



CHRISTIANS URGED TO UTILIZE THEIR GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF HUMANITY

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EDO STATE, NIGERIA -

The President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), and Archbishop of Benin City, Most Rev. Augustine Obiora Akubeze called on Christians to utilize the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to them to serve God devotedly and for the common good of humanity. The Archbishop made the call in his homily at the celebration of this year's Pentecost Sunday Mass, held at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Benin City, Edo State. According to the CBCN President, the Holy Spirit empowers us differently with unique gifts but with one focus of serving God and our neighbour. He maintained: "The Spirit takes away our fears, worries and disappointments and endows us with the gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety and fear of God; adding that "we must utilize our gifts for the service of God and one another".

Describing the Pentecost as the restoration of the unity and oneness of humanity lost at

the Tower of Babel, Archbishop Akubeze dwelt extensively on the readings of the day depicting the invaluable role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the early Church, as well as the Church of today. He noted that the Holy Spirit brings us peace as well as empowers us for mission; adding that as the Apostles received the gift of evangelization at the Pentecost, “we must also allow the Holy Spirit to help us work together as one.”

His words: “We must be united in diversity. Nations must work together for the common good of humanity. We must all work together in unity and solidarity to promote our dignity as persons created in the image and likeness of God. We must work together to fight the Coronavirus that is currently plummeting our world.” The local ordinary of Benin City Archdiocese outlined the invaluable role and gift of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church as at the time of the early Church and the Church today; enabling us to perform our spiritual responsibilities and witnessing to Christ in all facets of life.