



A UNIVERSITY AWASH WITH GOD'S INCREDIBLE BLESSINGS:

**The Eighth and Ninth
Convocation Speech of
the Vice Chancellor of
Godfrey Okoye
University**

20 November 2021

**Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke
Vice Chancellor**

Protocol

**Großer Gott wir loben dich
Herr, wir preisen deine Stärke
Vor dir neigt die Erde sich
Und bewundert deine Werke
Wie du warst vor aller Zeit
so bleibst du in Ewigkeit**

**Holy God, we praise thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before thee!
All on earth thy sceptre own,
All in heaven above adore thee.
Infinite thy vast domain,
Everlasting is thy reign.**

On behalf of the senate, staff and students of Godfrey Okoye University and its group of institutions, I warmly welcome each of you to this 8th and 9th convocation of our university.

Your Excellencies distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Covid-19 pandemic which started last year overwhelmed the whole world, shook the foundations of all facets of life and detonated an atomic bomb of socio-economic and political transmogrifications with unforeseen disaster of unimaginable proportions. As Achebe writes in Things Fall Apart, “In that brief moment the world seemed to stand still, waiting. There was total silence. The men of Umuofia were merged into the silent backcloth of trees and giant creepers, waiting.” This setting of suspense, trepidation, depressing helplessness, which Achebe uses to portray the appearance of the much hated court messengers, captures the mood of the world in the outbreak of the pandemic. Universities and schools, churches and markets, hotels, amusement parks, everything came to a standstill, waiting. It was clear that only with divine blessings and intervention that any institution could survive the biggest threat to institutional existence in our century. In our own case, surprisingly, God started pouring unceasing rains of blessings on our university in indescribable ways. We were able to move all our lectures and activities online. We taught online, held our tests online, did projects online and conducted all examinations online, using students’ webcams linked to zoom and our virtual classroom to supervise our students as they wrote their virtual examinations. Thus we are one of the few universities that did not lose an academic year last year. In fact, the set of last year surprised us with their smartness and ability to adapt, answer lots of application questions online and finish their examinations under incredibly strict supervision of the lecturers and the vice chancellor himself. They will never forget the voice of the vice chancellor as he yells: Who is that coming close you? I will log you out! Tidy up! Get it done and leave!

1. Main Campus Road

The Covid-19 pandemic did not also stop any of our projects because of special blessings God bestowed on our university. Last year, to the admiration of our beloved Governor and the joy of surrounding communities, we completed the road to the main campus of the university, which the Governor Ugwuanyi

administration financially supported us to accomplish. In my speech during the commissioning of the road by our Governor, I said:

There is more to this road that meets the eye. This road is all forms of interactions and human convivialities. It is therefore not just a road but life, life defined and redefined, shaped and reshaped. And perhaps life transmogrified.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is important to repeat what I said at the commissioning of this road last year not only because of the importance of the road in the development of this campus but also because its completion during the raging and crushing storms of the Covid-19 pandemic has remained nothing short of divine intervention and benediction.

2. **Law Auditorium**

The three-floored law auditorium of Godfrey Okoye University, which has become an architectural cynosure in Enugu, designed and built by Architect Matthew Aniakor (our Director of Physical Planning), and sponsored by Barrister Peter Mbah, is one of the biggest blessings of God last year. Nobody could have believed that Barrister Peter Mbah, who is also a member of our Governing Council and one of the greatest philanthropists of our time, could redeem his pledge to bear the cost of the building of such an edifice at a time when it was a case of, as William Shakespeare wrote, “to be or not to be”. I was dumbfounded when he transferred the money to us. But I made a promise to him that the university would deploy its intellectual resources and expertise to make the project a reality. Within six months we built one of the best law auditoriums not just in Nigeria but in the world. Within the six months of an incredibly fast building and shuffling of all manners of materials not a single worker sustained an injury in spite of the height, intricacy of the work, and volume of materials. Today our law auditorium stands like an ijere masquerade testifying to human generosity, ingenuity and hard work as well as God’s unhidden love for Godfrey Okoye University. I have no doubt that the first graduates of the Law Faculty, who will emerge in this academic year, will reflect in their performance in the final examinations and in the legal field the beauty of their auditorium and enviable learning environment as well as adequate intellectual preparation. I am convinced that the graduates of our robust and beautiful Law Faculty will call the shots in the legal profession in this county in the next couple of years.

