



# CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF NIGERIA

*Motto: Collaboration in Service*

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January 13, 2023

**A Communique issued at the end of the 2023 Conference of Major Superiors of Nigeria at Domus Fidei Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Generalate, Ikeja Lagos State from 8 -14 January, 2023**

**“Inter-Generational Dialogue: Towards Building Synergy in Consecrated Life in Nigeria”**

## **1. Preamble**

We, the members of the Conference of Major Superiors of Nigeria, held our Annual Conference at Domus Fidei Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Generalate, Ikeja, Lagos State from 8 -14 January, 2023. Having prayerfully reflected on the theme, “Inter-Generational Dialogue: Towards Building Synergy in Consecrated Life in Nigeria”, we now issue this communique.

## **2. Consecrated Persons and Inter-Generational Dialogue**

As Consecrated Persons called to live community life, we call to mind the exhortation of the Psalmist, “how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live in unity” (Psalm 133: 1). Following this, and in the spirit of synodality, we are called to be open to dialogue across all generations: a dialogue that resolves differences and promotes unity in diversity.

We acknowledge the value of dialogue in our world for building synergy among us as well as the challenges that come with it. We commend the efforts of the Church, other groups and individuals who are committed to promoting dialogue in our society.

Pope Francis in his homily on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in 2014 said that, *“it is good for the elderly to communicate the wisdom to the young people and it is good for the young people to collect this wealth of experience and wisdom...”* Recognizing that we have not engaged in sufficient dialogue, we therefore rely on God’s help. Hence, we reaffirm our commitment to dialogue across all generations.

### **3. Issues and Trends in the Church and Society**

As a nation, we are in a critical moment faced with challenges that border on economy, security, politics and other issues. We are battling with acute shortage of fuel, high rate of inflation, continuous kidnapping, killings, banditry and other uncertainties.

We call on the government to be proactive in ameliorating the sufferings of the masses and to secure the nation. As we approach our general elections, we appreciate the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria for composing the beautiful prayer for free, fair and peaceful elections in Nigeria and we also acknowledge the signing of the electoral bill. We are enjoined to be faithful to the prayer and encourage all Nigerians of voting age to collect their PVCs, go out to vote and to vote for credible candidates, shun election rigging and violence, vote buying and selling.

### **4. Way Forward**

We recognise the great value in dialogue as a way of penetrating different generations and building synergy. We call on consecrated persons and all people to embrace dialogue. We therefore, recommend the following:

- To engage in inter-generational dialogue in order to promote peace, unity and to resolve conflicts.
- To promote mutual respect and kindness starting from our families, religious communities and the society at large.
- There should be openness to the language of different generations for better understanding.
- There should be sincere and honest interaction among individuals.
- People should be more intentional about inter-generational dialogue by creating opportunities for it.
- Integrating dialogue in initial and ongoing formation.

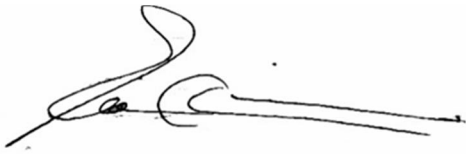
## 5. Conclusion

Pope Francis in his meeting with the young and the old at the Vatican, 2018 said that *dialogue demands trust between the participants who need to listen to one another, share different views, reach agreement and work together. This is especially important between generations – between the keepers of memory – the elderly and those who move history forward – the young.*

Therefore, we encourage every person to work towards this synergy. Like the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4: 1-25, we encounter the Christ that talks and listens to us and enables us to discover ways to break barriers that separate us, foster unity and togetherness in our world.

May God give us the grace for sincere dialogue and for genuine peace. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Queen of Nigeria, continue to intercede for us.

Signed:



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President, CMSN (Men)



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