Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF ORLU
Diocesan Catholic Secretariat
P.O. Box 430, Orlu
Imo State, Nigeria.
063-520296.

PORTA CEALI CISTERCIAN MONASTERY, OWERRE AKOKWA - *MARCH 10, 2007*

The Lord says; ask and you shall receive. We have asked. And we have received. The *Porta Ceali Cistercian Monastery Owerre Akokwa* is what we have received. This is one of those prayers that the Lord has decided to answer in his own time and in his own manner. May His name be praised now and forever. Amen.

I have always cherished Monastic life and discipline. I have always believed that a Local Church is, to some extent, incomplete for the desired apostolate, without some form of Monastery; or some measure of monastic life. I thank God that the Catholic Diocese of Orlu is now blessed with a Monastery.

Just as God decided to save mankind through One in flesh and blood like us: so in our days the same God of infinite mercy and love has decided to offer a monastery to us through one of our sons, Chief Tony I. Ezenna. May this our son who is a man of the people continue to be a man for the people through his generous and selfless sacrifice (Services) for the welfare of the Church and Society.

Our son Tony Ezenna loves his mother. His mother loves the Monastery. Like a good mother she inspires her son. Like a good son he allows the Religious dimension of the mother to get the better of him. Hence what we have today, good mother, good son.

This *Porta Ceali Cistercian Monastery* will ever remain a monument to the readiness and willingness to provide a place of reflection, a place of prayer, a place of worship, a place that will help all and sundry to appreciate that

silence is the megaphone to God. Monastery, I believe is one of the foremost institutions that produce Saints or from where holy people emerge. Any one, therefore, who serves the course of, or promotes such an establishment is a loving child of God, is a vehicle that brings people closer to God in a manner that recognizes the importance of renunciation, reformation, restoration and reconciliation. Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus. Let us be prepared to serve God through serving humanity in keeping with Sacred Scripture, Tradition and the Sacred Canons.

I invite every one to make optimum use of this grace of God on our soil. This special place of prayer among our people, this place of pilgrimage that costs practically nothing in terms of money, energy and time; this *Porta Ceali Cistercian Monastery* through which the God who loves us has come to visit us His loving children.

We want to pay special compliments to *Our Lady of Mount Calvary Cistercian Monastery Awhum, Enugu* for accepting to be part and parcel of our Diocesan Monastery. This mother Monastery has all along been willing to adopt and support us. But it was not advisable until it reached its age of maturity - some measure of independence. The Lord who loves us saw to it by giving a leader, a Cleric, an Abbot Rt. Rev. Don Cyprian Doghudje. Once that requirement was met, our parent- Our *Lady of Mount Calvary Cistercian Monastery* came to carry out its functions. The abbot is a person of honour, one who is happy to be part of us. Now our *Porta Ceali Cistercian Monastery* has come to stay to add to the channel to God - the Way the Truth - the Life: Yes! The *Porta Ceali* - the Gate of Heaven. Come to this gate - knock - open - enter - and be close to God. God is waiting for you- us.

Let us pray for the donor Chief Tony I. Ezenna and family. May God continue to bless and Mother Mary, Gate of Heaven continue to protect. God love you.

Most Rev. Dr. Gregory Ochiagha
Bishop of Orlu

CHIEF TONY I. EZENNA

66/68 Town Planing Way Ilupeju,
Lagos,
Nigeria.

His Lordship,
Gregory O. Ochiagha,
The Catholic Bishop of Orlu Diocese.

SUBJECT: HAND- OVER OF MONASTERY AND LANDED PROPERTY IN FAVOUR OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ORLU

I, Chief Anthony Ifeanyichukwu Ezenna, of Owerre-Akokwa in Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo state in consultation and with the consent of my family, do hereby convey and hand-over the monastery and the adjoining landed property located at Umuorji- Owerre-Akokwa in Imo State and Achara Umuchu in Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State to the Catholic Diocese of Orlu as a gift. I make this gift to the Catholic Diocese of Orlu for Monasterial purposes only and the duration is perpetual.

To assure its fulfillment, it becomes imperative to have it detailed in writing so that successive administrators will be aware of its existence and act as the Diocesan executor. I, Chief Anthony I. Ezenna, therefore on behalf of my family, affix my signature to attest that we conveyed and handed-over the Monastery and adjoining landed property in perpetuity for monasterial purposes to the Catholic Diocese of Orlu.

Asking for your Episcopal and fatherly blessing.

Dated this 1st Day of January, 2007

Signed

Chief Tony I. Ezenna.

(ORANGE DRUGS)