

Nigerian Igbo Catholic Community Baltimore

Youths Flash

Special Edition

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Baltimore NICC Youths received standing ovation at the ICCUSA Convention Mass in Atlanta



There we were in Atlanta, and the stage was set at the American Best Western Hotel ballroom. The delegates at the 2012 ICUSSA convention had already taken their places while our youths were still at the Atlanta Airport. Our arrival at the hotel was reminiscent of the Enugu Rangers of the '70s arriving at the National Football Stadium Surulere, Lagos, where they were showered with cheers and admiration. During the Mass, the quartet

of Ngozi Ibe, Ezinne Mgboji, Chinonso Mgboji, and Rejoyce Mgboji captivated the congregation during the responsorial song in Igbo, with Brother Donatus Emeruem directing. Our very own Father Nelson Ogwuegbu delivered the homily in his natural calm and direct way, with the solid gospel message sinking into the minds of the faithful listeners. Beluolisa Oranye represented us in the prayer intentions and the rendition of the prayer of the faithful song was performed accentlessly by our Youth in their native language (Igbo) with standing acknowledgement from the congregation. The NICC Youth continued to thrill the congregation with their marvelous performance of "Nurianu na Kristi esigo N'onwu bilie" from the new Igbo Catholic hymn book No. 285.

Cultural Youths Performance at the ICCUSA Convention Gala Night

At the gala night, the Youth from North Carolina and Atlanta featured well. The Atlanta Youth performed the acrobatic "Atilogwu" dance. But our Youth were not done yet. Precious Anyadike, Chimaobi Iwumune, Amarachi Anyadike and Chiamaka Ibe introduced their next song with a little drama illustrating that "no condition is permanent" as their song was properly titled "Ndidi". Again, the audience was captivated by their vernacular fluency with Igbo songs. The song was composed and directed by Brother Donatus Emeruem who quickly became a coveted celebrity or "the most valuable player" of the convention. As the next song came, the audience could not restrain themselves from participating. They stood up, clapped uninterruptedly, and showered our Youth with money, and the parents from Baltimore ("cheerleaders") joined and immediately the song changed to "ihe imere di nma" as we triumphantly sang our way out of the stage as time elapsed!



The Squad:

Soprano: Chinonso Mgboji, Ezinwa Nwakama, Chika Nwakama, Ogechi Iwumune, Amarachi Anyadike, Ogechi Iheanacho, Akuchi Iheanacho, Chiamaka Ibe, Adanna Okwesiri, Ijeoma Ike-Amaechi and Judith Nwachukwu.

Alto: Ezinne Mgboji, Ngozi Ibe, Precious Anyadike, Jessica Nwachukwu and Venessa Nwankwo.

Tenor: Rejoyce Mgboji, Beluolisa Oranye and Chimobi Iwumune.

Bass: Kelenna Nwakama and Chijioke Oranye.

"Miracle worker"/Composer/Conductor: Brother Donatus Emereum

Youth "Managers": Mr. Achike Oranye and Sister Patrice Nsionu

Priest in the house: Fr. Nelson Ogwuegbu

"Cheerleaders": Mr. Clement Anyadike, Mrs. Julie Oranye, Mr. Alex Iwumune, Sir Felix Opara, Mazi and Mrs. Ig Nwankwo, Mr. and Mrs. Emma Mgboji, Mrs. Eucharika Iheanacho, Dr. Patrick Nwakama, and Dr. Aloy Ibe.

Peace. (Dr. Aloysius Ibe reporting)

Baltimore Youths appointed to the ICCUSA National Youths Council

At the just concluded ICCUSA Conference in Atlanta Georgia, 4 of our very own youths were appointed to serve in the ICCUSA National Youth Council. They include Precious Anyadike, Glory Mgboji, Stacey Ibe, and Jessica Nwachukwu. These youths will work with youths from other Igbo Catholic Community chapters across the United States to coordinate activities among the youths. The ICCUSA National Youth Council will be responsible for organizing formal gatherings and conventions for our Nigerian Young Adults. Hurray to Baltimore youths for being among the pioneers for the National Youth Council. It is impressive to also report that these youths participated in the panel discussions held at the convention.

Our Legacy "The Youths"

In his book, "Our Greatest Legacy", the Most Reverend Valerian M. Okeke (2009), the Archbishop of Onitsha wrote, "Our greatest possible legacy is the youth ... there is no greater legacy we can leave for the sake of God himself and for humanity than a galaxy of well-formed, properly educated youths ... that is why they are described as the life-wire of the past, the destiny of the present, and the hope of the future ... they carry our ideals to the unforeseen future ... no amount of other achievements will compensate for not raising our youths properly because success without successor is a failure"

Our heritage of Igbo language and Catholic culture will surely die if we do not pass them on to our children like our parents passed them down to us. Godly and wholesome character formations are inculcated into the youth in the process of passing our Igbo language and Catholic faith to them. In Baltimore, the Igbo Catholic Community is blessed to have certified and dedicated Catechists to teach our children: Brother Don Emeruem, Reverend Sisters MaryPatrice Nsionu and Vivian Echekwubelu, Mazi Achike Oranye, and Dr. Frank Okechukwu. We are still accepting more volunteer teachers as the number of our youth has grown steadily because of our nationally acclaimed Igbo Catholic Youth Choir (led by Brother Don Emeruem). Parents/guardians join us by bringing your children to St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church at 4414 Frankford Ave., Baltimore, MD 21206, 3pm every third Sunday of the month for free Igbo lessons and catechism. By Dr. Frank Okechukwu



**Please invite your friends to our next Youths Ministry
on Sunday June 17, 2012 (3-6 p.m.)**

As usual, item 7 (snacks) will be served