

NUNTIUS

THE MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
DON BOSCO INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY IBADAN NIGERIA

LUMEN ET SAPIENTIA

Vol. 1. FEB. 2021

THANK YOU REV. FR. DR. ROBERTO CASTIGLIONE SDB

On February 5, 2021 Rev. Fr Dr Roberto Castiglione, SDB left our Institute in transition to Ghana where he is currently serving as the Rector of Bl. Artemides Zatti community and simultaneously dispenses the secretarial function of the AFW province.

Fr Roberto Castiglione has served the Institute in maximal capacity and for about a decade has held the post of Dean of Studies of the Don Bosco Institute of Philosophy. The departure of the immediate past dean was celebrated with all the grandiose expression that could be mustered by both staff and students.

He was celebrated by the Institute during the yuletide celebrations held in the auditorium and also celebrated once more during the Don Bosco feast. He left our precincts on February 5, a day after the conclusion of the first semester exams and was warmly received by his new community on February 7. His indefatigable efforts are immortalized and engraved in the history of our Institute.



INSTALLATION OF THE NEW DEAN OF STUDIES REV. FR DR ANTHONY OKONKWO SDB



Following the transfer of Rev. Fr Dr Roberto Castiglione, the new incumbent dean, Rev. Fr Dr Anthony Emeka Okonkwo, SDB. Though Fr Anthony may be the new dean of studies, he is by no means a stranger to the precincts of the Institute as he has served in varying capacities over the years beginning from the year 2005.

After the successful completion of his doctoral studies in the *Università Pontificia Salesiana* where he graduated with a stunning First Class degree, and earning the Merit Medal of Excellence of the Grand Chancellor *Università Pontificia Salesiana*, Rome (2019) for his doctoral excellency, he proceeded to return to the Institute which has been his home and allocation of ministry. With the conclusion of the first semester, Fr Antoine has revved up the reins of administration that hold up the Institute. He continually avers that the successful progress of the Institute is a collaborative effort that rests on the shoulders of all in magnitude of responsibility.

Only a fool tests the depth of a river with both feet... African proverb



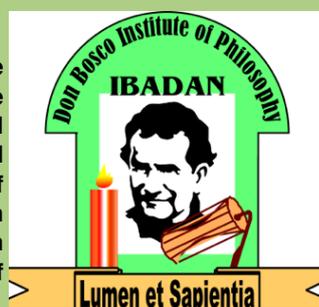
BEGINNING OF THE SECOND SEMESTER

While rendering colossal gratitude to God for the success of the first semester of the 2020/2021 academic session and commending the efforts put in by all and sundry to keep the machinery of administrative efficacy running smoothly, it is as well very apt to note the proximate commencement of the second semester of the 2020/2021 semester. The semester marks the dusk of the academic year and serves as a very vital phase of making a synthesis of what has been assimilated during the course of the previous semester. The academic success of the student in this semester is not



VISION OF THE INSTITUTE

“The Don Bosco Institute of Philosophy will have an impact on the empowerment of the future generation of intelligentsia through critical engagement with contemporary cultures and issues. It will pride itself in being at the forefront of imparting into her students the standards of human life which will effect an enculturated praxis in society and remain open to healthy pluralism of ideas in the intellectual community”.



ORGANISATION OF SPECIAL SEMINARS

The seminars was held as the transitional phase from the first semester to the second semester.

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

SEXUALITY AIDS /HIV: This was a seminar organised by Rev. Fr. Dr. Anthony Okonkwo together with some medical teams, and it laid emphasis on self-awareness towards human sexuality, as well as some issues related to its diseases like, sexual transmitted disease,

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

YOUTH COUNSELLING: This was facilitated by Rev Fr. Michael Ogunniyi SDB. It laid emphasis on many approaches towards youth counselling, a relational factor between the counsellor and the counselee during counselling session.

THIRD YEAR STUDENTS

S O C I A L COMMUNICATION: This was organised by Rev. Br. Samuel Job, SDB. It exposed the participants to the full understanding of media, with regard to ICT, and other various sectors in Internet usages.

