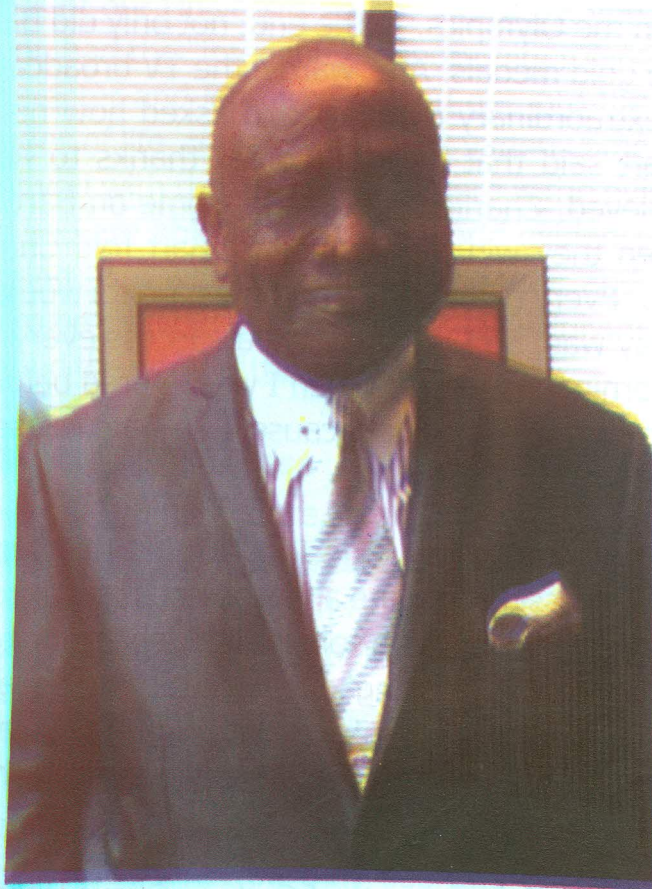


**ADDRESS OF THE PRO-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR
CHRISTIAN NWACHUKWU OKEKE AT THE SECOND
CONVOCATION OF GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY
HELD ON 21 MARCH 2015 AT GOODLUCK EBELE
JONATHAN ARENA THINKERS CORNER ENUGU**



PROF. DR. CHRISTIAN NWACHUKWU OKEKE
Pro Chancellor and
Chairman of the Governing Council

Saturday, 21 March 2015

Celebrating Our Success!

Introduction

There is a story about the highly accomplished Olympic gymnast, Bart Connor. According to the story, the Olympic competitor tore his bicep muscle nine months before the 1984 Olympics. Many people were certain—and indeed proclaimed—that he would never recover from the injury and make it back in time to compete in the Olympics. In the end, not only did Bart Connor make it back, he won two gold medals. Afterwards, the TV broadcaster Charlie Jones interviewed the extraordinary gymnast and asked how he pulled off such a stunning feat. Bart said that he owed great thanks to his parents for the successes he achieved. Charlie Jones said, "Come on Bart, everyone thanks their parents when they win a gold medal." Bart told Charlie that this was different. He said, "Every night before bed my parents would ask me what my success for the day was. So I went to bed a success every night of my life. I woke up every morning a success. When I was injured before the Olympics, I knew I was going to make it back because I was a success every day of my life."^[1]

This inspiring story is the reason I decided to title this convocation address "Celebrating Our Success!" There are a few obvious reasons for my choice. We could learn from this story that it is a sort of confidence booster to celebrate our success as they come. Celebrating our success means engaging in joyful activity in appreciation of a successful event. What we celebrate, we keep in honour, and when we honour our successes we sustain the enthusiasm for daily success in life.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if the parents of Godfrey Okoye University were asking her now, "What is your success today?" I am pointing to these graduates and telling the parents, "That is our success today!"

Celebrating our successful Graduates

My dear Graduates of Godfrey Okoye University! Yes, you are our success story

today. A few years ago, you requested to be admitted into Godfrey Okoye University. You were all properly welcomed into this young citadel of learning. You have passed through the rigors of academic studies, research and character formation. Today we can rejoice and celebrate with you for your accomplishments, specifically for the fact that you are now graduates.

