

2019 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

DIOCESAN ANTHEM

- 1. AMICHI DIOCESE, PEOPLE OF GOD,
THE SHEEP OF HIS FLOCK LIFT UP YOUR
VOICES,
REJOICE, REJOICE, REJOICE,
FOR JESUS CHRIST IS OUR SURE ANCHOR,
WE SHALL STAND FOR HIM.**

- 2. AMICHI DIOCESE,
GOD’S OWN DIOCESE,
WHOSOEVER LIVES AND LABOURS
IN CHRIST JESUS,
DIVINE CROWN IS WON,
ARISE, MARCH ON, MARCH ON,
MARCH ON, PEOPLE OF GOD SOULS
TO WIN- THE HOLY SCRIPTURES UPHOLD,
AND RECEIVE E-TER-NAL CROWN.**

- 3. AMICHI DIOCESE,
“JESUS CHRIST OUR SURE ANCHOR!!”
IESUS CHRISTUS NOSTRA!
FUNDAMENTA-FIRMA.**

SYNOD PRAYER

Almighty and Everlasting God, the Fountain of all wisdom, and the giver of every Grace, grant we beseech thee that we may all recognize your various endowments and spiritual gifts upon all of us, and dutifully and sincerely utilize them both in your Church, and society for the advancement of your kingdom here on earth and the betterment of humanity where ever we find ourselves in this time of our mortal life in the name of your only begotten son, and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREETINGS AND COURTESIES

Your Grace, The Most Revd. Prof. G.I. N. Okpala, Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of the Niger, other Revered Archbishops, and Bishops of our Church, here present,

The Executive Governor of Anambra State, His Excellency, Chief Willie M. Obiano.

The Chancellor of our Diocese, Hon Justice Gloria Anulude and the legal officers of the Diocese,

The president of Mother's Union, Women's Guild and Girls' Guild, Dame Nkem Ikeakor,

Venerable Archdeacons and Wives,

Other Brethren of the Clergy and their Wives,

Diocesan officials

The president, Diocesan Council of Knights and the Gallant Knights and Ladies,

The Royal Fathers and Traditional Rulers,

Bishop's Nominees,

Distinguished Synod Delegates,

The Chairman of both Diocesan and Local Organizing Committees of the Synod,

The Academia,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with a heart full of Praise and gratitude to the Almighty God that I sincerely welcome all of you to the Second Session of the Fourth Synod of our Diocese being hosted by the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi. Your presence here today is a great source of Joy and encouragement to us in numerous dimensions. We return all Glory, Honour, Adoration, Worship and Praise to the awesome and Almighty God who has graciously spared our lives to witness this Synod. May this same God continue to bless you and establish you in righteousness in Jesus Christ Name.

THE SYNOD RESOURCE PERSONS:

THE SYNOD MAIN SPEAKER:

Our synod main expositor and speaker this year is our father and brother Ven. Prof. Chinedu Ositadinma Nebo. He was born on June 3, 1952. He hails from Udi town, in Enugu State.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

1. B.Sc; (Highest Honours): Mining Engineering, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, U.S.A., May 1978.
- ii. M.Sc, Metallurgical Engineering: December, 1979.
- iii. Ph. D.; Materials Engineering and Science: South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, U.S.A. December 1986.
- iv. Member COREN.

ACADEMIC HONOURS AND DISTINCTIONS:

- i. Highest Honours Graduate, 1978 [First Class Honours
- ii. Won University-wide prize for outstanding student, 1978.
- iii. Received various Post Graduate Fellowship, 1979-1986.

- iv. Listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges 1977/1978, Edition.
- v. Member, PiMu Epsilon-USA National Honours Mathematical society.
- vi. Member, Tau Beta Pi-USA National Honours Engineering society.
- vii. Won Federal Government of Nigeria Scholarship for Ph.D students in the U.S.A., 1983 for Ph.D students.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- i. Fellow, Nigeria Society of Engineers.
- ii. Fellow, Material Society of Nigeria.
- iii. Fellow, Nigerian Metallurgical Society.
- iv. Member, American Society for Metals.
- v. Member, Society of Mining, Metallurgical, and Exploration, AIME, USA.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO OTHER BODIES:

- 1. External Assessor for professorial Chairs in at least four Federal Universities.
- ii. External Examiner, Ph.D and M.Eng Graduates, Federal University of Technology, Akure, 2002-2005.
- iii. External Examiner, B.Eng Graduates, Federal University of Technology, Akure, 2001-2003.
- iv. External Examiner, Federal University of Technology, Owerri 1999-2001.
- v. External Examiner, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, 2000.
- vi. External Examiner, Federal Polytechnic, Idah, 1994-1997.
- vii. Visiting Professor, Department of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, University of Reno, U.S.A., 1995-1996.
- viii. Visiting Lecturer, Department of Metallurgical Engineering, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, 1983.

- ix. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, 2000-2004.
- x. Professor of Metallurgical and Material Engineering, 1996-2004.

Ven. Prof. Chinedu .O. Nebo was the Vice Chancellor of University of Nigeria, Nsukka 2004-2009. He was also the Vice Chancellor of Federal University Oye-Ekiti, 2011-2013.

He was also the Chairman, National University Commission's National Committee for setting up minimum Standards for post graduate Engineering programs in all Nigerian Universities and Co-Chairman for the Benchmark and Minimum Academic standards for all Undergraduate Engineering Programs in Universities between 2004 and 2008.

In 2006, he received a National Award as Best Vice Chancellor in Nigeria by the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities.

In 2007, he received Award of Best Vice Chancellor from the National Association of Nigerian Students.

In 2008, the All African Students Union based in Accra, Ghana gave him Award as Outstanding Vice Chancellor.

In 2014, the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) gave him an Award for Meritorious Service.

In 2013, he was listed among the 50 most Influential Figures in Power for East and West Africa by ESI Africa.

In 2014, he was also listed among the 60 Most Influential Figures in for Power East and West Africa by ESI Africa.

NATIONAL HONOURS:

- i. CON: Commander of the Order of Niger-Conferred by the President of the Federation Republic of Nigeria (2014).
- ii. OON: Officer of the Order of the Niger-conferred by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2009.

iii. NPOM: National Productivity Order of Merit Award-conferred on him by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, (2012).

Prof. Nebo was appointed Federal Minister for Power in 2013 by His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. With great joy and satisfaction we welcome again this year Ven. Prof. Chinedu O. Nebo as the main speaker and Expositor to the Second Session of the fourth Synod of our Diocese. He was our Chief Speaker last Year, and following popular demand, we are convinced to bring him back this year to continue the great and impactful ministrations and Exposition he started last year. You are once again highly Welcome Sir.

[ii] THE BIBLE STUDY FACILITATOR:

By the special Grace of the Almighty God, we have as our Bible Study facilitator for this year's Synod, our brother and very good longstanding friend, Prof. Emmanuel Okoye. Prof. Emmanuel Okoye was born on 25th December 1965. He hails from Nibo in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State. He is a professor of Accountancy with the Department of Accountancy, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. His area of specialization is Public Sector Accounting, Forensic accounting and auditing. He is married to one wife and they have five wonderful Children.

INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED WITH DATES:

- | | | |
|------|--|------------|
| I. | Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka | 1996-2000. |
| II. | Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka | 1992-1994. |
| III. | Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka | 1994-1995. |
| IV. | Nigeria College of Accountancy, Jos | 1998-1999. |
| V. | Anambra State University of Technology | 1986-1990. |
| VI. | Comprehensive Secondary School, Nawfia | 1980-1985. |

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS WITH DATES:

- a) Ph.D. (Accountancy) -2000.
- b) CNA (Professional) -1999.
- c) MBA (Accountancy) -1995.
- d) MBA (Banking and Finance) -1992.
- e) B.sc. (Accountancy) - 1990.
- f) WASC -1985.

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- I. Member – Nigeria Institute of Management (AMNIM) 1996.
- II. Member- Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN).
- III. Member- Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN).
- IV. Member- Institute of Strategic Management. (ISM).
- V. Member- Institute of Industrial Administration of Nigeria (IIAN).
- VI. Member –Strategic Institute for Natural Resources and Human development (SINRHD).
- VII. Member- Institute of Fraud Examiner (IFE).
- VIII. Professional Member – African Business School (ABS).
- IX. Member – International Institute of Certified Forensic Investigation professional (IICFIP) U. S.A.
- X. Member – Society for Forensic Accounting and Fraud Prevention (SFAFP).
- XI. Member – the Academy of management of Nigeria (AMN).
- XII. Member – Chattered Institute of Forensic and Investigative Auditors in Nigeria. (CIFIA).

FELLOW:

- Xiii. Fellow –Institute of Strategic Management.
- xiv. Fellow – Institute of Industrial Administration of Nigeria.
- xv. Fellow – Strategic Institute for Natural Resources and Human Development.
- Xvi. Fellow – Certified Institute of Public Administrators England and Wales.

- Xvi. Fellow – Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN).
- Xvii. Fellow - National Accounting Association.
- xviii. Fellow – Society for Forensic Accounting and Fraud Prevention.
- xix. Fellow – Chartered Institute of Forensic and Investigative Auditors in Nigeria.
- xx. Fellow- Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN).

SUPERVISION OF POST GRADUATE STUDENTS:

- a) Supervised over 200 MBA Students.
- b) Supervised Over 75 MSC Students.
- c) Supervised & Co-Supervised (44) Forty four Ph.D. Students.

Above all these numerous and glorious academic feats achieved, Prof. Emma I. Okoye is a seasoned child of God with Character and integrity. We worked very closely with him during our undergraduate days in the Evangelism wing of Nigeria Fellowship of Evangelical Students (NIFES) between 1988 and 1990. We are very happy to welcome Prof. Emma Okoye in our midst as our Synod Bible Study Facilitator for this year.

THE VENUE OF THE SYNOD – AN ABRIDGED HISTORY.

Before the advent of Christianity in Amichi, the people of Amichi worshipped multiplicity of gods and goddesses with their attendant pagan practices at different times and seasons. The only two major deities worshipped in common by all pagans in Amichi were Ezemewu Ochiogu (War God) established by Ezelchinwa for himself and Eke (goddess) established in honour of his wife. Such was the spiritual situation in Amichi until towards the close of the first decade of the twentieth Century, when the wind of change which brought about the introduction of Christianity started to blow in the town.

The initial attempt to evangelize and introduce Christianity to Amichi town were made in 1909 when one Okafor Aguzie (Later baptized and

Christened Abraham) led the first batch of enthusiastic citizens to the Church Missionary Society (CMS) headquarters at St. Mary's C. M. S. Church, Uruagu, Nnewi where they embraced Christianity and consequently brought it to Amichi. Among members of this first batch of Christian converts from Amichi were:

1. Okoli Ezike – later Baptized and Christened –Peter Ezike.
2. Eke-erebe Onyekonwu – Later Batized as David Onyekonwu.
3. Okeke Okonkwo – later baptized as James Okonkwo
4. Ekemezie Igwebuikwe – later baptized as Richard Igwebuikwe.
5. Nwike Onyeorie - later baptized as Joseph Onyeorie.

There were other converts who were not baptized before the above named baptized converts returned to Amichi in 1911. They were: Umeanulude Ezike Igbokwe, Ajajiafor Nzekwe, Okwumuo Okafor and two women namely Akuezuonu and Nwanyiorie.

As there was no Church building at that time, their regular Church activities were held in the house of their Leader, Mr. Abraham Okafor Aguzie of Ebenator Udene, Amichi. As these early Christians made more and more converts, evangelization of their neighborhoods started to spread to other towns like Osumenyi in 1912, Ezinifite in 1913, Akwaihedi and Utuh in 1914, Ebenator and Ekwulumili in 1915 and Unubi in 1920. Consequently, there arose the need for a Church Teacher to be posted to Amichi. In 1913, Moses Udemezue from Edoji Uruagu, Nnewi was posted to Amichi as the first Church Teacher to organize and manage the Church and the CMS School in the Town. The posting of the resident Church Teacher to oversee the Church and the also the School in 1913 helped to swell the number of School “Boys” so that by the year 1921, the School enrolment had been steadily on the increase in the hands of Mr. Moses Udemezue’s successors. The School later became Amichi Central School. The first intakes into the school were elderly “Boys” who were indigenous converts among whom was Moses Ntika who became the First indigenous Church Teacher by the end of 1913,

Okafor Aguzie donated a piece of land on which the first mud Church building with thatch roof was erected.

