

BISHOP'S LENTEN MESSAGE

My brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

It is in total submission to the Power, Will and Sovereignty of our Almighty God and Father, that We welcome you into this Lenten season. It is our hope that the joy of the Lord will sustain us all through this period.

In this season we must be reminded that this is a period for personal and corporate stock taking and appraisal of our life and actions in relation to our confession as Christians and how they present us as The Church, the conscience of the society and hope of the lost.

Therefore our focus this season should be on how much of the Church we are as against just being members of 'a club', and what impart our Christian life and message have made, and are making in our immediate environment.

It is very true that we are daily faced with situations and circumstances that challenge the actual translation of our Christian message into action, but this season reminds as well as equips us with the truth that our Lord and Savior while in human flesh was tempted just as we are. "We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all – all but the sin (Hebrews 4:14). Therefore in the midst of all the challenges of this life, brethren let's remember that **"WE MUST BUILD A HEALTHY CHURCH"**. Characterized by unity of purpose, love, with eternity in view and totally committed to Christ as Lord and Savior.

With this in mind, we must approach this Lenten period with humility and sincerity of heart, purging ourselves of every pretense, and expectant of the transforming and renewing power of the Holy Spirit to bring us to that level of maturity where no challenges of life can hinder our light from shining. We must allow the Holy Spirit to set the pace and control the tempo of our meditation, life, and actions this season.

As we do this, let us not lose sight of the conditions of the people living and working around us for this is the very essence of our being The Church. All through this period, we are expected to remember those whose success in life depends on our good Christian examples. We must not close our eyes to the conditions of the widows, orphans and the rest of the less privileged around us. The same spirit of humility, selflessness and sacrifice that made Christ subject Himself to pain and suffering for our sake must inspire us into greater love for one another and mindful of the plight of others. It is through a focus on spiritual maturity and love for all, that we will make the most of this season. We hopefully pray that the Lord of the Church, Jesus the Christ, will equip you with every grace to rise from this season shining in your little corner to His honor and glory.

May your soberness be garnished with penitence.

And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne; to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be all honor, glory and dominion now till the end of the age.

Your Brother and Bishop,

 **NATH, ABA NGWA NORTH.**