

**AN ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING STUDENTS OF MADONNA INTERNATIONAL  
COLLEGE 2015/2016 ACADEMIC YEAR ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2016.**

**BY  
PROF. B.I.C IJOMAH  
PROPRIETOR**

I am very delighted to live and to formally send home this wonderful set of my students. During this year a number of events have taken place, and we give glory to the Almighty Father. But Madonna International College has recorded some wonderful results in the past. This year we are passing out the first set of Madonna Scholars. I am happy to be proud of them.

In this year also, we are graduating a student admitted from the poorest of the poor congregation in Gwagwalada, Abuja. The academic performance of these scholars is a record, and every parent should be proud of them. The first of the graduating students is Miss **Oluebube Ejiofor** who has maintained her academic standard consistently from Basic Seven (JSS One) to SSS Three. Miss **Oluebube Ejiofor** has set a record and I challenge the oncoming students to work hard to surpass **Miss Oluebube's** records.

The proprietor is proud to have **Oluebube** as one of the proprietor's scholars. The other student who has given **Oluebube Ejiofor** a hot chase is **Ibemere Kosi**, who is graduating with satisfactory results. There is nothing to choose between two of them. Madonna is proud to set this standard as a challenge to other colleges to help the brilliant students who are indigent. **Miss. Mercy Agbadi** is the third proprietor's student on proprietor's scholarship

On behalf of Madonna International College, I congratulate these students and I hope that the next set of scholars will surpass their academic achievements. I congratulate their parents. Madonna International College is happy for the parents, because their children enjoyed full boarding and tuition scholarships for five and six years respectively.

We will award new set of scholarships beginning from next academic year. This first set was experimental.

The recipients will come from the present Basic Seven (**JS1**). The scholarship is given purely on academic basis and good behaviour. It covers full boarding and tuition.

Next session, a scholarship will be dedicated to perhaps one of the youngest actresses in the country. This scholarship will be called **Regina Daniel** scholarships, and is to encourage other young actresses in the industry. Madonna International College identifies talents and encourages upcoming artists. The Madonna scholarship scheme is open to every students and selection is based on academic works and good behaviour.

### **The Crucifix**

During this period we have acquired a giant Crucifix of Agonizing Jesus Christ. The college itself is a result of inspirations and as long as our Lord Jesus Christ continues to bless this college, we will award more scholarships in the future.

### **Standard Football Field:**

In this academic year, Madonna College has been able to construct a standard football field. I believe Madonna International College is the first private college to have a standard football field. The college is grateful to Mr. Victor Ochei whose Engineering Department assisted in constructing the football field. I also want to personally commend Engineer Adeleke, who supervised the construction of the football field and watered the grass without sending any bill to the college.

### **Teachers:**

I want to commend my teachers, and other staff of Madonna International College. They have done very well to survive under these economic realities. I pray that God will see them through and help them become more useful to the nation.

### **Parents:**

The college appreciates the efforts of parents who have managed to see their children through this institution. For some parents, I admit that it is not easy. Madonna International College will continue to assist students so that their parents will have some respite. We do not discriminate. We admit students purely on their academic performance regardless of the student's religion.

Parents are encouraged to send their children to good institutions that can help to reshape the students. Everybody is aware that this country is passing through difficult time. Somebody said that there is nothing to write home about Nigeria, but I disagree. It is true that many students in other colleges reflect the character of the nation. But here at Madonna we make it a point of duty to assist the parents to bring up their children in such a way that parents will be proud that Madonna has actually remolded their children into lovable personalities that will make positive contributions to Nigeria when they pass out.

Discipline in Madonna International College, is of great importance to us, and we are happy, that in spite of some challenges, the college has maintained a good record. I commend all the students; I wish they carry this light into the society to change the image that some people have given to this country.

### **Corruption:**

In 1984, I wrote a book **Afrocracy**. In this book I predicted that the corruption in Nigeria will assume another dimension unless something most drastic was done. Nothing was done and the country has gone from 10% corruption to hundred percent corruptions. When I read about people who have been arrested and accused of embezzling money which could have been used to get Nigeria out of her economic difficulties, I weep for Nigeria. The things that led to the civil war are still around with us. Today the Nigerian scenario shows that people do not learn anything until they are level with the ground.

We have given our student's unshakeable foundation. I want to assure the parents that the students who are leaving Madonna have been changed by Madonna to become a pride to the nation.

### **Books:**

I want to use this opportunity to appeal to parents who are reluctant to buy books for their children. No farmer goes to farm without farming implements. Books are *sine qua non*. You cannot do without books. Unfortunately, many parents do not want to spend money on books. We accept that the economic condition of the country is bad. But since they have decided to send their children to Madonna College, parents must really partner with Madonna so that they are able to produce the students that meet the dreams

of Madonna International College. Every parent is encouraged to make sure that all the books recommended by the ministry are purchased for their children.

I am aware that many of these young children, especially in their first and second years do not know how to manage their own property. Parents should also assist the college to look into the books purchased for their children and make sure their children keep the books well.

### **Cambridge:**

The college will be preparing the students for Cambridge Examinations. I encourage parents to assist their children to enroll in Cambridge Examinations. It will be an advantage.

### **To The Graduating Students (A Word of Advice) Good Luck:**

Every parent whose child passes out of Madonna will testify that Madonna has changed the character of his/her ward. We reform a student to bring out the best in him. Madonna brings out talents and students are proud as they leave Madonna. I want to advice you as you step into the society to try your best.

