
| 5. Rev. Adokiye Benson | - Public Relations Officer (PRO) |
| 6. Bro. Bright Ameme | - Welfare |

7. Bro. Ndubuisi Matthias - Financial Secretary
8. Barr. Okubo West - Legal Adviser

Rivers CCN Week, 2022

The Rivers State chapter of the Christian Council of Nigeria celebrated her week from Sunday, 10th to Sunday, 17th July, 2022. The activities of the Week began with exchange of pulpits among member-denominations on Sunday, 10th July. A formal opening service was held on Monday, 11th July at St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, Hospital Road, Port Harcourt; mid-week services on Wednesday, 13th July in all CCN churches, as well as a day of community service by all denominations. The Anglican Communion in the state visited the people of Obele, Ibaa, in Emuoha Local Government Area who have been displaced following a cult war that took place in that community.

We thank all members and churches of this Diocese that participated in and supported the State CCN during the week, especially our visit to Obele community. These include: Office of the Bishop, Dame Eunice Okenwa, Mrs. Comfort Amadi, Engr. Festus Edeawe, Rev. James & Justice Mrs. Grace Irikefe, Lady Lois Oke, Rev. Richard Alete-Omoni; All Saints Cathedral, St. Michael's, Rumuomasi, St. Andrew's, Rumuobiokani, St. Nicholas, Woji, St. Simon's, Okporo, Rehoboth, Rumunduru, King David Church, Iriebe, Diocesan Women's Work office and the Bishop and wife.

We commend all members of our Diocesan Directorate of Ecumenism, Interfaith and Inter-Diocesan affairs for their steady and faithful participation in all programmes and activities of the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) in Rivers State within the last one year. We are particularly grateful to The Rev. Canon Gospel Onuchuku – the Director, The Reverends Maduakona Ezigbo, Henry Odu, Gift Chukwumati, Joseph Asonye, Chukwuemeka Chibuzor, Pythias Anointed Onyeme, Postulant Cherechi Ndukuba, Mrs. Doris Amadi and Stella T. Amadi for always responding even at short notice to calls to represent the Anglican Communion at the meetings of the State Ecumenical Bodies.

New National President of the Christian Association of Nigeria

The umbrella Christian body in Nigeria, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has elected a new National President in the person of The Most Rev. Daniel Okoh, bringing to an end the tenure of the Rev. Samson Olasupo Ayokunle.

The Most Rev. Okoh is the General Superintendent of Christ Holy Church, also called Nation Builders (Odozi Obodo), one of the churches within the Organisation of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) – a bloc in the CAN.

The General Assembly of CAN took place on Wednesday, 27th July at which the new National President and his team were ushered in.

We wish the new National President a highly successful tenure of office.

RIVERS STATE

Thank you, Governor Wike!

By the time we gather again next year, 2023, for another Synod meeting of this Diocese, the Governor of Rivers State, His Excellency, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, CON, GSSRS, PoS (Africa) would have exited from office after eight years of service to the people of the State.

As we await that to happen, We, in the Diocese of Evo will not fail to specially thank the Governor for the various ways his administration impacted our Diocese, some of her churches and communities of Evo.

We thank the Governor for his financial supports to us at our synods of 2016 at Oginigba, 2017 at St. Mark's Elelenwo, 2018 at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Elelenwo, 2019 at St. Nicholas, Woji and even redeeming the unpaid synod pledges made by the Government before his; his massive support at the celebration of our 10th anniversary in 2019, provision of funds for the building of a new parsonage complex at St. Mark's Elelenwo, the personal gift of a car to us, the Bishop, the purchase of buses for our three Diocesan schools and other forms of assistance received by our schools through the State Universal Basic Education Board.

At the Evo community level, we recall his completion of the Rumuokwurusi-Elimgbu-Eneka-Igwuruta Road, Oroigwe Road, Rumuibekwe Road, Rumuogba-Rumurolu-Woji Road, Elelenwo-Akpajo (Justice Iche Ndu) Road, Rumuokoro and Rumuogba flyovers and several other internal community roads, all of which were in deplorable conditions in 2015 when the Governor assumed office. Today, we celebrate the beauty of these roads, all to the credit of His Excellency. We shall of course, not forget the ongoing Rumuokwurusi-Elimgbu flyover project. We thank the Governor most heartily and pray that history remembers him for good.

