

CHURCH OF NIGERIA
(ANGLICAN COMMUNION)
DIOCESE OF EVO

{**DIOCESAN**
LOGO}

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS/
BISHOP'S CHARGE

DELIVERED AT
THE 3RD SESSION OF
THE 1ST SYNOD

HELD AT
ST. MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH,
RUMUOMASI DEANERY
PORT HARCOURT
ON
SATURDAY 4TH AUGUST, 2012.

HJS LORDSHJP, THE RT. REV. INNOCENT U. ORDU, JP
BISHOP, DIOCESE OF EVO

WELCOME

Our dear people of God, we bid you welcome to the 3rd Session of the 1st Synod of our Diocese of Evo. We heartily welcome our special Guest of Honour, His Excellency, The Executive Governor of Rivers State, The Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi; our Guest of Honour, Hon. Justice Iche Ndu, the Chief Judge of Rivers State; members of the national and Rivers State House of Assemblies, the Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, the Hon. Prince Timothy Nsirim, other Government functionaries or their representatives here present; My Lord Bishops or their representatives, Traditional Rulers, our dear Diocesan legal officers led by the Registrar, Barrister Nlerum Amadi, eminent brothers of the House of Clergy, Diocesan officials, Our nominees, synod delegates of our Churches, all other invited guests, Anglican faithful from the Diocese of Evo, our friends and well wishers, gentle/women of the press.

We thank you for finding the time to honour our invitation and to identify with us on this occasion. May the good Lord shower his abundant blessings upon you and all yours in Jesus name – Amen.

APPRECIATION

This session of our synod is quite special in the sense that it marks the end of the First Synod of the Diocese of Evo. It is coming shortly after the celebration of our 3rd anniversary. We count it therefore, a proper and appropriate time to express our hearty thanks to God Almighty who has graciously guided and helped us thus far.

Over these past three years people have said quite a lot of positive things about our young Diocese. We confess that we are humbled by the comments and at the same time deeply thankful to God who has enabled us to get to where we are at the moment. May His name be praised.

In all generations and spheres of life, God uses men and women to do His work. We as Bishop have not worked alone in the Diocese of Evo. God has given us great men and women whose faithful services have gone a long way to enhance our progress as a faith community.

We sincerely thank all our clergymen and their wives, members of the Diocesan Board, all Diocesan/Parish church workers, the various Cathedral, Archdeaconry, Deanery, Parish and Station Boards/Councils, the leaders/members of the Men's Christian Association, the Women of the Diocese led by their President and my wife, Mrs. Chinyere Ordu, JP, the youths, the Council of Knights and the entire members of our Diocese.

We are deeply touched by the sincere/helpful roles a good number of you have played so far. Our prayer is that the Lord would find you worthy of his reward both now and in eternity.

We say 'thank you' to all.

We look forward to a better, healthier, and more robust working relationship in the years ahead.

OUR SYNOD VENUE:

ST. MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RUMUOMASI DEANERY

Before Christianity came to our part of the world, specifically Evo, our people had a form of worship which recognized a Supreme Being called “Chi-Okike” or “Chineke” 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 owhor” 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 it 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 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 Owzor, 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 present belfry.

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 is still 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. 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 a member, 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. Kattey, Lord Bishop of Diocese of the Niger Delta North.

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.

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.

- 1) J. owhor - 1933 – 1935
- 2) I. Nwuzor - 1936 – 1937
- 3) A. S. Nwinyoko - 1938
- 4) F. Aneke - 1939 – 1940
- 5) D. Ibiam - 1941
- 6) F. Emeto - 1942 – 1943
- 7) D. Akparanta - 1944 – 1945
- 8) O. Orji - 1946
- 9) J. Udemezue - 1947 – 1948
- 10) H. N. Wodi - 1949 – 1950
- 11) C. Uchenndu - 1951 – 1953
- 12) L. Umeweni - 1954 – 1955
- 13) L. Eferibe - 1956 – 1958
- 14) S. Ogujiofor - 1959 – 1961
- 15) E. Minima - 1962 – 1963
- 16) A. Ikpa - 1964 – 1967
- 17) G. W. Amadi - 1970 – 1972
- 18) S. Epelle - 1973
- 19) H. N. Wodi - 1974
- 20) J. E. Solomon - 1975 – 1979
- 21) J. S. Anyagwung - 1980 – 1981
- 22) E. S. O. Amadi - 1981 – 1982 (with S. Dibia)
- 23) J. E. Nwoba - 1983 – 1985 (with F. C. Azubuike)
- 24) G. W. O. Amadi - 1986 (with J. F. Brown)
- 25) A. N. Oburu - 1987 – 1988
- 26) S. H. Oguzor - 1989 – 1996 (with D. Offia, J. N. Nwala)
- 27) C. E. A. Ogbaegbe - 1997 (with E. Mbata)
- 28) P. I. Orafu - 1998 – 1999 (with E. Mbata)

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|-----|--|---|--|
| 29) | A. F. Nyanabo | - | 200 – 2001 (with C. J. Nwachukwu) |
| 30) | S. I. Eze | - | 2001 – 2003 (with B. Mimi) |
| 31) | G. M. Mpigi | - | 2004 (with Ollornwi) |
| 32) | G. N. J. Waka | - | 2005-2007 (with Ollornwi, Luke Odum) |
| 33) | K. O. Amadi
B. A. Nwaoha
Luke Odum | - | 2008 – 2009 (July) |
| 34) | K. O. Amadi | - | 2009 – 2010 (March) |
| 35) | C. C. Chukwumati
B. Welekwe | | |
| 36) | C. C. Chukwumati -
B. Welekwe | | March 2010 – December 2010 |
| 37) | C. S. Worgu | - | 2011 (with C. Okonkwo, S. J. Ejekwu) |
| | | - | 2012 (with C. Chieme and S. J. Ejekwu) |

During the decade for 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 the first graduate in Architecture from this town, Sir Charles Chuku. In 2003, he gave his piece of land in the 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 of at the time. The pastors who served here were Rev. Atuegbu (2008) and Rev. Mba (2009) all of blessed memory and Rev. Samuel W. Gabriel. As at now, Evangelist Moses Anyatonwu is taking charge of that church station.

It should be noted also that Sir Charles designed and supervised the modernization of the church as it is today as well as the ongoing multipurpose hall of the church.

In the spirit of evangelism, a youth church was established in June 2011. Bro. Chika Amadi, the Diocesan Youth President who is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the youths is in charge of this church.

Most of the church workers who started off as agents and catechists have become Rev. Canons, Archdeacons and two of them S. I. Eze and A. F. Nyanabo have become Bishops. Nyeche Okpobiri is the first indigene and member of the church to have become an archdeacon in 1999.

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 new Diocese of Evo.

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

1. **The Rt. Rev. Abiodun Olusegun Ogunyemi**

Our main guest speaker for this 3rd session of our 1st Synod is The Rt. Rev. Abiodun Olusegun Ogunyemi, the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Damaturu in Yobe State.

Bishop Ogunyemi who hails from Kwara State of Nigeria, was born on 6th April, 1962.

He attended Nigeria's Premier University of Ibadan and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies from the same university.

Bishop Ogunyemi came into the Vineyard service of the Lord in June, 1989 when he was ordained Deacon in the Anglican Church. He was made Priest in December, 1990; preferred Canon in May 1995 and Archdeacon in 1999. He was elected Bishop in September, 2005.

Working Experience

He was at different times a school teacher at the Primary, Secondary and Polytechnic levels; including St. Francis of Assisi Theological College, Wusasa, Zaria from 1989 to 1992. He also served as Priest at different Anglican Churches from 1992 to 2005; part time Chaplain, Chapel of Salvation, Kongo campus of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria from 1994 to 1995. From July to November, 2004, he was a visiting consultant at the International Centre for Reconciliation, Coventry Cathedral, United Kingdom.

His major areas of ministry include preaching, teaching and planting of new churches in rural areas.

Bishop Ogunyemi loves listening to news as a hobby and also has a passion for Nigeria and the rest of the African continent.

We thank His Lordship for honouring our invitation and for ably handling our Synod meditations since his arrival.

2. **Bro. Kiki Briggs esq. (Bible Study Coordinator)**

Birth and Education

Kiki Stephen Briggs was born on 7th of August, 1954 to the Briggs family of Abonnema in Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Between 1967 and 1972, Mr. Briggs obtained his West African School Certificate (WASC) coming out with a Division Two pass. Between 1974 and 1977, Mr. Briggs was at the Rivers State College of Education, Port Harcourt from where he obtained a National Certificate of Education (NCE) in Maths/Physics at Credit Level. Still in pursuit of academic

excellence, Mr. Briggs headed next to the famous University of Ibadan where he quickly added a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree in Maths/Educational Management (2nd Class Upper Division) to his academic kitty. This was between 1978 and 1981. From the same university, he obtained a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Educational Administration between 1982 and 1983. From 1997 to 1999, Mr. Briggs was at the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA) Theological Seminary, Igbaja, Nigeria from where he got a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Biblical Studies.

Work Experience

From 1985 to 1987, Mr. Briggs was a Principal with the Rivers State Schools Board from which position he rose to the position of Supervisor of Schools with the same Board. He retired voluntarily from this position after putting in 16 years of unblemished service. Meanwhile, in between his service to the Board, Mr. Briggs was at Zaria for the compulsory one year national service (NYSC) where he taught and counselled students. This was between 1987 and 88.

From September 2008 to date, Mr. Briggs has been the Director/CEO, Glory Educational & Management Consultancy, Makurdi; and Vital Services Managers.

In the vineyard of the Lord, he has also put in years of impeccable service and garnered deep experience in church leadership and management. For instance, from 1988 to 1995, he was Travelling Secretary, Scripture Union (SU), Nigeria, Cross River State which position conferred on him the responsibilities of supervising, training, organizing conferences, running camps, promoting and coordinating sales, counselling, report writing, etc. Between 1995 and 1997, Mr. Briggs was Scripture Union (SU) Regional Coordinator for Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun and Ondo States. From 1999 to 2002, he was Regional Coordinator for Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States. He was then moved to oversee Edo, Delta and Anambra states still as regional coordinator. This was between 2002 and 2003. From November 2004 to August 2008, Mr. Briggs was Director & Liaison Officer, Scripture Union (Nig). and his responsibilities included initiating of policies, mobilizing, training, inter-ministries relations, editing, etc. He retired voluntarily from this position in 2008 after giving the Scripture Union 20 years of effective service.

Contributions to Humanity

Mr. Briggs who is married and whose marriage is blessed with 2 grown up children and who has his personal career objectives as the promotion of event planning and organizing as well as project planning and implementation for corporate management through a means of internalizing core values that would enhance excellent services has contributed in no small measure to humanity. Kiki Briggs, is the founding partner of GEM Consult and as a former college principal and retired supervisor of schools, he brought into this venture his wealth of experience in managing schools and people, being quite conversant with the educational system. His versatile expertise in this industry and others stemmed from his many years of research works, interaction with and opportunity to develop different resources for optimum output.

He also brought into his present career his two decades of ministry experience from his service in Scripture Union (SU) where he was exposed to many activities and programmes that required managerial and organizational skills. He gained much from events planning like camps for youth, conferences for adults and specialized training for senior staff, missionaries and writers of the Union's devotionals. The latter afforded him the opportunity of practicing management throughout Nigeria—from the East to the West (thus covering the entire south of Nigeria) and the vast North of the country. He is also into corporate management through a means of internalizing core values that would enhance excellent services.

The Mathematics and Management background of Mr. Briggs makes him an accurate planner and goal achiever. He has a well developed skill for setting realizable goals and fashioning out feasible plans to execute them. The success in his 36 years of public service may not be unrelated to his training, specialty and innumerable seminars and workshops he attended both in and outside Nigeria.

Mr. Briggs whose strengths and interests include: developing managers, sensitizing and motivating, supervising and directing, providing leadership, ability to work with and through people, knack for excellence, ability to motivate and persuade, resourceful and innovative and proactivity in strategic in management holds a professional affiliation with the Nigerian Institute of Management, Lagos.

3. Lady Professor Elizabeth Chinwe Okeke

ELIZABETH CHINWE OKEKE (Ph.D) is a Professor of Sociology of Education and former Head of Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. She is a co-founder and the first president of the **International Association for Gender Equity**, a fully registered NGO in Nigeria devoted to popularizing the necessity and centrality of identifying, developing and fully engaging female potential skills to effectively complement those of males in societal strive to achieve national development. Her areas of specialization/interests are SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION as well as GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES. She has written books and published widely in scholarly journals at both international and national levels and contributed chapters in several published books in these areas. She is the co-author of *Basic Research Methods and Statistics*; Editor of *Sociology of Education: Concepts and Applications*, *Journal of International Gender Studies*; Editor-in-Chief, *Multidisciplinary Journal of Research Development* and editor, *Journal of Teacher Perspective*, among others. In addition, Elizabeth has successfully organized national conferences on gender and women development issues, attended and presented papers at these conferences and chaired panels at both international and national levels. Between 2007 and 2009, she was an elected Board Member (Representing Africa) of the International Society for Universal Dialogue (ISUD).

In the quest to create awareness for the recognition of women's potentials and their empowerment to become effective partners in national development, particularly in Ukpou, her home town and beyond, some outstanding contributions of Lady Professor Elizabeth Chinwe Okeke include the following:

- Initiation of the establishment of female adult literacy education in Ukpou;
- Establishment of a philanthropic organization since 2009 which provides funds on annual basis for skill acquisition to empower indigent married women as well as male and female secondary school leavers. As at today, the organization has recorded about forty (40) beneficiaries and some of them are self-employed, while others are gainfully employed in paid jobs related to their newly acquired skills.

In the Anglican Communion, Professor Elizabeth Chinwe Okeke is a Lady Auxiliary of the Knight of St. Paul. She has actively served in the Anglican Communion in different capacities. Just to mention a few, between 2000 and 2004, she was a member of Parochial Church Committee (PCC), All Saints' Church (now All Saints' Cathedral), Rumuokwurusi, Obio, Port Harcourt and

member, Care-taker Committee (2001 – 2002) of the same Church. Till Date, she is an active abroad member of All Saints' Church, Ukpo, Dunukofia LGA, Anambra State and Deborah Group (Group 7), All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi, Obio, Port Harcourt.

Lady Professor Elizabeth Chinwe Okeke is married to a loving and caring husband, Sir Engr. Gibson Elochukwu Okeke. The marriage is blessed with four lovely children.

4. Sir Chief Godfrey Nnamdi Ohuabunwa

Sir Godfrey Nnamdi Ohuabunwa, the last among ten brothers and two sisters is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Multimesh Communications Limited.

He obtained a Bachelors' Degree of Arts (B.A. Hons) in English Language and a Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Applied Theology. He also studied Television Technology at the BBC Training School in Worcester, UK. He is a fellow of African Business School (FAB), Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Sales Management (FNISM) and Alumnus of the Prestigious Harvard Business School, Boston.

Sir Godfrey Nnamdi Ohuabunwa was a one-time President of the Port-Harcourt Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture and also a one-time Chairman of the Diocesan Investment Committee (DNDN). He is the current Chairman of Rumuobiokani Deanery Missions Board and the Adviser to the Bishop of Eyo on missions & evangelism. He is a member of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), Member, National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACP), International Member and National Geographic Society.

As a teenager, Godfrey was a one-time Scout Master, Patrol Leader, Senior-Prefect, School timekeeper, and Captain of the Boys Brigade and "Man O War".

Godfrey Ohuabunwa is a consummate entrepreneur having started at the age of 17. He is the Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Multimesh Group of Companies which include: Phones Warehouse, Cable and Connectors Warehouse, Cable Mission Television-Network, MMC USA Holding LLC, Apron Communication Limited., ACG Communications Limited, Godfrey Derick and Philemon Company Limited, Multimesh Broadcasting Company Limited and Multimesh Communications Limited. Godfrey Ohuabunwa is a Non-Executive Director of Neimeth International Pharmaceutical Company Plc, a public quoted company in the Nigerian Stock Exchange (Former Pfizer Products Plc).

Sir Godfrey Ohuabunwa has won several awards and recognitions, among which are; the Ikemba of Arochukwu Kingdom, Knight of Saint Christopher (KSC) Anglican Communion, Professional Leadership Award – Rotary International, Year 2003 Business Leader Award – Junior Chamber

International, Port Harcourt Chamber of Commerce distinguished entrepreneur Merit Award, Men's Christian Association Merit Award, Citizenship and Leadership Merit Award-Ministry of Youths and Sports, Best Behaved Student Award – class 1984.

Sir Godfrey Oluabunwa is married to Angela and their marriage is blessed with two lovely kids – Kadibia and Kamare. He loves to travel and plays Badminton. Godfrey Oluabunwa and his wife Angela are Philanthropic Missionaries and Producers of the popular TV program 'African Perspective' and 'The House of Abraham' viewed by over one million households in Africa and Europe.

