

The Address of the Vice Chancellor on the Occasion of the Official
Launching of Catholic Social Teaching in Collaboration with Godfrey Okoye University,
Enugu, on 17 January 2011

Very Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke

On behalf of the Senate and the Governing Council of our university, Godfrey Okoye University, I want express my immense gratitude to the Founding Fathers of this important programme on Catholic Social Teaching, especially to Monsignor Prof. Obiora Ike. I recall vividly my discussion with one of those invited in Rome to discuss the document “Caritas in Veritate”. This participant informed me that they had a system of teaching in their schools that ensured that the Catholic Social Teaching penetrated every nook and cranny of the school system and their society. This conversation gave me much food for thought because I asked myself whether we had a similar programme in Nigeria that guaranteed the dissemination of knowledge and new findings on Catholic Social Teaching. You can then imagine my joy when I was approached with the request of approving that our university collaborates with the Catholic Institute for Development, Justice and Peace on this programme.

I am convinced that under the umbrella of GO University (as our university is fondly called), this programme will become like yeast that will ensure the proper “baking” of people into responsible citizens. I have already discussed the benefits of the programme with the Senior Management Staff of the university. Besides, I have no doubt that the Senate will give the necessary approval that will ensure that the collaboration model which the Director and I have worked out becomes a thing everybody can be proud of.

It is important that this programme is being run in collaboration with our university which is a Catholic university, the only Diocesan-owned University in Africa. The fact of our Catholic nature and background makes the Catholic Social Teaching an obligation for the university. Consequently, there cannot, be an argument on whether a Catholic university should embrace this programme. It is a mandate imposed by its onomastic cum social setting. We cannot but take the programme very seriously. We at GO University will ensure that our partner universities:

- Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria
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- University College of Education, Linz, Austria
- Birmingham City University, UK
- Benedictine University, USA
- University of Muenster, Germany
- Kepler University Linz, Austria
- Gustave Siwerth-Akademie, Germany
- Benedictine University, California, USA

.. _:: accept this programme as essential to our catholic background. Our agreement **dth** our

partner universities has been one of mutual thrust. This explains why we **now** have this arrangement in place (within a very short period of time): after their 3rd year, our students can choose to go to any of these partner universities to finish their studies.

I would like to conclude by assuring the Director and the Institute that Go University ~ give all its support to ensure the success of the programme. Also I will ensure that all the facilities of the university are open to the Institute and students of this programme on Catholic Social Teaching for use. Furthermore, under the umbrella of the university, students of the Institute will also be given an opportunity to study in my other partner universities. Once again, thanks for choosing our university for collaboration. God bless you.