3. **Visit of Catholic Bishops of Nigeria (21 August 2021)**

This year marks the highpoint of God’s countless blessings of our university. 21 August 2021 will remain unforgettable in the history of this university. On this particular day all Catholic bishops of Nigeria visited this university. As Vice Chancellor, my feeling was not different from that of Simeon when he sang *Nunc Dimittis* in the Bible. It is the climax of my administration as vice chancellor. The bishops visited both our Thinker’s Corner Campus and this Ugwuomu Nike Main Campus. I just said to myself: With the prayers and blessings of all the Catholic bishops of Nigeria in our university, even if I die today, Godfrey Okoye University will live on and continue its narrative of success unstopably. A chapel of blessings to commemorate the visit of Nigerian bishops in the context of their second plenary meeting at Enugu (which may not happen again in my

lifetime) will be built on this main campus of our university. I thank the propriety, my bishop, for making the visit possible and fulfilling one of my wishes as the pioneer vice chancellor of this great university.

As if in confirmation of the efficacy of episcopal prayers and benediction, a graduate of our university (2017 set) gave birth immediately after the bishops' visit to quadruplets (here in Enugu). Are we still looking for any other sign of God's special favours in our university? In a way, I am not surprised because this is God's own university (as we sing in our University Anthem).

4. **The ECO-Social Market Economy (ESME)**

This is a public-private initiative that presents a unique partnership between an international organisation (International Centre for Migration Policy Development), the private sector as well as a private university (Godfrey Okoye University). This initiative rests on three pillars:

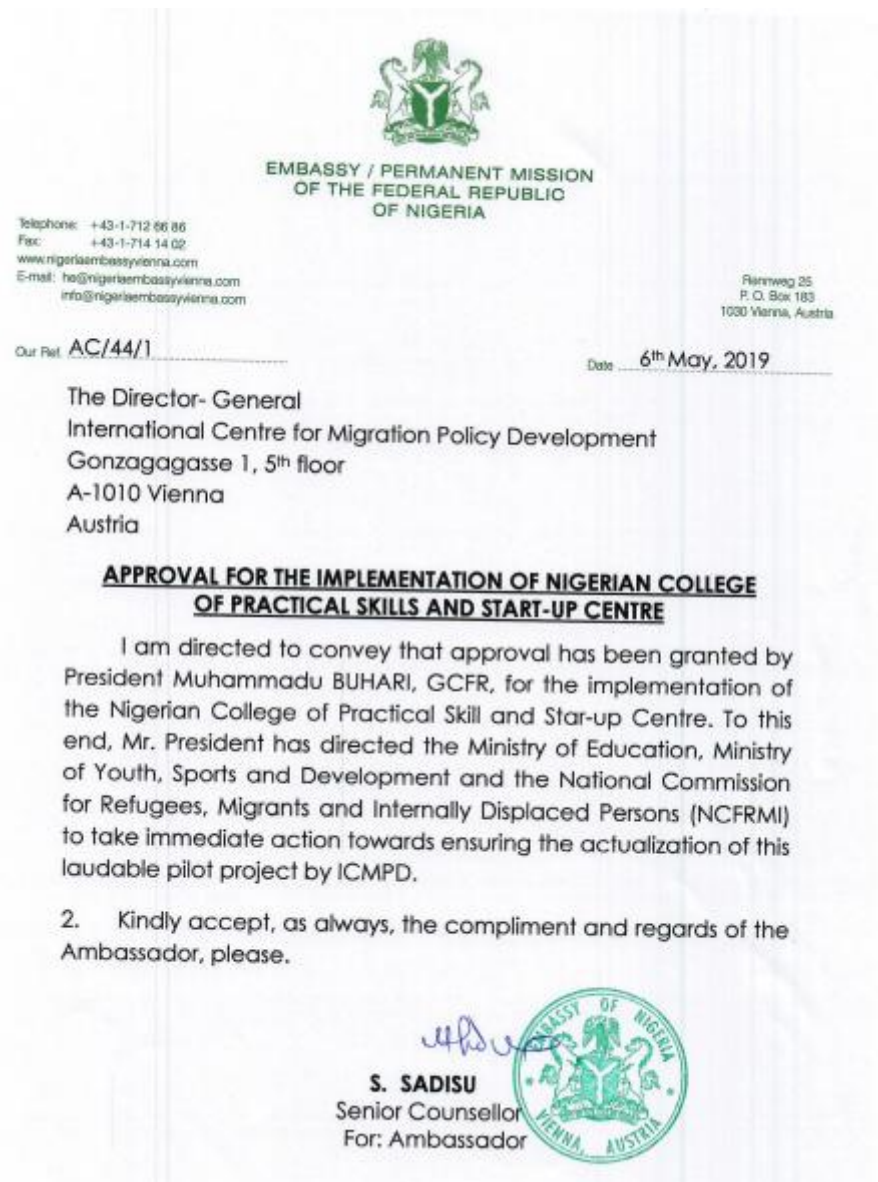
- i. ***GO Uni-European Business Park Ltd.*** The Business Park, a private sector component, with a planned funding by the Austrian Development Bank and the European Investment Bank, is situated at the serene and incandescently beautiful main campus of Godfrey Okoye University. Within the Business Park is a lake and a river. It has a virgin forest with rare tropical birds and plants. According to our ESME information handbook, the GO Uni- European Business Park will be a friendly economic community in Nigeria, with adequate recreational facilities and flawless security. It is an eco-friendly self-sustaining park with access to water, electricity and sanitation for companies, students and residents to support economic and social development. Godfrey Okoye University has provided a 400,000 m² land for the Business Park. This Business Park will ensure adequate infrastructure for its tenants and our campus with guaranteed water supply. It will also be supplied with energy by on-site solar and gas-combustion power plants. Garbage disposal will be managed with an on-premise composting plant. All buildings located at the Business Park will be built with modern and eco-friendly construction techniques. The Business Park will provide a secure and economically beneficial environment for doing business. This explains why some European companies have already committed themselves to invest in it (in areas like construction, energy, agriculture, tourism, services, manufacturing, and healthcare). Up to 500 people will be employed by the companies located at the Business Park.” This will of course improve the life of Enugu State and the Southeast tremendously.

