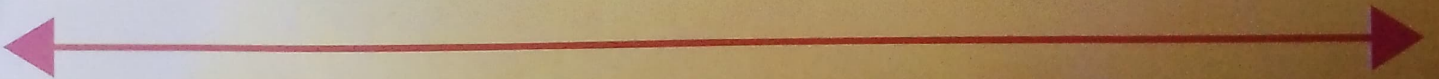


GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY ENUGU

**11TH CONVOCATION
CEREMONY**



**BOOK OF
ADDRESSES**



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AN ADDRESS OF THE PRO CHANCELLOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, PROF. DR. CHRISTIAN NWACHUKWU OKEKE, AT THE 11TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023, AT THE MAIN CAMPUS, UGWUOMU-NIKE.

Protocol

Your Excellency, Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Ndubuisi Mbah, Executive Governor of Enugu State, Hon. Members of the National Assembly and the Federal Executive Council here present,

Hon. Members of the State Executive Councils and the State Houses of Assembly here present,

Your Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. C. V. C. Onaga, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu and Promoter of Godfrey Okoye University,

Your Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Okonkwo Gbuji, Bishop Emeritus, Catholic Diocese of Enugu,

Your Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Ernest A. Obodo, Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu,

Your Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Ignatius Ayau Kaigama, Catholic Archbishop of Abuja and Chancellor, Godfrey Okoye University,

My Lords Spiritual and Temporal,

Mr. Chris J. Maiyaki, Acting Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission,

Professor Dr. Bartho Okolo, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Godfrey Okoye University,

Members of the Governing Council,

Members of the Board of Trustees,

Rev. Fr. Prof. Dr. Christian Anieke, Vice Chancellor, Godfrey Okoye University,

All Guest Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Provosts of academic institutions here present.

All Members of the Clergy and Religious,

Your Royal Majesties and Highnesses,

Members of the Academic and Administrative Staff of Godfrey Okoye University and Its Group of Institutions,

Members of Godfrey Okoye University Alumni Association,

Our graduating students and undergraduates of Godfrey Okoye University,

Our distinguished honorary awardees,

All respected invited guests,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

On behalf of the Governing Council of Godfrey Okoye University, I welcome you to the 11th convocation ceremony of the University. I welcome the parents, guardians, relations, and friends of the graduating students who have come from far and near to be part of this landmark 11th Convocation event in the history of this young University.

I consider it a unique honor and privilege for me as the Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of Godfrey Okoye University to welcome everyone warmly to the beautiful city of Enugu, and to the Ugwuomu Campus of the University. Today's 11th convocation is special because it marks a significant growth of the progressive development of Godfrey Okoye University.

I request your kind indulgence to observe a one-minute silence in honor of two members of our staff, one law student, and a great benefactor who passed on between our last convocation ceremony held in November 2022 and today. They are Arc. Matthew Obinna Aniakor, who until his death, was the Director of Physical Planning of Godfrey Okoye University, Mr. Humphrey Iloegbunam, a driver in the Bursary Unit and Hon. Justice Dr. Centus Chima Nweze, Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria whose distinguished name our Moot Court Hall bears. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen. May they rest in peace, Amen.

Today's ceremony is also unique because it marks the end of the graduating student's successful academic journey at Godfrey Okoye University. I pay tribute to the parents, individuals and corporate bodies who have contributed in different ways toward the training of these young graduates. I thank the Executive Governor of Enugu State, His Excellency Dr. Peter Ndubuisi Mbah, for finding time to attend this ceremony despite his crowded schedule. I also thank and appreciate the presence of the Proprietor of Godfrey Okoye University, His Lordship, Dr. C.V. C. Onaga, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu. His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Ndubuisi Mbah, has remained a member of the Governing Council of our revered University. He has been an unfailing pillar of support to the university. On behalf of the Governing Council, I acknowledge everyone's support to the university with very deep appreciation.

Appreciation

On behalf of the Governing Council, I express my gratitude to the Board of Trustees, the Senate, Management, and all the Principal Officers who have shown dedication and unflinching support to the Vice Chancellor. The impressive progress recorded so far in the University during its short span of life would have been impossible but for the spirit of oneness demonstrated by good men and women in the community that populate the University. We are proud of the caliber of the people entrusted with the governance of our university. These are great human beings who have put service first before everything else. Their sacrifices of time and energy should evoke nothing but our gratitude and our admiration. I can say with all sincerity that we have been working like one happy family, and emotions have no place in our consideration of issues. I personally thank them for the support they have given to me in piloting the affairs of the Governing Council.

