



Nigerian Igbo Catholic Community

P.O. Box 66027 ■ Baltimore, Maryland 21239 ■ www.NICCCChurch.org

Mass Bulletin
Sunday March 25, 2012

OUR PRIESTS

Rev. Fr. Anthony Abiamiri (Liaison to the Archdiocese) - Rev. Fr. Nelson Ogwuegbu
Rev. Fr. Jude Okoye - Rev. Fr. Ferdinand Ezenwachi – Rev. Fr. Stanley Ihuoma
Rev. Fr. Pius Akajiofor – Rev. Fr. Godswill Agbagwa – Rev. Fr. Anthony Anokete

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Mission Statement: The NICC shall provide an environment for all Igbos in the Baltimore Metropolitan area to worship in their native language, Igbo, and to cultivate a lasting fraternal community whereby moral and Christian values are cherished. The organization shall also provide spiritual guidance to Igbo children and facilitate the assimilation of newly arrived Igbos into local parishes.

Community Worship: Last Sunday of every Month

Place: St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 4414 Frankford Ave., Baltimore MD 21206, Time: 1:30 P.M.

NICC Coordinating Council Meeting: The Council meets on the Sunday preceding the Igbo mass from 8 p.m to 10p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Rectory.

Uka nke Ise N'Oge Ncheta Ahuhu Kristi

Reflections

Following Jesus as an *Igbo Catholic* in America
By Rev. Fr. Godswill Agbagwa ()

As *Igbo Catholics* in America, there are so many lessons we can learn from the readings of today. For this reflection, I want us to focus on the Christological imperative in *Jn.12:26*: “**Whoever serves me must follow me.**” Although Jeremiah’s utterances in the first reading of today may seem to justify an *Uka di n’obi* approach to faith, Jesus makes it clear in today’s Gospel reading that active followership is an imperative for those who really wish to serve him. Apparently, the Greek worshippers – to whom Jesus issued this imperative - who were in Jerusalem for the Passover must have said to Jesus that they wanted to serve him. Indeed, those who served Jesus – the disciples – actively followed him about. Whether he was going to Judea or to Jordan; by sea or by land; to preach or to pray, at dawn or dusk; the disciples followed him.

I can only imagine how hard this was for a senior citizen such as Peter to trek miles with the youthful Jesus and often stay up late in prayers with Him. Or how inconveniencing it must have been for a young professor such as John to skip classes, just to follow Jesus. But, I need not imagine how hard it is for all of us who have flown hours across the Atlantic in search of greener pastures to actively follow Jesus in this “work overtime or starve nation.” Whether it is an *Igbo nurse* who has to work on Sunday to pay bills or the new arrival doing what he has to do *iji nwete akwukwo*, they all are tough

choices that may threaten our commitment to follow Jesus. Surely, Jesus knew that to follow him about, these Greeks would need to stay back in Jerusalem, abandon their jobs and families – difficult choices. Yet he insists that following him is a requirement for those who wish to serve him.

But, would Jesus be making the same demand of followership on us even when it appears that the system here seems to force some of us – often against our wishes - out of His path? I do not know the answer to this question. But what I do know is that faithfully serving and following Jesus has never been easier. Certainly, it was not easy for Peter to make the tough choice between fishing with his father and following Jesus? Nor was it a piece of cake for Matthew to make the even tougher choice between staying rich as a tax collector and following Jesus. As an *Igbo Catholic* in America, each of us has his or her own very difficult choices to make when it comes to staying authentically *Igbo* and Catholic in a stressful, materialistic, individualistic, liberal and morally permissive America. For instance, we will have to choose between working *back to back* so as to pay for our luxury homes and SUVs or slow down so as to have time for our kids, marriages, relatives, Stations of the Cross and Sunday masses, etc. As you make this choice, you may want to keep in mind that there is a promise attached to this Christological imperative of followership: “...and where I am, there also will my servant be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.” **Jn. 12:26**. Have a Spirit-filled Lent!

NSORO MASS

Ukwe Mbata: Bianu Bianu Umu Chineke....

Ukochuwku: Umunna m Ka Anyi Kwado Onwe Anyi Nke Oma Maka Emume Nke Yukaristia.
Onyenweanyi Mee Ebere ...

