

BISHOP'S FATHERS' SUNDAY MESSAGE

Beloved Fathers and Pillars of our homes and society,

It is with a heart of sincere gratitude to God that we bring you greetings of love as we welcome you to this year's Fathers' celebration. Before we go on, we must be reminded that between the last celebration and now, many waters have passed through the bridge of our life. We had a very scanty celebration last year with lots of anxiety due to the uncertainty of the COVID 19 outbreak. But today we are far more relaxed, though with some caution, but with our mouth and heart filled with joy, honor and praise to The only living God, The Creator and Preserver of all life for showcasing His love, mercy and grace towards us through this trying and uncertain times. Therefore let us all rise and give a wave offering to Him who lives and reigns forever through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

One of the known problems of man is the tendency of pride of self-actualization and the feeling of independence from God. We tend to act and relate to others as if our power, wealth, and privileged positions are strictly due to our personal struggles, connections, and maneuvers.

However, recent happenings across the globe continue to prove one important fact of this transient life—that man cannot exist meaningfully and peacefully without total dependence on God the Creator and Preserver of all life. We have seen mighty, powerful and wealthy nations and peoples brought to their knees by natural forces and now by the COVID 19 Pandemic. On the other hand, we have seen poor, weak and less civilized nations and peoples, survive these forces and even the Pandemic with little scare and against all human predictions. In all of this, the difference has clearly been the dependence or lack of thereof of these nations and peoples on God. On our local scene, we continue to see the frustration on the high and mighty in our society and the spirit of survival and resilience on the poor and lowly. All this again continues to echo the question “For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?”(1 Corinthians 4:7 NIV).

Therefore as we celebrate the all-important and invaluable gift of fatherhood, we as individuals and a society are reminded that everything we have, possess, and whatever privilege we are invested with, is nothing but a gift from God, the best Giver and Great Provider and so must be used to His glory and the well-being of others. We must live every day mindful of the less

privileged and those we've been called to serve. We must work and stand against all forms of selfishness, hardhandedness, intimidation, and suppression.

We call on all our fathers and men of our Diocese to appraise and review the level of our individual commitment to the life and ministry of our Diocese. As God continues to bless us with life, health, spiritual and financial gifts, we owe Him the duty of putting back these gifts to His service through the ministry of our Diocese. Above all, God in Christ has given us the gift of eternal life. We must make the most of this gift by offering ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice through devotion to Christ as Lord and Savior and serving His church with our talent, time and service. Let us use our God-given positions as men and fathers to show strong and godly leadership in our homes and families, bringing up our Children in the way they should go and standing strong as Christian husbands.

Again we congratulate all men and fathers of our Diocese on this year's celebration as we appreciate your support and commitment. We applaud the efforts of our leaders at all levels and pray for God's continued blessing upon your lives. May this celebration strengthen our bond together in Christ, preparing us for more exploit to His honor and the blessing of us all.

Happy Fathers' Sunday To You All and May God continue to bless All Our Families.

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. Amen.

Your Bishop and Father in God,

†NATH, ABA NGWA NORTH.

TRINITY 2021