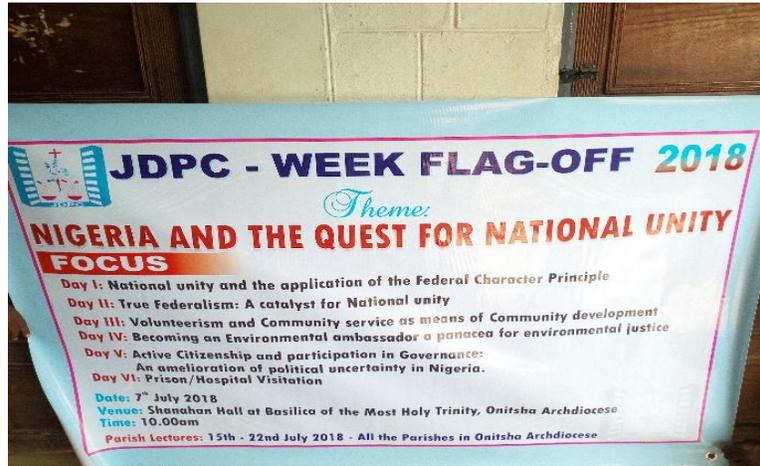


JDPC ARCHDIOCESE OF ONITSHA FLAGGED OFF JDPC WEEK 2018.



This year's JDPC Week Flag-off started with an opening Mass said by the Onitsha Archdiocesan Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Prudentius Aroh. Joined in the Mass celebration were Rev. Fr. Philip Ibeneme and the Executive Director JDPC Onitsha, Rev. Fr. Edwin Udoe. Participants for the year's flag-off were drawn from JDPC Board members, Parish-based JDPC, Special guests and members of the public including the media.



The Archbishop of Onitsha, humbly represented by the Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Prudentius Aroh in his amiable style, marked the JDPC Week open, with all the 7-day activities to be continued across the 183 parishes in 92 communities of the 10 LGAs under Onitsha Archdiocese.

In his opening remark, the Chancellor pointed out that this period in the history of Nigeria was the time Justice and Peace are most needed. He lamented that for a long

time, Social Infrastructure has eluded the people and that concerted efforts are needed by the State actors to salvage the situation. He commended the leadership of the JDPC for his visionary strides and initiatives towards fighting for Justice, Charity and welfare of the less privileged.

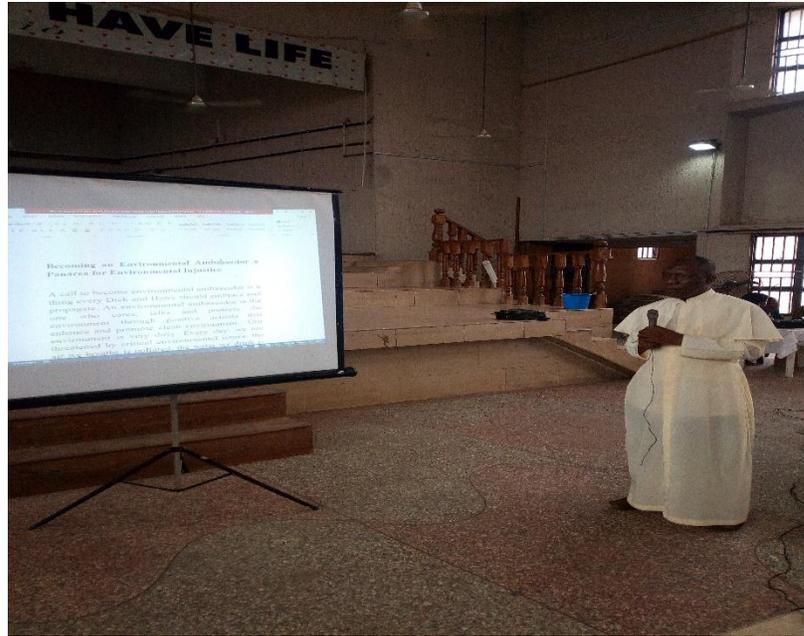
Rev. Fr. Edwin Udoeye in his key note address, elaborated the ills bedeviling the society, which range from bad governance, religious intolerance ethnic antagonism, nepotism, and marginalization to structural inequality. He added that such malaise have given rise to incessant killings, sectorial agitations and the likes.



He however encouraged all JDPC members to try and embrace the spirit of volunteerism and community service in order to foster and promote community development. He challenges all Regional Chairmen, Parish Heads and members on the need to ensure that JDPC week is a huge success in their various parishes.

Participants were thrilled by the two wonderful discussants as they delivered papers on the following topics:

- ✓ The first paper was delivered by Rev. Fr. Dr. Edwin Udoeye on “Becoming an Environmental Ambassador a Panacea for Environmental Injustice” was to address critical environmental issues that border on the air pollution, water contamination, and hazardous waste sites that are inimical to human health. According to him, “A call to become environmental ambassador is a thing every Dick and Harry should embrace and propagate. An environmental ambassador is the one who cares, talks and protects the environment through positive actions that enhance and promote clean environment.” Key focus areas ranging from walk-talk sensitization campaign, catch them young in schools, media campaign to Legislative advocacy were also highlighted.



He therefore enjoin everyone to become environmental ambassador in his/her community so as to help sustain and promote environmental justice by maintaining a clean environment at any point one finds oneself.

- ✓ As core value of JDPC is giving voice to the voiceless, Barr. Obumneme Aloysius Ezeonu (Notary Public) was invited to deliver a paper on “Decoding the Understanding and Misunderstanding Regarding Inheritance Rights in Nigeria.” The target is to bring to the consciousness of the citizens the rights of women as part to inherit their parent’s property as against our Igbo norms and culture that exclusively reserve the rights to inheritance to male folks. Hence, Barr. Ezeonu in his paper stressed the rights of citizens to inherit properties and procedures for acquisition of such as provided by law.



He further highlighted on the types of inheritance and rights of women and inclusion in the eyes of the law as it regards inheritance rights. It was quite an eye opener and mind-burgling, which generated reactions and questions from the participants.

The following regions were duly represented by their members:

1. Aguleri Region
2. Dunukofia Region
3. Igbariam Region
4. Nnobi Region
5. Ogbaru Region
6. Onitsha Region



Cross section of JDPC members from various Regions

Others present at the flag-off were the JDPC Provincial Secretary, Sr. Mary-annOkoye, representative of JDPC Awka diocese, ABS Crew member, Trinitas newspaper member etc.

JDPC Onitsha Archdiocesan Staff were all present, and were very helpful in making sure that this year's JDPC Week Flag-off was a huge success.



Members of JDPC St. Jude's Parish, Fegge during drama presentation on "Becoming Environmental Ambassador"



Barr. Obumneme Aloysius Ezeonu delivering a paper



Cross section of the participants.