

BISHOP'S MESSAGE TO THE YOUTH

Dear Children in the Lord,

We bring you greetings of love in His name who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Today, our church celebrates you, the fruits of our labor, joy of our heart, and the future of our ministry and life.

As a Diocese, we cannot thank God enough for the grace and hope we receive from Him through your dedication and commitment to our life and ministry. As your Bishop, Watching the zeal of most of you for the things of the Lord gladdens our heart with the assurance that our labors shall never be in vain.

No doubt we live in an age and time bedeviled by all forms of ungodliness. The political instability and economic uncertainty of the time have induced many youth to seek success by whatever means, chasing material prosperity and societal acceptance even to the destruction of their physical bodies, mental health and loss of their souls. Prostitution and drug abuse have been given many fancy and flashy names to attract the attention of many. Sometimes, refusing to fall for these ungodly schemes may result to being denied some favors and being seen as a failure according to the world's standards.

But as Christian Youth, you must resist every temptation to compromise your faith and Christian values. You must recognize that who you are comes from only one source - your "Born Identity" Christ. And who you are in Christ affects every part of your life. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5). Yes, these words came from God to young Jeremiah but they mean that God knows every one of you by name and had a plan for your individual lives. He says "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11).

Therefore be assured that your future is neither in the hands of any person, group of persons nor structure, rather in His hands who alone is the creator and preserver of all life, to whom all kingdoms and structures bow. So, as you go on building your life and career, you must build a secure foundation in Christ for your future. Know that finding your identity in Christ requires prayer and commitment to the word of God and our church. And so, you must anchor yourselves in God because not only did He know you in your mother's womb, His thoughts toward you are precious.

Continue to make the most of the programs and activities provided for you by our church. As we call on all faithful of our Diocese to consistently support our youth and show them regular quality appreciation and godly examples.

Once again we congratulate you all wishing you a successful celebration and brighter future in Christ, The Perfect Man.

And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne to the only wise God be all glory honor and majesty now till the end of the age.

Your Father and Bishop,

+Nath, Aba Ngwa North.