

Educated To Change the Face of Society

The Address of the Provost on the Occasion of the Sixth Induction of Graduates of
Institute of Ecumenical Education by the TRCN on 7 June 2017

Protocol

On behalf of the staff and students of the Institute of Ecumenical Education I welcome each of you to the sixth induction of our graduates by the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria. I believe that you are here not only to rejoice with our graduates but also to underscore the fact that you attach great value to education.

It is indeed very important to express strong belief in education as the greatest instrument humans have to change their society. As someone rightly says, education is a process that makes human beings out of animals. It is the efficacious instrument we have to create the type of humans we want and the social-political setting of these humans. As I have said in one of many interviews: Tell me the type of society you want, and I will tell you the type of education you need.

It is, therefore, a special calling to be inducted to operate in the field of education. In other words, you are being empowered today to become part of the great instruments humans have to transform or transmogrify their society. By being inducted today you are being given the authority to change your society without guns, military uniforms or orders, Trump-like executive orders, laws of shapes and sizes or penal styles of different horrendous proportions. You are being given a very simple instrument: teaching.

It is teaching and the resultant education (that permanent thing that remains indelible in the soul of humans out of which delicacies of good manners glide gracefully to the world stage of human actions) that makes all the difference.

An educationist is indeed a revolutionary without guns, bombs or shouts. He or she changes the world in a very quiet, imperceptible way. This is the meaning of this induction. You will become revolutionaries. You will change your society. You will change Nigeria and transform it into that type of bride that everyone will like to marry. To do this you need this power you are being given today. You need to remember always all you learnt here and build on it. You need to stay focused and

take your teaching job seriously. Please have words on the wide screen of your mind: there is a special place reserved for teachers in heaven. Do your work well and you will earn not only your salvation but that incandescent, indescribably beautiful place in heaven.

Finally, I wish to commend the TRCN for doing a job in this country and for the tremendous sacrifices being made to reach every nook and cranny of our nation of over 180 million people with this programme. The sacrifices are enormous but the spiritual and social gains are incalculable. May God bless the TRCN, especially the leaders. I thank all of you for coming, and once more congratulate the inductees.

Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke
Provost