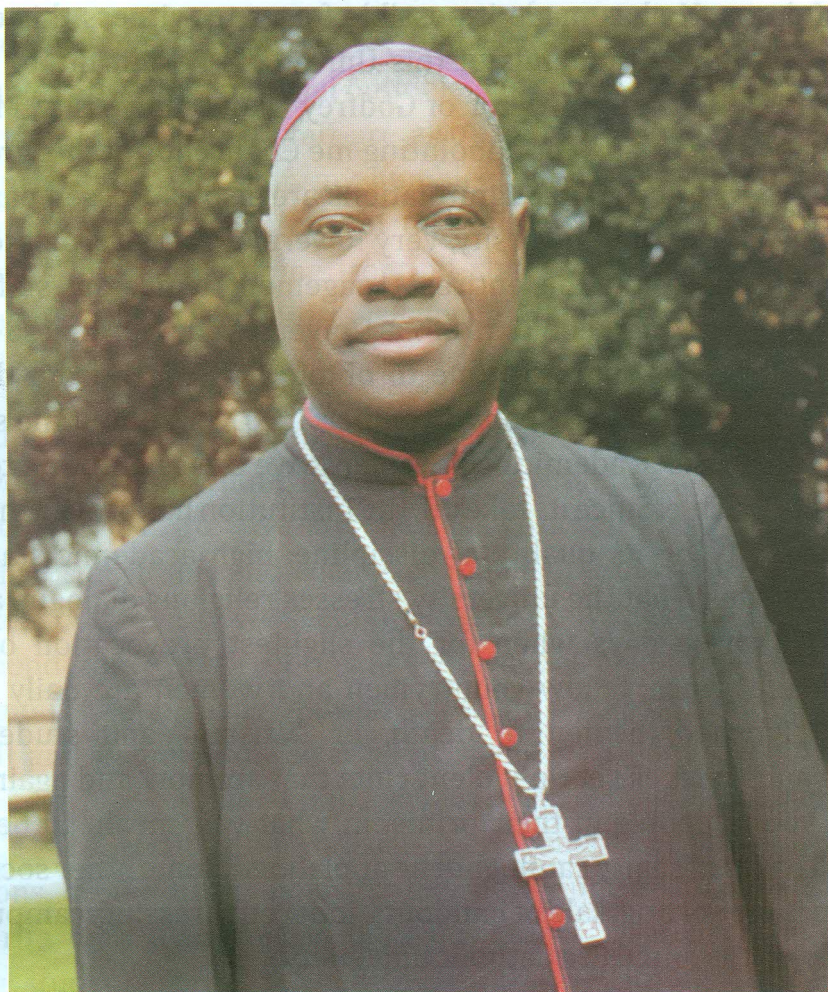


ADDRESS OF THE CHANCELLOR



**HIS GRACE
MOST REV. DR. IGNATIUS AYAU KAIGAMA**

**Saturday, 7 December 2013
Go University Convocation Arena**

Protocols

Today is a memorable day in the lives of all of us here as we witness this moment of history. God Almighty to whose glory we gather today, is worthy to be praised. In His faithfulness, He has made it possible for us to witness this convocation ceremony of the first Graduands of this University. Permit me to express my deepest gratitude to the Proprietor of Godfrey Okoye University, Most Rev. Dr. Callistus Chukwuma Onaga, for appointing me Chancellor of this great Catholic Institution. My gratitude and congratulations are also expressed particularly to the Vice Chancellor of the University, Very Reverend Father Professor Christian Anieke, and through him the entire Management team, the staff, students, Governing Council and stakeholders of the University for working so hard within such a relatively short space of time to obtain its licence from the National Universities Commission (NUC) on November 3, 2013. Without the support and cooperation of all, the academic achievements we are celebrating today would not have been possible. Since its take off, the Institution has proved that it is a real Catholic University by its quality of discipline, high academic standards and sound moral values. That the university stresses religious dialogue as one of its core values in these days when for the slightest provocation or the most ridiculous malfeasance, fellow countrymen and women are daily being shot, slaughtered, lynched, beaten to death, or "wasted" and students of our universities and colleges set up violent cults that are now and again devouring the lives of young people in their prime, in what was meant to be citadels of learning and oases of sanity cannot but be applauded. Some other social ills in the university include sorting, sale of handouts, indecent dressing, campus marriage which should not be found in a Catholic university.

One notes with satisfaction the Catholic ethos of common prayers by students and members of staff here every afternoon in addition to the morning mass or service, ending with evening prayers in various hostels. It is hoped that these exercises do not only give God a place in the setting of the Institution but also create a conducive atmosphere which will churn out graduates imbued with the sense of the fear of God, the sense of right and wrong, the strong desire for and

commitment to the virtuous life and hatred for sin, commitment to the common good, care and concern for the poor, discipline or self-control, self-sacrifice, chastity, modesty and aversion for violence that are traditionally associated with truly religious people.

Godfrey Okoye University has shown that it is not a regional university but a Catholic university with a national outlook. The students come from all the states of Nigeria. The members of staff are also from different parts of Nigeria. The appointment of the Chancellor, my humble self, from a state in the North also testifies to the national character of this university. You can already see that with students and staff coming from all states in Nigeria, the university has created a good setting for cultural dialogue which is one core element of its mission.

I have no doubt that the training you have received in this university will be an asset to you in your whole life especially with our present generation of Nigerians who appear to have lost the sense of right and wrong, of values and vices, of what is desirable and what is condemnable, of what is good and what is bad. As a corporate entity we seem to have lost our sense of shame and outrage at the preponderance of corruption and violence. Though we are acclaimed to be a very religious nation, many of us have lost the sense of sin and iniquity and the fear of hell and damnation. Cheating at exams, falsifying documents, pilfering public property, giving and taking bribes for pushing files, jumping queues, asking for sexual gratification in exchange for marks at university and college examinations or for bank deposits, etc. now appear to be the normal way Nigerians run their lives and do their businesses. We earnestly pray that the graduating students have imbibed the values of Catholic Education and will show the difference in their mentality and attitude to work.

Finally, I must pause to bring you warm greetings and congratulations from my people of the Archdiocese of Jos. We congratulate your parents and all who supported you during your studies here. As you leave this University to join the workforce of this great nation and beyond, may your alma mater, the Godfrey

PROFESSOR DR. CHRISTIAN NWACHUKWU OKEKE

Okoye University, always remain in your hearts and may the motto of your great University continue to guide you.

Your Excellencies, very Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you for being part of this convocation today. I ask the good Lord to bless you for your support and to lead you safely back to your various destinations. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama
Chancellor