



## **LEADERS OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS IN THE SOCIETY URGED TO EMULATE CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

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### **LAGOS, NIGERIA -**

Political leaders and all those in positions of power in the country have been called upon to emulate Jesus Christ, who as the Good Shepherd laid down his life for his sheep and brought salvation to mankind through his suffering and death on the Cross. This admonition was made by Very Rev. Monsignor Paschal Nwezeapu, Dean Lekki Deanery; in his homily at the celebration of the Mass for the fourth Sunday of Easter, at the Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos.

Msgr. Nwezeapu: whose homily was titled: The Vocation and Mission of A Good Shepherd; reflected on different vocations of life that are synonymous with leadership within the society including the Church, political offices, societies and families. According to him: "Every authority comes from God and is meant to serve His purpose.

He therefore urged leaders of the various groups in the society to use their power and positions of authority to glorify God and serve the people just as Jesus the Good Shepherd, who spent his whole life, power and gifts to glorify God and gave life to his people to point of sacrificing his own life. He reminded all those in power and positions that they should remember that they are not God and human life is short. He also noted among other things that: "human praise is ephemeral; that money cannot be trusted even when we have it plenty; and that although power can intoxicate and blind one, it does not remain forever".

Msgr. Nweazeapu, using the readings of the day to buttress his points, spoke extensively on the life of Christ as the Good Shepherd, his exemplary virtues, what can be learnt from Him and the celebration of Vocations Sunday, which is also marked on the fourth Sunday of Easter.

Speaking on how to follow Christ the Good Shepherd, the homilist noted: "We are called to show genuine interest in the lives of the sheep in our care and to show deep concern for their survival and their temporal and spiritual well-being on earth as Jesus did." This life he further stated entails promoting corporal works of mercy and reaching out to God's people in their different needs.

Monsignor Nweazeapu called on the faithful to always do God's will, alleviate the sufferings of the needy in the society, pray for the Bishops, Priests and Consecrated People and also pray for young people to embrace Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. He also urged them to pray for their civil leaders and make themselves available for salvation, doing the will of the Good Shepherd always.