



BISHOP ADESINA STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION FOR SUCCESS OF THE PASTORAL FOCUS OF HIS EPISCOPATE

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IJEBU-ODE, NIGERIA -

Bishop Francis Adesina of Ijebu-Ode Diocese has reiterated the importance of cooperation and collaboration among all the faithful of the diocese to ensure the realization of the pastoral focus of his Episcopate, enunciated at his Episcopal ordination, as the third Bishop of the diocese, one year ago.

Bishop Adesina made this remark in his address to the faithful of the diocese, to mark the first anniversary of his Episcopal ordination as the Bishop of the diocese. He succeeded the former local ordinary, Most Rev. Albert Fasina, who retired last year on reaching the canonical retirement aged as directed by the Universal Church.

While thanking the priests, religious and lay faithful of the diocese, for their support in the planning and implementation strategy of his episcopal evangelization strategy, Bishop Adesina noted the need for all the faithful to be more proactive in realizing the objectives of the episcopal focus, as soon as the country, and indeed the whole world gets out of the Corona Virus scourge pandemic.

Reiterating the pastoral focus of his episcopate, the bishop declared: "We shall by the grace of God, continue to promote evangelization and renewal of the Catholic faith in the Diocese as embarked upon by our venerable predecessors. We shall through the collaboration of our dynamic Clergy, Religious and Laity insist on Catechetical

and Liturgical formation, on the apostolate of trained Laity, on integration of faith in action, active solidarity among Priests, family life Apostolate, proper education of the Youth, mutual collaboration with the Consecrated Persons, harmonious relationship between Catholic and non-Catholic communities and the promotion of reciprocity of rights and duties.”

Bishop Adesina continued: “This is our pastoral focus and it has not changed. I cannot do it alone. Everyone must get involved and become passionate about it. Our love for Christ and the Church must be expressed in the quality of our responsibility and accountability in the pastoral assignment given.” Bishop Adesina thanked all the faithful for their support for the achievements of his first year as the local ordinary of the diocese, calling on all of them to be more proactively involved in the quest to realize the evangelization focus of the diocese.

Pointing out that his Canonical visitation to the Deaneries in the diocese, which he started before the advent of the Corona Virus pandemic, has been beneficial for his mission, Bishop Adesina declared: “The Pastoral visitations have enabled me to get closer to the people in their parishes. I have had wonderful encounters with Priests, Religious and Laity in the various Parishes visited. I have been enriched by the expressions of faith and interactions at meetings. Those experiences have offered me opportunities to feel and experience variety of talents and prospects in our Diocese.”

The local ordinary thanked his predecessor, Most Rev. Albert Adesina, priests, religious and lay faithful of the diocese, for the good foundation laid for the evangelization of the Church in the diocese and expressed the confidence that

the future is very bright for the mission of the Church. He concluded "I look forward to the future with renewed confidence and hope in God that you will not fail in in your love and support for our ministry."

The anniversary which was low keyed as a result of the effect of the regulations put in place by Government on public gathering to prevent the spread of the Corona Virus scourge, featured a thanksgiving Mass at the St Sebastian Cathedral, Ijebu-Ode, broadcast to the faithful and other spiritual activities, attended by limited people.