



NEW MEDIA CAN MAKE CHURCH EVANGELIZATION WORK MORE VIBRANT

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JOS, NIGERIA -

The evangelization mission of the Church can be made more vibrant and effective through the positive use of the new media; delegates at the just concluded 2019 National Convention of the Catholic Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (CAMPAN) have asserted. The position of the delegates was contained in the Resolutions adopted at the end of the third National Convention of the association held at the Sacred Heart Pastoral Centre, Jos, Plateau State.

The four-day convention which had *The New Media and Evangelization in Nigeria: A Reflection* as its theme was attended by about 60 delegates from the nine Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Church in the country and addressed by the Coadjutor Archbishop of Abuja and Apostolic Administrator of Jos Archdiocese, Most Rev. Ignatius Kaigama and the Deputy Secretary General of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN) and national Director of Social Communications, Rev. Fr. Chris Anyanwu; among others.

Presentations were made by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Cletus Tanimu Gotan, the Vicar General of Jos Archdiocese who spoke on the Challenges and Opportunities of New Media and Evangelization; and Rev. Fr. Gabriel Gowok of the University of Jos whose presentation was premised on: *The new media and Evangelization in Nigeria: A reflection.*

According to the resolutions signed by Mr. Patrick Osu and Mr. Peter Dada, National President and National Secretary of the association respectively; the delegates discussed extensively Christian evangelization in the digital age and supported the use of the new media for the propagation of the Catholic faith and make the world a better place for the common good of humanity. They observed that since the time of the Apostles to the present day, the doctrine and teachings of the Church have remained constant and consistent while “the methodology of evangelization has changed, allowing the adoption of new techniques of proclaiming the Word of God”

The delegates also noted that to reach out to the youths, who are citizens of the digital world, there is the need for the Church to adopt the use of the new media to reach-out to them as they constitute 60 percent of the people on the social media. They however noted that “much as the new media can strengthen the Church’s efforts at evangelization, formation and communication, it can as well ruin the Church; if it is not used positively”.

In their resolutions, the delegates called on all the Archdioceses and dioceses in the country to key-in into the new media evangelization process by updating their communication equipment in the context of modern technology; support CAMPAN members in all ramifications to enable them operate effectively in the digital era; deployment of priests who have passion for communication to head Archdiocesan and diocesan communications offices; and adequate training for diocesan directors.

Present at the opening ceremony of the convention were: Rev. Fr. Patrick Alumuku, President Signis Nigeria; Rev. Fr. Joseph Oscar Pam, director for Jos Archdiocese; Rev. Fr. Chris Omotosho, Sokoto Diocese; Rev. Fr. Justine Dyikuk, Bauchi Diocese and Rev. Fr. Andrew Kim, Assistant Director of Communication, Pankshin Diocese. Also in attendance were: His Royal Highness, Miskoom Martins Shaldas III, the Long Geomai of Shendam; while th Ujah of Anaguta , Chief Yakubu Shshok who represented the traditional ruler of Naraguta; Mrs. Veronica Dewa, who represented the Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen and representatives of the State Commissioner of Police and Commandant of the Fedral Road Safety Corps.

