



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY, NIGERIA

28TH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

THEME:

“HOLDING TRUE TO OUR COMMITMENTS

AS LEADERS

OF A PIOUS SOCIETY [ACTS 2:42]

**FRIDAY, 11TH - SUNDAY 13TH
AUGUST, 2023 | AVE MARIA CITY,
SAGAMU, OGUN STATE**

HOST: LAGOS PROVINCE

SIR (DR) GODWIN UKEL
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

REV. FR. DOMINIC MBOMSON, OP
NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

REV. FR. ALEXANDER OBOH
PROVINCIAL CHAPLAIN



Shrine of St Jude Located at St. Jude Catholic Church, Wasimi, Abeokuta Diocese



Cross section of Pilgrims at 2022 Lagos Provincial Pilgrimage



National Chaplain Rev Fr Dominic Mbomson, OP with Delegates to Lagos Archdiocesan Council meeting held at Blessed Tansi Catholic Church, Magbon, Ijanikin Deanery



Pilgrims at the year 2023 Lagos Provincial Pilgrimage held at St. Jude Shrine, Wasimi, Abeokuta Diocese



2023 Lagos Provincial Pilgrimage held at St. Jude Shrine, Wasimi, Abeokuta Diocese



St. Jude devotees at the 2023 Provincial Pilgrimage



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Sponsored by- Mrs. Ngozi Igumah & Family



BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Sponsored by- Mrs. Ngozi Igumah & Family

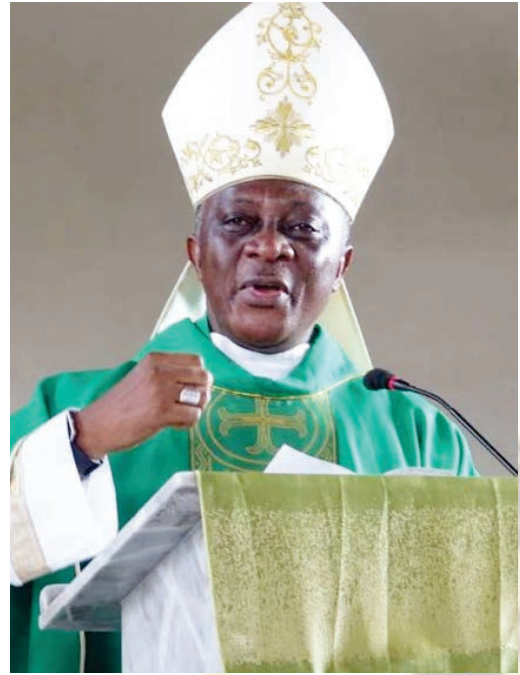


ST. JUDE THADDEUS

Sponsored by- Mr & Mrs Charles Nwachukwu



POPE FRANCIS



**HIS GRACE, MOST REV. DR.
ALFRED ADEWALE MARTINS**
ARCHBISHOP OF THE METROPOLITAN SEE OF LAGOS

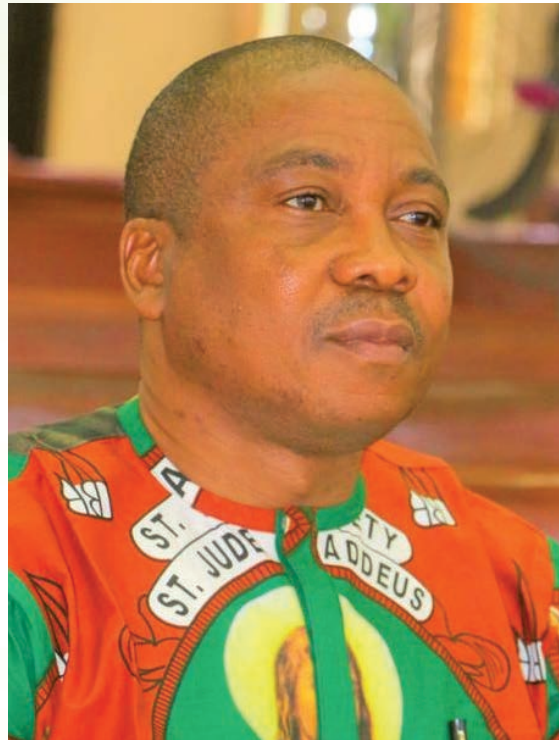


**MOST REV. FRANCIS
OBAFEMI ADESINA**
BISHOP, IJEBU - ODE DIOCESE



**MOST REV. DR. PETER
OLUKAYODE ODETOYINBO**
BISHOP, ABEOKUTA DIOCESE

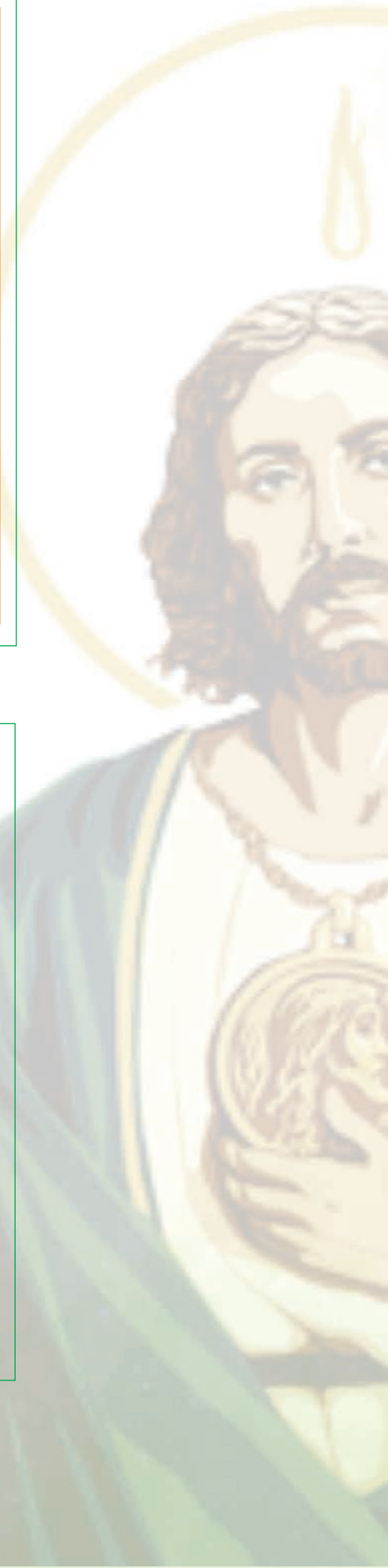
Sponsored by-
Sir & Lady Michael Phil-Ebosie (KSJI)