This became a permanent worship center for the converts who were increasing in number and strength. However, this Church building was set ablaze by irate pagans due to misunderstanding they had with the converts in 1918. Other land donors included Chief Awugosi Okolimba, Chief Ezike Okonkwo, Ububudu Family and Okoli Ojukwu Family. Unable to be deterred by the persecutions from the pagan adherents, the converts introduced open-air preaching and campaigns to various quarters in Amichi for the purpose of reaching out to the unsaved and for membership drive. They set aside any Sunday that fell on Nkwo market week day (Uka Nkwo) as the day for powerful open-air evangelism hence it was called “Okwuchukwu Uka Nkwo” or “Ozioma Uka Nkwo” Under Udemezue’s successors. The practice of “Okwuchukwu Uka Nkwo” was so well organized in spite of pagan conflicts and confrontations that Christian influence over Amichi and neighboring communities grew exponentially. In 1916, the Church in Amichi was named St. Andrew’s Church and dedicated when Mr. Jeremaih Efobi was the Church Teacher. There was also the first baptism of some converts in the new Church that same year. Those who receive the sacrament of baptism that year were Abraham Okafor Aguzie, Peter Okoli Ezike, James Okeke Okonkwo, Joseph Nwike Onyeorie, David Eke-rebe Onyekonwu, and Timothy Obimma Onyekonwu. They were all baptized by The Revd. S. Spencer who was the officiating priest.

As Christianity grew continuously, St. Andrew’s Church, Amichi founded a Church extension known as All Saints Church Ogbodi in the Valley of Ochi stream in 1949. This first child of St. Andrew’s Church, Amichi was officially established on All Saints’ day, November 1 the same year hence the name , All Saints’ Church. Though the first Church building was set ablaze by over-bearing and over-zealous pagans, yet the Christian converts were not deterred from spreading the Gospel. As a result of their resilient zeal and undaunted commitment they renewed their efforts to rebuild their burnt Church. They started a new thatch building

and completed it in 1924. In 1925, Mr. J. O. Maduewesi from Nnewi was posted as a new Church Teacher. In 1930, preparation for the third Church Building started in earnest at St. Andrew's Church, Amichi. By dint of hard work, the building was completed and dedicated by His Lordship, Rt. Revd. Bertram Lasbery, the then Bishop on the Niger Diocese in 1933.

As a result of the achievements made so far by the St. Andrew's Church and Central School, Amichi, the Church was made Parish in the then St. Simon's Church District, Nnobi in 1957. The new Parish comprised of Churches in Amichi, Ekwulumili, Unubi, Osumenyi, Ebenator, Utuh, Akwaihedi, Ogbodi. The pioneer Parish Priest was Revd. E. A. Ofoma of blessed memory, from Nnewi.

With the creation of St. Andrew's Parish in 1957, the coast was clear for faster steps towards the request for and the creation of Amichi District in the Diocese on the Niger. The Men's General Meeting and Women's General Meeting were progressing steadily in co-operation with other branches at home and abroad to press further for realization of this noble objective. In 1962, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Amichi became a district in the Diocese on the Niger. The District Comprised of nine Churches that made up St. Andrew's Church Parish. In the same 1962, the Men's General Meeting took unanimous decision that the old Church building was due for change. A Church Building Committee was constituted. Members were drawn from both home and abroad branches of St. Andrew's Church with the District Superintendent, Revd. C. U. Okpala as the Chairman.

The Nigeria Civil war disrupted the building project in 1967. However, the project was complete after the war and dedicated on 23rd December, 1973 by His Lordship, Rt. Revd. L. M. Uzodike, the then Bishop on the Niger.

Apart from All Saints' Church, Ogbodi, St. Andrew's Amichi founded other feeder Churches which are today fully established Churches, Parishes and Archdeaconries like St. Philip's Church, Eziana which originally started as Sunday evening Service Center and Kindergarten in

1954. St. Philip's Church was upgraded to a feeder Church by Late Revd. Canon I. C. Okafor in 1978. The foundation stone of the church was laid on 28th march, 1984 by the late Rt. Revd. Jonathan A. Onyemelukwe. St. Philip's Church is today an Archdeaconry Headquarters for Amichi Archdeaconry. St. Peter's church Umudim Amichi is the third offshoot of St. Andrew's Church, Amichi. It was named St. Peter's Church by then Bishop on the Niger, Rt. Revd. J. A. Onyemelukwe in 1991. Mr. Emma Ollisaji was the first Church Teacher posted to the Church.

Revd. Ernest G. Ezumezu (now late Ven.) was posted as the first resident Priest to the Church in 1998. St. Peter's Church Umudim Amichi is today the headquarters of Amichi West Archdeaconry with a wonderful Church edifice which was dedicated on the 4th January, 2014 by His Lordship, The Rt. Revd. Ephraim O. Ikeakor.

Christ Church, Afube- Amichi was the nest Church extension of St. Andrew's Church, Amichi. It was also founded as a feeder Church and the foundation stone was laid on 25th April, 2000 by His Lordship, Rt. Revd. G. I. N. Okpala, the Bishop of Nnewi Diocese. The Church was dedicated on completion in 2013 by His Lordship, Rt. Revd. E. O. Ikeakor, Bishop, Diocese of Amichi. (Anglican Communion).

Church of Divine Compassion Obiofia Amichi started as Ntakara School (kindergarten) and children's Church Service Center in the fifties. As the Church was growing, the Archdeacon of then Amichi Archdeaconry, Ven. J. O. Obazie approved the posting of a Church Teacher to the outstation. Hence Mr. Gabriel Okpalakunne (now Revd.) was the first Church Teacher posted to the Church. Today Church of Divine Compassion is a full Church Parish with resident Priest.

The latest offshoot of St. Andrew's Church, Amichi, now cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi, is St. Barnabas Church Isoke- Ndida Amichi. This dream of many generations to have a Church in Isoke-Ndida axis of Amichi was realizes in 2014 through the instrumentality of the Cathedral Administrator, Ven. Chukwuebuka Chukwuemeka. Isoke-Ndida was used as a Service Center for Children and the aged. The inaugural Church Service was held at the Church on 22nd March, 2015, which was

officiated by Ven. Chukwuebuka Chukwuemeka .On Sunday 14th October, 2018, His Lordship, The Rt. Revd. Ephraim .O. Ikeakor in the company of Mama Amichi Diocese, Dame Nkem Ikeakor worshipped in the new Church in which occasion the Church was Christened St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Amichi by the Bishop.

Due to the tremendous achievement recorded by St. Andrew's District the members began to seek for elevation to Archdeaconry status. An application to that effect was sent in January 1990 to His Lordship, Rt. Revd. Dr. J. A. Onyemelukwe. After due consideration, the Bishop gave a favourable reply to their application which led to the creation of Amichi Archdeaconry on 14th February, 1992. The Archdeaconry was inaugurated and Ven. L. M. Enemuo was collated and installed the first Archdeacon. After Ven. Enemuo's tenure, the following Archdeacons served after him as Archdeacons at very times

1. Ven. J. O. Uzuegbunam -1997.
2. Ven. Onyekwelu Obazie - 1998 -2001.
3. Ven. I. I. Nwose - 2002 -2003.
4. Ven. Silas O. C. Onuigbo- 2004 -2007.
5. Ven. Sam Anowai - 2008.
6. Ven. Ephraim O. Umeh - 2009.
7. Ven. David Nonyelum - 2009-2012.
8. Revd. Canon Patrick Onwuzulike - 2012-2014.(Administrator)
9. Ven. Chukwuebuka Chukwuemeka - 2014- date.

In 2005, an idea for creation of Diocese of Amichi was conceived by few sons of St. Andrew's Church, Amichi. This led to the formation of a special purpose forum where opinion and suggestions regarding this project was constituted. Members of the committee invested a lot of their time and resources to ensure that the project is a reality. By the special Grace of God, Diocese of Amichi was created out of Nnewi Diocese, and was inaugurated on the 13th January, 2009.

The inauguration therefore raised the Status of St. Andrew's Church, Amichi, to the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi. The history of this Cathedral cannot be very adequately completed without mentioning some prominent members of the Cathedral like Sir Christian I. Nwosu, Sir Levi Chidolue, Sir Ernest Eriobu, Mr. Izundu Maduneme, Sir Ephraim Okeke (Late) Chief Sir Emmanuel Okoli, Chief Sir Emmanuel Umeohia, Sir Prof. U. C. Nzewi, Sir Surv. T. C. Ugwunne, Ven. E. C. Nnoli. Mr. Edwin Enemu, Sir Jeff Okeke, Dr. Obumneme Nnoli and the entire leadership of Women Home and Abroad Meeting who also played very great and wonderful roles in taking the Cathedral to the height it is today. Under the status as a Cathedral, St. Andrew's Church had witnessed a lot of transformations and developments among these are the new Cathedral Vicarage. This project was nursed and started by Ven. David Nonyelum continued under the leadership of Revd. Canon Patrick Onwuzurike, and completed during the tenure of Ven. Chukwuebuka Chukwuemeka. The project was executed through the financial contributions of members of the cathedral and completed with the huge loan of thirteen million naira (₦13m) given by the Diocese through His Lordship, The Rt. Revd. Ephraim O. Ikeakor which still remain unpaid. The new Vicarage was dedicated on Wednesday 11th October, 2017 by the Rt. Revd . E. O. Ikeakor, Bishop of Diocese of Amichi. Within this period, Mr. Ebere Ezeliora sponsored the interlocking of the whole Cathedral Compound; Mr. Izundu Maduneme sponsored the installation of all the handrails in the Cathedral Gallery. Sir T. C. Ugwunne sponsored the painting of the externals of the Cathedral and the fence. A member of the Cathedral who does not want his name to be mentioned sponsored the roofing of the new Vicarage. Sir Prof. U. C. Nzewi mobilized extensively and also contributed alongside other members of the Cathedral to the completion of the new Cathedral vicarage. The Cathedral just hosted the tenth anniversary celebration of the Diocese of Amichi and tenth consecration anniversary of The Rt. Revd. Ephraim O. Ikeakor from Monday 7th – Sunday 13th January, 2019. The Cathedral

Church of St. Andrew Amichi to the Glory of God has produced a good number of Clergymen, among whom are:

Ven. Ekemeka Nnoli, Ven. Charles Nnoli, Revd. Canon Chuka Nwosu, Revd. Prof. Chuks Aniebue, Revd. B.S. C. Okoli, Revd. Wilson Ekenta(Late), and others.

This is the fourth time this Church is hosting Diocesan Synod – once in the Diocese On the Niger, once in Nnewi Diocese and twice in the Diocese of Amichi, 2010 and 2019. May the Almighty God continue to build the Church in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHURCH OF NIGERIA NEWS AND EVENTS

1. STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Church of Nigeria Standing Committee Meeting of September was held at St. Peter’s Cathedral, Minna, in the Diocese of Minna from Monday 17th –Friday 21st September 2018. The theme of the meeting was **“God Is Our Refuge and Strength”** (Psalm 46:1). The February edition of the Standing Committee Meeting was held from Monday 4th –Friday 8th February, 2019 at the Cathedral Church of St, Andrew Warri, Diocese of Warri, Province of Bendel in Delta State. The theme was **“The Lord is My Shephard”**(Psalm 23:1). The two meetings were indeed very refreshing and Spiritually reinvigorating. We appreciate the Dioceses of Minna and Warri respectively for their sacrifices in ensuring wonderful hosting of the standing committee meetings. May the Almighty God reward them abundantly in Jesus Name.

2. 2019 ANNUAL EPISCOPAL RETREAT

The 2019 Bishop’s annual retreat was held at the ibru Center Agbarhator from January 7th-11th, 2019 with the theme **“The integrity of the Church of Nigeria today and tomorrow”**. We appreciate our Primate for always bringing out themes that challenge the Church Leadership for Spiritual and administrative repositioning and optimal productivity.

3. RETIREMENT

Within the year under review, the following Bishops retired joyfully at the attainment of retirement age of 70 years.