OUR SYNOD THEME

Our theme for this 3rd Session of our first Synod is ***‘Preach The Word’*** drawn mainly from the second epistle of Paul to Timothy, Chapter 4:2.

This year’s theme concludes our systematic analysis of the main components of our Diocesan motto which are ***Love, Teach and Preach***. In our two previous sessions of this first synod we had dwelt on the themes of serving and walking in love and teaching as a means of raising disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ. We have chosen to carefully dwell on the motto of our Diocese in this first synod in order to draw the attention of both clergy and laity to the vision behind the founding of the Diocese. A proper understanding of what the Diocese was established to do will help everyone stay focused and not derail.

Second Timothy is traditionally considered to have been written by the apostle Paul, and the letter itself explicitly states that he is the author (2Timothy 1:1).

Date/Background Setting:

After being freed from the Roman captivity described in Acts 28, Paul apparently travelled in the eastern Mediterranean region (1Tim. 1:3; 3:14; Titus 1:5; 3:12). During this time, Paul wrote 1Timothy and Titus, probably between A.D. 62 and 65. After this he was imprisoned again and during this time, he wrote 2Timothy. Early church tradition agrees that Paul was executed by the Roman emperor Nero. Since Nero committed suicide in June A.D. 68 and since Paul asked Timothy who was at this time in Ephesus to come to him ‘before winter’, this last letter must have been written before the autumn of A.D. 67 (2Timothy 4:21). The most likely date therefore is between A.D. 66-67.

Purpose:

Paul’s primary purpose of the letter was to ask Timothy to join him in Rome (2Timothy 4:9, 11, 13, 21). Paul was in prison and knew he would not live much longer (2Timothy 4: 6-8). Others who had previously ministered to him, with the exception of Luke, were no longer there and he longed for Timothy’s company (2Timothy 4: 11). Paul also wrote the letter to strengthen Timothy’s loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ in the face of the suffering his young disciple would certainly face (2Timothy 1:8; 2:3; 3:12; 4:5).

Audience:

This warmly personal letter was addressed to Timothy and included specific instructions for him. However, like 1Timothy and Titus, the letter was intended to be read to the church at Ephesus since it would serve as a written authorization for Timothy to carry out Paul’s directives included therein (2Timothy 2:2; 3:1).

Themes:

Paul used this letter to encourage consistent Christian living even in the midst of difficulties and trials (2Timothy 1:8, 13; 2:1, 3, 5, 15; 3:1, 10-14; 4:1-5). The apostle sent a clear message that this Christian lifestyle was only possible in the strength of Christ.

The 2nd verse of the 4th chapter contains a specific theme: a ***solemn charge to a young minister concerning faithfulness in preaching God's word in all circumstances*** which is what this year's synod theme is emphasizing. *Every scripture is God-breathed; God communicated to individuals the specific truths.* As what Paul wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit was to be profitable to both Timothy in ministry and to the church at Ephesus in their Christian living so also is the charge to preach the word a relevant message to the Church of our day.

The church has the responsibility to spread the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:11, 12).

The gospel refers to the good news that Jesus came, suffered and died on the cross for our sins in order to mend our broken relationship with God. Jesus is therefore the Saviour (Deliverer) who came to save us from the power of sin – bad habits and from its ultimate penalty which is eternal death. The message of the gospel is that whosoever believes in Jesus and accepts His sacrificial death, burial and resurrection will be accordingly reconciled to God – 1Corinthians 15:1-4; Hebrews 2:14, 15; Romans 3: 21-26.

The gospel therefore is God's power and instrument of salvation for All Mankind – Romans 1:16; 1Corinthians 1:18; 15:1-2 especially to those who repent of their sins and believe it (Mark 1:15).

The gospel shows us the grace of God, Acts 14:3; 20:32. It brings the peace of God to a crises-filled world, Ephesians 6:15; hope to the hopeless, Colossians 1:23; 1Peter 1:3 and life to the dead, 2Timothy 1:10.

Synopsis of Address:

The primary work of the church minister is to *preach* the Word of God. He is enjoined to '***go preach***' (Matthew 10:7, 27; Mark 16:15; Luke 9:2, 60; Acts 50:20 and 2Timothy 4:2. As a shepherd of God's flock, he is to *feed* them with the word, Jeremiah 3:15; 23:4; Ezekiel 34:23; John 21:17; 1Peter 5:2.

As a spiritual watchman, the minister is to use the medium of the Word to *call the erring sinner* to retrace his wrong steps and return to God in genuine repentance (Jeremiah 6:17; Ezekiel 3:17, 33:6).

As a teacher of the Word the minister is to *instruct* the people to observe all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded – Matthew 28: 20.

There is a divine call on the church to preach the gospel throughout the world – Matthew 28:19; 24:14; Mark 13:10, 16:15, Acts 1:8; Revelation 14:6 – to every nation and kindred, people and tongue – Isaiah 40:9; 52:7; 61:1 Nahum 1:15; Acts 5:20, 21; Titus 2:15.

The Bible contains examples of people who witnessed to the truth; what they preached and how they preached.

John the Baptist bore witness to the eternal nature and pre-eminence of Christ, John 1:15.

The apostles, led by Peter, from the day of Pentecost preached with great power about the resurrection, exaltation and lordship of Jesus Christ, Acts 2:32; 4:33.

Paul's missionary activity was all about *the business of preaching the word*. He with his companions persevered in doing it even at the danger of their lives. It was his preaching ministry that led to the conversion of the Philippian jailer and his entire family, Acts 16:30-32. Paul spoke "The Word" to both small and great to the extent that a Roman governor of Judea, Festus, charged him with madness, "Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad" (Acts 26: 22-24).

Herod Agrippa II, who was King of Chalcis, Iturea, Trachonitis and Abilene and had the oversight of the temple at Jerusalem was so overwhelmed by the zeal with which Paul preached the gospel that he said unto him, "Almost thou persuades me to be a Christian" (Acts 26: 28).

The same Paul encountered the Athenian philosophers on Mars' Hill, which was the highest court of the land and boldly asserted the sovereignty of God and his divine ownership of all things and persuaded them to come out of vain superstition and ignorance (Acts 17:22-31).

At Antioch, he preached this same "word of salvation" declaring Jesus as the pre-eminent Saviour (Acts 13:16-41).

Peter and Stephen at separate occasions appeared before the Sanhedrin, the Council of Jewish Elders and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit confessed Jesus Christ as the Only Saviour of all mankind and rebuked the unbelief of the Jews (Acts 4:8-12; 7:2-53).

Leaders of the early church understood the purpose of their calling which was to take the whole gospel to the whole world. And they stayed focused on it. Not even the threats and persecutions from governments and state sponsored religious authorities could stop them.

Men of God who have access to all those in secular authority, should be courageous enough to declare to such persons what God would have them hear for their souls' health and not what will necessarily please such leaders or make them (the preachers) relevant in the reckoning of such powers that be.

The zealous preaching of the word of God is the primary task of the church on earth until Jesus comes. Any other thing is secondary. We are to draw inspiration from the examples of some New Testament churches of the Bible and be about the task of preaching the Word.

The church in Jerusalem witnessed at every opportunity (Acts 3:12; 5:42; 4:33). They prepared and sent forth missionaries (Acts 8:5, 14; 11:22; 13:1-3; 15:22, 27).

The Church in Antioch of Syria experienced a great ingathering of souls through preaching (Acts 11:21;24). At The Church in Ephesus Paul went on soul winning from door to door (Acts 20:17-21).

The faith we have received from the Lord Jesus Christ is one that secures salvation for all. The Bible says. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16;

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life” – John 5:24;

...“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” – John 11:25;

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness”. John 12:46;

“But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through his name” John 20:31;

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9.

In our preaching, we must endeavour to present Jesus Christ as the only source of salvation: “neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” Acts 4:12.

In our preaching we are to teach transgressors the way of the Lord and that those still living in sin should be converted to the Lord (Psalm 51:13). The Greek word translated “*Conversion*” has reference to a twofold turning on the part of an individual. One has to do with repentance, and the other with faith. Repentance is a voluntary and sincere change in the mind of the sinner causing him to turn from his sin, i.e. his previous rejection of Christ. Faith, on the other hand, is a voluntary and sincere change in the mind of the sinner, causing him to turn to the saviour, Christ.

Paul includes these concepts of repentance and faith during his farewell message to the Ephesian elders, “testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

How is this faith produced?

The answer is found in Romans 10:17 where Paul said that faith comes from hearing the message and the message comes through preaching Christ.

Why should we preach?

We preach so as to win the souls of men, lost in sin, for Christ.

1. Jesus himself was a soul-winner (1Timothy 1:15; Luk3 19:10). Jesus came to save people. He took His message to where the people were – in the market places, on street corners, on the mountainsides, by the seashores and in the homes.

He was criticized by the religious leaders for identifying with the people where they were: *“this man receives sinners, and eats with them”* (Luke 15:2).

He encourages us to *“... go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled”* (Luke 14:23). It is in the light of this charge that we introduced the quarterly mass outreach programme, **“On the Highways and Hedges.”**

We do not know how many of us (Churches and individuals) who have been faithful in complying with it. It is not the Bishop’s programme; it is that of the Lord. To reap the unconverted, we are to carry our witness away from our sanctuaries, out into the markets, onto the streets, in jails, hospitals, in the houses of people, out among them. This is evangelism.

After His ascension, the followers of Jesus acted just like him. They were busy witnessing in the markets, on the streets, in houses, around the public wells; talking, reasoning, witnessing, persuading, preaching, winning souls, compelling people to believe the gospel – just as Jesus did. The Bible says, *“Daily in the temple, and in every house, they never stopped teaching and preaching Jesus Christ”* (Acts 5:42).

While churches seldom have more than two or three meetings a week, the gambling casinos, the cinema theatres, the bars that serve liquor, amusement parks and dance halls are doing business daily.

New Testament Christians were daily in the temple and in every house, teaching and preaching Jesus Christ. Today’s Christians pray for people to be saved. Jesus said, *“Go out and get them”*. They will be lost if all we do is pray.

Paul said, *“God ...hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation...”* (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19). God has done all He can do. *“He gave His only Son...that whosoever makes a covenantal commitment to him, shall not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

Christ has done all he can do. *“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross...to reconcile all things unto himself...”* (Colossians 1:20). Now He commissions us to tell this good news to all people everywhere *“for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”*. *“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”*

Our part is to tell people, to let them know the good news of what our heavenly Father and His Son have done to save us. We should all be preachers of the Word, winning lost souls back to God as Jesus and His disciples did.

2. We should preach because the Harvest is great (Matthew 9:37). There is an element of urgency when harvest comes. If the fields are not quickly reaped, the harvest may perish in the field. Storms may come and damage the wheat or corn. If not harvested quickly, fruits can over-ripen and spoil.

Paul urged his own sense of urgency on others: *“But this I say, brethren, the time is short...”* (1Corinthians 7:29). If we really want to reap the harvest of our generation, the secret is to rediscover the urgency, passion and zeal of the early church. Those Christians went across cities and villages in constant pursuit of lost souls – even at the risk of their lives. This is being Christ-like. This is true Christianity.

This synod then calls us to start the process of praying, mobilizing and planning soul-winning.

Let us adopt the ministry order of Jesus. He saw the Harvest and was moved with compassion. He then went on to pray for labourers (Luke 6:12) and thereafter chose his disciples – the labourers (John 4:35; Luke 10:2; Acts 6:3). This simple plan of action will start the process of ingathering.

Our motto should be: **“Every Christian, A Witness! And our mission: “Out where the people are!”**

3. The third reason we should preach the word is because the labourers are few (Isaiah 6:8). The number of living persons in the world is increasing each year. About 40 per cent of the total world population are outside the reach of the gospel. The church (We) must endeavour to reach them, otherwise they will be lost without Christ.
4. The fourth reason we should preach the word is because of the great privilege of the Great Commission: *“And he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”* (Mark 16:15). Every believer is commissioned and called to minister to the Lord; to one another; and to the world (2Timothy 1:9).
5. The fifth reason is because of the unfulfilled prophecy concerning Jesus’ return. The return of Christ to earth is the blessed hope of millions in the church. We joyfully embrace that hope, and long for His return. However, Jesus made it clear that there would be certain pre-conditions before He could come back to earth. The most important of these is in Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 26:13 **“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”; “Verily I say unto you, wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her”**.
6. Lastly, we preach because if we fail to do so and the sinner around us dies in his sin, God will hold us accountable. God specifically warns His servants (all true Christians) that they must deliver the message He

gives them to the peoples to whom He sends them. Otherwise they will be held accountable for their failure to do so, ***“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life: the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand”***. (Ezekiel 3:17, 18; 33:6-8).

As ministers, leaders and members of the Christian church, we must recognize that so far as preaching the word of God to all is concerned, we have an obligation. We are indebted to the world with the gospel. And unless we preach it our hands shall be stained with the blood of the lost sinner because of our disobedience. This is therefore the right time for us to catch the vision of soul winning.

How do we Preach? (Methods of evangelism)

In the book of Acts we identify only two methods of preaching the word or evangelism: Mass evangelism and Personal evangelism.

1. *Mass Evangelism:*

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. And there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8: 5, 6, 8).

Philip’s city-wide crusade is an example of mass evangelism.

In Acts 8: 26-38 we see this same evangelist, Philip, doing personal evangelism.

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, ‘see, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?’” (Acts 8: 35, 36).

Paul, on his part explained to the elders of the Church in Ephesus how he went about his ministry:

“...I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly (mass evangelism) and from house to house (personal evangelism), testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20: 21, 22).

Within a century of the Day of Pentecost theological discussions took the place of soul winning in the church. Spiritual “lukewarmness” and apostasy resulted. By the 4th century, the Dark Ages had already begun.

It was not until the 18th century that mass evangelism (preaching) began to reappear under John Wesley (Founder of the Methodist Church).

Personal evangelism as practiced by the church in the Book of Acts has only begun to be rediscovered in this last century.

2. ***Personal Soul-Winning***

For generations, Christians evangelized the church, the classrooms of their schools, the pews - but not the world of unbelievers. People were enlisted for the class and the club, and invited to church buildings, where, it was hoped, they would receive Christ as their Saviour and Lord. This worked for those who would go to a church. But 90 per cent or more of the people will never attend a church, so they can never be won there.

Our greatest opportunity is outside the church. Christians must win souls at the workplace, in the parks, on the streets and in the homes. We must go out into the world – where the people are.

The church was born in a blaze of personal soul-winning. Souls were won in homes; in face-to-face ministry.

“... And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.”

“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8: 1, 4).

Note: it was the “laymen” that went everywhere preaching the Word and leading people to Christ. The “apostles” stayed at Jerusalem. That is the way God intended it. Leaders were put in the church to “...equip the members for the work of the ministry” (Ephesians 4:12).

Every member should be instructed by the Church leader on how to bring others to Christ.

A fresh breeze of New Testament-Style evangelism is blowing across the world. The Christian’s life motto is very simple: **One Way! One Job!** The One Way is Jesus! The One job is soul-winning!

There is no joy like giving the good news to everybody everywhere – winning souls – out where the people are.

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10); “...and he that winneth souls is wise” (Prov. 11:30); “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness (soul-winners) as the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

Becoming a partner with Jesus in His great work of saving lost souls is the greatest thing in the world. The word Christian means Christ-like. Christ came to save people, to seek out the lost; so if we are to be like Christ, we must, through the preaching of His word, be soul-winners.

3. There is of course, a **third method** by which we can preach the word. It is **by our Christian character**. There is the need for every Christian to have a robust character.

It is by his character that the Christian is approved unto God. By his godly character the Christian is confident to share his convictions in Christ with other people; he is not ashamed.

Today, there are many professing Christians in business, politics and several other professions who are people with questionable character. Many are engaged in actions which make it difficult for them to share the gospel with other people or for those who know them to take their preaching serious.

This questionable character is perhaps the reason why some people say that the Christianity of Africa is one mile wide and robustquarter inch deep. We need to grow into robust Christians who live clean and exemplary lives, spiritually, morally and in every possible way – Christians who will never take or give a bribe; always being diligent in their work and are attractive to others as exemplary citizens.

We must be Christians with good testimonies at work and in our communities, whose lives reflect the life of Christ. That way, the gospel is preached without words, yet many are drawn to the Lord Christ.

In his first letter to Timothy, Paul had counselled the young minister on this issue of godly character

“Let no man despise thy youth; be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1Timothy 4:12).

And to Titus, another son in the Lord, he admonished,

“Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine

shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you” (Titus 2:6-8).

As Christians our additional message to the world should be in the pattern of the words of Gideon to the Israelites

“Look on me, and do likewise...it shall be that as I do, so shall ye do” (Judges 7:17).

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus speaking on the Christian influence and the need for us to live the radiant life said

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

CONCLUSION

- “Preach the Word”. Jesus is that Word (John 1:1). If our world is going to believe in Jesus, then someone has to tell them the story. As Christians we have to be intentional about telling the story of our Lord Jesus Christ at all times and in all places.