We had all wished that the Governor had won his party's ticket to contest for the office of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the primary held in May this year. Unfortunately, that did not happen. All the same, we commend the Governor for putting up such a strong fight, demonstrating that with determination and purpose anyone in Nigeria, no matter where he/she comes from can actually aspire to occupy any available political office in the land and make appreciable impact. We encourage the Governor not to despair as a result of the loss, but rather should remain focused on his mission of rendering quality service to the people of Rivers State in the ten remaining months of his tenure and until God provides another opportunity for him to make another attempt at ascending the highest office in our country. God's time will always come and will certainly be the best.

In the same vein, we commend our former Governor, Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi for his gallant showing at the Presidential primary of his All Progressives Congress (APC) where he came a distant second beating even a sitting Vice President.

We wish him well in his future political aspiration and eagerly look forward to the day when he and the present (outgoing) Governor will sit together to reconcile all their differences for the good of the State.

As the 2023 General elections approach, on behalf of the Synod, we wish to very specially congratulate all sons and daughters of Evo and in particular, parishioners of this Diocese who have secured the nominations of their respective political parties to vie for the various political offices in the State and at the National level. We congratulate our own Knight of Saint Christopher, Amaopusenibo Siminalayi Fubara, the Governorship candidate of the People's Democratic Party in Rivers State, Hon. Martin Chike Amaewhule, Hon. Okechukwu Chinda both vying for seats at the Rivers State House of Assembly and the Federal House of Representatives, Abuja respectively; and all others in their separate political parties. We pray God to bless their aspirations and grant them success at the polls according to His sovereign will.

A closing appeal to His Excellency

Having commended His Excellency, the Governor, we wish to inform him that construction work on the ACMGS School Road, Elenwo has since been abandoned by the construction company handling the project. This has further heightened the sufferings of the staff, students, parents of the school, residents of the area and several others who use that Road on a daily basis. We call on the Governor to please direct the contracting firm back to work. It is a project that should not be left uncompleted before the end of this administration. Moreover, we do not know this administration to encourage abandonment of projects. It should not start with this one.

We also appeal to His Excellency to urgently do something about two critical roads to us here in Evo and other neighbouring communities: the abandoned Eneka-Atali to Rumuokwurusi/Igbo-Etche Road which has been in that condition before the birth of His Excellency's government in 2015 and the Oil Mill (Rumuokwurusi) to Igbo-Etche Road. These roads are of great economic value to the people of the State. We call on the Governor to please include them in the list of his tenure concluding projects so as to end the enormous sufferings our people in Evo and Etche are presently going through due to the very bad state of these roads.

For some time now, the environmental condition of a greater part of Port Harcourt and Obio Akpor Local Government Areas which constitute the State Capital has been at an all time low. Apart from the sorry site the condition has presented us with, there is also the very poor image of the State it conveys to our numerous visitors and worst still the health hazards it exposes residents of the City to. His Excellency should do all within his power to change this ugly narrative. He should not leave the State in the condition he met it in 2015 when the entire City was covered with heaps of uncleared refuse.

Lastly, as the Governor prepares to leave office, we call on him as a worthy member of the Anglican Communion in the State to consider leaving behind an enduring and binding legacy project in honour of his name and years in office for the Eight Dioceses of the Anglican Communion in the State. An Anglican Resource Centre to promote training, research and spirituality will definitely impact on the Communion and other Christians in the State at large. We call on him to consider this suggested project as a parting gift to the Church.

We thank him for his diverse supports and encouragement extended to Dioceses across Nigeria and also the National Church over these past seven years and pray God to reward him bountifully for these sacrifices and labours for the progress of the Church.

