



CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF NIGERIA

Motto: Collaboration in Service

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A Communique issued at the end of the Joint Conference of Major Superiors of Nigeria held at Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, Domus Fidei, Accommodation Centre, Ikeja - Lagos, from January 28 – February 3, 2025.

Theme: “Revitalizing our Identity as Consecrated Persons, through Conversion, Reconciliation and Peace.”

1. Preamble.

We, the Major Superiors of Nigeria held our Annual Conference at Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, Domus Fidei, Accommodation Centre, Ikeja - Lagos, from January 28 – February 3, 2025. Having prayerfully reflected on the theme, *Revitalizing our Identity as Consecrated Persons, through Conversion, Reconciliation and Peace*, we issue this communique:

2. Our Consecration as Religious Persons in the Church.

Religious consecration is a divine call to the deepening of our baptismal consecration, a commitment to discipleship in Jesus Christ. It is a radical response to His invitation to holiness of life. We affirm that by virtue of our consecration, we are called and set apart through the sacred vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to Christ in the Church according to the Charism of our various Institutes.

Evangelical Poverty is a participation in the self-emptying of Christ. It expresses itself in loving solidarity for humanity through sharing and charity. Consecrated Chastity is a total self-giving in love of God. It is about learning to love God and all his creatures well. Radical Obedience is the renunciation of one's will for the sake of the kingdom of God in imitation of the self-emptying of Christ. It means to accept the decisions of the community even when they are against one's will.

As Consecrated persons, we live these sacred vows daily in our different local communities as a family. In this way, we experience a sense of belonging, cultivating among ourselves love and tolerance for all without discrimination.

3. Issues and Trends in Consecrated Life in Nigeria

We acknowledge that Consecrated Life in Nigeria is currently beset with challenges which are corroding the very essence of its existence; the call to witness to the love of Christ in poverty, chastity and obedience lived in community for the mission of evangelizing as Christ did. These challenges include:

- Ethnicism, tribalism and nepotism
- Power struggle and cliquism

- Individualism which manifests itself in addiction to social media and an exaggerated sense of entitlement
- Craze for survival which trades gain over compassion for the poor
- Quest for miracles at all costs
- Infidelity to the vows

4. Way forward

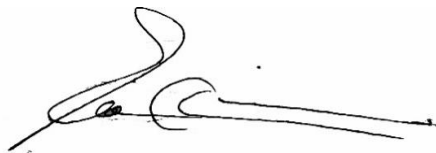
Having accepted that these trends make religious life lose much of its values to witnessing as people called to live a radical life in imitation of Christ, we encourage all Institutes of Consecrated Life to:

- return to their roots and revitalize the initial zeal of their founders/foundresses (2 Tim: 1: 6);
- call their members to a life of discipline, self-control, self-emptying which are at the core of the Consecrated Life, because unless a person embodies these characters over the impulses of the flesh, he/she may not experience much spiritual progress;
- pay attention to the integral formation of formators and formandi, through on-going formation and catechesis;
- make an intentional commitment to the interior life in imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary who *pondered all these things in her heart* (Lk. 2:19);

5. Conclusion

As Consecrated Persons, we are pilgrims of hope called to promote holiness of life, strengthen community life, encourage on-going conversion, foster reconciliation and be instruments of peace in the Church and Society. We make recourse to the *Blessed Virgin Mary, the Consecrated Person per excellence*, to guide all Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life to return to their roots, embrace their identity once again through conversion and reconciliation with one another and carry the Good News to our suffering humanity by offering it hope, joy and peace.

Signed:



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Mother Mary Anastasia Dike, DDL
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