SIR (DR) GODWIN UKEL
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



REV. FR. DOMINIC MBOMSON, OP
NATIONAL CHAPLAIN





REV. FR. ALEXANDER OBOH
CHAPLAIN, LAGOS ARCHDIOCESE/ PROVINCIAL CHAPLAIN



REV. FR. MICHAEL ELOGIE
CHAPLAIN, IJEBU - ODE DIOCESE



REV. FR. CHRISTIAN EHIMEN USIFO
CHAPLAIN, ABEOKUTA DIOCESE

Sponsored by- Mr & Mrs Magnus Nwoko



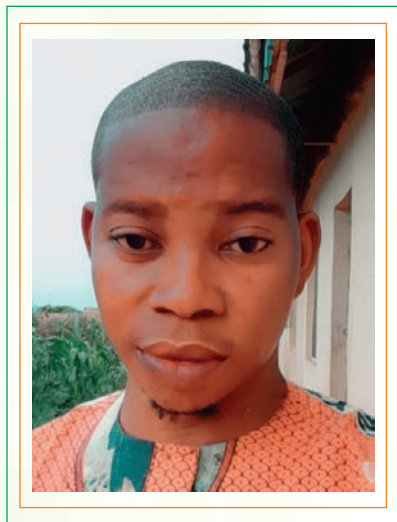
PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVES



BRO. ROMANUS ONYEULOR
President



MRS. ASSUMPTA OPARA
Vice - President



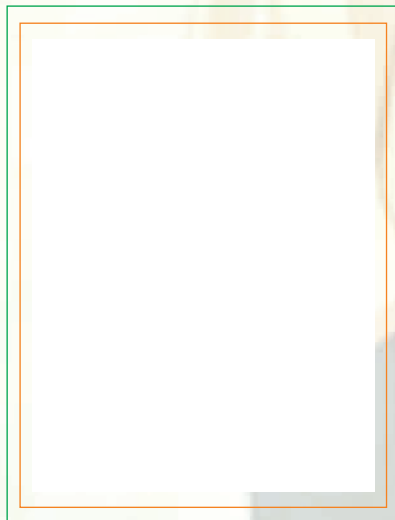
BRO. USMAN JOSEPH
Secretary



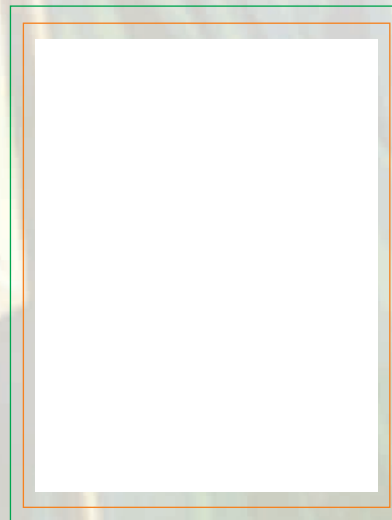
BRO. AUSTIN OKOLO
Asst. Secretary



MISS ESTHER UNUKPO
Fin. Sec



BRO. JUDE ONAH
Promoter



BRO. JUDE OGUNS
PRO



BRO. JUDE ONUGEH OTHUKE
PRESIDENT, LAGOS ARCHDIOCESE



LADY WINIFRED PHIL - EBOSIE (LSJI)
PRESIDENT, ABEOKUTA DIOCESE/PROVINCIAL TREASURER



BRO. KEVIN DONATUS
PRESIDENT, IJEBU - ODE DIOCESE



**WELCOME ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE LAGOS PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF
ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY PRESIDENT MR ROMANUS I. ONYEULOR
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY HOSTED BY LAGOS PROVINCE AND HOLDING AT CITY OF
IMMACULATE (AVE MARIA) CENTER, SAGAMU, OGUN STATE ON 12TH AUGUST, 2023.**

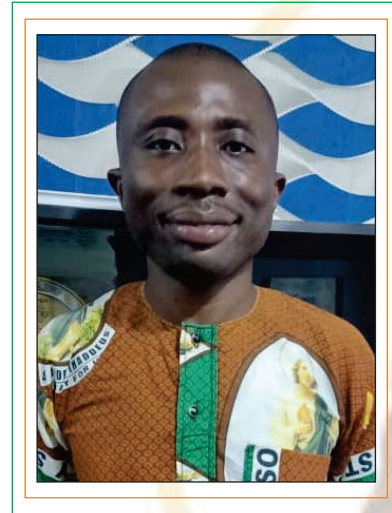
The Archbishop, Metropolitan of Lagos Ecclesiastical Province **Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, DD**
National Chaplain National Council of St. Jude Catholic Society **Rev. Fr. Dominic Mbomson, OP**
Former National Chaplain National Council of St. Jude Catholic Society **Rev. Fr. Peter Ochang**
Provincial Chaplain Lagos Provincial Council of St. Jude Catholic Society **Rev. Fr. Alexander Oboh**
Diocesan Chaplain, Ijebu-Ode Diocesan Council of St. Jude Catholic Society **Rev. Fr. Michael Elogie**
All Chaplains, Priests and Religious here present.
The National President National Council of St. Jude Catholic Society **Dr. Godwin Ukel, KSM**
Former National President National Council of St. Jude Catholic Society **Barr. Godwin Onah**
Members of the National Executive Council
Provincial Council Presidents here present
Archdiocesan/Diocesan Council Presidents
Delegates of the 2023 National Council AGM
Members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen

My Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.

