



# **JDPC / CARITAS**

**ONITSHA ARCHDIOCESE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

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## SUMMARY OF 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2017 recorded greater achievements and lots of innovations for the JDPC Onitsha despite limited resources to carry out some of our planned activities. We engaged in series of activities that guaranteed development of human person and society, hence contributed to the alleviation of poverty among the citizens. These result-oriented activities were developed in the six core intervention programmes of JDPC with the ultimate intention to promote human development, socio-economic justice, poverty alleviation, and strengthen of stronger institutions, systems and structures that will aim at promoting good governance for sustainable development. The year under review witnessed the exit of DFID/Christian Aid (CA) outstanding 5 years Voice to the People (V<sup>2</sup>P) project with JDPC with a book launch on “Practical Approaches to Community Development,” which was published by JDPC to commemorate learning from the project.

JDPC within the year under review embarked on mass awareness on governance activities through mobilization, sensitization, and capacity building of the parish members and the community members on community project execution and monitoring. In this regard, of the Traditional Rulers, the Town Unions President Generals (PGs), Women Groups and Women Leaders, Youth Leaders, Village Heads, Student Unions, Age Grades, Girls and Boys Groups, and Religious Leaders were strengthened and empowered on budgeting processes and system by asking questions on allocations for the community projects by using Community Charter of Demand (CCD) that will enable them set their communities’ priorities and hold duty bearers to account.

The result of this approach was a huge success, because through effective advocacy and lobbying, the inducted budget analysis is becoming house-hold name in the communities as it has helped the communities to know the budget calendar and processes. It may interest you to know that the instituted Community Based Monitors (CBMs) have become a stand whom the communities now use to monitor communities project as specific in the government budget.

Having development of human beings as a top notch, JDPC Onitsha embarked on series of skills acquisition programme and capacity building for Parish JDPC members. This was necessitated by an expanding and ever increasing JDPC activities and repositioning of strategies to get things done appropriately. Equally, the farmers were not left out as various empowerment programmes were carried out in 2017, so as to strengthen the CADOMICS I, CADOMICS II, PROMIC I, PROMIC II, PROMIC AGRIC, and Co-operative Societies as means of promoting livelihoods among the indigent members of the communities. The revolving JDPC loan scheme has shown a significant improvement with new communities identified to benefit, hence increase in number of beneficiaries in Onitsha Archdiocese. On the JDPC School run scheme, intervention aimed at alleviating the sufferings of the parents and the children has received tremendous support owing to the growing number with 45 children on board but the scheme is being threatened by inadequate buses.

On our media outreach, the Commission vigorously pursued the course of social justice by creating and engaging the citizens on JDPC Live Radio Programmes on Radio Sapientia. One of the Radio programmes under Voice to the People (V<sup>2</sup>P) project was aimed at educating the citizens on governance and socio-economic development, The other programme which was tagged “Church and Society,” was aimed at educating the citizens on Christian values (Christians acting as change agents). We also expanded our outreach by creating several media channels such as facebook, whatsapp, and twitter for educating and informing the citizens and

on where issues as they concern the society are discussed. For first of this kind, JDPC Onitsha in collaboration with Women Action Committee and Librarians conducted summer school programme at Nawgu. Several books were freely distributed to children to inculcate in them reading and writing skills.

Furthermore, JDPC Onitsha in the year under review has given significant support and is making unending contribution in realizing mission set out for the JDPC in parishes (P-JDPC). The parish based JDPC members have equally contributed in making sure that our overall objective is achieved. During the 2017 Lenten period, we embarked on massive Lenten Campaign Drive was to sensitize the citizens on the need for almsgiving in the Lenten period, even at all times. The 2017 Lenten Campaign was taken to several markets within Onitsha Archdiocese. The JDPC members also participated actively in the JDPC week programme where parishes invited speakers to engage parishioners on salient issues as prescribed in the week programme. This year report also indicated several development and charity interventions undertaken by several parishes in Onitsha Archdiocese. Some parishes used JDPC Week to give bursary, cash, relief materials, visitations, medicals and trainings to their parishioners and the community members. It is good to know that many lives were touched, and these are indications that the work of Social Justice is such that affects every family.

Remarkably, 2017 was an election year, when JDPC Election Observers stood ground to observe the governorship election in the Anambra State. Over 1,000 observers were used in various polling units in the 10 LGAs under Onitsha Archdiocese. Prior to the election, JDPC Onitsha carried out voter education to every nook and cranny in order to ensure enlightened citizens during the election processes.

Our Peace and Conflict Resolution, and Prison Apostolate programmes were also not left out as we have resolved many conflicts and settled some out of courts. Through our volunteer lawyers, we were able to secure freedom for 4 prison inmates, and rehabilitate and joined many families and endured peaceful resolution of cases ranging from family misunderstandings, parents-child separation, and business misunderstandings, all these resolutions have led to happier homes and cordial relationships.

