



## **PRESERVE YOUR FAITH IDENTITY, CATHOLIC YOUTHS TOLD**

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### **CALABAR, NIGERIA -**

Catholic youths have urged to preserve their identity as members of God's family by living a good Christian life guided by the teachings and morals of the Catholic faith. The appeal was made by the Catholic Bishop of Osogbo Diocese and Episcopal Chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Conference Youth Committee, Most Rev. John Oyejola while preaching the homily at the closing Mass of the fifth National Youth Day celebration , held recently in Calabar, Cross Rivers State. The chief celebrant at the Mass was Archbishop Joseph Ekwem, the Archbishop of Calabar.

Noting that the five-day prayer pilgrimage programme has been a memorable one, Bishop Oyejola urged the youths to go back to the reality of life and not succumb to the challenges they may encounter in the process. His words: "In spite of temptations, do not give up. Do your best not to let your identity as Catholic be defeated. At each gathering, we part way enriched by the graces of Christ's and friendship shared rooted in Christ."

The Youth Committee Bishop Chairman urged them not to be timid or shy away from their responsibilities. "Don't be on the side of lawlessness; be kind and generous; share from the little you have; do not desert those in miseries, don't give up your dreams; he admonished. Bishop Oyejola urged the youths not to engage in nefarious criminalities and immoralities to achieve their goals; adding: "Have faith in God; pray and work hard, for you are not alone; Christ is with youth."

Also speaking at the closing ceremony, the National Youth Animator and CBCN Youth Committee Secretary, Rev. Fr. Mark Obayi expressed gratitude to the host Bishop, Most Rev. Joseph Ekuwem, the CBCN Youth Committee Chairman, members of the local organizing committee (LOC) and others who have collaborated at making the celebration the success that it was, He expressed the hope that the delegates would return to their various Archdioceses and dioceses with good memories of the celebration to share with their peers who were not privileged to attend.