

2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF JDPC OWERRI CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE

Reporting Period	Author	Location	Staff Strength	Source of Funding
Jan, 2019 - December, 2019	JDPC Owerri Archdiocese	Catholic Archdiocese of Owerri, Imo-State	No of Staff - 10 No of Volunteers - 1800	Lenten Collections

Director's Remarks

Rev. Fr. Dr. Gerald Njoku

The year 2019 is gradually coming to an end. We thank God for his grace, mercies, sustenance and his manifold blessings. It was a very interesting one in the annals of JDPC and Imo State. As usual, and in faithfulness to our mandate, justice, Development, Peace and Caritas Commission was very much involved in intimating Imolites within our operational jurisdiction, the need to choose a credible, reliable and God fearing leader not an imposed leader on Imolites.

These were carried out through several sensitizations, courtesy visits, seminars and town hall meetings.

Undoubtedly, during the campaigns, money exchanged hands and some of our people could not but allow their poverty to motivate them to collect money from those people seeking political office. From our own observation, however, some rejected the 'Greek Gift' outrightly, some others collected from all the parties contesting that had money to squander and still voted according to their conscience.

We are glad at this modest achievement that most people now vote according to their conscience despite every sort of inducement.

Finally, I have the honour to present this annual report to you our stakeholders for the year 2019, on the following core areas:

- Good Governance Advocacy
- Conflict Resolutions
- Micro Finance (Free interest loan for empowerment to indigent persons)
- Humanitarian Services
- Medical Outreaches
- CARITAS
- Skill Acquisition
- Election Observation/Monitoring
- Educational Scholarship
- Establishment of Legal Unit
- Enlightenment Programmes
- Prison Apostolate

ACTIVITIES OF JDPC

Good Governance/Election Observation and Monitoring: The year 2019, which is election year in Nigeria; JDPC Catholic Archdiocese of Owerri witnessed and organized a lot of activities in the area of sensitization, mobilization, civic education and organization of civil society groups to create an enabling environment for the conduct of free, fair and peaceful election in the state.

The Archbishop equally invited all the gubernatorial candidates for a prayer and peaceful summit on January 18th 2019 JDPC Owerri Archdiocese participated in and observed succinctly all the activities of Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) and other relevant stakeholders in the electoral projects in the state. Two international election observers equally called for a courtesy call to JDPC and helped in a day seminar to train JDPC election observers.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

- Seven fact-finding visits were made to INEC Headquarters and Owerri municipal council to ascertain INEC preparedness for the polls and address some conflicts that arose during primary elections.
- Courtesy visits to relevant stakeholders (INEC, Police, DSS, Army and others) on the need to remain non-partisan during the 2019 General Elections.

- We organized road show and market sensitization campaigns in Owerri on the need to vote wisely and the positive mentality “your vote counts”.
- We attended all the INEC stakeholders meetings on the General elections at INEC secretariat and training at *De Range Hotels, New Owerri*.
- We mobilized, trained and deployed 300 election observers (both roving and stationed observers to all the Local Government under Owerri Archdiocese (all our observers were accredited from INEC headquarters).
- Election report was compiled from our election observers deployed during the polls. The results/reports was published and submitted to relevant stakeholders for their attention.
- We observed the distribution of Permanent Voters Card (PVC) in the state and conscientized Catholic faithful through announcements and seminars on the need to collect their PVC’s and vote rightly.
- JDPC observed and participated fully during the distribution of certificate of returns to elected political office holders in the state. It was at the prompting/suggestion of our director that necessitated the incumbent Governor to come straight to the Archbishop A.J.V Obinna for blessings immediately he received his certificate of return.

RESULT/OUTCOME:

JDPC became major stakeholder in the present administration. This was seen in the appointment of JDPC Director to be the secretary of the Transitional Committee to ensure a peaceful transition.

- Imolites now see JDPC and the Church as the possible way of reaching the government and making their plights known.
- Good working relationship was established with the EU International election observers and the British High Commission in Nigeria

CONFLICT RESOLUTIONS: JDPC Owerri Archdiocese has resolved nothing less than twenty (20) conflicts amicably and restored peace and justice to so many families, organizations and parishes in the Archdiocese.

MICRO FINANCE SCHEME: The JDPC has established a unit responsible for granting interest free loans to indigent persons to help them start up business. In 2019, the JDPC has empowered not less than twenty persons.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE/ CARITAS: JDPC Owerri Archdiocese has continued to alleviate the problems and difficulties of the less privileged in the Archdiocese. They visit Eu-Care charity office, a department of JDPC every Tuesdays of the week to get ease of life.