Let me conclude this segment of the Address by sharing with you this story culled from the *Winepress Magazine* of the New Wine Church, England, volume 12; “In the early years of this decade, Oprah Winfrey was named the first black female billionaire in the whole world. Her show has been voted one of the most popular (if not the most popular) talk shows in the world. Oprah is syndicated on more than 200 stations across America and is seen in 105 countries. She has been dubbed “the hostess with the *mostest*”

A couple of years ago, an article was published, which attributed the success of Oprah’s show to the fact that, for more than two decades, it has focused on storytelling. The show is about people telling their own stories; and Oprah telling her own story. And this is the powerful thing – everybody has a story.

The one place where you cannot argue, contend or debate with a person is in the arena of their own story. You don’t need to know any theology, philosophy or sociology to tell your story”.

If you have had a personal experience of the Lord Jesus Christ and you are certain of your faith in Him, then you have a story – a better story than Oprah Winfrey’s. The Lord demands that you share this story of your encounter with Him with other people through preaching. There is a world out there waiting to hear our story; needing to hear our story, desiring that through our preaching of the word they might be brought into the fold of Christ and His Kingdom.

I love the words of that beautiful Christmas carol:

*Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born*

And those of SS&S 752 (stanzas 1&2)

Hark! 'tis the Shepherd's voice I hear,
Out in the desert dark and drear,
Calling the sheep who've gone astray
Out from the Master's fold away

*Bring them in, bring them in!
Bring them in from the fields of sin
Bring them in, bring them in!
Bring the wandering ones to Jesus.*

Who'll go and help this Shepherd kind,
Help him the wandering ones to find?
Who'll bring the lost ones to the fold,
Where they'll be sheltered from the cold?

One great soul winner wrote, "We do not pretend that we alone can win the world to Christ, but we are involved in evangelism as though God's plan depended on us alone. If we cannot win everyone, we shall certainly win some – and we shall minister as though the reaping depended entirely upon us. We do not want the blood of the unconverted to ever be required at our hands. It is as simple as that!"

May the Lord help us all to catch the vision of world evangelism!

OVERVIEW OF THE DIOCESE

1. EVANGELISM

The quarterly mass evangelism programme of the Diocese, “**On the Highways and Hedges**” which was introduced last year continued to hold in the different churches. Reports available to us speak of varying degrees of successes and failures.

We charge the clergy and their congregations to double their efforts and fine-tune their strategies for greater results. The Diocesan Missions, Evangelism and Church Planting Board should explore the possibility of holding weekend crusades at a chosen Archdeaconry or Deanery to mark the end of each quarter’s mass outreach.

We commend the Industrial Chaplaincy for their inroads in the area of evangelistic visitations to Banks, Fast Food companies, Hotels and Restaurants, Supermarkets, Companies, Markets and other establishments. We charge the chaplaincy to hasten action on their plan to plant a church at the Oil-Mill, Rumuokwurusi market.

2. CHURCH PLANTING/CHRISTENING

In pursuance of our 50-church target within the first five years of our existence as a Diocese, the following new churches were planted and some of them christened since the last synod:

- a. Name:** Anglican Youth Worship Centre, Civic Centre, Rumuokwurusi.
Planted by: All Saints’ Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi
Date: 7th August, 2011
Christened:- Daystar Anglican Youth Church, Rumuokwurusi on Sunday 11th December, 2011
- b. Name:** Anglican Worship Centre, Abuja Estate, Iriebe
Planted by: Missions/Evangelism Board on behalf of Diocese of Evo in partnership with Holy Ghost Anglican Church, Iriebe
Date: 28th August, 2011
- c. Name:** Chapel of Restoration (Obio Hotels), Rumuogba
Planted by: Missions/Evangelism Board in partnership with Women’s Ministry on 23rd October, 2011 and christened the same day
- d. Name:** Anglican Worship Centre, (TAP), Iriebe
Planted by: Church of the Holy Spirit, Elemenwo
Date: 4th December, 2011

- Christened:** The Redeemer's Cross Anglican Church, (TAP)
Iriebe on Wednesday, 4th April, 2012
- e. Name:** Anglican Worship Centre, Pre-eminence Hotel,
Eledenwo
Planted by: Evo South-East Archdeaconry
Date: 19th February, 2012
- f. Name:** Anglican worship Centre, Egbelu-Rumunduru
Planted by: All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi
Date: 24th June, 2012
- g. Name:** Anglican Worship Centre, Rumurolu
Planted by: Woji Archdeaconry
Date: 15th July, 2012

This brings the total number of churches in our Diocese to 46 from the 28 we started with in July 2009. This means that we have been able to plant 18 new churches within the last three years. Our target is to have at least 50 churches by our 5th Anniversary. If the present tempo is maintained, we hope that by the grace of God we shall exceed this target.

We commend and thank the Diocesan Missions & Evangelism Board, the Cathedral, Archdeaconries, churches and the Women's Ministry for faithfully accomplishing their assigned task of planting more new churches. We pray for the steady and healthy growth of these young congregations.

The Men's Christian Association and the Anglican youth Fellowship could not live up to this challenge and we hereby renew that directive that they plant and nurture a new church each by the next synod.

3. RELINQUISHMENT OF EMMANUEL CHURCH, UMUEBULU 2

On Monday 25th October, 2011 we formally handed over the Emmanuel Anglican Church, Umuebulu II in Etche Diocese to the Bishop of that Diocese, The Rt. Rev. Okechukwu Precious Nwala at a brief ceremony attended by some officials of our two Dioceses. The Church in question had been planted by the Holy Ghost Anglican Church, Iriebe before the inception of the Diocese of Evo. At the request of the Bishop, we handed over the building of that church to the Diocese of Etche. Members of the Church who were not keen on identifying with the Diocese of Etche decided to relocate to a temporary site at Okporo, Iriebe where they are now worshipping.

To assist them move to a permanent location, we have acquired 5 plots of land in the same area at the cost of N10m. Three of these plots will be assigned to them while the other two will be for the Diocese. Final payment for the property is hoped to be made by the end of the year.

It is our desire to see Emmanuel Church grow rapidly in all spheres. We urge the priest assigned to the church to put in extra efforts to bring about this expected growth.

We thank the Diocesan Council of Knights for their support to the first church planted by this Diocese, The Chapel of Grace and Knowledge, ACMGS, Elemenwo at our inception. To the glory of God that Chapel has progressed very well and will hopefully become a parish church shortly. In the light of this positive development, we do not see any further need for the knights to continue to have that chapel as a mission field. Consequently, the Council of Knights is hereby reassigned to Emmanuel church, Okporo, Iriebe. They are to adopt that church as a mission field and ensure that it receives all necessary support that will enable it attain the status of a fully fledged congregation.

4. CLERGY/WIVES & CHURCH WORKERS' DEVELOPMENT

We have continued to seek ways of enhancing the spiritual and intellectual capacity of our clergy, their wives and other categories of Diocesan ministers and workers. The Council for Continuing Education held Bi-Monthly Schools for the Clergy between October, 2011 and June, 2012. The Council also held special schools for Diocesan Lay-Readers as part of efforts at updating them with trends in contemporary Christianity, doctrinal matters and in keeping with the ideals of our Anglican heritage. A school has been opened for prospective lay readers preparatory to their licensing in September this year. This school is in line with our vision of producing a crop of lay readers whose profile will match the ideals of the Diocese in terms of raising human resources for ministry.

The office of the Bishop sponsored a two-day Executive Retreat for the Bishop with the Archdeacons and their wives at the Pre-eminence Hotel & Towers from Friday, 3rd – Saturday, 4th February, 2012. We were privileged to have the retired Bishop of Aba Diocese and Province of Aba, The Most Rev. Ugochukwu U. Ezuoke and his wife Stella minister to us at the retreat.

A 4-day residential retreat for the Diocesan Bishop, clergy, church teachers and their wives was held from Wednesday, 23rd – Saturday, 26th May, 2012 at The Ibru-Centre, Agbarha-Otor. The retreat which was organized in partnership with the Rev. Dr. Bola Akin-John and others from the International Church Growth Ministry, Lagos had as its theme “**Great People, Great Churches**”. It was such an enriching and rewarding outing.

We sent some Diocesan and Parish office workers on a 3-day course on **Office Technology And Management for Secretaries and Personal Assistants** at the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Port Harcourt from Thursday, 3rd – Saturday, 5th May, 2012. The management of the ITF was quite pleased with our decision to expose our workers to this high-level training, noting that it was the first time ever since the establishment of the Fund by the Federal Government that a religious body was doing so with them.

For both the Ibru-Centre retreat for clergy and wives and the ITF training for Diocesan/Parish workers, participants were awarded certificates of participation. We thank the churches for sponsoring both the clergy and the

other office staff to these trainings. We expect to see further improvements over the coming years in ministry and general office administration on the part of those who benefited from these exposures.

5. OTHER RETREATS, TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

- **A 3-day retreat for members of the Diocesan Council of Knights with their Ladies Auxiliary** was held at the Ibru-Centre, Agbarha-Otor from Friday 29th – Sunday 31st July, 2011. Resource persons included We, the Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu, JP and Mr. Kiki Briggs of the Glory Educational Management Consult. Though attendance to this retreat was not particularly impressive, we are however happy with those who were able to make out time to travel away from home in order to understand better through training what God and His church require of those who have been called into the Sacred Order of knighthood in the church. It is our hope that the leadership of the Knights' Council will not allow some other pressures to override the decisions and outcome of that retreat. Another retreat has been scheduled for Thursday, August 30th – Sunday, 2nd September, 2012 at the same venue. We encourage all knights of this diocese to plan seriously to be there with their ladies.

Some clergy and laity of our Diocese representing the Cathedral, Archdeaconries and Deaneries took part in a Two-Level **National Capacity Building Workshop on Access to Justice in Nigeria and Alternative Dispute Resolution** organized at the Ibru-Centre, Agbarha-Otor from Monday 31st October – Wednesday 3rd November, 2011 and from 17th – 19th April, 2012 by the Church of Nigeria Ibru International Ecumenical Centre, Agbarha-Otor in conjunction with the Dispute Resolution Associates Limited. Participants were awarded certificates as “Disputes Resolution Specialists”.

We urge them to prepare to make themselves available as instruments of peace and conflict resolution when and wherever they will be called upon to put the gains of their participation at the workshop into use.

At the end of this year's vestry meetings in all the churches, we organized a special training/workshop in two modules for all those elected into the Cathedral, Deanery, Parish and Church Station Councils. Other participants invited to this **Leadership Training/Workshop** included Diocesan/Archdeaconry Board members and the Executives of all Diocesan Activity Groups. The first module held on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th March, 2012 at The Church of The Holy Spirit, Elelenwo District while the second module took place on Friday 23rd to Saturday 24th March, 2012 at the St. Andrew's Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery.

The speakers were the Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu, JP, Ven. Akuro Omubor, Mr. & Mrs. Kiki Briggs and Mr. Justice Kalio.

It is regrettable that some of our leaders failed to attend this training while some others who participated failed to pay the stipulated registration fee even after collecting the seminar materials. This is quite unpatriotic and we frown seriously at it.

The Training Unit of the Women's Work Office also organized a **Training/Workshop for clergy wives and all members of the Diocesan Women Executive** from 7th – 9th of June, 2012 at St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery.

The Diocesan Board of Missions, Evangelism and Church Planting chaired by The Ven. Chidi S. Worgu organized series of trainings for evangelism leaders and coordinators from the various churches of our Diocese. The trainings focused on *evangelism methods, dealing with strongholds in the mission field, spiritual mapping and evangelism for church growth.*

6. DIOCESAN CONVOCATIONS

a. Diocesan Discipleship/Revival Conference

The 3rd edition of the Diocesan Discipleship Conference with the theme "*The Call, The Walk and The Fight*" took place at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery from Wednesday 5th to Sunday 9th October, 2011. Activities of the Conference included prayer sessions, seminars/school of ministry on different topics and expositions on the theme. The main speakers were The Rt. Rev. Ralph Okafor, the Bishop of the Diocese of Ihiala and Pastor Prince Echem from Port Harcourt. We use this medium to commend the efforts of the Reverends Cephas Okarefe and Reginald Chinweze as well as Chaplains and other officers of the Diocesan Sunday School/Discipleship ministry for putting together such a great conference for the Diocese. Once again we want to state very clearly that the Discipleship/Revival Conference has come to stay as a major annual convocation for all members of the Diocese. It has been designed to be a time for spiritual renewal, revival and impartation of God's blessings upon all. The quality of organization and participation has continued to improve with each new edition and it is our prayer that members of the Diocese will quickly align themselves with what God is doing in the Diocese through this programme. This year's edition is holding at All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusu from Wednesday 3rd – Sunday 7th October. The Theme for this year is "*Rediscovering our Biblical heritage*", with the Book of Ezra as our main focus. We advise clergymen to mobilize their parishioners to attend *en masse*. Pastors should endeavour not to fix any local programme including harvests on this date.

b. Diocesan Harvest

The 2011 Diocesan Harvest – a time for the coming together of the entire Diocese for thanksgiving and fellowship to celebrate the goodness of the Lord to us as a Diocesan Community was successfully held at St. Mark's Church, Elelenwo Deanery. It was such a wonderful time of refreshing in God's presence. We commend the good work done by the Harvest Committee members led by Sir Silas Nnodi and the host church for cheerfully taking up

the responsibility of receiving the entire Diocese. The 2012 edition will be held at Bethel Anglican Church, Rumuibekwe Parish, Woji Archdeaconry on a date to be communicated to all. We urge Sir Silas Nnodi's Committee to commence early preparations after this synod to enable us improve on the previous performances.

c. Diocesan Rededication Service

We began the year 2012 with the Diocesan Rededication Service which took place at St. Nicholas' Woji District on Sunday 22nd January. The service featured the celebration of the Eucharist, prayers for the Diocese, state and nation, activity groups, individuals and families; worship and the Word. The guest preacher, The Rev. George Amoah from Ghana ministered extensively on the Diocesan 2012 theme "**Our year of good tidings**". We thank St. Nicholas', Woji for satisfactorily playing host to the Diocese.

7. NEWLY APPROVED PARISH CHURCHES

The following two stations were approved parish churches by the Diocesan Board following their fulfilment of laid down requirements. They are:

1. **New Covenant Church, Eliminigwe** out of St. Mark's, Elelenwo Deanery with effect from 29th July, 2012.
2. **Christ Harvest Anglican Church, Faith Avenue, Woji** out of St. Nicholas', Woji District with effect from 1st October, 2012. We commend the leaders and members of these churches for growing up to their new levels and we wish them many more years of fruitful ministry.

8. DEANERY & PARISH INAUGURATIONS

The formal inauguration of Okporo Deanery made up of St. Simon's Church, Okporo; New Wine Anglican Church, East-West Road, Okporo and Faith Community Anglican Church Eliowhani-Okporo took place on Saturday, 3rd December, 2011 while the inauguration of New Covenant Church, Eliminigwe Estate Parish, Elelenwo took place on Sunday 29th July, 2012. We congratulate them.

9. ADDITIONAL CONDITION FOR PARISH OR DEANERY/ARCHDEACONRY APPROVAL/INAUGURATION

The Diocesan Board has ruled that in addition to conditions stipulated in the constitution for attainment of parish or deanery/archdeaconry status, station churches and group of churches applying for parish and deanery/archdeaconry status respectively will henceforth on approval of their request by the Board pay to the Diocese the sum of N200, 000 for parish status and N500, 000 for deanery/archdeaconry status.

This policy will apply equally to the following churches:

- a) Holy Ghost Anglican Church, Iriebe Housing Estate Parish
- b) Christ Anglican Church, Federal Housing Estate, Woji Parish
- c) Bethel Anglican Church, Rumuibekwe Parish
- d) Church of The Epiphany, Azumini Rumuokwursi Parish

which have already been approved and inaugurated parishes within the last three years of our existence.

Okporo Deanery which was inaugurated in December, 2011 is to pay the sum of N100, 000 only having earlier paid the full deanery approval levy to our residual Diocese of Niger Delta North.

10. FOUNDATION-STONE LAYING

We laid the foundation-stone of a number of projects in the Diocese as follows:

- a. 04/09/2011 –Parsonage building – Immanuel Anglican Church, Ogbatai, Woji.
- b. 02/10/2011 –Parsonage building – Chapel of Grace & Knowledge, ACMGS, Elelenwo.
- c. 03/10/2011 – Students’ Hostel building – BCMSS, Rumuobiokani
- d. 16/06/2012 –New Archdeaconry House, Oro-igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry
- e. 01/07/2012 –Parsonage building – Bethel Ang. Church, Rumuibekwe Parish
- f. 15/07/2012 –Permanent church building – Anglican Church of Messiah, Iriebe
- g. 29/07/2012–New Vicarage building of New Covenant Anglican Church, Eliminigwe Housing Estate Parish, Elelenwo.

