



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PROVINCE OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER, NIGERIA AND GHANA



EASTER MESSAGE

Dear Brothers,

Greetings and blessings of peace to you as we celebrate the victory of Christ over sin, despair, darkness, death, and the devil. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is not only the centre of our faith; it is the strength that sustains us in every circumstance of our lives and mission.

Pope Saint John Paul, II captures what should be our sentiments concerning the resurrection of our Lord when he said: "We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery — the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. 'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!' We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the 'fundamental duty of love of neighbor, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy" (John Paul, II, Angelus, Sunday, 30 November 1986).

Therefore, in a special way, I begin by recognising the courage of some of our brothers who are serving in difficult mission territories, where the burdens are often heavy. Brothers, who sometimes face isolation, uncertainty, insecurity, material hardship, and other forms of danger. I also hold close to my heart our brothers who are sick or experiencing any form of difficulty - be it physical, emotional, or spiritual. Some Brothers carry hidden struggles, weariness, discouragement, or the quiet and often imperceptible weight of glory. Please know that you are not forgotten. You are deeply loved, and your fidelity to your Dominican calling is a powerful witness to your faith in our Lord who the resurrection and life.

Our Lord is saying to each of us, "put your trust in me" and let me lead you on your journey. "I am the resurrection and the life...whoever believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). These are not distant words, dear Brothers. They are words meant for us in our individual realities. These words of our Lord should remind us that no situation, however difficult, is devoid of His presence. Christ, our Lord, is alive, and He walks with us all in our common mission of preaching, in our communities, in our solitudes, and in our struggles.

The promise of Easter assures us that the Lord is never absent, even when He seems silent. His presence is often hidden, but it is real, sustaining, and faithful: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). In moments of fatigue or doubt, may this promise be our strength. In times of darkness, may His light guide our steps.



Let us remember always, dear Brothers, that our vocation calls us not only to believe in the resurrection but to live it, that is, to become signs of hope for one another and for the people we serve. In our fraternity, may we continue to support, encourage, and care for one another, especially those who are most in need of our support. Let no brother feel alone. Let our communion be a living witness that Jesus Christ is truly risen in the midst of common struggles. Let us also hold firmly to the assurance of God's mercy: "With the Lord, there is mercy and fullness of redemption" (Psalm 130:7). Whatever we carry: our weaknesses, failures or fears, the Risen Lord meets us with mercy and invites us to begin again with hope that does not disappoint – spes non confundit (Rom. 5:5). The mystery of Easter is an invitation to us regardless of the depth of our wounds and brokenness, to live in the now of the Divine Will, and, to "remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence" (John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 1, 2000).

In the gospel, Jesus was moved by the human condition rooted in his love for Lazarus and he wept. Let us not forget that our Holy Father, Dominic was so moved by the human condition that he wept for sinners and his brethren. This is what love means, always willing the good of the other and weeping when that love is wounded, threatened or absent. Easter is an invitation to desire to welcome the risen Lord anew into our hearts, minds, and souls that we may rise with him. To rise with Christ, is to let love rise again. To rise with Christ is to rise with compassion and let the light of compassion shine through every darkness of discouragement and division. May that light heal every wound and bind us together with love. My Brothers in St. Dominic, your wounds are in the Wounds of Christ. May the resurrection enlighten us to see the Wounds of our Lord, in our wounds.

This Easter, I invite each of you to open your heart anew to Christ. Allow Him to renew your strength, deepen your joy, and rekindle your zeal for the mission entrusted to us by the Order and the Church. Even in the most challenging places, the light of the resurrection shines and, interestingly, this True Light, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, shines through you in our common and holy fraternity in St. Dominic, *lumen Ecclesiae* and *Doctor Veritatis*.

Finally, as we celebrate the victory of Christ over death, let us remember our brother Jude Mary-Njoku, who returned to the Lord on March 25, 2026, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of our Lord, that the ocean of God's abundant Mercy may wash him clean and that he be numbered among our Dominican brothers and sisters in heaven.

May the peace of the Risen Lord fill our hearts, strengthen our mission, and unite us ever more deeply as brothers.

Happy Easter! He is Risen!

