

Subject: Diocese of Auchi, Nigeria

The Catholic Diocese of Auchi, Nigeria was erected in November 2003, with Bishop Gabriel Dunia as its first Bishop. It was a brand new diocese situated in the northern part of Edo State and headquartered in Auchi, Nigeria, a predominantly Muslim town. The main economic framework for the area is subsistent farming. From the onset, the Diocese had to contend with a lot of challenging factors in growth and development such as the building of a Bishop's house, the Cathedral Church, and a pastoral center. What the Diocese lacks in financial strength, it possesses in the abundance of faith and the vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

As of today, the Diocese comprises of 35 parishes, 25 mass centers, 110 priests and 64 seminarians in the various formative seminaries. The ongoing training of priests and seminarians consumes the bulk of the financial resources of the diocese.

Sharing our mission story with you is to bring to your awareness the evangelization prospects available in the Diocese and how we hope to spread the word of God in this rural and needful vineyard of Christ. Our quest is to continue evangelization through the facilitation of people-friendly programs such as:

- Healthcare - The provisions of rural healthcare centers.
- Education - opening of mission schools as the old mission schools were taken over by the government in 1973
- Training of priests - 64 seminarians in training at this moment makes a great financial burden on the Diocese, hence the need to solicit for funds, which this missionary cooperative appeal provides to mission territories like ours.

The need to share our mission story with you allows us to bring the Church in this mission territory to your attention. Whatever you are able to contribute to the life and growth of the church is truly given to Christ in need. It will assist the struggling diocese, fulfill some people-friendly programs within its territory, and train more priests for the mission of the whole Church.