

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Twelve years ago, the maiden edition of the NACATHS JOURNAL OF AFRICAN THEOLOGY made its appearance. From the editorial comment of that historical edition, it was the first time that all Catholic major seminaries / Theologians of our country could come together in pursuit of such a common theological project. It was an attempt towards the development of African theology or at least, an honest attempt to attune the minds of our young theology students towards the development of African Christian theology.

Churches in some parts of Nigeria are being blessed with larger membership. These people are mostly drawn from African traditional background. These masses of people, including older church members are however lacking in depth and commitment to the faith. African Independent Churches and other religious movements are constantly thriving and reducing the membership of the mainline churches. Members consistently are on the movement from the faith to other syncretic practices and Pentecostal churches. Perhaps something needs to be done. A prolongation of the early missionary approach of rejecting completely the traditional religious beliefs of our people may be adding salt to an already existing injury. We need a new approach.

There is an unavoidable link between evangelization and inculturation. We need to learn some lessons from the North African experience and the disappearance of the Churches founded in the sub-Saharan Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries. Could history repeat itself?

The present volume is richer in offering us the contents of our previous Journal editions. Moreover, the contributors to this present volume have made genuine efforts to study African Traditional Religious beliefs and the Christian faith in view of inculturation. It is our hope that these reflections will help to deepen in us the awareness of the urgent need for genuine reconciliation between faith and African culture.

Rev. Onyebuchi Callistus Asogwa

(Editor- in-Chief)