



Catholic Diocese of Osogbo
**CATECHETICAL
news wheel**

MAIDEN EDITION - DECEMBER 2021

DIRECTORATE OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PUBLISHER:
MOST REV. DR. JOHN AKIN OYEJOLA
Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Osogbo



In line with the directives of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, the Bishop, Most Rev John Akin Oyejola, inaugurated a special committee for the Synod of Bishops 2021-2023, even as he declared open the Diocesan phase of the synodal process. A 25-man committee, comprising of Priests, Religious and the lay faithful headed by the Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Thaddeus Ajayi, was part of the worshipping community that attended the opening Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Pro-Cathedral, Lagere, Ile-Ife on Sunday, 17th October, 2021.

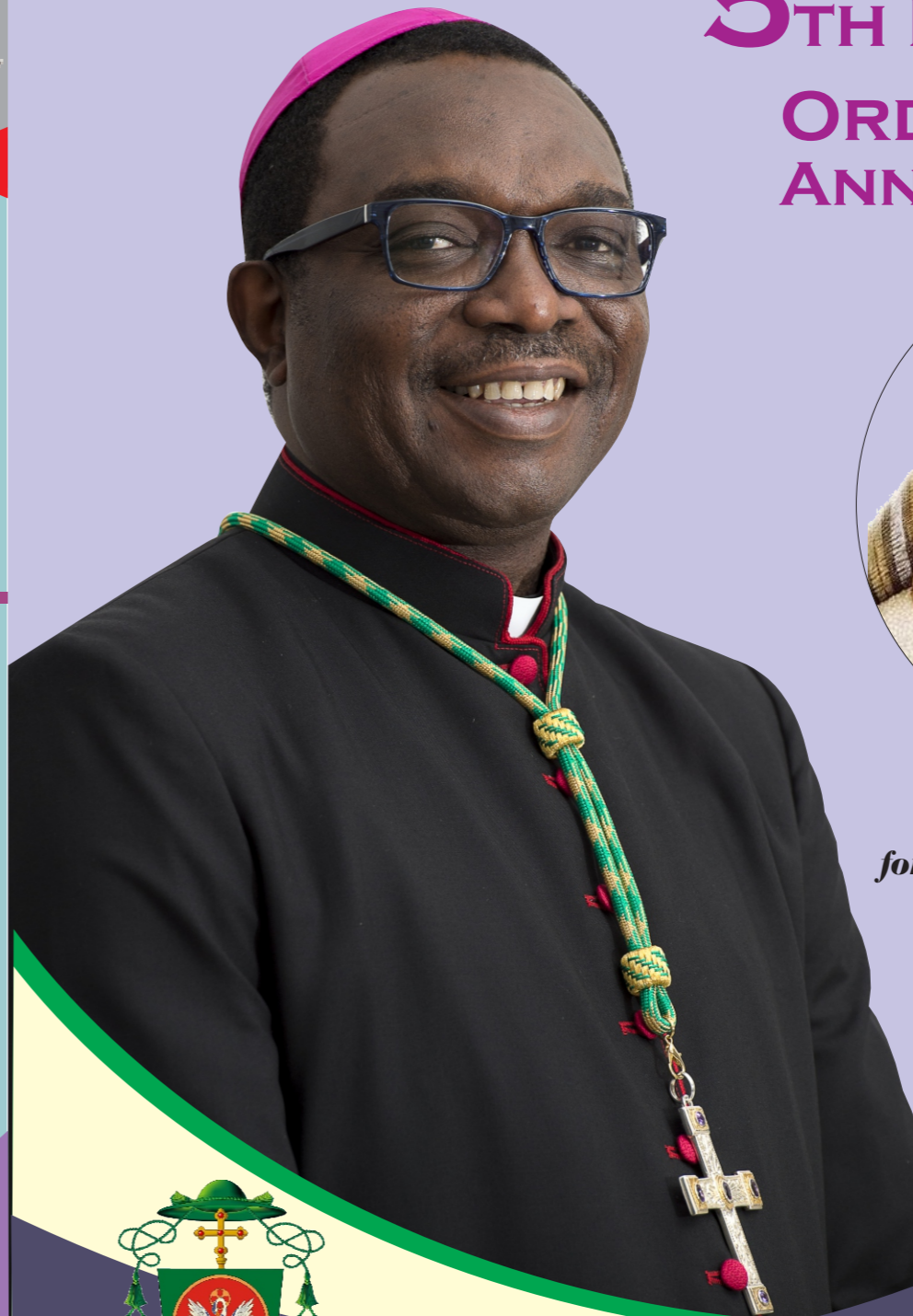
Reflecting on the Synodal theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission", the bishop challenged all the baptized to be involved and contribute meaningfully to all discussions that will make our Church truly a family.

Congratulations our "Olùkó Àgbà"

as you mark your
**5TH EPISCOPAL
ORDINATION
ANNIVERSARY**



*Thank you my Lord
for being passionate about
the Directorate of
Religious Education
of the Diocese.
Many Happy returns*



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FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

“Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21).

After Jesus had risen from the dead, he commissioned his apostles and followers and gave them the task of evangelization. The duty consists of bringing people to the kingdom of God and doing good for all human beings. This is the work that God the Father does, and Jesus does the same. For the scriptures say: “...and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.” (Acts 10:38). In commissioning his disciples to work for evangelization, Jesus wants all of them to work for the good of their fellow human beings.

The Catholic Diocese of Osogbo has taken this mission of Christ seriously. In the past couple of years, the church has made deliberate and sincere efforts to reach the grassroots, bringing Jesus to everyone, the old, the young, the poor, the rich, the good and the bad. The mission has demanded absolute commitment with total dedication to the will of the Master.

Therefore, my dear people of God, we have put up a compilation of some of the tasks geared towards evangelization, in order to remind all of us things that we have already known. This is with a view to taking a critical look at what we have done, evaluate our present position so as to be able to project into the future. I welcome all of you to read these articles thoroughly and offer useful suggestions as to how we can move ahead in the mission that Jesus our Lord and Master has placed in our hands. God bless you all.

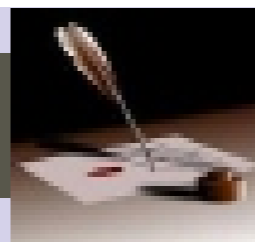
Most Rev. John Akin Oyejola
Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Osogbo



MOST REV. JOHN OYEJOLA
BISHOP, OSOGBO DIOCESE



Editor's Note



CATECHETICAL NEWS WHEEL:

The idea of this publication- *Catechetical News Wheel* came out of the desire of Bishop John Akin Oyejola to create an additional platform of evaluation for the Department of Religious Education of Osogbo Diocese.