ii. **The College of Practical Skills.**

This pillar of ESME is a public sector component. It is implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) with funding from the German Government through the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The College of Practical Skills addresses the problem of lack of skilled labour. Many school leavers and graduates lack the skills needed to secure gainful employment in Nigeria and in the

world. The College will be providing training in areas where companies in the Business Park and other companies in the world have need. With such trainings involving European and Nigerian experts, unemployment and unemployability of the youth will be reduced. It is ironical that many companies are in dire need of skilled workers whereas there are millions of youths who are seeking jobs but cannot be employed because they lack the required skills. This is the gap that the College of Practical Skills intends to fill. It is also very important to address the issue of reintegration of irregular migrants, returning to Nigeria from Europe and elsewhere. Also European companies are certainly going to be seeking skilled workers from countries that train their citizens well for job opportunities in the world. We have also secured approval from the federal government for the College of Practical Skills (*see the approval above*).

iii. **Start-Up Centre.** This is a private sector component of ESME with private sector funding through cooperation with a Micro-finance bank (Umuchinemere ProCredit Micro Finance Bank). The idea of this pillar of



ESME is to provide funding for trained workers who lack the funding to begin their business. Providing such an arrangement for funding will be a big motivation to the trainees who may not be employed by companies or who prefer to be self-employed. It is a loan that will be paid back by such workers.

With the ESME project, our university has indeed taken the lead among Nigerian universities in the development of the Nigerian society and the African continent. I thank all those who have made this project possible, especially the Director of ICMPD, Dr. Micheal Spindelegger, who is really the anchor person in the whole project, as well as the Project Director, Mr. Andreas Gebauer.