1st Reading: Ihe Ogugu E wetara n’akwukwo Onye Amuma Jeremaya Ch. 31: 31- 34
Isi Okwu: A ga m ehiwe Ogbugba ndu ohuru. Mmehie ha agaghikwa agbatam n’obi.

Aziza: Psalms (Abuoma) Ch. 50: 3-4, 12-15 Az 12
Chineke m, Kenya m obi di ocha

2nd Reading Ihe Ogugu e wetara n’Akwukwo Ozi e degara ndi Hibru Ch 5 vs 7-9
Isi Okwu: O mutara Irube isi were buru uzo nzoputa ebighi ebi.
Mbeku: Onyenweanyi kwuru si: Odibo M o bula ga na-eso M. Ebe M no, ka odibo M ga-anokwa.

Ozioma (Gospel): Ihe ogugu nke a si n’Ozioma di aso nke Jon dere Ch 12 vs 20-33
Isi Okwu: O buru na mkpuru osisi a kuru n’ala anwuo, o ga-amita otutu mkpuru.

Ukwe Tupu Ozioma:Ozi oma Chineke, ozi n’enye ndu...

Okwu Chukwu (Homily)
Ekwem N’Otu Chineke

Ekpere Maka Ndi Kwere Nu (Prayer of the Faithful)

Chorus: Onyenweanyi nuru aririo anyi, ge nti na nkpu akwa anyi nile.

Ukwe Offertory: O gaghi eji M n’onu ikele Chineke...
Onwere Otu nwoke, aha ya bu Jisus...

Consecration: Anyi ayo gi, nara aja anyi...
Jesu Kristi, Bia Ka-Iburu Achicha Na Mmaya

Communion (Oriri Nso): A bu M achicha di ndu...
Jesu, Onye Okike Nke Uwa...

Ukwe Mmechi (Closing): Ora kene ike Jisus...

MASS REQUESTS AND INTENTIONS

Umu Youth Choir NICC - Na ayo aja misa ubochi tata, maka iji kele Chineke n'isi ndi NICC nile, ndi nyere aka igba onya ego, iji nyere ha aka iga nochite anya NICC na ICCUSA Convention na Atlanta, Georgia. Ha na ayo ngozi Chineke n'isi madu nile maka enyemaka ha.

Mr. Emma and Mrs. Peace Mgboji - is requesting this mass for the christening of their daughter Miss Essence Nneka Mgboji and for God's continued guidance and protection on their entire family.

Mr. Ignatius and Mrs Ngozi Egbujonuma – For the repose of the soul of their Mother-Inlaw and Mother late Mrs. Regina Opara who recently answered the call to eternal glory.

May the soul of Regina and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace, Amen.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for our member Chief Darlington Okuzu who is sick and receiving medical attention.
- Please pray for one of us Ms. Anthonia Igliege who is sick and also receiving medical attention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NICC welcomes all our guests and other individuals who are attending the NICC mass for the first time. Please see one of our contact persons for registration information and on how you can contribute to the NICC mission.
- The NICC 12th Year Anniversary video continues to be on sale for \$15 for a pack of 3 CD's.
- NICC is reminding those with outstanding balances from previous thanksgiving Bazaars, as well as other fundraising events, to endeavor to make payments or redeem their pledges. Installment payments are also accepted.

NICC Men Meeting & Youths Ministry - Sunday April 15, 2012 at St. Anthony's (3 - 6p.m.)

NICC CWO Meeting/Fellowship – Sunday, April 15, 2012 (3:00 to 6:00 p.m. @ St Anthony's)

SOROM CHIA

Happy Birthday to the following NICC members born in the month of March!!

