



Nnewi Diocesan Priests Association (NDIPA)

Motto: The Family of God on Mission

October 10, 2022

SPIRITANS STAKING OUR BISHOP' REPUTATION: NDIPA REACTS

Some of us are privy to a recent letter of appeal to the Congregation for the Institute of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life signed by Very Rev. Fr. Greg Olikaenyi CSSp., the outgoing Provincial of the Congregation, and co-signed by Very Rev. Fr. Augustine Nwosu CSSp., the incumbent Provincial Superior, they stated inter-alia that tension is mounting in the Diocese and especially in Ihiala.” One wonders what is the purpose of these malicious and misleading assertions, more so when they are coming from people who should know.

Fr. Olikaenyi is from Lilu town and Fr. Nwosu hails from Nnewi town both in Nnewi Diocese.

Would they please explain to the public where these tensions are mounting, or, would their priests in St. Martin of Tours Parish Ihiala, led by Fr. Valentine Eze, inform the public in which of the 14 parishes in Ihiala town there is unrest. In point of fact, there is in no Region, Deanery, and Parish of this Diocese in which there is a public demonstration or unrest. How would ordained Catholic priests be involved in calculated efforts to malign our beloved Bishop who, since the inception of office, has been labouring strenuously to sustain order and discipline in various spheres of the diocesan life for which both the priests and lay faithful are giving him their maximum support? How would these Spiritan Priests, with all these calculated and mischievous attempts continue to damage the image of the Holy Mother Church, because of selfish reasons devoid of the ultimate salvation of souls!

The new parish of St. Mary Mother of God Ihiala has just been carved out from St. Martin of Tours Parish Ihiala. The Spiritans resisted this for five years. They had been reporting to our emeritus Bishop the Most Rev. Hilary Odili Okeke that they were not yet ready to become a parish. But on Sunday 9th October 2022, the new Parish celebrated her first Holy Mass with their new Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Paulinus Enemu. The Holy Mass began by 6.30am with great attendance. After the Holy Mass, the Parishioners were so overjoyed and his welcome turned into a carnival that lasted till about 12 midday.. This is joy and hope that the CSSp' have bottled up for years.

Is it not evident enough that both the outgoing and incoming Superiors are, perhaps unknowingly, out to deceive and mislead the Holy See, the people of God, and the general public? Should it be pointed out to them the grave responsibility on their shoulders to have to repair the damage which they have done to our Bishop' good name, in the light of can. 220? The Canon states, inter- alia, that “no one is permitted to harm illegitimately the good reputation which a person possesses...”

Rev Fr Linus Iloegesi
President

Rev Fr Emmanuel Chukwujekwu
Secretary