



# Nigerian Igbo Catholic Community

P.O. Box 66027 ■ Baltimore, Maryland 21239 ■ [www.NICCCChurch.org](http://www.NICCCChurch.org)

## *Mass Bulletin* *Sunday April 29, 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 Sunday of Igbo Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Rectory (8 p.m. - 10 p.m.).

## **Uka nke Ise N'Oge Ncheta Mbilite N'onwu Kristi**

### **Reflections**

*Standing By Your Values as Igbo Catholics*

**Fr. Godswill Agbagwa**

On Easter Sunday, we commemorated once again the historic resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. As always, it was a joyful day for all of us. Beyond a gorgeous liturgy celebrated in every Catholic Church that Easter Morning, majority of us had good times with family and friends. To God be the Glory! I can only imagine how joyful the disciples were when the news of the resurrection was first broken to them and how long they partied. But from what we read in Acts 4:8-12 today, it does not seem to me that they partied for too long. Already, they are facing series of tribunals. Those Leaders who wanted Jesus out are already on them, trying to frustrate any fact that suggests to the people that Jesus is alive.

But the disciples were convinced that Jesus is alive. Besides the fact that they all have jumped into his empty tomb, Jesus also appeared to them severally sharing bread and fish with them. He even let Thomas put his fingers into the holes drilled into his side on Good Friday. What are they to do? Tell the truth and die? Or 'cooperate' with these powers and live? The Holy Thursday cowardly Peter takes the bull by the horn. The one, who denied Jesus before a twelve-year old, stood fearlessly before Judges, Bishops, Professors and Soldiers testifying that Jesus is the Lord. One only needs to watch the movie: "St. Peter" by Omar Sheriff to appreciate the courage of a Leader who once was timid and weak. It was neither one fearless speech nor two, but many: to Saul, to the Sanhedrin, to the Pharisees etc. Sometimes, he was confrontational. Some other times, he broke down in tears. Several times he had to go to the jailhouse to bail out an apostle jailed for preaching that Jesus is alive.

I can't find a more compelling obligation that bound Peter to these responsibilities than that implicit in Jesus' words in today's Gospel. Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His flock. Of course, Jesus was not saying this for vain glory; rather He was affirming a fact about Himself worthy of emulation. Apparently, Peter remembered these words together with the Holy Thursday request made of Him to feed His flock by Jesus and was impelled to be the proactive, fearless, selfless and truthful Leader of His fellow disciples.

If we think that Jesus could afford to lay down His life for His flock because He is God, perhaps Peter's courageous and selfless leadership should encourage those of us lacking the moral nerve to stand our truthful and selfless grounds as Leaders of ourselves, families, Churches and Communities etc. As we all know, a major reason why our country Nigeria has become a nightmare for us all is the fact that many who should lead in truth and selflessness are not doing so. Whether they are Presidents or Governors; LGA Chairmen or Monarchs; whether they are Youth Leaders or Union Executives; it is hard to find a truthful and selfless one among them. To make matters worse, some of us, their in-laws and uncles also fail in our moral duties to courageously tell them the truth and nothing but the truth. If we are not afraid of being unpopular, we are afraid of being kidnapped and so on and so forth. Even here in America, some Igbo Fathers and Mothers have also lost the nerve to tell their children the truth. As Leaders and friends/relatives of leaders; as parents and husbands/wives, Jesus calls us to stand our grounds when it comes to telling the truth. He calls us to be selfless and proactive in defending those values that both our faiths and families have taught us. Like Peter, we must be prepared to lay down our lives for the truth and for those values that make us who we are as Igbo Catholics. *Once again, Happy Easter!!*

*Please send your comments to: [gagbagwa@csaaeinc.org](mailto:gagbagwa@csaaeinc.org)*

## 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 ...

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Ihe Ogugu E wetara n'akwukwo Oru Ndi Ozi Ch. 4: 8-12  
Isi Okwu: A Nani aha nkea nwere ike izoputa Gi

**Aziza:** Psalms (Abuoma) Ch. 117: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29 Az 22  
Nkume ndi na-ewu ulo juru aju, aghoola nkume di mkpa n'ulo ugbua a

## **2nd Reading**

Ihe Ogugu e wetara n' Akwukwo Ozi mbu Jon di aso dere Ch 3 vs 1-2  
Isi Okwu: Anyi ga-ahu Chineke ka O si di n'onwe ya!

Aleluya, Aleluya, Onyenweanyi kwuru si, Abu M ezigbo onye nche aturu. Amaara M aturu M, Aturu M makwaara M, Aleluya!

**Ozioma (Gospel):** Ihe ogugu nke a si n'Ozioma di aso nke Jon dere Ch 10 vs 11-18  
Isi Okwu: Ezigbo Onye nche aturu na-enye ndu Ya n'ihia aturu Ya.