It gives me great pleasure and sense of fulfilment on behalf of the Executives and entire members of the Lagos Ecclesiastical Provincial Council of St. Jude Catholic Society to welcome you to this auspicious event. A lot of us here travelled from a far place to attend today's event, to you I say a particular welcome.

We are highly elated and privilege to be the host of the 2023 National Council of St. Jude Catholic Society AGM as well as being the first province to host the new National Chaplain - Rev. Fr. Dominic Mbomson, OP. Lagos Province has always been a front - liner in the activities of the National Council both within and beyond the Country, therefore it is no gain saying and re-assuring that we are going to be a good host.

My utmost gratitude goes to Almighty God and to the National Council Executives ably led by Dr. Godwin Ukel, KSM for giving us the privilege to host this year's event. Our gratitude also goes to the Lagos Archdiocesan Council President Mr Jude Othuke Onugeh, Abeokuta Diocesan Council President Mrs Phil-Ebosie Ifeoma Winifred and the Ijebu-Ode Diocesan Council President Mr Kevin Donatus for their unflinching support, passion and care. We also in a special way use this medium to thank and appreciate our Archbishop, Metropolitan of Lagos Ecclesiastical Province His Grace Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins for the appointment of our new Provincial Chaplain –



Rev. Fr. Alexander Oboh. We are very grateful.

Our debt of gratitude also goes to all the Archdiocesan/Diocesan Chaplains in the Province for their concern, support, advice, guidance and involvement in making sure that we achieve the expectation of being a good host. The purpose of the Annual General Meeting cannot be overemphasized. We are all aware of the reason for our gathering here today and I therefore urge you to be broadminded towards the activities of today so that we can become more committed in our different Provinces, Archdioceses, Dioceses, Deaneries and Parishes as the Church enjoined us.

The AGM theme "Holding True to our Commitments as Leaders of a Pious Society (Acts 2:42) is just a great reminder of our role as leaders in our different areas of responsibility in the Society. As we begin with this goal setting exercise, let us be open and attend to the working of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be empowered to nurture the seed of evangelisation of our patron saint Jude Thaddeus to the glory of God the Father whose grace is always available and sufficient for us to do our task.

Once again, welcome to Lagos Ecclesiastical Province, feel at home, relax and enjoy the days deliberations while wishing you safe trip back home to your different destinations.

Thank you very much and remain blessed.

St. Jude Thaddeus pray for us and for all who invoke thy aid



**AN ADDRESS BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT
AT THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/NEC MEETING
OF ST. JUDE THADDEAUS SOCIETY IN NIGERIA HOSTED
BY LAGOS PROVINCE AND HELD AT AVE MARIA CITY, SHAGAMU, OGUN STATE**

On behalf of the national executive council of St. Jude Society, I warmly welcome all present to the 2023 Annual General Meeting/NEC meeting of St. Jude Thaddeaus Society. It is a thing of joy to be have a period set aside for delegates from across the country to converge in prayerful mood and also listen to talks and to deliberate on the activities of the Society.

Annual General meeting is an event during which an account of stewardship is presented to members and a review is made of previous activities while a plan is developed for the future.

ELECTION/INAUGURATION

The election of the present executive council held during the last national convention at Mt. Carmel, Ogoja on the 24th of August 2022 with the following elected and appointed officers;

ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICERS

1. President - **Bro. Godwin Ukel, Ph.D, KSM**
2. 1st vice president - **Bro. Tunde Oni**
3. 2nd vice president - **Bro. Patrick Azu**
4. Assistant Secretary - **Bro. Usman Joseph**
5. Financial Secretary - **Sister Cecilia Jabe**
6. Treasurer - **Sister Justina Okosun**
7. Publicity Secretary - **Bro. Jude Othuke**
8. Welfare Officer - **Sister Felicia Akan**
9. Provost - **Sister Cecilia Joseph**

APPOINTED NATIONAL OFFICERS

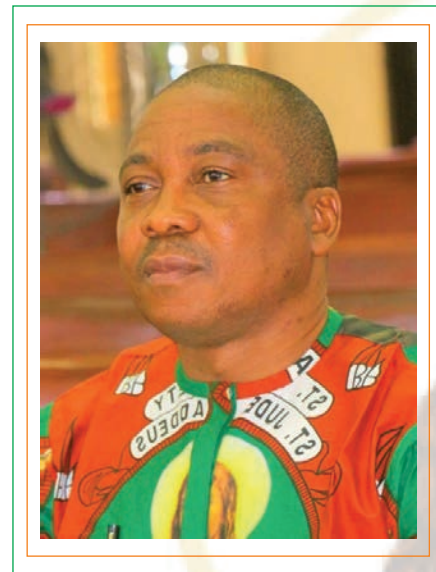
1. General Secretary - **Bro. Ernest Chukwuedo**
2. Promoter - **Sister Christiana Abua**

The inauguration of the new officers was done by the former national chaplain at the closing Mass of the national convention.

HANDOVER FROM PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION

The hand-over of documents by the immediate past national president on behalf of the administration was done at the NEC meeting of November 2022 in Abuja. Highlights of the handover notes were as follows;

- Eastern Brethren return to the national council fold to be made a priority for the new administration.
- Production of new uniforms not to be done with interest loan facility because of previous experiences.
- Overhead cost of holding NEC meetings always higher than revenue generated particularly the



challenges of sponsoring national officers by their dioceses of origin.