This annual publication can also be understood as evangelization **WHEEL**. It contains series of events and all the activities in the Diocese, particularly by the **DRE**. This is different from the *Katolink*- the Diocesan publication since it comes mainly in pictorial forms with little notes of information being a simple way of keeping our memories alive and in proper record.

Also importantly, this maiden edition is dedicated to the 5th Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev John Akin Oyejola, whose primary assignment is to proclaim the Risen Christ which he has planned to do regularly through the Directorate of Religious Education of the Diocese. Therefore, here-in is another way of proclaiming Christ at your door -step through the Directorate of Religious Education of Osogbo Diocese.

Kindly send your comments, remarks, suggestions, opinions and questions to us through our email-osogbodiocesandre@gmail.com or info@osogbodiocesandre.org. You can as well visit our website- www.osogbodiocesandre.org. Thank you.

Sr. Dr . Immaculata Olu Omojola, SSMA
Director of Religious Education
Osogbo Diocese.



The Catechetical Discuss

A New Approaches to Catechesis in The Light of the New General Directive for Catechesis

- Most Rev. John Akin Oyejola

The timeless task Christ gave to the apostles and by extension to the Church is to “go and make disciples of nations and teach them all that I commanded you,” (Cf. Matthew 28: 19). This mandate is unchanging, but the ways to go about it is subject to change. Heraclitus, an ancient Greek Philosopher was credited the statement that: “everything is in a state of constant flux,” in other words, change is an ultimate reality in nature. Bishops and priests, serve a God that does not change in a Church that has fundamental truths of faith that are constant. However, the means of transmitting knowledge about God and truths about him which we regard as Catechesis must adapt to new ways of transmission of the truth of faith.

In this intervention, I will briefly define what catechesis is; there will be an exposition of the new Directory on catechesis. New approaches to catechesis in the light of the New Directory will be examined. Finally, I will also share the practical ways we have adopted in our attempt to catechize the faithful in Osogbo Diocese.

Catechesis in Perspective. As a form of useful reminder, Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation: *Catechesi Tradendae* sums up what catechesis is in these words: “All in all, it can be taken here that catechesis is an education of children, young people and adults in the faith, which includes especially the

teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life.” (no 5)

Catechesis means the passing on of the deposit of faith to the new members of the Church. From time immemorial, it denotes the elementary teaching given to new converts with a view to baptism. Catechesis has higher purpose as well, being the proclamation of the “kerygma” with the intent on evangelisation as well as instruction given to the baptized faithful in the Church. In a wider sense of the word, catechesis encompasses all the ideas mentioned. In other words, catechesis isn't just a class. It is a formation in the life of discipleship.

There are three categories of Christian catechesis namely: (a) Catechesis of initiation or fundamental catechesis, (b) Permanent catechesis, (c) Perfective catechesis. What do we mean? Catechesis of initiation deals with basic catechism for new converts, those preparing for baptism, communion and first reception of the sacrament of reconciliation or confession.

Permanent catechesis deals with the consolidation of the faith in the faithful. This basically is meant to draw out the implications of the Gospels in the various situations of life, as far as is possible and practical. As well as deepening of the understanding of the doctrines of the Church. This gathering is an example of an attempt to promote permanent catechesis and how to implement it. Perfective catechesis is basically for higher level of formal studies of Theology such as in Seminaries and Universities. It is directed to those with special mission or vocation for a deeper penetration of the faith.

The New General Directory for Catechesis

The New General Directory for Catechesis was released on 25th of June 2020, in the wake of the outbreak of global pandemic known as covid19 and general upheaval the world over. The document itself is a follow up of

some existing magisterial documents on Catechesis in the Church, these include: General Catechetical Directory (1971), The General Directory for Catechesis (1997), *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1992) and *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013).

The new General Directory for Catechesis enunciates the goals and tasks of catechesis in the light of the contemporary global context. There is a strong emphasis on “Kerygma” within the process of evangelization, the document calls attention to new and emerging cultural conditions to which everyone must be attentive.

The New Directory on catechesis consists of twelve chapters, which are subdivided into three parts. Part one of the document is about Catechesis in the Church's Mission and Evangelization. There are four sub-headings on (i) Revelation and its transmission. (ii) The identity of Catechesis (iii) The Catechists and Formation of Catechists.

Part two addresses the process of catechesis. (i) The pedagogy of the faith. (ii) The catechism of the Catholic Church. Methodology in Catechesis. (iii) Catechesis in the lives of persons. Part three has as the general heading: (i) Catechesis in the particular Churches. (ii) The section examines catechesis in the face of contemporary cultural scenarios. (iii) Catechesis at the service of the inculturation of the faith and finally, the organisms at the service of catechesis.

Without equivocation, the New Directory on Catechesis affirms the presentation of the Catholic faith as enshrined in the *Catechism of the Church* as the point of reference for catechetical instructions, at the same time Sacred Scriptures and the recent writings of the Popes must be given serious attention.

The New Directory on Catechesis directs that: a “fresh and focused tool” that will enhance evangelization must be adopted in catechetical activities. It presents fundamental theological –pastoral principles for catechesis that will

adequately respond to social conditions and cultural factors that shape the transmission of the faith in a pandemic ridden world. Two papal proclamations gain attention in the document namely: “The mission” and “echo the mission.” According to Pope Paul VI, “The Church exists to evangelise”, while Pope Francis affirms personal responsibility with the statement: “I am a mission.”

Three principles of action are proposed for the effectiveness of catechesis in re-evangelisation: Witnessing, mercy and dialogue. Every baptized person has a missionary vocation and everyone must find innovative ways of communicating the faith, with commitment and responsibility. All the faithful are invited to be courageous witnesses of Jesus Christ, in the family, work place and wider community.

Electronic media of communication manifest radical behavioural transformations that influence the formation of personal identity and interpersonal relations. The church must be visible and loud in the social media. Coordinated efforts must be made to train the faithful in the right use of social media and formation of their minds in their interactions through social media must not be taken for granted.

The catechists are valuable pastoral workers in the Church. They are to be formed as missionary disciples; they are to imbibe missionary spirituality as an antidote to “sterile pastoral fatigue.” Furthermore, they must be formed to be dedicated, and be men/women of integrity. In the course of their duties, they must be vigilant and respect protection of minors and vulnerable persons. They must avoid sexual abuse as well as abuse of power. Priests undoubtedly are the immediate pastoral authority figures that will ensure compliance to rules and standards laid down by the church for the Catechists. In short Catechists are to be trained to be the “saints next door.”

