



Blessed is the Memory of the Righteous

TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR LATE SISTERS **NUALA McCLUSKEY AND **MARY MURRAY**, BOTH WHO GAVE THEIR ALL TO VOCATION IN NIGERIA AND INSPIRED A LIFE OF SERVICE IN MANY. WE CELEBRATE THEM AS THEY JOIN THE SAINTS TRIUMPHANT.**

Oh Sr. Nuala McCluskey!

—Margaret Yusufu, SSL

You have bowed at last to the Father's home call! Sr Nuala was popularly known as "Sister Immaculi" then in Southern Kaduna where she spent most of her years in Nigeria. It was a name that became almost a household name in Zonkwa or Zon City as it was also called then.

Sr. Nuala and the earlier trained nurses of St. Louis School of Nursing (present day St. Louis School of Midwifery), Zonkwa were the Florence Nightingales of their time. The nurses would move about with their lamps attending to patients when they had to do so during night shifts.

Sister Nuala laboured much (with other Missionary Sisters with her) in Southern Kaduna to ensure that standard health facility was available to serve not only southern Kaduna, but the whole of Kaduna State and beyond. St. Louis Hospital rose to become a referral post that received complicated cases from other hospitals around and outside the state because of the presence of medical doctors from the Netherlands that the sisters collaborated with for many years.

Nuala's heart remained in Zonkwa long after she left it. Both the hospital and the school of Midwifery have trained and continue to train and provided succour to thousands across the globe as students of the school are everywhere providing quality health care wherever they are.

Rest in perfect peace Sr Nuala. God reward your labour of love. Amen.

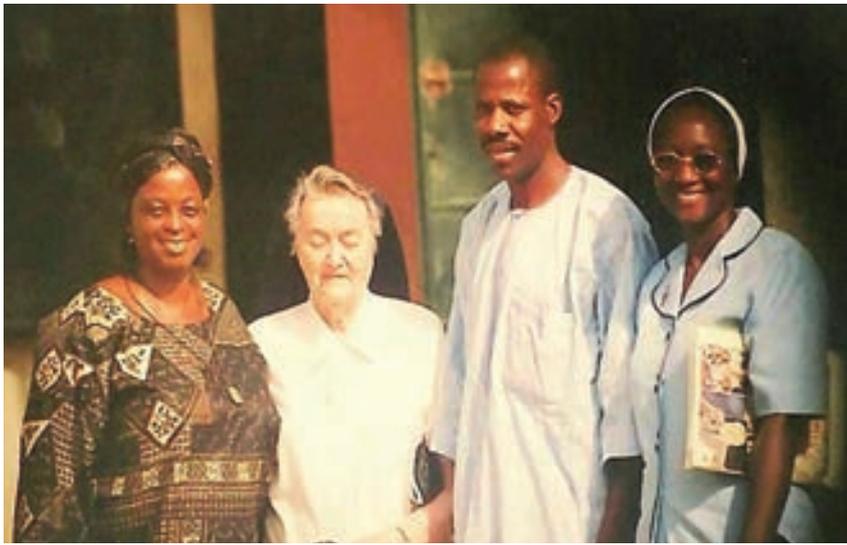
— TRIBUTES continued on page 2



Left to right (STANDING) Sisters Nuala McCluskey, Patricia Ojo, Dorothy Yayock and Anita Morley (SITTING, BACK) Helena Solon, Veronica Odida and Noreen Hurley (SITTING, FRONT) Margaret Yusufu, Catherine McGuniness and Bridget Agum at the Postulancy in 1980.

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▶ L-R: Mrs Christiana Kuhiop, Nuala McCluskey, a friend and Margaret Yusufu during one of her visits to Zonkwa



▶ Sr. Agnes Abba with Sr. Nuala McCluskey

Life is so ironic,
it takes sadness
to know what
happiness is,
noise to appreciate
silence & absence
to value presence.



OH DEAR!

