

A SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF
GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY,
Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke,
ON THE SECOND MEMORIAL LECTURE
OF *Justice Anthony Aniagolu,*
AT GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY
ON THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016.



Protocol

On behalf of the staff and students of Godfrey Okoye University I welcome you all to this 2nd Justice Aniagolu Memorial Lecture. I welcome particularly (members of the judiciary, judges, lawyers, all members of the great Aniagolu family).

Godfrey Okoye University is committed to honouring Justice Aniagolu because he represents both the past and the future of our university.

He represents the past because as the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Institute of Ecumenical Education (a role he played for over twenty years), he was the cornerstone on which the foundation of Godfrey Okoye University was laid. He gave all the needed Council support and approvals for the university project. He asked questions, gave clarifications to issues, and never allowed any member of the council to distract the head of the institution. He made no financial demand on the Institute and discouraged other members from doing so. Thus he ensured that the flow of funds for the big university projects would not be disturbed. He followed very meticulously the progress made in the course of the application, NUC resource visits and final approval of Godfrey Okoye University by the Federal Executive Council under the late President Yar'dua. If you ask me the happiest day of Justice Anthony Aniagolu's life (of course the wife and the beloved children could tell better), I would unequivocally say: It was the day Godfrey Okoye University got its licence to operate as a private University in Nigeria. During the speeches at the award of the licence his voice echoed in the hall: Hihia!

Justice Aniagolu also represents the future of this University. I am sure you will be wondering how a man who no longer shares our mundane, material space could be the future of the huge establishment called University. Justice Anthony Aniagolu remains the spiritual foundation of this University. The future of any establishment lies in its spiritual foundation. The strength of the institution lies on that foundation. Because the foundation is robust, I have no doubt that the future is guaranteed. The future of Godfrey Okoye is guaranteed because it has a strong spiritual father, a strong spiritual foundation: Justice Anthony Aniagolu.

As you enter this University, you are reminded of this fact. The first road that leads you to the inner part of this mystery called Godfrey Okoye University is **Justice Anthony Aniagolu Road**. This is a quiet reminder to all that they are entering an institution with a formidable foundation, which has the name: **Justice Anthony Aniagolu**.

I am glad that we are here again to celebrate this foundation. I am happy we are celebrating it in the context of a very important area of legal studies: bridging the legal, social and moral interpretation of law. This topic has been carefully chosen because I am convinced that it captures what Justice Anthony thought about law and legal matters. His attitude to law revealed all these dimensions of law (legal, social and moral). He could have given his nods unambiguously with his usual “Hihia”.

I thank the Chief Justice of Nigeria (Justice Mahmud Mohammed) for delivering a beautiful lecture. There is nothing to add to that beautiful lecture. Thanks so much for the lecture.

Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke
Vice Chancellor

