



CONGREGATIO
PRO GENTIUM EVANGELIZATIONE

Prot. 180/18 (3)

19 February 2018

Your Excellency,

With a much-appreciated sense of responsibility and love for the Church, you, in the more than five years since your appointment as the Bishop of Ahiara, have tried to carry out the mandate of the Holy Father. The regrettable case in Ahiara, brought about by the irresponsible and obstinate attitude of some priests who systematically rejected your appointment as Ordinary of the Diocese, not only deeply saddened the Holy Father, but also the whole Church in Nigeria.

At this time, the Supreme Pontiff, taking note of your actions, wishes to express to you, once again, his esteem and appreciation for you as a priest of Jesus Christ and Bishop of the Church. To these sentiments of the Supreme Pontiff, I also would like to add my own and those of the entire Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, who thanks you for your Pastoral witness.

I am sure that, notwithstanding the displeasure and the long-suffering of these years, you keep nurturing good memories of the Diocese, which, I believe, in your heart you have loved and for whom you have fervently prayed.

Please continue praying for the future of Ahiara, which has become dear to your Pastoral heart, despite all that has happened.

May the Lord reward you for all you have done. With many thanks, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

L. Card. Dolan
Prof.
[Signature]
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His Excellency
The Most Rev. **Peter Ebere OKPALEKE**
Bishop

NIGERIA