



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 18 TO 24, 2026.

Theme: "Leadership and Sustainability in Consecrated Life."

1. Preamble

We, the Major Superiors of Nigeria, held our Annual Conference at the Daughters of Divine Love Retreat and Conference Centre (DRACC), Aco-Estate, Lugbe, FCT Abuja from January 18 to 24, 2026. Having prayerfully reflected and dialogued critically on the theme, *Leadership and Sustainability in Consecrated Life*, in a time when society like ours is rife with challenges on the subject matter we issue this communique:

2. Leadership and Sustainability in Consecrated Life

As consecrated persons, we hold that, as a call of God to particular persons whom He freely chooses, consecrated life is to live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. This life of renouncing personal ownership, commitment to celibate love of God, and the submission to the legitimate authority of the Institute and the Church allows the total dedication of the whole person to seek perfect charity, to build up the Church and bear witness to the values of the Gospel in the world.

We believe that as much as leadership as a call is important in consecrated life, the God who calls is most important, hence fruitful leadership is nourished by God. Paul may plant, Apollo may water, but it is God who gives growth (1Corinthians 3:6). As consecrated persons, we can codify the styles of leadership that we should espouse as follows: *Servant Leadership, Communion/Collaborative Leadership and Prophetic Leadership*.

Sustainability is the faithful stewardship of the earth's resources. It requires responsible stewardship of creation, an ethical commitment to justice for the poor, and the practice of intergenerational solidarity, all coming from a recognition of the world as God's gift.

3. Leadership and Sustainability: A Prophetic Call for National Stability and Sanctity of Life

As consecrated persons we are aware of the leadership crisis in Nigeria which has led to insecurity, corruption and joblessness affecting the lives of persons in Nigeria negatively.

It is with deep pains in our hearts that we denounce especially the incessant kidnappings of priests, religious, seminarians, students, many other brothers and sisters working with and for us, and other persons affected by the situation.

We therefore, call on the Nigeria government and other stakeholders saddled with leadership at all levels of our society to put up machineries that could alleviate the sufferings in Nigeria.

4. Issues and Trends in Consecrated Life in Nigeria

Consecrated life in Nigeria today is faced with the challenges of leadership and sustainability as a result of:

- Infidelity to the Charism
- Deviation from the founding purpose
- Lack of continuity in existing projects
- Lack of transparency and accountability
- Lack of proper succession plan for leadership at different levels such as: formation, ministries etc.
- Untrained personnel for different responsibilities
- Self-seeking leadership

5. Way Forward


The consecrated person, by virtue of his or her vocation is a leader and these challenges before us reduce the quality of our leadership as it is expected, so we recommend the following as the way forward:

- To deepen our prayer life
- Fidelity to the Charism
- Every institute to make consistent effort to return to their roots
- To make a clear succession plan as we transit in leadership
- The value of transparency and accountability should be upheld
- Periodic leadership training for all members
- Servant leadership as admonished by Christ in Mk 10:45 *"The Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
- To adhere to formation policies of the institute
- To remain faithful to collaborative ministry

6. Conclusion

Renewing our path as prophets of our time, we as consecrated persons must carry out our leadership roles promoting a system that honours the past, speaks for the present and builds the future. Let us embrace leadership and sustainability that "...recognizes in every creature a reflection of divine beauty, reminds us that peace must extend to the whole family of creation. This insight resonates with particular urgency in our time, when our common home is threatened and groans under exploitation..." (Pope Leo XIV; *Letter to the General Ministers of the Franciscan Family*, January 8, 2026).

May Our Lady Queen of Nigeria and St. Francis of Assisi, whose jubilee year we celebrate intercede for us.



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Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Kanu, OSA
President, CMSN (Men)



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Mother Anastasia Dike, DDL
President, NCWR



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Rev. Fr. Gregory Ezeokeke, CMF
Executive Secretary, CMSN (Men)



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