



CALL FOR COLLABORATION AMONG CHURCH GROUPS TO DEFEND THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Dec 09, 2018

ABUJA, NIGERIA -

A call has been made for collaboration among all the segments of the Church to ensure that the “faith is properly understood, professed, spread and defended”. This was part of the resolutions adopted by participants at the recently concluded first National Catechetical Summit, held at the CSN Resource Centre, Durumi, Abuja; and attended by over 300 participants from most of the Archdioceses and dioceses in the country.

Signed by Most Rev. Martin Olorunmolu, CBCN Chairman for Religious Education, Catechesis and Biblical Apostolate Committee and Most Rev. John Ayah, CBCN Chairman, Pastoral Affairs Department of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN), the document among other things noted that: “since Catechesis is the task of all and for all, the Church in Nigeria is urged to find ways to reach the physically challenged persons, migrants and other marginalized persons.”

Other resolutions adopted at the end of the summit included: that the different types of catechesis, the initiatory, sacramental and perfective catechesis must be connected so that various needs of the people of God can be met to ensure that Catholics are well formed and equipped to profess, live and defend the faith and that only true catechesis can help curb the excesses of popular piety and form Catholics who will become beacons of light in their places of work especially in politics, where they are called to live their faith in the corridors of power.

The participants also acknowledged the importance and relevance of modern-day communication technology for the evangelization mission of the Church, and therefore called on Catholics “to embrace it, use it and become involved in the world of technology, so that they can influence and transform the culture to serve the needs of the Gospel”.

They also noted that it is imperative that parents be taught to know that they are the first teachers of their children in the faith and as such must grow in the faith to be of assistance to their children. They added: “It is in the family that the foundation for faith must be laid, so that others in the Church and Catholic Schools can build upon the foundation already laid.” In the same perspective, they recommended that Catechesis must also focus on the family, the individual families and the family of the Church.

The resolutions also outlined the needs to take proper care of Catechists in all ramifications adding that they should not be limited to the Church environment. The document also noted that the Church must find ways to equip the young and women with necessary skills to empower them to be self-reliant.

The summit at which about 15 presentations were made by experts in the field of catechesis; was attended by about 300 participants, including members of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), led by the President, Archbishop Augustine Obiora Akubeze; Archbishop and other dignitaries from different parts of the country.