Fraternally in St. Dominic,

fr. Dominic Eshikena, OP

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND COUNCIL MEETING



PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND COUNCIL MEETING

The Provincial Council had its inaugural meeting between Monday 8th February to Wednesday 10th February, 2026 at the Conference Room of the Provincial Secretariat, Dempsey House, St. Dominic Catholic Church, Yaba. The meeting was preceded by a Capacity building and orientation workshop facilitated by Br. MaryVin Ubili. The theme of the workshop was “The Prior Provincial, the Provincial Council, and Co responsibility.” The purpose of the workshop was to reflect on the practical application of the Constitutions and Ordinations of the Order (LCO) in the exercise of provincial governance, particularly in relation to the office of the Prior Provincial and the function of the Provincial Council, with a view to fostering authentic co-responsibility and avoiding excessive centralisation of authority, particularly the notion that “the provincial is in charge of everything.” There was an active participation from all council members, although some partook in the workshop virtually. This set the tone for the Council meeting which held on Tuesday and Wednesday.

From the outcome of the Provincial Council meeting, the Prior Provincial would like to communicate the creation of committees by the provincial and council with mandates to address specific issues. They are as follows:

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES

1. **Novitiate Permanent Site Relocation:** Novice Master - Chairman, Students' Master, Director of Development Office, Nigeria, Provincial Syndic, Director of Projects
2. **IAOP General Assembly Planning:** Prior of Ibadan (Chairman), Master of Students, Syndic of Ibadan, Socius of the Provincial, Victor Ogundipe, Richard Ogedengbe, Stephen Ogbe
3. **75th Anniversary Planning* (Anniversary of the Dominican Presence in Nigeria):** Dominic Mbomson (Chairman), Martin Aitsebaomo, Paschal Ugwu, Emmanuel Ogadah, Raymond Nwabueze, Lawrence Ejembi, Moses Ani.
4. **Provincial Land and Property Review:** Taiwo Oluyemi (Chairman), MaryVin Ubili, Emmanuel Adama, and Felix Unuesiri, OP – Provincial Syndic
5. **Benin Land Acquisition Review:** JohnMark Igboalisi and Peter Lawrence
6. **External Auditor Selection Committee:** Felix Unuesiri and MaryVin Ubili
7. **Verbum Networks Management Board:** Bonaventure Agbali (Chairman), Charles Onwordi, and Gabriel Abvenake
8. **Residences and House/Priory Strategic Development:** Oluyemi Taiwo (Chairman), MaryVin Ubili and Charles Onwordi.
9. **Provincial Book of Policies:** MaryVin Ubili, Sam Akalite, Oluyemi Taiwo (Chairman), Nathaniel Eshikena (to handle safeguarding Review).
10. **Mission Accountability Policy Drafting:** Vicar for North America (Chairman), Director of Development Office, USA, Benedict Faneye
11. **Reorganisation of the Former Provincial Secretariat:** Clement Uzoanya, Paul Chukwu and Fidelis Ashibeshibe.
12. **Alaro Property Review:** Br Felix Unuesiri OP and Br Charles Onwordi OP
13. **Provincial Newsletter Editorial Board:** Eric Aboagye, Raphael Ameh and Provincial Secretary

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND COUNCIL MEETING

APPOINTMENTS BY MO

- Br Nathaniel Eshikena appointed the Permanent Multidisciplinary Commission of the Order on Safeguarding.
- Br. Charles Onwordi appointed to the Commission for Permanent Formation of the Order.

Other Information

- Br. Chukwudi Anoliefo assigned to St. Dominic Priory, Yaba
- The Prior Provincial participated at the Workshop for New Provincials in Rome in the month of March
- The 2026 directory is being reviewed and shall be published upon its completion.
- The official identity card of the brothers of the Province is being reviewed.
- Creation of Institutional e-mail (Gmail) accounts for all Provincial officials/Directors of Provincial projects is underway.

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY (Second Quarter):

- a. Next Provincial Council Meeting: 22nd - 23rd April, 2026
- b. Benefactors' Day of the SVS: 25th April, 2026
- c. 75th Jubilee Anniversary at the local level: 1st May, 2026
- d. Virtual Meeting with all Pastors/Chaplains: 25th May, 2026
- e. Provincial Council Meeting: June
- f. Mid-Year Ongoing Formation Week (for Brothers 10-20 Years in Vows): 9th June 2026
- g. Canonical Visitation to the Communities in Ghana: July.