On behalf of the Governing Council of the University, I congratulate all of you on being the success of our University today. We thank you for choosing our University, where you had the "infectious" opportunity to acquire a good dose of excellence in character and learning. As you get into the wider society to face further challenges of life, remember that at various times and places, the society will confront you with the question: "Where is the evidence?" At every point in time when you are able to show the world evidence of excellence in character and learning, you would be celebrating your and our success. We therefore urge you to be credible ambassadors of GO-University wherever you find yourselves beyond the walls of this institution.

Celebrating Facilitators of Success

As we celebrate you, our graduates, we, in no smaller measure, also celebrate the excellent facilitators of your success. We celebrate the Vice-Chancellor, Very Rev. Father Professor Dr. Christian Anieke, who has proved himself an ingenious educator in character and learning. The Vice-Chancellor, the Senate, the seasoned professors and many other academic and administrative giants have positioned themselves as a formidable team for the successful implementation of the academic policies of this University. How lucky we are to have such dedicated, experienced and excellent players in university governance and administration. You may see and agree with me that the premises of Godfrey Okoye University could be celebrated as one of the cleanest spots in Nigeria. This is the handiwork of our conscientious ministers of environmental sanitation, our cleaners in the works department.

On behalf of the Governing Council I thank you all immensely - the academic and management staff of our great University - for being, in your different capacities, effective facilitators of success. Indeed it is your efficient services to

the students that make today's celebration of success possible. The Governing Council will earnestly continue to fulfill its obligations to the University, particularly in promoting staff welfare.

We commend the contributions of the pioneer Chairman of the Board of Trustees (BOT) and his members for their inspiration and supportive companionship in facing the challenges of a young private University. We welcome and congratulate the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees. May you have also the material resources to move GO-University to greater heights. We also commend the contributions of the pioneer Registrar of GO- University for his hard work in establishing a very strong foundation for the important and indispensable organ of our great University. We wish him well in his future endeavours. At the same time, we welcome his successor in office and wish him much success in the further development of the Registry.

Furthermore, the Council is immensely grateful to the parents and guardians of our graduates. We are pleased that you were able to discover the hidden treasures of Godfrey Okoye University and mobilized the funds required to make your children and wards beneficiaries of education in sound character and academic rigor. To all the friends and well-wishers of our graduates we say, "welcome" to GO-University. We also thank you for being consistent supporters of success in the life of our graduates.

We are grateful to all our friends, all colleagues from our neighbouring and sister institutions; to the Daughters of Divine Love (DDL) Congregation, to the Catholic Men Organization (CMO) and Catholic Women Organization (CWO); and to the Nigerians in diaspora who firmly support the GO-University vision and mission. We thank all our benefactors; in particular, we mention today Senator Gil Emeka Nnaji who attracted the e-Library to our University. We are grateful for all academic linkages and all relationships that have strengthened our University and made it even more prepared to achieve its goals and objectives. May God bless all of you.

What could we be celebrating here today if the proprietor, Most Rev C.V.C. Onaga, and the emeritus Bishop, Most Rev. Anthony O. Gbuji, had not given

their nod of blessing to the existence and the programs of this University? My Lord Bishops, for your great vision in establishing this University and giving all the support it needs to be a fertile ground for inculcating in young men and women enduring skills and sound human values, we say may God continue to bless you abundantly. You are indeed at the head of our success story today. We salute also our Chancellor, Most Rev. Ignatius A. Kaigama, Archbishop of Jos, for his prayerful support for our University.

God is indeed the author of success. He endows us with various talents, capacities and capabilities. He grants success to our endeavors. We bow in adoration to thank Almighty God for being the reason for the success we are celebrating today. May His Holy Name be praised now and forever. Amen.

Conclusion

In conclusion, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to remind you that we are graduating today the second batch of students of this University. The symbolic meaning of the numeral "two" may well be an alert for our new status, from where new challenges emerge.

The Old Testament teaches us that the testimony of at least two people was needed for the validity of their stand. The Apostle Paul confirmed this teaching (in 1 Timothy 5:19, Titus 3:10). Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs so that they could not only validly testify about his teachings and miracles, but also be credible witnesses of those who accepted or rejected the gospel (Mark 6:7 - 13). In this light, the graduation of the second batch of students is surely a validation that GO-University is indeed a University credibly worthy of the name. Let me say that ours is a University standing firm on two legs, thereby possessing a balance that can efficiently accommodate further growth and development.

That is the success we have come to celebrate today. Welcome, Ladies and Gentlemen, to the second convocation ceremony of Godfrey Okoye University.

Welcome!