JDPC at this point wishes to appreciate the amiable and tremendous moral and financial support from the Archbishop of Onitsha, Most Rev. Valerian M. Okeke who has sustained this organization this far. Equally, we appreciate the support and contributions of the Auxiliary Bishop, Most Rev. Denis Isizoh, especially on the plight of Girl-child in Olumbanasa. We also thank the Board members, the management team and staff who have shown commitment in our 2017 interventions by planning the way forward through their strategic meetings and activities. All these supports have ensured that the year's implemented activities contributed immensely towards actualization of our vision.

## **JDPC ONITSHA ARCHDIOCESE**

### **ABOUT US - INTRODUCTION**

The Justice, Development and Peace/Caritas (JDPC) of Onitsha Archdiocese is the Archdiocesan answer to the call of the Second Vatican Council, which states that the Church should be concerned in the building of a just and peaceful society. His Holiness, Pope Paul VI stressed in the encyclical “Populorum Progressio,” an important document that focused on the development of people, that the “progressive development of the people is an object of deep interest and concern to the Church.” The mandate of this commission is to awaken in the people of God full awareness of their mission on earth and to further the progress of poorer nations and international social Justice. JDPC Onitsha was established in 1990 as a social arm of the Church, and registered as a non-governmental organization in January 2011.

### **STATUS AND NETWORK**

Its activities cover the geographical areas of the Catholic Archdiocese of Onitsha, which comprises 182 parishes and Chaplaincies, 6 Regions, and a national network of JDPC in 52 dioceses. It also partners with other local and international NGOs, CSOs, and government agencies with similar focus and ideology. JDPC Onitsha also covers 126 communities in 10 of the 21 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Anambra State (Oyi, Idemili North, Idemili South, Onitsha North, Onitsha South, Ogbaru, Anambra East, Anambra West, Ayamelum and part of Dunukofia).

### **VISION STATEMENT**

A Society of Justice, Equity, Development and Peace.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote the dignity of the human person through a holistic empowerment approach.

### **VALUES**

Accountability  
Commitment  
Service  
Justice  
Peace

### **THEMATIC/COVERAGE AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT**

1. Environmental Justice
2. Judicial and Penal Reform
3. Economic and Social Justice
4. Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
5. Democracy and Good Governance
6. Caritas

**JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE/CARITAS (JDPC), ONITSHA ARCHDIOCESE  
2017 ONITSHA ARCHDIOCESAN REPORT**

<b>REPORTING PERIOD:</b> 2017	<b>AUTHOR:</b> JDPC ONITSHA	<b>LOCATION:</b> ONITSHA	<b>NUMBER OF STAFF:</b> 14	<b>SOURCE OF FUND:</b> DFID, CA-UK, SWIZZHAND, STELLA ODUA FOUNDATION, ARCHBISHOP
			<b>NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS:</b> 2,100	

**1. PROGRAMME/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

The Justice Development Peace/Caritas (JDPC) Onitsha engaged in series of activities in its six core functional areas namely: Economic and Social Justice, Democracy and good Governance, Peace building and conflict resolution, Judiciary and penal Reform, Environmental Justice, and Caritas. In a special way, JDPC Onitsha carried out the mandate of the Archbishop Most Rev. Valerian Okeke to carry out the course of social justice, development of human capital, livelihood empowerment and poverty alleviation to the nook and cranny of the Archdiocese.

**2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

**INAUGURATION AND REVALIDATION OF PARISH JDPC (P-JDPC)**

The year 2017 witnessed inauguration and revalidation of parish JDPCs. Two parish-JDPCs were inaugurated namely St Mary Inland town Onitsha and the St Mary’s parish, Alor. Inauguration in this nature makes the parish a bonafide JDPC parish and the inaugurated members become full JDPC members. Prior to the inauguration, prospective member are trained on the core functions and activities of JDPC as they werewritten in JDPC manual. The trained participantspublicly pledged their allegiance to be good members of JDPC. Each of themembers was given a JDPC manual, a JDPC Identity card and an inauguration certificate.



Inaugurated members of JDPC St. Mary's Parish Inland town Onitsha

### **PARISH-JDPC MARKET LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2017**

JDPC Onitsha Archdiocese conducted the usual annual market Lenten campaign with each region going to nearby markets to solicit for funds for corporal works of mercy in the parishes and in the communities.

The markets that were covered by the regions include:

1. Onitsha Region: Main market and Ochanja market.
2. Dunukofia Region: New Tyre market, Nkpor and Old parts market, Nkpor.
3. Iyiowa Region: Head-bridge/Medicine dealers market, Electronics market, and Ogbaru relief market.
4. Igbariam Region: Building material market and Bakery materials market Ogbunike.
5. Nnobi Region: Nnobi market.
6. Aguleri Region: Otuocha market, Umuoba Anam and Nando markets.