I believe things will improve in the country. We are living at the mercy of God the Almighty Father. The evils in this country are enough to destroy Nigeria. But we have one consolation: Our Father in heaven is a very compassionate Father. He receives prayers from some good elements in the society, and I believe that He has kept Nigeria going because of the interventions of some good people. I urge my students not to be part of the corruption in Nigeria. You must distinguish yourself in every situation. The moment you answer that you are from Madonna, the expectation is high. We have record; we have shown to the world that our students pass out not only in academics but also in general comportment. As you step into the society let your behavior, let the steps you take, let your language been known to Nigeria that you have passed through Madonna International College.

If you check Madonna records, practically every student who has passed through Madonna has have found himself/herself in one university or the other. And they are doing very well. I pray therefore for you that as you step into the society, you will not be

a part of the rot of the society; you will not be a part of them. You know who you are. My Latin students will tell you “*quisque faber est suae fortunae*” man is the architect of his fortune. But you live in an environment like Madonna International College to discover yourself; at Madonna every student really discovers himself/herself. You must remain a pride to your parents.

### **The Alumni Association:**

The students who graduated before this set have formed the Alumni Association. They are looking forward. I commend their initiative. I encourage you to join them as you leave the walls of this college. You must follow their footsteps.

I say that all is not well in Nigeria, not because of Niger Delta, but because we do not know where we are going. In 1984, I gave a lecture at university of Ibadan. The title of the lecture is **Quo Vadis Nigeria?** I asked where we were going. The questions I ask in 1984, are still alive today which shows that all is not well in Nigeria. We have not understood the problems of Nigeria. A blind man does not lead to a blind man.

I charge you as you step into the society to lead by example. It will be sad news for me if I ever hear that a product of Madonna is involved in corrupt practices in the country. You should keep to what we have taught you and grow with it. I want my students to avoid what I called (**LAGAV**) lust, anger, greed, attachment and vanity. Those who can avoid this monster, that is lust, anger, greed, attachment and vanity will overcome the temptations in the society. And you will find our philosophy, and know that the spirit of Madonna is in you. The spirit of Madonna is different; the spirit of Madonna is the best.

### **Votes of Gratitude**

The college is grateful to his Lordship Bishop Elue, for giving us a chaplain to take care of the student’s spiritual needs. Madonna International College is happy to have this set of graduating students who are disciplined.

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**THE NECESSITY TO RETURN TO GOD**

**The Two Purpose of Life, the Real Goal of Life:**

My dear students, a few days ago, I spoke to you on the pursuit of life, a call to humility, but the questions is, what is life? What is the purpose of life? You have come to this college, with a purpose in mind to study and to pass your West African Examination. What else do you need apart from passing examination? This question leads me to talk with you about the real goal of life.

In the Catholic Catechism we are taught that God created us to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him and to be happy with Him in the next world. Every good religion that prophesies to teach about God must agree that the purpose of life is to prepare us to return home back to God where we came from. Let me start with an example “we are told in science that the water that comes from the seas goes up to form the cloud, the clouds fall down as rain”. The actual goal is to flow down the river and again enter the sea.

In a similar way we have come from God. We embark on life in search of material wellbeing. Then we struggle to get out of this life and return to God.

My dear students you have been born into this sinful life. God created a perfect life, but the evil one created the attractions of this world to deceive the children of God who abandon the search for a way to return back to God in search of material wealth on this earth.

In the Eastern Religion, this age is called the age of **Kali-Yuga**. It is known to be the age of Hypocrisy, the age of Violence, the age of Deceit, the age of Murder and Violence. We are born into this age and we are confronted with struggles on how to live a good life and return to the Father. For many, the attractions of this world are so consuming that they fail to prepare themselves for this return journey. My children you have come to the end of the first struggle in preparing yourselves to live a good life. The Bible asks, of what good is life to man if he gains the whole world and suffers the loss of his soul. We are children of God. We came from God. We must return to God. That is the main purpose of life.

Now you are going into the world to struggle to enjoy or to suffer. The choice is yours. If you prefer to live the life of dalliance, a life of pleasure, you will quickly recall a lecture I gave you two weeks ago on the pursuit of life. In that lecture I drew your attention to the imperatives of life. You are confronted by five agencies of the evil one. In your search to live a good life you will be tempted, you will be distracted, you will be provoke, you will find yourselves getting attached to the material world in such a way that you forget that the purpose of your life is to live a good life and return to God. How many of you would like to return to hell? You didn't come from hell, you came from God. The purpose of

your life is to serve God in this world, prepare yourselves and return to Him. Many of you indulge in vanity.

I want you to read the lecture I gave you again about the five problems you must overcome in order to live a good life. If you do not overcome those five problems, if you do not conquer your propensity to anger, if you do not check the greedy nature of man in your life, if you do not attach yourselves inordinately to material world, material things, good clothes, good car, good hair style, and vanity, if you do not attach yourselves to these five crises, you will be sure to live a good life and return to your maker.

All of us are in this world as travelers; we must live in this world, we must die in this world, and we are expected to return to our God who sent us to this world. If you cannot cope with the attractions of these five problems, you cannot return to God.

Therefore my talk to you today, is to caution you that as you get into the world, the world will seek to capture you. You will run after women and women will run after men; you will fight for money and for wealth; you may steal to get money, you may kill to get money. But all these things prepare you not for heaven but for hell. Be careful as you leave Madonna into the World.

May God arm you to overcome LAGAV.

Those who need our assistance to get into universities are free to see the Proprietor.