MISSION OF THE INSTITUTE

“Learn, discover, heal, create; the formation of honest citizens and good Christians”. The Don Bosco Institute of Philosophy provides the learning environment to study philosophy in which the students and staff can discover, examine critically and transmit the knowledge and wisdom of human values that help ensure the formation of good Christians and honest citizens. The Institute seeks to foster an understanding and appreciation of the complex, cultural and physical world in which we live and to realize their highest potentials of intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and human development.

Furthermore, she is geared towards achieving leadership in each discipline such as religious studies, where we aim at the formation of good religious and good Christians in general; one of which is to assist the student elaborate a simplified but solid “metaphysical wisdom” with faith and human sciences to lead the students, to possess a strong methodology of study as well as a good pedagogy of education as applied in areas of youth ministry.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE

SANKOFA:

CORRECT CONNECT AFRICA FOUNDATION (CCAF)

On 27th of February 2021, the Institute participated in the annual conference organized by the Correct Connect Africa Foundation (CCAF).

This year’s conference was tagged “Diop Legacy Day”. It was an event organized to conscientize us of the rich values of African cultures. It was also an event organized to immortalize the great thoughts of Cheikh Anta Diop (29 December 1923 - 7 February 1986).

Diop was a senegalese historian, anthropologist, physicists, and politician who studied the human race-s origin and pre-colonial African culture. Diop believed in the values of African cultures and insisted that we should be proud of our cultures.

OUR

INSTITUTE ANTHEM

Don Bosco, Institute of Philosophy

Centre of Knowledge

Consecrate them in truth (*1)

Lumen et Sapientia

Lumen et Sapientia

Long live Don Bosco we pray

God bless our mission (*2)

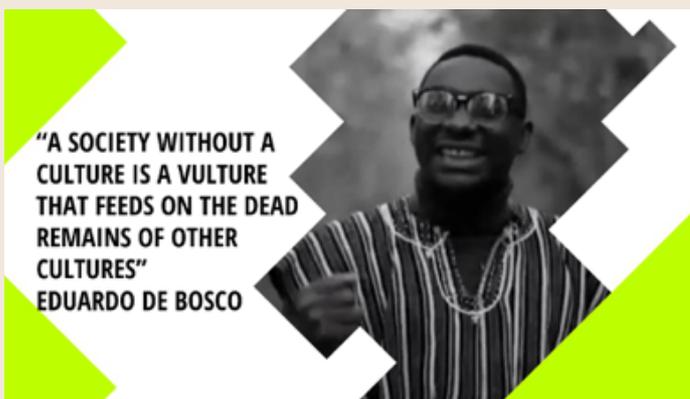
God bless our vision

God help us values to uphold

*Repeat from (*1)*

*Repeat from (*2)*

The Institute appreciates
the composer **Rev Fr Matthew
UDOKA** sdb and his team



Poems about school life

School life is not just about books and learning,
its about friends, creativity and yearning.
Those are the days when we lived life like
stories, school days will always be the best
memories.