11. DEDICATIONS

We also dedicated several church and other projects as follows:

- 11/08/2011 – Pre-eminence Hotel and Towers, Elelenwo, owned by Hon. Barr. Mike Ejims-Enwukwe
- 31/08/2011 – Church furnishings (Marble Pulpit, Altar Table, Reading Desks, Lectern & Bishop’s seat)
– Anglican Church of Pentecost, Rumuogba
- 02/10/2011 – 60KVA sound-proof power generating set – Chapel of Grace & Knowledge, ACMGS, Elelenwo
- 15/10/2011 – Palace of HRH, Eze S. N. Ejims, Paramount Ruler of Rumuobiokani Community
- 19/11/2011 – Temporary Evo South-East Archdeacon’s House at ACMGS, Elelenwo
- 03/12/2011 – Parsonage building – St. Simon’s Okporo Deanery
- 18/12/2011 – Dedication of Bishop’s Seat and Altar Table – St. Philip’s Church, Oro-igwe District
- 24/12/2011 - Parsonage building, children’s chapel, offices, store & water borehole – Holy Trinity, Elingbu Parish
- 08/01/2012 –Dedication of water borehole, Vicar’s office and public convenience – Church of The Epiphany, Azumini, Rumuokwurusi

- 05/02/2012 – Parsonage building – Christ Harvest Anglican Church
Faith Avenue, Woji
- 12/02/2012 – New Church building – St. Matthias’ Atali Parish
- 19/02/2012 – Dedication of Marble Pulpit, Reading Desk, Lectern,
etc. – St. James’ Anglican Church, Iriebe Parish
- 11/03/2012 – ICT equipment – All Saints’ Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi
- 14/04/2012 – A.C. units, Parsonage building & water borehole
– Chapel of Grace & Knowledge, ACMGS, Elelenwo
- 29/04/2012 – New fence, gates, water borehole, AC units – St.
Michael’s Rumuomasi Deanery
- 27/05/2012 – Church furnishings (Bishop’s & Archdeacon’s seats)
– Anglican Church of Pentecost, Ahia-Woji
- 01/07/2012 – New church building & office – Bethel Church,
Rumuibekwe Parish
- 08/07/2012 – Toilet Facilities – Anglican Church of Pentecost,
Rumuogba
- 15/07/2012 – New (temporary) church building – Anglican Church of
Messiah, Iriebe
- 29/07/2012 – New church building – New Covenant Church,
Eliminigwe Housing Estate Parish, Elelenwo

12. CONFIRMATIONS

A total of **481** baptized members of our church were confirmed between the 18th of September, 2011 and 29th of July, 2012. Details are as follows:

- a. 18/09/2011 – St. Mark’s, Elelenwo Deanery – 61 confirmed
- b. 02/10/2011 – Chapel of Grace & Knowledge,
ACMGS, Elelenwo – 50 ""
- c. 03/12/2011 – St. Simon’s Church, Okporo Deanery – 58 ""
- d. 11/12/2011 – All Saints’ Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi - 21 ""
- e. 18/12/2011 – St. Philip’s, Oro-igwe District - 29 ""
- f. 24/12/2011 – Holy Trinity, Elingbu Parish - 18 ""
- g. 12/02/2012 – St. Matthias’, Atali Parish - 35 ""
- h. 25/03/2012 – Archdeacon Brown Educ. Centre, Woji - 19 ""
- i. 29/04/2012 – St. Michael’s, Rumuomasi Deanery - 34 ""
- j. 03/06/2012 – St. James’, Iriebe Parish - 20 ""
- k. 10/06/2012 – Church of the Holy Spirit, Elelenwo District - 37 ""
- l. 17/06/2012 – Church of the Holy Spirit, Elioza Parish - 47 ""
- m. 01/07/2012 – Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe Parish - 19 ""
- n. 01/07/2012 – Immanuel Ang. Church, Ogbatai, Woji - 11 ""
- o. 29/07/2012 – New Covenant, Eliminigwe Parish, Elelenwo - 22 ""

13. WOMEN’S MINISTRY ADMISSION

The Women’s ministry of our Diocese presented a total of **192** and **108** women to us for induction and admission into the Diocesan Women’s Guild and Mothers’ Union respectively at a service held at the Holy Ghost Anglican Church, Iriebe Estate Parish on Saturday, 14th July, 2012. It is our hope that these new entrants into the Women’s ministry will be faithful to their vows

and play very active roles in both their local churches and the Diocesan Women's ministry activities.

14. INSTALLATION, INVESTITURE AND HONOUR

During the year we were called to additional service by the Obio/Akpor Battalion Council of the Boys' Brigade as they invested and installed us the Grand Chaplain of the council at a service held on Sunday 15th April, 2012 at the All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi. The ceremony of the investiture was performed by the Methodist Bishop of Port Harcourt, The Rt. Rev. C. O. Nwankpa

On the occasion of this year's Fathers' Day, the members of the Men's Christian Association of the Church of The Holy Spirit, Elioazu Parish conferred on us the honour of **Father-of-the-year, 2012** during our visit to that Parish on Sunday, 17th June. We thank the Obio/Akpor Council of the Boys' Brigade and the MCA of the Elioazu Parish for the honour. May God bless them. We pray for God's additional grace to fulfil the duties of our new roles.

15. DIOCESAN ACTIVITY GROUPS

a. MEN'S MINISTRY

The Diocesan Men's Christian Association held her 2nd Session of the 1st Conference at St. Michael's Anglican Church, Rumuomasi Deanery from 27th to 30th October, 2011 with the theme "**I Must Do The Works of Him That Sent Me**" (John 9:4). During the conference We charged the Men of our Diocese to move into action to advance the cause of the gospel of Christ in our Diocese by their good works.

We reminded them of the assignment to plant and nurture a new church given to them by us at our last synod at Oro-igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry. In addition, we charged them to lend a helping hand in the roofing of the Anglican Worship Centre at Abuja Estate, Iriebe. We regret to inform the synod that the men of our Diocese have not been forthcoming in accomplishing any of these assignments which constitute a part of the works of the Lord they have been sent to do. We charge the men of this Diocese to mobilize and organize themselves properly for more result-yielding roles.

We wish to announce to synod that our men took the 3rd position at the Niger Delta Provincial Men's Christian Association Bible Quiz competition which held in Calabar as part of the 1st session of the 2nd Provincial Conference from 23rd – 26th February, 2012. This was a decline from their 1st position of 2010. At that Conference also, the General Secretary of our Diocesan MCA Mr. G. A. Amaewhule was elected the Provincial Financial Secretary. We congratulate him.

Inasmuch as we appreciate the efforts the leadership of Men's Ministry of our Diocese is making to put in place a strong fellowship, we wish however to state that the slow pace of growth and response of men generally is becoming

increasingly worrisome. It is our conviction that if the clergy show more interest and commitment to issues affecting the men, there will definitely be a great improvement in their churchmanship. Pastors should see themselves for what they are – men. They should no longer put up an attitude of indifference in matters pertaining to the men but seek to play active roles. Henceforth, all clergymen as we know their wives to do shall fully register and participate actively in the annual conferences of the Men’s Christian Association at the station, parish, deanery, archdeaconry, cathedral and diocesan levels.

No pastor should fix any major local programme that will involve the men of his church during the Archdeaconry or Diocesan MCA Conference Days. We shall hold the clergy in-charge directly accountable for any poor attendance of the men of his church at such higher-level MCA conferences.

b. WOMEN’S MINISTRY

i) The women of Evo Diocese at all levels have taken several giant strides in the last one year for the growth of the church for which we commend them highly on this occasion. Some highlights from their several achievements include:

- Successful hosting of their 2nd Diocesan Women’s Conference at Evo South-East Archdeaconry between 24th – 27th November, 2011
- Planting of a new Church in a temporary venue at the Obio Hotels along the Port Harcourt–Aba/Express way on Sunday 26th October, 2011 in compliance with our directive at the last synod
- Outreach to Jos Diocese with a cash donation of N200,000 and other donations in kind during their Conference. This was in response to the crisis situation in that part of the country
- Payment of the sum of N1, 188, 879.00 as tithe to the Diocese from their November 2011 Conference
- Donation of N500,000.00 to The Church of Nigeria Mothers’ Union as mission support to Dioceses in the North
- Establishment of a mini factory for the production of Communion wafer, amounting to N2.3 million which we commissioned on Friday 3rd February this year
- Empowerment of 10 widows who were exposed to trainings in sewing, baking, etc. and some others funded to start small scale business
- Faithful sponsorship of our girls in the Sisters’ Forum and Girls’ Guild in all their spiritual and other programmes

We thank our women for all their efforts and pray for the grace of God on their part to do more.

ii) **Appointment of A Diocesan Mothers’ Union Worker**

After several months of search for a suitably qualified candidate for the office, we are pleased to announce to announce the appointment of Mrs. Priscilla Alex-Usifoh as the Diocesan Mothers’ Union Worker with effect from 1st of May, 2012. Our appointment of her was sequel to the recommendation of an Interview Panel set up by us to screen all candidates who applied for the position. We wish her well in her

new position and request all women of the Diocese to give her every support and encouragement in the discharge of her duties of assisting the Bishop's wife and President of the Diocesan Women's Ministry in her day to day assignment.

c. YOUTH MINISTRY

We thank the Lord for all the activities of our youth groups since the last synod. The Church of Nigeria policy on the age of 40 limit for membership of the Anglican Youth Fellowship has been fully implemented in our Diocese. An election to raise a set of new leaders for the AYF in our Diocese was successfully held on Saturday 21st January, 2012 at All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi. The following whose ages are below 40 emerged as leaders:

- Diocesan President Chika Amadi
- 1st Vice President Charles Chuku
- 2nd Vice President Nkechi Amadi
- Secretary Frank Ataisi
- Assistant Secretary Joy Opike
- P.R.O. Azonwu Mike
- Treasurer Dandison Atuasen
- Financial Secretary Chile Ariolu
- Sisters' Forum Coordinator Hope Ekezie
- Asst. Sisters' Forum Ruth Otuonye
- Evangelism Secretary Chibuzor Itheme
- Prayer Secretary Christian Gabriel
- Asst. Prayer Secretary Joy Anukam
- Sports Secretary Precious James
- Provost 1 Nyebuchi Oscar Weli
- Provost 2 Awaji Dick
- Welfare Officer 1 Daniel Okwuchukwu
- Welfare Officer 2 Grace Daniel
- Auditor 1 Victor Onyeogu
- Auditor 2 Solomon Ogor
- Youth Star Coordinator 1 Riches Secundus
- Youth Star Coordinator 2 Kelechi Waboso

They were commissioned on Sunday 22nd during the Diocesan Rededication service at St. Nicholas' church, Woji District.

Once again we advise all former officers and over-aged members of the AYF to gracefully join other approved activity groups of the church and continue to cheerfully offer their services to God. All former officers of the Diocesan AYF are strongly advised to give an account of their stewardship in writing and properly hand over to the new leadership team without further delay.

The Third Diocesan Bible Study Conference and the first under the new leadership was held from Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th July, 2012 at the All Saints’ Cathedral, Rumuokwurusu with the theme “**Lord, increase our faith**”. We commend the youths for their impressive turnout at the Conference.

YOUTH MOTIVATIONAL/EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR 2012

We sponsored a seminar tagged ‘**Push for Success**’ for youths across the state and beyond in partnership with the Focus Learning Support Team from the United Kingdom from Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th April, 2012 at St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery.

The vision for the youth programme came to us in June last year during our visit to the UK where we witnessed some members of the Focus Learning Support Team led by Dr. Mrs. Elizabeth Achinewhu-Nworgu in action at a book launch in London. We were convinced that the youths of our Diocese and state would benefit immensely from all the FLS team has to offer. Consequently, we extended our invitation to them to come over to our Diocese.

Members of the team arrived Port Harcourt on Friday 6th April, 2012 and on the 7th visited two of our secondary schools – Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls’ School, Elenwo and Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School, Rumuobiokani where they interacted with staff and students and made presentations of sports kits and library books. At the seminar proper which was well attended by our youths, members of FLS team presented Talks on:

- Developing a Career
- Inclusion and Exclusion: An ‘E’ perspective
- Golden Rules for Achieving Success
- Entrepreneurship: setting up your own business
- Youth Crime
- Good citizenship
- Making career dreams come true
- Developing your talents in sports
- Determination, Motivation and Commitment as necessary tools for success.
- Fish farming

The team presented several gifts to some participating youths who excelled in either the question and answer sessions or the beauty pageant and to the Cathedral Church when they worshipped there on Easter Sunday, 8th April, 2012.

Over N10m was spent by the Diocese in the hosting of this programme which covered cost of flight tickets, hotel accommodation, feeding, security, souvenirs etc.

We thank our clergy and their parishes/stations, the MCA, MU/WG, Knights, the AYF and individual members of our various churches, particularly Hon. Mrs. Ibim Semenitari, the Rivers State Commissioner for Information & Communication who single-handedly sponsored a dinner to raise funds for the programme, Sir Eze Simeon Wokoma JP, Sir & Lady Henry Imoni, Mrs. Felicia Derek-Iyo, Mr. & Mrs. Abinusawa Babalola Abiodun, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Majebi, Mr. Kenechukwu Nwosu, Sir & Lady Francis Mbeledogu, E. O. Chinwo (Ovuson Ventures), Mrs. Irene Koko, Sir & Lady Benneth Agbajogu, Sir Prince Ray Elewa, Mr. Echezona Ezeani, Sir Emeka Ihunwo, Mr. Emeka Izuchukwu, Dame Meg Orianwo, Eze Sir W. W. Onunwor JP, Engr. Sir & Lady Prof. Okeke, Sir Alban Ijeoma, Udoka Emenike and others for their generous financial support which enabled us to stage the event.

We thank very specially, the Governor of Rivers State, The Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi who identified with the programme by sending the Commissioner for Youth Affairs, Sir Owene Wonodi to represent him at the occasion; the Commissioner of Police, Rivers State and the Divisional Police officers at Mini-Okoro, Elemenwo, Trans-Amadi, Rumuokoro, the SSS, the Bomb and Dog sections of the Nigeria Police Force for the excellent security provisions.

We thank the entire members of the Focus Learning Support Team led by Dr. Mrs. Elizabeth Achinewhu-Nworgu for the enthusiasm and zeal with which they responded to our invitation and for all their sacrificial commitments before, during and even after the event.

We thank the Supervisor, Rev. Canon Charles Mordi, the Deanery Council and members of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Rumuobiokani Deanery for ably hosting such a demanding event.

Lastly we thank members of the Seminar Planning Committee led by the Venerable Alex Usifoh for a well-accomplished task. May the Lord bless each and everyone.

We pray that our youths will put into good use the lessons and challenges arising from this well-packaged seminar for their future advancement.

d. ANGLICAN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We commend the able and focused leadership being offered by the Rev. Canon Olufemi Igbamerun, Chaplain of the Anglican Children's Ministry of our Diocese. We thank all the children teachers for the great work they are doing in raising our children in the fear of the Lord and we pray that they do not rest on their oars.

The Diocesan Anglican Children's Ministry has initiated mission work to our various children chapels and we urge them to continue with this initiative and visit as many chapels as they can. The Church of Nigeria has published Bible Teaching Manual and Workbook for the instruction of our children. We call on Archdeacons, Rectors, Vicars and Supervising Priests of churches to ensure

that adequate copies of these materials are acquired for use in our children's chapels.

We have reports of complacency on the parts of some teachers and Diocesan ACM Executive members. This is not good enough for the work of that ministry. We therefore call on those concerned to arise from their slumber, put on strength and serve the Lord.

e. SPORTS MINISTRY

The sports ministry of our Diocese is doing a satisfactory job. It organized the Men's Christian Association Football Competition in 2011 and the All Saints' Cathedral emerging as champions. This year, in conjunction with the women's Ministry, the Sports Ministry organized the maiden edition of the Diocesan Women's Sports Competition as part of activities to mark this year's Mothering Sunday. The women of St. Andrew's Rumuobiokani were the overall champions of the competition, followed by their counterparts from All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi and St. Michael's Rumuomasi Deanery in the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

The Ministry also assisted our Diocesan Secondary Schools in staging their Annual Inter-house Sports competitions.

We call on sports loving members of our Diocese to support the Ministry by sponsoring their activities. Plans are underway to raise a formidable football club for the Diocese as a way of assisting the youths channel their excessive energies and talents properly.

f. DIOCESAN MEDIA & COMMUNICATION UNIT

The Diocesan Media and Communication Ministry with The Rev. Canon Chuka Opara as Chaplain carried out a number of programmes within the year. They hosted a literary workshop tagged 'Literature and the Theatre as tools for evangelism' anchored by notable professionals in the media and communication industry such as prof. S. N. A. Agoro of the Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State and Mrs. Oriselem Dokubo, the Director of programmes, Rivers State Television.