5. Directorate of Continuing Education

Godfrey Okoye University has three things in common with the private sector: innovativeness, adaptability and foresightedness. Since our university philosophy defines education as a dialogical process of acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, we have continued to be in dialogue with all sectors of society and identified areas where certificate programmes can be mounted to improve the work and professionalism of our people. The senate has also approved that all our certificate programmes should be placed under the Directorate of Continuing Education.

6. Scholars Centre for Commerce and Industry

The Scholars Centre for Commerce and Industry is an arm of the Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The centre exists to entrench the spirit of entrepreneurship in students, give them the opportunity for hands-on experience in project development, project implementation, accounting, funding, business registration, import and export, as well as registration with appropriate professional bodies. Our university is the first university to have such a centre in the Southeast and has also become the headquarters of the centre in the Southeast. The centre organizes workshops and trainings for all categories of business people, provides consultancy services on import and export of goods, company registration and funding. It is our plan to ensure that no graduate of Godfrey Okoye University is without a job after graduation. As you can see, Godfrey Okoye University is more than a university (in the traditional sense); it is an institutional space for the empowerment of young people.

7. Full accreditation of all our programmes

All our programmes are fully accredited. In the last accreditation of some outstanding programmes, we recorded full accreditation with very high percentage in all the programmes, including our famous law programme.

8. Approval for PhD Programmes

The National Universities Commission (NUC) gave Godfrey Okoye University approval to run Master's programmes in 2017. Our master's programmes have done exceedingly well, attracting applications from within and outside Nigeria. On top of the approved Master's degree programmes, the NUC has given Godfrey Okoye University approval to run PhD in some programmes. With this approval to run PhD, our university has reached the height of academia. It is an incredible

feeling of achievement after a long academic journey. It is like reaching the promised land. What is needed now is to show every Tom, Dick and Harry that this is indeed a university awash with the blessings of God.

9. **Our DNA Learning Centre Africa**

Our DNA Learning Centre located in the Batho Okolo Building on this campus is doing exceedingly well in training our students and students of other universities in DNA Barcoding and Sequencing. It is another big blessing for our university. It has attracted a lot of dignitaries from United States of America and lots of funding for training future scientists in secondary schools in Nigeria with its programme entitled “Back to Science Initiative” (BATOSCIN). Our DNALC is full of good news. Just last month I got this good news:

“I will like to let you know that (GOU/DNALC NIG) we have received the British Council funding for the inaugural **Innovation for African Universities** programme (IAU) 2021.

GOU is one of the few Universities selected from Nigeria/Africa to be a part of this project. The Centre of Excellence (CoE) team, comprised of **City University London, University of Nairobi** and **Change School**, will contact the successful projects in the coming days to kick off an exciting year of activity and achievement.

From DNALC Nigeria we proposed to encourage STEM-based entrepreneurship ideas in a network of Nigerian Universities. “(Prof. George Ude)

10. **Godfrey Okoye University Hand Sanitizer**

Godfrey Okoye University Department of Biological Sciences has carried out lots of research to produce herbal hand sanitizer. The outbreak of the Covid-19 virus gave the university the opportunity to commercialize this product. It is the gift of Godfrey Okoye University to Nigeria in the fight against the spread of the horrifying virus. The university has donated its hand sanitizer to the state government and various persons and organizations in Nigeria as part of its corporate responsibility.

11. **Lawrence Ugwuanyi Leadership Chair**

Our university has added one more chair to its endowed chairs. It is **Lawrence Ugwuanyi Leadership Chair**. This chair, endowed by our amiable Governor, will be doing a lot of research and publications on leadership. While exploring the variegated contours of leadership today, the chair will beam the research light on the Governor Ugwuanyi’s leadership style, its peculiarities and factors responsible for the success of the Governor in making Enugu State one of the most peaceful states in Nigeria. This chair is held by Prof. Sergius Ude.

12. **GO University Scholarship Board**

Godfrey Okoye University Scholarship Board reveals the face of the Catholic Church in a Catholic university. The Church, following its Lord and Teacher Jesus Christ, has never seen education as a profit-making venture. This explains why it invests a lot in this university. The Scholarship Board expresses the Church’s spirit of “option for the poor”. About 150 scholarships are given by this

university every year to make university education possible for those who otherwise could never have seen the four walls of a university.