2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR DREAM

The present government at the federal level came to office on a very high note and with assurances of better performance from the one it succeeded. Sadly, almost immediately after assuming the reins of power, this Government left no one in doubt as to its unpreparedness to address the myriad of problems confronting the Nation. The Government has failed in managing our diversity as a nation. It has not been able to foster unity among the variegated peoples of Nigeria. As a matter of fact, the government by its policy of deliberate exclusion has contributed in no small measure to the deepening sectional agitations and strife we are presently experiencing in the country.

The Buhari administration has also failed in managing the economy. The prices of goods and services are at an all-time high and the Naira is on an unhinged plummet. There are fuel and other basic commodity shortages and dying businesses.

The government has failed to address worsening challenge of insecurity despite making it a major campaign pledge before and shortly after coming to power. Citizens have continued to live under the cumulus fear as known and unknown gunmen, kidnappers and Fulani herdsmen roam the land unchallenged. Each day, we hope for an end to this nightmare, but it has gone on unabated.

The bloody attack on defenceless worshipers at a Roman Catholic Church in Owo, Ondo State, in June this year is unarguably one of the deadliest assaults on the Christian community in Nigeria and has left us wondering whether we are still safe in this country and if we still have a responsible government in office.

The heightened incidences of kidnap of Bishops, Priests and other ministers of God; the killing of Christians and sacking of Christian communities by some religious fanatics claiming to be protecting and propagating their destructive faith in Nigeria have become the past time of extremist groups such as the Boko Haram, Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) and the Fulani Herdsmen. Some persons' lives have been wasted in recent months by these blood thirsty Islamists for their alleged blasphemous utterances against the founder of their religion.

University Education has been severally halted under this administration due to its insensitivity and inability to meet the request of members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). Our ivory towers as we speak has been under lock and key for about six months now. Students in our federal universities have now gotten to the height of their frustrations. Some of them are already being lured into the world of crimes. All these and many other challenges have continued to thrive under the watch of the present government which in our thinking, has turned out to be the most irresponsible and anti-people government in Nigeria since independence. We have lost faith in those at the helm of affairs and therefore cannot wait to see them exit from

power at the end of their tenure in May 2023. We do not equally wish or pray that this government at the federal level should be succeeded by its kind in 2023.

Consequently, as we approach 2023, the year for the next elections in Nigeria when the citizens will have to determine afresh who their leaders at all levels should be, the challenge before that next government to be constituted by the political party the majority of Nigerians will decide to vote for, would be to ensure that these afflictions that have blossomed under the present administration do not continue.

The voting populace should be properly guided and equally self-advised in their choice of our next representatives to the state and national assemblies, governors and the office of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

We must eschew all forms of primordial considerations, such as ethnic/regional sentiments, religion, party affiliation, gender bias, etc. while voting, but should rather go for a true nationalist, God-fearing, experienced, detribalised, frugal and a people-centred Nigerian for the above listed offices in the Land.

The electorates must not be carried away by the huge cash and other means of inducement the politicians will introduce in order to buy their votes. They should be discerning. Vote-buying or the offensively merchandised electoral system will only increase and prolong our present sufferings if we do not rise in total rejection of it.

For those planning to ignore the process this time around because of the failure of most of our elected leaders, we advise that they jettison such a plan in the interest of our nascent democracy and national development. Apathy is definitely not an option because we vote to make a statement not necessarily to vote a winner; and so, abstention is a vote for the status quo. We do not encourage anyone to stay away from participating in the voting process, as it is one of our basic civic duties as citizens of this country. We also vote for who and what we believe in. We vote to renew our faith in democracy. Let everyone pick up their Permanent Voters Card(s) (PVC) and cast their votes when the 2023 general elections come and most importantly for those who are coming to serve, and not to be served; those who have something better to offer Nigerians.

The incoming leadership at all levels should seek to address the deep-seated and structural defects of our system and not to continue on the same wrong path as the present government.

May God give us a righteous, godly and responsible government in the coming year in Jesus name. Amen.