New Approaches to Catechesis: Virtual Catechesis Reality and Challenges

The Use of Communication Media: Electronic medium in particular provides the best means of catechesis in the contemporary time. Faith based video clips can be used in catechesis, graphics, whasaap, twitter and instagram are useful tools that can

be employed in catechesis. During the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic globally last year over 1.2 billion children were out of the classroom. As a result, education changed dramatically, with the distinctive rise of e-learning, whereby teaching was undertaken remotely and on digital platforms in advanced countries and partly in Nigeria. Unfortunately, all our catechetical activities shut down during the Covid-19 lockdown because we were not prepared for the challenge.

How secular authorities responded to the Covid-19 crisis in the education of children who were under lockdown then will be instructive for us as we discuss new approaches to catechesis in the light of the new directory. In India the students had platforms like BYJU'S - a Bangalore-based educational technology and online tutoring firm founded in 2011, which was adjudged the world's most highly Valued Edtech company as at last year. The company developed: Think and Learn app, through it, hundreds of thousands across India were reached online through the app.



Chinese Government introduced Tencent classroom, which was used extensively since February 2020, through it, Chinese government instructed a quarter of a billion full-time students through online platforms. This resulted in the largest “online movement” in the history of education with approximately 730,000, or 81% of K-12 students, attending classes via the Tencent K-12 Online School in Wuhan.

Singapore developed Byte Dance as an internal tool offering teachers and students unlimited video conferencing time, auto-translation capabilities, real-time co-editing of project work, and smart

calendar scheduling, amongst other features. To do so quickly and in a time of crisis, the company in charge of the ByteDance ramped up its global server infrastructure and engineering capabilities to ensure reliable connectivity. Our MTN, Globalcom, Airtel etc have no blue print on how they could be of help to keep education moving during Covid-19 pandemic. If education was at a standstill, catechesis did not fare better. Masses were aired life on television and spiritual reflections given, however, I do not think those limited interventions adequately catered for the catechetical needs of the faithful in Nigeria at that material point in time.

I strongly believe Lagos Archdiocese has human and material resources to fund technological apps through which catechesis can be done online all over the Archdiocese from a central location. Experts in the field of social media can help develop catechetical packages that can be transmitted to parish platforms and families. The examples of how India, China and Singapore responded to the vacuum created by the lack of face to face classroom education method are relevant for our consideration for catechetical programmes in post -Covid19 pandemic era.

While some believe that the unplanned and rapid move to online learning – with no training, insufficient bandwidth, and little preparation – will result in a poor user experience that will hinder effectiveness, others believe that a new hybrid model of information sharing will emerge, with significant benefits. I believe that the integration of information technology in Catechesis will enhance formation of faith and morals and should become an integral component of catechesis in the Church. The time to start putting things in place to catch up with the rest of the world is now; our diocesan catechetical initiatives cannot afford to remain at “analogue” level.

It is important to point out that virtual catechesis cannot completely replace traditional face to face teaching of the faith. Human person communicates using both verbal and non-verbal means. This obviously cannot be adequately done online. Moreover, the personal witness of life of the catechists and others involved in catechesis in our parishes cannot

be done through online means. The ways proposed by Pope John Paul II for catechesis remain therefore relevant at any point in time. They provide unassailable approaches to catechesis, even in a world ravaged by pandemic.

(i) Utilization of various places, occasions, gatherings and various occasions of special value, such as doctrinal seminar for the youth organization, retreats and workshops for Catholic Men Organisation, Laity and Catholic Women Organisation etc. Their gatherings provide suitable opportunity for re-evangelisation through catechesis.

(ii) The Homily: Pope John Paul II, posits that, while respecting the specific nature and proper context of homily delivery, "the homily takes up again the journey of faith put forward by catechesis, and brings it to its natural fulfillment."

(iii) Catechetical Literature, provide good means of re-evangelising our people. For example in Osogbo diocese we have the Deepening the Faith Manual for adult, Manual for Instructors, Catechetical Bulletin for adults and Seedling the Faith Bulletin for the children. The parish bulletin can equally serve as tool of re-evangelisation if well prepared with relevant catechetical materials included.

(iv) The Parish, is the actual setting in which catechesis takes place, it is true that catechesis can be given anywhere, but Pope John Paul II stressed that, the parish community must continue to be the prime mover and pre-eminent place for catechesis for the re-evangelisation of the faithful.

(v) In the Family: The family's catechetical activity has a special character, which is in a sense irreplaceable. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis it is therefore a veritable means of re-evangelisation in the Church.

(vi) At School, together with and in connection with the family, the school provides catechesis with possibilities that cannot be neglected. The special character of the Catholic school, the underlying reason for it, the quality of the religious instruction integrated into the education of the pupils have

proven over the ages to be invaluable means of evangelisation as well as re-evangelisation.

Seedling the Faith:

Children Faith Formation

The formation in faith of children is the first work of evangelization entrusted to parents, and to other members of the family. Through "seedling the faith" programme otherwise known as Sunday School for children, we get involved in the formation and nurturing of the faith of the youngsters. The directorate of religious education produces the booklet with which the animators guide the children. The programme is uniform all over Osogbo Diocese. Seedling the faith involves reproduction of Biblical stories and personalities in such a way that the children can understand them. Doctrinal themes are equally simplified for the children.

Deepening the Faith

Deepening the faith programme is an ongoing weekly catechesis of adults in Catholic Diocese of Osogbo. The weekly themes based on spiritual, pastoral and doctrinal points are usually prepared by a team of competent priests and lay faithful. The booklet for the programme comes out quarterly. The animators for the programme have been trained and their training is ongoing. Deepening the faith is basically interactive in nature. Pope John Paul II describes this form of catechesis as: "the principal form of catechesis, because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibilities and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form."



evangelization, catechesis is involved, from the initial encounter to conversion and consolidation of the faith. The world, in which the faithful are called to live and to give witness to the faith which catechesis seeks to deepen and strengthen, is full of distraction and challenges. The faith therefore must be continually enlightened, stimulated and renewed, so that it may pervade the temporal realities in which they live and work. The most important lesson in new approaches to catechesis is that all involved in Catechesis must be conversant with the use of social media. While technology cannot replace face to face catechesis, those who are not competent in the use of technology will be replaced by those who are competent in the use of technology in the nearest future. Priests who are able to catechize their parishioners through digital means will be able to reach out to more people than those who do not. Priests are to work closely with those assisting in catechesis such as catechists, Sunday school teachers, deepening the faith animators, and those involved in teaching catechism in the parish. New approaches to catechesis will achieve its goal when there is collaboration among all pastoral agents in the parishes and pastoral agents are resourceful in the use of digital and traditional means of catechizing the people.

Thank you for listening.

