

UROMI DIOCESAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

A REPORT ON THE DIOCESAN SEMINAR HELD FOR TEACHERS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ON THE C.B.C.N CHILD RIGHT PROTECTION POLICY FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA

It has become part of the tradition of Uromi Diocesan Education Commission to hold annual Seminar for teachers in Catholic Schools across the entire diocese. The occasion provides an opportunity for the training and retraining of teachers in order to ensure efficiency of the teaching and learning process in our Diocesan Schools. This year 2021 was no exception. The seminar took place on Monday 6th of September 2021 at the Diocesan Chancery Hall and focused on the CBCN “Child Right Protection Policy for Catholic Schools in Nigeria” with the theme: **“Managing Students’ Discipline for Effective Learning Today.”**

The Seminar began at 8.00am with the arrival of delegates. A total number of 187 (one hundred and eighty seven) teachers and 11 (Eleven) Heads of Schools were in attendance from 14 (fourteen) Nursery and Primary Schools and 8 (Eight) Secondary Schools) across the Diocese. One New School (Stella Maris Girls College, Iruokpen) could not send in their teachers because at the time, Management and staff of the school were concerting efforts to start the very first academic year of the school. Two lectures were delivered during the seminar after which the teachers, went into workshop groups to brainstorm and consider practical questions.

In setting the tone for the day, the Diocesan Education Director, Rev Fr. Dr. Theophilus Itaman, in his opening remarks highlighted the importance of the seminar as part of the Education Commission’s efforts to achieve quality control in the standard and efficiency of the teaching and learning process in Uromi Diocesan Catholic Schools. He further noted that the Seminar is all the more important this time in the light of recent happenings in schools across the country which rightly lead the CBCN to come up with “Child Right Protection Policy for Catholic Schools in Nigeria” he noted that the Seminar, recommended by the CBCN is part of the Commission’s efforts towards adequate preparation of our teachers for the 2021/2022 academic year.

The first lecture, titled: **“Practical Ways of Ensuring Students’ Discipline in Catholic Schools Today in the Light of CBCN Child Right Protection Policy”** was delivered by an expert in Educational Administration, Supervision and Policy, Rev Fr. Dr. Augustine Amamchukwu Okochi of the Catholic Diocese of Awka. The Second Lecture titled: **“Managing the Effects of Social Media on Students’ Psychosexual Behaviour: Towards Effective Classroom Learning”** was delivered by an expert in Counseling Psychology, Rev Fr. Dr. Francis Obaweiki of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi, while the seminar was moderated by an expert in Classics with years of service in the New York City Administration for Children Services, Miss Bernadette Aigbogun.

The lectures were beautifully delivered with lots of illustrations followed by general questions and answers Session after which the congregation was split into eight groups to closely identify and discuss common areas of students indiscipline today and to suggest practical ways of dealing with them without necessarily infringing on the Rights of the Child. At the end of the workshop, the assembly reconvened and each group made a presentation of their findings and recommendations which were collated and reproduced for Catholic Schools in the Diocese to encourage ongoing discussions on the subject matter.

In his concluding remarks, the Education Director Rev Fr. Dr. Theophilus Itaman advised all School Heads to capitalize on the gains of the Seminar and champion the awareness campaign by finding creative ways within their School community to further step down the seminar for Parents, Staff, Students and Pupils.