



CATHOLIC FAITHFUL URGED TO WORK FOR COMMON GOOD OF A BETTER WORLD

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IBADAN, NIGERIA -

The Catholic Archbishop of Ibadan Archdiocese, Most Rev. Gabriel 'Leke Abegunrin has reiterated the need for the Church, the faithful and all people of God to be actively involved in making the world better for the common good of all. The Archbishop made this call in his homily at the celebration of the 2018 World Day of Peace Mass celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral Church, Oke Padi, Ibadan, Oyo State, recently.

Premising his homily on the World Day of Peace message of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, the Archbishop noted that as stated by the Pope, migrants, refugees: men, women and children are in search of peace, and all hands must be on deck that they are provided the necessary and conducive atmosphere in this respect by government and all peoples of the world.

Noting the unpleasant consequences of wars, conflicts, genocides and ethnic cleansing, Bishop Abegunrin stated that God is the only hope and outlined the necessary actions advocated by the Hope to bring succour and consolation to migrants and refugees. These, he stated, include: welcoming, protecting promoting and integrating them back fully into the society. He noted that providing common home for these group of people should be by concrete actions and not empty promises. He stressed the need for all to work for the common good of the society, eschewing selfishness, orientation and living together in love and harmony.

Speaking on the role of the Church in this respect, he declared: “Not just the Bishops, priests and religious but all of us. Let us make some worthy sacrifices to contribute to peace and harmony and human development in an environment that is conducive to grow and live happily in a peaceful and orderly society; which is what the world need.” He continued: “Hunger, sickness, low or no education, homelessness and joblessness must be eradicated to a large extent.”

He called on the faithful to imbibe positive action and outlook in all they do in the New Year; contribute to neighbourhood peace; join hands to do something about common complaints and pray with positive action. He urged them to avoid negative life styles, false news and dissemination of false information that can damage the society.