

EDUCATION UNIT REPORT

INTRODUCTION BY THE BISHOP CHAIRMAN OF THE CBCN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is with joy that I welcome the publication of this maiden edition of the CBCN Church and Society's newsletter intended to highlight the activities of the department for the past one year. This development is particularly welcome because it helps our people to be aware of the involvement of the department in working for the welfare of all and to make use of its services.

The year 2020 was particularly challenging to the whole world as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CSN Education Unit's activities, as well as the planned activities of the diocesan Education Directorates/Departments were seriously affected by the nationwide lockdown and other measures introduced by various governments to check the spread of the corona virus. However, I am happy that, despite all the challenges posed by the unfortunate situation, many Nigerian Catholic schools and universities were able to organize online classes, seminars and conferences. Students of many Catholic primary and secondary schools situated in areas with access to the internet were able to function, albeit in a limited form. I cannot forget the great number of Catholic schools that could not hold online classes as a result of their lack of internet access. Most of our schools suffered greatly because the Nigerian government did not extend its payroll support programme to Catholic schools; many such schools in different parts of the country lost some of their teachers to government schools.

During the course of the past year, the Education Unit of the CBCN continued in its efforts to get the Religious Institutes to work more closely with the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria in the interest of Catholic education. A WhatsApp platform was created which enabled the free flow of information and other forms of interaction between the CSN, the diocesan and the Religious Institutes' educational leaders. As I commend the Religious Congregations which have already joined the platform, I encourage the others to enroll as soon as possible. Some of the Religious Congregations have education as their primary charism; I believe that if they collaborate with the diocesan education units and the CSN Education Unit, the Nigerian Church stands to gain a lot from their expertise and wealth of experience.

The CBCN policy for the protection of children in Nigerian Catholic schools has been published, and it is hoped that every Catholic school in Nigeria will get copies for every member of staff – tutorial and non-tutorial - and ensure that the contents are well understood and faithfully implemented. I salute the efforts of many of our diocesan education Directors who organized teacher-training sessions, conferences, seminars and other activities despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I hope and pray that the 2021 pastoral year will witness a return to normal educational activities all over our beloved country. I encourage all stakeholders in Catholic education to renew their commitment to the achievement of its aims and objectives. May the Good Lord in whose vineyard we all labour bless us all and grant success to the works of our hands.

Most Rev. Peter Kayode Odetoynbo
Chairman, Education Committee
Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria

THE EDUCATION UNIT OF THE CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT OF NIGERIA

2020 ACTIVITIES

By – **Rev. Fr. Augustine Okochi (Education Secretary, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria)**

The year 2020 began like every other year – with promises and prospects. The Education Committee of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria had programmes mapped out for execution during the course of the pastoral year. The Education Unit of the CSN, its implementation arm, coordinating with other stakeholders in Catholic education, engaged in a number of activities aimed at realizing the aims and objectives of the CBCN education policy. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant nationwide lockdown, however, most of the activities were only carried out online where possible. The different dioceses and Religious Institutes faced the same challenges and had to fashion out ways and means of carrying out their programmes whenever possible. Some had only one option – total shutdown – but all were continuously engaged in the quest for answers to the challenges occasioned by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This report contains the accounts of the activities of the National and diocesan Education Units during the 2020 pastoral year.

NACDDED 2020 CONVENTION IN JALINGO: From the third to the sixth day of February 2020, the National Association of Catholic Diocesan Directors/Secretaries of Education (NACDDED) met in Jalingo, Taraba State. The theme of the convention was: “Nigeria’s Education Laws and Policies as it Concerns Non-Public Schools.” The convention was well attended and witnessed, among other things, the election of new officers to run the affairs of the body. Rev. Fr. Francis Atama, the Education Secretary of the Catholic diocese of Oturkpo, was elected president, Fr. Edward Inyanwachi (Abakaliki) – Vice President, Fr. Chris Inegbenoghu (Abuja)– Secretary, Fr. Mdaki Emmanuel (Kaduna) – Vice Secretary, Fr. Hilary Nwajagu (Awka) – Financial Secretary and Fr. Andrew Igbana (Gboko) – treasurer.



The Convention Banner



His Lordship, Most Rev. Charles Michael Hammawa, the Bishop of Jalingo Diocese, with some attendees of the Jalingo NACDDED Convention.



Group photograph with some students after the last mass of the Jalingo 2020 Convention

Rev. Fr. Augustine Okochi, the CSN Education Secretary, attended the convention and presented an address in which he solicited for the continued co-operation of the members of NACDDED with the national office; he announced the incorporation of one of the members of NACDDED, Rev. Fr. Theophilus Itamah, as a member of the Education Committee of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria. He also encouraged diocesan Education Secretaries to involve the other units of the Church and Society department (Health, Family and Human Life, JDPC) in their programmes at the diocesan level since they all belong to one department and complement one another.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE CBCN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: During the course of the 2020 pastoral year, the membership of the Education Committee of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria was reconstituted. New members were nominated and confirmed to replace the old members, the latter having completed their four years tenure. Earlier in late 2019, the Chairman of the CBCN Education Committee, Most Rev. Peter Kayode Odetoyinbo, thanked the outgoing members and presented plaques and certificates of appreciation to them on behalf of the CBCN.



Sir Paddy Njoku receiving his certificate of appreciation from Most Rev. P.K. Odetoyinbo, the Chairman of CBCN Education Committee.



Dr. Emmanuel Umoh receiving his certificate of appreciation from Most Rev. P.K. Odetoyinbo, the Chairman of CBCN Education Committee.



