



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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OYO, NIGERIA -

The Catholic Bishop of Oyo Diocese, Most Rev. Emmanuel Adetoyese Badejo has asserted that with the gift of the Holy Spirit of true love, all the vices bedeviling our country Nigeria; can be overcome. The bishop made the assertion in his homily at the celebration of the Mass for this year's Pentecost Sunday, held at the Assumption Catholic Cathedral, Asogo, Oyo, Oyo State. Pointing out that God is the ultimate love humanity must embrace in all facets of life. Bishop Badejo also noted that "The Holy Spirit is the force that conquers the exaggerated notoriety of evil forces in the world. In all her scientific and technological developments, humanity needs the spirit of God. The Spirit of God as indispensable in the life of humanity stressing that "devoid of God's spirit, humanity diminishes and disintegrates".

Bishop Badejo listed the evils mitigating against the country to include: "Corruption, terrorism, banditry and other avoidable criminal killings in different parts of the country;

greed, lying and cheating, noting that these vices are bedevilling the country because of the lack of the Holy Spirit of true love in our interaction with one another. Urging the faithful to pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to counter these vices in the society, Bishop Badejo admonished, “ We need those gifts that our leaders may lead with wisdom, courage, fear of God, truth and justice, that all subjects may have the power to do good at all times ...”

Noting that “the Holy Spirit is the force through which we experience the closeness of Jesus Christ in all circumstances, positive or negative. Through him, God makes all things new, and restores life to the dead. Let us therefore allow the Holy Spirit to burst anew through the limitations of our self-centeredness and help us create a better world, to bring heaven down here to earth.”

The Bishop’s reflection with the theme *At Pentecost: Only Love conquers all*; used the readings of the day to buttress his point on the indispensable role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. He stressed that the Holy Spirit is a clear indication that Jesus Christ will never abandon the faithful, because; “wherever the Holy Spirit is, there God the Father is and there Jesus is present”.

Bishop Badejo used the racial killing of a black American, George Floyd by a white Police officer in the United States of America to accentuate the need for love, unity and

communal relationship, among the entire human race. He disclosed that the Holy Spirit has always been playing a vital role in the life of the Church, even before Pentecost.