- a) The Most Revd. Dr. Segun Adeyemi – Kwara Diocese.
- b) The Most Revd. Dr. Ephraim A. Ademowo –Lagos Diocese
- c) The Most Revd. Ignatius C. Kattey – Niger-Delta North Diocese.
- d) The Rt. Revd. Peter Onekpen - Diocese of Ika.
- e) The Most Revd. Dr. G. L. Lasebikan - Diocese of Ondo.
- f) The Rt. Revd. Prof. Evans J. Ibeagha – Diocese of Nike.
- g) The Rt. Revd. Philip Adeyemo – Diocese of Omu-aran.

4. TRANSITION TO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:

Some Bishops and Bishop’s wives joined the Church triumphant within this one year. They included:

- I. The Rt. Revd. Joshua E. Ogunele – Bishop of the Diocese on the Coast.
- II. Dr. Mrs. Dorcas Ajayi – wife of Bishop of Pankshin Diocese.
- III. Lady Christie Onyeibor – wife of retired Bishop of Abakiliki Diocese.
- IV. Mrs. Ajiri. O. Emamezi – Wife of the Bishop of Western Izon Diocese.
- V. Mrs. Lois Zhumbes – Wife of the Bishop of Bukuru Diocese.

5. ELECTION AND CONSECRATIONS:

The following Bishops were elected and also consecrated within the last one year

- i. Rt. Revd. Chukwuma Opara – Diocese of Owerri.
- ii. Rt. Revd. Jezreel Vandeh – Diocese of Zakibiam.
- iii. Rt. Revd. Godfrey I. Ekpensi – Diocese of Ika.

They were consecrated on Friday 16th November, 2018 at St. Bartholomew's Cathedral Kubwa and have been enthroned in their Dioceses and Sees.

Also elected and consecrated include:

- iv. The Rt. Revd. Joshua .S. Onyinlola – Diocese of Irelle Ese-Odo.
- v. The Rt. Revd. Oluwaseun .A. Aderogba – Diocese of Jebba.
- vi. The Rt. Revd. Ebenezer .A. Okuyelu – Diocese of Osun- North East.
- vii. The Rt. Revd. Festus .O. Sobanke – Diocese of Omu-aran.
- viii. The Rt. Revd. Christian O. Onyia – Diocese of Nike.

These Church Fathers were consecrated on Friday 29th March, 2019 at St. David's Cathedral, Ijomu Akure in the Diocese of Akure. We pray that the Almighty and faithful God will grant them His Grace to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of our Faith among His people in Jesus Christ Name.

6. NEW ARCHBISHOPS:

The following new Archbishops were elected:

- I. The Most Revd. Israel Amao – Province of Kwara.
- II. The Most Revd. Daniel Yisa – Province of Lokoja.
- III. The Most Dr. Emmanuel O. Chukwuma – Province of Enugu (re-elected).

7. TRANSLATIONS

The Rt. Revd. Sunday T. Adewole was translated from the Diocese of Jebba to the Diocese of Kwara.

8. ST. MATTHIAS FUND COLLECTION:

The 2019 edition of St. Matthias fund collection took place on Sunday 24th February, 2019 in all Dioceses throughout the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

As expected and as usual our Diocese faithfully participated in the exercise and have characteristically remitted all the proceeds to the

Church of Nigeria's account. We continue to appreciate all Our Clergy, members and schools for being part of this very important Evangelistic ideal.

9. DIVINE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE (DIVCCON).

The 2018 Divine Commonwealth Conference which was its twelfth (12th) Edition took place from Monday 12th to 16th November, 2018 at the National Christian Ecumenical Center Abuja. The theme of this edition was "I Will Restore" (Joel 1-4). The conference was not only well attended by Anglicans and Non Anglicans from all works of life, but it was also spiritually reinvigorating and refreshing. We still passionately appeal to our members to help sponsor more youths to the Conference this year because the benefits are very enormous. The 2019 edition of DIVCCON comes up from Monday 11th – Friday 15th November, 2019 at the same venue.

10. CHURCH OF NIGERIA SECRETARIAT:

A great history in the life of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) was made on Wednesday 24th April, 2019 as the new ultra modern National Secretariat of our Church was dedicated. The Secretariat building is named, "**ST. MATTHIAS HOUSE**". We heartily congratulate our dogged and Visionary Primate for this great feat achieved during his Primacy. It was indeed a great Reunion and home coming because our former Primate, Most Revd. Dr. Peter. J. A. Akinola was physically present and a host College of Bishops, their Wives, the Clergy and Laity of our Church. It is actually a befitting edifice for Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion). A great Kudos to His Grace, the Most Revd. Nicholas D. Okoh, our Primate.

11. 2018 GAFCON IN JERUSALEM

The third edition of Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) took place in Jerusalem from Sunday 17th to Friday 22nd June, 2018. The

theme of GAFCON 2018 was, “Proclaiming Christ faithfully to the Nations”. Participants from over fifty countries attended the conference. The makeup of the attendees were three hundred and sixteen(316) Bishops, Six Hundred and Sixty Nine (669) Clergymen and Nine Hundred and Sixty Five (965) lay people constituting a total number of One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty (1,950) conferees. The Choir that led in praise Sessions of the conference was from Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion). The conference featured wonderful and scintillating Bible expositions from sound and renowned speakers. There were many session of corporate prayers. It was a period of great encouragement, challenges and spiritual awakening for Biblical Authority and orthodoxy over and above every human knowledge and discoveries. The leadership of GAFCON was changed at the end of Jerusalem conference. The following took over the mantle of leadership of GAFCON from the former leaders:

- I. The Most Revd. Dr. Foley Beach – Primate, Anglican Church in North America - Chairman.
- II. The Most Revd. Dr. Benjamin Kwashi – General Secretary.
- III. The Rt. Revd. Bill Atwood –Deputy General Secretary for America.
- IV. The Rt. Revd. And line - Deputy General Secretary for Europe.
- V. The Most Revd. Laurent Mbanda – Deputy General Secretary for East and Southern Africa.
- VI. The Most Revd. Glenn Davies – Deputy General Secretary for Australia.
- VII. The Rt. Revd. Henry Okeke – Deputy General Secretary for West Africa.

We sincerely congratulate the new GAFCON leadership and pray that the Almighty God will grant them His enabling Grace to lead God’s Church in God’s world in the right direction through sound Biblical Orthodoxy in Jesus Christ Name. Amen.

PROVINCE OF THE NIGER MATTERS:

I. ALL ANGLICAN PRAYER RALLY:

The 2018 edition of All Anglican Prayer rally was held on Saturday 3rd November, 2018 at Dr. Alex Ekwueme Square, Awka. The theme was “Our Divine Defense” (Psalm 46:1). The Preacher was Ven. Israel Oditia. In his sermon he maintained that all human arrangements for defense and security have flaws and limitations as only God provides flawless, total and perfect defense. In his exegesis of Psalm 46, he outlined three outstanding things about divine defense thus:

- a. Divine defense is for God’s people.
- b. Divine defense is found only in God’s presence.
- c. God provides divine defense for his people by disorganizing His enemies. It was indeed another ample opportunity for corporate aggressive and fervent prayer in view of state of things in Anambra State. The Provincial Council of Laity was also inaugurated on this same day by The Most Revd. G. I. N. Okpala and other Bishops present.

2. PROVINCIAL EPISCOPAL/COUNCIL MEETINGS:

The September edition of The Provincial Episcopal Synod, Mothers’ Union Executive Meeting, and Provincial Council Meeting held in the Diocese of Ihiala, on 11th and 12th September, 2018 at Cathedral Church of St. Silas, Ihiala.

The February edition of the same Provincial Episcopal and Council Meeting was held in the Diocese of Niger West at cathedral Church of St. Gabriel, Umueri on February 13th and 14th, 2019.

DIOCESE OF AMICHI – NOTABLE EVENTS, NEWS, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS:

1. CLERGY AND WIVES RETREAT:

The first Clergy and Wives Retreat for the period under review took place on 7th, July, 2018, at Christ Anglican Church Odikpi. The opening devotion was conducted by Ven. Samson Ikedinma. He spoke on “***Thou Shall Not Steal, Church workers’ perspective***” in his Sermon, he identified the following as the reason some Church worker engage in different types of stealing: Unguided heart, Unnecessary Competition, Extravagant lifestyle and yielding steadily to life’s Pressures. He concluded by warning Church workers that Stealing brings with it such unsavory consequences as leprosy of Gehazi and the death of Eli, and his lineage.

2. FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY FOR THE DIOCESAN SECRETARIAT, WOMEN BETHANY HOUSE, AND DIOCESAN SHOPPING COMPLEX.

This remarkable and epoch making event took place on 1st September, 2018. The Bishop preaching from 1Cor.3:9-15 said that the work of ministry and activities of the Children of God are likened to the physical building. He emphasized that every Child of God has something to build or work for God in the Church, family or Society. According to the Bishop, every church member must provide answers to the following questions:

- I. What are you doing for God?
- II. How are you doing it?
- III. What type of materials are you using?

He regretted that in our generation, the paradigm of Churchmanship and Stewardship has shifted from “**the man God uses**” to “**The God Men use**” He said that the quest for Miracles, physical and instant benefits and reward has beclouded the sense of responsibility and sacrificial

commitment among Christians. The Bishop further remarked that every Church member has received at least one gift or talent from God for His Service. He concluded the sermon by asserting that it is sheer wickedness for any Church member to refuse to use such talents for the very purpose they were given. The foundations of the three buildings were therefore joyfully laid by His Lordship. The Rt. Revd. Ephraim O. Ikeakor in the presence of the President of Mothers' Union, Women's Guild and Girls' Guild, the rank and files of Clergy and their Wives and the Laity of our Church and Diocese.

3. CHURCH WORKERS AND WIVES RETREAT:

This is a Retreat that encompasses the Clergy and their Wives and the Church Teachers and their Wives. This is quite different from Clergy and Wives Retreat which is specially and specifically for the Clergy and their Wives only. The first Church Workers and Wives Retreat after Synod last year took place on 11th September, 2018 at Ebenezer church, Unubi. The Bishop spoke on "Healing from Spiritual and Ministerial Dislocation". He defined spiritual dislocation as the dislocation, displacement and disorganization of a Christian from his/her original sound spiritual status. Furthermore, he said that spiritual dislocation is the disruption and subtle displacement of a minister of the gospel from his ministerial mandate. Citing 1 Kings 19, The Bishop identified the following as the signs of spiritual ministerial dislocation:

- a. When one starts to doubt the power and ability of God in every little challenge he/she encounters in life and Ministry.
- b. Being controlled and guided by emotions and human instinct.
- c. When one begins to endanger the lives and ministries of people assigned to him for mentorship and mentoring.
- d. When regrets, complains and murmuring becomes the order of the day in one's life and ministry.
- e. When insensitivity and ingratitude becloud one's sense of God's love and care in Ministry.

- f. When one becomes more conscious of personal comfort and safety at the detriment of his/her ministerial assignment.
- g. Being in wrong place always and keeping wrong company.
- h. Seeing ministry as one's own work which is done by one's personal effort and strength.
- i. When a minister allows his/her past experience to override the current move of God and his new ways and new moves in ministry.
- j. When the minister of God ceases to hear the voice of God.

The consequences of spiritual dislocation according to the Bishop include fruitless and wasted efforts in Ministry, abrupt termination of one's calling and ministry by God and continuing in ministry even when God has retired the person. He emphasized that the only cure and remedy for Spiritual and ministerial dislocation is to wholeheartedly returned to God in genuine repentance.

4. COLLATION OF CANONS:

On 22nd September, 2018 at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew Amichi, the Following Clergymen who were preferred Canon in June, 2018 were collated:

1. Revd. Canon Samuel Omuka
2. Revd. Canon Festus Ewenike
3. Revd. Canon Pascal Umeoduagu.
4. Revd. Canon Godson Ugochukwu.
5. Revd. Canon Chuka Nwosu.
6. Revd. Canon ThankGod Agu.

We pray that the Almighty God will grant these His Priests the enabling Grace to fulfill the demand of their new status in ministry in Jesus Christ Name.

5. 2018 FREEDOM PRAYER BREAKFAST:

1st October every year is for a very special edition of our Prayer Breakfast being the independence Anniversary of our dear country Nigeria. An overflowing congregants gathered at the cathedral dressed in our national colours of Green- White- Green outfit with Nigeria Flag. The Bishop

Ministered on the topic, “**Survival through Faith**”. The Bishop in his sermon defined and described faith in the following words.