Rev. Fr. Anthony Amadi receiving a plaque from Most Rev. P.K. Odetoyinbo, the Chairman of CBCN Education Committee.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEBINAR: On May 6th 2020, the International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC) held a webinar on **Difficulties Encountered by Catholic Schools in the Light of COVID-19**. Many administrators of Catholic educational institutions from all over the world participated including the Education Unit of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria.

PUBLICATION OF THE CBCN POLICY ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN NIGERIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: The Publication of the CBCN policy on the protection of children in Nigerian Catholic schools was realized. A direct outcome of the third National Catholic Education Summit, the policy outlines steps to be taken to protect every child receiving Catholic education in Nigeria from all forms of abuse. It also contains materials on how to prevent abuses and what steps to be taken in suspected and confirmed cases of abuse in Nigerian Catholic schools.

GREATER COLLABORATION WITH RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES The leaderships of the Men/Women Religious Institutes in Nigeria are collaborating with the Education Unit of the CSN to encourage greater co-operation between the diocesan Education Secretaries/Directors and their Religious counterparts. Many Religious Congregations have education as their charism and the church in Nigeria stands to gain a lot from their expertise and wealth of experiences.

WORKING WITH DIOCESAN EDUCATION DIRECTORS/SECRETARIES: The CSN Education Unit provided guidance to a number of Diocesan Education Directors/Secretaries on the ways forward in the light of the various challenges they faced from different sources during the course of the 2020 pastoral year, especially regarding the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

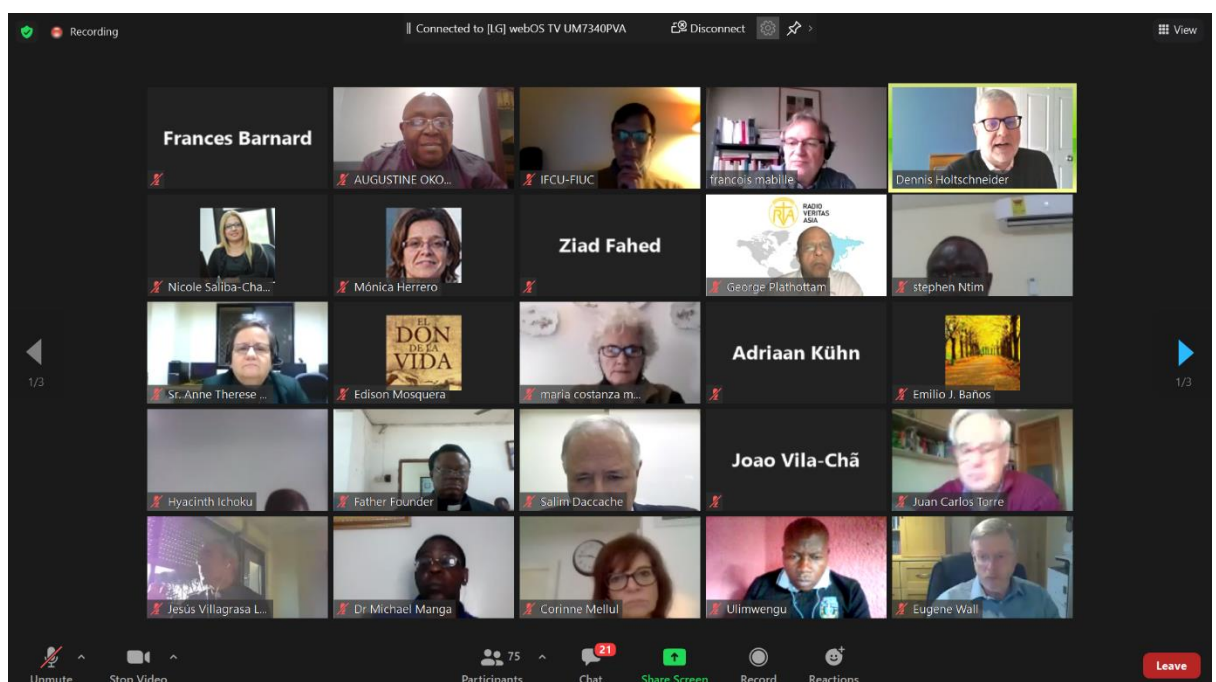
ZOOM MEETINGS/WEBINARS: The CSN Education Unit participated in a series of zoom meetings and webinars during the 2020 pastoral year as shown below:

1. July 7th 2020 – International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC) Webinar on “A common good approach to COVID-19 in the field of education.” Deputy Director of Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy, Baltimore Maryland U.S.A. Ashley Berner joined several panelists to discuss how parents, schools, and governments could focus on the common good as schools reopened in the light of covid-19.
2. 18th August, 2020: Zoom meeting with the Association of Christian Schools in Nigeria (ACSN). Mrs Theresa Mbonu, the Abuja Archdiocesan Education Secretary, represented the Education Unit of the CSN in the zoom meeting of the Association. The Association reported that it had recorded some measure of successes since its inception. One example includes in reversing the policy of merging Christian Religious Studies with Islamic Studies and subjects under Social Values. In other words, the association was a strong force in making CRS a standalone subject in the Nigerian school curriculum. It is good to remember that the CBCN Education Unit under Fr. Bernard Asogo and Dr. Mrs Sabina Offoegbu, was very much a part of this successful struggle.
3. 15th October 2020: Virtual meeting organized by Congregation for Catholic Education witnessing the introduction of the *Global Compact on Education* by Pope Francis. Among other things, the Pope stated that, “Today, we are called to have the necessary *parrhesía* [frankness] to leave behind superficial approaches to education and the many short-cuts associated with utility, (standardized) test results, functionality and bureaucracy, which confuse education with instruction and end up atomizing our cultures,” “Instead, we should aim to impart an integral, participatory and polyhedral [many-sided] culture,” he continued. “The value of our educational practices will be measured not simply by the results of standardized tests, but by the ability to affect the heart of society and to help give birth to a new culture.”
4. Creation of national platform for Education Directors – Diocesan and Religious – for greater collaboration: To encourage greater cooperation between the CSN Education Unit, the Diocesan Education Units and the Education Directorates of the Religious Institutes, a platform was created with the blessing of the Most Rev. Peter Kayode Odetoyinbo, the Chairman of the CBCN Education Committee. This has made information flow between the bodies to be much easier. Efforts are still on to achieve an even greater synergy between the three bodies.