FUTURE SYNOD HOSTS/VENUES

S/N	YEAR OF SYNOD	HOST	DIOCESAN CHIEF LAUNCHER
1	2023	Oroigwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry	Diocesan/churches Prayer groups of CMF, MU/WG, AYF
2	2024	Evo Diocesan Schools	Bishop's Nominees and Diocesan Synod Planning Committee Members
3	2025	Rumuobiokani Deanery	Diocesan Officials and Anglican Traditional Rulers & Chiefs in Evo
4	2026	Okporo/Rumuogba Archdeaconry	The Bishop's Court
5	2027	St. Jude's, Oginigba Deanery	Diocesan Council of Knights
6	2028	Elelenwo Deanery/ Archdeaconry	Diocesan Women Ministries-MU/WG
7	2029	Iriebe Archdeaconry	Diocesan CMF
8	2030	Church of The Holy Spirit, Paraclete Deanery, Elelenwo	Diocesan AYF
9	2031	All Saints Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi	Diocesan Clergy & Wives
10	2032	Woji Archdeaconry	Diocesan Lay Readers Association

CONCLUSION

As we bring this address to a close, we thank everyone at all levels of our Diocese who has contributed in diverse ways towards the success of this First Session of our Fifth Synod.

As our Synod tradition demands, we shall be inviting everyone of us to appreciate this address with our generous financial donations to support our numerous ministry efforts in the areas of evangelism/mission, infrastructural development, education, social welfare, obligations to the Church at the national and provincial levels, workers emoluments, investments, our hospital, sponsorship of our students in theological schools, support to indigent Dioceses, and of course, completion of payment for the recently purchased Woji Town Word of Faith School, etc., etc.

Funding the Diocese has not been easy in recent months particularly with the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020 and the consequent negative impact on the economy.

This notwithstanding, God has remained faithful and consistent in supplying our needs as churches, families, groups and individuals. He expects us to demonstrate that same measure of diligence and liberality whenever He calls us, like TODAY, to support the work of His Church. The Diocese of Evo will not go cap in hand outside to beg for funds and sponsorship. God has strategically positioned everyone of us in this Diocese to provide all that is required to run the Diocese. All we need is simply the willingness and readiness of mind to act as He demands of us and all things shall be possible.

We therefore call on all churches, groups and you as a person to use the occasion of this Synod and hereafter to support our endeavours by giving sacrificially and generously as the Lord has graciously blessed us.

We thank you for your past supports and hereby call on you to heartily STEP UP those supports particularly NOW that we have several areas of needs to address. Your generous, cheerful response TODAY and even after will definitely be regarded by God as a service from you to Him, and He will be well pleased by it.

We are confident that this is one area of service in this community you would like to commit yourself and resources to.

Thank you for your patience in listening to this address. It has been an honour to stand here by the grace of God alive and strong to present it before you all. To God be the glory!

As you rise to go from this Synod, We charge you once again in the words of Apostle Peter:

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4: 10); and of Apostle Paul, "Not slothful in business", but "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord"(Romans 12:11).

Locate and distinguish yourself in an area of service in your local Church and Diocese and persevere there to the glory and honour of God and for the blessing of your fellow brothers and sisters in this new covenant community.

To those elected or appointed into various offices or committees of the Diocese, We charge you to be faithful and wait on your ministry (Romans 12:7a), that is, in the area(s) you have been called by God through this Synod to serve. We pray that you will so excel such that on that day when we shall all appear before the Lord, it shall be your joy and ours to hear Him say to us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21).

We charge everyone particularly, the Clergy, Church teachers and activity group leaders to take the message and lessons of our Synod theme home so that the spirit of service might possess all in our parishes, groups and units of our Diocese.

And now, To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a Kingdom of Priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Thank you and God bless!

+Innocent Evo

Your Bishop and Chief under-shepherd,

6th August, 2022.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Resolutions of the 2022 Diocesan Post Vestry Meeting Leadership Training

Appendix 2

Communique of the Standing Committee of the CoN-Lagos

Appendix 3

Pastoral Letter from the Standing Committee of the CoN-Lagos

Appendix 4

Episcopal Retreat Communique

Appendix 5

Pastoral Letter from the Episcopal Retreat

Appendix 6

Communique of the Standing Committee of the CoN-Evo

Appendix 7

Pastoral Letter from the Standing Committee of the CoN-Evo