13. Justice Anthony Aniagolu Memorial Lecture

The famous Justice Aniagolu Memorial Lecture taking place in this university biannually has continued to attract very important personalities in Nigeria to our university, especially in the legal field within and outside Nigeria. This year's lecture under the theme "The 1989 Constitution: A Critical Analysis of Its Applicability to Contemporary Discourse on Constitutional Amendment" brought Chief Femi Falana, SAN, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, Prof. Chidi Odinkalu and many dignitaries from the legal field and other fields of studies. Here again GO University has revealed that it is abreast with the latest epistemic developments and contemporary discourse.

14. Chapel of Forgotten Twins

Many of us will be too shocked to hear that there used to be places in Nigeria where twins were thrown and abandoned in the past. They were sacrificed to unknown gods, rejected by society, taken to a bush and abandoned there to rot away in the jaws of unseen forces. One can imagine the cries of such children as the morally benighted elders turned their backs on them. This place used to be one of such places. Isn't it an irony that a place that meant death for innocent children has become a place where the whole world is coming and where life is being given to young people through sound education? As the Lord says, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." This university will never fail to provide education, hope, love and empowerment to young people. Life that was taken away from innocent twins must be given back to them through all young people who are studying (and will study) in this university. Mr. Andreas Gebauer (our Director of the GO Uni-Europeans Business Park and allied main campus projects) has heard the narrative of this place from me, and requested me to get the senate approval for a chapel dedicated to the abandoned and forgotten twins to be built in this place. We have already secured the senate approval and the funding for it and the chapel will be finished and dedicated in the next one year. I am convinced that God wants Godfrey Okoye University to be built here so that this university will represent life, hope, love, knowledge, empowerment, enlightenment and joy to our young people, as well as serve as an institutional reparation for the sins of the past.

15. Our professors

To be a professor of Godfrey Okoye University is something prestigious. It is the outcome of a very rigorous academic journey. This explains why we celebrate our newly promoted professors with *GO University professorial investiture*. Before this great academic celebration the newly promoted professor must pick a date for his or her inaugural lecture. It is not only the beautiful gown of our professors that distinguishes them but also the brilliance of their inaugural lectures, which have been outstanding and abreast with the latest research in their fields. I would like to commend the last inaugural lecturers, Prof. Titus Nwanne of Banking and Finance, and Sr. Professor Marysylvia Nwachukwu for their beautiful lectures and profundity of thought.

16. Our Graduates

If the ranking of universities was based solely on the percentage of students who are employed or are pursuing higher degrees on scholarships two years after graduation, I am pretty sure that Godfrey Okoye University would be among ten best universities in Nigeria. It is on record that 70 percent of our graduates are either employed or pursuing higher degrees on full scholarships two years after graduation. As of this year 40 graduates of our university are studying in various universities in the world on full scholarship. Some of our graduates, like Doris Aja and Casmir Eze have already concluded their PhDs. Doris Aja received an automatic employment at Dublin City University, where she did her PhD. Our graduates are everywhere in world. Also our graduates are in all sectors of Nigeria: Federal Civil Service, EFCC, military, mass media, politics, Federal Inland Revenue, Federal Fire Service, banks, universities and other educational institutions. In fact, there is hardly any part of or good sector of life in this country where you will not find a GO graduate.

This is a mail I got from our first graduate Victoria Anowia a month ago: *In the past few years, I have been engaged in developing my capacity in the Policy and Governance areas, and in pursuance of this, I was selected by Policy and Legal Advocacy Center (PLAC) and European Union to represent Anambra State, in the 2021 Internship program. I was also elected the First Female Speaker of our Mock Legislative Assembly.*

Even more, I have successfully secured a scholarship in one of the prominent universities in Canada to run a Master's Degree in Political Science, complementing my M.Sc in International Relations and Diplomacy. In addition to this, I am currently a Teaching Assistant in my Department and understudying a Professor.