5. November 10, 2020: OIEC webinar organized jointly with OIDEL and GPEN on the theme of "*Christian School Experiences to Respond to the COVID Crisis.*"

6. 2nd December 2020: OIEC/GRACE conference on "*THE HEART OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION: Conversation with Dr. Thomas H. Groome*" Dr. Groome is a Senior Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College, U.S.A. Organized primarily by the Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education GRACE), the task of the conference was to reflect on the following: "When a school presents itself to the world as offering Catholic education, it signals, at a minimum, that it is committed to educating from and for faith. It is to educate from deep spiritual convictions that are core to Catholicism and for a Transcendent as well as an immanent perspective on life in the world and how to live it well. What then, we might ask, is at "the heart" of Catholic education? We surely need to know for moving forward faithfully in our time."

7. January 13th 2021: Rev. Frs. Augustine Okochi, Hyacinth Ichoku and Emmanuel Edeh represented the CSN Education Unit, Veritas University Abuja and Madonna University Okija respectively at a zoom meeting of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (FICU) to receive a lecture on the Current *Experiments in Strengthening Catholic Mission* delivered by Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, CM, Ed.D. President of the ACCU (US). Fr. Dennis Holtschneider presented the different facets of the Catholic identities of higher education institutions in the United States; he gave a particular focus on Current Experiments in Strengthening Catholic Mission. He systematically presented the evolution of Catholic education in the United States of America, the challenges faced at the earliest stages and the strategies employed to overcome them. He further presented the different steps being taken to retain and enhance the Catholic identity of Catholic universities in the United States of America. The rich fruits of this lecture will be shared with the administrators of Catholic Universities in due course.



A screenshop of the participants at the lecture by Fr. Dennis Holtschneider on the Current Experiments in Strengthening Catholic Mission.

Recording | Connected to [LG] webOS TV UM7340PVA | Disconnect

Hiring and Training

- Hiring for Mission
- Training Programs for employees at hiring
- Longer programs for faculty
- Trustee training
- Ongoing education programs (lunch seminars, day retreats, trips to foundation places)



ACCU Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities



One of the slides on the approaches to running a Catholic University

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES FROM THE DIOCESES

Having presented a summary of the activities of the Education Unit of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, what follows is a presentation of the activities of a number of diocesan Education Departments for the past one year.

1. PROGRESS REPORT PRESENTED BY UROMI DIOCESE (2020)

INTRODUCTION

The Academic year 2019/2020 was bedeviled by the challenges resulting from the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which brought the whole world to a standstill and affected the school programme and all other activities adversely. Despite these challenges, all the Catholic Schools under the Uromi Diocese achieved some landmarks while placing the students' future and learning as paramount.

1. The strict directive from the government to lock down all schools in the Country to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic automatically triggered a drop in the school fees, making the payment of teachers' salaries difficult. The Catholic Schools under the Uromi Diocese were able to pay staff salaries because of their entrepreneurial activities like an investment in water factory, farms, hospitality, etc. It suggests that school leaders must be entrepreneurial in school management. According to Mars and Metcalf, entrepreneurship is those activities carried out by leaders that entail risk, innovation, and opportunity, particularly in times of uncertain resources like the COVID-19 Pandemic period.

In a time of uncertainty, school leaders must design a compass to navigate the way to success. Principals must be prepared to manage the schools without school fees. Entrepreneurial leaders are not discouraged by organizational challenges, such as Pandemic, limited financial, and material resources. Instead, they devise various means of providing ways to solve organizational problems. So, we submit, this is the way to go.

2. During the lockdown, Lumen Christi International High School organized the online zoom classes for all students to ensure day to day learning. The online classes gave the teachers the opportunity to learn computer skills. It helped the teachers and students to know and master the computer efficiently and professionally. The Pandemic was an eye-opener; we did not only realise that 'God is God' and 'man is a man,' but it helped us discover that we can do things differently and achieve more in School through online learning.

3. **Inspection of schools:** Federal Government of Nigeria (1977) asserts that the success of any system of education is hinged on proper planning, efficient administration, which includes organisation and control, inspection, and supervision. To this effect, the Education Commission of Uromi Diocese established an Inspection Unit made up of seasoned educationists. The Team of Inspectors was to ensure that the system is not only regulated but that it is also controlled and monitored. The Commission and the Inspectors Team also ensured that minimum standards of academic performance, teaching, administration, and maintenance of physical plants are upheld. The Team's effective inspection and supervision ensured proper implementation of uniform calendar and compliance of COVID-19 protocols in all Catholic schools in the Diocese. This effective supervision accounted for the successes recorded in 2020 amidst the challenges of the Pandemic.

4. **Excellent performance in 2020 WAEC result:** Tenaciously holding on to her motto: 'Aut Caesar Aut Nihil' (The Best or Nothing), Lumen Christi has continually worked hard to sustain her academic glory and aimed at soaring higher on the wings of excellence in any given examination. Not only did she make another 100% excellent result in the May/June 2020 West Africa Examinations Council (WAEC), but the school also had 95% of her students with 'A' and 'B' grades. We are eternally grateful to God for this great success. This story of excellent success in 2020 WAEC results is also applicable to some Catholic secondary schools under Uromi Diocese.