Udoka Anele, Chinonye Ekeocha, Mr. Peter Abiamiri, Tobechukwu Okwesili, Aaron Ogbennah, Mrs. Regina Onyekah, Patrick Ugochukwu Onuigbo, Mrs. Happiness Oguariri, Chimaobi Uwandu, Mrs. Adlate Anyadike, Mrs. Celestina Ikpamezie, Kennedy Onyekah, Joann Okechukwu, Chukwuemeka Wisdom Nwanegwo, Frank Nwankwo, Amarachi Anyadike, Melanie Oby Osefo, Mrs Catherine Onugbolu, Petronilla Ebelechukwu Onyebadi, Mrs. Caroline Nwankwo, Ozioma Mary Theresa Nwaigwe, Mrs. Ngozi Adaku Udeh, Mrs Patricia Mezu, Chika Mezu, Crystal Njoku, Melvyn Morris Adiegwu, Uloma Anele, Mrs. Ngozi Nwakama, Chinasa Ejimofor, Alexander Ketochukwu Nwodoroku, Mrs. Maria Ebirim, Stephanie Nnabue, Nneka Amakiri, Chika Olandu, Ikenna Olandu, Mrs. Ogechi Ekwunazu, Michael Okolo 1, Angel Okolo 1, Afam Obiora, Chiamaka Iheoma, Mr. John Azike Sr., Mrs. Doris Azike .

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

NICC Member Sir Kevin Anaruagu will be wedding Miss Perpetua Ikeh On Saturday, May 26, 2012 at Holy Family Catholic Church, Randallstown; Reception follows at the Diamond Events Hall in Randallstown. All are invited

Mr. & Mrs Ignatius Egbujonuma are inviting all to the wake keeping in honor of their mother-in-law and mother late Mrs Regina Opara on Friday March 30, 2012 at the PEP, 4201 Primrose Avenue, Baltimore, MD.

The Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group will meet on Sunday, April 1, 2012 from 3:00-6:00p.m. at St. Anthony's of Padua Rectory.

Mr. & Mrs. Emma Mgboji presents their daughter Miss Essence Nneka Mgboji for Baptism

Each time a child is baptized, God smiles from up above knowing He has someone new to shelter and to love. Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Mgboji and the entire Mgboji wish to present for baptism Ms. Essence Nneka Mgboji, today Sunday, March 25, 2012 at the Igbo Mass in Baltimore, Maryland. And with gratitude and appreciation, thank God for all His mercies and compassion on us, and wish God's blessings on their children's sponsors: Mr. & Mrs. Collins & Stella Onyeama (for Essence Nneka Mgboji), Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel & Victoria Eneremadu (for Nicole Chinomso Mgboji), Mr. & Mrs. Celestine & Ijeoma Amadi (For Emmanuel Ezenwa Mgboji, Jr.), and Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert & Nkem Opara (for Rejoyce Chinelo Mgboji). After Mass, there will be a cocktail party at the Mgboji's residence in Bel Air, Maryland. The address is 214 Oak Valley Drive, Bel Air, Maryland 21014.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter - wwme.org

A catholic based organization for all kinds of marriage enrichment programs.

2012 NICC EVENT CALENDAR

2012 ICCUSA Convention in Atlanta Georgia - Saturday April 28, 2012

Mothers' Day Mass Celebration by His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Augustine T. Ukwuoma, Bishop of Orlu Diocese – Sunday, May 27, 2012

Fathers' Day Celebration and Rev. Anthony Anichukwu's Maiden Mass of Priesthood – Sunday, June 24, 2012

Igbo Catholic Youth & Young Adults Convention –Sunday June 3, 2012 (Most Precious Blood Church/Hall)

NICC Annual Family Picnic – Saturday, July 28, 2012

NICC Annual Pilgrimage – Sunday, August 19, 2012

Rev. Fr. Anthony Abiamiri's 15th Priesthood Anniversary - Sunday, August 26, 2012

Annual Thanksgiving and Bazaar Celebration – Sunday, October 28, 2012

Please support the Baltimore Archbishop Lenten Appeal in your various parishes

NICC welcomes the news of the appointment of His Grace, Most Rev. William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut, as the 16th Archbishop of Baltimore. Archbishop Lori will be installed on May 16, 2012 at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen.

NICC Youth Flash

Volume 2, Issue 2, March 25, 2012

The NICC Youth meeting on Sunday March 11, 2012, was a huge success, thanks to all the facilitators and coordinators.

Rev. Sr. Patrice Nsionu



Igbo Catholic Youth and Young Adult Convention will be held at the Most Precious Blood Church Hall on Sunday June 3, 2012. More information will be provided with time.



Youth Choir and Intermediate class preparing for the 2012 ICCUSA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Next Youth meeting will be on Sunday April 15, 2012 from 3 – 6 p.m.
Please invite all your friends**

To prepare for the session, visit www.igbo911.com