From another student, Precious Batubo, comes this information:

Dear Prof.,

Thank you very much for this email. It is a huge privilege that I do not take for granted. I am very grateful to have attended Godfrey Okoye University because it laid the right foundations for me to excel in further studies and my career. I will continue to make you and the entire Godfrey family proud by God's grace. I am excited to let you know that I started my Ph.D. as well this Fall at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA. This feat is not just for me but for you and everyone else that has contributed to my success. I Thank God for this opportunity and will continue to keep in touch.

Best regards,

Precious Batubo

As you can see, GO is going everywhere to the glory of God!

17. Approval for Commercial Radio

Our campus radio, GO Uni 106.9fm won the best campus radio in Nigeria in 2016. It has remained our pride as a university and also of our beloved Enugu State. This year our application for a commercial radio (GOUni Ventures Radio) received the approval of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This means that we now have a licence that will enable us to broadcast our highly educative and entertaining programmes to all parts of Nigeria.

18. Academic Life on our Main Campus

The journey to the main campus has been a long one. We have gone through the desert of incredible trials and excruciating pains and hardship. The temptation to go back to Egypt and forget the promised land was real and palpable. But with deep faith and God's benevolence and benediction, we crushed the head of the tempting serpent. The road to this campus was craggy, muddy and tortuous. But since last year the narrative has changed. It is now easy to move humans and materials. Consequently, the development of the main is moving with an incredible speed in spite of the economic "nosediving" resulting from the pandemic. The first companies for our Business Park will start arriving from January next year. Furthermore, our Students of Biological Sciences Department are already here and are using their DNA Learning Centre laboratories for their different experiments. Finally, we have finished the design of Medical Faculty, which will be the biggest Faculty on this campus, spanning 40 hectares of land and having a first-class teaching hospital that will have a lot of Austrian doctors and nurses, who will be working with their Nigerian counterparts. Our Medical hospital will make medical tourism a reality in Enugu State. We have already started building the Medical Faculty and hope to get the NUC approval to take off in 2022.

19. Our Scorecards

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, in the light of countless blessings of God and our enviable record of achievements, you will not be surprised that our scorecard is growing by leaps and bounds.

Godfrey Okoye University: Our Scorecard

1. The first university in Nigeria and Africa owned by a single Catholic diocese, the Catholic Diocese of Enugu
2. The best private university in the Southeast of Nigeria and one of the fastest growing private universities in Nigeria
3. The private university in Nigeria with the best campus radio (2016)
4. The first Nigerian university to make the General Studies programme 'the Use of English' a three-year programme
5. The first university in Nigeria to introduce town-and-gown assembly
6. The first university in Nigeria to start the Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP) for the entrepreneurial and financial empowerment of students
7. The first Nigerian university to offer scholarships to students from each of the 19 Northern states to encourage national integration and development of all parts of Nigeria
8. The first private university in Nigeria to establish a well-organised Scholarship Board offering scholarships to 150 students annually
9. The first university in Nigeria to establish a DNA Learning Centre Africa in collaboration with the Coldspring Harbor Laboratory in New York, USA
10. The first university in Nigeria to establish a Liaison Office in Germany

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11. The first university in Nigeria to attract a College of Practical Skills and Start-Up Projects from Europe for the Empowerment of the Youth in Nigeria
 12. The first university in Nigeria with two natural lakes on campus with indescribable tourist attractions
 13. The first university in Nigeria to establish a Directorate of Ethics
 14. The first university in Nigeria to be recognised by the Austrian-based International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as a dependable development partner in Africa
 15. The first Nigerian university to introduce the April Project Month for all students to enhance their entrepreneurial and professional development
 16. The first Nigerian university to translate important terms in Biological Sciences into Igbo
 17. The first Nigerian university to introduce Vice-Chancellor-for- One-Day to encourage competition among students
 18. The first Nigerian university to introduce mentorship programme for all students, whereby each student has a mentor who is a member of staff of the university
 19. The first Nigerian university to introduce a certificate programme in Nanny Education to provide well-trained nannies for families and organizations
 20. The first university in Nigeria and West Africa to mount an international short course on biotechnology and biosafety (July 2018)
 21. The first university in Nigeria to sign an MoU with African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE)
 22. The first university to organize and host the National Biosafety Conference (NBC) to create an awareness of the importance of biosafety in Nigeria.
 23. The first private university in Nigeria to host an annual national conference of Biotechnology Society of Nigeria (August 2015)
 24. The first private university in Nigeria to have Scholars Centre for Commerce and Industry
 25. The first private university in Nigeria to have a business park that has attracted a lot of European companies (GO Uni-European Business Park)
 26. One of the few universities in Nigeria whose activities were not affected by the Covid-19 pandemic because of its robust online facilities and virtual classroom
 27. One of the few universities in Nigeria whose students go for the national programme (NYSC) the same year they graduate
 28. The first private university to be visited and blessed by all Catholic bishops of Nigeria during their second plenary meeting
 29. The first Nigerian private university whose staff member has been appointed a Catholic Bishop (Bishop Ernest Obodo, the Auxiliary Bishop of Enugu)
 30. One of the first universities in Nigeria to join Austrian-based Africa-UniNet (a network of research collaborations involving 60 African and Austrian universities) with the Vice of Godfrey Okoye University as a board member representing the West African subregion.