CONCLUSION

In all, the Education Commissions will continue to ensure that qualitative education is given to students at all levels. As Education Director, I will always strive to maintain the high educational standard synonymous with Catholic education.

Rev. Fr. Itaman Theophilus PhD
 Education Director, Uromi Diocese/
 Provincial Education Director,
 Benin Province

2. AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OSOGBO FOR 2020

INTRODUCTION: This report covers the activities of the Education Department of the Catholic Diocese of Osogbo for the 2019/2020 academic session.

STATISTICS

At present, the Diocese has thirteen (13) Nursery & Primary Schools, nine (9) Secondary Schools, a Polytechnic, a Rehabilitation Centre for the physically challenged, and a Centre for remedial programme. There are 483 teachers, 266 non-teaching staff and 6,693

pupils/students in our Nursery/Primary and Secondary Schools. In addition, there are two Nursery and Primary Schools as well as two Secondary Schools owned by different Religious Congregations in the Diocese.

FRINGE BENEFITS

Every staff in our Diocesan Schools is allowed to enjoy tuition free scholarship on two biological or legally adopted children at a time in the school where he/she works.

Every Catholic family that has three children in any of our schools enjoys tuition free scholarship on one of them throughout his/her studentship.

ACTIVITIES IN 2019/2020 SESSION

- i. Periodic meetings of Heads of Schools and their Bursars were held.
- ii. Inspection was carried out in some schools by the School Board.
- iii. The meeting of the Bishop with Heads of schools, Bursars and the School Board was held.
- iv. A workshop was organized for staff on Child Right Policy and Protection.
- v. A diocesan structure on Child Right Protection/Abuse was set up.
- vi. A symposium was organized for all teaching and some select non-teaching staff on **Post COVID-19 School**.
- vii. Palliatives were given to staff to ease the negative effects of the lockdown on them.
- viii. Periodic meetings of the Schools Board were held.
- ix. Inter school sports competitions were organized to mark the 25th anniversary of the Diocese.
- x. Inter school quiz was organised to mark the 25th anniversary of the Diocese.
- xi. Award of excellence was given to the best five teachers from diocesan schools to mark the 25th anniversary of the Diocese.

CHALLENGES

- i. Low patronage of most of our schools by Catholics.
- ii. Low student statistics in our schools.
- iii. Protracted lockdown and abrupt closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- iv. Finance in the face of economic hardship that has reduced the number of students in our schools and increased the number of defaulters. The hike in the prices of materials is tough.
- v. The Diocesan Education Summit scheduled for May, 2020 could not hold because of the COVID-19 lockdown.

CONCLUSION: We are grateful to God for the success of the past. We thank the proprietor, Most Rev John Akin Oyejola, for his vision and support. We appreciate the commitment of members of the School Board, School Management teams and staff, chaplains, parents and students and all priests in the Diocese.

Rev. Fr Felix Olaniyan
Education Secretary

3. REPORT OF EVENTS 2020 FROM CATHOLIC EDUCATION DIRECTORATE OF GBOKO DIOCESE

MAJOR ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

1. WORKSHOP FOR INTENDING TEACHERS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Owing to the Benue state government planned withdrawal of her teachers and other non-teaching staff in Catholic Schools, the Catholic Education Directorate at the directive of the Diocesan Bishop organized a 5-days workshop for qualified teachers. This workshop was aimed at training teachers who intend to teach in Catholic schools. Amongst other things, it was meant to equip them with the necessary principles and guidelines that govern a catholic education that is efficient and holistic. The workshop took place from the 31st August to 4th September, 2020, at St John Day secondary school Gboko. Ninety (90) participants turned out for the workshop with nine (9) facilitators from College of Education Katsina-Ala.

2. INAUGRAL MASS FOR 2020/2021 ACADEMIC SESSION

It is customary for the Directorate of Catholic Education of Gboko Diocese, to organize Mass at the beginning of each academic session to mark the beginning of the session. To this effect, a Holy Mass to usher in the 2020/2021 academic session was celebrated. This took place on 15th October, 2020, at St John the Baptist Cathedral Gboko. The Chief Shepherd of the diocese, Most Rev. William Avenya presided over the Mass. Both primary and post primary schools were in attendance.

Rev. Fr. Ignatius Washima HIM

(Director, Catholic Education Services)

Catholic Diocese of Gboko,

Benue State.

(www.cathedusergbk.org, cathedusergcboko@gmail.com)

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF UYO: REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOLS IN 2020.

The current Covid-19 Pandemic has dealt a heavy blow on our school system in the country, and Our Mission Schools are not exception. This notwithstanding, we still have cause to thank God for everything,

especially for sparing our lives and for the minimal activities that could be carried out during the school year- 2020.

During that year we held only one seminar for staff, and this lasted for only one day. We successfully participated in the WASCE & NECO, and other examinations organized in the State, and our children performed very well. We can proudly say that despite the Pandemic/Lockdown, we continued to act always with the right reason enlightened by the example and the teachings of Jesus Christ, with preferential option for the poor. We were able to our staff their monthly entitlements even during the Lockdown.

The Annual Diocesan Inter-schools Sports Competitions could not hold due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, we took part in the Holy Childhood programmed (at low profile) and some of our children received the necessary Sacraments at their respective levels.

The accompanying Pictures show the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. John E. Ayah blessing and commissioning a new Administrative Block, a New Computer Lab and some games facilities in Adiaha Obong Secondary Commercial School, Eniong Offot, in Uyo Diocese.

