



CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF NIGERIA

Motto: Collaboration in Service

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A Communique issued at the end of the Joint Conference of Major Superiors of Nigeria held at the Daughters of Divine Love Retreat and Conference Centre (DRACC), Aco-Estate Lugbe, FCT Abuja from January 21-27, 2024

Theme: “Formation of Consecrated Persons for the Modern World in the face of Neo-Paganism”

1. Preamble

We, the Major Superiors of Nigeria, held our Annual Conference at Daughters of Divine Love Retreat and Conference Centre (DRACC), Aco-Estate Lugbe, FCT Abuja from January 21-27, 2024. Having prayerfully reflected on the theme, *Formation of Consecrated Persons for the Modern World in the face of Neo-Paganism*, we issue this communique:

2. Formation of Consecrated Persons for the Modern World in the Face of Neo-Paganism

As Consecrated Persons called to form men and women for evangelisation in the modern world, we hold that “Consecrated Life is a stable state of life recognised by the Church, characterised by public profession of the Evangelical Counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience” (CCC. 944). Consecrated Life in the modern world is faced with many realities, especially that of Neo-paganism which stands against God. It is a dethronement of God and enthronement of self and falsehood.

3. Issues and Trends in the Church and Society

Since Neo-paganism craves to redefine the Evangelical Counsels with the intent to distort the foundation of Consecrated Life, many of our institutions are challenged by the following realities:

- Secularism promoted by over-dependence on the social media
- Sentiments about LGBTQIA+

- Wrong interpretation of our African Identity in an attempt to escape from the authentic demands of Consecrated Life
- Syncretism
- Superstitious beliefs, sorcery and divination
- Deviating from our charisms in the quest for viability and sustainability
- Disregard for constituted authority
- Inordinate ambition for material things e.g., wealth, power etc.
- Replacing prayer life with apostolate
- Consecrated Persons visiting unauthorized prayer places
- Exaggerated sense of entitlement

4. Way Forward

We acknowledge these trends of Neo-paganism in our Church and various religious institutions. We call on Consecrated Persons:

- To a renewed faith in God, prayer and a return to basic Catechesis and holistic formation;
- To exemplary living and authentic witnessing to the Gospel values; *“my food is to do the will of the one who sent me”* Jn 4:34,
- To rediscover the spirit of the founder/foundress in order to be true to our charisms;
- To be committed to proper formation of formators;

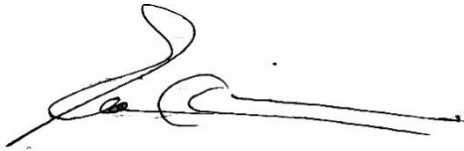
5. Conclusion

We acknowledge the growing falsehood in our time and society that masquerades as truth. As St. Paul says *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths”* (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

As we prepare for the Jubilee Year for Consecrated Life in 2025, we admit that Neo-paganism requires a New Evangelization to stem the tides that it exhibits; an evangelization that is new in ardour, method and approach. The new evangelization *“...needs to integrate the intellectual dimension of the faith into the living experience of the encounter with Jesus Christ”* (Africae Munus, 165). This encounter invites us to remain true to our calling as authentic witnesses and avoid double standards that profess faith in Christ Jesus yet, cling to practices that promote Neo-paganism.

Therefore, we invite all Consecrated Persons, Christians and people of goodwill to work towards eradicating Neo-paganism in all its manifestations. May Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, continue to enlighten our minds and guide us in living fully our Christian calling and commitment. We turn to our Mother Mary, the most authentic witness to the Christian faith, to intercede for us.

Signed:



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