- NEC meetings in a year reduced to three inclusive of AGM to cushion challenges faced by delegates

The handover of financial report and finance related documents was deferred due to the absence of the past Financial Secretary.

The report of the last annual convention was also not ready particularly the financials and deferred for presentation.

Change of Account signatories was and still pending because of the banks of domicile of St. Jude National Council account which is in Benin and requires the presence of past signatories at the bank and to introduce the new signatories.

AGENDA SETTING BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

The National President, Bro. Godwin Ukel, Ph.D, KSM in his inaugural new year message, included a presentation on agenda setting for the new administration as seen below:

AGENDA SETTING FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ST. JUDE SOCIETY FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION (2022 – 2026)

I. Reconciliation with Eastern Members

- We shall do a retrospective and objective review of the matter and look at resolutions from previous



reconciliatory effort on the issues at stake.

- Schedule a meeting with Provincial leadership of the Onitsha and Owerri provinces of St. Jude Society along with their Chaplains with the new national leadership towards resolving issues of discord which led to boycott.
 - Write to the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) conveying successful reconciliation with the Eastern brethren or request further intervention where effort fails.
- 2. Status of St. Jude Apostolate and relationship with Pious Society administration**
- The St. Jude Apostolate Yaba-Lagos is a prayer group organized by the Dominican Order of Male Religious with a St. Jude shrine. The Apostolate is not subordinate to the National Council of St. Jude Society which is recognized by the CBCN and they have slightly different Novena dates from that of the National Council.
 - We shall write to the CBCN requesting an understanding of the relationship between an Apostolate and a Pious Society.
 - We shall propose an integration of the Apostolate with the National Council and articulate possible working relationship as they have a large database of devotees particularly private devotees and have existing online presence.
- 3. National Shrine/Secretariat and Provincial or Diocesan Shrines**
- We shall seek an understanding of having a national shrine for a Pious Society from the CBCN as well as having regional shrines.
 - We shall visit and review existing St. Jude Shrines in Nigeria as well as receive proposals for erecting of regional or diocesan shrines for ease of visits for spiritual activities.
 - We shall then seek approval from CBCN for the location of a national shrine for St. Jude Society as well as the Metropolitans of the Provinces for Regional Shrines.
 - A national Secretariat shall also be considered to be situated within the location of the national Shrine where documents of the national Council shall be preserved and some administrative staff engaged for the efficient and smooth running of the national council.
- 4. Digitization of St. Jude Society**
- We shall develop a website for the national council and acquire internet space for hosting of the website which would be interactive.
 - We shall produce electronic Novena petition leaflets
- We shall incorporate friendly electronic payment options
 - Create an electronic database for all members of St. Jude Society in Nigeria including private devotees.
 - Subscription for online platforms such as zoom, Team etc. for holding of virtual meetings.
 - We shall acquire a dedicated phone line for the national Council and conventional and customized email addresses.
 - We shall create social media handles for the national Council (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp etc)
- 5. Funding sources**
- Review of existing dues and propose realistic dues in line with present economic realities
 - Novena proceeds with an improved mode of electronic petition envelopes and payment options.
 - Production and sales of Uniforms
 - Revival and Production of Newsletter/Magazine for St. Jude events across the country
 - Production and sale of annual Almanac
 - Production and sales of national prayer book
 - Painless giving model of Crowd funding using the electronic database and electronic payment options. Members across the country can be requested to contribute as little as N500 annually which can translate to N5,000,000 for 10,000 members.
- 6. Collaboration with Member bodies of St. Jude Society in RECOWA member countries and Globally.**
- Apply to the RECOWA (Regional Episcopal Committee of Francophone West Africa) Secretariat for recognition of St. Jude Society as a Pious Society so that our brethren in other member countries of West Africa can build synergy and collaborate in the same way the Bishops of member countries are doing.
 - Enter into alliance with St. Jude Societies across the world and explore areas of common interest such as pilgrimages.
- 7. Arrange national and international pilgrimages**
- Pilgrimage is a spiritual exercise and we shall advocate for pilgrimages to the Tomb of St. Jude in Rome and other pilgrimage sites across the world. Societies such as Padre Pio undertake annual pilgrimage to Rotondo in Italy where their patron saint lived and died and it enhances the spiritual life of members with other spiritual benefits.
 - We shall partner with the Pilgrimages Unit of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria for visa processing and pilgrimage logistics.



