



LATE BISHOP ADOBOH'S LEGACIES PROPELLED BY HIS DEEP FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY - Cardinal Onaiyekan

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KATSINA-ALA, NIGERIA -

The legacies of late Bishop Peter Adoboh propelled by his deep faith and spirituality, in spite of his health challenges, speak volume; and the only way to keep his memory alive is to continue the good works he started for the common good of humanity.

Above were the words of the Archbishop emeritus of Abuja Archdiocese, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, while preaching the homily at the funeral Mass for the first Catholic Bishop of Katsina-Ala Diocese; Most Rev. Peter Iorzuul Adoboh, at the Emmanuel Akume Atongo Stadium, Katsina-Ala, Benue State on Wednesday, March 14, 2020.

In the homily titled: *The Souls of the Just are in the Hands of God; no evil shall touch them*"; Cardinal Onaiyekan described the late Bishop Adoboh as a man of deep faith and spirituality who had a special grace to see death coming, yet did not waver in his commitment to God, the salvation of his faithful, and his pastoral duties as chief Shepherd of Katsina-Ala Diocese. The Cardinal noted that Bishop Adoboh never aspired or struggled to become a bishop, but when "he accepted to be become one seven years ago, he accepted it as Cross, not as a position of privilege to enjoy. He faced challenges of being a new Bishop. He faced burden of poor health and heavy insecurity laden in his jurisdiction. His health could not allow him to do the best he could."

Cardinal Onaiyekan who prayed that the efforts of the late bishop will touch the hearts of the perpetrators of violence in the area so that they will change; stressed that the late bishop “worked for peace, sought peace and reconciliation.” He added: “The inability to bring peace aggravated his health.” While thanking those who stood by the late bishop in the time of his health challenges, the Cardinal urged that his unfinished business must not be abandoned. He concluded: “weep, but weep as those who have faith. Let us congratulate him for the battle he fought and won.”

In his homily at the wake-keep vigil Mass, the Archbishop-elect of Jos Archdiocese, Most Rev. Matthew Isiah Audu stated that the death of Bishop Adoboh was a pain not only to his biological family but to all who have been privileged to come in contact with him. He noted that “Death can be shattering if not understood according to our Christian faith. We need to fall back on our Christian resources.”

While praising the deceased for his courage, spirituality and other virtues of life, especially at accepting the challenge of knowing that he was going to die, without waiving in his faith or abandoning his spiritual and pastoral responsibilities; the homilist reminded all present that death is an eminent end in the mortal world; and “we need to prepare for it”. He added: “Be of clean hands so that you will receive blessings, walk righteously and speak uprightly.”

The ceremony was attended by about 26 members of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), led by its President, Most Rev. Augustine Obiora Akubeze; Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State; the Speaker of the State House of Assembly Hon. Titus Uba, the Tor Tiv. HRM Professor James Ayatse, dignitaries from all walks of life, Priests, Religious and lay faithful from different parts of the country.