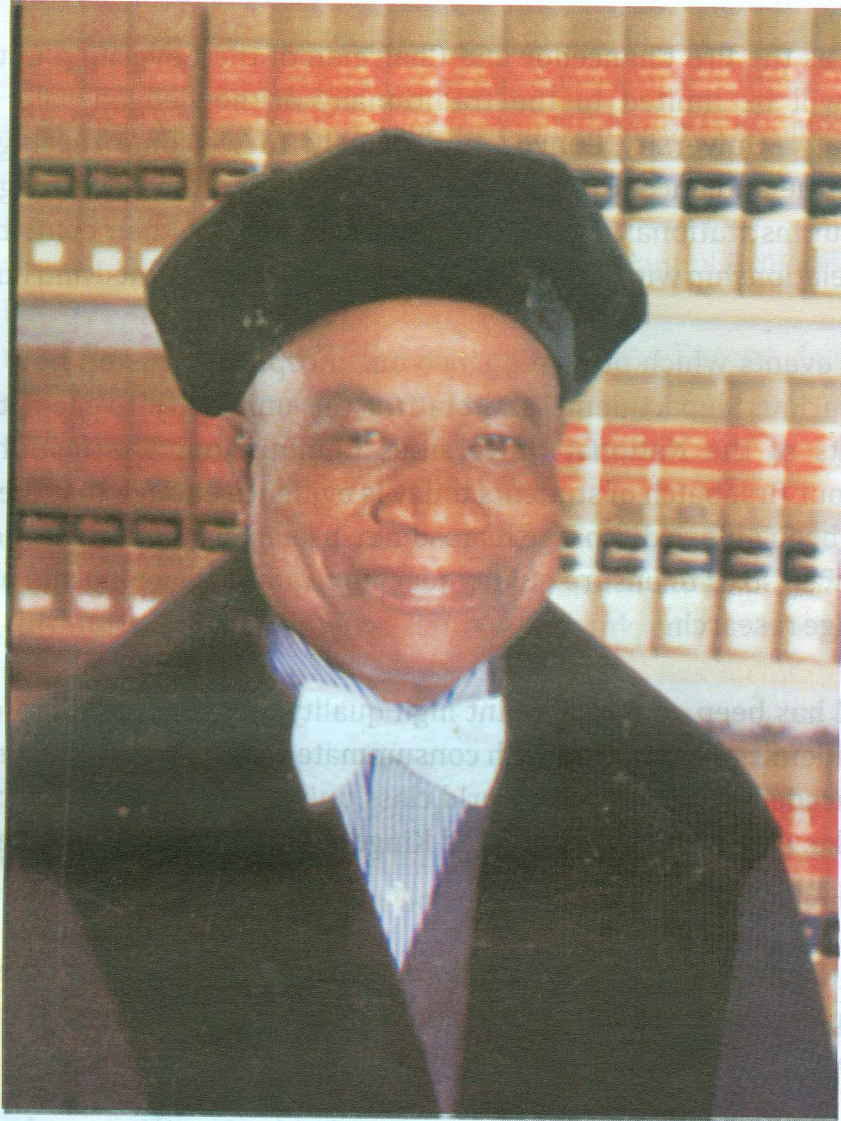


## **ADDRESS OF THE PRO CHANCELLOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**



**PROFESSOR DR. CHRISTIAN NWACHUKWU OKEKE**



On the historic occasion of the first convocation of this first Diocesan Catholic University in Africa, I consider myself very highly privileged and honoured to stand before Your Excellencies, your Royal Majesties and Highnesses, My Lords spiritual and temporal, Distinguished Academicians and Administrators, Ladies and Gentlemen to deliver this address.

My address as the Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University will be limited to the traditionally acknowledged role of the Pro Chancellor at a University Convocation namely, to welcome the highly valued members of the audience as well as to act on behalf of the Governing Council in conveying our institutional gratitude to those who through their contributions and manner of relationship with the university, merit being welcomed and honoured.