A reward of 10% was given to each region that met the target of N100, 000 and above. At the completion of the charity fund drive, Iyiowa region was rewarded with cash prize having come top.

### **2017 BEST PARISH JDPC AWARD**

JDPC Onitsha instituted award for the best performing parishes in the Archdiocese. The following criteria were used: Numeric strength/active participants, yearly account, functional parish executive, number of impactful activities or programme carried out for the year, number of activities or programmes reported periodically, debt status, JDPC week observed, hospital/school monitoring report, specific apostolate involved (Prison, hospital etc), attendance to JDPC meetings, voters education in the parish, efficient Lenten market campaign drive, quality participation in election monitoring, socio-economic project and formation of functional cooperative society.



The Award committee is made up of representative of JDPC members in each region and the JDPC Archdiocesan office. Each Region is mandated to rate their parishes based on the above criteria and submit the result of their best three parishes. The Award committee will collate, review and rate the result from the regions and finally get the best three parishes in the Archdiocese.

The result of 2017 JDPC parish Award in the Onitsha Archdiocese shows that St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Okpo in Iyiowa Region took the 1<sup>st</sup> position, St. Augustine's Parish Umuoba-Anam in Aguleri Region got the 2<sup>nd</sup> position, while St. Joseph's Parish Atani in Iyiowa Region came 3<sup>rd</sup>. All the three parishes were rewarded accordingly.



Iyiowa Regional Chairman Sir LivinusEzeihuoma& Regional Executives receiving 2017Award

### **JDPC WEEK 2017**

JDPC Onitsha commenced her 2017 JDPC week with Archdiocesan flag off on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and flag off in different parishes on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 with the theme "Nigerian Masses and Economic Challenges." The flag-off was attended by many stakeholders including: JDPC Board members, Zenith Bank PLC representative Mr. OnyedikaOkeke, Christian Aid Anambra State Program Coordinator, Mrs. UzomaUzor, Rev. Sr. Lucy Ebuzeome JDPC Issele-Ukwu Diocese, and Lady ObiageliEzimoraetc. Over 200 people from various parishes and communities attended the flag off. One week activities were carried out in different parishes daily. JDPC Onitsha introduced flexibility in the dates of the event and topic of discussion. The week event was well organized in many parishes of the Onitsha Archdiocese. The week ended with Archdiocesan JDPC collections in the parishes to aid the work of the Commission.



Cross section of JDPC Members and Guests at 2017 JDPC Week Flag-off

#### **JDPC ANNUAL SEMINAR ON CAPACITY BUILDING**

JDPC central office of the Archdiocese of Onitsha organized a one-day capacity building for Parish JDPC members. The capacity of members were built on mechanisms for community mobilization, power analysis and voter education. Equally the members were educated by Rev. Sr. Mary Ann Okoye, the Provincial Secretary on Stress management and Burn-out. The annual seminar was attended by 176 participants at Shanahan Hall Basilica of the Most Trinity, Onitsha.



Cross section of the Annual Seminar Participants

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:**

The Archdiocese of Onitsha through the JDPC embarked on the following social and economic activities for livelihood support, empowerment and poverty alleviation. The underneath table shows the progressive increase in the JDPC economic and social empowerment interventions.

<b>PROJECT (Funders)</b>	<b>Total as at 2015</b>	<b>Total as at 2016</b>	<b>Total as at 2017</b>
CADOMICS (Archbishop)	1,004	1,155	1,640
CADOMICS (Princess Stella Oduah)	325	395	510
PROMIC 1 (Swiss-hand)	301	401	597
PROMIC 2 (Swiss-hand)	345	405	495
PROMIC Agriculture (Swiss-hand)	105	166	337
JDPC Micro-credit	42	99	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>3,729</b>

**SOUTH-EASTERN NIGERIAN PROMOTING MICRO-CREDIT (PROMIC) MEETING/WORKSHOP**

JDPC Onitsha attended the meeting and workshop conducted for the PROMIC coordinators in the Onitsha province from 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Enugu. The meeting/workshop was aimed at accessing the effectiveness of the project and proffer suggestions on the way forward. The program was attended by the representatives of the funding partner "SWISSHAND, Switzerland" Mr. Matin Bruendler and Mr. Waiter Domeisen.

JDPC seized the opportunity of the presence of the funders to solicit for additional funding. This yielded positive result as \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand dollars) was approved. Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000) each was approved and released for PROMIC 1, PROMIC 2 and PROMIC Agric projects respectively.





JDPC PROMIC team with Switzerland partners, Mr. Martin Bruendler and Mr. Waiter Domeisen.