— Agnes Adeluyi, SSL

Our dear Sr. Nuala was a woman of petite stature but with a large heart, with short hands that carried and nurtured many souls from sickness to health, from poverty to wealth. She was a woman with short legs, legs that made her caring felt both in the North and West of Nigeria.

She was a very generous woman who gave freely of herself, her time and of everything she had. A detribalised woman who made a lasting and loving impression in every heart that crossed her path be it a Bajju, a Kataf, a Hausa, an Ibo or a Yoruba. I am sure you would have met with Baba Frank, Inuwa, Halidu, Ádámù... to mention but a few of your allies in Nigeria, who had gone ahead. Continue to wink your eyes on us as you take your rest in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ, dear Nightingale of our time.

Like a Butterfly

— Agnes Abba, SSL

Life is Like a butterfly! It can be beautiful and interesting but you never know when it will fly away! These words from the poem, **Gone From My Sight** by Henry Van Dyke, capture my feelings:

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side, spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone." Gone where? Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast, hull and spar as she was when she left my side. And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port. Her diminished size is in me -- not in her. And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone," there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!" And that is dying...

Nice knowing you, Sr Nuala! Rest well.



■ L-R: Srs. Mary Murray, Margaret Yusufu, Cleophas Joyce and Bida's community gardener in 1983



■ L-R: Sr. Margaret Yusufu with Sr. Mary Murray in front of the convent in Bida in 1983

The Gift of Sister Mary Murray

—Margaret Yusufu, SSL

Thank God for the gift of Sister Mary to us all. I remember her for many reasons. Sister Cleophas Joyce RIP and now Mary Murray RIP, were the sisters I shared community with for almost a year after my first vows in 1982. Sister Mary was great with children and youths. Consequently, I learnt to teach children's catechism in our Church in Bida through her mentoring. The Parish at that time was run by Kiltigan Fathers.

Bible lessons for the Week was presented in songs accompanied by a lot of actions. The children loved and looked forward to receiving more of what she taught when classes ended each Sunday school. Part of the attraction for them was always the new songs, and the miming steps flavoured by Mary's many creative insights. Their reception of catechism was so beautiful.

I will not forget also that it was Mary Murray who helped me to put together some pieces of information that had puzzled me when I was in St. Peters Primary School. The diocese of Bauchi (where I was born and raised), belonged to Scottish Missions. They lost a

young Priest to Road Traffic accident in my early elementary classes. That incidence remained so confusing to some of us children because the Priest (whose name I can't remember now), was someone we must have been getting used to seeing but who suddenly we did not see again. Whatever way his death was explained to us, all I remember is that we began to stop to pray by his grave side each morning we came to school and repeated the some exercise on our way home at the close of school hours.

When Mary heard I was from Bauchi diocese, after I joined the community in Bida in September 1982, she told me about the priest who was flown into Ibadan and rushed to University Teaching Hospital (UCH Ibadan) after a RTA to save his punctured lungs. He had sustained fractured ribs! He never made it out of the hospital!

They are all resting in the Lord now. We have the joy of the resurrection and victory of Jesus over sin and death which we celebrate these days.

Sisters Mary Murray and Nuala McCluskey were Saints of God and they are with God. They are sweetly remembered and greatly missed but their memories keep them ever near. May they rest in peace.

— Franca (on behalf of St. Louis Novitiate)

FROM ZONKWA WITH HEAVY HEART

The Sisters of St. Louis and the good people of Zonkwa received the news of your home call with heavy heart. We still recall the many good works you did and the many lives you saved. Your legacy lives on as St. Louis Hospital and School of Midwifery Zonkwa are waxing stronger. Rest on our dear gentle and ever smiling Sr. Nuala. *Allah ya jinkai rai ta.* Amin.

FROM C. J. Ifejiofor, Bida to Sr. Mary Murray

You blessed me with your originality and diversity which have helped in shaping me into who I am today. Few of your type exists and only God knows why he decided to bring you home sooner. I wish I had seen you for one last time before your demise. There is nothing left but echoes of memories and the footprints you left in the sands of time. You left a legacy for which posterity will reward your memory. We will continue to tell your story as you crossover to the afterlife. Rest well.