IN MEMORY OF BR. JUDE-MARY NJOKU OP.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

REQUIEM MASS

Date: Thursday, 16 April, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM
Venue: St. Dominic Catholic Church, Yaba
(Body moves to St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Samonda, Ibadan.)
4:00 PM – Reception of the body at Samonda

WAKE KEEP

Date: Thursday, 16 April, 2026
Time: 5:00 PM
Venue: St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Samonda, Ibadan

FUNERAL MASS

Date: Friday, 17 April, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM
Venue: St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Samonda, Ibadan
(Interment at the Provincial Cemetery immediately after Mass)



Fr. Jude-Mary NJOKU, O.P.
(September 24, 1954 – March 25, 2026)

May the soul of Fr. Jude-Mary Njoku and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Rev. Fr. Jude Mary Chukwuemeka Njoku OP was born on the 24th day of September 1954 to the family of late Mr. Michael Njoku and Monican Iheoma Njoku from Amuzi in Ahiazu Mbaise LGA in the Catholic Diocese of Ahiara, Imo State Nigeria. He was received into the Dominican Novitiate on the 14th of August 1983 along with nine other classmates. He made his simple profession of vows on 14th August 1984 and completed his basic studies in Philosophy and Theology at the Ss. Peter and Paul Major Seminary, Bodija Ibadan.

He was received into final profession of religious vows on the 12th of August 1989 and with a special permission from the then Vice Provincial, Jude was ordained a priest at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Amuzi on August 3, 1991. "Igwe", as his Dominican brothers fondly called him, had his first assignment at Yelwa Yauri in the Kebbi state of today where he labored assiduously among the local population. From there was assigned to Our Lady of Fatima Parish Gusau in the present day Zamfara state. In 1994, he was transferred to the St. Paul's Catholic Church, Oygbo Rivers state from where he was then assigned to the St. Dominic's Catholic Church Yaba Lagos in the summer of 1998. For many years, he was the guest master of the community and he welcomed every friar with love and respect. He had his longest stint of apostolic stewardship at St. Dominic's Yaba until the last quarter of 2023 when he was reassigned to the St. Thomas Aquinas Priory in Ibadan. He remained in Ibadan until early 2025 when ill health necessitated his regular visits to Lagos for medical checkups. However, around June of 2025, it became imperative that he needed to move back to Yaba Lagos so his health could be monitored more closely. On March 24th 2026, he suffered a stroke and was rushed to the hospital around 10pm. He received the last sacrament from the Prior of the community Fr. Emmanuel Ogadah OP surrounded by his confreres who were by his bedside praying for him. At around 7.30am on March 25th 2026, Friar Jude Mary peacefully submitted his soul to God and his body to death.

He will be remembered for his joyful disposition, his regular visits to the chapel and his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Though "Igwe" did not really enjoy sound health both mentally and physically for much of his life on earth, he had a zeal for God and discharged his tasks dutifully. It is our prayers that the Lord may grant him forgiveness of sins and peace and a place among the angels and saints on his journey back home. May God be with you till we meet again, beloved brother. Adieu !!!

(As compiled by Br. Paschal Ugwu OP.)

Canonical Visitation of St Joseph's Priory, Mafoluku



The Prior Provincial visited the St. Catherine's clinic and engaged with various groups connected with the priory's apostolate. These included meetings with the Parish Pastoral and Church Council as well as the Dominican Young Heart Movement (DYHM) and the members of the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters. The visitation concluded with a meeting of the entire community, during which the Prior Provincial offered his observations, encouragement, and fraternal guidance.

In keeping with the provisions of the LCO no. 340, the Prior Provincial carried out a canonical visitation of the community of St Joseph's Priory, Mafoluku, in February 2026. The visitation formed part of his pastoral responsibility to strengthen fraternal life, review the apostolic commitments of the community, and encourage the brothers in their common observance and mission.



The canonical visitation provided a valuable moment of reflection and renewal for the community of St Joseph's Priory, Mafoluku, strengthening the bonds of fraternity and reaffirming the shared commitment of the brothers to the preaching mission of the Order.