- I. Faith means refusing to be knocked out when you are knocked down.
- II. Faith is consistent optimism in the face of negative situations.
- III. Faith is believing convincingly that God is able to do all things.
- IV. Faith is complete and total trust, confidence, reliance and dependence on God and His Supremacy.
- V. Faith means imposing on and subduing defeatists thought and attitude with positive and optimistic mindset.
- VI. Faith is foolishness in man’s rationality.
- VII. Faith is exalting the supernatural power of God above the natural course of life.

The Bishop assured the congregation that although Nigeria has not made commensurate progress in view of the enormous resources available in our nation, we should not lose hope. Things will surely turn around positively in Nigeria.

6. DIOCESAN VIGILS:

Within the Synod year under review our Diocesan Vigils were held at the following Churches:

- a. Ebenezer Church, Unubi – 22nd June, 2018.
- b. Immanuel Church, Akwaihedi – 21st September, 2018.
- c. St. Peter’s Church, Amichi – 23rd November, 2018.
- d. Church of Divine Compassion Amichi – 25th February, 2019.
- e. Immanuel Church, Ekwulumili – 24th May, 2019.

Since there is no replacement or alternative to prayer, we encourage our members who have not been coming to take this vigils very serious by participating instead of patronizing men and women who merchandize with them in the name of prayer and ministry.

7. DIOCESAN PRAYER CONVOCATION:

The 2018 edition of the Diocesan Prayer Convocation took place from Thursday 23rd – Saturday 25th August, 2018 at Immanuel Church, Ekwulumili. The theme of the convocation was “In Times Like this” In addition to bible exposition and fervent prayer session ably handled by the resource persons, there was also prayer walk to some strategic locations within the Diocese. We heartily appreciate Revd. Canon Franklin Chukwudozie who is the Diocesan Prayer coordinator for great work he is doing in prayer matters in the Diocese.

8. BIBLE STUDY WORKSHOP:

In order to have optimal impact and updated bible study teaching techniques a workshop on Bible Study teaching was organized for all Church workers and their wives, Follow up teachers, and ACM teachers in the Diocese. The workshop took place on 20th October, 2018 at St. Philip’s Church, Amichi. It was truly a very rewarding and refreshing experience as the resource persons handled and addressed issues relevant for meaningful, impactful and detailed preparation for effective delivery of Bible Studies in our Churches and organizations.

9. 2018 DIOCESAN MUSIC FESTIVAL:

The Diocesan Music Festival for 2018 was held on Saturday 27th October, 2018 at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi. During the opening devotion, the Bishop pointed out that Church Music is one aspect of church Worship that the Anglican Church cannot do without. Singing Hymns and canticles according to him is an integral part of God both in the Old and New Testament of the Bible. This account for why the Choir and Choristers are given a pride of place in our worship and Church building architecture. He however remarked that the purpose of the Music Festival was not for winning Trophies, but to challenge God’s people in the Diocese to take seriously the ministry of Singing in our Church’s life and worship. We are very glad at the level of commitment

displayed by many Archdeaonries and organizations. We also thank Ven. Henry O. R. Amobi, the Diocesan Choir Chaplain for the effort he is making to ensure that Church Music is relished in our Churches. Let me also appreciate all the Choirs that participated in the exercise. After the entire exercises the following Choirs won the first, second, and third positions:

GRADE ONE		GRADE TWO		GRADE THREE	
1 st . position	St. Philips, Amichi	1 st . position	St. Andrew's Unubi.	1 st . position	HTC Utuh
2 nd position	Cathedral Choir.	2 nd position	All Saints Ekwulumili	2 nd position	Church of the Holyspirit Akwaihedi
3 rd position	St. Simon Ezinifite	3 rd position	St. Peter's Osumenyi.	3 rd position	All Saints Osumeny.

Details of the events are contained in the Choir Synod report. We thank the Sponsors of the trophies for their wonderful encouragement. High Chief Sir. S. N. Ukachukwu, Sir Engr. Igweka Uche, Sir Dr.Eddy Agbasimelo, Sir Kingsely Iruba, Barr. Samuel Anozie, Dr. Obuneme Nnoli and Engr. Chigozie Ibekinwa.

10. RENEWAL OF LICENSE FOR LAY READERS:

The 2018 Retreat and service for the renewal of license for Lay Readers took place from 26th -28th October, 2018 at St. Stephen Church, Osumenyi. Many of our Lay Readers participated in the retreat and service and their licenses were renewed accordingly. Our special thanks and appreciation go to the chaplain of the Lay Readers, Ven. Chukwuma Akam for his commitment to duty among the Lay Readers. The Lay readers were made to understand that Lay ministry in the Anglican Church is pivotal to the history, life and Growth of the Church. The Clergy men were called upon to harness the ministry of the Laity in our various Churches and Archdeaonries.

11. FIRSTBORNS' NIGHT

On 2nd November, 2018. Firstborns from different walks of life, denominations and states gathered at the cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi for the 2018 edition of this special annual programme. The theme for last year's Firstborns' Night was, "Living in Dominion". (Genesis 1:26). It was indeed a gathering of mammoth Crowd. The Bishop in his sermon reminded them that to be a first son or first daughter is not accidental, incidental or coincidental. It is divinely designed by God from the beginning. According to him, Dominion is the exercise of Power and control. Dominion is Lordship, rulership and authoritative domineering. The Bishop lamented, and regretted that many Firstborns have lost their position and **power for dominion**.

He said that there are four ways one can lose his/her dominion which are:

- I. Losing the image of God through sinning.
- II. Being ignorant of who you are in God.
- III. Fear and faithlessness.
- IV. Prayerlessness and spiritual slumber.

He however, encouraged them by saying that lost dominion is recoverable. He led those who desire to recover their dominion through repentance to Christ. After that, a long and effective prayer session was held for all the entire participants who later went home joyful and fulfilled. The 2019 edition of this programme holds on Friday 3rd November, 2019 at the Cathedral. Do not ever miss this special programme this year.

12. WAILING WOMEN PRAYER SUMMIT:

The 2018 wailing women prayer summit came up from Thursday 10th – Sunday 13th May, 2018 at the Cathedral. The topic was, "**Rebuilding Your Family Gates**". The resource persons were:

Ven. Azubuike Ugoha

Ven. Chika Mbeyi

Ven. P. C. Chukwuemeka

Ven. David Nonyelum

Ven. Anthony Uchemereole.

Canon Franklin Chukwudozie

Canon ThankGod Agu and the Bishop.

God truly manifested Himself in many special ways. Women and ladies from all walks of life gathered from different states of Nigeria and prayed passionately on various aspects of their family and personal gates. Many testimonies were given by some women and ladies from 2017 edition of the programme. Many of the participants willfully surrendered their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. The women were charged to always keep watch over the fourteen (14) gates surrounding every woman's life. These Gates are:

- a. The Gate of Salvation.
- b. The Gate of Security.
- c. The Gate of longevity.
- d. The Gate of Health and Healing.
- e. The Gate of Fruitfulness.
- f. The Gate of Prosperity.
- g. The Gate of Favour.
- h. The Gate of Grace.
- i. The Gate of Mercy.
- j. The Gate of Exchange and Manipulation.
- k. The Gate of Continuity.
- l. The Gate of Marriage.
- m. The Gate of destiny.
- n. The Personal and Family Altar gate.

The conclusion of the Wailing Women Prayer Summit of 2018 on Sunday witnessed so many life transforming and encouraging testimonies. The 2019 Wailing Women Prayer Submit comes up from Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd June, 2019 at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi with the theme "Victory through Prayer's". All women, Ladies and girls are cordially invited.

13. **BISHOP'S SPECIAL MEETING WITH KNIGHTS AND LADIES:**

This special and crucial meeting was held on Saturday 17th November, 2018 at St. Peter's Church, Akabu, Osumenyi. The meeting commenced with a Eucharistic Service presided over by The Bishop. The sermon preached by the Bishop was titled, **"Your Burden is Your Drive"**. He challenged the knights and Ladies to channel their resources and energies more toward home. He maintained that until Igbos begin to think and behave like Nehemiah, they will remain slaves in Nigeria. The Bishop Vehemently insisted there is no alternative route of escape and liberation for Igbo race except think home philosophy and ideology.

In the meeting that followed, the Bishop explained to the Council of Knight why he summoned the meeting. According to him, it was to appraise the performance of the members of the Council. Many Knights and Ladies adduced many reasons responsible for poor participation and laxity among many members.

After an exhaustive and robust interaction and discussion the Council members unanimously agreed that there was a strong need for a change of heart and attitude. I want to happily and heartily appreciate the President, Sir. Eddy Agbasimelo, and his executives for the decision to move the Council of Knight forward for the overall development of the Diocese. May I also appreciate all the knights and ladies who sacrificed their time to attend that very important meeting. Bishop is not interested in disrobing any Knight as some have envisaged. All I appeal for is more zeal and sacrificial commitment in the service of Christ. The Bishop cannot be the Diocesan and also be the Knight, at the same time.

The Knights and Ladies who were present made a freewill donation in support of hosting the 10th Anniversary of the Diocese slated for January 2019. There and then, they raised a total sum of three million, three hundred thousand naira (₦3.3m) in cash, cheques and pledges.

Furthermore, I commend the Diocesan Council of Knights for completing the fencing work at the proposed Retreat Center at Ekwulumili. May the Almighty and Merciful God bless and reward you all abundantly in Christ Name. We are praying for you and expecting more projects from the

Knights. In a special way, the Chaplain of the Knights Ven. Chukwuebuka Chukwuemeka deserves wonderful accolade and commendation for his efforts in making sure that we have a functional Diocesan Council of Knight in our Diocese. We pray that other Knight and Ladies that are still apathetic should join the bandwagon in moving the Diocese forward.

14. WORKSHOP FOR CHURCH WORKERS AND WIVES

The workshop on Children and Youth Ministry was held on 22nd and 23rd November, 2018 at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi. Seasoned Children teachers and youth ministers and Pastors were drawn from both within and outside our Diocese to lead in the workshop on various topics. The speakers in their different presentations lamented grievously that Children and Youth are grossly neglected in many of our Churches. They Challenged Church worker and Wives to look into their Church's annual Budget each year and judge for themselves whether the Children and Youth are adequately catered for. Different methods, techniques and Strategies for efficient and effective Children and Youth Ministry were highlighted and explored. It was crystally demonstrated that any Church that has no effective Youth and Children Ministry is as good as dead.

At the end of 2-day workshop, the following resolutions were made and adopted to give more life and impetus to Children and youth ministry in our Churches and Diocese:

- a. Church workers should inject life and vitality in handling our liturgy.
- b. Our Church workers and leaders should buy the future of our Church now by investing heavily in the Children and Youths.
- c. Children Teachers and Youth workers especially Church workers should bring creativity, and mastery in handling issues affecting the Children and Youth.
- d. We should dutifully explore and establish platforms that bring youth together.

- e. Clergymen, their Wives and other Church worker should organize Youth friendly but impactful programmes that will yield the desired result among the youths.
- f. There is urgent need to embark on training and retraining programmes for Youth workers especially the Church workers and their wives.

15. 2018 PRAYER BREAKFAST OF THANKSGIVING:

As usual, this special edition of our monthly Prayer breakfast comes up every first day of December each year and it marks the last Prayer Breakfast for the year. The 2018 Prayer of thanksgiving took place on Saturday 1st December, 2018. It is a day specially designated to give thanks to God for His Blessings and Mercies throughout the year. After the sermon that centered on “Do I really Love God” delivered by the Bishop, the people freely and gladly offered bountiful gifts to God in appreciation for his benevolence throughout the year. It is becoming very joyful and encouraging to see our members and people demonstrate the attitude of gratitude and appreciation to God.

16. 10TH ADVENT ORDINATION

The 10th Advent Ordination of Priest and Deacons in our Diocese took place on Sunday 2nd December, 2018 at St. James’ Church, Azigbo.

The following Ordinands were made Deacons:

- a. Ikenna Victory Nwankwu
- b. Felix Chukwurogha Obiajulu
- c. John Chidike Ogenyi.
- d. Onyekachukwu Maduabuchukwu Ubah.
- e. Pius Nwabueze Ukachukwu.
- f. Arinzechukwu Chukwuka Umeakuana.