Most of the events which occurred since our inception focus on how to suitably equip the various departments and staff of the university to meet the specific requirements of the National Universities Commission. The fact that we are graduating our first batch of students today is evidence enough that the Governing Council has been able to discharge its resource provision and distribution function reasonably well so as to ensure quality teaching, quality learning and engagement in cutting edge research.

The Council has been able to appoint high quality and reputable professors who lead our academic programmes with consummate ease as can be evidenced by our successful academic linkage with world class universities in different countries of the world like: Austria, Germany, United Kingdom, United States of America within the first phase of our existence.

Groups and dignitaries who have rendered immense assistance to the University both at the planning stage and since its inception deserve our special mention and warm expression of gratitude at this auspicious occasion. They include:

- ❖ The Catholic Diocese of Enugu and the Diocesan Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. C.V.C Onaga



- ❖ The National Universities Commission and its Executive Secretary, Professor Julius Okojie
- ❖ The Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu, the Most Rev. Dr. A. O. Gbuji
- ❖ The Planning and Implementation Committee with Professor Julius Onuorah Onah as its Chairman
- ❖ The members of the NUC Accreditation Team that inspected our facilities and recommended the accreditation of our degree programmes
- ❖ The Board of Trustees with Professor Joseph I. Chidobem as Chairman
- ❖ The Congregation of Daughters of Divine Love
- ❖ The Catholic Women Organisation of the Diocese of Enugu
- ❖ The Chairman and members of the Committee on Capital Projects Campaign
- ❖ Our benefactors and friends in Nigeria, South Africa, Europe, America and universities worldwide who have established viable academic linkage programmes with us.

Similarly, we are grateful to Nigerians in diaspora who as strong believers in the business of higher education have opened and maintained beneficial close relationship with us. We welcome you all and we thank you most unspeakably for your invaluable contributions, the aggregate of which has facilitated today's rich and memorable event.

Let me now turn our attention to the central focus of this celebration — the rich and rewarding bounty harvest of our first fruits. Your success after these four rigorous years is very well deserved. On behalf of the Council may I congratulate every one of you on this great achievement. We know that you graduands will leave the sheltered life of this University to operate in the wider world that is currently characterized by the impact of the ongoing information revolution namely, competition and survival of the fittest. This awareness has driven our battle to provide you with suitable training and equip you with ample skills for self reliance and self sustenance. As you move into the wider world, I plead with



you to always remember your *alma mater* and to make its cardinal principles of honest hard work and self-reliance your constant guide.

We make bold to assert that our Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of the university is driving with commitment and consummate ease, our policy that sound theory should be matched with appropriate practice and that every opportunity should be used to inculcate in our students enduring skill and sound Christian values.

We would like to assure you our friends and supporters that the Council of this University will continue to explore ways and means of ensuring that we remain efficient and effective in our operations and that our products remain relevant to the needs of our economy.

The Chairman and members of the Board of Trustees have remained our greatest source of strength these four years. We owe them great debt of gratitude and count on their continued inspiration and support in the years ahead. Similarly, we congratulate our Proprietor and the Chancellor for their material and strong spiritual support and for their facilitating role in today's achievement.

Let me also thank and congratulate the lecturers, service providers, parents and guardians and all who stood by these our graduands and helped them to meet their crying needs during their studentship.

I commend in a special way, the University Senate for keeping faith with the academic calendar of the university and the Federal Government of Nigeria for the wisdom of creating private universities that are able to operate without labour driver disruption.

As I approach the end of this address, may I on behalf of the Council congratulate our new honorary graduands. It is significant that at this first Convocation, our University has agreed to honour three distinguished Nigerians. Each of them has been of great support to the university since its inception. Each is a great beacon

of hope to the younger generation. The import of this honour is to demonstrate in clear terms that the university is proud of them.

May I end this address by sending our best wishes for the oncoming Christmas and year 2014 to those of you who are here to add colour and substance to this occasion and to our numerous friends, members of our University Parents Forum and supporters worldwide.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for honouring our invitation. We wish you all a happy stay with us and pray God to lead you safely back to your destinations as you make your departure.

**Prof. Christian Nwachukwu Okeke**  
PRO CHANCELLOR AND  
CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REV. FATHER PROF. DR. CHRISTIAN ANIEKE