**Ukwe Tupu Ozioma:** Ozi oma Chineke, ozi n'enyenu...

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**

**The families of Chief Dr. Sir Sopuruchukwu Emecheta and Mr. & Mrs. Sabastine Offorji** – Thanking God for his grace as they mourn the passing of their wife, sister and Mother, late Mrs. Chika Emecheta who was called to glory six months ago. They are asking God to continue to give them the grace to endure the loss and also to grant her soul eternal rest.

**Chief and Lolo Justin Aguguo** - Thanksgiving to God on behalf of their children (Prince Chidera Justin Aguguo, Prince Obiuto Jenkins Aguguo, Princess Adaure Peace Aguguo and Prince Chibudom Aguguo) who were baptized on April 28, 2012 and also asking for continuous protection on the family.

**Mrs. Benedicta Mmlemchukwu** – Thanking God for his mercy especially on behalf of her children (Mr. T.J. Mmlemchukwu (B.S) and Miss Jeanny Mmlemchukwu (M.S)] who will be graduating in May 2012. She is also asking for continuous protection of the family.

**Mr. & Mrs. Chris Iheanacho** – For the repose of the soul of their sister in-law, Mrs. Agnes E. Iheanacho, who was called to glory on April 7, 2012

May the souls of Chika, Agnes and all the faithful departed rest in peace! Amen.

## SPECIAL PRAYERS

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NICC welcomes all our guests and others 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 12<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary video continues to be on sale for \$15 for a pack of 3 CD's.
- NICC is also reminding those with outstanding balance from the Thanksgiving and Bazaar, as well as, other fundraising events, to endeavor to make payments or redeem their pledges. Installment payments are also accepted.

NICC Men Meeting & Youth Ministry - Sunday May 13, 2012 at St. Anthony's (3-6 p.m.)

NICC CWO Meeting – Sunday, May 20, 2012 (3:00 to 6:00 p.m. @ St Anthony's)

**Beginning June 2012, NICC Men and NICC Youths meeting will hold on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month**

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.

The Archdiocese prayer meeting will hold on Sunday, May 6, 2012 from 1:00-5:00p.m. at St. Phillip Neri Church, 6405 South Orchard Road, Linthicum Height MD 21090. For information, call Brother Thed Ejimofor on 443-722-8939.

**Rev Anthony AniChukwu's** priestly Ordination on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at National Shrine of Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington DC 20017 (10 AM). Reception follows at St Luke Catholic Church, 4925 East Capitol Street, SE Washington DC 20019.

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter – [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)**

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

## **SOROM CHIA**

### **(Members Celebrating Month-of-May Birthdays)**

Kenny Okechukwu, Ebere Nwanegwo, Ogechi Iwumune, Paschal Abiamiri, Izunna Nnadozie, Chris Iheanacho Jnr, Gabriel Nwokwu, Jerry Nnolim, Obichukwu Mezu, Chinaka Mezu, Michael Nwachukwu, Cynthia Nwanegwo, Udochi Nwanegwo, Chinwendu Chineke, Daniel Eke, Ephraim Nwoga, Jennifer Chukwu, Prince Obiuto Aguguo, Chiamaka Ibe, Prince Obiuto Jenkins Aguguo, Chioma Priscilla Tasia, Ikenne Prince Mba, Chinelo Ahamefula, Titus Onuoha, Gloria Nnah, Petrus Nnolim, Rose Peditta Nnolim, Eunice Anisiobi, Patience Ekeocha, Ignatius Udemadu, Bonny Nwabunike, Anthony Nwaiwu, Cynthia Azike, Ngozi Ibe, Chidi Nwaehiri, Wilfred Anokwute Jnr, Basil Ebekonye, Magdalene Anokwute, Chibueze Anyadike, Susan Ejimofor, Ugochi Ebiye (Nee Ekeocha), Ogochukwu Ejimofor, Christine Nnoruom, Chukwuemeka Nwokwu, Ginikachukwu Nwokwu, Mr. Ignatius Soronnadi, Jacinta Ejelonu, Mrs. Lucy Ezeanolue, Daniel Eke, Mr. Jerry Uwandu, Febechi Egol, and Ebube Nzeribe.

### **NICC 2012 Ministry Calendar**

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

Fathers' Day & Premier Priesthood Ordination Mass for Rev. Anthony Anichukwu – Sunday, June 24, 2012

Igbo Catholic Youth & Young Adults Convention – Most Precious Blood Church/Hall) Date TBA

NICC Annual Family Picnic – Saturday, July 28, 2012

NICC Annual Pilgrimage – Sunday, August 19, 2012

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