A REPORT ON THE RESUMPTION OF THE PRE-NOVICES

On **Wednesday, 28 January**, St. Thomas Aquinas Priory warmly received eleven pre-novices who arrived from different parts of the province to begin their basic formation in our beloved Order. Among the eleven brothers, eight are Nigerians, two hail from Ghana and one is a Zambian. These brothers are currently taking courses in basic catechism, English and French. They are also being initiated gradually into the fabric of religious life. At present, Fr. Paul Akpomie serves as the director of pre-novices, pending the resumption of Fr. Joshua Abuh who was appointed by the last provincial chapter.

Pre-Novices

1. Emmanuel Enemona Ademu - Nigerian
2. Dennis Palvin Baidoo - *Ghanaian*
3. Chibuikem Stephen Bernard - *Nigerian*
4. Frankduff Chinedum Gbulie - *Nigerian*
5. Moses Stanford Kangwa - *Zambian*
6. Theophilus Akwasi Lumor - *Ghanaian*
7. Joseph Stephen Odey - *Nigerian*
8. Wisdom Chigozie Okoh - *Nigerian*
9. Chekwube Jovita Omeh - *Nigerian*
10. Obiechina Paschal Omeje - *Nigerian*
11. Victor Francis Osigbeme - *Nigerian*

A REPORT ON THE INSTALLATION OF LECTORS AND ACOLYTES

On **Friday, 27 February** and **Saturday, 28 February**, some student brothers were installed into the ministries of Lector and Acolyte respectively. These epochal events took place at St. Thomas Aquinas Priory Chapel, Samonda, Ibadan. The prior provincial, **Fr. Dominic Eshikena, OP** was the chief celebrant at the Eucharistic celebrations within which the installations occurred and conferred both ministries. In his homily on both occasions, he charged the brothers to embrace their new ministries with a sense of urgency and diligence.



The Newly Installed Lectors

1. Bro. ThankGod Abah, OP
2. Bro. Fidelis Agala, OP
3. Bro. Peter Alechenu, OP
4. Bro. Emmanuel Ezea, OP
5. Bro. Lawrence Ibe, OP
6. Bro. Arinze Ndidigwe, OP
7. Bro. Chukwudi Nosike, OP
8. Bro. Augustine Omang, OP
9. Bro. Elvis Sylvester, OP
10. Bro. James-Austine Wonah, OP
11. Bro. Joshua Ugwu, OP
12. Bro. Stanley Okeahalam, MC



The Newly Installed Acolytes

1. Bro. Bismark Nadaakogh, OP
2. Bro. Godfred Quainoo, OP
3. Bro. Junias-Mario Ajunwa, OP
4. Bro. Pius Igben, OP
5. Bro. Augustine Onwuzurigbo, OP

75 Years of Grace

Celebrating the Jubilee Anniversary

Dear Brothers,

Grace and peace in the Lord.

Preparations are officially underway for a monumental milestone: **75th Anniversary (Jubilee) of Dominican presence** in the province.

Recently, the Anniversary Committee (comprising Brs. Dominic Mbomson, Paschal Ugwu, Martin Aitsebaomo, Raymond Nwabueze, Lawrence Ejembi, Moses Ani and Emmanuel Ogadah) met to design a meaningful and inclusive Celebration. The following approved highlights for the upcoming Jubilee are hereby communicated:

JUBILEE HIGHLIGHTS & PLANS



Schedule of Events: Local & Central Celebrations

The Jubilee will be celebrated on two distinct levels, allowing every brother to experience the joy of this milestone:

- **May 1st (Local Celebrations):** Every community and parish is encouraged to host a local commemoration, tailored to the unique context of each community.
- **July 17th–18th (Central Celebration):** The central celebration will take place during the July ordinations. A symbolic Jubilee gathering is scheduled for July 17th, leading into the Jubilee Ordination and a grand fraternal reception on July 18th.



Involvement of the Dominican Family

This Jubilee encompasses the entire Dominican Family. All Dominican entities within the Province will be formally invited to join the festivities. Official notifications will be distributed soon, requesting relevant historical information and the designation of contact persons to collaborate closely with the Anniversary Committee.



Commemorative Items: Directory & Jubilee Attire

To capture the present demographic of the Province, an updated Pictorial Directory will be produced, building on the legacy of the 2001 50th Anniversary edition. Additionally, an exclusive branded Jubilee T-shirt will be provided as part of the commemorations.