MEDICAL OUTREACH: JDPC Owerri Archdiocese has been assisting the poor and the needy in defraying some of their hospital bills. The health unit holds medical outreach on Thursdays of every week. For the Christmas celebration, Orange Drugs in partnership with JDPC Owerri Archdiocese is organizing a four days free medical check-up and treatment for Christians. See posters at the picture gallery.

SKILL ACQUISITION: The unit of JDPC Skill Acquisition has successfully trained twelve youths this year in fashion and designing. We are waiting for their possible empowerment by first week of January.

EUCCHARISTIC CARE SCHOLARSHIP: In this year, the JDPC in collaboration and sponsorship of our Archbishop has given so many indigent persons scholarship across all levels of education.

LEGAL UNIT: The JDPC has established a legal unit with the coordinator as Barrister A.C Achunolu. Since its inception, there has been a tremendous progress; most civil cases are now referred to JDPC legal unit.

ADVOCACY: JDPC Owerri Archdiocese intervened on behalf of our brothers that returned from South-Africa, after their several efforts to meet with the Governor. JDPC partnered with the Imo State Government through the office of the SSA on Diaspora to welcome and reintegrate our brothers from South Africa as a result of Xenophobia attack.

AGRICULTURE/FARM LAND: JDPC Owerri has successfully recovered and acquired fourteen hectares of land at Awarra in Ohaji/Egbema LGA belonging to Catholic Archdiocese of Owerri. The land is set to be used for JDPC farms. On the 17th of May, 2019, JDPC held entrepreneurship seminar on agriculture in partnership with IITA, Ibadan, where over 400 youths were trained and was given free seedlings and stems of cassava containing vitamin A.

ENLIGHTENMENT PROGRAMME: On 5th September, 2019 JDPC partnered with national Orientation Agency to organize a one day public

enlightenment and citizen mobilization on the theme: **“Value re-orientation and fight against corruption”** in Imo State at Rock view Hotel Owerri.

PRISON APOSTOLATE: On 26th - 28th November, 2018, JDPC Owerri Archdiocese through the office of SSA on information and Advocacy, Imo State Government organized a three days workshop at the Imo State Correctional Service with the theme: **“Reformation and Reorientation for Juvenile Offenders”**. This programme has in attendance; the Governor of Imo State, the Secretary to the State Government, the Imo State Chief of Staff, House and other top government officials.

OUR CHALLENGES:

The office of the JDPC Owerri Archdiocese urgently needs the following to help the commission realize its mandate of entrepreneurial development, medical outreaches, legal and humanitarian interventions.

- a. One Hilux Vehicle
- b. A set of modern office seats and furniture
- c. Modern office equipments are needed at JDPC office to enable the commission realize the modern day office documentations and recording.
- d. Creating diverse source of generating funds, not only depending on Lenten collection that is a onetime annual collection.
- e. Economic situation in the country: The JDPC Owerri Catholic Archdiocese is surprised at the number of people who visit the office in search of financial support for a better living condition but we are always constrained by the meagre resources available to alleviate their plights.

BEST PRACTICES/RECOMMENDATION

Value for money: The Director of the Commission being a moralist and a prudent administrator has setup a structure that ensures every fund spent for any purchase or programme is worth the value and conscious effort made to contact two or more dealers before purchase for any products/services are made. JDPC Owerri Archdiocese recommends that the Owerri Ecclesiastical province of JDPC should hold a strategic and refocusing meeting on areas of intervention based on the issues affecting the Society, write proposals on common goals as this would increase the possibility of attracting funds for the development of Owerri Ecclesiastical province of JDPC.

SPECIAL APPEAL:

We continue to solicit for the unflinching support of His Grace Anthony John Valentine Obinna (Catholic Archbishop of Owerri Archdiocese - so far our sole financier), Owerri Ecclesiastical Province of JDPC and CCFN to aid the programmes and activities of JDPC Owerri Archdiocese.

APPRECIATION:

Our immense gratitude goes to God of all mercies in whose divine providence we have been able to actualize some of our prospects. The Owerri Archdiocesan JDPC is appreciative of the love, support, encouragement and concern from our Archbishop His Grace, AJV Obinna; his passion in alleviating the plights of Eu-care community in Owerri Archdiocese is highly commendable.