### **PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR (PROMOTING MICRO PROMIC) VISIT**

JDPC Onitsha received the regional PROMIC coordinator Mr. Emmanuelltanwu from Abakaliki. Mr. Itanwu was on a monitoring and evaluation visit to the project locations. He was taken to his choice location where he had one-on-one interaction with the project beneficiaries at their farms and business premises. He utilized his visit opportunity to carry out an oversight functions within the Archdiocese.

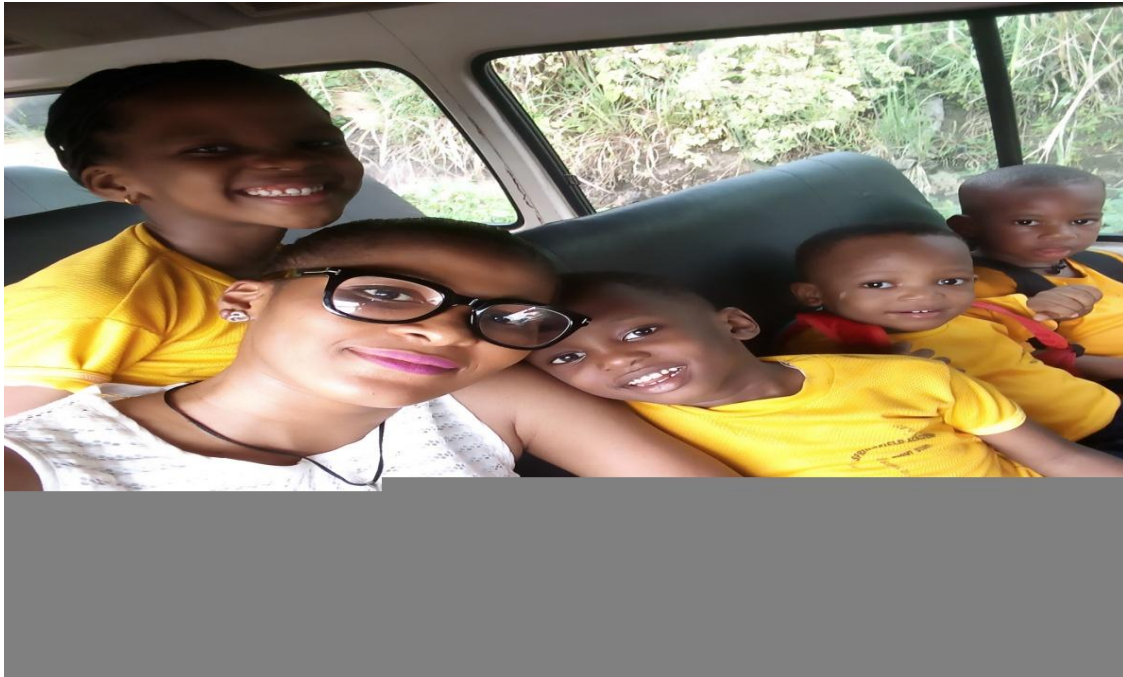


Mr. Emma Itanwu, JDPC Promic Coordinators and beneficiary Mrs. Helen Onuorah

## SCHOOL RUN SCHEME

JDPC school run intervention as aimed at alleviating the suffering of the parents and pupils has continued to yield positive result. The two buses currently on the scheme carry a total of 45 children (26 children to & fro and 19 children fro only) from various schools in Onitsha.

The buses are over stretched and JDPC is making serious effort to add another bus to this scheme. Parents of the children in our school run programmewere very happy and testified that the scheme was a relief to them.



Child Minder Miss ChisomAmobi with some of the school children

## JDPC RADIO PROGRAMME

JDPC Live Radio Listeners programme has become a house hold programme. In 2017 the programme embraced a new theme “**Church and Society.**” Important issues such as: Role of the church in promoting education, role of church in alleviating poverty, dangers of early marriage, promoting girl child education and eliminating violence against women were discussed. Issues on democratic process, good governance and elections were also not left out.

The radio programme was on air at Radio Sapientia every Friday from 3:30pm - 4:30pm. The number of callers increased to 2, 200 every quarter of 12 times appearances.





HRH Igwe George Ekwealor, the traditional ruler of Umu-Oba Anam on JDPC Radio Programme

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **JDPC MAIZE FARM:**

JDPC Onitsha partnered with St Andrew's Catholic Church Omasi-Uno on maize production. The farm covers about 29 hectares of land.