- National pilgrimages can be organized to St. Jude national shrines and other pilgrimage sites in Nigeria.
- 8. Strengthening of Provincial Councils and respect for hierarchical structures**
- We shall observe flow of communication from the national council to Provincial council to arch/diocesan council to Deanery Council and to Parishes/Stations
 - Composition of each council should be in line with constitutional provisions
 - Delegates to meetings should also respect the hierarchy of structures
 - Annual General meetings (AGM)/Conventions should have expanded participation by all stakeholders.
- 9. Structured payment of Dues/Levies**
- We shall avoid double taxation principle of imposing levies or payment of Dues
 - Payment of Dues to National Council should be done by Provinces, payment of Dues to Provincial councils should be by arch/dioceses, payment of Dues to Arch/diocesan Council should be done by Deaneries, payment of dues to Deanery councils should be done by Parishes/Stations.
 - National Council should impose levies on Provinces, Provincial Councils should impose levies on arch/dioceses, Arch/diocesan Councils should impose levies on Deaneries, Deanery Councils should impose levies on Parishes/Stations
- 10. Support for Vocation to the Priesthood and Religious life**
- We shall review the previous effort and revive the scheme which is one of our cardinal responsibility as members of St. Jude Society.
 - We shall in conjunction with our national Chaplain decide where to channel our training support either for Diocesan Priests or to Religious Orders.
- 11. Production of Uniforms**
- We shall review previous uniform production processes and study any available report
 - We shall conduct opinion poll from members across the country to indicate choice of uniforms by comparing previous ones in terms of quality and cost.
 - Uniform production shall be self-sponsored by the national council. Negotiation shall be made for payment after supply or to access an interest free loan from organizations or individuals particularly St. Jude Patrons.
- 12. Production of national Prayer books**
- Review the newly produced national prayer book for possible correction before next reproduction.
 - Conduct opinion poll from members about the new prayer book and areas of addition required from popular opinions.
 - Consider inclusion of translation into major Nigeria languages.
- 13. Production of St. Jude Newsletter/Magazine**
- Review the previous production of St. Jude Newsletter
 - Conduct a poll towards production of a national newsletter or magazine
 - It is meant to preserve certain activities or milestone achievements for posterity and institutional memory.
- 14. Review and production of National Council Constitution**
- We shall assess the progress made towards a review of the existing national constitution and follow it to conclusion.
 - We shall accommodate new inclusions of clauses to accommodate the new normal of doing things in the aftermath of Covid 19 pandemic.
- 15. Production of new letterheaded papers/Seal**
- We need to produce a new set of letterheaded papers for the national council.
 - We need a seal for the national council to authenticate official documents.
- 16. Change of signatories and regularization of existing bank accounts and consideration of opening new accounts.**
- Consideration of new banking regulations for maintaining accounts by Societies with inclusion of national chaplain as signatory
 - Opening of new bank accounts for designated activities such as uniforms payments, seminarian training etc. for ease of reconciliation and preparation of accounts.
- 17. Standing/Ad-hoc Committees to be constituted as follows;**
- Constitution Review Committee to be headed by the National Secretary
 - Uniform production & distribution Committee to be headed by the
 - Newsletter/Magazine production committee to be headed by the National Publicity Secretary
 - Finance Committee to be headed by national Financial Secretary
 - Digitization Committee to be headed by National



- Publicity Committee
- Vocation Support Committee to be headed by the National Promoter
- Evangelization/Pilgrimage Committee to be headed by national Promoter
- Members of the Committee shall be made of both national EXCO and non-national EXCO members from across the Country identified with special related experiences and shall have the national president or his designate as member.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

A letter was received from the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria requesting nomination of names for appointment as national Chaplain following the expiration of tenure of the former national chaplain. In consultation with the EXCO, the following names were presented;

- 1. Rev. Fr. Dominic Mbomson, OP**
Director of St. Jude Apostolate, Yaba-Lagos
- 2. Rev. Fr. Agwaigbo C. Kenneth**
Owerri Provincial Chaplain
- 3. Rev. Fr. Christian Ehimen Usifoh**
Abeokuta diocesan Chaplain

To the glory of God, on the 3rd of April 2023, a letter of appointment was received from the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria appointing Rev. Fr. Dominic Mbomson, OP as the new national Chaplain for a term of four years. We use this opportunity to formally congratulate the new national chaplain and we are glad to have him in our midst for the first time after his appointment and wish him well.

ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

We attended the workshop organized by the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria for national Chaplains and national Presidents on the 20th of October 2022.

We attended the National Laity Council of Nigeria 49th Annual General national conference in Ijebu-Ode between 8th and 11th of December 2022 and was represented by the first vice president, Bro. Segun Oni. We attended the orientation for new national Chaplains and a leadership retreat for both national Chaplains and national Presidents as organized by the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria on the 12th and 13th of July 2023.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1. Reconciliation with Eastern Brethren**
We give God the glory for the moves made that are

already yielding positive results with the recent visit to the East by the new national Chaplain and the national President. An inaugural reconciliation meeting was held in Awka on the 15/16th of July 2023 and a visit to the St. Jude shrine at Aba and the report has been shared while the national Chaplain shall speak more about it.

2. Status of St. Jude Apostolate and relationship with Pious Society administration

A visit was made to the Director of the St. Jude Apostolate, Rev. Fr. Dominic Mbomson, OP on the 18th of January 2023 and discussion was fruitful. He appealed for time since he was newly appointed to study existing practice and work towards harmonization with the national council.

3. Digitization of St. Jude Society

A Committee headed by the national publicity Secretary, Bro. Jude Othuke was constituted during the NEC meeting at Ogoja and terms of reference were given and work is in progress.

4. Arrange national and international pilgrimages

We contacted the pilgrimage Unit of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria and a package was developed for St. Jude Society to embark on an international pilgrimage to Rome to coincide with the feast of St. Jude Society on October 28 and publicity is made with posters shared by the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria. A committee was also constituted at the Ogoja NEC meeting headed by the national Promoter, Sister Christiana Abua.

We shall also prepare local pilgrimages to identified pilgrimage sites in Nigeria.

5. Production of Uniforms

A Committee was also constituted during the Ogoja meeting headed by the Lagos Provincial President and work began leading to a choice of preferred quality of uniform and expected to be delivered at the AGM. Funding was done with a non-interest loan secured by the national President.

6. Review and production of National Council Constitution

A Committee was also constituted during the Ogoja AGM headed by Barrister Remigius Nwadike of Lagos archdiocese and commenced work immediately of which a draft shall be presented and adopted at the AGM as proposed.

The already set agenda shall continuously be reviewed in the life of our administration and be used to measure



performance. Consequently, other standing and adhoc committees shall be set up in due course for implementation of the agenda.