L-R: Nuala McClusky, Margaret Yusufu, Edna McClusky, Nuala's Sister



L-R: Sr. Nuala McCluskey two patients and Bitrus the driver at St. Louis Hospital, Zonkwa.

THE ENIGMA IS GONE TO GLORY

— **Omotayo O. Ikotun (Nee Fatunde)** Head Girl, 1970 Set of St. Louis Grammar School, Ibadan.

E*rin Wo!* An enigma, a colossus has gone to be with the Lord! The ex-students of St. Louis Grammar School, Mokola, Ibadan have lost a most precious, intelligent, respected and caring teacher in the person of Sr Brendan whose nickname was Brensco!

Both Sisters Dympna Drury and **Brendan Mary Murray** were so committed to raising us to become 'total women.' The fear of Brensco

was the beginning of wisdom, for she was such a perfectionist in any field she was involved in — Geography, English and Music. In the field of sports as well Brensco was one to be reckoned with. Between 1966 and 1969, St. Louis, Ibadan was so popular in operas and Christmas musical presentations in the city of Ibadan.

She was such a disciplinarian, but today many of us appreciate

what she stood for: integrity, cleanliness, the fear of God, punctuality and being totally focused and committed.

Sister Brendan, pity we did not have the opportunity to celebrate you at your funeral rites, but we remember you with nostalgia and fond memories.

I pray that God grants your most kind soul eternal rest, amen.

Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live.

Norman Cousins



■ Sisters on arrival for the workshop at Dassa-Zoume Community

2018 Record Keeping and Documentation Workshop

— **Celestina Isaac, Juliet Megwa, Elizabeth Okoh and Mary John**

Record keeping and documentation workshop of Sisters of Saint Louis held in Dassa Zoume, from 14th to 21st April 2018 with a total of thirty-five Sisters (Twenty-five Nigerians and ten Ghanians) in attendance with a facilitator from Kenya Miss Anne and SSL Development Coordinator, Mr. Ronan White with Sr. Patricia Ojo, ssl from the Central Leadership Team.

Sr. Patricia's visit was a remarkable one because most of the postulants were meeting her for the first time and she brought beautiful gifts for us and the community, she also taught us beautiful songs and gave us rich words of advice encouraging us on the journey which we have started and also sent us greetings from the ageing Sisters in Ireland. The workshop programme which took a whole week was packed full with so many lectures on different topics for them. Recreation and lots more added colour to it for them to make their days more interesting. The Sisters visited the Postulancy community on their arrival, it was a wonderful day for the postulants of St. Louis Nigeria Province as it was an opportunity for us to meet our Sisters from Ghana and reunite with some of our Sisters from Nigeria and Ireland.

After a warm welcome, we had delicious meal to make them feel at home. We interacted and introduced ourselves to each other since we were meeting each other for the first time



■ Sister Agnes Abba (standing in the background) welcoming the Sisters at the Postulancy



■ Sister Patricia Ojo & Ronan White in a discussion

especially with the Ghanaian Sisters. The Postulants and Novices of Ghana sent us their greetings as well as some gifts. We too sent some creative works and cards to them in return to show them our appreciation as distance is not a barrier to knowing and loving ourselves.

To God be the glory, the workshop and visit was a huge success and we all look forward to another opportunity to be united as a family once again.

BISHOP OF DASSA-ZOUMÉ IN OUR MIDST

—Bridget Attah, Linda Christopher,
Immaculata Mayaki, Elizabeth Oguche



L/R: Mon Seigneur François GNONHOSSOU, SMA, Sister Isabel Mann and a postulant in a prayer mood in front of the Postulancy Community, Dassa.



Sisters, Postulants and Catholic faithful in prayer mood in front of the postulant community

The procession for the passion of our Lord on Good Friday began in our community on 28th April, 2018 at about 3pm with Peré Fortuné BADOU our Parish Priest introducing the procession to us.

