



CATHOLIC YOUTHS CONVERGE IN AWKA TO DISCUSS VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

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AWKA, NIGERIA -

Delegates of all the Catholic youth groups from all over the country will converge at the Bishop Obiefuna Retreat Centre Awka, Anambra State, for a four-day training seminar, in August; as part of the efforts of the Youth Committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) to mobilize Catholic youths for a more pro-active youth apostolate for the Church in the country.

The programme, a practical response of the Church in Nigeria to the outcome of the special Synod of Bishops on Youths, held in Rome in 2017, and the subsequent Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the synod titled: *Christus Vivit*. The theme for the seminar, organized by the CBCN Youth Committee of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN); is Youth People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment; and powered by Daily Strength Devotional.

Speakers expected at the seminar include: Most Rev. Dr. John Oyejola, Bishop of Osogbo Diocese and CBCN Youth Committee Chairman, who will give the keynote address; Most Rev. Matthew Hassan Kukah, Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, whose presentation is premised on the topic: Catholic Youth Participation in Nigerian Politics; Most Rev. Ernest Obodo, Auxiliary Bishop of Enugu Diocese who will speak on: The Youth, the Faith and the Call to New Evangelization and Rev. Fr. Isaac Dugu, CSN Director of Pastoral Agents who is expected to give a goodwill message on behalf of the department.

Other speakers include: Msgr. Dr. John Aniagwu, Vicar General of Lagos Archdiocese, whose paper is titled: Safe Environment in the Wake of Clerical Abuse: The Role of the Catholic Youth; Rev. Fr. Dr. Samuel Akagwu, Dean of Philosophy, St Thomas Aquinas Seminary, Markudi who will address the participants on the topic: Called to Holiness; and Professor Charles Esimone, Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, who will address the issue of Youth and the Future of Nigeria. Sir Sunday Nwosu, a financial expert will talk on the topic: Surviving Harsh Economic Reality in Nigeria.

Dr Emmanuel Okechukwu, CBCN Health Committee Secretary will address the issue of Defending the Culture of Life; Mr. Muiyiwa Matuluko, Co-founder & Editor-in-Chief of *Techpoint Africa*, will speak on: Exploring Opportunities in Digital Media, while Most Rev. Dr. Paulinus Ezeokafor, Bishop of Awka Diocese will be the host for the programme.