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Members of EXCO. Regional and States Supervisors, <u>Shepherds and Parishioners</u>.

2019 END OF YEAR MESSAGE. December 12, 2019

Mother Nature has unleashed considerable fury in 2019, with more than 300 natural disasters registered globally. Her weapons of choice this year include fire, wind, drought and rain, with earthquakes and volcanoes playing a lesser role. Damages in the first six months are pegged at US\$40 billion, with 5,000 people dead or missing; an estimated 22 million people will be displaced from these events by year's end. Across the world, climate change and global warming is tightening its grip on a seemingly complacent population, and Mother Nature is starting to get angry!

**Hurricane Dorian** was the most intense tropical cyclone on record to strike the Bahamas, and is regarded as the worst natural disaster in the country's history.[1] It was also one of the most powerful hurricanes recorded in the Atlantic Ocean in terms of 1-minute sustained winds, with these winds peaking at 185 mph (295 km/h). It was the fourth named storm and the first major hurricane of the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season. Dorian struck the Abaco Islands on September 1 with maximum sustained winds of 185 mph, tying with the 1935 Labor Day hurricane for the highest wind speeds of an Atlantic hurricane ever recorded at landfall. Dorian went on to strike Grand Bahama at similar intensity, stalling just north of the territory with unrelenting winds for at least 24 hours. The resultant damage to these islands was catastrophic; thousands of homes were flattened or swept to sea, at least 73 deaths were recorded and at least 70,000 people were left homeless. After its ravages through the Bahamas, Dorian proceeded along the coasts of the Southeastern United States and Atlantic Canada, leaving behind considerable damage and economic losses in those regions. The true death toll is unknown, but news sources in the Bahamas suggested that it will likely be significantly higher. As of December 7, 2019, more than 282 people are still reported as missing. Dorian is by far the costliest disaster in Bahamian history, estimated to have left behind \$3.4 billion in damage.

**Earthquake**: As of February 12, Official report mentions 41 killed and 54 injured. 67 people are still missing in the M 6.8 earthquake which hit **Negros-Cebu region**, **Philippines**. NDRRMC's Sunday update mentions, Quake affected 34,507 families or 185,496 people in 135 villages in eight towns and two cities. Of these, 8,469 families or 42,045 people are being served in 74 evacuation centers

**Regional Supervisors** 

**Cyclone Fani** in May **2019** took 80 lives and displaced about 3.4 million in India and Pakistan. Also, **Cyclone Idai** in March **2019** killed more than 750 people in Mozambique and displaced almost half-a-million people into areas that had no capacity to receive them.

The **increasing rates of wildfires** were first reported by Brazil's <u>National Institute for Space Research</u> in June and July 2019 through satellite monitoring systems, but international attention was drawn to the situation by August 2019 when <u>NASA</u> corroborated INPE's findings, and smoke from the fires, visible from satellite imagery, darkened the city of <u>São Paulo</u> despite being thousands of kilometers from the Amazon. As of August 29, 2019, INPE reported more than 80,000 fires across all of Brazil. Similarly yearly increases in fires were subsequently reported in Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru, with the 2019 fire counts within each nation of over 19,000, 11,000 and 6,700, respectively, as of August 29, 2019. It is estimated that over 906 thousand hectares (3,500 sq mi) of forest within the Amazon biome has been lost to fires in 2019. In addition to the impact on global climate, the fires created environmental concerns from the excess <u>carbon dioxide</u> and <u>carbon monoxide</u> within the fires' emissions, potential impacts on the <u>biodiversity</u> of the Amazon, and threats to indigenous tribes that live within the forest.

**California's Camp Fire was the latest deadly travesty, as wildfires in the state become more frequent and pervasive.** In November 2018, the <u>Camp Fire</u> tore through Northern California, <u>destroying the entire town of Paradise</u> in less than a day. The blaze killed 85 people and scorched 153,336 acres — an area larger than the city of Chicago. All told, there are 782,681 acres on fire in the United States, and more than 550,000 of them are in Alaska, according to the National Interagency Coordination Center <u>situation report</u>. Australia and New Zealand were not also spared.