Shortly before we commenced with the Good Friday programme, the Bishop of Dassa Zoume Diocese Mon Seigneur François GNONHOSSOU SMA came to the community, we all greeted him and were happy to have him around. The programme then began with a prayer, as the prayer was going on a young man fainted. Everyone was worried and asked questions about him. Sr. Agnes and some postulants went to assist him, with the help of some parishioners he was taken to an open space and Sr. Agnes quickly got him a soft drink, after taking it he began to regain consciousness.

The Bishop joined them to attend to the young man and to ensure he was doing well while the rest of us and Sr. Isabel joined up with

the procession. Sr. Agnes joined in taking him to the hospital in the community bus to make sure that he was ok and had not injured himself when he had fallen down. After they had left for the hospital the Bishop joined up with the procession to the church.

We thank God for the miracle worked in the community that Good Friday as the young man who had fainted returned back from the hospital immediately after without sustaining any injury and is in good health. The incidence of the young man helped us to understand the meaning of Good Friday better as even the Bishop showed us that concern of his flock is very ultimate in his mind. If not for the timely intervention of Sr. Agnes and the parishioners, the situation may not have ended the way it did. We thank God for all he has done for us all and in the life of the young man. May His graces and blessings never depart from our lives. Amen.

VOCATION TALK IN IJEBU-ODE DIOCESE

— Rachel Ojo, SSL

The message of vocation was spread throughout Ijebu-Ode Diocese by the Nigeria Conference of Women Religious on April 22, 2018. It began with each congregation preaching vocation in their respective Parishes the Sunday prior to Mission Sunday. On Vocation Sunday, all female religious gathered at St. Sebastian Catholic Cathedral in Ijebu-Ode after Mass. We all gathered in the hall to listen to different speakers from various congregations. Our dear Sr Margaret Dauda was the first speaker to speak on vocation. She simply put vocation as a divine call to God's service. She explained the four types of vocation, namely:

1. Vocation to single living
2. Vocation to married life
3. Vocation to consecrated life
4. Vocation to priesthood.

She took us through the Old Testament where God called the prophets and the New Testament where God called the disciples. She encouraged all the youths present from different parishes to listen more and respond to God's call. They should seek advice from Priests and Religious when they feel the call because sometimes there is always need for assistance to be able to answer God's call as in the case of Samuel.

Each congregation also spoke briefly on the history of their congregation. Sr. Rachel Ojo shared our story, explaining to the audience that the Sisters of St. Louis originated from France and that the founder is Abbé Louis Marie Eugene Bautain. She told them of the different parts of the world where we work and that we are a congregation of a Pontifical Rite. She further explained the different Apostolates that we are engaged in. Also, she spoke about entry requirements for intending candidates. She explained extensively a simple way of living which is made evident in our living together as one family.

It was a fulfilling event as many of the youths were eager to hear more, hence the question and answer section was very interactive. The programme ended peacefully at around 3.30 pm.



Sister Rachel Ojo giving a talk on the history of the Sisters of St. Louis



Audience at the Vocation talk

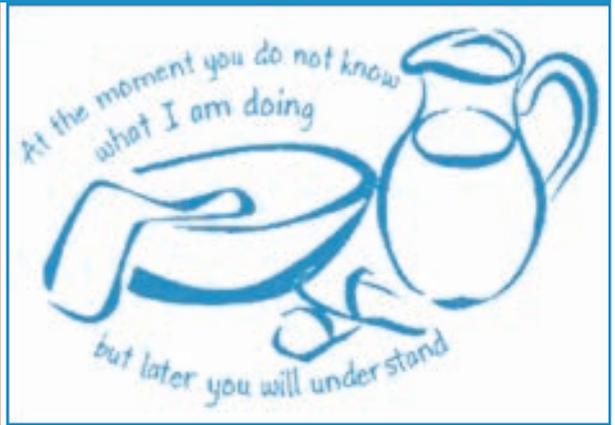


Women Religious at the Vocation Talk

Deepening GC 2015 Calls



MISSION FOR LIFE



ÉTAMPES COMMUNITY

The biblical message at the last supper is an everyday invitation to humility and service even in what seem INSIGNIFICANT MINISTRIES. Today we are invited to ask ourselves who are the vulnerable among us who have neither voice nor choice in the milieu where we live and minister today? Our mission calls us to endeavour to embody these core values of respect, justice, commitment, compassion and integrity in all that we do. Wherever we are sent, whatever we do we are on mission for Christ, so whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:30).