From the inception of the University in 2009, Rev. Fr. Prof. Dr. Christian Anieke has been and remained a special gift to the institution as its vibrant pioneer and hard-working serving Vice Chancellor with whom I have worked very cordially from the inception of the University to date. He has inspired academic and pedagogical excellence and championed faculty, staff, and student successes, working with constituents to advance the shared vision and mission for the future scholarship advancement at Godfrey Okoye University. My fervent prayer is that the momentum he has succeeded in building up for the progress of the University will be sustained for a very long time. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the Council for throwing his full weight and energy into the realization of the new developmental projects going on in the university.

Allow me now to turn to the graduands who are the primary reason for today's convocation ceremony. The council, in congratulating you for your academic achievements, wishes to stress the fact that you are now considered academically and socially fit to be fully integrated into the mainstream of the society. We call on all of you to be good ambassadors of your *Alma Mater*. Godfrey Okoye University has placed a high premium on character and learning on you. We therefore enjoin you to make the best use of the training you have acquired here in all your future endeavors. Let me once more congratulate you on behalf of the Governing Council on the success you achieved after these four rigorous years.

We know that you would soon leave the sheltered life of this university to operate in a wider world that is currently characterized by the impact of the ongoing information revolution, namely competition and the survival of the fittest. This underscores why we provided you with suitable training and equipped you with ample entrepreneurial skills for self-reliance and self-sustenance. I have no doubt that the training you received in this university will be an asset to you in your whole life. We earnestly pray and hope that you have imbibed the values of Catholic Education and will show the difference in the mentality and attitude you exhibit at your places of work. Strive always to make the cardinal principles of honesty, hard work, and self-reliance your constant guide.

To the parents and guardians of our graduating students here present, we thank you for

gracing this occasion and we also thank each of you for the support and encouragement you have given to your children.

Conclusion

I cannot conclude my address without recognizing and congratulating our honorary degree awardees. Your choice for the award of our honorary degrees was not by accident. The decision was reached after calculated and premeditated due consideration by the authorities of our university. We expect and shall appreciate your contributions and support toward the future material and human development of our University.

I once more welcome you to Godfrey Okoye University and thank you for sharing in the joy of the 11th convocation ceremony of our great university, the University on the GO! As you know, Go-Uni is the first Diocesan Catholic University in Africa where students are prepared to serve the common good, to engage in dialog with multiple cultures and religious or ethical traditions, and to pursue lives of leadership and justice rooted in Catholic tradition. I pray that the Almighty God would grant you journey mercies back to your respective destinations.

Thank you for listening and God bless you all!

PROF. DR. CHRISTIAN NWACHUKWU OKEKE, (C.o.H)
Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council,
Godfrey Okoye University, Ugwuomu-Nike, Enugu.
Professor of International and Comparative Law,
Director of LLM/SJD International Legal Studies Program
Director of the Sompong Sucharitkul Centre for Advanced Legal Studies,
Golden Gate University of Law, San Francisco, California,
United States of America.

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR,
MOST REV. IGNATIUS A. KAIGAMA**

Protocol:

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today is another memorable day as we mark the 11th convocation ceremony of our great Godfrey Okoye University. This convocation ceremony is a categorical statement about the steady and fast growth of our University. God has blessed the University with numerous achievements. To Him be glory and praise!

My deepest gratitude goes to the Proprietor of Godfrey Okoye University and Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu, Most Rev. Dr. Callistus Valentine Chukwuma Onaga, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Ernest A. Obodo and the Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu, His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Okonkwo Gbuji, for working relentlessly for the progress of the University. I also express my gratitude to the ever dynamic and creative Vice Chancellor of the University, Rev. Fr. Prof. Dr. Christian Anieke and his team, the Board of Trustees led by its Chairman, Prof. Dr. Bartho Okolo, the Governing Council also led by its Chairman, Prof. Dr. Christian Nwachukwu Okeke, the Senate, the Management and the entire staff and other stake holders, who have remained very strong pillars who continue to nurture this University and all the young men and women who study here to become positively transformed Nigerians.

