



The Holy See

ADDRESS OF PAUL VI TO THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE

Wednesday, 2 July 1975

It is with profound joy that we greet the Nigerian National Holy Year Pilgrimage. Welcome to all of you, venerable Brothers in the Episcopate, beloved sons and daughters.

You have answered our call with diligence and fidelity, and in the spirit of renewal and reconciliation you have come as pilgrims to the Memorials of the Apostles.

In you we see represented all the Catholics of your land. We see in miniature the Church in Nigeria: the hierarchy, the clergy, religious and laity - all the charisms of the Christian people. We greet the young and the old - all of you striving in the lofty and ardent task of Christian renewal and reconciliation. With sincere respect and friendship we likewise greet the members of other Churches.

Yes, for you and for us: "This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (*Ps.* 117, 24). And as you pursue your Christian goals, know that you are one with the Church of Rome and the universal Church.

And on our part, we are confident that the Christ whom we represent and "who began a good work in you will bring it to completion" (*Phil.* 1. 6). To all Nigeria: grace and peace in the Lord.