The underlisted Deacons were Ordained Priests:

- a. Revd. Samson Ifeanyichukwu Ezeagu.
- b. Revd. Chibuzo Chijioke Ezenwa.
- c. Revd. Collins Nwachinemere Okonkwo
- d. Revd. Gergory Egboaka Obiejemba.

May the Almighty God bless and prosper their ministries in Jesus Christ name. Amen.

17. 2018 TRUMPET AND TRIUMPHANT NIGHT:

This is our Diocesan annual Praise and worship night. The 2018 edition of the programme was held on Friday 14th December, 2018 at the Cathedral Field, Amichi. The theme was, "Praise Him Aloud". The Bishop, Rt. Revd. E. O. Ikeakor charged the mammoth crowd to cease from complaining and murmuring over their situations and circumstances, but rather learn and develop the attitude of singing praise to God at all times and in all situations.

The reasons for praising God always include but not limited to:

- I. God is great and awesome.
- II. Great and wonderful are the works of God.
- III. God performs excellent Miracles.
- IV. He takes pleasure in our Praise.
- V. He inhabits the Praises of His people.
- VI. God should be praised because of His mighty deliverance for us.
- VII. God's righteousness and faithfulness are consistent.
- VIII. He is Gracious and Merciful.
- IX. God is full of compassion towards us.
- X. God's providence and provisions for our lives are very great and enormous.
- XI. God has given us salvation and redemption in Christ.
- XII. God heals our sicknesses and diseases.

It was indeed a night of glorious praise to the Almighty as Bro. Ebere Ezeani, Bro. Ugochukwu Igwebuike and destiny fulfiller's mass choir led in overflowing crowd in thunderous Praise to God.

18. DIOCESAN WIDOWS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 2018 Diocesan Widows Party took place on Saturday 22nd December, 2018 at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi. The widows were ministered to both physically and Spiritually. They were fed sumptuously by Mama Amichi Diocese, Dame Nkem Ikeakor and the Clergy Wives of the Diocese. Each of the Widows went home with half bag of rice to celebrate the Christmas with. Over six hundred (600) widows were in attendance. We want to thank all those who made this a reality especially the Women Organizations, the Clergymen and Sir Igweka Uche & Wife who make substantial contribution towards this laudable Charity initiative every year. I want to passionately appeal to our well-placed and privileged members to partner with the Diocese in putting smiles on the faces of these widows. We have more than six hundred widows to cater for every year, but due to paucity of funds, we trim the number of widows to be catered for every year. May the Almighty God touch the heart of our people to see this as a ministry and challenge from God.

19. 2019 PROPHETIC PRAYER BREAKFAST:

It has become traditional and also conventional that we begin each New Year on a high spiritual pedestal. The Bishop, Rt. Revd. E. O. Ikeakor usually takes the opportunity to reveal to the large crowd of congregants and participants the mind and programme of God concerning the new year. During the 2019 Prophetic Prayer Breakfast, he made the following Prophetic declarations and revelations as it concerns the new year: Thus said the Lord:-

- I. 2019 is a year of positive pleasant surprise.
- II. All who will whole heartedly trust me this year will surely cross their Jordan to their Canaan.
- III. The faithful will laugh the best laughter this year.

- IV. Your faith in me (God) is your shield and your ship of safety and success this year.
- V. In 2019 I will shake the mighty in this land to gain honour for myself.
- VI. My children shall find plenty in the midst of scarcity.
- VII. In 2019, I will sanitize my Church and restore my Glory, though not without casualties from my Alter and Holy Place.

After the prophetic message, the Bishop preached a strong Sermon title “**Divine Visitation**”. He made the following assertions and expositions during the sermon:

- a. Every divine visitation comes with divine instruction.
- b. Every divine visitation releases divine allocation.
- c. Every divine visitation ushers in divine promise fulfillment.
- d. No divine visitation comes behind schedule.
- e. Every divine visitation rewrites the history of the host.
- f. Every divine visitation produces laughter that swallows all previous sorrows.
- g. Divine visitation suspends all human and scientific principles and protocols.
- h. The Miracle of divine visitation cancels the sorrows of many years.
- i. Divine visitation overrules and overshadows human timing and season.
- j. Divine visitation leaves the host with shocking and evidential testimonies.
- k. Divine visitation takes away all forms of reproaches and shame.
- l. The gift of divine visitation silences the existence and arrogance of deadly impostors and oppressors

The Bishop finally blessed the year, the people and their endeavour’s for the year.

20. 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMICHI DIOCESE

The 10th anniversary celebration of our Diocese and the 10th Consecration anniversary of our pioneer Bishop, The Rt. Revd. Ephraim Okechukwu Ikeakor was done in grand style in January this year. Activities for the event began on Monday 7th January with the Bishop addressing a world press Conference, which was beamed and transmitted live from the cathedral which provide people from over fifty countries to join in the press conference, After the press Conference members from across the length and breath of our Diocese proceeded on a mega rally through the streets of our Diocese. Tuesday 8th January and Wednesday 9th January featured evangelistic outreaches in all the archdeaconries. Thursday 10th was observed as the day of fasting and prayer meetings in all Churches in the Diocese. Friday 11th January, was marked as the 10th consecration anniversary of Rt. Revd. Ephraim O. Ikeakor. The Eucharistic service was celebrated in the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi. On Saturday 12th January, The Metropolitan, Archbishop and Primate of all Nigeria Anglican communion, His Grace, the Most Revd. Dr. Nicholas Okoh led other Bishops to dedicate projects which included The Diocesan Secretariat, The Women Bethany House, Diocesan Shopping Complex, The Administrative Block of the College of Nursing Sciences, The Female hostel Complex, The Male Hostel Complex of College of Nursing Sciences; The science Laboratory and Demonstration room of the school. The Primate also took the opportunity to visit and pray for the Students of holy Child Convent, Amichi, Masters Vessel Seminary, Osumenyi and Atuchukwu Legacy Peace House. It was indeed a landmark and memorable occasion. The grand finale of the celebration was the thanksgiving service and launching for development projects on Sunday 13th January, 2019. The thanks giving service was presided over by the Metropolitan and Primate of all Nigeria, His Grace, The Most Revd. Dr. Nicholas D. Okoh assisted by our Bishop and the host of other Bishops. In the service, the following individuals were conferred with

DISTINGUISHED TEMPLE BUILDERS AWARD:

- I. Chief Dr. Chidi Anyaegbu OFR
- II. High Chif Sir Dr. S. N. Ukachukwu.
- III. Chief Sir Emmanuel Umeohia OON
- IV. Sir Michael Agazie.
- V. Mr. & Barr. Mrs. Chinedu Okeke.
- VI. Chief Okwudili Oti.
- VII. Ikebaba- Nzewi Family.
- VIII. Dr. Samson Obichi.
- IX. Chief Benjamin Atuchukwu Family
- X. Prof. G. E. O. Ogum Family.
- XI. Chief Abraham Otti.

We appreciate the Awardees for their financial support towards the building of our school of Midwifery which has started in earnest. We thank all who made the 10th anniversary celebration a successful and memorable one. May you never lose your reward from God in Jesus Christ Name. Amen.

21. 2019 COVENANT SUNDAY:

The 2019 Diocesan Covenant Sunday took place on Sunday 27th January, 2019 at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi. The theme for this year's edition was, "The Lord, He is God." Bible text was taken from 1 Kings 18:17 -39. In his sermon to the multitude of people from all walks of life who gathered for the annual event, the Bishop, the Rt. Revd. Ephraim O. Ikeakor maintained that every human life and destiny are in constant battle, contest and contention. He also emphasized that the battle of life is fought from two camps. The Camp of the Almighty God; or the Camp of the Devil. He encouraged the people to make sure that they fight the battles of their lives from the camp of God because according to him God's camp has never and can never experience defeat unless there is breaking of rules of engagement by God's people. He called on all the people and

families to establish and renew their Covenant with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

He further stressed that like in the case of Elijah and the people of Israel, people in every generation need evidence to convince them of the reality of the power and the greatness of God. Before he led the people in series of fervent prayer session, he encouraged them to follow the five major rules of engagement before Victory can be achieved which are:

- a. Repair the broken Altar. 1Kings 18:30.
- b. Pray and act according to the provision of the word of God. 1king's 18:31.
- c. Build a formidable prayer life and Altar before and for God. 1kings 18:32.
- d. There must be orderliness in Prayer and lifestyle. 1kings 18:33.
- e. We must pray and act at the right time. 1Kings 18:36.

The sermon and prophetic Episcopal blessings declaration were preceded by session of great testimonies from twenty people of great miracles from God from 2018 Covenant Sunday. The people finally renewed their Covenant with God for the year through surrendering their lives to Christ and willful Covenant Commitment and Sacrificial Seed. It was a wonderful time in God's presence.

22. SPECIAL COUPLES' BANQUET AND VALENTINE BANQUET 2019.

As the result of the shifting of the date for Presidential and other elections which affected the dates for these events, 2019 Couples Banquet and Valentine Banquet were held together on Sunday 24th February, 2019 at the Cathedral Field. It was a very colourful and enjoyable day for both Couples and Singles to relax in such a gorgeously decorated environment. The guest preacher was Evangelist Nnamdi Ezeh who spoke on the topic, "The Price of Successful Christian Marriage". He took his Bible text from Matthew 7:24-27.

He explained that for singles to have a successful marriage in life, the following prices must be paid.

- I. You must have right standing with God.
- II. You must involve God in every step and process of your marriage.
- III. You must develop and have right mindset about marriage.
- IV. You must deal with your dangerous carryover first like homosexuality, Lesbianism, Masturbation etc before entering into marriage.
- V. You must be ready to leave your family and cleave to your spouse.
- VI. You must not base the choice of your spouse on externalities like, Beauty, stature, Education, Career, Money etc.

He further challenged the married that these Prices must be paid by them to have a successful Marriage:

- I. Invite Jesus Christ into your life.
- II. Do whatever the lord ask you to do.
- III. Invest in your marriage (Love, Time, forgiveness etc).
- IV. Avoid any form of comparison of your spouse with another Man or Woman.
- V. Cherish and Love whom you married always.
- VI. You should not just be married, but be also coupled.

It was a moment of healing and redirection for already ailing relationships and Choices. The Kingdom Life Drama Team from Onitsha also ministered which also made great impact on the participants. His lordship, The Rt. Revd. Ephraim O. Ikeakor took the last message concluded with an Altar call that saw many surrendering their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Over one thousand five hundred youths were in attendance and over three hundred and fifty couples. To God be the Glory.

23. MAIDEN RETREAT FOR DIOCESAN SECRETARIAT AND MEDIA STAFF:

The first retreat for all the Staff of the Diocesan Secretariat and Media in the Chapel of Salvation of the new Secretariat Complex was held on Wednesday 13th March, 2019. The opening devotion was conducted by Ven. Chukwuebuka Chukwuemeka. He spoke on “**The Servants of Christ**”. He opined that no other service can be compared to God’s Service. This according to him is because of the following reasons:

- I. Other Services are external and temporal but God’s service is both external and Spiritual.
- II. The master in other services are physical and limited, whereas our master is spiritual and unlimited.
- III. The rewards in other service are temporal and transient, but in God’s service, the reward is both temporal and eternal.

The main talk in the retreat was given by the Lord Bishop on the Topic, “Are You Really a Christian?” The Bishop remarked that God does not count or regard us as His children just because of the activities we are engaged in, but by our lifestyle. He highlighted that it is a terrible irony for someone to be working in the church, yet he/she is not a child of God. He outlined the identities of a true Child of God thus:-

1. A life that is distinct from others around
2. A life that have put off the old man.
3. A life that has put on the new man.
4. A life that has irresistible hunger for the word of God.
5. A life that is crucified with Christ.
6. A life that witness for Christ always.
7. A life that practice forgiveness at all times.

Mama Amichi Diocese, Dame Nkem Ikeakor led the prayer Session at the retreat. It was a time of spiritual revival and restoration.

24. COMPULSORY RETREAT FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIAN OF STUDENTS OF HOLY CHILD CONVENT, AMICHI, AND MASTER'S VESSEL SEMINARY OSUMENYI.