7. NEC MEETINGS

We have successfully held two NEC meetings after our election and inauguration and it is in line with the past practice as adopted which reduced NEC meetings to three inclusive of AGM. We regret the unfortunate case of kidnap of our former national Chaplain and delegates of Ogoja diocese who were on their way to the NEC meeting of November 2022 which held in Abuja. We thank God for divine intervention and all who supported with prayers and financial contributions and most especially the bishop of Ogoja. It was because of this development that we took our next NEC meeting to Ogoja and the purpose was fulfilled as the Bishop expressed gratitude for our faith and urged us to continue the good work.

CHALLENGES

1. Change of Account signatories

The difficulty in effecting change of account signatories is because of the fact that the account is domiciled in Benin and change can only be done by having the old signatories and the new ones present physically at the bank.

We shall also consider opening of new bank accounts for designated activities such as sales of uniform and projects.

2. Meeting attendance

The economic situation in the country and security challenges is a source for concern and has drastically affected attendance at NEC meetings.

3. Funding sources

The present funding sources is inadequate as times have changed as demands are increasing for financial matters.

CONTINUOUS PROGRESSIVE PLANS

1. Scheduling of next NEC meeting to Benin province so that change of account signatories can be done at the bank of national council account domicile.
2. On meeting attendance, we shall explore improved methods of adopting virtual meetings if delegates can also be compliant with use of gadgets. We appreciate the difficulties of attending physical meetings and we thank delegates who continuously make sacrifices to attend coupled with the security challenges and transport difficulties.
3. We shall explore more funding options to boost the

finances of the national council. In this wise, a Finance Standing Committee shall be constituted with a mandate to improve the funding sources of the national council

4. The Committee on Digitisation shall soon provide update on the production of an Almanac and website for the national council as well as social media handles.

CONCLUSION

On behalf of the national executive council, I welcome you all to the 2023 AGM and commend the local organizing committee for the painstaking effort to arrange a befitting venue and program of events. We shall spend the period in prayerful reflection on St. Jude Thaddeus Society and listen to talks as well as hold meetings.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten our minds and hearts as we participate actively and be enriched in all ramifications. Amen.

May St. Jude Thaddeus continue to intercede for us and for all who invoke his aid. Amen.

Bro. Godwin Ukel, Ph.D, KSM
[National President]



**FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:
FELICITATIONS TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
ST JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY NIGERIA, 11th to 13th AUGUST, 2023.**

PREAMBLE: In the words of the Psalmist (Psalm 107:1), let me say, "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." We have so many reasons to be grateful to God for His gift of life, faith and privileged opportunity to worship Him through our devotion to St Jude Thaddeus. On this special occasion of the fifth Annual Convention (AGM/NEC) of the National Council of St Jude Thaddeus Society, it is an honor for me to extend my maiden felicitations to you all members of the National Council and devotees of St Jude Thaddeus, Apostle and brother of Our Lord. It is three months now since I was appointed by the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, on 3rd of April, 2023, to serve the Church in Nigeria as the National Chaplain of St Jude Society, succeeding Rev Fr Peter Ochang. My appointment literarily is predicated upon my resumption of duty three months earlier, on the 9th of January, 2023, as the Director of St Jude Apostolate and Shrine, resident in St Dominic Parish, Yaba, Lagos, succeeding Rev Fr Christopher Nnamani, OP. From the foregoing, it is evident that the Chaplain is newer in office than the rest of the National Executive members, led by Bro Godwin Ukel KSM, who came into office at the 4th national convention held in Ogoja, August, 2022.

PRIVILEGED DEVOTION: Indeed, I can say that the devotion to St Jude Thaddeus is most privileged next to the devotion to The Blessed Virgin Mary. This is evident in the traditionally acclaimed depiction of the Apostle Jude Thaddeus: with a flame of fire on his head (commemorating the reception of the Holy Spirit with the rest of the Apostles, Acts 2:3), the image of Jesus on one hand (following the miraculous cure of the extreme and hopeless leprosy disease of King Abagar of Edessa with the image of Jesus pressed on a cloth), and staff on the other hand (as the symbol of his martyrdom). Again, since it is granted to St. Jude Thaddeus among other saints to exercise his patronage on desperate and hopeless causes, our devotion to him facilitates our supplications for God's will in our desperate causes. Our supplications in this regard are as good as seeking the supreme will of God for salvation. And ultimately we find lasting peace only in God's will. We realize "God's will" when we understand the answer that our Lord gave to St. Jude Thaddeus at the last supper (John 14:21-23): In his farewell speech, Jesus said to the Apostles, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to



him". Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." In other words, Love of Jesus is a *conditio sine qua non* to the manifestation of God to us. Accordingly, to experience God's manifestation, love Jesus. And to love Jesus means to keep God's commandments, the summary of which is love (John 13:34).

OUR MOTTO: Our motto, "Prayer Action and Sacrifice" is a key to constant communion with God. The first aspect of the tripod in our motto is "Prayer". We Judeans warmly say, "Where there is prayer, there is hope". St Thomas Aquinas explains that spiritual refreshment of the soul comes chiefly from being attentive to God in prayer. In prayer, on the one hand, we search for the Face of God in the words of the Psalmist, "it is your face, O Lord that I seek!" (Ps. 27:8). On the other hand, we listen to God's voice as He constantly speaks. We listen, following the words of the prophets, "Give ear and come to me; hear me that your soul may live" (Isaiah 55:2-3). And it is actually in listening that we can take God in: "When your words came, I ate them," said Jeremiah (Jeremiah 15:16). The second aspect of the tripod in our motto is "Action". We have a common saying that "action speaks louder than voice." St Thomas Aquinas enumerated the three categories of human actions thus: good, evil, or indifferent kinds of action. And the morality of a human act is determined by the three criteria of intention, moral object and circumstances. The intention of the



actor must be good and in accordance with the moral law. And the third aspect of the tripod in our motto is "Sacrifice". "Sacrifice" from "sacrificium" denotes the act of rendering something sacred (sacrum facit), such as animals being slain and burnt, or bread broken, etc. Again, the concept of self-sacrifice and martyrdom are central to our Christian faith, together with the idea of joining our own life and sufferings to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Similarly, one can offer up involuntary suffering, such as illness, or purposefully embrace suffering in acts of penance.

