



## **ECONOMIC RECESION; CATHOLIC CHURCH URGED TO BE BEACON OF LIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE**

Jul 19, 2017

### **ADO-EKITI, NIGERIA -**

The Catholic Church has been called upon to remain the beacon of light for the people of the country, especially Catholic faithful, during the present period of economic recession. The admonition was contained in a Resolution adopted by members of the Nigerian Catholic Diocesan Priests Association (NCDPA), at the end of its recent 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM), held at Pope John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Ado Ekiti. The Resolution was signed by Very Rev. Fr. Sylvester Onmoke and Fr. Francis Khianosime

Reviewing the situation of the country generally, the association noted that, in spite of the country being abundantly blessed with natural and human resources, her economic development had been stunted by; unchecked corruption, unstable economic policies, a predominantly mono-economy, and over dependence on importation, among others. The statement added: "These are aggravated by the culture of greed and selfishness which have consequently plunged the country into economic recession"; which invariably affects the Church.

The association identifying the significant role of the Church in the present Nigerian situation declared: “This period of economic recession should be seen as an opportunity for continued witnessing. Hence, the Church must remain a beacon of hope for the Catholic faithful and indeed the whole citizens in the midst of the troubling economic waters.”

Urging the Church to restore confidence and hope to her faithful and citizens, the association stated: “Using her intellectual and human resources, the Church should constructively and truthfully engage the government in fostering good leadership, human development and progress.

While calling on priests and other pastoral agents to shun ostentatious living, embrace prudence, modesty and accountability, the statement further admonished: “The Church should continually be humane, embracing the mission of fostering peace and unity, education and catechesis, feeding the poor and caring for the sick.” It added: “... being an agent of social change, she should continually encourage her faithful and indeed the whole citizens to develop themselves in entrepreneurship.”