Conclusion:

Catechesis echoes and proclaims the Christian faith received from Christ through the Apostles; through catechesis the faith is taught and transmitted. At every stage of

Lagos Catechetical Programme held in July, 2021 in Pictures



Confirmation at Ila - Orangun (25-01-2021)



YOU MUST LIVE BY EXAMPLES
As Bishop Oyejola confirms 37 candidates at St Julius Catholic Church, Ila - Orangun - Simeon Olalere Adewumi
 The need to stay close and stand firm in the faith have been stressed once again by the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Osogbo, Most Rev John John Oyejola. He made the admonition on Sunday, 25th July 2021 while delivering the homily at St Julius Catholic Church Ila Orangun for the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on 37 members of the parish. He charged the newly confirmed to be faithful to the work of Christ; be true and authentic witnesses for Christ, not just in words but with their total way of living. In his words, temptation would always be there, but by being disciplined in words and deeds, they must be committed to the mission of Christ. In working out this mission of Christ, they must put on love. Love of God and neighbor must be made evident by caring and praying for one another. God never abandons those who love him. Quoting from history, the scriptures and the documents of the church, he buttressed the fact that prayer and the reception of Sacraments are important in the life of Christians. Through them God gives us the grace to have aversion for sin despite our human limitation. He then advised the newly confirmed to key into these. And for their on-going formation they should take the Deepening the Faith programme of the diocese serious. While congratulating the Catholic faithful in Ila Orangun, Bishop Oyejola encouraged them to build the Christian and Catholic community that will encourage and foster vocations especially among the young ones, to have faith and the ever ready like the Five (5) wise virgins in the bible and not like the Five (5) foolish ones who were not ready with their extra oil of faith. He concluded that: "Your lives must be examples for others to follow."



@ St. Mary Catholic Pro-Cathedral, Ilesa.



@ All Saints' Catholic Church, Ipetu - Ijesa.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

AT IREE

St. Mary's Iree Confirms 29 Candidates.

It was a spirit-filled celebration as 29 candidates were admitted to the sacrament of confirmation at St. Mary's, Iree on the 19th of September, 2021. Delivering his homily at the Eucharistic celebration, the chief shepherd of the diocese of Osogbo, Most Rev. John Akin' Oyejola admonished the newly confirmed to imbibe the virtue of obedience and readiness which every soldier is known for. He further urge them to witness with their life to the sweetness of serving the Lord in a world that is filled with all sorts of negative behaviours. The gifts of the Holy Spirit which the sacrament confer in its fullness is meant to be used for witnessing, the bishop said. After the Mass, the bishop had a tete-a-tete session with the confirmands in the presence of the Parish Priest, representative of the Parish Pastoral Council and the director of the Directorate of Religious Education in the diocese, Sr. Dr. Immaculata Olu Omojola (SSMA).

Earlier on before the administration of the sacrament, the Directorate of Religious Education has series of teaching session with the candidates to prepare them for the reception of the sacrament. Also, the bishop met with the candidates to encourage them on preparation for the sacrament and how they should live a life of testimony as confirmed Catholics.



BLESSING OF RECTORIES



Opening of Frs' Rectory at St. Christopher Catholic Church, Owena - Ijesa, Osun State.



BLESSING OF CONVENTS

Opening of Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus Convent at Ila-Orangun



Opening of Srs' of St. Michael the Archangel Convent at Ifon - Ilobu, Osun State.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OSOGBO ADVANCES

All glory be to God for his faithfulness and loving kindness. Just last year, precisely on May 13, 2020, the Catholic Diocese of Osogbo was 25 years old. This did not come unto us suddenly as a year-long Silver Jubilee activities had kick-started since March 2019 with the theme: Gratitude, Formation and Evangelization. Thus in the euphoria of that event, the Diocese was very conscious of her *raison d'être*: **EVANGELIZATION.**

Everything the Church does is for the salvation of souls (*salus animarum*). Yet, in the plethora of various mission tasks, some basic activities stand out. Those activities receive special attention and, of course, huge financial support. As a diocese, we are a family; the family of God on mission. Every member of the family is expected to contribute his / her time, talents and treasure, to the development and maturing of the Church in our locality. Thus, most activities proposed or directed from the centre are replicated in all parishes. In this way all Christ faithful are being properly informed and formed; they are prepared for a life of witnessing in love and simplicity.

Apart from the Deepening the Faith Programme which is now very known to everyone and has become the delight of both Catholics and non-Catholics around us, very many other church programmes and pastoral activities are making the work of evangelization a great success in our Diocese.

Like a mother who cares for all her children, the Diocese keeps everyone in view and reaches out with appropriate pastoral and spiritual care for the total well-being and proper development of all. The desire of the

Bishop, the chief Shepherd of the Diocese, is to lead everyone to salvation in Jesus Christ. Hence, so many activities are organised both at the Diocesan and Parish levels for the holistic growth of everyone.

Diocesan Weekly Radio Programme: It was the Master himself who said: "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (Jhn. 8:32). The age-old radio programme, Otito Oro Olorun, is gaining more grounds and has become very popular among the Yoruba-speaking-people who listen to the weekly spiritual programme. The well-researched radio teaching programme is aired for 30 minutes every Tuesday and has a great audience. Through it, the true Biblical messages are presented to offer the world the light of the Gospel and inherent values it offers all listeners.

Youth Formation: The young people are gathered from time to time, especially through the Youth chaplaincy, to be instructed in faith, carefully formed and fully prepared for life challenges as well as true discipleship. Among other interventions are the annual Youth Conference anchored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Nigeria (CCRN); the annual Doctrinal Forum where issues of faith and the Christian life are discussed and questions bothering many minds are clearly answered; the socio-cultural event for the discovery and development of talents organized in December every year as well as sporting activities where youths compete with their peers for one trophy or the other. In all these, the youths are helped to make an informed decision on various issues of life.

The Bishop's concern for the self-actualisation of all young people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, makes him to go extra mile always in the

establishment of elementary and secondary schools, vocational centres as well as a tertiary institution, the Villanova Polytechnic, Imesi-Ife. All who were privileged to have passed through the vocational centres either in Ede, Inisa or Ibokun, for instance, are constantly thanking God for the great opportunity at little or no cost. The Youth centre in Ile-Ife is established to provide special back-up for all categories of youths so that they can all discern and realize their dreams in accordance with the will of God. It will only be expected that Catholic parents in particular, encourage their children to make themselves available for what the church is providing for the holistic formation and transformation of the young people.

It should be mentioned here also that the plight and trauma of young adults who should have established their families but are still single / searching is giving a lot of concern to the Diocese. Through the Marriage and Family life Commission, a special intervention is ongoing for such people so that all who desire to marry can happily do so in good time.

