



NIGERIANS URGED TO SPEAK AGAINST UNGODLY BEHAVIOURS

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ABUJA, NIGERIA -

The Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, Most Rev. Ignatius Kaigama has called on Nigerians, especially Christians to speak against ungodly behaviours and other vices that are affecting the common good of humanity. The Archbishop gave this admonition in his homily at the celebration of the Mass for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time of the Church calendar; held at St Charles Lwanga Church, Apo, Abuja. Speaking on the readings of the day which focus primarily on the realities of sin and its destructive effects, the Archbishop noted that these are the realities of life that humanity has to grapple with in different aspects of human existence. He declared: "Sin entered the world through the disobedience of one man, Adam, and this has so weakened the spiritual and moral fibres of humanity that the good that we want to do; we are unable to do it, except by the grace of God."

He added: "Sin wounds the heart, mind and soul and it poisons and destabilizes our

relationship with God and fellow human beings; it cripples our spiritual growth and breeds the social maladies we witness today: wars, ethnic, political, religious and domestic violence and immorality in all ramifications. Sin leaves us with a broken world and hardened hearts.” Archbishop Kaigama condemned in strong terms, the current wave of rape in the country, resulting in the dehumanization and killing of many innocent young girls by criminally minded people; noting that: “The increasing cases of the heinous crime of rape are frightening”. He added: “The rape culture is as repulsive and reprehensible as it is dehumanizing. Rape inflicts life-long untold psychological trauma on the victims. Rape is not only a grievously sinful act, but also a very barbaric and criminal act.”

The local ordinary of Abuja Archdiocese therefore called on the faithful and other Nigerians, irrespective of their religion or status, to rise up in defense of human dignity, by speaking against the heinous crime of rape and other vices that are affecting humanity especially the poor and marginalized. He emphasized that rape “is a symptom of an ungodly and dysfunctional society”. Aligning with the words of the Holy Father, Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter *Lux Mundi* (You are the Light of the world) that “the crimes of sexual abuse offend Our Lord, cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to the victims and harm the community of the faithful”; Archbishop Kaigama disclosed that Abuja Archdiocese has put in place a policy guideline to protect the

safeguard the interest of minors and vulnerable persons in conformity with the directives of the Universal Church.

The Archbishop pointed out that the remedy to evil is the fear of God and to worship and honour Him by telling the truth always; in addition to shaming the devil and acknowledging Jesus before others, through witnessing to the Gospel without fear. Admonishing the faithful and all Nigerians to stand up for truth and the dignity of humanity in all perspectives, Archbishop declared: “Do not be afraid to speak out and act against ungodly behaviours, injustice, corruption, politics without morality, bad governance, etc.”