Reflecting on the Province's History

To support the May 1st local celebrations, a comprehensive PowerPoint Presentation chronicling the vibrant history of the Province is currently in preparation. This resource will be distributed to all local communities to guide and inspire shared reflections.

A Call for Active Participation

Given the significance of this Jubilee and the limited time before the scheduled dates, every brother and community is encouraged to actively participate and cooperate fully with the Anniversary Committee.

Further guidelines will be communicated in due course. Gratitude is extended for the continued prayers and fraternal collaboration as preparations are made to celebrate this extraordinary moment in the life of the Province.

fr. Paschal Ugwu, OP

Committee Secretary

📞 08032204969

fr. Dominic Mbomson, OP

Committee Chairman

📞 08058984045

ONE-YEAR MEMORIAL

Bishop Ayo-Maria Atoyebi, OP,- Emeritus Bishop of Ilorin

A SOLEMN EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

THE GATHERING

The Faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Ilorin together with members of the Dominican Order, Province of St Joseph the Worker, Nigeria and Ghana and well-wishes gathered to mark the first anniversary of the passing of Ayo-Maria Atoyebi- the Emeritus bishop of Ilorin. The Holy Mass was marked by deep reverence, gratitude and prayerful remembrance of a life wholly dedicated to God and His Church.

DOMINICAN BROTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Br. Paul Akpomie OP
- Br. Emmanuel Ogu OP
- Br. Daniel Olofu OP
- Br. Peter Olu-Oni OP
- Br Callistus Iheme OP
- Br Jude Mbukanma OP

THE HOMILY

In his homily, Br. Paul Akpomie reflected on the saintly life of the late bishop. Drawing from personal experience, he highlighted Bishop Ayo-Maria's humility – especially evident in his decision to return to live in the community with his Dominican brothers after his retirement. Despite age and frailty, he remained a model of prayer, wisdom, and fraternal charity.

Br. Paul reminded the faithful that the late bishop's life was a concrete witness to the Gospel values of simplicity, service, and steadfast faith. He urged all present to emulate these virtues in their daily lives, and called on the people of God to continue praying for the repose of his soul, entrusting him to God's mercy.



Provincial Canonical Visitation to Iba Community

Immaculate Heart Community, Iba / February 14-16, 2026



The Provincial Canonical Visitation to the Immaculate Heart Community, Iba, took place from 14th to 16th February 2026. As this was his first canonical visitation since assuming office, it can be considered a very significant step in his administration.

During the visitation, he met with the brothers of the community, the Parish Pastoral Council(PPC), the Parish Laity Council(PLC), and the members of the Dominican Young Heart Movement (DYHM). He also presided at the two Sunday morning Masses on 15th February. The visitation concluded with his departure from the community on 16th February.

The brothers of the community, together with the entire parish community, hereby express their profound gratitude for his fatherly presence, encouragement, and pastoral care.

DYHM @25: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AT NACON 2025

The 10th National Congress (NACON) of the Dominican Young Hearts Movement was held at Dominican University Ibadan from 9–15 September 2025, gathering members from Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Rivers, Zamfara, and Anambra. The week was marked by intense spiritual activities, including the Holy Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and a Rosary procession, which deepened the members' spiritual life and commitment to the Dominican way.

There were also talks presented by Fr. Fedrick Obanaya, OP; Fr. Alex Okondugba, OP; Fr. Victor Ogundipe, OP; Fr. Francis Chiadi, OP; and Fr. Paul Apkomie, OP. An interactive session was held with Fr. Modestus Ngwu, OP, the then Prior Provincial, as well as with members of the Lay Dominican Fraternity. Social events such as sports, a picnic, and an excursion to the Dominican Farm were also organized. A key highlight was DYHM @ 25 in the Province, revealing an enduring commitment to the Dominican charism. The celebration was adorned with cultural exhibitions.



Following the Dominican rigor of election, the Congress elected Miriam Achunulo (National Coordinator), Chukwudi Osademe (Deputy), Patricia Anyanwu (Scribe), and Mary-Cynthia Igwilo (Syndic). At the Congress, the appointment of councilors was also made: Chukwudera Amarachi (Media & Social Communication) and Joseph Akpoduado (Formation).

