



## **ARCHBISHOP MARTINS UNVEILS FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

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### **LAGOS, NIGERIA -**

The Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins has reiterated his commitment to impacting positively on the lives of the youths in the country through the establishment of a foundation that will effectively and practically address the issue of youth unemployment.

The Archbishop's intention was amplified by the unveiling of the Archbishop Adewale Martins Youth Development and Empowerment Foundation (AMYDEF), at the reception to mark to his 60th birthday anniversary, held at the City Hall, Lagos, recently.

The foundation, according to the Archbishop will impact positively on the lives of youths of the country and facilitate their development in all facets of life by providing support, skill acquisition opportunities, mentorship and business opportunities, irrespective of their ethnic or religious differences.

While unveiling the plaque for the foundation, Archbishop Martins noted that his action was motivated by his concern and desire to address the growing rate of unemployment in the society, particularly among the youths. In ensuring the realization of the project, the Archbishop disclosed that all the proceeds from his two books launched at the birthday ceremony will be used to kick-start the foundation.

Archbishop Martins also used the occasion to disclose that the Archdiocese has officially taken-over the Skill Acquisition Centre initiated by the Catholic Men Organization (CMO) of the Archdiocese and renamed the centre St Joseph the Worker Technical Institute. He further state that discussions are in top gear with relevant experts and institutions to upgrade the quality of the Institute.

His words: "Talks are on with relevant experts to upgrade the institute in order provide high quality institute whose certification will not only be acceptable here in Nigeria but also outside the country. The institute will assist in providing high level technical skills for our youths, thereby providing them with job opportunities and making them useful to their family and society in general."

Earlier at the celebration of the Thanksgiving Mass held at the Holy Cross Cathedral, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese, Msgr. John Aniagwu spoke on the need to give gratitude to God for hallmark achievements, like notable birthday anniversaries, as the celebrant is doing. The homilist also used the occasion to enumerate how God has been merciful and kind to Archbishop Martins, through his achievements in the episcopate of the Archdiocese of Lagos.

Msgr Aniagwu noted that the Archdiocese under the shepherdship of the celebrant, the Archdiocese has witnessed enormous growth spiritually, pastorally and in the provision of essential social facilities of the benefit of the people of the Archdiocese.

Some of the achievements outlined by the homilist include: increase in the number of deaneries from seven to fifteen; increase in parishes; commencement of the Augustine University; unveiling of the Archdiocesan parish guidelines and youth policy; assisting less endowed parishes and institutions in need to the tune of over N100 million through Caritas Lagos; Building of the Albert the Great Seminary in Ogun State and establishment of the Archdiocesan Evangelization Committee.

He described Archbishop Martins as a pleasant man with a listening ear and a warm personality and an air of sympathy. He however cautioned that the prelate is not easily bought over, saying: "You cannot bend him over. He stands by what he believes and he is not afraid to speak truth to power."

Msgr. Aniagwu who described the celebrant as a very committed and focused Shepherd desirous of ensuring continuous growth and development in the Archdiocese, however advised him to maximize the utilization of the human resources available in the Archdiocese, reduce his overwork load and find time to relax.