



SYMPOSIUM OF EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES OF AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO MOST REV. MATTHEW ISHAYA AUDU ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION AS ARCHBISHOP OF JOS, NIGERIA,
30TH MARCH 2020

Most Rev. Mathew Ishaya Audu, we members of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) wholeheartedly congratulate you on your new appointment as Archbishop of Jos, Nigeria. With your many years of experience in parish work and as a formator in the major seminary, your loyal and steadfast service to the Church led to your appointment as the first Bishop of Lafia on 5th December 2000 and now Archbishop of Jos. We have no doubt that you have the requisite tact and insight to excel in the leadership of the metropolitan seat.

As Bishop of Lafia, you indicated on a number of occasions that your primary concern as a prelate was the good of all the people entrusted to your care, irrespective of their background. Following this, the Church acknowledges your role in championing the cause of justice, peace and ecumenical relations in, and beyond Lafia Diocese.

Your calm and poised posture and assertiveness on issues relating to discrimination and violence in Nigeria has been highly noted and we at SECAM trust that with your elevation as Archbishop of Jos, you will continue to work with your brother Bishops in Nigeria, Africa and the world for peaceful and harmonious co-existence amongst people of different ethnic, cultural, social, religious and political beliefs.

Your Grace, Archbishop Audu, the Archdiocese of Jos has previously experienced a number of challenges due to religious and ethnic violence, a situation your predecessor, Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama, did his best to resolve when he established the Dialogue, Reconciliation and Peace Centre in 2011 to bring warring communities together. With twenty years of episcopal leadership, we are convinced that you will also bring your talent to bear on, and do more to accomplish lasting peace in those communities.

The Church-Family of God in Africa and Madagascar is delighted to celebrate with you today, your elevation as Archbishop of Jos. We congratulate you, once again, and pray that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother and Queen of Africa, your leadership will be exemplary and bring joy and hope to the people entrusted to your care and beyond. We your brothers wish you well and assure you of our continued spiritual and moral support in your new portfolio.

God bless you!

Philippe Cardinal Ouédraogo
Archbishop of Ouagadougou
President of SECAM

