



WORK FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH TO GAIN ETERNAL LIFE

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ABUJA - Christians have been called upon to dedicate their lives to the work of the Kingdom of God on earth; be good seeds and shining stars in a world of wickedness and corruption. This admonition was given by the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, Most Rev. Ignatius Ayau Kaigama, in his homily at the celebration of the Mass for the 16th Sunday of the Church Year, 2020; at St Martins Parish Church, Lugbe, Abuja. Urging the faithful to imbibe spirituality of life and the virtues of love, peace and compassion, the Archbishop stressed that the readings of the day emphasize patience and kindness; as indicated in the parable of the Wheat and the weeds in the Gospel reading. According to him, the reading shows that the patience of God allows us to make amends to our lives, after we would have sinned or wavered in our faith. The Archbishop declared: "Many Christians are spiritually in a slumber; they are very preoccupied with the affairs of the world that they become lukewarm and indifferent to things that pertain to faith;" stressing that "The three parables of the darnel and the wheat; the mustard seed and the yeast are a call to Christians to make a difference in the work of the Kingdom of God here on earth." He further called on Christians to be good seeds and shining stars in a world of wickedness and corruption (cf. Phil. 2:15) as well as to contribute materially in building God's Kingdom." He added: "We are therefore called to a humble acceptance of our nothingness and sinfulness rather than being judgmental or condescending or arrogant like the Pharisee who said: "I am not like the rest of men: robbers, unjust, adulterers even as this tax collector" (Lk. 18:11). While noting that the Christian is not alone in the struggles of the journey of life but accompanied by the Holy Spirit, Archbishop Kaigama commended the faithful of Abuja Archdiocese for their commitment to the spiritual, pastoral and evangelization apostolate of the Church in the Archdiocese. He disclosed that efforts are in top gear to expand the missionary

horizon of the Church in the Archdiocese, with creation of more parishes. While urging the faithful not to allow the devil to distract or discourage them from doing something noble, whether big or small for God; and plant a mustard seed here in order have the joy of having one of those rooms that Jesus says exist in his father's house (cf. Jn 14:2). Archbishop Kaigama concluded: "Let us pray for Christians in Nigeria that we should always be a leaven in our society, bedevilled by injustice, violence, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, embezzlement of public funds and cybercrimes."