



SPIRITUAL AND MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM ESSENTIAL FOR HOLISTIC EDUCATION OF THE NIGERIAN CHILD - High Chief Obiora

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ABUJA, NIGERIA -

The re-introduction of physical, spiritual and moral aspects of education into the school curriculum has been described as a necessary factor for the provision of holistic formation for the average Nigerian child.

This proposition was posited by High Chief Obiora Okonkwo, in his address at the opening ceremony of the third National Catholic Education Summit, held recently at the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN) Resource Centre, Durumi, Abuja.

High Chief Obiora who was the Chairman at the occasion, noted that the theme of the summit “encapsulates the basis of the problems we live with today in an ever-evolving society”. He added: “These challenges task our ingenuity and willingness, as the body of Christ, to play the role that we have been chosen to play by virtue of our participation in the salvific mission of Jesus Christ.”

Emphasizing the role of the faithful in the mission of the Church to teach and educate, High Chief Obiora who went down memory lane on the evolution and development of Catholic education from early ages to the present time in the world; stressed that the mandate of the Church in this perspective was “to build the virtue of the children of God through moral education which not only builds the person but also, helps make the society a better place”.

The Chairman noted that through her gradual progression in the field of education, the Church has emphasized the importance of education in the development of the human person; adding “This role is interpreted for us by the Magisterium of the Church, which is why it is important that families pay closer attention, with obedient observation, to the moral and social teachings of the Church”.

High Chief Obiora regretted that in spite of the efforts of the Church, moral education in public and private schools have nosedive as exemplified in the life styles of children on the streets and open society; high rate of moral decadence traced directly to the failure of moral education in our schools and homes and negative impact of the social media on the teaching of sexuality education.

He therefore called on Catholic faithful to work with like-minds to ensure the return of schools to the Church, noting that the failure of moral education in the country began

with the hijack of mission schools by the State. He therefore called on government to dialogue with the Church in this perspective.

Declaring the summit open on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), the President of the Conference, Most Rev. Augustine Obiora Akubeze called on all present to "remember the many children in Nigeria who have no access to quality education and many others suffering domestic abuses in their families, many of them who are on the streets and roads hawking items instead of going to school as well as many children who have been sexually exploited through trafficking.