We are equally grateful to God for choosing one of the priests in the department of Church and Society to serve as the Auxilliary Bishop of Owerri Archdiocese (Msgr. Moses Chikwe - Director for Education).

We also extend our sentiment of gratitude to the German friends of Rev. Fr. Dr. Gerald Njoku, who helped the JDPC Owerri Archdiocese in establishing a Skill Acquisition centre for the Archdiocesan Youths and the less privileged. The Owerri provincial JDPC & CCFN, we acknowledge your support and collaborations.

PHOTO GALLERY OF SOME OF THE 2018/2019 ACTIVITIES OF JDPC OWERRI ARCHDIOCESE



JDPC Road Show Sensitization/Advocacy on peaceful election in Imo State.



Courtesy Visit to Imo State Commissioner of Police on the need to remain Non-Partisan during the forthcoming 2019 General Elections

ORANGE GROUP

4 days free medical checkup and treatment
Free eye test, Blood pressure tests, Blood sugar tests e.t.c

2019 ORANGE GROUP CHRISTMAS MEDICAL MISSION SCHEDULE

DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	TIME
Monday 16 th December, 2019	Medical Outreach	Akokwa High School, Owerre Akokwa	9AM - 6PM
Tuesday 17 th December, 2019	Medical Outreach	St Joseph Catholic Church Awara, Ohaji Egbema, Owerri	9AM - 6PM
Wednesday 18 th December, 2019	Medical Outreach	St Patrick's Catholic Church, Okwu Uratta Owerri	9AM - 6PM
Thursday 19 th December, 2019	Medical Outreach	Assumpta Cathedral, Control Post, Owerri	9AM - 6PM

Other Information:
• Any questions, kindly email Stephanie Nwaju at snwaju@orangegroups.com or call +2349038868339

2019 ORANGE GROUP CHRISTMAS MEDICAL MISSION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JDPC



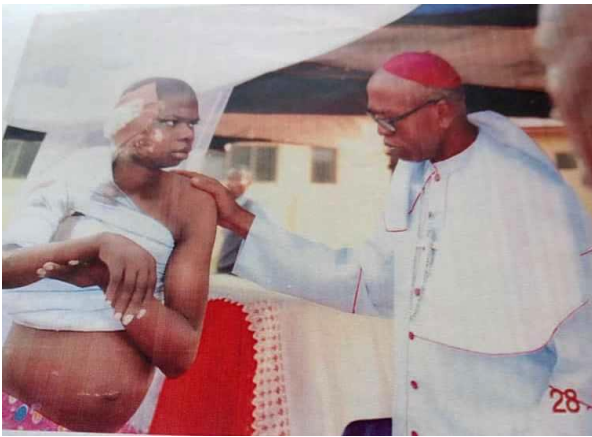
BAGS OF RICE SHARED TO THE SOUTH AFRICA RETURNEES



MEETING WITH IMO STATE GOVERNOR, MGT. OF JDPC AND RETURNEES FROM SOUTH AFRICA



MEETING WITH NIRSAL OFFICIALS FOR AGRICULTURE EMPOWERMENT



ARCHBISHOP AJV OBINNA'S VISIT TO THE SICK



JDPC DIRECTOR EXCHANGING PLEASANTRIES WITH THE IMO STATE GOVERNOR IN THE 2019 AHIANJOKU FESTIVAL



PRESS INTERVIEW AFTER THE PROGRAM AT IMO STATE CORRECTIONAL CENTER



COURTESY CALL FROM ARCHDIOCESAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOARD



COURTESY VISIT



PARTICIPANTS DURING THE IITA TRAINING



JDPC DIRECTOR GIVING THE VOTE OF THANKS AFTER THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL SERVICE TO MARK THE INAUGURATION OF THIS PRESENT GOVT, RT. HON EMEKA IHEDIOHA



EMPOWERMENT TO BENEFICIARY OF JDPC FREE INTEREST LOAN



31 MEN INAUGURATION PLANNING AND HAND OVER COMMITTEE



EMPOWERMENT TO BENEFICIARY OF JDPC FREE INTEREST LOAN



WHEEL CHAIRS TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE AMPUTEES IN OWERRI ARCHDIOCESE



SEMINAR ON GOOD GOVERNANCE



TRAINING SESSION OF JDPC ELECTION OBSERVERS



JDPC ELECTION ROVING TEAM