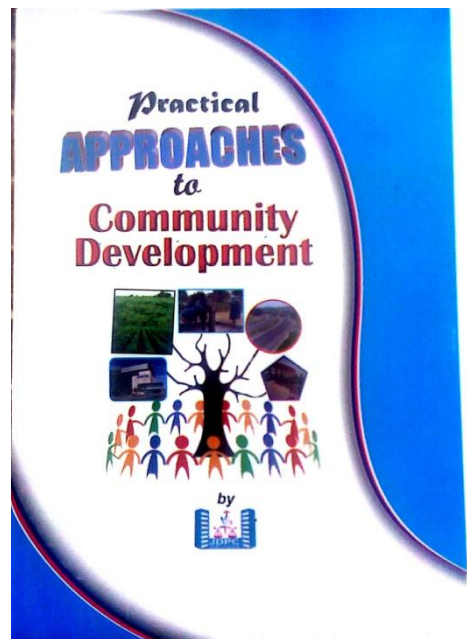
Harvesting of Maize at JDPC farm St. Andrew Catholic Church Omasi-Uno, Anyamelum LGA

## DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

### V2P EXIT BOOK LAUNCH:

JDPC Onitsha flagship project Voice to the People (V2P) came to an end in August 2017. To commemorate the end of the project, a book 'Practical approaches to Community Development' was published. The book aims at building the capacity of community development practitioners for effective delivery of services to the community and how to engage stakeholders for sustainable community development.

The content of the book include: Project activity planning, community mobilization, direct service providers interface, finance and project management.



### GIRLS PARLIAMENT OUTREACH:

Girls' parliament outreach is a sustainable initiative activity of JDPC under its Voice to the People project aimed at giving young girls voice and visibility. The Girls parliament celebrated the international day of the girl child. They attracted the following sponsors

IgweNteje gave them ₦25, 000, IgweUmueri ₦10, 000 and IgweUmuoba-Anam ₦10, 000, and the total money got was ₦45, 000. These funds were used to print T-shirts, Banners, Posters and Handbill. The planned activities included a radio program on ABS radio to discuss the challenges of the girl child. The girls had radio program on Radio Sapientia on giving voice to girl child. Equally, they conducted sensitization in two schools in Onitsha, Ado Girls Secondary school and Regina Pacis Model School, Onitsha.

Girls' parliament (G-VIC) also embarked on public awareness campaign on the theme of this year's international day of the girl child. Before now, the girls' parliament through their outreach has gotten the Igwe of Nteje to be their patron. The IgweNteje, Igwe Rowland Odegbo has also introduced them to ABS Awka Head of Station and they now have been allocated time to use ABS for their outreaches, they had best

use of on three occasions.

#### **JDPC PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHR ORGANIZATIONS**

1. JDPC Onitsha was supported by DFID and the Policy and Legislative Advocacy Centre to organize the Nigeria Civil Society situation room south-east zonal consultative meeting at Awka on 14th Sept. 2017.
2. JDPC Onitsha was supported by DFID to organize the CSO Advocacy Meeting on Constitution Review at Abuja on 18th Sept. 2017.
3. JDPC Onitsha participated in the validation meeting with stakeholders on the project “women come out and vote” at Awka on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017. The program was organized by National Democratic Institute and supported by USAID
4. JDPC Onitsha participated in the Agenda for Stakeholders meeting at Awka on 11 October, 2017. The program was organized by Women’s Situation Room Nigeria, supported by Democratic Governance for Development 11 Project. European Union, DFID, Canadian International Development Agency, UNDP, UN, Women-United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of women.
5. JDPC Onitsha participated in the Voters Education Training for CSOs and PWDS meeting at Awka on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The program was organized by INEC and supported by International foundation for Electoral System (IFES), USAID and DFID.
6. JDPC Onitsha participated in the Agenda to Media Launch of the project “women come out and vote” during the Anambra State election processes at Awka. The programme was organized by Women Action Committee (WAC), I-WIG and G-parliament with support from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), funded by USAID.
7. JDPC Onitsha participated in the Anti-human Trafficking Conference in Benin City organized by Catholic Secretariat in Abuja.
8. JDPC Onitsha embarked on the sensitizing the citizens and the voting population in Anambra State on Radio Sapientia to counter “no election in Anambra State” as was announced by IPOB.

**ELECTION OBSERVATION:** JDPC Onitsha participated actively in election observation as INEC accredited Election Observer. About one thousand (1,000) JDPC volunteers were trained and deployed to various polling units within the 10 LGAs under Onitsha Archdiocese. The observers reported that the election was mostly peaceful; the turnout was good especially in the rural areas. Their reports also showed voter’s apathy among the urban voters and high degree of money politics during the election.





Voting in one of the polling units in Aguleri, Anambra East LGA.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME**

JDPC collaborated with I-Wig, Women Action Committee and Librarians in Anambra State to conduct summer school programme in Nawgu, Dunukofia LGA. The programme which at first instance recorded a huge success with 159 Children/Students inculcated on the culture of reading, writing and computer basic skills. 120 books were brought by Anambra State library board and academic libraries in the State. Volunteer teachers from I-Wig, Community and WAC 7 teachers, 5 JDPC Staff, 6 Librarians made the programme historically enviable. The Director of Anambra State Library Board and 4 Staff attended 3 times. The news and success were recorded on Orient Newspaper and ABS.