To mark the end of electing a friar, Fr. Raphael Ameh, OP, gave a highlight on the petition to be sent to the Eight Chapter of the Brothers for the appointment of a friar to serve DYHM as Promoter/Religious Assistant.

Overall, NACON 2025 was a successful moment of renewal, strengthening communal bonds and helping young lay Dominicans live more deeply the hallmarks of creativity, spirituality, and interaction, with hearts aflame with the truth of Christ. Hearts Aflame! With the Truth!



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH, GUSAU

Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Gusau, marks its 70th anniversary this year. As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, plans are underway to remodel the parish church. A committee to coordinate the jubilee activities and oversee the proposed project has been constituted and was formally inaugurated by the Pastor, Rev. Fr. Godwin Nkop, O.P., with the jubilee banner unveiled on 1 March 2026.

Brothers are warmly invited to take part in this significant milestone. Suggestions and support toward the realization of the remodelling project are welcome, especially through benefactors and people of goodwill both at home and abroad.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gusau, Zamfara State
Catholic Diocese of Sokoto

70TH ANNIVERSARY LAUNCHING FOR CHURCH REMODELLING PROJECT
THEME: **"Building for the Future, Rooted in Faith"**
(Haggai 1:8)

ACCOUNT NAME: OLFCC GUSAU ZAMFARA NEW CHURCH PROJECT
ACCOUNT NUMBER: **1961176801**
BANK: **ACCESS BANK**

SPONSORSHIP CATEGORIES
♦ **DIAMOND SPONSORS** (₦20million and Above)
♦ **GOLD SPONSORS** (₦10million - ₦19.99million)
♦ **SILVER SPONSORS** (₦5million - ₦9.99million)
♦ **BRONZE SPONSORS** (₦1million - ₦4.99million)

YOU CAN ALSO SUPPORT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
- CEMENT - RODS - BLOCKS
- TILES - PRINTS - STORES (HOWO)

Scheduled to take place as follows:
Date: October, 2026
Time: 9:00am
Venue: Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church Gusau

FOR ENQUIRY NUMBER
08066033795
08036917466
08035332952

SUPPORT IN BUILDING THE CHURCH

MOST REV. DR. MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH
CATHOLIC BISHOP OF SOKOTO
CHIEF GUEST REV. FR. GODWIN TENKAT NKOP, OP
PARISH PRIEST OLF
HOST RHC DR. RAYMOND NWIKE KSG
CHAIRMAN
PLANNING COMMITTEE



OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gusau, Zamfara State
Catholic Diocese Of Sokoto

Cordially invite the pleasure of

To her

70th ANNIVERSARY (PLATINUM JUBILEE) & LAUNCHING FOR CHURCH REMODELLING PROJECT
THEME: **"Building for the Future, Rooted in Faith"**
(Haggai 1:8)

Scheduled to take place as follows:
16th May, 2026 9:00AM
Venue: Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church Gusau

EXISTING CHURCH **PROPOSED CHURCH**

FEATURING:
★ Mass Wedding
★ Confirmation
★ Launching for the Church Remodelling Project
★ Anniversary Thanksgiving
★ Cultural Display

Account Name: OLFCC GUSAU ZAMFARA NEW CHURCH PROJECT
Account Number: 1961176801
Access Bank

MOST REV. DR. MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH
Catholic Bishop of Sokoto
CHIEF HOST REV. FR. GODWIN TENKAT NKOP, OP
PARISH PRIEST OLF
HOST RHC DR. RAYMOND NWIKE KSG
CHAIRMAN
PLANNING COMMITTEE



Cultural Day

The Dominican Nursery and Primary School, Mafoluku, Lagos, joyfully celebrated its Cultural Day Ceremony on the 17th of February, 2026. This special occasion brought together pupils, parents, staff, and distinguished guests to showcase and appreciate the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and diversity of our school community.



"We celebrate unity, learning, and the beauty of our various cultures through music, dance, food, and dress."

Provincial Canonical Visitation to Immaculate Heart Community, Iba

14 – 16 February 2026

A SIGNIFICANT VISIT

The Provincial Canonical Visitation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Community, Iba, took place from 14th to 16th February 2026. As this was the first canonical visitation since the Provincial assumed office, it marks a very significant milestone in his administration — a moment of renewed communion between the province and the local community.