Third edition of this all- important and crucial Retreat took place on Saturday 16th March, 2019 at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi. The first talk in the Retreat was given by Ven. Chika Mbeyi who spoke on, ***Every Child, A Divine Mission and Mandate from God***". In his talk, he made the following revelations:

- I. Children don't just come, they come for a purpose.
- II. Children are not just the product of biological union, but they are divine gift for divine assignment.
- III. Every child has a divine destiny attached to his/her life.

He therefore challenged parents to brace up to the demand of parenting, no matter the situations. He stressed on the need for parents to protect children from many dangers confronting them in their various environments.

The second talk was delivered by The Rt. Revd. E. O. Ikeakor, The Bishop and the proprietor of both schools. He spoke on "Holistic Parenting: the Panacea for Parenting Complex and Highly Pressured Children". He took his text from Daniel chapter 1. The Bishop said that parenting is ordinarily a high demanding task that is highly complex and complicated. According to him, the twenty first century with its attendant sophistication and complexities in all dimensions makes parenting more demanding, challenging and complex. He said that one of the reasons why parenting is very difficult is because ninety five percent (95%) of parents are learners on the job.

He also opined that conflict of interest and expectations are other reasons for difficulty in parenting. The Bishop asserts vehemently that if we succeed on everything as parents, but fail in our parenting, we have totally failed. Holistic parenting according to the Bishop covers Moral, Social, Educational, and Spiritual, Marriage and relationship aspects and needs of the Child. Any parenting that is deficient in any of these areas has fallen short of holistic parenting. Holistic parenting is no optional but a

compulsion from God. The Bishop made the parents to know that parenting demands knowledge and training. He informed them that examples and prayers are inevitable tools in parenting. The Bishop used the credential demanded by King Nebuchadnezzar of the prospective young men to be employed by him to highlight and illustrate the complex nature of Children at our disposal today. These Include:

- I. Being from a royal breed.
- II. Children from the nobles
- III. Children without blemish in character and appearance
- IV. Young men well favoured.
- V. Children who are skilful in wisdom.
- VI. Children very expance in knowledge.
- VII. Young men who understand science.
- VIII. Children who study and understand the language and literature of the Chaldeans.
- IX. Children who have ability to serve in the kings Palace

The Bishop expounded each of the requirements and demand for parents to come to terms with the complexities of 21st century parenting.

Ample time of serious intercession by parents for their children and wards was spent in the presence of God. May I passionately remind and appeal to parents to take this annual retreat very serious. This is because in these children we have a charge to keep, a God to glorify and never dying soul to save and make them fit for the sky (Heaven). I shall never take it lightly with any parent or guardian who fails to attend this retreat next year or those who even come late. You can take your children to any other school if you don't want to partner with us in raising Godly and responsible children.

25. 2019 CHURCH WORKERS AND WIVES SET APART

The 2019 edition of our annual Church Workers and Wives Set Apart Took place on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th March, 2019 at St. Peter's Anglican

Church, Amichi. The resource persons were Ven. Goddy Iloka and Evang. Nnamdi Ezeh. The topics treated by the speakers were:

- I. Prayer: the life wire of a successful minister.
- II. A faithful and Effective Priest in a perverse Generation.
- III. Satanic Arrows.
- IV. Partnering with your spouse for effective and fruitful ministry.

It was indeed a very veritable spiritual encounter for the Church workers and wives. We pray that the impact of this programme will remain with us and sustain all the workers and wives for effective and efficient ministry in Jesus Christ Name. Amen.

26. DIOCESAN LENTEN MEDITATION:

Lenten period in our Diocese is a period of joint fellowship and corporate prayers. This year's Lenten Meditations were unique especially with regard to the topics treated on different days.

This year's edition brought both relief and challenge to the participants. The Lenten Meditation for this year took place in the following Churches and dates

- I. 13th March, 2019, - St. Luke's Church, Obiagu Amichi. Ven. Mbeyi spoke on the topic, ***"Sufficient Grace to live Righteously in an Unrighteous Generation."***
- II. 20th March, 2019 -Immanuel Church, Akwaihedi. Bro Elochukwu Nwankwo preached on the topic, "There is Sufficient Grace to Forgive your enemies and offenders."
- III. 27th March, 2019. - Christ Church, Amichi. The preacher was Revd. James Mbonu, who spoke on "Enough Grace to pass through Challenges and Trials without Compromise."
- IV. 3rd April, 2019. - St. Simon's Church, Ezinifite. Bro Izuchukwu Ezenwanne preached on "Grace to stand out from the Crowd."
- V. 10th April, 2019 - Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi. The Bishop spoke on the topic: "The God of all Grace will settle you." The Bishop posited that contrary to what many Christian believe now, there is

provision in the word of God for believers to suffer for a while, after which God surely delivers them. He later led the congregation through four crucial prayer points viz-:

1. Revoking the Jabez experience
2. Dealing with faulty foundations.
3. Battle against demonic and spiritual delay.
4. Dealing with satanic Horns....

It was really an opportunity for Episcopal pronouncement of Blessings by the Bishop on the Congregation. It was concluded with a session of Praises and Special Thanksgiving.

27. 2019 NIGHT OF EVIDENCE:

The 2019 Night of Evidence took place on Friday 19th April, 2019 at the cathedral from 8p.m. till 4:30a.m. of the following day. The theme was, ***“It Is Still Possible.”*** By the Grace of God, this year’s programme was very special and unique. God really visited His people with His Divine Presence and Power. There were many testimonies of God’s visitation and manifestation in people’s lives and situations. The crowd was nothing less than intimidating and awesome. The greatest highlight of the programme was that large number of attendees who responded positively to the word of God by yielding their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ during the Altar call. We return all the Glory, Praise and Honour to the Almighty for the great thing He has done for His people.

28. HOLY CHILD CONVENT, AMICHI

This school has continued to be a special pride of the Diocese. The Convent is growing in limbs and bounds in Academics, Morality and Social life. The Principal, the School Chaplains, the teacher’s are just awesome. Testimonies we receive from Students that pass through this institution are great and wonderful in their various institutions of higher learning and different endeavors of life. The result of the last UTME is an eloquent

pointer that great things are happening academically in the School. We must appreciate the P. T .A of the school for being awesome in their willful partnership with us in the school. The latest of their good work is the equipping of all the Science Laboratories of the Convent to meet the highest standard required in any school anywhere.

By the special enablement and provision of the Almighty God, we have finally completed the installation of the air conditioners in the ultra modern Chapel of the Convent for convenient worship environment and atmosphere for the students. The full report on the Convent is enclosed in the Synod report.

29. MASTER’S VESSEL SEMINARY, OSUMENYI:

This is another mile stone legacy of our Diocese that gladdens our heart always. The latest occurrence in the life of the seminary is that the school is fully internet enabled and connected. From this third term, both the Students and teacher will have unhindered access to internet for studies and research from the school. This development will make them to keep abreast with what is trending in the academic world globally. The horizon of admission make up is expanding regularly both locally and internationally. One distinguishing feature of all our schools is that we have established zero tolerance spectrum to examination malpractice. Our students from Master’s Vessel Seminary, Osumenyi and Holy Child Convent, Amichi can defend any result they came out with anywhere and anytime. The dogged Commitment of the Principal, the school chaplains and tutorial staff of the Seminary have continued to keep the school on high pedestal academically, Morally and in Sports. The school produced the overall best athlete in the recently concluded Inter Seminary Sports Competition of seminaries in Niger and Enugu provinces.

Let me at this juncture thank the Almighty God who has blessed us in our Schools with very special and wonderful PTA members. The PTA of our Seminary ably led by Sir. Dr. Jeff Okeke is a huge blessing and bundle of encouragement to us in the School. They have magnanimously released a

total sum of ten million naira (₦10m) in support of the building of a befitting Chapel for the school. Work will commence in earnest at the site immediately after the Synod. However it is the development of the building plan that has delayed the commencement of work. Now that the design is ready, we will start work in earnest. The whole rods for the building has been purchased last week. Just like Oliver twist, we still appeal to the PTA and other well meaning philanthropists in our Diocese to come to our aid in providing a decent Chapel for this Seminary just as we have done for our Convent. The last UTME result of the school is simply wonderful.

30. COLLEGE OF NURSING SCIENCES DIOCESAN HOSPITAL AMICHI.

College of nursing sciences Amichi was official inaugurated in November, 2017 with seventy one (71) students. To the Glory of God, we now have a total of One hundred and thirty five (135) students and still counting. The College is growing from strength to strength. The College of Nursing Sciences, Amichi is Christ Centered, student focused school. The learning and working environment of the school is based on four core values:- Faith in God; Excellence in Learning, Care and Service.

We are committed to providing Christian approach to Nursing education and profession which offers opportunities for challenge, Purpose and growth. The second sets of students have just finished their PTS examination which saw fifty (50) successful students through. Forms are currently on sale for the next batch of students who will be admitted by November this year. The entrance examination will be conducted between 25th and 28th June, 2019.

This school is proud to be one of the few colleges in the country to conduct Computer Based Test (CBT) to the Glory of God. Forms are still on sale till 26th June, 2019.

The college is internet enabled which has made both communication and research very easy. Internet access has also been extended to the hostels to make for easy access at all times. This college is one of the very few that has very high speed internet service. Arrangements are also in top

gear to connect the school library to the National and e- library. To the Glory of God, The gigantic School of Midwifery and School of Public Health building project have started in earnest. We believe the Almighty God, our great provider to supply all the funds required to complete the project in record time. The existing dining hall has been expanded to accommodate the expected student's population by November. Construction work is also ongoing at the female hostel to level the Court yard and for students' tennis court. More clothes line are being constructed also. The school has recently hired the service of a horticulturist for landscaping and beautifying the compound.

Considering the anticipated growth in student's population, the present school 32-seater Coaster bus is now grossly inadequate to transport the student to and fro clinical areas. At least, an 18-sater bus is urgently needed for the school. If God is laying that in your heart, please do not hesitate to yield to the direction and instruction of God by letting us know immediately. I appreciate all who have lent their helping hands to see the school soaring higher and higher especially the members of Board of Governors of the school Chaired by Ven. Chukwuebuka Chukwuemeka. The Provost, Dr. Mrs. Rhodah Onyekwena ; the pioneer Principal – Mrs. Nonye Onyejiaka, and the immediate Past Acting – Provost – Mrs. Gloria Eneh. All the tutorial and non- tutorial staff members are highly appreciated for the great works they are doing in the college.

2018/2019 STATISTICS OF CONFIRMATION AND ADMISSIONS:

S/ N	NAME OF CHURCHES	DATES	CONFIRMATIO N		GIRLS' GUILD	WOMEN'S GUILD	MOTHERS' UNION	AMCF	ABA
			MALE	FEMALE					
1.	Immanuel Anglican Church Akwaihedi	1/7/2018	12	3	9	4		1	-
2.	All Saints Church Parish Ekwulumili	8/7/2018	10	4	2	3	2	-	-
	St. Peter's Anglican Parish, Akabo Osumenyi	15/7/2018	4	7	2	2	-	-	-
3.	All Saints Church, Osumenyi	22/7/2018	6	5	2	4	1	-	-
4.	Church Of Divine Compassion , Amichi	2/9/2018	13	15	9	5		4	-
5.	St. Mary's Church Parish Ifite Ezinifite	23/9/2019	9	4	3	-	-	-	-
6.	Christ Church Amichi	4/11/2018	6	7	2	3	2	-	-
7.	Holy Child Convent Amichi	5/12/2018	-	49	56	-	-	-	-
8.	Cathedral Church of St.	9/12/2018	15	10	3	1	3	-	7

	Andrews Amichi								
9.	Master Vessel Seminary Osumenyi	12/12/2018	86	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	St Simon's Church Ezinifite	16/12/2018	23	15	8	6	1	-	-
11	St. Andrews Church Parish Ebenator	23/12/2018	4	9	3	3	6	-	-
12	St. Philips Church Eziama	3/03/2019	12	15	5	4	-	-	5
13	Immanuel Anglican Church Ekwulumili	10/3/2019	7	11	-	2	1	-	-
14	St. James Church Azigbo	26/4/2019	8	8	5	7	2	-	-
	TOTAL =		215	162	109	44	18	5	12

31. ACQUISITION AND DONATIONS:

By the Grace of God within the period under review, the Diocese received some wonderful and encouraging donations and gifts from our members and non members. Firstly His Excellency, Chief Dr. Willie M. Obiano, the Executive Governor of Anambra state donated some books to our College of Nursing Sciences,.

