

MESSAGE TO THE YOUTH AT THE 2021 YOUTH CELEBRATION

Beloved Children,

We bring you greetings of Love and Peace in His name, who was a youth, the King of kings, The Perfect Man, Jesus the Christ our Lord.

It is in humility and with a grateful heart that we, on your behalf, give all honor and praise to our God and Father as we welcome you to this year's youth celebration.

We must, on a personal note, express our joy in appreciation for the zeal, and commitment you demonstrate towards our Diocesan vision. Attending your just concluded conference at St. Clement's Mbutu Umujima, we left with a sense of profound glory to God and great hope for our Diocese in particular and the Church in general. We say thanks to your leaders at all levels and pray our good Lord to continue to reward their labors of love.

In our Diocese, though with meager material resources, we have strong faith and hope in God. He is able to do for us more than we can imagine. The theme of your conference **“Go Forward”** (Exo. 14:15) is not just an advice that could be considered, or a piece of information to be ignored, but a command that must be obeyed. Today you are standing at a point where you either move ahead and succeed or stay where you are and be stagnant. To go forward You must first know who you are in the Lord. For it is only in Him that true destinies are fulfilled. These days, a lot of discouraging things are happening around us, but our hope must be in the Lord, who made heaven and earth. For we know that He holds the future, and in His hands our future is sure and bright. As we celebrate God's special gift of youthfulness, We must understand that we are living in difficult and trying times. But as you well know, tough times do not last, but the tough in the Lord do. Therefore engage yourself in godly and meaningful activities, resist and shun every temptation that will defile the name by which you are called. Resist every lure into cultism, mob actions, and hooliganism. Never join those who see no future for themselves and destroy your bright future. Remain committed to, and actively participate in, your local church activities. Pursue all that will deepen your faith in Christ through your local and Diocesan programs. Be good ambassadors of Christ and our Church in all your places of study, work or service. May the Spirit of The Perfect Man guide you.

We urge all parents, on their own part, to ensure that nothing they do or say would hinder our youth from moving forward towards their god ordained destiny. We must always listen to, support, guide, and provide, them with godly counsel.

Once again I congratulate you and pronounce **long days and brighter future to you all.**

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 Father in God,

† **NATH ABA NGWA NORTH.**