At least 265 million people have been internally displaced by disaster since the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) began capturing this form of data in 2008 – that's 24 million people per year on average. Man engineered disasters such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, hatred, terrorism and political and religious intolerance have continued to gulp thousands of lives all over the world on daily basis. The Message is clear - the Trumpet from the Mother Nature is sounding clearer and louder that this is the Terminal Generation and the descent into eternity is commencing - you are warned!!!

The 5th National Convention — "The Clarion Call", was yet another great manifestation of the amazing faithfulness of the Lord. It was a most fulfilling and record-breaking Convention with 1,060 registrants and almost 800 attendees drawn from all over the world. The Pastor and Spiritual Head of the Church was ably represented by a celebrated member of the Trustees, who was supported by a number of high profile clergies from Nigeria. It was held at an elaborate 5 + Star Pheasant Run Resort, Illinois with an operating Master Budget of over \$250,000.00. As usual, Strategic goals, structured into short and medium objectives were established for all the major operating segments of the Church. Uniform yearly Curriculums covering June 2019 to May 2020 were published and released for Sunday Schools, Bible Classes and Shepherds office. The Youths Ministry held their own Conference and released their Blue- Prints on the way to stem youth emigration and maintain sustainable enthusiasm and growth of the youths as the leaders of tomorrow. Women Council also had fire-seasoned pragmatic Sessions with profound positive

impaction. In 2021 all roads lead to Washington/Maryland for the next National Convention tagged "Transformation 2021" promising yet another great landmark for the diocese.

## **USA Diocese Imeko Property**

Once again this year, the diocese has set a new record of sincere love and commitment towards God. During the Convention of 2017 a sum of \$84,000.00 was raised within 30 minutes for Imeko Basilica Roofing Project. During this year's Convention a record sum of \$135,000.00 was raised within 40 minutes – indeed, a major investment into the Eternal Treasury of Heaven. This is a clear demonstration of an unwavering faith in the Church and a solid trust in the Lord as a true God of reciprocity. This fund is for the Construction of USA House at Imeko for the comfort stay of members of the Church in USA whenever they are at Imeko. As at this month December 2019, six plots of land has been acquired, over 10,000 construction blocks have been produced on site, the architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical drawings have been submitted to the Planning Authority and the Contractor is ready to commence immediately we have the approvals. Those members who are going for this year's Convocation are at liberty to visit the site to confirm the work-in-progress. For all those who have donated or reliably pledged and all those who will also be donating, you have sown unto Heaven, you will never lack anything good from the Treasury of Heaven. The abundance of the deep and the fullness of above will remain your portion. EXCO approved levies: Every Parish: \$200.00, Every shepherd and Church worker: \$100.00 each. Every member/parishioner: \$25. Pay into: Account: Bank of America NA Routing #021200339 CCC Property Dev. Account. Account # 3810 5482 5691. Please note that we are still expecting parishes and members to make good the pledges they made at the Convention.

Annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel: The 5th 10-day pilgrimage to the holy land of Israel will take place between May 09, and May 18, 2020. It will be an intensive exercise that will be spiritually charged. In a luxurious bus carrying the banner of Celestial Church of Christ. Thirty two major sites of biblical importance, accompanied by a knowledgeable tour guide provided by America-Israel Tours, will be visited, including baptism at Jordan, full worship Service in a chapel on the Mount of Transfiguration, administration of Holy Communion at the Garden Tomb, fire-seasoned prayer on Mount Camel and Mount Olive, and full Service injected with praise worship and prophetic exercise on the Sea of Galilee. It will be a great experience in 5-Star hotels saturated with sumptuous buffets, the holy pilgrims will travel from Tel Aviv to Tiberias, to the Dead Sea, to Jerusalem with important stops along the way which include Jaffa, Caesarea, Mt Carmel, Jericho, etc. All costs inclusive is placed at \$3,000.00 For the registration form and/or additional information, please call/text the general coordinator: Sister Ijeoma Umoru at (973) 476-4336 or email her at handmaidathisfeet@gmail.com