I congratulate the parents of the graduating students who even in these harsh economic times continued to be committed to sacrificing so much to keep their children and wards in school. I pray that you will reap the fruits of your hard labour of love in bountiful measures.

What distinguishes Godfrey Okoye University is that students are admitted from all the states of Nigeria, and at the same time, the staff are drawn from different parts of the country. You can already see that with students and staff coming from most states of Nigeria, the University has created a good setting for cross fertilization of ideas and cultural dialogue which is one core element of its mission. In consideration of award of scholarships, Godfrey Okoye University stands out. Scholarship opportunities are given to indigent applicants irrespective of ethnicity or geo-political origin.

I note with satisfaction the spiritual ethos of common daily prayers by students and members of staff in addition to the morning Masses. These exercises do not only give God a place in the heart of the University, but also create a conducive atmosphere which helps to churn out graduates imbued with the fear of God, and the sense of right and wrong, virtues badly needed in our country where in many cases morality is thrown to the dogs when people are entrusted with leadership positions to promote the common good.

I have no doubt that you our graduating students will be shining stars as Philippians 2:15-16 urges, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." You are expected to shine among Nigerians like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life in your daily behavior and in your attitude to work and indeed throughout your life.

As you leave this university academically equipped, spiritually recharged, and morally transformed, I believe that the spirit of your Alma Mater, the Godfrey Okoye University, will always motivate, inspire and guide you and its motto will continue to be your inspiration wherever you find yourselves.

For the sake of these young and gifted Nigerians, I hope that those political leaders who have won their elections after vigorous campaigns, promising to make life better for Nigerians, they will through good governance make the army of young people in Nigeria beneficiaries of the dividends of democracy, a democracy predicated on fairness, equitable distribution of resources and opportunities, without alienating or marginalizing anyone or group on account of unhealthy political calculations.

My dear young, intelligent, dynamic and promising graduating students, please be patient with all the ups and downs you will face as you go into the wider society in search of what to do to make meaning of your life. Shun violence and any form of criminality. What dialogue and enlightened behaviour cannot give you, violence or criminality cannot do it.

Let me specially congratulate and celebrate our honorary degree (Honoris Causa) awardees whose meritorious service to God and humanity earned them this honour. We appreciate your contributions to the development of Godfrey Okoye University. We thank you for identifying with the University and for your acts of benevolence. May this gesture of award motivate you to do more for the University which you so dearly love and for society in general.

I now invoke the good Lord to bless you dear distinguished personalities and all of you attending this convocation. May the Lord lead you safely back to your various destinations.

Thank you all, and may God continue to bless you now and all the days of your life.

MOST REVIGNATIUS A. KAIGAMA

AN ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PROF. DR. BARTHO OKOLO, AT THE 11TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023 AT THE MAIN CAMPUS, UGWUOMU-NIKE.

Protocol

Your Excellency, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Barr. Peter Ndubuisi Mbah, Executive Governor of Enugu State, Hon. Members of the National Assembly and the Federal Executive Council here present,
Hon. Members of the State Executive Councils and the State Houses of Assembly here present,
Your Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. C. V. C. Onaga, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu, and Proprietor, Godfrey Okoye University,
Your Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Okonkwo Gbuji, Bishop Emeritus, Catholic Diocese of Enugu,
Your Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Ernest A. Obodo, Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu,
Your Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Ignatius Ayau Kaigama, Catholic Archbishop of Abuja and Chancellor, Godfrey Okoye University,
My Lords Spiritual and Temporal,
Mr. Chris J. Maiyaki, Acting Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission,
Professor Dr. Christian Nwachukwu Okeke, Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Godfrey Okoye University,
Members of the Board of Trustees,
Members of the Governing Council,
Rev. Fr. Prof. Dr. Christian Anieke, Vice Chancellor, Godfrey Okoye University,
All Guest Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Provosts of academic institutions here present.
All Members of the Clergy and Religious,
Your Royal Majesties and Highnesses,
Members of the Academic and Administrative Staff of Godfrey Okoye University and Its Group of Institutions,
Members of Godfrey Okoye University Alumni Association,
Our graduating students and undergraduates of Godfrey Okoye University,
Our distinguished honorary awardees,
All respected invited guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Godfrey Okoye University, I welcome you our very distinguished personalities to the 11th convocation ceremony of our noble university, Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu. I express my special gratitude to His Excellency, Barrister (Dr.) Peter Ndubuisi Mbah, the Executive Governor of Enugu State and his entourage, our Proprietor and Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Enugu, Most Rev. Dr. Callistus Valentine Chukwuma Onaga and the Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Okonkwo Gbuji. We are grateful that these caliber of people have continued to honour us with their distinguished presence at every important occasion in our university despite their tight schedules. I also welcome other personalities, our cherished parents, guardians and indeed all proponents of the education sector especially the tertiary education who have assembled here today to celebrate with us the tremendous joy of our 11th convocation ceremony.