Rev. Fr. Dr. Michael Idobo

Director, Department of Uyo Catholic Educational Services,

Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

**A REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
CATHOLIC EDUCATION ABAKALIKI DIOCESE FOR THE YEAR
2020.**

The year 2020 began with great expectations and various activities lined up for our schools. Barely two months into the year we were confronted with the Covid -19 pandemic which shutdown activities all around the world. However before the closure of schools the department was able to carry out the following activities.

(a) TEACHERS SEMINAR

We organized seminar for teachers on January 9, 2020 at Annunciation Secondary School Kpirikpiri Abakaliki. The theme for the seminar was, 'Impact of Effective Classroom Management on Student Learning' and was facilitated by Prof. Uchenna Mariestella Nzewi of the Faculty of Education UNN Nsukka. A total number of 101 teachers drawn from 32 Secondary Schools in the Diocese participated. Using a dialogical method, Prof. Nzewi stressed on the importance and necessity of a good Classroom Management to aid student learning. Participants were divided into focus groups and each group came up with reports which have been collated by the department of Education for publication.



The Education Secretary of Abakaliki Diocese, Rev. Fr. Dr. Edward Inyanwachi poses with other participants at the teachers' seminar

(b). SPORTS TOURNAMENT

The Education Department organized a Sports Fiesta/competition for our secondary schools. It was held from February 16-22, 2020 at 5 venues; annunciation Secondary School, Kpirikpiri, St. Augustine Seminary, Ezzangbo, Preco Secondary School, Nnodo Boys Scondary School and Ngele Oruta Sports

Stadium, Abakaliki. Ebonyi State Ministry of Youth and Sports provided us with some officials for the competition. The following events were featured; Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton, Table Tennis, Scrabbles, 100m race, 400M race, 1,500M race, 4x1 relay, High jump and Long jump. Each of the events was for both boys and girls teams. A total number of 22 Schools and 726 students participated in the event. The ceremony was opened with a mass by the Bishop of Abakaliki Diocese Most Rev. Dr. M.N Okoro, and also concluded with a Mass by the Director of Catholic Education.

(c) E-LEARNING SEMINAR

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the closure of regular studies, we organized a seminar for teachers on how to engage in e-learning for their students. While it was certainly an innovation that enhances learning, we quickly realized that not many schools could participate due to network issues. Majority of our schools are located in rural areas where there are little to no electricity nor good network services. But we were not deterred, but rather decided to start with a pilot program for Senior Secondary 2. We selected six select schools and chose seven subjects, namely, St. Augustine Seminary Ezzangbo-Civic Education; St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School Nwofe-Computer Studies; Bishop Thomas McGettrick Girls Secondary School Afikpo-Mathematics; St. Charles Secondary School Nigercem-English Language; Government Technical College Agba-Igbo Language; and St. Theresa Secondary School Okpaugwu-Abakaliki-Chemistry and Economics. These subjects were taught using the Education Department Website (www.eduabakaliki.org). It is the intention of the department to extend this E-learning project to all classes, where possible and for all subjects.

CONCLUSION: The Department of Education in conjunction with all the schools in the Diocese made every effort to ensure that despite the shutdown due to the Covid Pandemic, learning continued in some form for our students. We are hopeful that as the year 2021 progresses and with the provision of vaccines for the virus, we may get back to some form of normalcy in learning.

Rev. Fr. Dr. Edward Inyanwachi
Director of Education

.....

Report of Abuja Archdiocesan Catholic Education Activities in 2020

1. A new Archbishop in the person of His Grace Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama was installed on 5th December 2019. He convened a maiden General Assembly for the Archdiocese of Abuja from 4th to 5th September, 2020, at the end of which he inaugurated 11 commissions, one of which was the Education Commission.
2. The Archbishop had an inaugural meeting with members of the 11 commissions on 21st September 2020 during which he intimated members that their role would be to assist the Archdiocese brain storm, do a situation analysis of problems and fashion out realistic solutions that would enhance evangelization and development of the Church in the Archdiocese. The Education Commission is made up of 24 members with the Director of Education and the Education Secretary as members. Monsignor Kenneth Enang is appointed the Education Commission Chairman.
3. Since inauguration of the 11 commissions, the Education Commission has met 4 times in an effort to produce the Archdiocesan Catholic Education Policy that would guide delivery of quality Catholic education in the Archdiocese. The policy will also ensure a systematic development of education in the Archdiocese.
4. The rest of activities that took place in 2020 were meetings with school heads and some specific schools towards capacity enhancement, deployment and use of technology in the teaching and learning process.
5. To this effect, the Education Office held the following meetings and training sessions through Zoom:
 - i. Meeting of the Education Director and Education Secretary with Acadaplus ICT company on 1st May, 2020 to plan for use of technology to support children's learning during the lockdown period.
 - ii. One meeting each on 7th and 11th May, respectively, with heads of primary schools and secondary school principals to sensitize them on available on-line platforms for e-learning. The meetings also oriented them on possible strategies with which to keep the children engage through the period of lockdown.
 - iii. The heads of schools were also supported on how to manage the stress of teachers' salaries and ensuring their cooperation with the online learning throughout the lockdown.
 - iv. Seven other Zoom meetings were held with specific schools that were selected as pilot centres for capacity development of the teachers and deployment of Acadaplus Canvas for school's platform. The Education Secretary was present in some of the meetings to give proper direction on the process.
 - v. St. Aloysius Nursery Primary School, Garki is the first pilot school and the teachers and pupils are already moving smoothly with the application. Rex Christus college is also coming up in their capacity development.