We also received the gift of a 60KvA electric generator from Hon. Engr. Chris Azubuogu for our hospital and College of Nursing Sciences. Mr. Emeka Oguchi fulfilled his promise during the last synod to provide a Sienna Car to the Diocesan Hospital to boost the Ambulance Services in the Hospital. It is indeed a very clean and modern Sienna Car. This donation has gone a very long way in enhancing the service rendered by the Hospital.

To the glory of God, Chief Peter Oguebie has greatly impacted the Diocese for personally installing Solar powered Light in the Bishop's Court, Diocesan Hospital and College of Nursing Science, Holy Child Convent, and the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Amichi Premises. This indeed is no mean feat. We heartily thank these wonderful donors for their sacrifices, magnanimity, and partnership with the Diocese. The Almighty God will surely bless, protect and replenish you beyond your expectations in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

We appeal to and encourage other members of the Diocese who are financially endowed by God to join the train of progressive in the Diocese. God has blessed our Diocese with great men and women, but the greatest challenge is lack of interest and commitment from our people in Diaspora and sabotage from some individuals who are keenly fighting for their selfish and personal interests.

God has enabled the Diocese to acquire more two Hi-jet buses within this period to boost the transportation and distribution activities of our Sure Anchor Table Water Ltd. We also purchased two (2) plots of land at Utuh and the payment and documentations have been completed and effected. After the 10th Anniversary celebration of our Diocese, we have been able to fully complete all the furnishings in the

Diocesan Secretariat and all the equipment for optimal performance of the secretariat. This is another milestone that gulped multimillions of naira achieved after the occasion. We need as a matter of necessity a new bus for the Secretariat. We pray that the Almighty God will touch someone's heart to provide this to ease our work in the secretariat.

32. RETIREMENT:-

Last year during the Synod, we informed you that one of our Clergymen, Revd. Gregory Obiejemba will retire on the 31st December, 2018. He has officially retired in good health. We pray for God's sustenance upon him, and his family members as he enjoys post retirement life in Jesus Christ Name, Amen. The first part of his gratuity has been paid by the Diocese. The last part will be paid before the end of the year. In the same vein. Venerable Godwin Okafor will retire from active service on 31st December, 2019. Revd. Canon Bertram Mougbo who is in Overseas now will retire on 31st December, 2020. May God in His infinite Mercy bless his servants in Jesus Christ Name. Amen.

33. OUR JOYS AND OUR SORROWS:

God has been very faithful and gracious to His people in our Diocese since after the last Synod. Great number of people and families were blessed by God in diverse ways. We especially rejoice with the following Clergymen, and Church workers who were blessed with new babies:

- I. Revd. Canon & Mrs. Pascal Umeoduagu
- II. Revd. Canon & Mrs. ThankGod Agu
- III. Revd. & Mrs. Ugonna Nwagu
- IV. Revd. & Mrs. Nnamdi Unozo
- V. Revd. & Mrs. Ncheghari Iloabueke
- VI. Revd. & Mrs. Francisco Agbasionwe
- VII. Revd. & Mrs. Chinenye Okanume
- VIII. Revd. & Mrs. Felix Obiajulu

- IX. Mr. & Mrs. Okechukwu Okeke
- X. Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Aniobi
- XI. Mr. & Mrs. Chidi Nwagbo
- XII. Mr. & Mrs. Austine Obinwa

In addition to many of our members who wedded in this period under review, the following Church workers wedded:

- I. Revd. & Mrs. Ikenna Nwankwu
- II. Mr. & Mrs. Izuchukwu Ohaeri
- III. Mr. & Mrs. Solomon Umenze
- IV. Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Ugochukwu
- V. Mr. & Mrs. Chukwuebuka Chinweze
- VI. Mr. & Mrs. Izuchukwu Ezie.
- VII. Mr. & Mrs. Egwuonwu N.B.Chinwuba

We congratulate and rejoice with all of them and pray that the Almighty God will bless them abundantly in Jesus Christ Name. Amen. We congratulate our Provincial Mother, Mrs. Eugenia Okpala on her 60th Birthday celebration. Mummy may God Bless you and your new age in Jesus Christ Name.

OUR SORROWS:

We commiserate with all our members who lost their loved ones to death. The reason we don't get involved in mentioning specific names is because I know the peculiarity of our terrain here. If any family is ever omitted in the chronicle, the outcome and consequences is better imagined than described. However one of our Clergymen, Revd. Wilson Ekenta joined the Church triumphant. He will be buried on 13th June, 2019 at the Cathedral. May the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in Peace. Amen.

ANAMBRA STATE.

We congratulate the Governor of Anambra State His Excellency, Chief Willie Obiano and indeed all Anambraians for successful election of the members of the State House of Assembly in March. We pray that the Honourable members will indeed be much focused when they are

inaugurated this month to function for the good and betterment of the State. Let me use this platform to call our able Governor to quickly look into the re- emergence of terrible hoodlums and armed robbers at upper Iweka axis in Onitsha. I know the enormous human and financial resources the government committed in sanitizing Onitsha in general and upper Iweka in particular in the area of Security. To allow that effort to be overthrown and ridiculed is nothing but dangerous retrogression to our dear State. The upsurge of robbery, crime and criminality recently in different parts of Anambra State need an urgent attention and action of our dear Governor and security agencies in the State. The easiest way to rubbish the achievements and development of the State is to bastardize and frustrate her security. A stitch in time they say, saves nine.

THE NIGERIA NATION:

The 2019 Presidential election has come and gone though not without excruciating scars and pains inflicted in the psyche and emotions of the Nigerian populace. Nigerians till today have not come to terms with the brazen audacity and unreasonable confidence and pomposity with which the INEC chairman, Prof. Mahmond postponed the Presidential election barely six hours to its commencement. To my mind, this is the greatest and most destructive psychological war waged successfully against Nigerians who have travelled far and wide to their remote villages to exercise their franchise with enthusiasm and commitment. With the happening before during and after the election, President Muhamadu Buhari has a very herculean task before him, which is successful image laundering of himself as far as his much orchestrated anti-corruption war and integrity in governance, are concerned.

THE NIGERIA OF OUR DREAM

Every true and meaningful citizen of every nation will always have dreams of what his nation would or should be. Travelling around many nations of the world one begins to wonder when and how shall our dream of having a morally upright, technologically developed, educationally functional, socially viable and equitable, politically ideological and infrastructurally branded nation be realized. Looking keenly at our politicians in Nigeria no one needs a soothsayer or prophet to know that there is absolutely

nothing like political ideology in them. No nation makes any headway in a political atmosphere devoid of robust and conservative sustainable political ideology among the politicians. How can politicians who worth that name switch to two or three Political Parties within a space of one year? What is his interest and driving force? When shall the Nigerian electorates begin to demand written and well documented Political manifestos from our Politicians? With the crop of politicians and brand of politics we have in Nigeria, it is obvious that the nation is going nowhere. How can Nigeria move forward when we have allowed politicians to turn our senate into caucus of club of Governors after their eight years of brazen looting of state treasuries? Why must almost every governor translate into a Senator after his tenure? Every Governor is on a full pension with other inexplicable benefits after leaving office, yet they are on full Salary Scale and outrageous allowances as Senators and we think that this is how a nation that want to catch up with the rest of the world in advancement and development works. Until today nobody has told or published for Nigerians what is the official take home package of a senator every month is. A nation where politicians get away with everything they do is surely a nation where every citizen gets nothing meaningful from their leaders. Our nation needs both Prayers and actions.

THE PARABLE OF NIGERIA AND THE SUBJUGATED ETHNIC GROUPS:

Nigeria no doubt is a country endowed and blessed with diverse' human and material resources including diverse ethnic consternations, and fragmentations. These if harnessed properly would form the bed rock for our common strength and development. But in a situation where the Fulanis have been officially elevated and enthroned as a special cherished class and others as endangered species of homo sapiens is a very critical development that calls not only for sober reflection but also for critical actions.

When the President of a multi-ethnic , Multi religious and multi-cultural country like Nigeria is busy filling all his appointments with only people from his own region and religion, handing over the entire Security agencies including the Paramilitary to people from his own region and religion, protecting Islamist terrorists from his own region and religion while sending Python dance, armoured tanks and soldiers after unarmed peaceful agitators from other region and religion simply explains the parable of Nigeria and the subjugated ethnic group . I came across

statement credited to our Vice President which still lends credence to the parable I am telling here which read thus “ Concerning IPOB he was quoted as saying, “IPOB is a threat to Nigeria’s unity and we the Federal Executive must crush them and their activities by fire by thunder. So we beg true Nigerians to provide our security agencies with IPOB’s information /plans, activities for proper action to be taken immediately.”

Concerning Fulani Herdsmen Killings he was quoted as saying “I plead with Nigerians, don’t retaliate Fulani Herdsmen Killings. Pray for them instead just as we the Federal Executive Council are praying hard for them now.” This is our supposed one Nigeria for you. Recently we heard the Federal Government has resolved to establish Fulani Herdsmen Radio. This they said will be an AM frequency Radio. The minister of Education, Adamu Adamu confirmed the acquisition of the license in Abuja. He said the radio will be strictly on Fulani language. He added that the station is part of the peace building effort of the government in addressing herder- farmer clashes. Why then should the Federal Government not establish such Radio stations for IPOB and Niger Delta agitators? What of the alleged gift of N100b naira to Miyetti Allah gang from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria? Is it really true that Gold is found in commercial quantity in Zamfara State? What has the Federal Government done to make it a national natural resource for the Nigeria nation like oil in the Niger Delta Region? I am just raising legitimate concern for every true Nigerian to reflect on. I am only seeking for proper interpretation to the parable of Nigeria and the subjugated ethnic group.

The last segment of this parable is the latest directive to all Nigerians to surrender all their guns to the police, whether legitimately acquired or otherwise. Why all this misdirected conspiracy? If the Federal government is honest, what have they done to disarm the ravenous Fulani herdsmen with their weapons of mass murder against Nigerians that differ in the religion and religion from theirs? Is the possession of gun responsible for our dilapidated embarrassing education sector? Is the possession of gun responsible for the inability of the Nigeria government to provide electricity to Nigerians? What has gun got to do with the infrastructural decay we have in Nigeria including Federal roads? Will surrendering of gun provide jobs for the teeming unemployed youth in Nigeria? The truth is that there is more to the arrangement than ordinary eyes can see. In as much as we support war against illegal arms acquisition, the revocation of license of all legally purchased guns is a scheme for an overt agenda. I

advise the government to leave the shadow alone and pursue the substance. Nigeria needs help. Nigeria needs prayer. Nigeria needs our collective action. Let leaders from various circles rise and speak out now to save our nation. The Islamization agenda is at an advance stage. The Ethnic cleansing agenda is subtly perfected. It is now or never that we can face reality and call a spade a spade in Nigeria. Truly, we are sitting on a keg of gunpowder.

Our politicians are becoming our greatest enemies. This is a parable of Nigeria and subjugated ethnic group. But one thing is sure, man may have his will, but God must surely have His way.

THE SYNOD THEME.

This year in the Second Session Of The Fourth Synod of our Diocese, the theme we are inspired to consider is **“REDISCOVERING AND HARNESSING THE MINISTRY OF THE LAITY FOR HOLISTIC AND EFFECTIVE CHURCH GROWTH IN THE ANGLICAN CHURCH.”**

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW.

God’s dealings with man and humanity right from creation has centered on His own people created in his image. Laity and the Ministry of lay people have been at the center stage of God’s mission, mandate and ministry spanning from the Old Testament, the law, the Prophets, the ancient writings and of course to the New Testament. In all the divine calls of God to man, God has always called and commissioned the lay people, known as the “Laos” of God to carry out His assignment. No Church in whatever guise and generation can survive and thrive without the ministry of the laity. In Genesis Chapter two, after God has created every other thing He created, God needed to commit the mission and mandate of looking after His creation into trusted, capable and formidable hands. At that point there was no Priest, Pastor or Clergymen. Therefore, He relied completely on the ministry of the Laity. So we read Genesis

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the Man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:15-17.

This is the historical origin of lay ministry in God's agenda. The success of the Laity in carrying out God's divine project has always been the success of God's divine project likewise, the failure of the Laity in executing God's mandate has always been the failure of God's mandate as we can see in Genesis chapter 3:

“Then to Adam He said “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, “you shall not eat of it: “Cursed is the ground for your sake, in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistle it bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herbs of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground . For out of it you were taken, for dust you are and to dust you shall return”. Genesis 3:17- 19.