MOMENTS OF ENCOUNTER

During the visitation, the Provincial met with the brothers of the community, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), the Parish Laity Council (PLC), and members of the Dominican Young Heart Movement (DYHM). He also had the joy of presiding at the two Sunday morning Masses on 15th February, uniting the whole parish in worship.

"The brothers of the community, together with the entire parish community, express their profound gratitude for his fatherly presence, encouragement, and pastoral care."

— IHM COMMUNITY, IBA · FEBRUARY 2026

A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY

The visitation concluded with the Provincial's departure from the community on 16th February. The brothers and the entire parish family take this opportunity to express their heartfelt thanks. His presence among us was not merely administrative — it was pastoral and paternal. We are grateful for his time, his listening ear, and his encouragement as we continue our Dominican mission of preaching and service in Iba.



First LDF Provincial general assembly with Pat Utomi 2025



Burial of the oldest Lay Dominican Pa Nwokike Francis in Awka 14th Feb 2025



Burial of the oldest Lay Dominican Pa Nwokike Francis in Awka 14th Feb 2025



First LDF Provincial general assembly with Pat Utomi 2025



HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE

HOLY INFANT CATHOLIC CHURCH

In early February, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), through its President, Archbishop Paul Coakley, called on Catholics in the country to pray for peace by observing a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction. The call came about due to the Federal Government's immigration crackdown through the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Holy Hour for Peace was to be held in every parish in the country in the month of February. The Holy Hour for Prayer was held at Holy Infant Church in Manchester, PA, on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed, the Holy Rosary was prayed, two Scriptural readings were taken, followed by a reflection from me.

The theme of the reflection is peace (Excerpts from the reflection follow). Peace is not the mere absence of war. St. Thomas Aquinas explicitly states that peace is a harmonious state in which desires, appetites, and wills are united in a common, virtuous purpose. Peace, for St. Thomas, is a positive, active, and spiritual state rooted in charity and justice, ultimately leading to a peaceful rest in God's goodness. To the extent that peace is an act of charity (love of God and neighbour), it is nurtured by actions that unite rather than divide. In essence, peace is the right ordering of everything so that the human will is directed to God. Therefore, peace is achieved through a right relationship with God and the neighbour.

It's very easy to be less hopeful for peace in our world with the start of war and hostilities against Iran, instigated by the United States and Israel. In this unpredictable environment, the words of Pope Leo XIV on Ash Wednesday offer us guidance, hope, and strength.

Pope Leo XIV said, ashes speak with renewed force. The Ashes carry "the weight of a world that is ablaze, of entire cities destroyed by war," as well as "the ashes of international law and justice among peoples, the ashes of entire ecosystems and harmony among peoples, the ashes of critical thinking and ancient local wisdom, (and) the ashes of that sense of the sacred that dwells in every creature."

Yet acknowledging these ashes is not a surrender to despair. Rather, it is a confession of hope. Bearing the Holy Father's message in mind, we must always remember that "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Rom 5:5).

Fr. Olusola Adewole, O.P.

Holy Infant Catholic Church, Manchester, Pennsylvania

DOMINICAN COLLEGE, ABUJA



DOMINICAN COLLEGE ABUJA BECOMES ABUJA FRENCH CHAMPIONS AGAIN.

While some students were competing physically in the school, others were competing mentally and intellectually in the city of Abuja. The Awesome students of Dominican College eventually emerged the overall best in The Glowing Age Academy French Spelling Bee competition. They were awarded a cash prize of One hundred thousand (100,000) Naira and were warmly received by all the students, staff and proud parents who were eagerly awaiting their arrival.

DOMINICAN COLLEGE, ABUJA

DOMINICAN COLLEGE ABUJA HOLDS HER SECOND INTER-HOUSE SPORTS COMPETITION.



It was an awesome scenery of energetic and intelligent display of sportsmanship and competitiveness as Dominican College Students, together with their parents and teachers competed in various sports. The event recorded a huge success as Red House emerged the overall winners of the competition.