- vi. The major challenges have been that of parental support to children for all e-learning activities and access to internet bandwidth which is low and expensive. We are working towards mitigating these challenges.
- vii. The Archbishop, his grace, Ignatius Kaigama met with all school heads in the Archdiocese, along with the Chairman of Education Commission and some members of the commission on 6th November, 2020. During the meeting, His Grace reminded them that the Archdiocese has oversight function on all schools irrespective of whether they are owned by the Archdiocese, set up by parishes or by congregations.
- viii. Looking forward, the Education Commission has scheduled a workshop on 4th February, 2021 to finalize drafting of its Catholic Education Policy. This would be followed by a general stakeholders' forum to conduct a critique of the policy.



Mrs. Theresa Obageli Mbonu
Education Secretary

.....

2020 Report from the Catholic Diocese of Otukpo

The year 2020 started for the Education Unit in the Diocese began as promising as any other year.

In the month of February we had the All Catholic Secondary Schools Games which drew participation from all the 25 Catholic colleges and secondary schools in the Diocese. The festival featured different sporting activities in both male and female categories. It was in all very glamorous as it afforded our students an opportunity for integration with one another from different schools. Scouts in the different field of events were on ground to "catch them young".

The month of March witnessed the zonal eliminations of the Catholic nursery and primary schools debate with the topic: "Completing Primary Six is more advantageous to pupils than leaving for secondary schools from lower classes."

April was to be the grand finale of the debate. Then Covid-19 struck and everything was suspended as a result of the lockdown.

In August 2020, anticipating school resumption, seminars and orientations were held for heads of our schools on maintaining a hygienic environment in the face of the reality of Covid-19.

One major challenge we faced as a unit in the Diocese was that of teachers retention amidst inability to pay staff salaries during the months of the lockdown. Many of our schools ran into debts with the view of making up from income for the third term which eventually never held.

Our staff have continued to demand for explanations as to why private schools were qualified for government palliative and our schools are not.

Rev. Fr. Francis Atama

Education Secretary

ENUGU DIOCESE: Report of 2019/2020 academic year activities

1.Preamble

We thank God that we were able to steer the ship of our academic activities till the end of the year. The COVID19 pandemic that ravaged the whole world greatly disrupted much of our planned academic activities. However, amidst the scourge of the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown of academic, social and religious activities, we were able to achieve the following.

2. Mass for the opening of the academic year.

On September 30, 2019 our Bishop, Most Rev CVC Onaga together with his Auxillary Bishop, Most Rev Ernest Obodo celebrated Mass for all our students and pupils at the College of the Immaculate Conception Enugu. The students and pupils came on representative basis. After the Mass, there was attendance matchpast by all schools present. The students were entertained by the bishop there after.

3. DIAMOND JUBILEE

One of our schools, ST Patrick college Emene celebrated her Diamond jubilee on March 17 2020, the feast of St Patrick. Our Bishop officiated at the Holy Mass after which other ceremonies followed.

4.DIOCESAN UNIFORM EXAMINATION.

Our diocese organized for her students and pupils a common examination for all students and pupils in the diocese. This helped us to determine if any school is being left behind in the achievement of our academic goals.

5. Teaching and Learning.

As the spread of the COVID19 forced to a halt face to face class teaching, we resorted to online teaching and learning. The online experience was not perfect but it helped us to keep our students and pupils focused on their academic life.

6. VISITATION OF SCHOOLS TO MONITOR COVID19 PREVENTION PROTOCOL'S COMPLIANCE.

Our team of supervisors went round all our schools before resumption after the long lockdown to ascertain each schools readiness for safe resumption and after they have resumed to monitor compliance.

We were able to round up the academic year with the Enugu State Unified promotion Examination.

7. We thank our Bishop Most Rev C V C Onaga who is always on hand to support, advice and empower us.

8. Conclusion.

The academic year reviewed was a difficult one because of the COVID19 pandemic but with the help of God, we made it through the year. May His name be praised both now and forever. Amen.

Rev Fr Jude Nzekwe Ph.D

Education secretary 1

REPORTS ON 2020 ACTIVITIES OF THE EDUCATION OFFICE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ONITSHA

Itemized in this document are the activities organized and managed by the Onitsha Archdiocesan Education office in the year 2020:

1. **Capacity Building/Professional Development**: four activities were organized under this title:
 - i. ***From Class Teacher to School Teacher: Imperative of teacher leaders for a transformative school.*** This aims at opening the eyes of teachers to the fact that the current understanding of their job moved beyond the classroom and classwork. It is about transforming the entire school landscape and its inhabitants unto a higher order. This calls for accountability of one's and other's behaviours. He facilitator was Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Emenu, Ph. D.
 - ii. ***Supporting Students motivation and Engagement in Classroom context:*** This took cognizance of the fact that it was not the same students that left school before the lockdown that returned after it. Many people presumed that the students were ok and moved on as speedily as they could. Our observations showed that the students were confused based on the uncertainties and unpreparedness of the time. They were doubting themselves and were seriously questioning the value of their being in school. We were happy to secure the services of a Canadian based researcher, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Anyichie Ph. D. who won the American Educational Research Association best awards in 2017/18.
 - iii. For Onitsha Archdiocesan school supervisors, we had: ***Adopting and Adapting Education Quality Assurance tools for Effective Evaluation: Implication for Supervision of Catholic Schools.***
While many supervisors are at home with the Quality Assurance Procedure crafted by the Federal Ministry of Education, adapting the tools for effectiveness in Catholic schools was yet to be explored hence this training. It was facilitated by Dr. Bibiana Chijoke Okoli.
 - iv. ***Modern Effective Supervision Method apart from Clinical Supervision.*** Having observed that most of the supervision activities carried out in our schools were based on Clinical Supervision method, we needed to reevaluate our operations. Noticing too, that the Quality Assurance procedure was largely predicated upon Clinical Supervision, we needed to understand other modern effective means to make up for

what experts agree as the shortcomings of that process. The facilitator was by Rev. Fr. Francis Unegbu Ph. D.