MEDACOM also ran a seminar in which some erudite media personalities presented papers on such topics as

- Communicating Christ through drama
- The Television as a channel for marketing Christ, and
- Spreading the gospel on the wings of the print medium.

The Unit also reactivated and repackaged the almost moribund Diocesan house-organ, the *Go-Tell Magazine* which was re-launched with a youth edition during the "Generation Yes" Push for Success Youth Programme. The Unit has also published a Special Edition of the same magazine for this synod.

We commend the Chaplain and his team. We encourage you to obtain a copy for yourself.

We thank the following public-spirited parishioners of our Diocese for endowing MEDACOM with the following prizes:

- Prize for Best Reporters by Mr. Woji Weli
- Prize for Best Actors by Sir Chijioke Tasie
- Prize for Best Speakers by Dr. Mrs. Joy Ugwu
- Prize for Best Poets by Lady Joy Osinachi Emeruem
- Prize for Most Disciplined Member by Rev. Canon Chuka Opara

May the Lord bless you all – Amen.

g. MINISTRY TO THE ROYAL FATHERS, CHIEFS & ELDERS

This ministry is charged with the responsibility of providing spiritual guidance and giving a sense of belonging to the Traditional Rulers of Evo Kingdom and all such traditional title holders from other places who reside in this Diocese. It is charged with the task of promoting peace among the people as well as reaching with the gospel as many of these respected citizens who are yet to embrace Christ.

Two summits were held during the year for them. The first was on August 20th, 2012 at St. Simon's Church, Okporo Deanery with the theme '**Vessels of Honour**' 2Timothy 2:20. Over 50 Traditional Rulers were in attendance. The second took place on 26th April, 2012 at St. Michael's Rumuomasi Deanery. The theme was '**The Hope of Glory**'. Over 40 Royal Fathers were in attendance. We thank the Venerable Godwin Chinda for his efforts at bringing our Royal Fathers, Chiefs and Elders closer to God.

h. MINISTRY TO RETIRED CLERGY

The chaplaincy responsible for the well-being of all retired clergy in conjunction with our team of Diocesan Medical Advisers organized a medical seminar for the retired clergy during which medical tests were carried out on them and drugs administered to those present freely. We thank the Chaplain, the Rev. Canon C. D. Nwachukwu, Lady Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Utchay and Dr. Bright Amadi for their services.

16. OUR INITIATIVE IN EDUCATION

We are happy to refer to the successes being achieved in our education and schools development initiative. The Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School, Rumuobiokani and the Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, Elelenwo, returned to our Mission by the Rivers State Government in 2008 are both growing in size and in academic and moral health. The Diocese is presently embarking on the construction of a two-storey, three hundred capacity students' hostel block at the Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School of which work has reached an advanced stage. We would like to use the opportunity of this Synod to commend the Executive Governor of Rivers State,

Rt. Honourable Rotimi Chihuike Amaechi, for his commendable strides and investment in the development of educational infrastructures in the State. We stand with our governor in his vision and do appreciate also his support and recognition of the place of and roles voluntary agency schools have to play in complementing the efforts of government in education today. It is therefore for this reason that We appeal to our beloved governor and brother to kindly hasten the implementation of his avowed intention to assist with funding of all Voluntary Agency Schools returned to their original owners through provision of ***Grant-In-Aid***.

We are particularly appreciative of the members of Diocesan Education Board and the Glory Educational Management Consult for their inputs in time and talent so far. The plan to venture into developing parish schools in some of our Deaneries and Parishes is also very timely. This should be received and pursued with the greatest tenacity of missionary purpose by the selected Deaneries and Parishes either from September this year or by September 2013. The aim is to help our churches recover the status in which every parish church also owned and operated a school to meet the literacy and overall educational needs of its members in particular. The Education Board has our mandate to liaise and collaborate with each of the nominated churches to ensure that the required processes for smooth and healthy take-off of the parish schools are achieved.

Evo Diocesan Schools must be run to achieve excellence in all ramifications; this is the target expectation the Education Board must continue to strive for. They must maintain an enviable form of organization and result-oriented standards in both academic and moral content. We commend the ingenuity of the managers of our schools in ensuring that they held our brand of Children's Day event on 27th May 2012. The report we received of the celebration proved it was a meaningful outing. We therefore direct the Education Board to ensure that this event is held annually except in any year that our School is invited to participate in the celebration at the State level.

Our major distraction has remained the incessant lawsuit against us by certain of the Oro-ewhoro Household in Elemenwo. We do not deserve this, but rather wish that they, being part of us, ought to have come join forces with the Diocese to work for the return of the lost glories of this premier institution, the Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls School, ACMGS, Elemenwo. We are truly disappointed by their present obstinate stance, especially in their resolve to join the Diocese of Evo in a second lawsuit against the Governor of Rivers State last June. We have them in our prayers and do wish that God in His mercy will grant them genuine repentance from their unhelpful actions.

Despite the efforts of the Education Board in setting high standards, we must admit that we have had serious challenges in the area of effective day-to-day administration of some of our Diocesan schools. We still believe strongly that as institutions run by the church that the presence of qualified clergymen will largely contribute to the smooth administration of these schools. Consequently, following reports of improper handling of Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School, Rumuobiokani, we had cause to relieve the former Principal, Mr. Osita Nkwonta of his duties and in his place, appointed The Reverend Chimaobi Chieme as Acting Principal.

We use this medium to thank the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) for the award of contract for the refurbishment of the internal roads of our Girls' school – ACMGS, Elemenwo. We appeal to the contractor to endeavour to execute that contract according to specifications.

17. DIOCESAN PUBLICATIONS

i) Quarterly Prayer Bulletin

The Diocesan Prayer Ministry led by Rev. Sampson Abada has started the publication of quarterly prayer bulletins for the Diocese. The booklet contains daily prayer topics to give prayer guidance to and motivate members towards praying for our Diocese. It is being distributed free through the priests in charge of our churches. We encourage all members of our Diocese to endeavour to obtain copies for themselves and their families and join in praying for the success and growth of our work, the state, the nation and other issues.

ii) Marriage & Family life Counselling Manual

This manual has been painstakingly put together through the efforts of Ven. Godwin Chinda, Rev. Chimaobi Chieme, Mrs. Uju Opara, Mr. Godwin Chinda and Mrs. Ijeoma Anagbogu, all members of the committee set up by us at the first session of our synod in 2010. The lessons contained in it have been thoroughly scrutinized and are therefore approved for use henceforth by the clergy and all marriage counsellors of our churches in their preparation of would-be couples before their wedding. We therefore advise priests in charge of churches to obtain for their use, copies of the manual which must be made available to intending couples at a moderate price to be fixed by us shortly.

We commend members of the committee for an excellent job done.

iii) Confirmation Preparatory Manual:

Work on the Diocesan Confirmation Preparatory Manual has been completed. This manual is packaged to assist clergymen in their preparation of baptized members of our church wishing to be presented to the Bishop for the service of laying-on of hands otherwise known as confirmation. It covers several topics ranging from Introduction and History of the Anglican Church, Anglicanism,

Church Season, Confirmation, Holy Communion, Catechism to the 39 Articles of Religion. It is hoped that candidates who patiently go through the lessons contained in the manual will readily mature to become responsible members of the church. Henceforth, all clergymen are to use this manual exclusively for their preparation of candidates for confirmation. Candidates themselves are to compulsorily obtain their personal copies of the manual at a moderate price to be announced shortly.

iv) Adult Sunday School Manual

The Diocesan Sunday School and Discipleship Ministry has continued to faithfully provide us with enriching Sunday Bible Study Manuals. So many persons in our churches are still not very open to the ministry of the Sunday School. Rather than humble themselves to study at the feet of the Master, they look for all sorts of excuses to stay away from the Sunday School. On our part, we will continue to encourage everyone to earnestly desire the sincere milk of the Word of God. It is one vital way to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have since directed that copies of the manual be freely distributed to all at Sunday school sessions so as to encourage greater participation. No clergy or officer of the Sunday School Ministry should in any way scuttle the enforcement of this directive. We are satisfied with the efforts of the chaplain of the Adult Sunday School and Discipleship Ministry, the Rev. Cephas Okarefe in compiling and publishing both the Annual Adult Sunday School and Confirmation Preparatory Manuals. May the Lord reward him and all members of his team.

v) Women's Ministry Preparatory Manuals

We are working towards the publication of preparatory manuals to be used by clergy wives in their preparation of our women and girls for enrolment into the Mothers' Union, Women's Guild and Girls' Guild of our Diocese. We are equally looking forward to publishing a handbook '**For the Pastor's Wife**'. We trust the Lord to be ready with these materials by the next Diocesan Women's Conference in November this year.

18. THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF DIOCESE

The Third Anniversary of the Diocese was marked from Sunday 8th – Sunday 15th July, 2012. The Anniversary featured **a day of prayer & fasting for the Diocese and the nation** on Tuesday, 10th; the **Annual Cathedral Lecture** on Thursday 12th, the **Admission of Women into the Diocesan Mothers' Union and Women's Guild** on Saturday 14th at The Holy Anglican Church, Iriebe Housing Estate Parish and the **General Thanksgiving Services** which held in all the churches of the Diocese on Sunday 15th July. We wish to thank the Rt. Rev. Prof. Anthony Nkwoka, Bishop of The Diocese of Niger West for honouring our invitation to speak at the Cathedral Lecture on the theme "**The Church and the national question in the face of unabating religious intolerance.**" We thank the Cathedral Church for bearing the cost of hosting the annual lecture.

We have since resolved as a Diocese that 50% of all offerings raised in churches on the Annual Diocesan Anniversary Sunday should be remitted to the Diocese for the purposes of support to external mission fields and for local welfare needs. It is our hope that churches have faithfully remitted this required percentage to the Diocese.

19. DIOCESAN SINGING COMPETITION

The second edition of the Diocesan Singing Competition took place first at group levels on Saturday 14th July and finally on Sunday 22nd July at St. Nicholas' Church, Woji District. We are pleased to announce the following churches as winners of this year's contest.

1. First Position – New Covenant Ang. Church, Eliminigwe – 70 pts.
2. Second Position – St. Andrew's Rumuobiokani Deanery – 69 pts.
3. Third Position – St. Philip's Church, Oro-igwe District – 67 pts.

We appreciate the commitment of Prof. Joe Amadi-Echendu in sponsoring this event and we pray that the Lord will greatly reward this huge sacrifice on his part. We commend the Chaplain of the Diocesan Music Ministry, The Rev. Samuel Obialor, the Diocesan Director of Music, Mr. Jolly Nnodi, the Choirmasters and other leaders of the music ministry for yet another successful outing.

20. UNIFORM DIRECTIONAL SIGN BOARDS

It is now very easy to identify the churches under the Diocese of Evo. The use of uniform directional sign boards approved last year by the Diocesan Board has since been implemented by our churches.

21. SUPPORT TO MISSIONARY DIOCESES

The Diocese of Evo was able to give financial assistance to some needy Missionary Dioceses across the country to support their respective missionary endeavours. Dioceses that benefitted from this support were: Northern Izon, Ohaji/Egbema, Ikwuano, Okigwe, Doko, Kutigi, Kontagora and Eha-Amufu.

Part of the funds generated from the remittance of 50% of total offerings during the Diocesan/Bishop's anniversary Sunday Thanksgiving as approved by the Diocesan Board and offerings from the Bishop's 50th Birthday Thanksgiving in December, 2011 were used for these outreaches.

We thank the Lord for providing for us to be able to support the weak and needy.

22. COMMENDABLE ACHIEVEMENTS BY OUR CHURCHES & GROUPS

We commend:

- The **Cathedral Church** for the rapid progress on the new Cathedral building. We thank members for their consistency in giving

- **St. Andrew's, Rumuobiokani Deanery** for the purchase of lands and property for the Church of Messiah, Iriebe, King of glory, Mini-Ewa and Christ The Redeemer, Eliogbolo
- **St. Mark's, Elelenwo Deanery** for the purchase of land for their Baby Church at Rumuodani
- **St. Simon's, Okporo Deanery** for the completion and dedication of an Ultra-modern parsonage complex for all clergy serving in the Deanery
- **Church of Messiah, Iriebe** for the completion of their new church building in few months
- **Chapel of Grace & Knowledge ACMGS, Elelenwo and Christ Harvest Ang. Church, Faith Avenue, Woji** for starting and completing their parsonage buildings also in a few months
- **Church of the Holy Spirit, Elelenwo District, Anglican Church of Pentecost, Ahia-Woji and Immanuel Anglican Church, Ogbatai, Woji and St. Michael's Rumuomasi Deanery** for the appreciable progress on their new church, parsonage and multipurpose hall buildings.
- **St. Matthias', Atali, Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe and New Covenant Church, Eliminigwe Parishes** for the completion and dedication of their new church buildings
- **Woji Archdeaconry** for the purchase of land for the planting of a new church at Rumurolu
- **Eliozu Parish** for the Purchase of 2½ plots of land for the permanent site of Upper Room Anglican Church, Eliozu
- **The MU/WG of Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe Parish & St. Jude's Church, Oginigba Deanery, Men's Christian Associations of St. Andrew's Rumuobiokani Deanery & Holy Ghost Anglican Church, Iriebe Parish** for their purchase of **new buses** for their respective churches' use

23. CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the Diocese, we congratulate the following:

- Sir Hon. Justice Iche N. Ndu, CON, The Honourable Chief Judge of Rivers State on the conferment of LLD (Dr. of Laws) *honoris causa* on him by the Commonwealth University, Blize and with the Fellowship of The London Graduate School in Dubai UAE on July 27, 2012.
- Mr. Gaius Assor, the Diocesan Surveyor on his promotion to the position of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of lands and survey, Rivers State

- Chiefs G. I. Ebenezer, G. O. Dike and Godfrey Ohuabunwa and their wives on their chieftaincy installation by the paramount ruler of Rumuobiokani Community, HRH Eze Sir S. N. Ejims Wopara JP on 15th October, 2011
- All Saints' Cathedral, Rumuokwurusi & St. Philip's Church, Oroigwe on their Centenary Celebrations in December, 2011
- Our Diocesan Bishop on his 50th Birthday celebration which was marked on Boxing Day, 26th December, 2011. The Bishop turned 51 yesterday, 3rd of August, 2012. Thanks be to God for the gift of life
- Sir Benjamin Alamina of All Saints' Cathedral on the celebration of his 80th Birthday on 21st March, 2012
- Anglican Church of Pentecost, Rumuogba on their 10th Anniversary celebration on the 7th of July, 2012
- New Covenant Church, Eliminigwe on their 6th Anniversary celebration on the 29th of July, 2012

24. CONSTITUTION

Work on our Draft Diocesan Constitution has since been concluded. We had called for sittings at the Cathedral, Archdeaconry and Deanery levels for members to make their inputs. What we have to present to synod is the outcome of feedback received from churches and groups. We hope that this synod will formally give approval to this document so as to enable us forward it to the Church of Nigeria Committee of Reference at the next Standing Committee meeting coming up in September this year. We thank every one of you who made contributions towards the preparation of this document especially our Diocesan Law officers and members of the Constitution Drafting Committee.

25. DONATIONS/APPRECIATION

We thank the following for various donations made to the Diocese within the synod year:

- Governor Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi for the donation of a Hiace 18 seater bus to the office of the Bishop
- Chief Alex Orakwue for the construction of drainage, plastering of walls and interlocking of the Bishop's Court premises.
- Late Chief Barr. Nwobidike Nwanodi for building an Ultra-modern library complex at ACMGS, Elemenwo.
- Nashotah House Theological Seminary USA for the Donation of books towards the establishment of our Diocesan library through The Venerable Fynface Akah.

- Eze Sir W. W. Onunwor JP and family for the donation of N2m to the Diocese for the further development of the Printing Press Project.
- Eze Sir S. O. Worlu JP for his consistent huge annual financial support to the Diocese towards evangelism and education.
- Mr. Gordon Ojijiagwo of Chapel of Grace & Knowledge for the installation of PVC ceiling in the Bishop's office
- Hon. Barr. Mike Ejims-Enwukwe for allowing us the use of his Pre-eminence Hotels and Towers Hosanna Hall for the start of a new worship centre.
- Mr. & Mrs. Chima Wachukwu for the donation of their school assembly hall at Rumunduru farm road for the planting of a new Anglican Church by the Cathedral in that axis of the community.
- Capt. Clement Ejiofor, Chairman Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, Elelenwo Parents Teachers Association for the part renovation of the Principal's office
- Parents/Guardians (PTA) of ACMGS, Elelenwo for the renovation of one of the biggest dormitory blocks of the school
- Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria in partnership with the Rivers State Government and Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership, USA for the donation of an Audio-visual Studio to Bishop Crowther Memorial Secondary School, Rumuobiokani for the enhancement of learning
- The Rivers State Government through the Ministry of Education for the inclusion of our three secondary schools in their textbooks distribution exercise to schools in the state

26. ORDINATION/PREFERMENT

The following, Anderson Owhor and Corporal Stephen Thompson were ordained deacons in July and December 2011 respectively and The Rev. Canon Godwin Chinda preferred Archdeacon on 4th December, 2011. We congratulate them.

