

BISHOP'S MOTHERING SUNDAY MESSAGE

Beloved in the Lord,

It is with utmost sense of responsibility that we welcome you to this year's celebration in honor of our Women and Mothers. We remain eternally grateful to our God and Father, the giver of all good and perfect gift, for the invaluable gift of women. As a church, it is customary, rightly so, to always honor, and celebrate our women in recognition of the important position and role they hold and play in our family and corporate ministries, and we thank God for the opportunity to do so. As a Diocese, we are deeply indebted to our women for their support and commitment to our life and ministry. We bless you all.

In this year's celebration, our focus is to remind us, especially our women that God has bestowed us with numerous heritage with the sole responsibility of cherishing, preserving and guiding them jealously to His glory and blessing of our homes, the church and world at large. It is clear that we live in a time and dispensation when modernization tends to war against our godly dispositions. However, we must remember that though we are in the world, we must not be of the world.

Our place and positions as daughters, sisters, wives, and mothers come with the responsibility of being godly tools in building decent homes and society. God has called us into these places and positions, and to Him alone we owe accountability. For it is in jealousy guiding these godly gifts and positions that we are assured of our crown of glory as the Lord reminds us "I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown." (Revelation 3:11).

To achieve this task, we must tap into the good examples of our own mothers.

We must also desire the purity of the Virgin Mary, the submissive disposition of Sarah, the faith and humility of Hannah, and the godly parenting of Lois, and Eunice. It is a fact that children do not behave too much differently from what they see and observe at home. We, the women have all it takes to shape the future of the next generation. Heaven is counting on us.

Therefore in these days of several distractions, we call on all our women in general and our mothers in particular, to take to heart this injunction "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her Lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear." (1 Peter 3:3-6 NIV).

We call on all our men and children to always encourage, honor and support our women and mothers as they strive to fulfill their God give duty to God's glory and blessings of us all.

Again, we bless and congratulate all our women and mothers wishing you all a blessed celebration.

Happy Mothering Sunday To You All.

And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne; to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be all honor, glory and dominion now till the end of the age. Amen.

Your Bishop and Father in God,

**†NATH, ABA NGWA NORTH
MARCH 2022**