

Your Grace,

Most Rev. Dr. Augustine Akubueze,

The Archbishop of Benin City Catholic Archdiocese and

The Edo Catholic Community



The news of the passing of Archbishop Emeritus, Patrick Ebosele Ekpu, has evoked in me the deepest reflections of life, as I recall with passion, my very recent visit to this eminent servant of God who dedicated his long life to serving the Almighty God and ministering to the people of Nigeria particularly in Edo State. Archbishop Ekpu's 92 years were a testament to his unwavering faith, boundless compassion, and lifelong commitment to the spiritual nourishment of his flock.

A beloved shepherd of souls, Archbishop Ekpu's wisdom, gentleness, and humility were an inspiration to all who knew him. Through his powerful homilies and dedicated acts of selfless charity, he was a guiding light who showed us the path of righteousness, how to bear with faith all earthly challenges, and the way to live in peace and harmony with our fellow men and women. His was a ministry defined by love, service, and unshakeable belief in the dignity and equality of all God's children.

In this time of mourning, may the outpouring of love and the cherished memories of Archbishop Ekpu's life be of comfort to the Archdiocese of Benin City and the entire Catholic community in Nigeria. Though he has departed from this earthly world, his legacy of principled leadership and compassionate acts will forever illuminate our way forward. Archbishop Ekpu's soul now rests in the eternal embrace of the Lord he served so faithfully.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sorrowful moment. May the consoling grace of our Heavenly Father ease our grief and uphold all of us in the sure hope of our reunion in everlasting life.

High Chief Tom IKIMI KSG CON

Oduma of Esanland