Lastly on youth development, the diocese is making a lot of efforts to help and support Catholics in higher institutions around the diocese (through the NFCS) as well as the graduates posted to Osun State for the compulsory National Service (NYSC). The hope is that no one in Osogbo diocese will lose his/her faith in the process of studying or serving the nation Cooperation is the watchword here especially on the part of young people in those categories.

OTHER KEY PASTORAL INTERVENTIONS

The Pastoral interventions in the lives of the people of God in the diocese are achieving the desired effects, thanks to the efforts of the Pastoral Centre Director and his team. In the various aspects of the formation given to the lay faithful, especially to the members of CWO, CMO, Devotional groups, Holy Childhood as well as liturgical functionaries, such as the Lectors, Church Wardens, the Choir, Mass Servers, and even Communicators, etc, everyone is being equipped to live the authentic Christian faith concretely. The vision of his Lordship, Most Rev. John Oyejola, is to enhance the capacity for Christian Witnessing in every person so that the Kingdom of God can be advancing.

In all Parishes, catechesis is a priority. Those preparing for various sacraments are carefully prepared so that they can continue to be strong

witnesses wherever they are found. Of special importance are those who are being prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Bishop always visits to interact with them and ensure that they truly know Christ and are full ready to be his soldiers.

The Bishop's passion for authentic faith development is not just limited to the lay faithful but equally extended to the Priests and the Religious. These are particularly called to provide leadership for the communities of faith entrusted to their care. They hold annual retreat which is a compulsory spiritual exercise for all priests in the diocese. Equally compulsory is the annual Presbyteral Pastoral Seminar through which they evaluate the past and plan for the immediate future. In addition all priests must attend the monthly Deanery priests' meeting / recollection as well as other statutory meetings which enhance the spirit of brotherhood and increase commitment to the work of evangelization.

THE FIRST DIOCESAN SYNOD

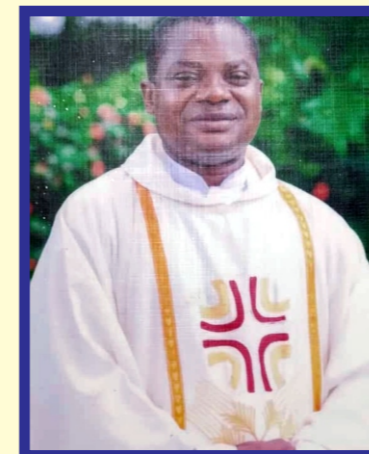
Now that the Diocese has gone beyond 25 years, all efforts are being mustered towards the first ever Diocesan Synod on the theme: You will be my Witnesses: Faithfulness to Christ and to Apostolic Tradition (Acts 1:8). It is hoped that through this important Pastoral Conference, holding between now and December 2022, the various activities and efforts of the Diocese shall be faithfully evaluated and a new plan shall be prayerfully considered. Every Catholic in the diocese is expected to make meaningful contribution of good ideas and suggestions that can move the Diocese forward in the mission entrusted to her.

IN CONCLUSION

Finally, considering the aforesaid, there is no gainsaying the fact that the Holy Spirit is at work in the diocese and everyone is requested to cooperate with him. The Bishop is taking the lead as he responsibly envisions the future and encouraging all, Priests, Religious and the lay faithful, to play well their parts in the building of a truly witnessing church. It behoves all of us to contribute our three Ts (Time, Talents and Treasure) to the pastoral efforts of the Diocese. ***Together, we must "come out of the Jordan" and continue our journey of faith to the Promised Land.***

**VERY REV. FR, THADDEUS AJAYI
THE DIOCESAN VICAR - GENERAL**

THE CATECHETICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS



Rev. Fr. Dr. Peter Adeyem



Rev. Fr. Michael Akinsode



Rev. Fr. Patrick Oladapo



Sr. Dr. Immaculata Olu Omojola
SSMA
Director of Religious Education



Rev. Fr. Samuel Atoyebi
Assistant Director of Religious Education



Catechist Oke Francis



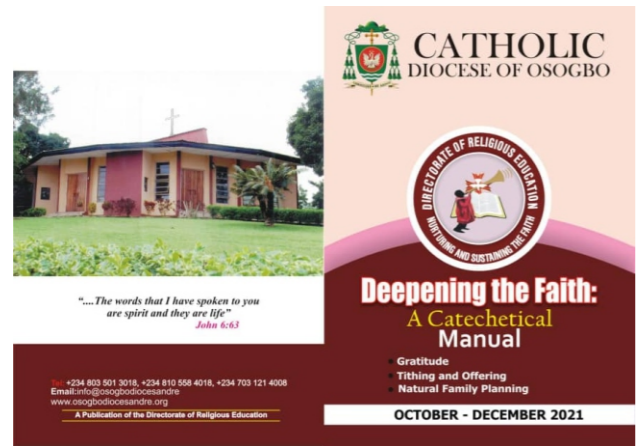
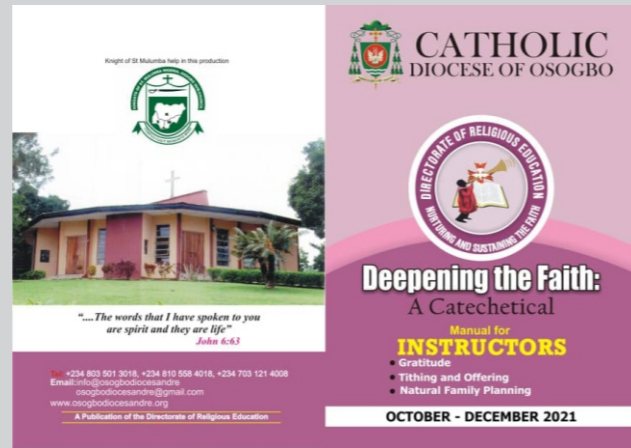
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DRE REGULAR PUBLICATIONS

OPINION POLLS



The catechetical activities in the diocese are well packaged and very rich, soul-lifting, faith-nurturing and life inspiring. The more uniqueness about the deepening the faith programme, catechetical bulletin and seedling the faith is that through them, Catholic members get deeper knowledge about our doctrine while non-Catholics are well informed and educated about Catholic faith. Many questions that have been lingering in their minds for long now get answers. In short, let me testify that some non-Catholics are coming to commend the catechetical publications and programmes that are recently embarked upon by the Diocese. Through the DRE numerous publications, many hearts have been enlightened, and consequently, souls have been filled with more grace as a reward of living faith in the Word of God, it has consistently taught. The impact of the Deepening the faith in our Parish, St. Mary Pro-Cathedral, Ilesa, is overwhelming. It has literally lived up to its name, in deepening the faith of everyone; many who used to attend the Mass without a copy of the Holy Bible now do so with obvious reasons, while a good number who didn't have Bible have been buying. We thank God for the different initiatives the Directorate has brought on-board in making Catholic Christian Doctrines lucid and attractive. **- Fr Patrick Ajayi**

Parish Priest, St. Mary Pro-Cathedral, Ilesa.