To be concrete, Sr Mary Ogunjobi a stagiaire (learner) in two different centers in high populated immigrants' city of Grigny, her joy to learn and commitment to the programs in the two centers are sources of encouragement to her mates. Her instructors now rely on her to motivate and encourage those who are dragging their feet in a way contributing in empowering them. In the same vein, Sr Cecilia Uzodike accompanies two people a retired judge and medical secretary who come to the community every month to deepen their spiritual life through the Gospels and writings of a Mystic soeur Marie de la Trinite, they call this experience OASIS in the fast busy and materialistic French society.



EWULU COMMUNITY

“Go out to the whole world, proclaim the good news”. This is the mission of Christ to all of us his followers. This proclamation of the good news has been done in all the ages in different ways. While some go from house to house preaching, the religious congregations do the same by expressing their charisms. We the Sisters of St Louis follow our Founder who says: “Sint Unum is our business in the world”. When we promote unity then we “proclaim the good news”, the key into the mission of Christ our Leader. May the Holy Spirit help us to be faithful. Amen.



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|------|--------------------------|----------|
| 4th | Sr. Catherine Ologunagba | Birthday |
| 4th | Sr. Veronica Obi | Birthday |
| 7th | Sr. Roseline Ogunbanwo | Birthday |
| 10th | Sr. Martha Chindo | Birthday |
| 11th | Sr. Vivian Ajuonuma | Birthday |
| 15th | Sr. Victoria Orifunmishe | Birthday |
| 19th | Sr. Juliana Mbara | Feastday |
| 29th | Sr. Constance Dibe | Birthday |

LOUISVILLE N/P MOKOLA, IBADAN WINS 3RD POSITION AT THE 2018 NTA CHILDREN'S SUMMIT

— Ayokunle Omoleye, Teacher

The event which was held on Wednesday 16 May, 2018 was rigorously contested by twelve different primary schools across Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State, Nigeria.

Louisville representatives; OLUWAKOREDE BISHOP (speech) as well as OMONIYI PRAISE (narrative poem, mimed by other pupils) among others that went as part of the school's crew did very well at the highly competitive speech event. At the end of their presentations, they were loudly applauded by their audience.

Finally, the judges made the results known. And, Louisville Nursery and Primary School, Ibadan, was declared in the THIRD PLACE. The pupils received their trophy like true champions. Their minds are now focused on claiming the very number one spot, in the next edition of the Children's Speech Summit.



The high-flying pupils and their teacher, Mr Ayokunle Omoleye



Most Rev. Leke Abegunrin addressing the representative of Oyo State Governor at the governor's office, Ibadan on Tuesday 22



L-R: Sisters Maureen Ugbome, Maria Ilo and Bridget Agum with some seminarians pose with the main protest banner

It is Time to Make Noise!

— Pelumi O'Dunsin, Ibadan

It is time to cry aloud that all is not well with the land. His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Gabriel Ojeleke Abegunrin, the Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Ibadan has enjoined every well meaning Nigerian to start to make noise at various capacities against injustice and insecurity until the government will pay attention and take action to redress the issues. He made

the call while addressing the Governor of Oyo State, Senator Abiola Ajimobi who was represented by Pastor Dr. Gbade Ojo, the governor's Chief of Staff, at the governor's office in Ibadan during a courtesy call on Tuesday 22 May 2018.

