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RESOLUTIONS AT THE END OF 2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE CANON LAW CONVENTION OF NIGERIA

The 36th Annual Convention of the Canon Law Society of Nigeria was held at Bishop Kelly Pastoral Center, Benin City from 23rd -27th September, 2024, with the theme: Pious Associations Tending Towards Institutes of Consecrated Life and Society of Apostolic Life in the Church in Nigeria." At the end of the deliberations, the following resolutions were reached:

1. In the Catholic Church, the faithful have the right to establish and direct associations for the purpose of charity, piety and the promotion of Christian vocations in the world (Can.215). In exercising this right, they are to consider the common good of the church, the good of others and their duties towards others; therefore, they must be properly guided by the church.
2. There is largely the problem of following due process in the establishment and approval of Pious Associations Tending Towards Institutes of Consecrated Life and Society of Apostolic Life in the Church in Nigeria." To answer this problem adequately, there is need for a handbook to guide the competent ecclesiastical authorities in establishing and approving Pious Associations Tending Towards Institutes of Consecrated Life and Society of Apostolic Life in the Church in Nigeria.
3. It is true that many of the founders and foundresses are not adequately informed on the ethics of establishing Associations in the church and very often they are not properly guided. Competent ecclesiastical authorities should be able to guide them and cooperate with them by giving them canonical assistance since the associations properly guided and established are all to the advantage of the church.
4. It is clear that just as it is in the civil society, incompetent personnel are at times appointed or elected into positions of authority. The effect of this can cause deep havoc to the diligent governance of institutes in the church. Competent, willing and selfless personnel should be appointed or elected into positions of authority.
5. The social theory that favours freedom of action for individuals over collective ones, is not only a problem experienced in the outside world, it is very much at home in the church. Older religious institutes are to find new ways of establishing cooperation between themselves and the newly established ones. This will help the new ones to learn from their mistakes and to achieve better foundation in a short while.

Sign

Rev. Fr. Edwin Omorogbe JCD
CLSN National President

Rev. Fr. Dr. Charles Essien
CLSN National Secretary