



## **MOVE CLOSER TO GOD IN THE EUCHARIST, CATHOLICS TOLD**

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### **KATSINA, NIGERIA -**

The Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Most Rev. Matthew Hassan Kukah has called on Catholics to move closer to God in the Eucharist and pray fervently because; “Without the Eucharist , there is no Church”.

The bishop gave the admonition recently at the celebration of the Mass for the dedication of St. Gabriel’s Parish Church building, Daura town, in Daura Local Government Area of Katsina State.

Bishop Kukah congratulated the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Joseph Dube and the faithful for their commitment and dedication in completing the Church building. The Church was made a parish by the former local ordinary of the diocese, emeritus Bishop Kevin Aje. The ceremony also featured the annual Cathedraticum, administering of Sacrament of Confirmation to candidates and Installation of Lectors.

The bishop enlightened the faithful that: "We always look up to where God is" because "The presence of God is not something to debate about. Whenever we see the Eucharist, it assures us of the presence of God." He continued: "Without the Eucharist, there's no church. The reason we come to Mass is to celebrate the Eucharist, that is why we are men and women of the altar"

Speaking on the attitude of the faithful towards the Word of God, Bishop Kukah warned that God cannot be bribed. His words: "Many of us especially men assume that somehow your wife can be holy on your behalf, that your children can pray on your behalf, that the Parish Priest will read bible on your behalf. It is wonderful to build altar, all the chairs, but it is no use to build a church if you yourself don't live a Godly live because God cannot be bribed or blackmailed."

He continued: "We take worshipping God as bribing. When we need something from God we become extra-ordinary generous and when the desire is met we become something else. Many of us, our lives are regulated by fear... fear of the unknown. How can you fear people who didn't give you life?" The bishop added: "our problem is not the Muslims, the Pentecostals or protestants but ourselves".