Led by the Archbishop, the solidarity rally, which involved hundreds of Catholic faithful of the Archdiocese of Ibadan, took off from SS Peter and Paul Major Seminary, Bodija, Ibadan at about 9 a.m. and ended there at about 12 noon. The solidarity protest coincided with the burial of two Catholic priests and 17 faithful killed in cold blood in Benue by marauding herdsmen about a month before.

Joining his voice with his counterparts and the faithful in the nationwide protest, the Bishop decried the apparent complicity of the security apparatus of the country who seemed to me acting out a script. Apart from the copies of his speech made available to the Presidency, the Governor and the Speaker of Oyo State House of Assembly, he also gave a copy of the book, **Our Concern for Nigeria: Catholic Bishops Speak Since 1963** to the Chief of Staff, debunking the claim from some quarters that the Catholic Church was only reacting because some of their members were killed recently.


 The logo features a large red heart on the left. Inside the heart, the letter 'H' is written in white. To the right of the heart, the word 'Heart' is written in a large, red, serif font. Below 'Heart', the words 'of the MATTER' are written in a smaller, black, serif font. The word 'MATTER' is in all caps.

by Rita Akin-Otiko, SSL

THE TEXT OF AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI GCFR. PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES ON THE OCCASION OF A SOLIDARITY RALLY EMBARKED UPON BY THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS TO DENOUNCE THE INCESSANT KILLING OF INNOCENT NIGERIANS BY SUSPECTED HERDSMEN, TUESDAY MAY 22, 2018.

Your Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR;

On behalf of the entire Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos, I wish to use this medium to convey to you, Mr. President, our sadness and deep displeasure over the incessant killings and general insecurity being experienced across the length and breadth of our dear country Nigeria but especially in the North Central part of the nation in recent times. We are very saddened by the fact that our security Agencies have not been able to put measures in place to bring the situation under control. Instead, the signals we are getting are that we do not have enough number of personnel to secure all the people of Nigeria. In the meantime, farmers cannot go to their farms, neither are they safe in their villages. We hear reports of the killers attacking the villages and feeding the yams in the barns of the inhabitants to their cattle. The height of it is that now they have pushed their boundaries to attacking people in their places of worship. If it was Boko haram, as we know it, it would have been sad but not as alarming as when so-called herdsmen are the ones perpetrating these crimes. Most disturbingly, our security agencies seem incapable of dealing with the situation

Mr. President, many Nigerians embraced happily the change mantra upon which they elected your government to power and they welcomed you with open hands and minds, with much hope for a new vista of life for our countrymen and women. Three years after, Your Excellency, our people now live in palpable fear especially because of the killer-herdsmen who actually qualify to be called terrorists. We watch helplessly as our hope for a better tomorrow trickles away in the hands of herdsmen who are proving to be deadlier than even the Boko Haram, if they are not Boko haram in another

guise. Innocent people are now being murdered at will and their means of livelihood forcefully taken from them. Children are being turned to orphans, wives to widows, husbands to widowers. Communities are being wiped away in manners that can only be likened to ethnic cleansing. Human life, a most sacred gift from God, has become of less value than that of cattle in this part of the world. This is unacceptable!

Being a secular nation, our constitution clearly provides for freedom of worship without fear or favour in any and all parts of the nation. Alas, in some parts of the country this is not the case in practice. We watch helplessly as thousands of people in communities that are predominantly Christian, particularly in Southern Kaduna and the North Central parts of the country are being massacred, displaced from their ancestral lands and treated as second class citizens. In many towns and rural areas, people of these predominantly Christian communities are victims of religious intolerance as they are denied rights to own lands to build their Churches and worship their God in peace. Out of all the girls that were kidnapped at Dapchi, Leah Shaibu stands out as the one yet to be released simply because she is Christian and has refused to deny her faith. Unfortunately, incidents such as these have led to the fear of an agenda to Islamize Nigeria. Permit me to say, Your Excellency, that you are often accused of being in support of this agenda. We are confident that you would not fail to discharge yourself from such accusations in a way that would be crystal clear to all.