27. WELCOME TO EVO DIOCESE

- Rev. John Nkuene and Rev. Raymond Osakwe with their wives and children from Ogoni and Yola Dioceses having been released by their bishops.

28. AWARDS TO PERFORMING CHURCHES/PRIESTS

For the year under review, the following churches excelled in the remittance of their 10% or 15% weekly income to the Diocese and consequently received the awards instituted by the Diocesan Board. They are:

- All Saints Cathedral emerged winner in **category 1** comprising Cathedral, Deanery churches and St. Nicholas', Woji

- St. Philips won in **category 2** for Archdeaconry Headquarters/District churches.
- Bethel Church, Rumuibekwe won in **category 3** for Parish churches.
- New Wine, Okporo won in **category 4** for Station churches.
- Anglican worship Centre, Abuja Estate, Iriebe won in **category 5** for Worship Centres.
- The Women's Ministry (MU/WG) won in **category 6** for activity groups.
- Woji Archdeaconry won in **category 7** for Archdeaconries

29. OUR JOYS

We thank the Lord and rejoice with the following persons whom God blessed with new babies during the year:

- Rev. & Mrs. S. O. Abada
- Rev. & Mrs. C. Okarefe
- Rev. & Mrs. C. B. L. Gura (Twins)
- Rev. & Mrs. Chieme Chimaobi
- Rev. & Mrs. Moses Anyaefena
- Rev. & Mrs. Roland Benjamin (Triplets)
- Rev. & Mrs. Ozioma Iheanetu
- Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Peterson (Bishop's Secretary)
- Mrs. Chikaru Oloruntobi (Bishop's wife's Admin Assistant)
- Rev. & Mrs. Favour Iroegbulem

30. OUR SORROWS

We commiserate with all members and friends of our Diocese who suffered one adversity or the other or had cause to mourn the death of a loved one within the Synod year. We particularly remember and pray for Chief Barr. G. O. Dike and family over the death of their mother, Mr. Uzoma Igboeli for death of his wife Georgia; Chief Israel Agbaraka on the death of his wife, Lolo Joy, Mrs. Blessing Ogu who lost her husband, the Rev. Canon Chukwuemeka Ogu, who until his demise was a senior priest of our Diocese and Vicar of St. Philip's Church, Oro-igwe District; Lady Lale Aminobiren, secretary of the Diocesan Mothers' Union, who lost her husband, Sir Emmanuel Aminobiren; Rev. Godfrey Onyemelukwe and Lady Sarah Martins-Yellowe who lost their mothers, Rev'ds Hosanna Naenwi and S. O. Abada who lost their sons, Eze Sir & Lady B. A. Worgu who lost their Germany-based son; Rev. Bright Welekwe who lost his elder sister, Mrs. Judy Nwanodi who lost her husband, Chief Barrister Nwobidike Nwanodi (SAN), the family of Eze R. M. Nyeche of Rumuodunwere on the death of their wife and mother, Mrs. Chioma Ogonda Nyeche. May The Lord minister peace, comfort and consolation of the Holy Spirit to their hearts, in Jesus name – Amen.

We also had cause to mourn upon receiving the news of the death of several innocent Nigerians who died from series of bomb blasts by the unrepentant Islamic terrorist group - Boko Haram in Jos, Maiduguri, Madala, Kaduna, Kano, Damaturu and Bauchi. We feel for our brothers and sisters and pray for peace to reign in our nation, Nigeria.

**31. TOWARDS THE REHABILITATION OF THE FAMILY
OF THE LATE REV. CANON CHUKWUEMEKA OGU**

Saddened by the death of our priest, Rev. Canon Chukwuemeka Ogu, and in a move to provide relief and succour to his wife and children, the Diocesan Board at its meeting held at Mount Zion Church, Eliogbolo resolved to place his three children on full **secondary school scholarship**. The Board also set up a 7-man committee made up of the following:

1. Ven. Azubuike Ugoha – Chairman
2. Ven. Godwin Chinda
3. Lady Bridget Dania
4. Mr. Innocent Dike
5. Sir O. J. Kamalu
6. Mr. Paul Chukwumati
7. Mrs. Ifeoma Sam-Gabriel and Ven. S. C. Opara as adviser to source funds to enable the Diocese provide a temporary accommodation and also put up a three bed-room flat for the family on the late canon's undeveloped piece of land. The committee has been mandated to freely approach churches and individuals for support. We therefore appeal to everyone to please assist the Diocese to resettle our sister and her three children.

We thank the Ven. Chidi Worgu and Rev. Canon Chris Chukwumati who have already offered to pay the NECO and WAEC examination fees and tuition fees respectively for the first son who is in SSS3.

**32. IN MEMORY OF LATE CHIEF BARRISTER
NWOBIDIKE NWANODI (SAN)**

We had earlier reported that the late Chief Barrister Nwobidike Nwonodi in the last quarter of last year, 2011, at a time when his health was in a very poor state, on his own called us and offered to put up a College Library Block for the Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, Elelenwo. For him it was to be his encouragement to the Diocese of Eyo in her march towards the restoration of the lost glory of the premier girls' school. He desired that the project be completed within the first quarter of 2012. This target was actually achieved. Regrettably, while the engineer was still preparing for the formal handover of the keys of the completed project to him and to the Diocese, the health of the revered legal luminary declined to such a state that he was unable to live on. We received the news of his death on Friday 4th May, 2012 with great shock. Once again, we extend our deepest condolences to members of his family and those of the legal profession over his demise.

The library project will be formally handed over to us by his family in September this year. On behalf of the Diocese of Evo, we express our sincere thanks to his team of office staff and members of his family for faithfully satisfying the wish of the late barrister, brother and friend of our Diocese.

In appreciation of his sacrifice, we have decided to immortalize him by naming the project after him. Consequently, the library at ACMGS, Elelenwo shall be referred to as **BARRISTER NWOBIDIKE NWANODI MEMORIAL LIBRARY**. May his soul rest in peace – Amen.

33. PATRONAGE OF DIOCESAN PRINTING PRESS AND INVESTMENTS

We hereby repeat our already stated position on the patronage of Diocesan commercial outfits by clergy, churches and individuals doing anything with the Bishop and the clergy of the Diocese. We should see the Printing Press as our pride and therefore patronize it. The quality of their services has continued to compete favourably with those of other printing outfits. Consequently, we enjoin everyone to happily patronize their services for the economic good of the Diocese. Church programmes which include weddings, burial services, etc. should be taken to the Diocesan Press by all concerned. This is the practise in other places where churches run business ventures. Ours should not be different. We commend the Rev. Hosanna Naenwi, the Superintendent of the Press and members of his management team for the great work they are doing.

Wafers from our women's mini wafer making factory are also of very good quality. We do not expect clergymen to look elsewhere for purchase of wafers for their Holy Communion services. They should encourage the women by buying from there through the Diocesan Central office.

We hope to actualize our dream of establishing a clothing/garment-making factory. We have since taken delivery of the giant sewing machines, accessories and generator worth millions of naira generously donated by a couple to the Diocese. A committee to work towards the take-off of this venture headed by the Rev. C. J. Kemakolam has since been set up. By the grace of God we should be giving you further progress report by the next synod.

34. INVITATION TO PARTNER WITH THE DIOCESE

The Diocese has been in existence for the past three years. And this is to the glory of God whose faithfulness has brought us to where we are now.

The burden of administering the Diocese has not been a light one in view of the many areas of need. The cosmopolitan nature of the Diocese has made matters even more challenging considering the huge financial resources we require to carry out major projects and spiritual activities.

We are using this medium to invite each and everyone to join hands with us in building up a Diocese that will bring praise and glory to God. People should think less of what they can extract from the Diocese, and think more of what

they can contribute sacrificially towards the growth of this church of God. We call on you to come and assist us in the areas of missions, evangelism and planting of more Anglican Churches. Those who have land, halls and some other facilities can prayerfully donate them to the Diocese or support us financially to acquire such properties strictly for the opening of new places of worship.

A number of our new churches need to improve on their present places of worship to attract new members. Individuals and families can prayerfully adopt these churches and assist them develop their infrastructures.

We also need persons with the required burden, zeal and passion for the gospel to come in as genuine volunteer missionaries who we can send to assist in the task of evangelism and discipleship in some of our struggling churches.

We invite you to partner with us in our zeal to modernize our educational institutions through the provision of standard facilities.

We commend the late Barrister Nwanodi for the erection and donation of a State-of-the-Art library block at the Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, Elelenwo. Though he is now late, what he has done will forever live in our grateful hearts. We call on you to emulate this great example and take up a project in any of our schools and or churches.

We invite you to assist us pay for the publication of our annual Adult and Children's Sunday School Manuals, quarterly Prayer Bulletins, Bishop's Synod Charge and the Synod Reports. We need sponsors for our annual Discipleship/Revival conferences. You can equally adopt a Pastor, Church teacher or a volunteer missionary and pay his full or part monthly salary.

Let these exhortations from the great apostle Paul and the Preacher (Ecclesiastes) serve as the additional push you need to respond positively to our invitation to benevolence.

"I have shewed you things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth" (Ecclesiastes 11:1, 2).

Let us develop a sense of responsibility and of partnership towards the Diocese, both spiritually and materially (Acts 4: 32 - 37), so we can without much stress, carry out our numerous missionary endeavours.

35. NIGER DELTA PROVINCIAL ISSUES

Provincial Council meetings were held at Dioceses of Ogbia and Etche in September, 2011 and March, 2012 respectively. A new Provincial Council

meeting arrangement which will now run for a whole weekend with revival meetings by visiting Bishops has been approved with effect from 2013. Diocese of Eyo has been scheduled by the Archbishop to host the maiden arrangement in the first quarter of 2013.

Plans have been concluded for the staging of the maiden Provincial All Bishops, Clergy & Wives Retreat in the Diocese of Ahoada early next year, 2013. We direct all church councils to please sponsor their clergy and wives when the time comes.

36. JOINT PROVINCIAL COUNCIL (EAST)

The meeting of the Joint Provinces of the East of the Niger comprising of Niger Delta, Niger, Owerri, Enugu and Aba took place at St. Stephen's Cathedral, Umuahia on Wednesday, 8th to Thursday 9th February, 2012.

A Joint Old Province II All Clergy Conference was held from 5th to 9th September, 2011 at the Camp of Faith, Okigwe, Imo State. The conference theme was ***"Being a Living Sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1)***. The main speaker was Bro. Gbile Akani of the Peace House, Gboko. Nearly all our clergy attended the conference. We thank the leadership of our churches for sponsoring the clergy to the programme.

The Joint Provincial Episcopal Synod (JPES) of the council during the period under review set up a Special Sub-Committee to look into the funding of Paul University, Awka. The Sub-Committee at its meeting in November, 2011 decided that Paul University will be funded through the following:

- 1. Payment of an annual levy of N1, 000** (One thousand naira) by all adults/communicants in all churches in the fifty-five Dioceses that own the University. There will be a Paul University Sustenance Levy Collection Chairman for each Diocese who will be assisted by the President of the Diocesan Council of Knights. The levy, which will be collected at parish levels, will be fully paid in by February of each year.
- 2. Paul University Sunday:** One Sunday in each year e.g. 1st Sunday in June or 3rd Sunday in July will be designated "Paul University Sunday" by the Joint Provincial Episcopal Synod. All collections from churches on that Sunday will be paid to Paul University for its sustenance.
- 3. Churches are expected to pray for Paul University regularly,** and to **advertise the University** in their Sunday Service Bulletins, as a special project of the 55 Diocese East of the Niger.

These decisions which have already been approved by the JPES are for immediate implementation. Consequently, we shall be setting aside a Sunday before the end of this year to raise offerings in our churches for the University in addition to the N1, 000 levy to be paid by every adult/communicant.

We charge the clergy to please convey these decisions to members of their congregations.

Let us use this medium to also remind the clergy of the existing levy of N1, 000 to be paid by each of them for the building of a hostel block at the Trinity Theological College, Umuahia. We thank you for your payments for 2011. We encourage you to quickly pay for this year.

37. CHURCH OF NIGERIA

a. St. Matthias' Day, 2012

The St. Matthias' Day offering which was introduced by the Primate of All Nigeria, The Most Rev. Nicholas Okoh through the Standing Committee of the Church was held this year on Sunday 26th February, 2012. As you are already aware, funds generated from this special offering are to be used for the support of weak missionary areas within the Church of Nigeria. We commend the churches in our Diocese for their highly improved performance this year. Last year, 2011, our Diocese remitted a total sum of N4, 625, 701. 72. To the glory of God, this year, 2012, the total offering from churches in Evo Diocese stood at **N7, 121,465.00m** only. We have since remitted this amount to the Primate's office in Abuja.

b. Church of Nigeria Relief Fund

The Eastern group of Provinces – Niger, Niger Delta, Owerri, Enugu and Aba organized a successful fund raising programme at the Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt in November last in support of the Church of Nigeria Relief Fund in aid of churches and persons in crisis and disaster-ridden parts of our country. We thank Eze Sir W. W. Onunwor JP and Sir Chief Ben Emeka for their generous donations of N500, 000.00 each on behalf of our Diocese at the occasion. May the Lord reward them abundantly.

c. Divine Commonwealth Conference (DIVCCON)

This divinely inspired International Revival Conference convened by the Primate of All Nigeria, The Most Rev. Nicholas D. Okoh was held in Abuja from 7th to 11th November, 2011. Over five thousand Christians from Anglican Dioceses within and outside the Church of Nigeria and members of other denominations were in attendance. The theme of the conference was "Our Commonwealth in Christ". It was a great success as participants met to fellowship, sing, share the word and pray together. The Lord Himself was mightily present to pour His blessings upon all. Over thirty members of our Diocese including the Bishop, some clergy/wives and others attended the conference.

The next edition of this conference has been scheduled to hold from 5th – 10th November, 2012 also in Abuja. We encourage every clergy and members of our Diocese to please plan to be in attendance. (*See appendix 01 for further details*).

The Rev. Canon Chris Chukwumati, Bishop's Administrative Assistant and Protocol Officer is to coordinate the preparation/travel arrangements of members of our Diocese attending the conference.

d. Senior Clergy Training Course

The first phase of this special training aimed at improving on the knowledge and performance of our senior clergy men in the ranks of Canons and Archdeacons was held at Ibru-Centre, Agbarha-Otor between Monday 16th and Saturday 28th January, 2012. Venerables Chidi Worgu and Akuro Omubor attended from the Diocese and received certificates for themselves. The second phase (course 02) will hold from Monday 13th – Saturday 25th August, 2012. We have since nominated The Ven. Godwin Chinda and The Rev. Canon Okechukwu Owhonda to attend.

e. 2012 All Nigeria Anglican Clergy Conference

This will take place at Ajayi Crowther University Oyo, Oyo State from Monday 24th – Friday 28th September, 2012. All Anglican Priests in Nigeria are expected to attend the conference. We therefore direct all churches in our Diocese to sponsor clergymen serving with them to this conference.

f. Chancellors and Legal Officers Conference

This was held last year from Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th of August last year. Our Diocesan Registrar, Barrister Nlerum Amadi and the Deputy Registrar (Lands), Barrister Chimezie Otuonye took part in the conference. This year's edition will hold between Monday 6th – Wednesday 8th August, 2012. We implore **all Legal Officers of our Diocese** to attend.

g. Church of Nigeria Synod/Meetings/Bishops' Retreat & Training.

Since our last Synod in July 2011, the Church of Nigeria held the following:

- i. General Synod – Hosted by the Diocese of Lagos West from 19th – 23rd September, 2011
- ii. Bishops wives' retreat at Abuja from 24th – 28th January, 2012
- iii. Standing Committee meeting hosted by the Diocese of Awka from 14th – 18th February, 2012.
- iv. Annual Bishops' Retreat at the Ibru-Centre from 18th – 23rd February, 2012. The communiqué and Pastoral letters issued from the synod and the meetings are attached as Appendixes.....

h. Retirement of Bishops

The following bishops have retired from active ministry of the church:

- i. Rt. Rev. Ken Okeke – Diocese on the Niger
- ii. Rt. Rev. William Diya – Diocese of Kafanchan
- iii. Rt. Rev. B. C. B. Onyeibor – Diocese of Abakaliki
- iv. Most Rev. U. U. Ezuoke – Diocese of Aba
- v. Rt. Rev. Jonathan Edewor – Diocese of Oleh

i. New Bishops

We have the following new bishops

- i. Rt. Rev. Julian Mark Dobbs – CANA
- ii. Rt. Rev. Felix Clarence Orji – CANA
- iii. Rt. Rev. Christian Ugwuzor – Diocese of Aba
- iv. Rt. Rev. Monday Nkwoagu – Diocese of Abakaliki

- v. Rt. Rev. Marcus Dogo – Diocese of Kafanchan
- vi. Rt. Rev. Jacob Kwashi – Diocese of Zonkwa
- vii. Rt. Rev. John Aruakpor – Diocese of Oleh
- viii. Ven. Nathaniel Ogundipe (Bishop-elect) Ifo Diocese.

j. New Archbishops

- i. Most Rev. Dr. Ikechi Nwosu – Aba Province
- ii. Most Rev. Dr. G. L. Lasebikan – Ondo Province

k. Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) 2012/2013

The Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) is a product of the collaborative efforts of the leadership of the Church of Nigeria and other members of the Anglican Communion worldwide, who believe strongly in the uniqueness and sufficiency of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Holy Scriptures. This movement which for the time being runs in parallel with the traditional Lambeth Conference, has become the new global rallying point for the orthodox and evangelical Anglicans. The maiden edition was held in 2008 in Jerusalem and the second edition is being proposed for May 2013 likely in Cyprus.

