



CATHOLICS URGED TO EMBRACE VIRTUES OF ST JOSEPH

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ABUJA, NIGERIA -

The virtues of St Joseph, the foster father of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, should be emulated by all Catholics, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) Episcopal Committee for Mission Secretary, Rev. Fr. Joseph Nomwhange SMA, had advocated. He made this admonition in his homily at the celebration of the Mass to mark this year's feast day of the foster father of Christ, at St. Gabriel Catholic Chaplaincy, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN), Durumi, on Monday.

According to Fr. Nomwhange, who was also the Chief celebrant at the concelebrated Mass, St Joseph was a silent achiever who played a very active role in the salvation mission of the Church as the foster father of the redeemer and the protector of Christ and His mother, the Virgin Mary.

He outlined the virtues of St Joseph to include: chastity, honour, faithfulness, openness to God with faith, obedience and willingness to do God's will all the time without complaining. According to him, these are the qualities expected of anybody who wants to follow Christ.

The homilist pointed out that these virtues of St Joseph are what we need in the present day world of too much noise and little action. He Noted that St Joseph was faithful till his death by actively fulfilling his assigned roles in the

salvation mission; responding to the angel without asking question and protecting the image of the Virgin Mary who was pregnant while being betrothed to him and always doing what is right at the right time.

Fr. Nomwhange called on the faithful to be guided by these principles of the foster father of the saviour in order to be true Christians and Catholics. Pointing out that in the present day world, people are willing to promote themselves at the expense of others, Fr. Nomwhange advocated that like St Joseph, the faithful must eschew selfishness and do good and generosity when nobody is looking or expect recognition from anybody.

He added that as God has entrusted St Joseph with the mystery of our salvation and the care of the Holy Family; bringing to fulfillment all the promises made to Moses and David in Joseph the Carpenter, “we should also entrust the Church and our family to his care”