

**CHURCH OF NIGERIA**  
*(ANGLICAN COMMUNION)*

**COMMUNIQUE OF DIOCESE OF ABA NGWA NORTH SECOND SESSION OF THE  
FOURTH SYNOD HELD AT ST. THOMAS CHURCH UMUAKPARA OSISIOMA NGWA  
ARCHDEACONRY IN OSISIOMA NGWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ABIA STATE  
FROM THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> TO SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017.**

**1.0 PREAMBLE**

The second session of the fourth synod of the Diocese of Aba Ngwa North held at St. Thomas Church Umuakpara in Osisioma Ngwa Archdeaconry from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> through Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of His Lordship Rt. Rev'd Nathan C. O. Kanu, Ph.D, JP with the thought provoking and challenging theme: ***“THE VENDING MACHINE GOD; WHO CHANGED THE GOSPEL? (Luke 9:23, Acts 14:22)***

**1.1 ATTENDANCE**

The following attended the synod; His Lordship, Rt.Rev'd Nathan C.O.Kanu Ph.D, JP, The president of Women Ministry, Princess (Mrs.) Odionyenfe Kanu (Mama Aba Ngwa North), the Chancellor, Hon. Justice OryZik –Ikeorha, other legal officers, the Clergy, Diocesan Officials, Council of Knights, Bishops Nominees, Synod delegates from parishes, and the Synod preacher, Rt. Rev Prof. Dapo Asaju Ph.D.

**2.0 HIGH LIGHTS**

2.1 The core highlights of the Synod were the special prayer session at Eke-Akpara Market Junction, the Bible study, the presidential address, the synod motion, and the appraisal of parish activities during the review period.

**2.2 THEME OF THE SYNOD**

This year's synod presented a thought provoking and challenging theme: ***“THE VENDING MACHINE GOD; WHO CHANGED THE GOSPEL?*** With the background texts *(Luke 9:2; Acts 14: 22)*.

**3.0 OBSERVATION**

3.1 The synod considered the theme apt and timely especially in view of the vicious distortions of the faith of our fathers that was once for all entrusted to the saints

3.2 Synod observes with dismay that the devil has infiltrated the church with another gospel i.e.the prosperityGospel, which puts man instead of God at the center of the Christian message of faith and Life.

3.3 Synod then agrees that the message of salvation is whole and entire. From inception, the gospel is and continues to be ***“No Cross, No Crown”***

**4.0. SYNOD MOTION**

4.1 It is a known, but troubling fact, that there has been a significantdegree of change and distortion in the nature of delivery and content of the gospel of Christ which was believedand proclaimed by the New Testament church and delivered to the saints.

4.2 The Gospel of salvation of human souls from the slavery of sin through the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal life in Him. This has been replaced with the prosperity Gospel, the crown without the cross, claim it and have it, a faith that produces a relationship centered on the satisfaction of man's demandsof blessing and fortune, thereby reducing God to a mere Vending Machine that must satisfy those demands or become irrelevant

4.3 The second session of the fourth synod of the Diocese of Aba Ngwa North therefore calls for a return to the faith of our Fathers that is anchored on the Redemption of our soulsand the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. The faith that prevails

through the realities of suffering, sacrifice and good work to the glory of God and the blessing of the church. The faith that believes that earthly blessing and fortunes are ad-ons that God gives as and when it pleases Him.

#### **5.0 STATE OF THE NATION**

- 5.1 The Synod salutes Nigerians on our 57<sup>th</sup> independence Anniversary and thanks God for the health recovery of the president His Excellency Muhammad Buhari and his war against corruption.
- 5.2 The Synod congratulates the Federal Government for managing the country as one despite all challenges. It urges all agitators to drop their tools while the Federal Government view the rate of agitators as a vocal call for effective restructuring of the country.
- 5.3 It also calls on our political leaders especially in the South East to effect a change of attitude towards governance and the welfare of our people.
- 5.4 The obvious fact of marginalization notwithstanding, the Synod believes that if the resources given to South East states are judiciously and equitably utilized, and properly accounted for, the rate of agitation will reduce.
- 5.5 The Synod calls on the National representatives in South East to work in synergy with home based politicians.
- 5.6 Synod commends the governor of Abia State, Dr. Victor Okezie Ikpeazu for his efforts, especially the promotion of Made in Aba goods and the expected economic growth in the state. However, the Synod urges him to take quite seriously the issue of workers' salaries and welfare for both serving and retired Civil servants
- 5.7 The synod calls the attention of the State and Osioma Local Government to the deplorable state of roads to St. Thomas Church Umuakpara especially the old Aba – Owerri Road and pleaded for rehabilitation.

#### **6.0 APPRECIATION**

- 6.1 The Synod thanks His Lordship, Rt. Revd. Nathan C.O. Kanu, Ph.D. and his amiable wife for the foresight in piloting the affairs of the Diocese.
- 6.2. Synod also appreciates the resource persons, particularly the synod preacher, The Rt. Rev'd Prof. Dapo Asaju, Ph.D, the Bishop Theologian of the Church of Nigeria.
- 6.3 The Synod congratulates the Central Planning Committee, the host Archdeaconry, the Clergy and Diocesan Secretariat for the supportiveness.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The synod posits that 'Enriching oneself at the detriment of the souls for which Christ died is a bomb which on explosion can only guarantee one a permanent place in hell" and so warns all to be well guided.



**Nath, Aba Ngwa North**