Veritas et Servitium

DOMINICAN COLLEGE, ABUJA

...an Ultramodern Catholic Coeducational Boarding School

OUR FACILITIES

- Spacious Classrooms
- Updated Library
- Excellent Sports Facilities
- Well-equipped Laboratories
- Qualitative Staff
- Seasoned Security Guards
- Ambulance
- Well-equipped School Clinic
- 24/7 Electricity for Learning
- Well Equipped ICT/Coding Laboratory
- Serene Environment

APPLY NOW



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ADMISSION STILL ONGOING

INTO JSS 1 – SS 2

**ONLINE/OFFLINE
ENTRANCE
EXAMINATION -**

CENTRES

**DOMINICAN
COLLEGE, ABUJA
KWALI**

**ST. ALOYSIUS
SCHOOL GARKI,
AREA 3**

DATES

**SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH, 2026
SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 2026**

**SATURDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2026
SATURDAY, 25TH JULY, 2026**

**SATURDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 2026
SATURDAY, 15TH AUGUST, 2026**



DOMINICAN COLLEGE, MAFOLUKU

Academic Foundations

- Staff Training: Teachers opened the term with a workshop on "Professional Communication for Effective Service Delivery."
- Assessments: Following an Opening Mass on Jan 12th, students completed Resumption Tests. Midterm Tests ran from Feb 12th-17th, concluded by an Open Day on Feb 20th.
- SSS3 News: Our seniors successfully completed their Second Mock Exams (March 9th-13th) in preparation for the SSCE.



Skill Acquisition (Every Wednesday)

The Entrepreneurship Programme continues to empower students with practical vocational training in:

- Coding & Phone Repair
- Painting, Bead Making & Makeover
- Barbing & Shoe Making



Spiritual & Moral Growth

- Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jan 29th): A seminar themed "Youth, Freedom, and Responsibility" was led by Friar Jonah Ari, OP, and the Society for Women Engineers.
- Provincial Visitation: On Ash Wednesday (Feb 18th), the Provincial celebrated Mass and held a supportive meeting with staff.

Sports & Life

- Inter-House Sports: The "Heat" sessions kicked off on Feb 10th, displaying excellent teamwork and athletic talent.
- Resumption: After the midterm break, all students returned on March 2nd.
- "Training the Head, the Heart, and the Hands."



DOMINICAN NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL MAFOLUKU

ACADEMIC FOCUS

Teaching and learning followed the approved scheme of work and the Catholic school calendar in harmony with the Lagos State Government calendar. Basic Six pupils took part in the All-Catholic Schools Mock Examination in preparation for their final Basic 6 exams. Second Term Examinations held from 10th to 25th March 2026.



CO-CURRICULAR AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Pupils participated in skill acquisition programmes, catechism classes, swimming lessons, and weekly club activities every Wednesday. Tuesdays and Thursdays were observed as Montessori Days, promoting hands-on learning, creativity, and independence. The school also introduced **Robotics AI and SIMA Abacus** classes to build critical thinking and practical skills.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS

The highlight of the term was Cultural Day held on 17th February 2026, where pupils showcased Nigeria's rich heritage through traditional attire, performances, and exhibitions. The school also marked Valentine's Day, with parents sending snacks and drinks for pupils to share in a spirit of love and friendship.





DOMINICAN SCHOOLS, OYIGBO

(Nursery, Primary and Secondary)

legacy of excellence

Dominican Schools, Oyigbo, is a co-educational day and boarding school comprising the Nursery/Primary and Secondary sections. It was established in September 2006. This year, we will celebrate the School's 20th anniversary. We have experienced growth in all aspects, with much potential for future development. Our vision is to be a leading institution in holistic education for the transformation of the human person and the society in the best Catholic Dominican tradition.

Over the years, the School has made significant progress in education. We remain dedicated to the Dominican model of education, as outlined in our mission to offer total quality education for excellence in character and learning, incorporating the 3H elements that define Dominican Education: formation of the Head (intellect) with academic values, formation of the Heart (will) with moral and spiritual values, and formation of the Hands (skills) with practical, productive values.

Newsletter Editorial Desk

For the next publication, send contents, texts, and images for publication to the newsletter editorial board via e-mail: **provincialesecretariatop@gmail.com** on or before the 2nd week of June, 2026.

Contents for the newsletter could centre on the lives of the brethren, engagements in different apostolates, short articles, achievements and profiles of apostolates, anniversaries and any other relevant educative piece.

Suggestions or corrections may be sent through the above email address.

