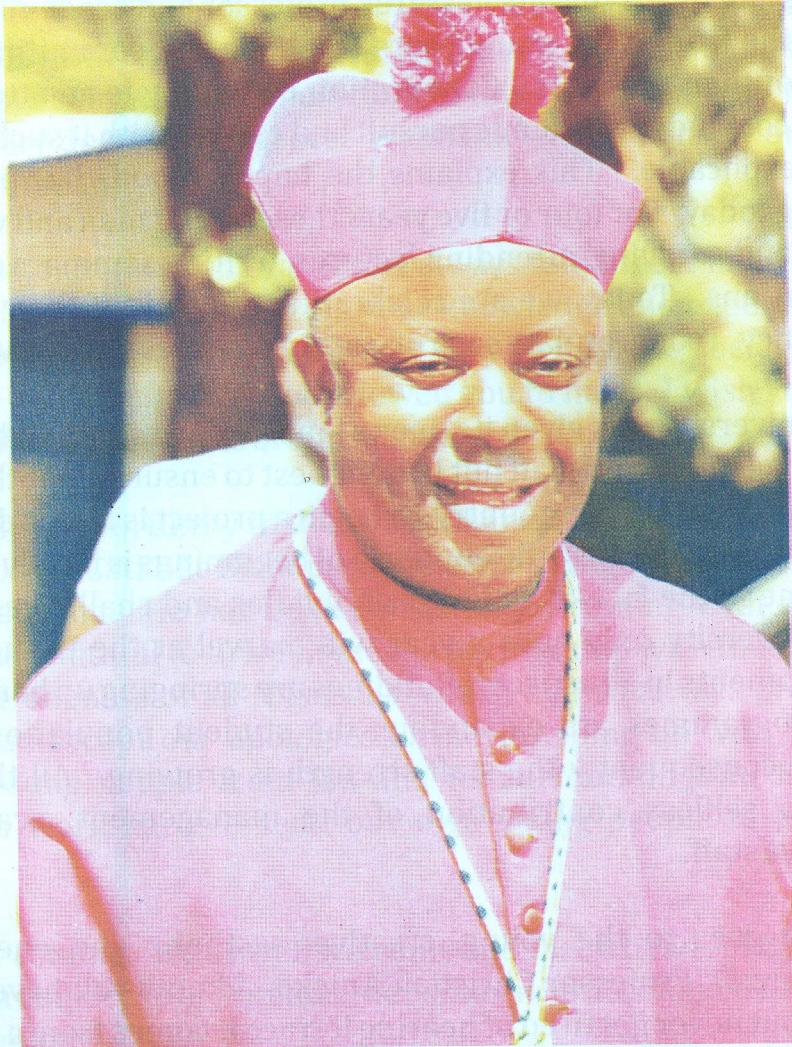


# *An Address Presented*

**ON THE FOURTH CONVOCATION  
OF GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY,  
BY MOST REV. CALLISTUS V.C. ONAGA,  
THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF ENUGU AND THE  
VISITOR/PROMOTER OF THE UNIVERSITY,**

**THIS DAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017.**





## *Protocol*

It gives us great pleasure and joy to gather here again for the fourth time to witness and celebrate academic success and excellence in this great and dynamic University. The dream and aspiration of any serious-minded, hardworking student is to conclude a level of an academic pursuit successfully. The expectation and hope of any parent or guardian is that his or her child or ward concludes such an academic pursuit in a given time. The pride and dignity of any teacher, lecturer, professor and academic Institution is to realize the fruit of the many years of labour and commitment through the success of their students. Convocation ceremony is an attestation of a successfully concluded academic pursuit and carries with it such a joy that is normally inexplicable. This explains the happy mood that pervades the whole setting today. For four or five years these young men and women have been toiling and studying, attending lectures, writing seminars and quizzes, and examinations. Today, we are celebrating the fruit of their persistence and consistency. I congratulate each of you my dear fresh graduates.

When this University was given its operational licence some eight years ago, both the management and staff put in their best to ensure smooth continuity. Very often, especially in our country, to begin a project is not as difficult as to sustain it. This is so because the euphoria of beginnings is hardly sustainable for a long time in the face of all levels of huddles and challenges. Whoever visits this university only once a year will marvel at the tremendous and rapid developments in all aspects. Buildings are springing up here and there, academic programmes are expanding, the student population is on the increase and consequently the staff strength is growing. All these can be attributed to selfless contribution of the management, academic and administrative staff.

My gratitude goes to the young, creative, aesthetic and energetic Vice Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Professor Christian Anieke. I know you have heard this many times, but never get tired of hearing it since it comes from a sincere and real appreciation of your efforts. No doubt there are people who may be of a

different opinion but that is to be expected. The facts are very clear because we know the history of this place. Your leadership enjoys the cooperation of other arms of the management and staff. Therefore I thank the members of the Board of Trustees, the Governing Council, the Senate, professors and lecturers and the administrative staff. Your sacrifices and commitments have sustained the growth of this University.

My sincere wish is that other tertiary institutions in this country will be as committed to the education of our young people as you are doing here. May the agents of education in this country think more of what they will put into it than what they will take out of it. This includes the governments at all levels. I congratulate some of the benefactors of this University who will be vested with honorary doctorate degrees. We thank you immensely and ask God to bless you abundantly.

My dear convoking students, as I have always told others in the past, you are being sent into the world to bring your knowledge and expertise to bear on your day to day lives. Always think of how to improve society through the knowledge and talents that God allowed you to have. I wish you a good and successful life in your fields of endeavour.

May I use this opportunity to thank the Chancellor of our University and the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, His Grace, Most Rev. Ignatius Kaigama. He has been consistent in coming with a group of his archdiocesan faithful to drive home the partnership with the Archdiocese of Jos and the oneness of all Nigerians, which he has always preached. Your Grace please accept our apologies for not catching up with your speed in bringing young people from Jos and its surroundings to Enugu but we promise to work hard to send our own young people to Jos as soon as possible.

Thanks for coming. We as well welcome and thank heads of Catholic schools from the Archdiocese of Jos and other areas who accompanied or Chancellor to this ceremony.



Finally, I thank all parents, guardians and other invitees. May God through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary bless you and grant you safe journey back to your destinations.

God Bless!

**+Callistus V. C. Onaga**  
**Catholic Bishop of Enugu**