-----Tesla Brim

PHILOSOPHER OF THE MONTH

By Julius Harding Mustapha SDB

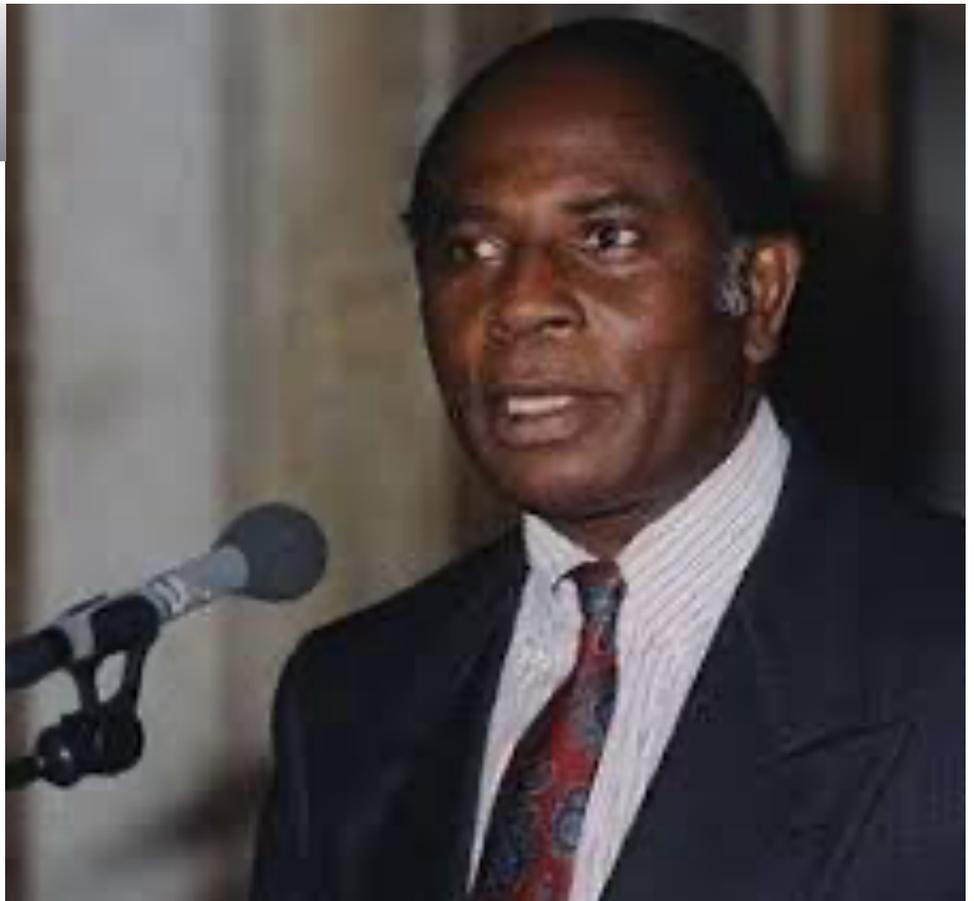
PHILOSOPHY IS NOT ONLY A WRITTEN ENTERPRISE

HENRY ODERA ORUKA (1944–1995)

Henry Odera Oruka was born in Kenya in 1944 and he was interested in metaphilosophy, or philosophizing about philosophy. In his book *Sage Philosophy* (1994), he looks at why philosophy in sub-Saharan Africa has often been overlooked, and concludes that it is because it is primarily an oral tradition, while philosophers in general tend to work with written texts. Some people have claimed that philosophy is necessarily connected with written recording, but Oruka disagrees.

In order to explore philosophy within the oral traditions of Africa, Oruka proposed an approach that he called “philosophic sagacity”. He borrowed the ethnographic approach of anthropology, where people are observed in their everyday settings, and their thoughts and actions recorded in context. Oruka himself traveled into villages and recorded conversations with people who were considered wise by their local community. His aim was to find out whether they had systematic views underpinning their perspectives. Those sages who had critically examined their ideas about traditional philosophical topics, such as God or freedom, and found a rational foundation for them could, Oruka believes, be considered philosophic sages. These systematic views deserve to be explored in the light of wider philosophical concerns and questions.

Oruka claims that philosophy has decreed the thoughts of certain races to be more important than others, but it must encompass the sayings of African sages just as it does Greek sages.



IN CONTEXT OF ODERA ORUKA

BRANCH: Metaphilosophy

APPROACH: Ethnography

BEFORE: 600–400 BCE Greek thinkers such as Thales, Pythagoras, and Plato all study in Egypt, Africa, which was a center of philosophical study in the ancient world.

AFTER: 20th century After the retreat of European colonial power, African philosophy begins to flourish across the continent. The growth of anthropology and ethnography also leads to a deeper understanding of indigenous traditions of thought in Africa.

Late 20th century Ghanian philosopher Kwasi Wiredu argues that philosophic sagacity and folk wisdom must be distinguished from philosophy proper.