Fr. Paschal Onwugbenu, the Education Secretary of Onitsha Archdiocese, co-ordinating the capacity building/professional development training

2. **Online Teaching Apparatus:** To keep the students busy academically during the lockdown, we set up different platforms for online lessons. While we were aware of the challenges of deploying such platforms especially on accessibility and affordability to the students, we tried to use different methods to reach as many as we could.

3. **Special School Calendar Riverine Schools:** In collaboration with the Anambra State Government, after due research, we created and began using a special to serve the pupils and students of the riverine areas of the state disadvantaged by the flood. This took notice of the flood and the height of the farming seasons to secure more days for schools in the area. The idea is to have vacation during the seasons so mentioned and be in school when others are on vacation which enables both those in the riverine areas and upland to relatively get as many days for school as is possible and necessary.

4. **Handbook for administration of Catholic schools:** The aforementioned handbook has been drafted, discussed, debated and finalized. However, it awaits the approval of the Local Ordinary. This will serve as a customary of how we administer schools in Onitsha Archdiocese apart from the policy manual, teacher's manual, disciplinary procedure manual among others.

.....

ARCHDIOCESE OF KADUNA
REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF EDUCATION UNIT DURING AND AFTER
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PRESENTED TO THE CATHOLIC
SECRETARIAT OF NIGERIA ON JANUARY 27TH 2021
PRIAMBLE

This report covers the period from January to December 2020. Our schools resumed 9th for the boarding house and 11th for the day students.

The academic year was horrendous due to the novel corona virus that slices through the atmosphere of the universal world in general and Nigeria in particular. There were so many programs lined up for the year which became difficult to actualize because of the lockdown.

We thank God almighty for the graces we received and the success recorded despite the corona outbreak.

CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK AND ITS EFFECT:

Due to the outbreak which led the state into an emergency lockdown by the state government, our students were unable to complete their second term examinations.

ONLINE CLASSES

With the abrupt closing of schools by the state Government, our schools were resigned to online classes. It was difficult and strenuous for the teachers to come up with the online tutorials. Through the aid of ITC professionals our

schools were able to set up and organize online classes for the students of all levels of education.

The ss3 students were later called back to school to prepare for their WAEC examinations while other students remained at home. This gave the teachers time to effectively prepare the senior students for their examinations.

Few weeks into the WAEC examinations, the Jss3 classes were asked to return to school for their BECE/JSSCE respectively. This also gave the teachers some light of hope to discharge their duties.

Few months after the lockdown was eased and schools re-opened. The guidelines instruction after resumption by the covid-19 task force is to have twenty students in a class. The school had to run morning and afternoon shifts to accommodate and observe the required distance between students and teachers.

As an archdiocese we were able to fill in the form from the government for safe reopening of schools. Our Catholic Schools were the first in the state to have the document even before it was pronounce by the state commissioner of education.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

So many schools folded up after the lockdown. Some of the schools could not seat for the exams due to circumstances beyond their control. All our schools in the archdiocese sat for the exams despite the challenges of staffing and short notice of preparations.

Amidst the difficult situation of that year, a student in one of our schools emerged as the overall best in the Joint Admission Matriculations Board (JAMB) St. Annes Secondary School Kaduna. He is AdebANJI Emmanuel. He scored 351 to emerge the overall best in the state. This is not the first time the School is emerging as the best in the state in JAMB examinations.

STAFF SALARY

It was difficult for the teachers during the pandemic. Our teachers didn't suffer much because some kind of remuneration was given to them. Neighboring schools could not pay their staff for the whole period of the lockdown. Our schools were able to sustain her teachers during the days of the lockdown. The state Government insisted that no school should request for fees from their wards except if parents are willing to subscribe and pay for their wards online lessons. Monies collected during the online classes were also used to complement the effort of teachers.

PROJECTS

The Archdiocese erected new school projects in the rural areas. Despite the securities challenges there have been an increase of students.

The Archdiocese through pro-futuro foundation shared ICT tablets to students in various primary schools to enable them archive learning using computers.



PUBLICATIONS

The office of the Education Secretary produced some policy documents in education to enable the departments function effectively. Some of the documents include:

- a. Education commission Organs and Functions
- b. Quality Assurance Manual Booklet

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

With the effort of the Archbishop, one of our schools was returned back to the Archdiocese after thirty years and court battle. The school finally is returned and managed by the Archdiocese after the long case in the appeal court.

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- The association of Nigerian authors had their annual lectures in Kaduna and some of our schools were invited for the literature in which they emerged first position in the competition for analyzing literature novels.
- Kaduna state mathematics competitions.
- Seminar on federal road system organized by road safety.
- Cultural days and carrier day celebrations.
- Silver jubilees and other anniversaries.

We thank God for His protection and guidance throughout the rough part of 2020. We appreciate our Archbishop for His magnanimity in the field of Education. May God grant him the grace to reap the fruit of his labour.

.....

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AWKA

MAJOR ACTIVITIES THAT TOOK PLACE IN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN THE DIOCESE WITHIN THE 2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

1. Maiden Education Summit

Faced with the superfluity of challenges that revolve around education planning and administration in today's world, the church in Awka Diocese with her stakeholders in education started thinking on how best to surmount those obstacles and go on with the injunction of Christ to teach all nations. Such challenges as Poor planning, insufficient funding, poor remuneration of staff, sexual disorientation, examination malpractices among others continue to pose serious problem to day-to-day running of catholic schools especially as the number of schools in the diocese continues to increase with the government return of schools they forcefully took over from the church. The need therefore, for the stakeholders of education in the Catholic diocese of Awka to brainstorm to find better ways of managing schools with less friction became imminent. This necessitated the convening of the Maiden Education Summit in Awka Catholic Diocese.