PROSPECTS: The Holy Father, Pope Francis, in October 2021, announced a two-year process of listening and dialogue of the Catholic Church, which he named "Synod on Synodality". This papal initiative is a chance for the Church to listen intentionally and deeply to the Body of Christ. This initiative invites all Catholics to listen with open hearts and minds, to share from their own lived experiences, and to make space for the voices of those often marginalized or excluded. In other words, Synodality fundamentally means journeying together which happens through listening to one another in order to hear what God is saying to all. In the spirit of Synodality, the National Executive Council of St Jude Thaddeus Society has been forthright under the leadership of Bro Godwin Ukel, PHD, KSM, in providing a proactive and effective leadership. No institution makes comprehensive progress without peace. So, a renewed attention to the situation from the face-off and boycott from the National body by Onitsha and Owerri Eastern Provinces came topmost in his priority list. And personally, I can attest that he works his talk. This is also the case with the outline of his inclusive administration style as contained in the 2023 New Year message, where he pledged "To ensure good governance by Agenda setting and a blueprint that has timeline to be used to measure performance by Agenda setting and a blue print that has timeline to be used to measure performance periodically and at the end of the administration; Composition of members for standing & Adhoc committees, mindful of competent and technically qualified Judeans from across the country to serve"; Even before the NEC meeting in April, 2023, he called on all Judeans in Nigeria to carry out our civic duty by casing and defending their votes. Of course, such political consciousness and participation is discernibly in keeping with the mission of the Laity in and outside the Church.

BENEDICTION: In the midst of the exceedingly harsh realities of our time, I invoke God's mercy on all of us gathered here for this 2023 annual general meeting and indeed all who invoke the aid of St Jude Thaddeus. The current situation of life in our country Nigeria has

become clearly extraordinary. There seem to be no better time to seek Divine intervention for our Country than now. We are not only suffering the effects of the global crises, from the global warming by the depletion of the ozone layers causing series of flood in countries. We are not only suffering the effects of war in Ukraine and the Crises in Sudan. The shocking reality of our current situation in Nigeria is the man made harsh uncertainties, blatant political, economic and moral problems. We are still faced with the Boko haram terrorism and banditry in the north, the rampant experience of kidnapping from insecurity and ethnic restiveness in east and north, the current economic misfortune and political instability in the country. May God listen to the cry of His people as we confidently turn to Him!

There is no better time to pray for Christian unity than now, even as it affects us Judeans in Nigeria. The prayer for our country and our situations is more effective when we are united, according to the will of Christ: "that they may all be one" (Jn. 17:21). At a General audience in January 22, 2014, Pope Francis spoke about the week of prayer for Christian Unity. In his catechesis, he spoke about the scandal of division among Christians, taking up the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January, 2014): "Has Christ been divided?" (1 Cor. 1:13). Of course, Christ was not divided. But we should recognize with sincerity and pain that our communities continue to live in division that is scandalous. Division among Christians is a scandal, says Pope Francis. The name of Christ creates communion and unity, not division! Division, however, weakens the credibility and effectiveness of our work in evangelization and risks stripping the Cross of its power (cf., 1 Cor. 1:17). The division among us requires much prayer as well as humility, reflection and continual conversion. Let us resolve and work to bring to perfection by the powerful intercession of St Jude Thaddeus the positive efforts of our past leaders, that we may enjoy the peace and progress of unity. Our blessings from this AGM will surely be much more than we can ever ask for, or imagine! Amen.

Rev. Fr. Dominic Mbomson, OP
(National Chaplain)



LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF ST JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY



Felicitates with

REV. FR. DOMINIC MBOMSON, OP

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**28TH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING (AGM)**

OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ST JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY, NIGERIA

May God grant answers to our prayers through the intercession of St Jude Thaddeus

Congratulations!!!

Bro. Jude Onugeh Othuke
Archdiocesan President

Esther Unukpo
Archdiocesan Secretary

Rev. Fr Alexander Oboh
Chaplain



ABEOKUTA DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY

C/O P.O. BOX 8,
SS PETER & PAUL
CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL,
ITESI- ABEOKUTA
Email: adc.stjudecathsociety@yahoo.com

FELICITATION

The Bishop, Chaplain, President, Executive Members and the entire members of St. Jude Catholic Society of Abeokuta Diocese; heartily felicitate with the National Chaplain, National President and his Executive members, the Provincial President and his executive members and the entire members of St. Jude Society on the occasion of their Annual General Meeting holding from 11th- 13th August, 2023 at Sagamu by the Lagos Provincial Council. Wishing you all a fruitful deliberation.

Signed

Lady Winifred Ifeoma Phil-Ebosie(LSJI)
President
Abeokuta Diocesan Council

Mrs Ngozi Igumah
Secretary
Abeokuta Diocesan Council

Rev. Fr. Christian Ehimen Usifoh
Diocesan Chaplain



St Jude Thaddeus - Pray for us

IJEBU-ODE DIOCESESAN COUNCIL OF ST JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY

Felicitates with

The National Chaplain

REV. FR. DOMINIC MBOMSON, OP
NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

On the occasion of the

**28TH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING (AGM)**

OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
ST JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY, NIGERIA

*May God grant answers to our prayers through the
intercession of St Jude Thaddeus*

Congratulations!!!