I welcome most importantly members of the Board of Trustees, the Governing Council led by its Chairman, Prof. Dr. Christian Nwachukwu Okeke, the Senate and members of the Management of Godfrey Okoye University who have been playing active roles in ensuring that our noble university soars high in the comity of universities in Nigeria. I salute you all for being so supportive to the Vice Chancellor to actualize his dreams.

I thank in no small measure the indefatigable Vice Chancellor of Godfrey Okoye University, Rev. Fr. Prof. Dr. Christian Anieke, a dogged fighter for positively utilizing the human and material resources of the university to enhance the infrastructural development of the university. It is to his credit and that of his team that in the most recent ranking (2023) of top universities in Nigeria by UniRank, our University, Godfrey Okoye University, was ranked 18th among 160 universities in Nigeria. Also in the Webometrics Ranking carried out in the same year under review on ten top private universities in Nigeria, our university was ranked 4th. Based on this ranking, it is a thing of joy to announce that we are the 4th best private university in Nigeria. I salute the Vice Chancellor immensely and encourage him to keep the flag flying while we pray for the sustenance of the legacies he is putting in place for the growth of the university.

I congratulate the staff of the University who played some key roles and worked diligently to produce these young graduates who are being presented to

the world today as men and women properly groomed by the university with a large prospect for a successful future. I congratulate their lecturers and supervisors who guided them painstakingly towards the realization of their life aspirations.

I salute the parents and guardians of these graduating students who provided them with the appropriate moral and financial support that enabled them to succeed. I pray that the Almighty God will replenish your pockets bountifully as you reap the fruits of your hard labour.

The events of the 11th graduation ceremony climaxing in today's activities bear an eloquent testimony that Godfrey Okoye University is indeed a truly Catholic Diocesan University with very high capacity for greatness. The membership of the Board of Trustees is determined to project Godfrey Okoye University as a spring board to transform the character of our university and its graduands to a truly knowledge-driven twenty first century modern nation.

The dire need for a university to produce high caliber graduands, sound in character and learning, cannot be compromised. For Godfrey Okoye University, the attainment of noble character and competence as indispensable components of training, cannot also be compromised. The Board of Trustees of this noble private university is propelled to discharge its assignment with diligence, guided by sound policies and global best practices.

Appreciation

The tremendous achievements of this great university so far would not have been possible if we do not have the caliber of men and women that pilot its affairs. Each of them has brought gifts of inestimable value. I personally thank them for the great support they have been rendering to me. This has actually simplified what ordinarily would have been a difficult task.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Trustees, I use this unique opportunity to express our deep gratitude to all those who have encouraged us with notable support. Prominent among them are the Executive Governor of Enugu State, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Dr. Barr. Peter Ndubuisi Mbah, the Catholic Bishop of Enugu Diocese and Promoter of the university, His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. CVC Onaga, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu, His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Ernest A. Obodo and the Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Dioceses of Enugu, His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony O. Gbuji. We also extend our gratitude to our collaborating universities in Europe, the United States of America, South Africa and within Nigeria, who have entered into robust linkages with us to ensure academic excellence. It is the resolve of the Board of Trustees and the Management of this noble university to continue its hard work in supporting the Governing Council, the Vice Chancellor, the Senate and other organs of the university to attain greater heights in all their engagements.

I appreciate the entire staff of the university who worked diligently and painstakingly to produce these young graduates being presented to the world today. I salute most importantly their lecturers and academic advisers who also guided them towards the realization of their aspirations. I also appreciate the parents and guardians of the graduands who provided them with financial and moral support that made this celebration today a reality.