Within the first term of 2019/2020 academic year, after the World Catholic Education Summit in New York in May 2019, the Catholic Diocese of Awka convened her Maiden Education Summit on the Theme "Education for Character Formation, Empowerment and Salvation", between November 4th – 8th 2019 at Arch Bishop Albert Obiefuna Retreat & Pastoral Center Okpuno. The Primary objective of the summit is geared towards evaluating the journey so far in Catholic Education in the Diocese, and articulate better policies that will drive quality education at the Nursery, Primary, Secondary and

Tertiary levels in the face of challenges of the twenty first century. It was also aimed at appreciating stakeholders and teachers for the respective roles they played in bringing a welcomed wave of change to schools since the inception of the church-state education partnership in 2009

The summit was attended by over 400 stake holders comprising

- The Diocesan Bishop Most Rev P.C Ezeokafor & his Auxiliary Most Rev J.B Okoye; Most Rev. Peter Ebele Okpaleke (Now the Bishop of Ekwulobia Diocese)
- Representative of the Executive governor of Anambra State, Commissioner of Basic Education & other Stakeholders of Education from Anambra State Ministry of Basic Education
- Fmr Governor of Anambra State Mr Peter Obi, Successful Business Men and Technocrats of South east extract.
- Vice Chancellor Nnamdi Azikiwe University Prof Charles Esimone, Fmr Vice Chancellor of Unizik Prof Pita Ejiofor, Other Professors & Lecturers from Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka
- Invited Professors & Lecturers from Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University Igbariam/Uli and other universities
- Clergy Men and women working in the six episcopal Regions of the Old Awka Diocese and beyond
- Rector and selected staff of St John Innovative Institute of Management & Technology Neni
- Rectors & Academic Deans of Junior Seminaries in the Diocese
- Managers & Principals of all the Catholic Secondary Schools in the Diocese;
- Vice Principals, Deans of Studies, librarians, bursars and other Selected Teachers
- Head Teachers of Catholic Nursery/Primary Schools in the Diocese
- Selected students/pupils from Secondary and Primary schools in the Diocese

The Summit kick-started with a Pontifical Mass celebrated by the Diocesan Bishop Most Rev P.C Ezeokafor at St. Patricks Cathedral Awka. The Bishop welcomed the participants and appreciated the sacrifices they are making to see that education of the young, following the injunction of Christ is continued. The interactive session of over 800 students (selected from all the Primary and Secondary schools in the diocese), with Chief Nnia Nwodo, Chairman Ohaneze Ndi Igbo and Chief Ikenna Okafor, IDE AKWAEZE with Mr Patrick Ubajiaka as the moderator followed immediately at St John of God Secondary School Awka. During the course of the session, emphases were placed on discipline, character formation and hardwork as the recipe for success. Questions from students were entertained.



Fr. Hilary Nwajagu, Bishop Paulinus Ezeokafor, Professor Pita Ejiofor, Fr. Augustine Okochi at the Awka diocesan maiden Education Summit

The plenary sessions of the summit took place at Arch Bishop Albert Obiefuna Retreat & Pastoral Center Okpuno with the welcome address of the Diocesan Education Secretary Rev. Fr. Hilary Nwajagu on the need for us to consolidate Catholic Education now! The National Education Secretary Very Rev. Fr Augustine Okochi delivered a mind-boggling address that created the atmosphere for introspection. This was followed by a well-articulated Keynote address of the Diocesan Bishop on “Catholic Education in our modern world” which kick-started the discussion. Other paper presentations, extensive discussions and workshops kept the entire assembly alert for the rest of the days of the summit.

A plethora of recommendations and possible solutions were proffered by summit delegates and stakeholders. After the deliberations that followed after the summit despite the challenges of covid 19, and with the Mandate of the Diocesan Bishop, the entire Proceeding and Recommendations from the summit was published on 5th of October 2020. It has become a wonderful and veritable tool for school administrators and teachers in the diocese.





Sir Peter Obi, the former Governor of Anambra state, speaks at the Awka diocesan Education Summit

2. Online Teaching & Learning

It is said that necessity is the mother invention! Although the devastating effect of Covid 19 pandemic in education sector in the world is unprecedented, yet it really challenged so many education institutions to seek for an alternative method of learning outside the Face to Face learning which hitherto seem to be the only plausible method. Not only that most of our schools explored fully the option of E-learning, Our Diocese in conjunction with other Catholic Dioceses in Anambra State developed an E-learning Portal that will aid all the Catholic Students in secondary school in the state with the Arch Diocese of Onitsha as the major anchor. Students are already benefitting from this.

3. Provincial Quiz & Debate competition

The Onitsha Ecclesial Province then comprising Onitsha Arch Diocese, Awka, Nnewi, Enugu, Abakaliki, Nsukka, and Awgu organize a Quiz and debate competition for all the Secondary schools in the Province. The Preliminary stage of the competition was hosted by Enugu Diocese at College of Immaculate Conception Enugu on 31st Jan 2020; while the grand finale was hosted by Awka Diocese at Loretto Special Science School Adazi on 15th Feb 2020. The major objective of the competition is to create a healthy spirit of competition among Catholic Students in the province and to ascertain that all schools in the province are on-course with the current curriculum approved by the Federal ministry of Education. The result was encouraging for the Old Awka Diocese as her student took the First Position in Senior Quiz and 2nd position in Debate. It was a wonderful experience for the students.

Thanks.

Rev. Fr. Hilary Nwajagu (Education Secretary, Awka Diocese).

