



NIGERIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

517 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02121

Mailing Address
P. O. Box 365314
Hyde Park, MA 02136

Parish Office: 617-445-8915
Parochial Vicar: 857-251-6668
Website: www.nigeriancatholicboston.org

Press Release

Nigerian Catholic Community Celebrates Silver Jubilee

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Gerald Osterman

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Fr. Jude Thaddeus Osunkwo

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Rev. Sr. Christiana Onyewuche

Officers:

Mr. Peter M. Uzoma
(Vice Chairman)

Mr. Felix Okwesa
(General Secretary)

Mrs. Victoria Awogboro
(Asst. Gen. Secretary)

Mr. Ike Oguadimma
(PRO)

Mr. Felix Nwaobasi
(Financial Secretary)

Mrs. Tina Kamalu
(Treasurer)

The Nigerian Catholic Community of Boston Archdiocese based at St Katharine Drexel Parish, 517 Blue Hill Avenue Dorchester, MA will celebrate her 25 years of continuous existence on **Saturday July 26, 2014**. It is an important milestone in the life of Nigerians in Boston, MA. **In June of 1988**, a group of Nigerians living in Boston, Massachusetts approached **Fr. Jerry Osterman**, the Parish priest of what was known as **St John- St Hughes' Catholic Church** and requested to be allowed to worship separately on Sundays. Soon after, this request was granted and Nigerian Catholics found a home away from home. Today, what began modestly with a few families has become one of the largest Nigerian Catholic Communities anywhere outside of our motherland, Nigeria.

This church does not only serve as a worship center, it has also long served as a civic center where Nigerians of all faiths congregate to discuss matters of common interest. **The Nigerian Catholic Community at St Katharine Drexel Parish** is also historic because it's the oldest continuously existing Nigerian Catholic Community in the U.S.A. This event is expected to attract hundreds of Nigerians, other ethnic apostolates and residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Silver Jubilee celebration will be held on **Saturday July 26, 2014** and will comprise of two phases: the church service and the gala night. 'We are celebrating it this year because the Boston Archdiocese officially recognized us in 1989', said Ignatius Nwachukwu, Chairman of the Silver Jubilee Planning Committee.

The Holy Mass will be concelebrated by His Eminence, **Sean Cardinal O'Malley**, Archbishop of Boston and Nigerian born **Francis Cardinal Arinze** of The Vatican, Rome. Speaking earlier, the chairman of the Publicity Sub Committee, Mr. Willy Okwerekwu, said 'it is a rare occurrence to have two Cardinals of the Catholic Church in an event outside of Rome, for Catholics and non-Catholics; it will be a sight to behold'.

The church service will be from 4:00 P.M to 6:00 P.M. and the reception, taking place at Reggie Lewis Athletic Center; 1350 Tremont Street Boston, will start at 7:00 P.M and end at 1:00 A.M.

Contact the following for more information:

Ignatius C. Nwachukwu, Chairman Silver Jubilee Planning Committee (617) 721 4090
Rev. Dr. Jude T. Osunkwo, Parochial Vicar (857) 251 6668
Mr. Willy Okwerekwu, Chairman Publicity Sub Committee (617) 365 4779
Mr. Peter M. Uzoma, Vice Chairman, Nigerian Cath. Community (617) 308 3903
Mrs. Jumaada Smith, Member Silver Jubilee Planning Committee (910) 200 6764

END

#####