Mr President, today, Tuesday May 22, 2018, is a watershed in the annals of Catholicism in our country Nigeria. It is a day the entire Catholic Church in Nigeria speaks out, in a practical way, against injustices, insecurity, nepotism and other vices plaguing our dear country. Today, we rise in unity to express our solidarity with our brothers and sisters who have been killed, and are still being killed, across the country. Most especially, we mourn with heavy hearts the murder of two of our priests, Rev. Frs. Joseph Gor and Felix Tyolaha and seventeen lay faithful who were mowed down last month, April 16, while attending an early morning Mass at St Ignatius Catholic Church, Ukpor-Mbalom, Gwer Local Government of Benue State. By these killings, the perpetrators, who unfortunately are still roaming about freely, have further desecrated all that we hold dear as Christians and dared us to do our worst. As these men and women of faith are committed to mother earth today in Makurdi, we bid them perpetual rest in the bosom of our Lord, even as we say with one voice, enough is enough. We can no longer stay still and watch our fellow humans butchered like chickens.

Mr. President, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), in its most recent letter to you, posed

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■ Catholic faithful led by the His Grace 'Leke Abegunrin (Archbishop of Ibadan), in the Ibadan Archdiocese's version of the the nationwide solidarity protest on Tuesday 22 May 2018

some very strong questions: 'How can the federal Government stand back while its security agencies deliberately turn a blind eye to the cries and wails of helpless and armless citizens who remain sitting ducks in their homes, farms, highway and now, even in their sacred places of worship? Weeks later, we are still waiting for answers to these questions. Left defenceless, the ordinary Nigerians get killed while the politicians and the privileged ones go about with security details.

Permit me, Sir, to say that without any doubt, the Catholic Church in Nigeria has a long history of restraint in its engagement with governments of the country over the years. As partners in progress, we have always maintained integrity and restraint in the manner we react and respond to issues bordering on security and religious harmony. We believe strongly in the preservation of human life. We have consistently been advocates of peace, religious tolerance and inter-religious dialogue with other religions. We have always provided a cordial atmosphere for robust discussions and genuine efforts at ensuring national cohesion. Unfortunately, it is sad to note that we have frequently been at the receiving end of attacks; the most recent being the callous killings in Benue State. Mr. President, we have been provoked far too many times and now we say again, 'Enough is enough.'

As an institution that upholds the sanctity of human life and the promotion of peace and good neighborliness with all people, in obedience to the teachings of Jesus Christ, we want to state categorically that we shall continue to preach restraint and tolerance amongst our members. However, let it be known that our insistence on dialogue and peaceful conduct is not only in obedience to Christ but also in recognition of the truth of the saying attributed to the great Mahatma Gandhi that 'An eye for

an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.' We recognize the strength in seeking and insisting on peaceful resolution of problems and so we hope that will not be taken for granted.

Justice cries out for all the innocent Nigerians who have died in the hands of the gun totting herdsmen. We are aware that the Vice President recently promised that the Federal Government would undertake the rebuilding of the places that were destroyed by the killer-herdsmen in Benue State and hopefully in other similar places. We hope that people will also be compensated for the loss of their farm produce and of their properties so that the Internally Displaced People who have been turned to beggars will get justice and restoration to normal life. Very importantly, we urge you, Mr President, to direct the security agencies to wake up, fish out the perpetrators of these callous killings and neutralize them so that people can once again feel safe. We pride ourselves with having some of the best security agencies in the world. This is the time for them to prove their mettle by bringing an end to these killings.

Mr President, that time has come for you to act fast and put to rest all the insinuations being pandered all over about you. We reiterate that our call for your urgent intervention is borne out of our deep patriotism and desire to save the country from imminent crisis that could snowball into ethnic, tribal or religious war. May the Lord grant you the wherewithal to carry out your duties and bring peace, security and growth to the nation.

Archbishop Alfred Adewale MARTINS
Catholic Archbishop of Lagos
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF OVER 3 MILLION CATHOLICS
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