To our Honorary Doctorate Degree Awardees, I congratulate you on the honour being bestowed on you today. It is a thing of pride for having been selected for this laudable award by our university. You have distinguished yourselves in your chosen careers and vocation with outstanding devotion, diligence and commitment for the progress of the university. To our benefactors and benefactresses, who have been impacting positively to the human and infrastructural development of our university, I salute you all.

To our graduating students

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me at this juncture sincerely

congratulate all our graduands on the successful completion of their various programmes, and also to have been found worthy in character and learning. You have now been formally admitted into the community of Godfrey Okoye University Alumni and Alumnae. We share with your parents and guardians in the success story and charge you to be good ambassadors of this great university. As you receive your well-deserved honour today, I convey to you our warm felicitations and urge you to thread the path of honour to enable you to render excellent service to humanity.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Godfrey Okoye University, I once more thank you all immensely for your active participation in this academic celebration. I wish you all safe trip back to your respective destinations. God bless you!

PROF. DR. BARTHO OKOLO, OFR, FNSM, FASI
Chairman, Board of Trustees,
Godfrey Okoye University,
Ugwuomu-Nike,
Enugu.

An Address presented by the Catholic Bishop of Enugu and the proprietor of Godfrey Okoye University, Most Rev Callistus V.C. Onaga, on the occasion of the 11th Convocation Ceremony of the university on 18th November 2023.

Protocol

It is with a heart full of joy that I welcome you all to this great occasion of the 11th Convocation Ceremony of our beloved Godfrey Okoye University. I express my unalloyed gratitude to the almighty God, who in his love and graciousness, saw the dream of this university come to reality and has sustained it ever since. Anyone who has followed the progress of events in this university since its inception would testify that there have been steady manifestations of God's goodness every step of the way.

It is indeed nothing short of a miracle, the significant growth and steady progress we have continued to witness in this university. A couple of years back, accessibility of this main campus was a big challenge because of the bad road. Today, that has not only become a thing of the past, but the main campus, as we have witnessed, has become a beehive of activities with the first intakes of the college of medicine domiciled and running their academic programmes here. The establishment of the college of medicine with the approval and proper accreditation of the National Universities Commission, is one giant and spectacular stride that our university has made in recent days and we are indeed grateful to God for that significant milestone.

As a diocese, Godfrey Okoye University has the pride of place in our scheme and we would not relent in supporting the university in any way we can. The release of our health institution, the former *Ntasi Obi Ndi no n'afufu Hospital*, to serve as the teaching hospital for the university, is a testament to what extent we are ready to go in support of this university. I assure everyone that as a diocese, we are even poised to do more. I thank the university management as well as the acting Chief Medical Director and his team, for the significant effort already being made to reposition the hospital to match its current status.

I thank individual priests and parishes, and various church groups like the Diocesan Catholic Women Organization (CWO) and some members of the lay faithful who have contributed at various levels to the infrastructural development of this main campus. I pray for God's blessings upon you and I humbly request that you do even more. The university needs all the support it could get towards the development of especially this main campus.

In the same vein and in a very special way, I thank the government of Enugu State for its support in the past and like Oliver Twist, earnestly solicit further support from the new administration. The access road to our university was achievable due to the support of the past administration in the State. I trust that the new administration in the state would do even more as the new governor, His Excellency Dr Peter Mba, is seated here today, not just as the governor of Enugu State but also as a member of the governing council of our beloved university. Your excellency, you have always been a pillar of support to the university both as an individual and as a part and parcel of the university, prior to your victory at the polls. It

is my conviction that your new position as the state's chief Executive, would afford you greater and more ample opportunity to continue your support to the university.

Finally, and in a very significant respect, I wish to pay special tributes to our ebullient and resourceful Vice Chancellor and his team of administrators for their steady devotion and commitment to the cause of this university. Your dogged spirit and zeal towards the growth of the university have continued to pay off as one can see the fruit of it in every aspect of the university. I pray for God's abundant blessings upon you and your team and ask you never to relent.

My heartfelt congratulations go to the new graduates. You can now go into the labour market fully armed with your areas of specialization. Remember to be good ambassadors of Godfrey Okoye University both in character and output. I will always remember you in my prayers. Your parents and guardians must be very proud of you for justifying their years of sacrifice while paying for your studies. I congratulate them as well.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, once again I thank you profusely for finding time to be with us in today's ceremony. God bless you all abundantly.

Most Rev Callistus V.C Onaga