The Pre-Conference preparatory meeting for select leaders was held in April this year (2012) in the United Kingdom.

Each diocese is expected to send and sponsor delegates depending on their financial capability and they are likely to include the Bishop and his wife, and some members of the Diocese which may include some youth leaders.

We appeal for sponsorship from members of our Diocese to make our participation possible.

38. ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY STEPS DOWN

The Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, Dr Rowan Williams has revealed that he is to step down from his role at the end of this year.

His decision comes after 10 years in the post and after accepting the position of Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

In a statement issued from Lambeth Palace, the Primate of All England said, “It has been an immense privilege to serve as Archbishop of Canterbury over the past decade, and moving on has not been an easy decision. During the time remaining there is much to do, and I ask your prayers and support in this period and beyond”.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Focus of Unity for the Anglican Communion. He is convener and host of the Lambeth Conference, President of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), and Chair of the Primates’ meeting.

39. STATE AND NATIONAL ISSUES

a) RIVERS STATE

As a Church and people who constitute a part of society we have watched with keen interest the trend of events in the State since the present administration of the Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi assumed office in October, 2007.

We thank God for the performance of the PDP-led government of Rivers State and do commend the Executive Governor for the bold steps he has so far taken to inject freshness into the several sectors of our State life. For us, the Governor has performed very well within nearly five years in office especially in the fields of health, education, road construction, agriculture and urban renewal.

We in Evo would like to thank the Governor for his prudent management of our State resources which has brought about visible achievements in the areas of construction of model primary schools in virtually every community in our Diocese, construction and rehabilitation of the Elekahia-Rumuomasi Road, the Rumuomasi-Rumuobiokani-Rumuogba (Old Aba) Road, the Oginigba (Trans-Amadi)-Rumuobiokani Road, the Airforce Base-Eliozu-Rukpokwu Road, the Stadium Road and the ongoing Okporo Road. Driving through these roads gives one the feeling of being in some of the well-planned cities and highways outside Nigeria. We believe that with greater concentration and focus, our Governor will achieve even much more in his three remaining years in office than he has already done. May the Lord continue to strengthen the hands of His Excellency at work.

Having noted the above, we would however like to draw the attention of His Excellency to the deplorable state of the following roads which has made life near unbearable for those who live in the affected areas. The roads are the Eliozu-Rumunduru-Rumuewhara (Oro-igwe) road, the Rumunduru-Eneka Road, the Elelenwo-Akpajo (Old Refinery) road, Mgbuesilaru-Rumuokwurusu (RD) Road, parts of Woji Road and the most pitiable of all, the entire internal roads of Iriebe Community. These Evo communities are host to a large concentration of Nigerians and other nationals. Accessing them has always been a nightmare. A good number of inhabitants of these places are contributing reasonably to the growth of our state and national economies. Hence they deserve a better deal.

We are therefore appealing to His Excellency, the Governor of Rivers State in his usual sympathetic manner to consider these and many other such roads in bad condition for immediate rehabilitation. Doing so will help ease the pressure on the other rehabilitated roads.

We would also like to use this medium to sincerely commend the efforts of the Executive Chairman of Obio/Akpor, Hon. Prince Timothy E. Nsirim, JP at developing the Local Government Area. Of particular note is the construction of a multi-million naira international market project at Rukpokwu equipped with Police, Fire Service Stations, Crèche, Clinic, Restaurants, etc which is at the point of completion. The project when commissioned and put into full use will be providing business and employment opportunities for citizens of the Local Government and other Nigerians as well as generate the needed revenue to the Council for further development. We pray for God's guidance on the part of the Chairman and other Council officials in the allocation of stalls to applicants at the new market. May the Lord bless the visionary leadership of the Chairman in Jesus name – Amen.

b) STATE OF THE NATION

i) Corruption

While we admit that the level of development in virtually every sector of our national life has risen above what it was before independence in 1960, we are to however state that had a better administrative structure coupled with prudent allocation and management of our God-given resources already on ground, Nigeria would have by now joined the league of developed nations of the world.

A major problem of the Nigerian State has been the presence of corruption in all facets of our national life, and regrettably, even in religious circles. The level of moral rot in the political, social and economic sectors of our nation has risen to such a disturbing proportion that it can only be likened to the wickedness of the biblical Judah and Jerusalem in the time of the prophet Isaiah of old.

As the Great Physician, the Lord diagnosed the illness of Judah and Jerusalem in these words:

*“Alas, sinful nation,
A people laden with iniquity,
A brood of evil doers,
Children who are corrupters!
They have forsaken the Lord,
They have provoked to anger
The Holy One of Israel,
They have turned away backward
...the whole head is sick,
And the whole heart faints.
From the sole of the foot even to the head,
There is no soundness in it,
But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores,
They have not been closed or bound up,
Or soothed with ointment...
Your country is desolate,
Your cities are burned with fire
Strangers devour your land in your presence
And it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers...”
Isaiah 1:4-7)*

The above judgement or divine assessment of Judah and Jerusalem best describe the state of affairs in our today’s Nigeria. And this calls for concern, genuine repentance and a return to God and to the ways of righteousness on the part of our leaders and the led, without which our dream of becoming a political/economic giant will remain elusive.

The scriptures cannot be broken. “*Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people*” (Prov. 14:34). This is the time to return to God for the healing of our land.

ii) **Making a case for the rapid development of the country**

We have equally noted with much pains the state of infrastructural decay in the country especially of those owned and maintained by the federal government. A case in point is the East-West Highway which covers about five states of the Niger Delta, whose poor state has led to the loss of innumerable lives of road users.

Our understanding of the problem with the Federal Government is that the burden it is carrying presently is becoming increasingly too heavy. We therefore call on the two arms of the National Assembly through their Committees on the Review of the 1999 constitution to unburden the Federal Government by devolving some of its powers and responsibilities to the States and Local Governments. This will make for rapid development of the country.

The Federal Government is right now carrying too much of the responsibility of the Nigerian State for which it collects a lion share of the federal allocation of resources and yet we do not see much physical development. It is our candid view that if more money and responsibilities are given to the states and local governments and with appropriate policies in place to check how they utilize their allocations, much of the problems of the citizenry arising from under-development will be largely addressed. We are therefore calling for the autonomy of the states and local governments and for true federalism.

iii) **Let us discuss the Future of Nigeria**

Unfolding events in recent times have started provoking a lot of questions in the minds of many concerned Nigerians. The emergence of the deadly, blood-thirsty Islamic group called “*Boko-Haram*” and its activities against Christians is now seriously threatening the peace and unity of our country.

A situation where Christians are daily persecuted and killed in their hundreds in a country where the constitution guarantees them equality with others – in worship, freedom of movement, association and residence in any part of the country, is no longer acceptable to us. It is even more worrisome that the government of the day through its security agencies is unable to protect Christians. And so we are helplessly watching a section of the country aligned to the Islamic faith forcefully impose their will on the rest of us.

No true Christian will give up his faith and allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, for any other religion no matter the level of force employed. It is our position therefore that if we all in Nigeria – northerners and southerners, Christians and Muslims must continue to stay together as people of one nation, we should be able to meet at a round table and discuss the terms of our continuing union or possible peaceful disintegration or dissolution of the Nigerian state.

The Bible asks: “*Can two walk together except they be agreed?*” (Amos 3:3). If in the eyes of our Muslim brothers, Christians are not worthy to live, then we do not see the essence of remaining together as people of one nation.

This daily slaughter of Christians must stop. We are not animals. This nation belongs to all of us and above all to God. If other Nigerians can freely live, move about and do business in states that are predominantly Christian, we do not understand why Christians should not enjoy that same freedom in states where Muslims are more in number.

We call on the President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and his deputy, Architect Namadi Sambo to courageously exercise the authority they have through the constitution and halt this carnage in the land. The rights of Christians and other minorities in this country must be protected. We demand equal rights and justice!

Jesus is Lord!

iv) **Call to prayer**

While we wait for justice to be done, we call on all Christians to continue to pray for Nigeria with serious concentration (Dan. 9:3), fasting (Matt. 6:5, 16), and with spiritual concern (Dan 9:11). This is the most patriotic thing we can do for our dear country.

40. HOSTING OF SYNOD

We hereby once again express our sincere gratitude to the All Saints’ Cathedral, Rumuokwursi, Oro-igwe/Eliogbolo Archdeaconry and St. Michael’s, Rumuomasi Deanery for successfully hosting the three sessions of our first synod, 2010-2012. We pray the good Lord to bless them abundantly. The synod meetings of our Diocese for the next three years will be hosted in this order:

1. 1st Session of our 2nd Synod, 2013 – Okporo Deanery
2. 2nd Session of our 2nd Synod, 2014 – Rumuobiokani Deanery
3. 3rd Session of our 2nd Synod, 2015 – Oginigba Deanery

We pray that the Lord will equip them adequately for this huge responsibility.

CONCLUSION

Let me conclude this address/charge by restating the following which We as Bishop have constantly emphasised since our coming into office. We must always remember that as children of God, it is required that we show faithfulness in all we do, especially as it relates to the affairs of the church, bearing in mind that we are accountable to God. Let us carefully consider the following:

1. ACCOUNTABILITY

From now forthwith, all money received in our churches must be faithfully and sincerely retired. It is unchristian and at the same time criminal to keep back to oneself money which ought to be returned to the Diocese/church after any assignment. Individuals and committees must give a written account of their stewardship in any given assignment to the Diocesan/church leadership.

2. BUDGETING

Church/group plans and activities for a given year should not be approached haphazardly and in staccato fashion in which anything goes. This has never been and can never be God's pattern. It does not obtain anywhere, not even in secular settings. Activities of ever church/group for a year should be properly planned and budgeted for. It is a mark of indiscipline for church leadership to run a church without a carefully planned and spelt-out budget. We can't accept this.

Pursuant upon the above, Finance Committees which should prepare budgets and monitor performance and compliance and also scrutinize major bills (significant expenditures) of or from activity groups/committees and advise the Church Council for final approval should be set up in every Church/Archdeaconry.

3. AUDITORS

Auditors of churches must be faithful to do their job of auditing the churches. Forthwith, no church should hold any vestry meeting in January/February without the reading of the audited account of the out-gone year to the parishioners. We will seriously frown on any case of this that comes to our notice. Yearly financial transactions of all Diocesan Activity Groups/institutions shall henceforth be subjected to the scrutiny of the diocesan team of auditors whose findings shall be reported to and discussed by the Diocesan Board.

4. ASSET MANAGEMENT

For and in all our churches, henceforth, an inventory of all church property and assets must be kept. All churches must develop effective strategies for assets maintenance to avoid unregulated use and consequent depreciation. Our church premises should be kept clean and not littered with filth. God is an embodiment of beauty and His presence must radiate this always.

We thank you for your patience in listening and may the Lord bless you.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever – Amen (1Timothy 1:17).

✦ Innocent, Evo
August 4, 2012.

APPENDIX 01
CHURCH OF NIGERIA (Anglican Communion)
DIVINE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE 2012

THEME: CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

DATE: November, 5th – 10th, 2012

Venue: Christian Centre, Central Business Area, Abuja

REGISTRATION GUIDE

Before you commence online registration, please pay the conference fee below into our (Church of Nigeria) account

Bank: Zenith Bank

Account Name: **Church of Nigeria**

Account Number: **1012720681.**

Overseas Payment

\$100 or its equivalent

Sort code: 60-15-30

Account 31921736 IBAN Gb49 NWBK 6015 3031 9217 36 BIC-NWBK GB 2L

Registration Categories

- Early Registration: 1st June – 24th July, 2012 – **N5,000.000**
- Mid Registration: 1st August – 24th September 2012 – **N6,000.00**
- Late Registration: 1st October – 21st October 2012 – **N7,000.00**
(Subject to availability)

You must also have a digital passport style photo of yourself, in *jpeg, gif or png* format which should not be more than 1mb in size.

Also note that you will be required

- Enter the **BANK TELLER NUMBER** in the space provided
- Upload the digital photograph of yourself to complete your registration.

For further info log on to www.anglican-nig.org OR www.divcon.org

APPENDIX 02

THE MESSAGE TO THE NATION FROM THE 10TH GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION) HELD FROM THE 19TH- 23TH OF SEPTEMBER 2011, AT THE ARCHBISHOP VINING MEMORIAL CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OBA AKINJOBI ROAD, G.R.A. IKEJA, LAGOS.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tenth General Synod of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), comprising the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Leadership of the Most Rev. Nicholas Okoh, Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria, held the Opening Eucharist and other General Synod proceedings at the Archbishop Vining Memorial Church Cathedral, Oba Akinjobi road, G.R.A, Ikeja, Lagos; between September 19 – 23,

2011. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria sent encouraging words to Synod in a goodwill message and we were honoured by the presence of the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Her Excellency, Hon. Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire representing the State Governor, His Excellency, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN), and the former Vice President of the Federal republic of Nigeria His Excellency, Dr. Alex Ekwueme. We also received gracious and kind words from two former Primates of our Church, The Most Rev Dr. Abiodun Adetiloye, and the Most Rev. Peter Jasper Akinola

The theme of the Synod was ‘Restoring the years the Locusts have eaten’- Joel 2: 25 -27, and at the conclusion, the Synod issued this message to the nation.

2. RESTORING THE YEARS THE LOCUSTS HAVE EATEN

The Synod theme, taken from the book of Prophet Joel Chapter 2 verses 25 – 27 was exhaustively considered through the Sermons, Bible studies and Seminars and was related to every aspect of our National life. Synod identified all areas the locust have caused destruction in our country such as, the peace, economy, education, politics, infrastructures etc. However, God has promised to restore the wasted years as a nation if only we will all genuinely repent of all forms of unrighteousness now prevalent in the country. Synod therefore calls on all Nigerians to repent and turn to God so that a “time of refreshing may come from the Lord” Acts 3:19. We call all Nigerians to prayer, righteous living, and a heartfelt love for one another and so put themselves in a position to be revived by God.

3. THREAT TO PEACE AND UNITY

Synod is greatly disturbed by the level of insecurity of lives and property in the nation. The frequent and continual killings, bombings, kidnappings, armed robbery, religious unrests, ethnic and political crisis, terrorist activities (especially the Boko–haram menace) have imposed great distress on the populace. A situation where a citizen is not safe to live anywhere in the country is unacceptable.

We therefore join other well meaning Nigerians and international bodies in strongly condemning the recent bombings, particularly that of the United Nations building in Abuja and the killing of innocent people in Jos, Maiduguri, Kafanchan, Bauchi and other parts of our country. The Government is called upon as a matter of urgency, to decisively contain this national embarrassment and bring the perpetrators to book.

Synod also demands that Security Agencies in the country be restructured and adequately equipped to curb this menace. Synod calls on Government to compensate all those affected by these reckless and unjustifiable actions of wanton destruction of lives and property. Synod calls upon all sections of the country, cultures, and sub-cultural groups, and religious groups to work for the peace and unity of the country and avoid putting sectional and sub-cultural group interest above that of the nation. Synod further observed that seeking group advantages over others promotes injustice, hence should be discouraged by all in the common interest of our national peace, unity and progress.

4. CORRUPTION

Synod notes with dismay the unabated presence of corruption in all aspects of our national life. This has hindered Nigeria’s economic growth and created pervasive institutional mismanagements. Synod calls on the three arms of government to reinvigorate the anti corruption agencies, and create barriers which will prevent

people from corrupt practices. Furthermore, past and present corrupt persons should be brought to timely justice, to send a clear message to all.

5. THE STATE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NATION

Synod commends the Federal and some State Governments for the attention given to the rehabilitation and construction of some public utilities, such as the effort at resuscitating the railways and the dredging of waterways. However it is important to make the coast lines of the rivers secure. But Synod also observes with great concern the unceasing decay of other public infrastructure in the nation, such as highways, feeder roads, city roads, etc. Synod calls on Government at all levels to take appropriate and immediate recovery measures to check this decay, as well as provide more infrastructures so as to give the much needed hope and relief to the impoverished and disillusioned citizens of our country.