The Deepening the Faith has been a huge success indeed! The response from the faithful is positive. It affords the people an opportunity to share their practical life experiences. **- Fr. Olowolagba Stevenson**

Parish Priest, St. Dominic Catholic Church, Ifewara.



When the Psalmist observed, in deep meditation, the wondrous work of God in his life and in his known work generally he asked himself; "How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?". When I looked at the impact of the program of the "Deepening the Faith" in my life as a pastoral Agent and in the Life of my parishioners I honestly can't thank the Lord enough for great impetus it is to meaningful pastoral enrichment in Parishes I have pastored and the spiritual and doctrinal awakening, and nourishment, in quantum, it is bringing to the people of God! Our parishioners now know what the Catholic Faith is and can defend the Faith. Often times I feel ecstatic joy after the program and I don't hide it from those close by. It is a good feeling I can't describe enough in words. I, with so many parishioners, can't thank God enough for this opportunity to learn more together as a Church. We thank our Local Ordinary for making it happen in our time. I would love the next phase of it to be tailored towards sending every parishioners out to enrich their immediate and remote environments with the gifts received therefrom in good works and in proclamation of the Faith. I sincerely thank the Catechetical Department for a job well done and pray for more divine illumination and grace to do more. **- Fr. Fadele Emmanuel**

Parish Priest, St. George, Ofatedo



AN EVALUATION OF CATECHETICAL BULLETIN

The Church considers catechesis as one of her most important tasks. The Catechetical ministry of the Church is to spread the Good news of Jesus Christ, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). It is for this reason that the chief Catechist in the Catholic Diocese of Osogbo, Most Rev John Akinkunmi Oyejola, assisted in this ministry by

Priests, Religious, Catechist and other lay faithful under the direction and coordination of the Directorate of Religious Education headed by Sr. Dr. Immaculata Omojola, SSMA and her team, continuously develop effective, educating and soul lifting catechetical bulletin. They work assiduously to impart and spread fundamental theological, pastoral, moral, spiritual and juridical teachings of the Church in a very simple way and language which can be better understood by people. This office, in her wisdom continue to foster active and effective catechetical mission of the Diocese of Osogbo through the efficient production of the bulletin. The bulletin serves as a mean by which Catholics, non-catholics and even non christians can best read and understand the Catholic faith at a glance. In fact, it serves for a rich faith formation as testified to by its reading audience. Hence, we strongly commend the efforts of the Directorate for a job well done. Kudos to our Bishop, Sr.Dr. Omojola, Fr. Atoyebi and others team members. - **Rev. Fr. Ben Ade Adebisi (JCD)**

Parish Priest, St. Mary Catholic Church, Ayetoro, Osogbo.



Catechetical Commission of Osogbo Diocese has been very pro active in promoting sound teaching in the Diocese. The people are more involved in catechism through their various programs. These programs are getting to all parts of the Diocese and the people are more enlightened about the faith. With consistency in the training of more personnel especially the young adults and the youths, we can achieve more. It has been a very innovative and hard working commission.

- Fr. Pius Odediran.

Parish Priest, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Oke-fia, Osogbo



The catechetical work of Catholic Diocese of Osogbo essentially the deepening the faith project has nurtured and has been sustaining the people's faith. It is soul enriching and has become pacesetter for other Dioceses. It has come to stay. Kudos to Most Reverend John Oyejola through the Directorate of Religious Education of Osogbo Diocese. St Augustine Catechetical School, Ede should be re - visited.

- Sr. Akinlusi Michael SSMA.

St. Leo Catholic Church, Oke - Onitea, Osogbo.



As a member of the Catechetical Commission of Osogbo Diocese in the past, I observed that the deepening the faith programme is an interesting one which deepens the faith of parishioners by sharing experiences on our Catholic faith and individual challenges. It should be a continuous programme in our Diocese. Catechetical activities in Osogbo Diocese has nurtured the existing faith of individuals, and has helped people to grow in their faith and develop a sense of Christianity. - **Sr Mercy Ajayi, OSF**



The Catechetical program gives opportunities to recognize, reflect on, support, and celebrate the ministry of catechist and share the Church's teachings, like wise an opportunity for all Catholics to rededicate themselves to the mission of handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel as a community of faith. - **Catechist Marcus Oke,**

President - Catechist Association



It has indeed been highly impressive, educative and inspirationally loaded. It is bringing greater spiritual commitment and upliftment to the entire Diocese. Kudos to the Chief Shepherd and the Catechetical Team.

Catechist James Abiodun Faleye,

Diocesan Co-ordinator- Part Time Catechists.



The catechetical bulletin produced for the use of our children on seedling the faith motivated them to be more inspired to attend Sunday School classes and in which they always ask questions and the coordinator would answer and explain to them . It should be an ongoing programme in our diocese even little children who came for holiday and joined the classes had a good knowledge of Catholic background.

- Mrs. Adeyemi Josephine Folashade (JP)

St. Mary Pro - Cathedral, Ilesa.



CATECHETICAL ACTIVITIES IN OSOGBO DIOCESE: In consonance with the Pastoral plan of the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. John Akin Oyejola, there has been an intensive and conscious efforts to revamp and energise the catechetical activities in the Diocese. The catechetical approach, championed by the Directorate of Religious Education (DRE) and other bodies has been based around nurturing and deepning the existing faith of individual and ministries in the Church with the view of helping them to grow in faith and

to instill of love and commitment to the service of the Lord. At the front burner is the introduction of the Deepening the Faith weekly exercise which has contributed in no mean measure to deepening and developing the Catholic faith in all the Parishes in the Diocese. In addition, the Diocese has also witnessed the formation and empowerment of the Youth through the Annual Doctrinal Fora and Youth conferences, the training and re-training the ministerial functunaries such as the Lectors, Altar Servers, Choir, Church Warden, etc.. and other Apostolate also featured prominently. The publication of Deepning the faith Manuals, the Catechetical newsletter and other documentations had enchanced the catechesis. To the glory of God, the catechetical activities have led to a massive evangelisation outreach within and outside the Church. **-Mr. Philip Kenneth Adetunji**
St. Benedict Cathedral, Osogbo



MY ASSESSMENT OF SEEDLING AND DEEPENING THE FAITH PROGRAMMES

Seedling the faith and Children Bulletin introduced by the Bishop of Osogbo Diocese are just the right steps in the right direction as they will help the Children in their faith as they develop. Since the commencement of the Deepening the faith for adults, responses from the so called "Born Catholics" have shown that some of these

adults did not have indept knowledge of the Bible and Doctrine of the Church. Based on the above observation and my dealings with the Children in my church (St Anthony Catholic Church Ido-Osun), the Diocese has taken a very good step in nurturing the faith of these children so as to help them mature as faithful Catholics. When children are properly taught and they understood the concept, the enthusiasm is seen in them. They are always happy and are interested to participate actively in class. They will always want to attend the class without being forced. It is pertinent to state here that teachers should be encouraged to be actively involved in the teachings in Parishes so that the desired objective can be achieved. I will be glad, if the Diocese is able to continue and maintain this laudable project.