The event above goes a long way to underscore the importance, inevitability, crucialness and criticalness of Lay Ministry both to God and man. The Ministry of the Clergymen or ordained is the offshoot of the Ministry of the Laity. Every Priest is taken from among the laity. In Exodus 28, we read,

“Now take Aaron your brother and his sons with him, from among the Children of Israel, that he may minister to me as Priest, Aaron and Aarons sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. And you shall make holy garment for Aaron your Brother, for glory and for beauty. So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom they make Aaron garment to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as Priest”. Exodus 28:1-3.

In the Bible text above, one of the important and prominent occurrences was that it was the lay Man (Moses) that commissioned, consecrated and ordained the Priest. Secondly, it was the lay people that sewed the Holy garments to be worn by the Priest. The implication then is that the Ministry of the Priest and the ministry of the Laity are not just related, but they are intertwined. The ministry of the Priesthood is relevant to the extent that the Laity are available and functional. To buttress this point, Jethro, Moses' father-in-law recognized that Moses was on the verge of burning out because of all

the work that he was doing. Thus he gave the advice we heard about in Old Testament Lessons. His father-in-law, Jethro can conveniently be referred to as a caring Lay Leader. The Bible said;

***“Now when Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, “what is this thing you are doing for the people? Why do you sit as a judge and all the people stand about you from morning until evening.” And Moses father-in-law said to him, “The things that you are doing is not good. You will surely wear out, both yourself and this people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. Now listen to me, I shall give you counsel and God be with you. You be the people representative before God and you bring the disputes to God. Then teach them the statutes and the Laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. Furthermore you shall select out from the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands of hundreds of fifties and of tens. And let them Judge the people at all times, and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you and they will bear the burden with you. So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said. And Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them head over the people, leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. And they judged the people at all times; but every difficult dispute they would bring to Moses, but every minor dispute they themselves would judge.*”**

This has been the unbroken synergy between Priesthood and Laity in the ministry. Moses is to be seen as a Priest in this regard. The Laity are the co-burden bearers with the Priest. The Laity are foot soldiers for the Priest. The laity are the makers of the Priest’s holy garments.

NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE:

“And He gave some as apostles’, and some prophets, and some evangelists and some as pastors and teachers, for equipping of the saints for the work of ministry and for edifying the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-12.

From the call of the first disciples and later apostle by the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, the ministry and growth of the Church and her mission have been laity – centered. Very little, or nothing substantial was heard in the New Testament Church about the influential and statutory functionality of the priesthood, even though they were in existence. Somewhere in the Church history and development, there develops a notion of the Clergy (those paid to do ministry), and the Laity (those who receive the ministry). This notion has developed to the point where today there is what is known as Clergy- laity dichotomy. What this means is that there has developed the notion and view that there are ministers paid to do the works of the ministry and that the generality of the common folk in the pews pay them to do it. By the New Testament teaching and administration of the Church, this is not what the Bible teaches. The laity especially in the Anglican Church has been decimated and designated as passive participants in Church ministry and administration, whereas the Clergy are the sole administrators and active drivers of the Church’s ministry. No doubt, this is one of the major factors which explain why our Church plateau and decline recently. The acceptance of passive and ministry recipient status by the Laity has made our Church to flounder and decline both in vibrancy, Complementary ministry and comprehensive productiveness.

In the New Testament, some people are referred to as apostles and teachers and prophets and pastors. Indeed Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Pastors should all be involved in disciplining others to be what they are and what they should be. In the New Testament, the training ground for ministry was apprenticeship. Our Lord Jesus Christ had to train his disciples for a period of three and half years. The Church of the New Testament was fully and entirely Laity driven, Laity organized and Laity grown. Over the centuries Christ has given many choice servants who have made tremendous impacts on the Church and her mission mandate. We see the twelve apostles, we know about Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus, Stephen and Phillip. The Church fathers such as Polycarp, Pastor of the Church in Smyrna, Ignatius, the Pastor of the Church at Antioch, Justin Martyr – defender of the faith in Samaria. We

also find Athanasius, Augustine and John Chrysostom – the gifted preacher and pastor to the Church at Antioch and Constantinople. In the time before the reformation we find anointed people like Peter Waldo, John Huss, Cranmer, Samuel Rutherford. In the days of reformation we see Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox. On both sides of the Atlantic during the seventeenth century we behold John Bunyan, George Fox etc. In the eighteenth century we have John and Charles Wesley. In the nineteenth century, there was D. W. Moody, Charles Spurgeon, Charles Finney and David Livingstone. All of the above faithful soldiers of Christ never began their ministries and gospel influences as Clergymen, though some became ordained in the later part of their work. The emphasis they made was Church Mission and not status and position dichotomy. Whenever and wherever the Clergy win the Church, the Laity wane both in and outside the Church.

THE ROLE OF LAITY IN THE ANGLICAN CHURCH:

We learn in Sunday school and Confirmation Classes that the ministers of the Church are the Laity (Lay person in the Book of Common Prayer), Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

In the recent years, people had come to look at the ordained as more important to the life of the Church than the laity. This is not true at all. The Anglican Church is fully Laity-driven, even though she is Clergy-administered. Even during ordination Service, the examination of Priest starts thus, “Beloved the Church is the family of God, the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. **All Baptized people are called** to make Christ known as Saviour and Lord. The emphasis here is on “all baptized people”. In the Anglican Church there is no Clergy without the laity, there is no Church without the Laity. The ordained are chosen from the Laity. Any Church with passive laity is a potential pass-away Church. Any Church without a functional Church Laity is without doubt a malfunctional Church. The Laity are the Church growers, while the Clergy are the Church administrators.

The laity are the Church financiers, While the Clergy are the Supervisors. The Laity are in greater position to invite people to participate in Church activities. For our Church to be viable both in evangelism and community culture re-orientation, the laity must be involved. The Laity have the responsibility to speak and act with conviction. Sometimes Bishops are more inclined to listen to Lay opinion than the words of the Clergy. This is because the Laity will also tell them the straight truth because they are not in his payroll.

REDISCOVERING THE MINISTRY OF THE LAITY:

There is no gainsaying the obvious fact that by dint of design or default, the ministry of the laity in our Church is on serious decline. The reasons for such unhealthy development are double-edged. One is that, the ordained always see the laity as rivals in the Church and as such refuse to provide ample platforms for the Laity to function. Again on the other hand, the laity in our Church have become so apathetic to Church matters that they see themselves as observers and passive recipients of directives from the Clergy. Whatever the reason, 1 Corinthians 12 calls both sides to order. To rediscover suggests that the Ministry of the laity have been functional sometime, but later assuaged. Therefore, the need to revitalize and reinvigorate it. Verse 4 says

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

The first step to rediscover the ministry of the Laity in the Church is for both the Clergy and laity to understand that the laity is as important as the Clergy. Secondly, it is also to know that the Clergy and Laity are partners in ministry and Mission. Again the recognition of the diversities of gifts in the laity is very important too. The Bible clearly stated that those diversities of gifts are from God who works all in all.

HARNESSING THE MINISTRY OF THE LAITY:

To harness is to co-ordinate articulately and put it functional use for optimal productivity and usefulness. We in the Anglican Church can effectively harness the ministry of the laity by paying heed to the words of ,
1 Corinthians 12:12-16.

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body- whether Jews or Greek, whether Slave or free- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact, the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say because I am not a hand, I

am not of the body, “is it therefore not of the body?. (1Corinthain 12:12-16).

We are enjoined to recognize and encourage each other’s ministry both as ordained and Laity. Synergy and unity in diversity are very crucial in harnessing the ministry of the laity. The laity seeing the Clergy as jack of all trades and master of all is a very destructive attitude in Church growth and development. The laity is there to complete and complement the work of the Clergy in friendly and brotherly fusion and collegiality. Anything short of this not only obstructs, but grossly destroys the work of God in our hands in the Church. Seamless unity between the Clergy and laity is without alternative. The baseless dichotomy in our Church between the Priests and lay members is a robust tool in the hands of the devil to strangle and stagnate the mission and the ministry of the Church.

HOLISTIC AND EFFECTIVE CHURCH GROWTH:

Holistic Church growth is that brand of growth in the Church where every member of the Church is both involved and affected positively. It is also that type of growth which touches all aspect of the Church’s life.

in Acts 4; we read

“Now the Multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul, neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the lord Jesus. And great Grace was upon them. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold and laid them at the apostles’ feet, and they distributed to each as one has need”. (Acts 4:32-34).

Any Growth that affects all aspects of the Church is a Holistic Church growth .Any growth that is enhanced by the full and willing participations of every member of the Church is Holistic. When every member of the Church Brings to functionality his gifts, talents and endowments to move the Church forward, this is called Holistic growth. The growth that does not allow anyone to sit on the fence watching things happen is a holistic growth.

The Apostle Paul instructs us on what we ought to do to ensure a holistic and effective Church in the Anglican Church in general and the Diocese of Amichi in particular thus:

“That there should be no schisms in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the member suffers with it, or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ and the members individually. And God has appointed these in the Church: First apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of Miracles? Do all have gift of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?” (1Corinthians 12: 25-30).

The Anglican Church of our generation where the laity are showing gross indifference in growing and administering the Church has deadly impact on the life and the growth of our Church. It is a clarion call for the leadership of our Church to return to the board of meticulous and aggressive teaching, catechizing, and disciplining on Churchmanship and Church stewardship. No Member of the Church is without a special endowment from God. These gifts need to be fanned into flame and used in the Church. Nobody in the Church should be allowed to be good-for-nothing Church member. The principle of delegation of duty and recognition of different gift in our members should be re-employed by the Clergy in our Church. The Laity on their part should desist from being consumer Church members. They should not also become opposers and obstructors for the Clergy. Commercialization of spiritual Gifts and talents by the Laity of the Anglican is a deadly virus depleting and ravaging the Anglican Church of our time. Why is it almost an Anglican Challenge that almost every lay person who discovers his or her spiritual gifts end up opening and running a personal para-Church ministry? The essence of every spiritual, financial and Educational gifts are endowments on everyone of us (Clergy and Lay alike) is summarized in Ephesians 4:11-12.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers, for equipping of the saints” for the work of ministry for edifying of the body of Christ”

Anything outside the above purpose is a slap on the growth of the church.

CONCLUSION:

The Church is the body of the people of God. The Church Missionary Society of the Anglican Church was evangelical in foundation, driven, sponsored and propelled by the Laity. There is no Church without the presence and participation of the laity. The Clergy should rediscover and harness the ministry of the laity. The lay should as a matter of urgency complement the ministry of the Clergy. Blame game or opposing each other destroys our Church.

I conclude by leaving us with the word of the Apostle Paul to Archippus in Colossians 4:17

“And say to Archippus, “take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord. That you may fulfill it.”

All of us have received ministries from the Lord. None of us has any acceptable excuse why we should not pursue and fulfill our individual callings either as a Clergyman or a Lay person. May the God of all Grace grant us the zeal, willingness and Grace to fulfill our ministries for effective Church Growth in Jesus Name.

Let us rise as we sing from A&M 533.

HYMN A&M 533

- 1. JESUS calls us! o’er the tumult~
Of our life’s wild restless sea
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, ‘Christian, follow Me;’**
- 2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it,
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for His dear sake.**
- 3. Jesus calls us from the worship~
Of the vain world’s golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,**

Saying 'Christians, love Me more'.

- 4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,
That we love Him more than these.**

- 5. Jesus calls us! by thy mercies,
Saviour, make us hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience,
Serve and love thee best of all. Amen.**

Thank you immensely for listening patiently.
Your Bishop and friend.

**+ EPHRAIM AMICHI
8TH JUNE, 2019**

APPENDIX 1 : PASTORAL LETTER FROM HIS LORDSHIP, THE RT. REVD. EPHRAIM O. IKEAKOR. AT THE END OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FOURTH SYNOD.

APPENDIX 2: COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FOURTH SYNOD.

APPENDIX 3: COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA HELD AT ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL WARRI.

APPENDIX 4: PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA HELD AT ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL WARRI.

NOTE

THESE WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU AS A MAIL.

