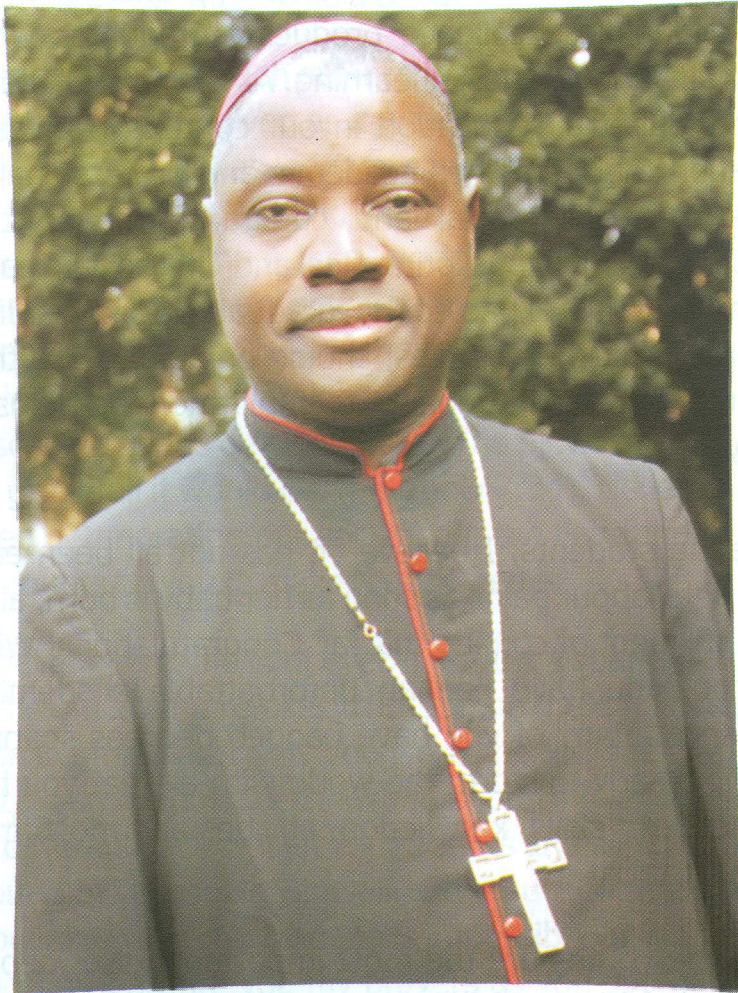


Chancellor's Address

on the 2nd Convocation of Godfrey Okoye University



His Grace
MOST REV. IGNATIUS AYAU KAIGAMA
Chancellor

Saturday, 21 March 2015

Today, is indeed a happy and memorable day for our dear University, the GO University. We rejoice and congratulate the proprietor, management, staff and students on our individual and collective achievements. Catholic Universities the world over unarguably have a strong reputation for academic excellence producing graduates who distinguish themselves in their various fields of learning. As the mission statement of this University points out, true education in our context involves integral and wholistic formation that combines academic and professional training with physical, moral, spiritual, social and cultural formation together with formation of Christian religious principles and the social teachings of the Catholic Church. Thus, it is expected that graduates from this University, after successfully completing their studies, should be able to use the knowledge and skills acquired at the Institution for the upliftment of themselves and the Nigerian society.

For you graduating students, I believe it has not all been easy but like a woman who forgets labour pains as soon as her baby is born, all you feel now is the joy and fulfillment of coming this far. Congratulations! Within the walls of this institution, you have had an unforgettable academic, social and spiritual experience. Many of you have bagged degrees spanning different fields of endeavor ready to storm the world with all that you have acquired during your time here; skills, knowledge, abilities and most importantly the gift of your Catholic faith!

My friends, you the youths are the most important set of people in Nigeria today. The future of Nigeria belongs to you. You are our resource and our pride. Rich Hawkins wrote what he called a "creed" to be daily recited by students in 1997 when he started the School of Excellence in Education. A line from that "creed" is a powerful message for you today. It reads: "This is my generation. I was born for such a time as this! This is my generation; it was waiting for me to arrive. I am here and it will not be the same." Will you be prepared to renew the world, to make Light's beauty shine out in the

darkness? For St. Basil, education is a preparation because he sees that the battle between light and darkness is ever raging, and that, if the children of light do not build up every sinew of mind and spirit, they will be swept aside like pawns when they step into the field of battle.

Dear young friends, as you launch out into the world, be proud of the faith and special training you have received as it would illumine your life at every turn. Guard the flame which God has lit in your hearts these years. Never let it go out, renew it each day, live it out and share it with your contemporaries who live in the 'darkness' of making it at all cost; of soiling their hands to get to the top. Today we live in a country where evil has been coated to look okay because everyone is doing it. Christ is the Rock on which you must build your future. Unwholesome ways of 'making it' in life are only sand and when the rains of life descends, floods come and the wind blows, your life will be swept off and what a great fall it would be. (Matthew 7:24). Never envy people who do evil and keep deteriorating our society. Be the light and salt, the hope of Nigeria! Christ counts on you to make Nigeria better.

Darkness can never overcome light even if it's just a spark. Make a difference! Be the one at the office who refuses to cheat; be the employee who does the work and doesn't complain. If only you would be the one who always stands out in the right, you would make the world short of one bad person and that makes a great difference. Do not let your desires and aspirations dissipate but let them be found in Jesus. He Himself is the sure foundation, the point of reference for building your life. Nothing is impossible to Him. Keep trusting in Him. As chancellor, I assure you my prayers as you do your National Youth Service Programme and afterwards seek jobs within and outside Nigeria. God bless you!

Most Rev. Dr. I. A. Kaigama
Archbishop of Jos & Chancellor, Godfrey Okoye University