BRO. KELVIN DONATUS
Diocesan President

REV. FR MICHAEL ELOGI
Chaplain



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ST JUDE CATHOLIC SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING LAGOS PROVINCE 2023

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

11th August, 2023

DAY ONE

1. Arrival and Registration 4:00pm to 5:00pm
2. Evening Mass 6:00pm
3. Dinner 7:00pm
4. National elected exco meeting 8:00pm to 10pm

DAY TWO

1. St. Jude devotional prayer 6am
2. Morning mass 7:00am
3. Breakfast 9:00am

PART TWO 10:00am

1. Introduction of Guests to the high table
2. Opening prayer
3. Welcome Address by Lagos Provincial President
4. Welcome song by Lagos Judites
5. An address by National President, Dr. Godwin Ukel, KSM
6. An Address by the national Chaplain, Rev Fr. Dominic Mbomson, OP
7. A keynote address by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Lagos, Most Revd. Alfred Adewale Martin
8. Talk :- Speaker Rev. Fr. Dominic Mbomson, op National Chaplain

PART THREE AGM

1. Angelus 12noon
2. Agenda of the AGM

PART FOUR EVENING SECESSION

1. Evening prayer (Angelus/Rosary/Benediction) 6:00pm

PART FIVE GALA NIGHT

2. Introduction of Guests
3. Opening prayer
4. Opening Remark by National President
5. Music interlude/Dance performance
6. Dinner /Gala Nite
7. Drama presentation
8. Free speeches/words of advice
9. Vote of Thanks
10. Closing prayer

DAY THREE

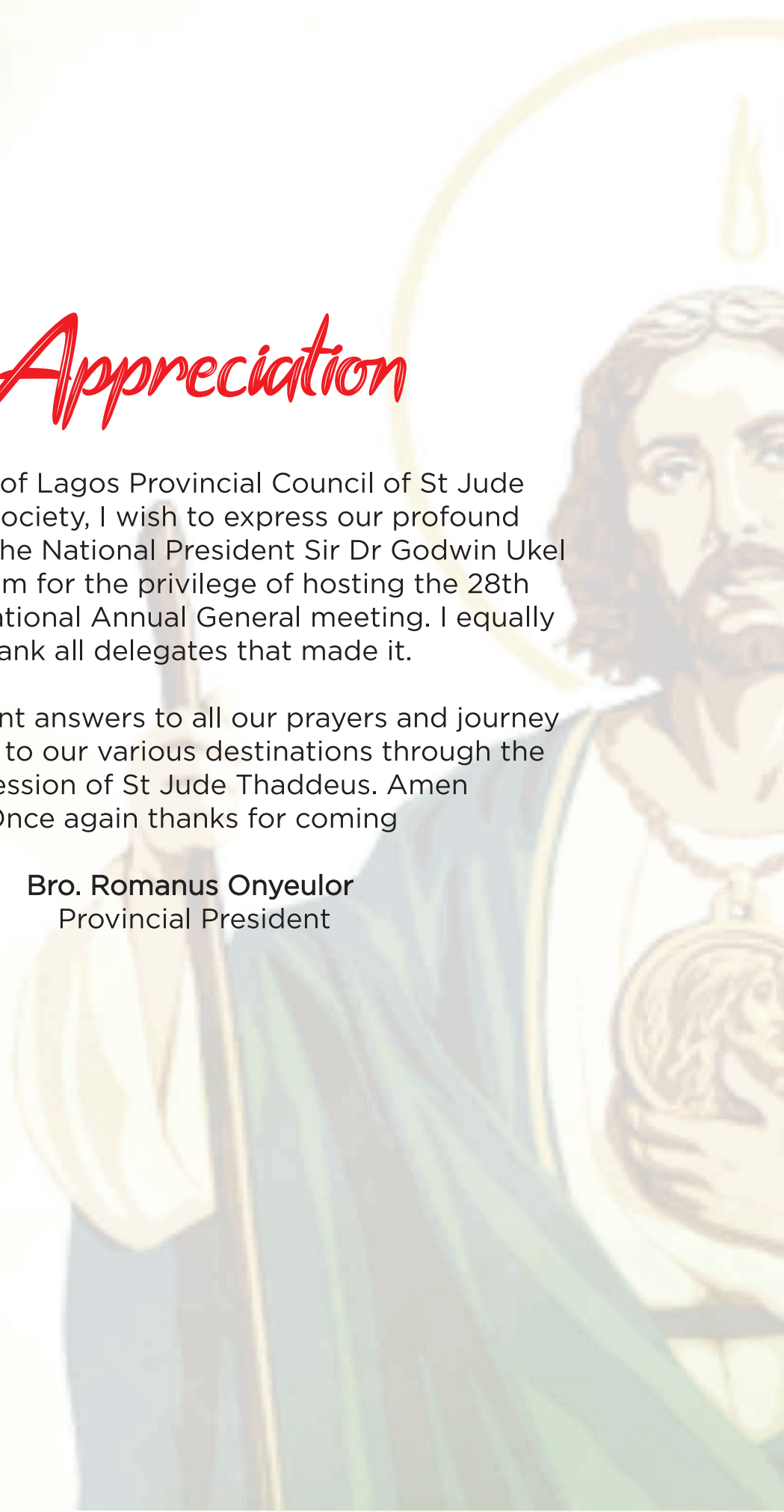
1. Morning mass 5:30am
2. Departure

Appreciation

On behalf of Lagos Provincial Council of St Jude Catholic Society, I wish to express our profound gratitude to the National President Sir Dr Godwin Ukel and his team for the privilege of hosting the 28th edition of National Annual General meeting. I equally thank all delegates that made it.

May God grant answers to all our prayers and journey mercy back to our various destinations through the intercession of St Jude Thaddeus. Amen
Once again thanks for coming

Bro. Romanus Onyeulor
Provincial President





**YOUR PETITION, OFFERING, TRANSFER AND DONATION
TO SUPPORT THE APOSTOLATE CAN BE MADE THROUGH**

FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA
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