JDPC Staff – Ngozi Osuchukwu and Pupils at Nagwu

## **PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION:**

JDPC Onitsha peace building and conflict resolution unit recorded lots of outstanding peaceful resolutions. Five cases were withdrawn from the various courts and peacefully reconciled through the intervention of JDPC Onitsha. For instance, ten families were thrown out of their home and their properties confiscated as a result of the high court judgment obtained in favor of a faction of the Onyeabor family of Onitsha at mission road Onitsha. The families mostly widows and their children led by Mrs. Augustinalgwueke and Mr. Kenneth Udekwe cried out to JDPC Office. After due investigation and negotiation with the victorious Onyeabos', the properties of the poor families were released to them and they were given six months without pay to find alternative accommodations.

Again through JDPC's intervention, a court case involving Mr. Kenneth Uchendu from Oraukwu was withdrawn and he was forgiven 60% of his N220, 000Keke hire purchase debt.

JDPC Onitsha has continued to help a lot of families, business partners and communities to achieve sustainable and peaceful resolution to issues affecting them. Ten cases of troubled marriages, six cases of child separation and six cases of business misunderstandings were peacefully resolved leading to happier marital homes, children re-union and cordial business relationships.



The Onyeabo family premises at Onitsha sealed by the Court.

In 2017, JDPC Onitsha Judicial and Penal Reform Unit engaged the services of additional one human rights lawyer, Barrister EjikeEfobi leading to the releasing and rehabilitation of 4 prison inmates with minor offences. JDPC was involved in the rehabilitation of Mama Justina Obielosi, a 74-year old woman from Nnobi.

Mama Justina Obielosi left her family home about eight years ago due to family misunderstanding and was found around the Nkisi prison area.



**Mama Justina Obielosi with family and JDPC staff at Nnobi**

## JDPC 2017CARITAS

JDPC Onitsha Caritas intervention revolves around giving the needy cash charity, paying school fees of indigent students or pupil, paying bills for the sick and feeding the poor. JDPC extended hand of support to the needy and less privileged under the following headings:

S/N	Descriptions	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount
1	Charity/Empowerment	30	N97,000
2	Medicals	34	N546,770
3	Bursary	52	N475, 000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>N1,118,770</b>

## OTHER ARCHDIOCESAN CARITAS INTERVENTION

Archdiocesan Caritas intervention revolves around giving the needy cash, material needs charity and feeding the poor and the less privileged. Ephesians 4:10 "As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men." In fulfillment of the above scripture, the Archdiocesan Caritas extended hand of support to the needy and the less privileged.

S/N	Descriptions	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount
1	Cash Charity	30	N305,000
2	Medicals	25	N206,000
3	Bursary	21	N92, 000

Foodstuff, clothes, toiletries worth over ₦2, 474,000 were given out to over nine hundred (900) persons.



## REGIONS AND PARISHES' ACTIVITIES/CARITAS INTERVENTIONS REPORTS

### ONITSHA REGION

#### ST. MARY'S PARISH INLAND TOWN ONITSHA

##### Medical Support to Helpless Twins Mother at General Hospital.

JDPC St Mary Inland Town Onitsha made medical visit to the general hospital and found a helpless and abandoned mother of twins, Mrs. Blessing Nebeife. JDPC St. Mary mobilized financial support to the tune of ₦220, 930, foods and clothing with support from St Mary's Parishioners: Mrs. UzomaUzor and Mr. IfeanyiOgbonna, and the JDPC Secretariat. Their supports enable the parish to pay her hospital bills, feed and clothe her twins and the grandmother living with them.

In the year 2017, JDPC St Mary Parish Inland Town had another refreshing JDPC week program and extended hands of fellowship in its caritas program as follows:

1. Over ₦100, 000 cash distributed to poor and indigent parishioners during the Easer for the poor.
2. 10 bags of rice, 2 bags of beans and 2 bags of onions worth over N100,000 were distributed to 120 poor parishioners during the Christmas for the poor.



St. Mary's Onitsha Parish JDPC officials with Mrs. Blessing Nneife.

## ST. JOHN DE BAPTIST ODOAKPU

The JDPC St John De Baptist Odoakpu participated in the following caritas interventions:

**JDPC Week:** The JDPC St. John De Baptist, Odoakpu had a successful 2017 JDPC week program. The activities which started on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 witnessed impressive turnout. Resource persons from both JDPC secretariat and external gave good talks. One of the resource persons Mr. OnyekaOzoudeokoko embellished his teachings with demonstrations on the projector which helped the participants to understand better.

**Easter for the Poor:** Food items including five bags of rice, one bag of beans, and four cartons of tin tomatoes worth One hundred and twenty thousand naira were distributed to ninety poor and needy in the parish.

