



## **CATHOLICS URGED TO BE WELL ROOTED IN THEIR FAITH**

Nov 30, 2017

### **ABUJA, NIGERIA -**

Catholics have been called upon to be well rooted in their faith and practice with all their hearts and sincerity. This admonition was given by Rev. Fr. Ralph Madu in his homily at the celebration of the feast of Christ the King, held recently at the St Gabriel's Chaplaincy, Durumi, Abuja.

Fr. Madu noting that the month of November is very significant in the life of the Church told the congregation that the feast of Christ the King celebrated to mark the end of the Liturgical year of the Church provides the opportunity for recollection by all the faithful in anticipation of the coming of Christ, the universal King who will judge the living and the dead, at the end of time.

He described the month as a period for recollection and reappraisal of our Christian life; and preparedness for the life of the world to come. Using the readings of the day to buttress his point, the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Secretary General stated that at the end of this world, Christ will come as the eternal judge to separate the good from the bad. He told the faithful that in preparation for this life after death judgment, Christians must graciously be generous, do the right thing at the right time and at all times, in all aspects of life. He stressed the need to help the poor, the needy and the marginalized both spiritually and financially.

The homilist noted that running after riches and other mundane things of life at the expense of good works for the common good cannot lead us to eternal life. Rather, he urged the faithful to be selfless in giving to the needy and have concern for the earth. Pointing out that death is a necessary end for every living being; “only good works can lead us to Christ and God will not allow our generosity to be in vain.”

While telling the congregation that the Church in Nigeria marks a double celebration on the day - the eternal Kingship of Christ and Corpus Christ, the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament; Fr. Madu used several instances in the Bible to shed more light on the eternal Kingship of Christ urging the faithful to take a cue from the good thief who died with of Christ. His words: “ Jesus does not save us from human limitations: legal sanctions for our faults, from suffering, and from physical death itself. Jesus gives us hope. He provides meaning to our human lives.”

He stated that the good thief surrendered his heart to Jesus and chose to be part of the real kingdom of God; and in return got assurance from Jesus that he will be with him in paradise. He concluded: “I think, this is what the feast of today invites us to: to surrender ourselves to the loving reign of God, to make a choice to be part of the kingdom of God, to be free from tyranny of power, passion and pleasure.”