20. Farewell and Blessings

To you our graduates:

Only few Nigerian graduates have been taught and trained in an academic field and formation of good character as you have been taught and trained. To your academic preparation in your field of studies, we have added professional training so that none of you will be seen as a greenhorn in the labour market and in your profession. We have ensured that you have professional training by providing trainings in your different professional areas. We have ensured that you take the required professional exams in your field. We have also exorcised the demon of drug addiction, keeping you away from ravenous, barbarous drug apostles, by constantly protecting you with hawkish eyes, and testing you for drugs regularly. We have provided you with spiritual food which you need to be spiritually smart and impervious to impish forces of a morally depraved and spiritually benighted world. We have assessed your character as part of the requirements for graduation. I am convinced that the doors and windows of your souls are now wide open for God's tremendous blessings. Therefore, I give you my blessings today for your journey of life. I bless you with the gift of good health of mind and body. I bless you with scholarships in all countries of the world. I bless you with countless job opportunities. I bless you with wealth and disposition to use you wealth to improve the life of your fellow human beings. I bless you with beautiful and intelligent wives. I bless you with handsome and smart and wealthy husbands. I bless you with beautiful, intelligent and God-fearing children. I bless you with religious vocations. I bless you with leadership positions in our country and in the world. I bless you with long life and prosperity! I bless your going out and coming in. I bless you with all the blessings of the Catholic Diocese of Enugu. I bless you with the blessings of Nigerian bishops who visited our university this year. I bless you today. I bless tomorrow. I bless you forever.

Remember this:

**Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.
As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and forevermore. (Ps. 125)**

All you need now is to trust in the Lord and follow your dreams, as Robert Frost writes in his famous poem "The Road Not Taken":

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there

Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Peace be with you!

To our honorary decorate awardees:

Each of you have demonstrated unquantifiable love and goodwill towards our university. But our choice of you for the award of the prestigious GO University doctorate degree is also based on your integrity and indisputable achievements in improving humanity and society. As a Catholic university, we are very careful in our choice of candidates for our honorary doctorate degree. To have selected you to receive the GO University honorary doctorate degree is a confirmation of your integrity and good works. Anyone in doubt about whether you deserve this honour should listen to your profile as the University Orator Prof. Gozie Ogbodo's voice rises and falls on a litany of your achievements. Always remember in all your actions and engagements that you have become an ambassador and flag bearer of Godfrey Okoye University, God's Own University. God bless you!

To you our friends from different parts of Nigeria and the world:

We say a big **thank you** for being here. Godfrey Okoye University will always hold its doors and windows open for you. Here is God's own university. Do not be hesitate to come to our university as often as you can because this is one university where God resides. Who cannot but be touched by the refreshing breeze of divine presence in this serene environment? With our Business Park and College of Practical Skills, we are ready to take the lead in the world of production, training and service delivery. As I said in my first convocation speech in 2013: "Our desire to succeed and excel is unfathomable. This is a university to watch. The eagle has just taken off, traversing the boundaries of dream and reality, and carrying a green leaf with an inscription 'where is the evidence?'" Please remain a friend of our university, and together we will change the narrative of our society and the world. Together we can make the world a better place. Yes, we can!

God bless you!