**Christmas for the Poor:** Food and clothing materials namely: six bags of rice, 1 bag of beans ½ bag of onions, two hundred tubers of yams, 5 cartons of tomatoes, indomie noodles and 3 bags of brand new and used cloths at the cost of N350, 000 were given to one hundred and twenty poor and needy parishioners.



St. John Odoakpu JDPC - food items for distribution to the poor and needy

## SACRED HEART PARISH ODOAKPU ONITSHA

The JDPC Sacred Heart Parish, Odoakpu engaged in the following caritas interventions in 2017:

**JDPC Week:** JDPC Sacred Heart Parish Odoakpu had a successful JDPC week program. The week starts with flag-off on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Each day started with topic of discussion, question and answers and lucky dip for gifts. About 150 parishioners attended and the parish presented kola and entertainment on the closing day.

**Special Easter for the poor:** JDPC SHP Odoakpu used the year Easter for the poor with the sick, the aged and the abandoned in addition to feeding the poor and hungry in the parish.

**Valentine for Special Children:** Sacred Heart Parish JDPC spent over N80, 000 on feeding and clothing the children with special needs.



Sacred Heart Odoakpu P-JDPC with special children at Valentine for the children.



## IYIOWA REGION

### ST. JOSEPH PARISH, ATANI

**Free Medical Test:** JDPC St Joseph Atani collaborated with some Rev. Sisters Medical Charity to administer free test to parishioners and gave them medicine at subsidized rate. This programme now comes up every two months.

**Christmas for the Poor:** JDPC St. Joseph gave out food items rice, tomatoes and cloths worth over ₦100,000 to the needy parishioners.



Members JDPC St. Joseph Atani with the beneficiaries at 2017 Christmas for the poor.



## DUNUKOFIA REGION

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, NKPOR

In 2017, JDPC St. Anthony's of Padua through her caritas intervention extended helping hands to the poor and needy in their parish as follows:

**Free Immunization and Free Medical Treatment:** JDPC St. Anthony again partnered with Idemili North LGA health management to give free monthly immunization of children and free medical treatment twice monthly to the sick parishioners.

**Free HIV Test:** JDPC St. Anthony Parish again collaborated with Idemili North LGA health management to conduct free HIV medical test and distribute drugs worth ₦200, 000 to both parishioners and other community members.

**Christmas for the Poor:** JDPC with the support of the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Martins ObumIkeagu gave out 7 bags of rice, 12 cartons of tomatoes, five bags of semolina, five cartons of soaps, five cartons of Indomie, 2 bags of beans, 300 tubers of yam etc., which worth over ₦200,000, to the poor and needy within the parish.



St. Anthony's Nkpor Parish JDPC with the various items for the needy.

## ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, IKENGA OGIDI

JDPC St. Patrick' s parish, Ogidi effort to alleviate the suffering of the poor and less privilege yielded the following results :

**JDPC Activities:** JDPC St. Patrick Ogidi participated actively in the Archdiocesan and Regional activities. Four members of our parish participated in the annual Lenten market campaign. We had a well turn-out JDPC week.

**Christmas for the Poor:** 2 bags of rice, 2 bags of Indomie,, 2 packets of lux soap, tissue papers, detergents, salt etc worth about N60,000 were distributed to the poor and needy and less privilege.

## AGULERI REGION

### ST MARY PARISH, UGWUNADEGBE AGULERI

**Training On Mechanized Fish Farming:** JDPC St Mary Parish collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development on training the parishioners on mechanized fish farming. The training took place at Tourist Garden Hotel Ltd., Aguleri. Participants were given 60 fish pools to share and transport fare.

**Christmas For The Poor:** JDPC St Mary Parish was supported by the entire parishioners to celebrate with the poor and needy during the 2017 Christmas for the poor. Two big cows and 350 bags of rice and other gifts were distributed to the poor and needy. The Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Christopher Odimegwu, the CWO President and the Parish Council members took part in the exercise.



JDPC St Mary's Officials with the participants at the Mechanized Fish Farming Training

## IGBARIAM REGION

### ST. THERESA'S PARISH, MBA FARM (3- 3)

JDPC St. Theresa Parish Mba Farm did the following interventions in 2017:

**Prison Apostolate:** JDPC St. Theresa Parish Mba Farm mobilized the parishioners to visit Onitsha prisons on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017, with food stuff and other materials for the inmates.

**Christmas for the Poor:** JDPC St. Theresa Parish Mba Farm marked the Christmas with the poor and needy in the parish and the community members. Foods items namely rice, salt, tomatoes etc. were purchased and distributed to the less privileged beneficiaries. Talks, songs, drama and entertainments were rendered.



Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Ndubuisi, JDPC Officials and food items



## ST ANTHONY OF PADUA, IFITE OGWUARI

**Free Medical Treatment:** JDPC St Anthony of Padua Ifite-Ogwuari was supported by an indigenous Priest living in Germany Rev. Fr. John Ekwunife, to bring in 3 Doctors, 12 Nurses, to give free medical treatment to 200 parishioners and members of the community.

**Christmas for the poor:** The P-JDPC gave out ₦1, 000 each to six families and ₦500 each to fifteen families, 15 bags of rice and cloths worth ₦40, 000 were distributed to 170 parishioners and community members.



## CHRIST THE KING PARISH, OMOR

**Medical:** JDPC CKP Omor helped Mrs. Ndibe Grace, an indigene of Omor to pay her hospital bill at Nnewi Teaching Hospital. JDPC CKP Omor received financial support from Christ the King Parish Omor, and JDPC Secretariat. A total of ₦175,980 was spent on lab, deposit and treatment. The woman has since become a converted Catholic.



Mrs. Grace Ndibe with some members JDPC CKP Omor

## NNOBI REGION

### ST. DOMINICS CATHOLIC CHURCH, ABATETE

**Sensitization and visits to Indigents:** JDPC St Dominic's Parish Abatete as part of its inaugural activities embarked on programmes aimed at reaching out to the community members to announce their presence by way of awareness creation in the communities.

**Agricultural Seminar:** The Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. John Manafa supported JDPC St Dominic's Parish Abatete to organize an agricultural empowerment seminar for the parishioners.

**Christmas for the Poor:** JDPC St. Dominic's Abatete with the support of the Parish Priest Rev. Fr John Manafa provided the following to the poor and needy in the Church and community: foods, shoes, sandal and fairly used cloths worth over N150, 000.

**Medical Intervention:** JDPC St. Dominic's Abatete in collaboration with New Hope Hospitals and Onitsha Medical Diagnostics Ltd administered free medical counseling and drugs to the parishioners and community members. The occasion was witnessed by the JDPC Archdiocese Programme Manager, Sir Frank Oranwuba.



Beneficiaries of the JDPC St Dominic's Abatete medical intervention

### WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

JDPC Onitsha carried out the directive of the Archbishop of Onitsha to celebrate the world day of the poor as initiated by Pope Francis. The event took place at the St Mother Theresa's Sisters of Charity Convent Fegge, Onitsha. The programme commenced with Mass led by the Director of JDPC Rev. Fr. Edwin Udoe. Fr. Udoe urged rich faithful to always remember the poor in whatever they do and to always volunteer to do the work of charity.

JDPC team was received by the Superior of the Convent Rev. Sr. John MC Vianney.





JDPC Team with other celebrants at the World day of the Poor

### **THE ARCHBISHOP OF ONITSHA INCREASES SALARY OF WORKERS**

The Archbishop of Onitsha has demonstrated his believe in poverty alleviation by reviewing the salary structure for teachers in Catholic Schools, thus implementing the Federal government minimum wage policy. In line with the above, the salary of the least paid staff has been increased to ₦18, 000. The salaries of other categories of teachers were also increased accordingly.



### **3. CHALLENGES**

Three major challenges were encountered in the process of performing our activities this year. Firstly, the national economic recession hindered repayment of loan by beneficiaries and hence limited the number of new loans given to beneficiaries. Some beneficiaries willingly defaulted in their repayment and this has led us to engage the parish priests, community leaders and lawyers in our debt recovery process.

The second major challenge to realizing the goal of our projects/programmes especially, V2P activities is the uncooperative attitude of the Heads of Local Government Administration (acting Chairmen). They always find it difficult to honour scheduled meeting leading to delays in executing our activities.

Thirdly, some of the planned activities and programmes for 2017 were not fully carried out as expected due to limited funding. It's understandable the economic situation in the country now, and many of our benefactors are not forthcoming with their support and promises. Nevertheless, a good number of our benefactors have supported in one way or the other.

JDPC Onitsha Archdiocese reports its yearly activities/programmes as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, and Some of the activities are still on going.

### **4. LESSONS LEARNT**

1. We learnt that JDPC should be very cautious with our loan procedures to avoid bad debts.
2. The Heads of Local Government Administration (acting Chairmen) must be sensitized to key into our V2P activities before we can realize desired result.
3. Some who come for help are often insincere

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The world is working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and we recommend that parish JDPC should work hard to establish projects that will sustain their JDPC's activities in order to meet the needs of the parishioners.

### **6. OUR MAIN PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**

Department for International Development (DFID) -UK, Christian Aid (CA ) - UK , SwissHand– Switzerland, StellaOdua Foundation, Good-spirited individuals, and the Archbishop.

### **7. NEXT STEPS**

1. To mobilize and commission the mechanic workshop for youth empowerment in 2018.
2. To expand our agricultural projects in 2018.
3. To expand our activities in Environmental Justice and Prison Apostolate in 2018.