- Mrs Omole Veronica Adebimpe
St. Anthony Catholic Church, Ido Osun



The children's Sunday catechetical class has been helpful to them. They are always happy to be in the class and many of them learn fast. They concentrate very well when the class is being held during Mass than after because of many distractions. Many of them asked thoughtful questions while in the class. Nevertheless the children learn fast and are growing mentally and spiritually. The class also aids the catechism classes in preparation for First Holy Communion. The children's bulletin helps the children to understand more teachings of the church especially during their catechism classes. The teacher's manual is well explicit.

- Mrs Victoria Ayobami Adenuga
St. Leo Catholic Church, Oke - Onitea, Osogbo



The commencement of the catechetical bulletin provides an avenue to know and learn more about the church and what she stands for and frowns at. This is expressed through the introduction and clarification of her doctrines explained in simpler but concise language. Such that Catholics, non-Catholics, young and old can pick any and be informed and at the same time, be richly blessed. For the fact that it is handy and timeless makes it applaudable. In a few words, it can be said to be an "edutaingious" (the fusion of education, entertainment and religious) publication. God bless the initiator and brains behind the publication.

From the children's point of view, Teacher's Guide serves as a fundamental ground for the social, moral and religious development of the children through the presentation of insightful stories in relation to the gospel and the embedded didactic messages, all for the growth of the kids into a worthy, sanctimonious and dedicated Catholics and citizens of the country as a whole. **- Anthonia Abisola Taiwo**
St. Benedict Cathedral, Osogbo.



The Deepening The Faith - my experience: It has been a wonderful experience. The teachings are impactful, and the shared experiences noteworthy. My favourite was in February during the Marriage and Relationship series. I so much enjoyed it. **- Francis Olaniyi**

Diocesan President, CYON



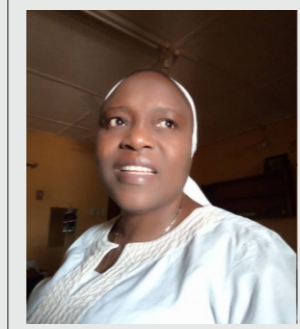
Deepening the faith program and catechetical bulletin are tools that have impacted knowledge into parishioners and both have groomed our faith, have helped us to see life in various perspectives and brought back the strayed hearts.

Catherine Adegbite
Ss. Peter and Paul, Lagere, Ile - Ife.



HEALTH SEMINAR

Pictures of seminar organised by the Directorate of Religious Education, for Catholic Doctors and Nurses on natural family planning to enable them teach the Catholic faithful during our regular Deepening the Faith program. Date 17th July 2021, **Facilitators:** Prof. and Prof. Mrs Azuzu, **Venue:** St. Benedict Cathedral Hall, Popo, Osogbo.



Deepening the Faith Program



Christmas Party for Instructors of Deepening the Faith Program

It is an annual practice since the year 2018 that we started the Deepening the Faith Program in the Diocese to hold a joint seminar for all the instructors of this program. The Bishop, being passionate about teaching the Catholic faith using this medium is always in attendance to get feedback and plan for the following year with the trained instructors. Therefore, these pictures are some of the events that took place between 2018 and 2020. Featuring events were: seminar, feedback, collation of interested topics and presentation of gifts in appreciation of the sacrifices rendered by the instructors.





ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATECHETICAL TRAINING CENTRE

C/o Catholic Bishop's House
P.O. Box 78, Oke Ayepe, Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

INTRODUCTION: "Go into the whole world, making disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19)

This mandate of Jesus to the apostles is the same mission entrusted to the Church, particular and universal, in all ages. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were committed to this mission bearing witness to Jesus in Judaea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Cf. Acts 1:8). The mission to the end of the earth continues even till today as seen in the missionary endeavours in every diocese. Down the ages, the Church, as Mother and Teacher, has seen Catechesis as a veritable tool of bringing people to the knowledge of her Lord and Master. The apostles deepened the kerygma and many were counted among their fold. The early believers were equally committed to the teaching of the apostles and breaking of the bread (Acts 2:42). The work of evangelization cannot be left in the hands of a few (Priests and religious). It is the ministry of all Christians.

THOSE TO BE TRAINED

The Catechetical Centre is aimed at training and providing on-going formation for teachers of faith, viz:

1. Full Time Catechists (Paid)
2. Part Time Catechists (Voluntary)
3. Prayer Leaders / Animators of Small Christian Communities
4. Sunday School Teachers/ Facilitators of Children Liturgy.

The training lasts for the period of two years only. Each academic year consists of two semesters, which is fully residential and allowed for both male and female candidates. However, for the part time catechist, the period of the training is the same two years but their lectures are always in the weekend; one weekend in a month. i.e (Friday to Sunday morning). - Fr. Patrick Oladapo - Principal



PART TIME CATECHISTS (2018 SET)



FULL TIME CATECHISTS

Congratulations!

25TH

ANNIVERSARY

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

On Tuesday 25th May 2021, Catechist Agah Emmanuel celebrated his twenty five years anniversary as a Commissioned Catechist of Osogbo Diocese at St. Julius Catholic Church, Ila-Orangun.



CATECHIST EMMANUEL AGAH

CATECHIST MICHAEL AJETUNMOBI

50TH

ANNIVERSARY

THANKSGIVING & RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

On the 1st of July 2021, Catechist Michael Adeniyi Ajetunmobi marked his fifty years as a full time Catechist and his retirement at St. Dominic Catholic Church. Ifewara.

Commissioning of Part - Time Catechist:

The 17/10/2021 was another remarkable day in the history of the Catholic Diocese of Osogbo when the second set of the Part Time Catechists were commissioned at SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Pro- Cathedral Lagere, Ile Ife. They were thirty seven in number - twenty seven men and ten women who had gone through a two year weekend training at St. Thomas Aquinas Catechetical Centre, Ede. These were presented for commissioning by the Director of Religious Education Rev. Sr. Dr. Immaculata Olu Omojola, SSMA to the Bishop Most Rev. Dr. John Akin Oyejola. They were charged by the Bishop to be good Ambassadors of Christ and His Church in all things. He appreciated their instructors and the hosting Parish. The first set earlier commissioned on 07/12/2018 were thirty three thereby making the total commissioned to date to be seventy drawn across the Diocese. All the 37 commissioned and three Full Time Catechists earlier commissioned during the year were also awarded their certificates. The Mass was con - celebrated by the Vicar, Very Rev Fr Thaddeus Ajayi and Fr. Dr. Peter Seyi Adeyemi the Parish Priest .



