

**ADDRESS OF THE PROPRIETOR, GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY, ON THE
SECOND CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY, TODAY, 21ST MARCH,
2015**

SUCCESS BEGETS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

INTRODUCTION

It is with great delight that I welcome you all to this joyful day. This is a day of pride for our graduating students, their parents/guardians, the Godfrey Okoye University and our diocese in general for the success we have jointly achieved. Today we formally send out into society, men and women, who have attained higher learning in various spheres of sciences and arts. We are sitting back to shake congratulatory hands with each other and at the same time wave them to our students to wish them well as they go on with their carriers.

OUR UNIVERSITY

The hallmark of academic excellence is a high standard of teaching, an environment conducive for learning, a culture of single minded pursuit of knowledge and passion for the achievement of excellence. These attributes can be imbibed only through dedication, discipline, determination that the students, teachers and the administration, all together bring to bear on their output. These attributes are significantly visible in our University, Godfrey Okoye University.

Proudly, we recall that in 2009, our diocese founded this University after the name of our second Bishop, Most Rev. Godfrey MaryPaul Okoye. It received its operational license on the 3rd of November, 2009 from the National University Commission and today stands out as the first University owned by a Catholic Diocese in the whole of Africa! A feat we can only attribute not to our power, not to our might but to the Spirit of God (Zech. 4:6). In this sixth year of her existence, we are celebrating the second Convocation of our vibrant students, who have been through a Godfrey Okoye-Academic Formation: A formation that flows from a seasoned unity of intellectuals that have a commitment to excellence in academics and in morality. This is the *Unity of Knowledge* that drives our University.

Let me, in this respect, welcome and thank the Chancellor of our University, Most Rev. Ignatius Kaigama, the Archbishop of Jos Archdiocese and the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria. Not only that he squeezed out time from his tight schedule to attend this 2nd convocation but he came with all the Bishops in his Province.

This not only shows commitment but also good relationship between our diocese and the Province of Jos. Your Grace, we very much appreciate this gesture.

I sincerely thank the Vice Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke, who never sleeps in his search for *wings* to give these our children and University so that they could always fly. To the Governing Council and the Board of Trustees, today's celebration is one of the fruits of your ideas, sacrifices, talents and love for excellence. Our lecturers, I am particularly proud of all of you for maintaining our academic standards that insist on diligence and hardwork. To our non-academic staff, may God's blessings increase in you for your resilience in duty. I am happy that some of the parents and guardians of our graduating students are here. Today you can heave some sighs of relief at the sight of these your wards. You are also at the centre of this celebration because you have all invested a lot to achieve this success. The undergraduates, today gives you the courage to look unto the future with a sure hope of success if you go on tenaciously in your formation.

SUCCESS BEGETS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

My dear graduating students, you are among a few fortunate students who have had access to an educational experience that believes in your ability to be educated, formed and be useful to yourself and society. Our country is unfortunate to have an educational system that has almost lost faith in the abilities of teachers and students. There is a drive to an end that must justify the means. We exist in a paradoxical situation in our country where on one hand, Nigeria ranks high in the world in terms of availability of human resources but we score very low in the world because of our unreadiness to be efficiently functional. Today we live in a world where global economies are interconnected. Knowledge is recognized as a key resource for achieving economic growth and social development and is of limited practical use, unless it is translated into innovations that would produce economic and social values. Your educational experience in this unique institution has provided you with this functional knowledge that you must utilize in society. Your success invites you, therefore, to new responsibilities in which you must realize the needs of our future and tune your qualifications towards achieving them. I sincerely wish that you pursue the career of your dreams employing all your academic achievements. You are encouraged to further your studies to the PhD level if you can make it. As you go on with life, always put God first in all you do, be honest, do not try to achieve success at all cost – even at the cost of others, remember that others helped you to get here; you must help others achieve their dreams and be proud of your alma mater. I wish you a bright and rewarding future in whatever career you choose.

CONCLUSION: OUR COMMITMENT

Our diocese is still committed to taking this University to greater heights. I thank all Parishes and all the good men and women of our diocese and beyond, who are also driven by our goal to succeed. We are hopeful that our project at the permanent site would continue to a fruitful end. It is my wish that everyone in our diocese would understand the need for a revolution in our national educational sector and join in this our effort to impart quality knowledge in our children. Through the help of God, we are hopeful that our commitment will continue to yield more fruits that will last.

Once again, you are welcome and may God bless you all.

MOST REV. C. V. C. ONAGA

Bishop of Enugu & Proprietor, Godfrey Okoye University.