Specifically Synod urges the Federal Government to ensure that those partnering with her in the delivery of crucial projects such as the whole area of power and the second Niger Bridge expedite delivery.

6. URGENT REVAMPING OF THE ECONOMY

The Church of Nigeria notes the Federal Government efforts at revamping the economy and urges the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency invest more in different sectors of our national life, especially in the whole area of Agriculture, that will accelerate the much needed growth in the economy and provide employment.

7. INDUSTRIAL HARMONY

It has also been observed that our nation has suffered setbacks due to incessant strike actions embarked upon by the organized labour. We therefore call on the Federal and State Governments to honour all agreements with the Labour Unions, particularly on the issue of the minimum wage. This will add value to the life of the Nigerian worker.

Furthermore, Synod calls on the Government to consider having only one body to regulate the salaries of all public officers. This will help to harmonise workers' salaries/wages and guarantee that all categories of public officers are fairly treated. It will also stem the tide of incessant strikes in our country. Synod joins other International Agencies to call on the Federal Government to create an authentic middle class in our nation, to bridge the gap between the super rich and the abject poor. Moreover, Government and ASUU should save Nigerians another nightmare of ASUU strike.

8. NON-INTEREST BANKING

Synod notes with dismay, the ploy by the Central Bank of Nigeria to further engender strife by the use of official government apparatus CBN to champion the cause of one religion in a religiously pluralistic nation. This act is not only misconceived but also contradictory to the spirit and provisions of our National constitution. Synod therefore, calls on the CBN and the Federal Government to make general provisions and guidelines for non-interest banking and allow citizens to pursue their special areas of interest. The CNB should borrow a leaf from the Ministry of Education.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS

Synod recognizes that the enforcement of human rights is an essential element in the administration of justice, but calls on all people of God to beware of the perverse and selfish re-definition of liberal secularism and human rights by some international bodies whose main agenda is to impose unbiblical lifestyles on humanity.

10. DIVINE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

Synod notes with delight the forthcoming Divine Commonwealth Conference (DIVCCON) being organised by the Church of Nigeria from November 7th -11th 2011 and believes it will be a valuable contribution to the much needed Peace and Unity in the country, as prevalent in the Godhead. This then should hasten the manifestation of the environment for the much sought transformation and restoration of the nation. Synod therefore endorses the participation by all.

11. GLOBAL ANGLICAN RELATIONS

This Church is determined to continue to uphold the authority of the Scripture, and the uniqueness and Lordship of Jesus Christ. Synod remains resolute in our decision to uphold the sanctity of male-female marriage, the Historic Faith, and the pre-eminent position of the Bible as the rule for faith and morality.

Synod calls upon our brethren in CAPA, GLOBAL SOUTH and GAFCON to remain faithful to God and be more devoted to the urgency of the Great Commission in the Advent Hope. We strongly believe GAFCON holds the way forward for Orthodox Anglicans, and we will continue to play a leading role in the movement.

12. CONCLUSION – CALL FOR PRAYER

Synod calls for prayers and cooperation with the Federal Government as it honestly believes that this Administration is the transit gate for Nigeria's entry into mature and patriotic nationhood, economic progress, overall development and national rebirth.

This Church is convinced that if Nigeria will turn around from all ungodly ways, turn to God and follow Him, Nigeria shall be revived and all that the locusts have destroyed shall in God's mercy be restored.

"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten and the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm my great army that I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed. – Joel 2:25 -27.

*The Most Revd Nicholas D. Okoh
Primate of All Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

APPENDIX 03

**PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE 10TH GENERAL SYNOD OF THE
CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION) HELD FROM THE
19TH – 23RD OF SEPTEMBER, 2011 AT THE ARCHBISHOP VINING
MEMORIAL CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OBA AKINJOBI ROAD, GRA,
IKEJA, LAGOS.**

My dear people of God.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give all glory, honour and praise to the Almighty God for His mercies and grace which are renewed to us everyday, and for the hope of salvation which we have in His Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The 10th General Synod of our Church was held under the protection of the Almighty God at Archbishop Vining Memorial Church Cathedral, Ikeja in the Diocese of Lagos West from 19th – 23rd September, 2011. A total of 164 Bishops, 306 Clergymen, and 614 lay members of our Church were present (including the women delegates). Led by the Holy Spirit, we reflected on the theme: “Restoring The Years The Locusts Have Eaten...” (Joel 2:25-27) Like the nation of Israel in the days of Prophet Joel, our country has been under a very serious attack by locusts which have inflicted great devastation, decay and harm to every part of our national life – social, economic, political, spiritual etc, the result of which include growing level of insecurity, deplorable state of infrastructure, high degree of moral decadence, and the prevalence of corruption.

The Church, the family and the individual Nigerian are not spared from these attacks as most plans and programmes for the improvement of life and living in the nation have only succeeded in the breach. Indeed an enemy has done this! However, the goodnews is that our most gracious and merciful God has plans to restore unto us the years these locusts have eaten. His voice which clearly came to us through sermons, bible studies and other presentations in this synod reassured us of His promise to make our nation, church, families and individuals the envy of others. Yes, He is set to usher in a time of refreshing. Nevertheless, genuine repentance, confession of sin and determination to enthrone righteousness are the preconditions for the fulfilment of this divine promise. We therefore charge you in the name of God to commit yourselves to a life of obedience, holiness and trust.

Let us endeavour to rid ourselves of all those things, attitude and behaviours that offend God, and strive daily to put on righteousness so that these promises will manifest.

It is an incontrovertible fact that return to true spirituality is the only condition that will engender this restoration. In order to bring about this, our Church is putting together an international conference tagged: Divine Commonwealth Conference (DIVCCON) which will hold at the National Christian Centre, Abuja from 7th – 11th November, 2011. We call on all to pray for its success. We should do well to remind ourselves that every Anglican is baptised to be an evangelist. We propose by the grace of God to equip every lay person in our Church to fulfill this time-honoured divine mandate. May we also implore you to be steadfast in prayer for our nation and her leaders, most especially our President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, that God will give them the grace to overcome the various challenges buffeting our nation now, and so that under them, we may attain greater heights in all that is good, noble and excellent.

Brethren, it is a fact of life that quarrels, bickering, divisions and strife hinder growth and development. They also impede the progress of the spread of the gospel and ridicules the Church of God before the unbelievers. May we therefore passionately appeal to all the areas in our Church that still have unresolved problems and disagreements to do everything possible to sink their differences and allow peace to reign.

Our Church is determined more than ever to uphold the authority of the Scripture, and the uniqueness and Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our resolve to relate and partner only with groups and organizations that have a common mind in this matter is not negotiable. We urge you all to always uphold the worldwide Anglican

Communion in prayer. We must be on the alert to prevent the insidious attempts to legitimize sin in the name of human rights as being promoted by some international organizations.

Beloved in the Lord, we deeply appreciate and are encouraged by the love and support we have received from you since our assumption of office as Primate. The success of the St. Matthias Day Special Collection bears eloquent testimony to this. We have plans to put in place programmes and projects that will be of mutual benefits to both the Church and the society. In no distant time, we shall unfold our programme for our youth and disadvantaged brethren, and how we can diversify our method of evangelism in keeping with the challenges of modern technology. We encourage our youth to continue to keep faith with the Anglican Church and remain steadfast in supporting and building it up. May we remind ourselves once more that the Anglican Youth Fellowship is for the youth and not for grandfathers and grandmothers! It remains an organization for people under the age of 40 years. Our youth must be given the opportunity to develop and grow in our Church.

We condole with the families of all those who lost their dear ones in recent mishaps that befell the nation especially the bombings in various locations and institutions in the country, victims of unrests especially in Jos and Maiduguri, and the youth corpors who died in post-election violence in various parts of the country. We also remember the victims of flood disasters in Lagos and Ibadan as well as other types of occurrences. We remember particularly the families of a former Dean of our Church, Archbishop of the old Province II and Bishop on the Niger, the Most Revd. Jonathan A Onyemelukwe, the prolocutor of the house of clergy, Ven. Barr. Alex Adichie, and the Chancellor of Ogbomoso Diocese, Hon Justice Ruth Gbemisola Oyetunde. May God be pleased to grant their souls eternal rest and their families the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

We are deeply grateful to the Bishop and good the people of the Diocese of Lagos West for setting a new standard in hosting our national meetings. We pray that their labour of love will attract God's blessings and favour.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

*Most Rev. Nicholas D. Okoh
Primate of All Nigeria (Anglican Communion).*

APPENDIX 04



THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA

(Anglican Communion)

THE MOST NICHOLAS D. OKOH

Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria.

COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION) HELD FROM 14 - 18 FEBRUARY, 2012 AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. FAITH, AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of the Most Rev. Nicholas D. Okoh, Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria (Anglican Communion) with his wife Mrs. Nkasiobi Okoh, President of the Women and Girl's Organisations, met at the Cathedral Church of St. Faith, Awka, Anambra State, from February 14 - 18, 2012. One hundred and thirty-eight bishops, one hundred and thirty-five clergymen and eighty members of the house of laity were present. The Most Reverend Christian Efobi, Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of the Niger and the Rt. Rev'd Alex Ibezim, Bishop of the Diocese of Awka welcomed the delegates. Goodwill messages were given by His Excellency Mr. Peter Obi, Governor of Anambra State, His Excellency, the Right Honourable, Emeka Ihedioha, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, retired Primate of The Church of Nigeria, Most Revd Dr. Peter J. Akinola (ably represented by the Rt. Revd Emmanuel Adekunle) and the retired Bishop of the Diocese of Awka and former Dean of the Church of Nigeria, Most Reverend Maxwell Anikwenwa.

The theme of the meeting was 'Pressing on towards the goal' (Philippians 3:13-14), and at the conclusion, the Standing Committee issued this Communiqué:

2. PRESSING ON TOWARDS THE GOAL

The Apostle Paul had lost everything. He was despised by his old associates and feared by his new friends. He counted all of his earthly possessions as worth nothing compared with the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Instead of being discouraged he forgot all that was behind and pressed on toward the goal for which God had called him heavenward. He is a wonderful testimony and encouragement for the many Nigerian Christians who have lost everything in recent months. He is also a reminder to all Christians who must avoid situations that can choke life out of them, make them

unfruitful and distracted from their focus on the Kingdom of God. Our only true security is to be found in our relationship with the living God.

3. COMMENDATION

The Standing Committee commends the Government on efforts towards realizing an uninterrupted power supply in the country.

The Standing Committee commends the Government on efforts to rehabilitate railroads across the country and build new ones.

The Standing Committee Commends Government's efforts to enhance the production and quality of local Rice, as a step in the right direction, as this will help to provide employment and restore the respect of our country and self sustainability.

The Standing Committee commends the Government for trying to check the corruption in the oil industry and calls upon Government to ensure that all those found guilty are punished accordingly.

4. CONCERNS ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY

The Standing Committee of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) hereby reiterates its call on the Federal Government to take all necessary measures to provide adequate security for all Nigerians and urgently reiterates that call. It also strongly urges all relevant law enforcement agencies to ensure that all those responsible for this current terror campaign are quickly arrested and brought to justice.

The Standing Committee encourages all Churches to provide robust security arrangements for worshippers.

We remained committed, however, to the principle that all Nigerians should be free to live and work and worship in any part of our great country.

The Standing Committee joined with the Primate in praying that God would rescue Nigeria from disunity, insecurity, economic afflictions and political dysfunctions.

5. FUEL SUBSIDY CRISIS

The Standing Committee calls on the Federal Government to show more than a cursory interest in the plans of States and local Governments on how the money accruing to them from oil subsidy would be spent.

The Standing Committee calls on Government to provide palliatives for the people before contemplating total removal of subsidy anytime.

6. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Considering the divine mandate to “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it”, the Standing Committee calls upon Government to do something quickly to diversify the economy and save the country from unwholesome dependence on oil. Government should encourage Nigerians to live responsibly by paying income tax whether in Government service or not. To stem the current dependence on oil as a singular source of national income and the importance of increasing employment and providing additional revenue, the Standing Committee encourages Nigerians to establish agricultural enterprises to achieve these goals.

7. DIVINE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE (DIVCCON)

The Standing Committee was grateful for the initiative that led to the Divine Commonwealth Conference held in Abuja in November 2011. We believe that this conference was an important demonstration of our desire to engage in the complex issues confronting Nigeria from the standpoint of Biblical truth and Christian faith. We were encouraged by the overwhelming response to the conference, the powerful blessing that resulted and support the plan to make this an annual gift to our nation. We note that the 2012 Edition of DIVCCON will be held in Abuja during the week of November 5th.

8. RENEWED COMMITMENT FOR NATIONAL EVANGELISM

The Standing Committee acknowledges that we have been commissioned to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” We believe that this mandate offers the best hope for the future of our nation and indeed of our world. We therefore recommit ourselves to the work of grace filled evangelism throughout our nation assured of God’s favor if we obey God’s call.

9. CONCLUSION

“... Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14).



The Most Revd Nicholas D. Okoh
Primate of All Nigeria

APPENDIX 05



THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA

(Anglican Communion)

THE MOST REVD. NICHOLAS D. OKOH
Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA HELD AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. FAITH AWKA FROM 14TH -18TH FEBRUARY 2012

My Dear People of God,

Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord¹. Amen.

The Standing Committee of our Church met under the protection of the Almighty God at the Cathedral Church of St. Faith Awka in the Diocese of Awka, Anambra State from Tuesday 14th – Saturday 18th February 2012. Our thoughts and reflections within this period centered on the Theme: **Pressing on Towards the Goal (Phil 3:13,14)**. We rejoice at the new insight, fresh inspirations and deeper understanding of the Word of God with which the Holy Spirit nourished us at the gathering.

The message came more forcefully reminded us that the Christian life is a race and a pilgrimage. It is fraught with many dangers and challenges. It is a race that has a goal, a target and a focus. Our goal is to be with our Saviour Jesus Christ in the Kingdom which He has gone to prepare for us. It is to spend eternity with God at the second coming of Christ. We should therefore keep this in focus and vigorously press on to it.

There are some things in our society today that tend to distract us from pressing on to this goal – the care of the World, demonic forces, evil customs and traditions, outright, persecution, poverty, temptations, ethnicity, and more recently the growing level of insecurity in our land. No doubt, the menace of the Boko Haram sect, as well as the effects of the removal of subsidy on petrol tempt not a few Christians to give up in the race. We urge that we more than ever renew our faith and commitment not to fall by the way side because it is only those who persevere to the end that will be saved².

God is not unmindful of the prevailing the situation in our nation. As a community of the faithful, we strongly believe that God is working His purpose out and surely behind the frowning providence hides His smiling face. We need to avail ourselves of the enormous spiritual resources that are ours through diligent study of the Bible and fervent prayers, knowing quite well that "... we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places".³

¹ 2nd Peter 1:2

² Mtt. 24:13

³ Eph. 6:12

APPENDIX 06

Archbishop of Canterbury announces he is stepping down at the end of the year

The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams has today revealed that he is to step down from his role at the end of the year.

His decision comes after 10 years in the post and after accepting the position of Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

In a statement issued from Lambeth Palace, the Primate of All England said, “It has been an immense privilege to serve as Archbishop of Canterbury over the past decade, and moving on has not been an easy decision. During the time remaining there is much to do, and I ask your prayers and support in this period and beyond.

“I am abidingly grateful to all those friends and colleagues who have so generously supported Jane and myself in these years, and all the many diverse parishes and communities in the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion that have brought vision, hope and excitement to my own ministry. I look forward, with that same support and inspiration, to continuing to serve the Church’s mission and witness as best I can in the years ahead.”

The Archbishop is the Focus of Unity for the Anglican Communion. He is convener and host of the [Lambeth Conference](#), [President of the Anglican Consultative Council](#) (ACC), and Chair of the [Primates’ meeting](#). In these roles he travels extensively throughout the Anglican Communion, visiting provinces and dioceses, and supporting and encouraging the witness of the Church in very diverse contexts. As primus inter pares among the bishops, he has a special concern for those in episcopal ministry.

Following the announcement, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion Canon Kenneth Kearon wrote to members of the Standing Committee informing them of the decision.

He asked them to remember Archbishop Rowan and his family during this time of transition and reflected on the Primate’s time in office saying it had “coincided with a period of turmoil, change and development in the Anglican Communion, and his careful leadership, deeply rooted in spirituality and theology, has strengthened and inspired us all in the Communion during this time.”

Archbishop Rowan’s announcement means that ACC-15 in New Zealand during the last quarter of this year will be his last as President of the ACC.

The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu said he was saddened to hear the news: “Our partnership in the gospel over the past six years has been the most creative period of my ministry. It has been life-giving to have led missions together, gone on retreats and prayed together. In his company I have drunk deeply from the wells of God’s mercy and love and it has all been joyful. He is a real brother to me in Christ.

“The last decade has been a challenging time for the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. Thankfully, Archbishop Rowan is a remarkable and gifted leader who has strengthened the bonds of affection.”