

We Are Coming to the Point: The Matriculation Address of the
Vice Chancellor of Godfrey Okoye University on the Occasion
of the Fourth Matriculation of the University on 17 November
2012

The Proprietor, the Catholic Bishop of Enugu, Most Rev. Dr. Callistus Valentine Chukwuma
Onaga,

The Bishop Emeritus of Enugu, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Okonkwo Gbuji,

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Joseph Ikechukwu Chidobem,

Members of the Board of Trustees,

The Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Prof. Christian Nwachukwu
Okeke,

Members of the Governing Council,

The Senior Management Staff of the University,

Members of the Senate and Senate Committees,

Members of the IECE Management Staff,

Monsignors, Rev. Fathers and Rev. Sisters,

Traditional Rulers,

Parents and Guardians of GO University Students,

Students and Members of Staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Education,

Great GO University Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Governing Council, the senate, staff and students of Godfrey Okoye University, I welcome you to this fourth matriculation ceremony of our university. You have come from every nook and cranny of our country and beyond to attend this important ceremony. I salute you for your sacrifice, your courage, your solidarity, your friendship!

Ladies and gentlemen, Godfrey Okoye University is coming to the point where the world will judge the quality of our finished products. We have been baking our own academic bread for the past three years. We took time to collect the necessary ingredients when we took off in 2009. Now we are coming to the point when the baked bread will be served for Nigerians to taste its quality. Hopefully its taste will meet the expectations of our people! What I mean is that next year, our first graduates will emerge. From next year our people will begin to judge the performance of our students during their National Youth Service and afterwards. The performance of our finished products will reveal the quality of what we have been doing since 2009. We also know that after graduation many will be celebrating their "*igba nkwu*" (traditional wedding) and Church wedding. This also will be part of the assessment of the public about the quality of training given to our young women and men.

We are coming to the point when the permanent site will no longer be a dream or a wish but a reality that can be touched by staff and students.

The first convocation of this university next year will be held at the permanent site. This means that 2013 will see our gradual movement to the new campus of our university. Whereas the present site will continue to be part of the university, the new site must be fully and beautifully developed to accommodate the increasing demand for this new academic reality at Enugu called Godfrey Okoye University.

We are coming to the point where the question will no longer be whether Godfrey Okoye University has come to stay-certainly not when we have had a successful

accreditation of all our programmes. GO University has indeed come to stay and will stay until the end of this world.

We are coming to the point when we must look at how we have defined ourselves so far and check whether our perception of our identity is abreast with the opinion of society. Now we must be able to ask who we are. Having come to this stage of your fourth matriculation, Godfrey Okoye University, you are no longer a baby. You have come of age! I salute you! I congratulate you on your coming of age!

My dear matriculating students, it is in the context of the realities of this modern university east of the Niger, of this Catholic university which is standing on the petrine foundation of Catholic values and spirituality that I welcome you to this fourth matriculation of our university. It seems important to stress these spatio-temporal-pneumatic-epistemic realities of your university, since comprehending them will enable you to appreciate the emphasis we are putting on some facets of our university life.

As you can see, for the first time we are having our matriculation in November, having concluded the admission process on record time. We want to underscore the fact that GO University has come of age! We want to emphasize the fact that henceforth this university must be calling the shots in the academic landscape of this country. GO University can never be a place where those who fail to find admission in other institutions will come. This university can never be an academic "refuge peccatorum" for admission seekers. GO University must, true to its name as a university on the go, run faster than such academic somnambulists, and close its admission doors as fast as

possible. As Ndiigbo say, *onye "mee ngwa ngwa..."*. You have come to a fast-moving university that will help you to finish your studies on record time and plan your life well. All you need to do is to settle down and read voraciously. The sky is your limit!

My dear matriculating students, I welcome you to a university that prays. It is God's own university. This fact is highlighted in the University Anthem. Being God's own university means that the university understands the value of prayer in human life and action; the university understands that *unless the Lord builds, they labour in vain who try to build*. Those who are allergic to prayer may not feel pretty comfortable here. Prayer is part and parcel of our identity as it underlines one of the three dialogues of our university: religious, cultural and epistemic dialogues. It is therefore a core element of campus life. Prayer has helped us so far to have a cult-free, a harassment-free, an abuse-free university. You are therefore being admitted to a university where you can pursue your studies without physical, social or psychological terrorism!

Since you are being admitted to God's own university, you must see your admission here as God's special calling and favour. Your parents and those responsible for your upkeep are part of God's plan for your studies here. Your own response must be to study assiduously and to develop all your God-given talents to the fullest in a humble and prayerful disposition.

Furthermore, in the course of your studies you must endeavour to excel in something good. Your university expects you to enter national and international competitions and to excel. You can only be recognised and

rewarded as a special student by this university if you excel in national and international competitions. Permit me to mention that in an essay competition organised last year as part of the memorial service for the late Justice Anthony Anigolu, two of our first-year students came first and third. So my dear students, participating in national and international competitions is obligatory in our university.

In addition, a student of GO University must be able to express himself or herself well in English. This explains why our Use of English programme is not a one-year but a two-year programme. Besides, a student of GO University must be computer literate. Our University is a centre for International Computer Driving Licence, which our students must have before their graduation. This explains why it is obligatory to have your own personal laptop.

My dear students, I am mentioning these areas of emphasis to you with some sense of urgency and trepidation, because I am becoming increasingly conscious of the fact that we are coming to the point where our people will be allowed to verify our claims, to test the quality of our work as they encounter the finished products of this university. My prayer is that we do not disappoint our people. This is a university that cannot afford to fail. And it will never fail!

To you, dear parents, I say *a big thank you* for coming to our university. You have chosen us because you believe in us; you believe in the ability of the Catholic Church to deliver in the field of education. We will not disappoint you! I would also like to invite you to support this university financially if you can. We are about to launch

the capital campaign of our university in order to meet our target of developing the permanent site of the university. We count on your support. We count on your direct support (or indirect support by getting us connected to those who can assist). I thank you parents, guardians and friends of our university for coming to this fourth matriculation of our university. May God bless you all and lead you safely back to your various destinations. Thank you all! God bless you!

Rev. Fr. Professor Dr. Christian Anieke, Eb. (Mitterkirchen_Austria)