Shepherds and Church workers Retreat – April 2020. (Hilton Garden Inn, Detroit Metro Airport, MI) The workers Retreat held in 2018 was evidently a very profitable one. Another one to update all shepherds and church workers, enrich and enlarge their horizon of knowledge and understanding and align them with contemporary developments will hold in April 2020. Unless professionals submit to regular retreat and refresher Courses they will soon become obsolete tools of no relevance. This is to re-emphasize the compelling need for every shepherd and registered church worker to be at this all important and crucial conference where issues of lasting consequence will be decided. This Retreat will cover among other issues:

- \* Refresher Course on sound doctrines and ordinances of the Church.
- Standardization of principles and practices on some controversial issues.
- Education on Sound Ecclesiastic codes of conducts.
- **Standardization of Church Administration, Accounting, legal and Taxation.**
- ❖ Shepherds welfare, compensation and set up of Mechanism for Conflict resolution.
- Chairmen and Parochial Committees should please note that Air fares and boarding of shepherds shall be borne by the parishes. Wives of Shepherds are also required at this Retreat as co-workers in the Vineyard of God. Their forum will address the Standard behavior, sound moral practice and their schedule of responsibilities to make the calling of their husbands a successful and profitable one for God.

The Harvest Convocation of this year was celebrated in an atmosphere of deep love, peace and oneness of spirit without any reported misfortunes or accident as we flew and drove from one coast to the other. It was a glorious sacrifice to the awesome God of the Universe and celebration of His faithfulness. The Pastor and Spiritual Head, Rev. EMF Oshoffa sent his pastoral blessing unto all the flocks of God. May we celebrate many more harvests in the land of the living and be counted among the chosen at the end-time Convocation.

At Christmas, we have celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the giver of life, the author of Salvation, the only source of enduring joy, and peace. Please be reminded that at Christmas you are required by the Scripture to appear before the Lord with your thanks-offering in appreciation of His awesome grace, love and mercy. As a true believer, remember to provide friendly gifts that are truly reflective of divine love, peace and hope to someone in your family, in your neighborhood and in your church. Let the less fortunate, the handicapped, the orphans, widows and the laborers in the Vineyard know that you care, and so store up treasures for yourselves in heaven.

As usual, we are taking advantage of this Season to express our most profound gratitude for the wonderful support, and cooperation received from all parishioners, officers, and shepherds by the states, regional, diocesan, and pastoral administrations of this great church, during the outgoing year 2019. We also appreciate your unflinching faith in CCC as the end-time Vessel of Salvation. May the good God of reciprocity keep you & give you peace.

More importantly, kindly pause and reflect on your past and make a sincere atonement to those that you have offended, forgive and forget the sins of those who have offended you, repent and renew your vow unto the Lord that you will, henceforth, be a source of peace to your neighbors, a fountain of progress to the church and a vessel for the promotion of God's Kingdom. This is the most rewarding resolution for the new year. As we celebrate let us also remember to pray for quick restitution for all those who have been devastated in one way or the other during the outgoing year. May the in-coming year 2020 be a year of restoration of joy to them all.

On behalf of the Pastor and Spiritual Head of the Church, Pastor EM Oshoffa, the Board of Trustees, the Pastor -in-Council and the Diocese of USA, the Council wishes all members a Merry Christmas and a most peaceful, fulfilling and joyous 2020. And unto Him who has made it possible for us to see the year end in good health, peace, joy and freedom, the Almighty God of all creations, King of immortality, Everlasting Father, His beloved Son, Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit be the glory, honor, majesty, power and dominion now and forevermore.

USA DIOCESE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.