CYON DOCTRINAL SEMINAR:



Osogbo diocesan youth doctrinal week is an annual event for the young people across the diocese. It focuses on the holistic formation of the young people, with particular attention on their moral formation and the deepening of their faith. It is a week-long programme that has about a thousand youth in attendance. This year's edition focused more on the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and penance. It addressed some moral and social issues. It discussed the role of youth in politics especially as another election is close at hand. Particular attention was equally paid to relationship and health matters. It was indeed a week of great learning for the young people.



CYON DOCTRINAL SEMINAR:

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE:



Singles
Weekend
with the
Lord



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE:

Couples' Weekend
with the Lord.



NADRE (KADUNA 2020):



**National Association Of Directors
Of Religious Education (NADRE)
Kaduna 2020**

CENTENARY CELEBRATION @ INISA

Centenary Celebration- Time to thank God for His Goodness!

We are proud of what Catholicism has brought to Inisa and its environ, its salvific role and other contributions in other areas within this 100years. Catholicism has contributed in numerous ways to the good life of the people. In the area of Education, Industry, Social life and health Sector. We can raise our head and congratulate ourselves. We are to consolidate on what our heroes past had done. St Paul admonishes thus: "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it". 1Cor. 3:10. Let each one of us work to expand the Kingdom of God on earth so that we can be admitted to the Kingdom of Heaven after our sojourn here. Let us live a good and holy life that gives glory to God.



DEACONATE ORDINATION

His Lordship Most Rev. John Akin Oyejola ordained Revd. Akinlawon Anthony, Revd. Ekeneme Vincent, Revd. Olarewaju Julius and Revd. Olubiye Pius to the order of Diaconate on 24th of November 2021 at All Saints Catholic Church, Ipetu-Ijesa.



CANON LAW SEMINAR

A Seminar was held on 16th of November, 2021 on the supplementary notes on tCanon Law. It was facilitated by Fr. Michael Banjo of the Catholic Secretariat, Abuja. This was purposely to draw the attention of the Priests in Osogbo Diocese to the revision of the Book VI of the Code, which is on sanction.

The
CODE
of
CANON
LAW

In English Translation



EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR:



The Director of Religious Education - Sr. Dr. Immaculata Olu Omojola, SSMA had a Seminar for staff of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Nursery and Primary School, Iragbiji on classroom management and documentation. Date: 29th July, 2021.



SEMINAR EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS:

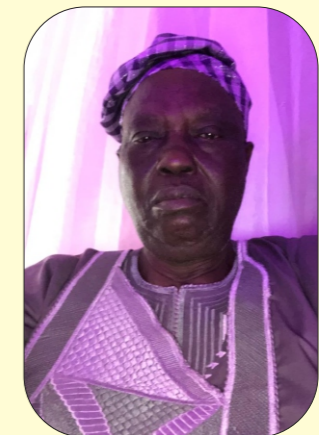


The Directorate of Religious Education of the Catholic Diocese of Osogbo on Saturday, 14th November, 2020 held a day seminar for all the extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion in the Diocese to brush up and build up their knowledge of the Church. Members of the catechetical commission present include: Catechists Francis Oke, Olagunju Cecilia, the Assistant Director of the Commission, Rev. Fr. Samuel Atoyebi and Sr. Dr. Immaculata Olu Omojola, SSMA - The Director of Religious Education.

Deepening the Faith seminar for Ife Deanery in preparation for October to December 2021



The Catechetical activities in the Diocese are very impressive because they focus on evangelisation which eventually contribute to the growth of our Faith. The colourful production of the Catechetical Bulletin attracts both old and young parishioners to read the articles within. I am specifically impressed about the bulletin that educates us about the meaning and importance of the first Synod that the Diocese is preparing for. However, I appreciate our Chief Shepherd and the DRE team for jobs well done that are educative and inspirational and towards the growth of our faith.



DR. GABRIEL ABAYOMI FAYENUWO
COORDINATOR, ILE - IFE DEANERY

**Deepening the Faith seminar for Ilesa Deanery
in preparation for October to December 2021**

The catechetical activities in the Diocese are well packaged and very rich, souls lifting, faith nurturing and lives inspiring. The more uniqueness thing about the Deepening the Faith programme, catechetical bulletin and seedling the faith bulletin is that through them Catholic members get deeper knowledge about our doctrine while non Catholics are well informed and educated about Catholic faith. Many questions that have been lingering in their minds for long now get answers. In short let me testify that some non Catholics are coming to commend the catechetical publications and programme that are recently embarked on by the Diocese.



DR. ANTHONY ADEYEYE
COORDINATOR, ILESA DEANERY



**Deepening the Faith seminar for Osogbo Deanery
in preparation for October to December 2021**

The Deepening the faith Program has been helping a lot especially in educating the parishioners about the teachings of the church e.g. sacraments, the faith we profess. It has also assisted to reassure the hope of parishioners in the Almighty Father that he is able to do all things especially when faced with challenges. It also gives rooms for parishioners to express their faith and experiences they had with God. The catechetical bulletins are useful in answering some questions that may challenge our faith.



CATECHIST
O. M. KOLAWOLE
COORDINATOR,
OSOGBO DEANERY

**Deepening the Faith seminar for Otan - Ayegbaju Deanery
in preparation for October to December 2021**



DEANS OF DEANERIES



Very Rev. Fr. Clement Akinwale
Dean, Ile - Ife Deanery



Rev. Fr. Patrick Kunle Ajayi
Dean, Ilesa Deanery



Rev. Fr. John Yemi Popoola
Dean, Otan Ayegbaju Deanery



Rev. Fr. Pius Odediran
Dean, Osogbo Deanery



Late Mr Babatunde Felix Afolabi
Died: 17th July, 2021
Buried: 17th July, 2021
Until his death,
He was the Deepening the Faith
Coordinator, Otan-Ayegbaju Deanery



**Late Catechist
Michael Adeniyi Ajetunmobi**
Retired: 1st July, 2021
Died: 18th November, 2021
Buried: 17th December, 2021



Late Olaoye Monica Bukola
Died: 22 - 08 - 2021
Buried: 26 - 08 - 2021
Until her death,
She was a part time Catechist at
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Osogbo.