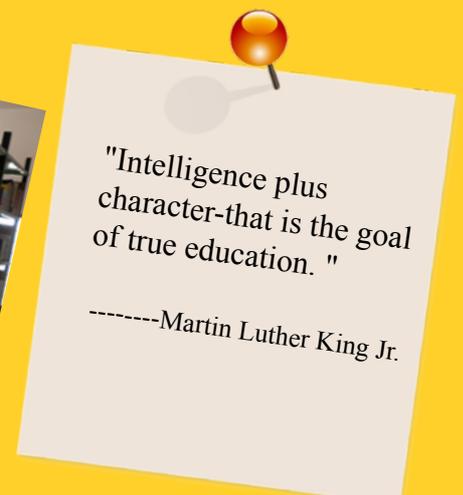
"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

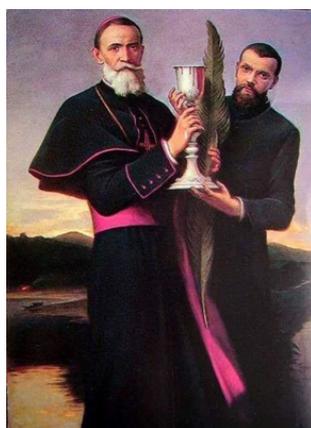
----- Nelson Mandela



"He who opens a school door, closes a prison."

----- Victor Hugo





FEAST OF SAINTS LOUIS VERSIGLIA AND CALLISTUS CARAVARIO

On 25th February 2021 was the feast day of the patron saints of the Don Bosco Community House Ibadan. The feast started with a solemn High Mass presided over by the Rector of the community **Very Rev Fr Charles Uzoeto SDB**. In his homily, the Rector reminded us of the fundamental purpose of becoming religious; thus, in search of holiness. He added that the secret of holiness is in being happy. The way to live happiness is to be optimistic, selfless in service to others, think good and act good to others. The Rector exhorts us to live to give life to others. We do this by upholding the rights and dignity of the others as Saints Versiglia and Caravario did.

The two saints, Bishop Louis versiglia (1873-1930) and priest Callistus Caravario (1903-1930) were religious missionaries in China where they martyred by the group of pirates. They stood to defend the dignity of the women catechists who were about to be dehumanized by those pirates. They died defending life and they live till date defending life. They were canonized by St Pope John Paul II on 1st October 2000.

INSTITUTE CORE VALUES

Dedication: is expressed in our commitment to proper educational ethics and academic excellence.

Impact: is portrayed in our relevance in addressing existential issues.

Innovation: is portrayed through our receptivity to new ideas and forms of expression, intellectual curiosity and willingness to take on intellectual challenges.

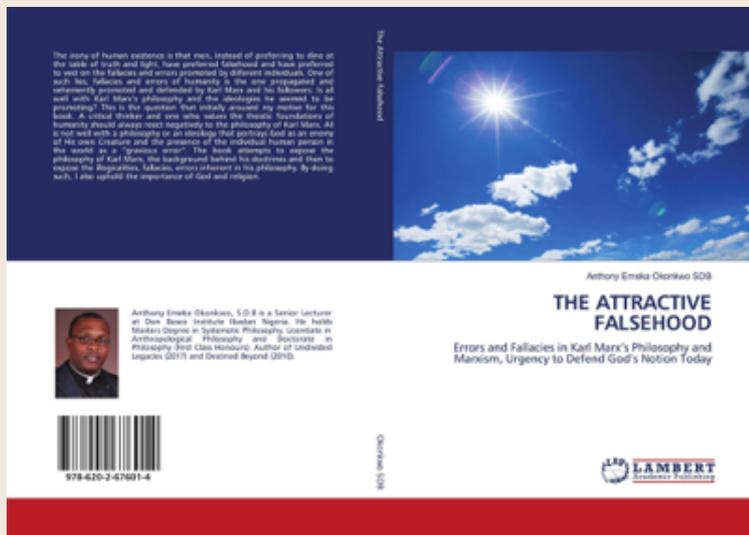
Family Spirit: is expressed in our focus on forming good Christians and honest citizens.

Inclusion: is portrayed through a convivial environment that welcomes ideas from diverse cultural contexts.

Integrity: is reflected in our conventional ethical standards in personal and professional behaviour and in our consistency in educational pedagogy (the Preventive System of Don Bosco).

Sustainability: is reflected in the upholding of our values and objectives as a Catholic Institute in being an example of educational standards.

NEW PUBLICATION AND THE PROVINCIAL VISIT



About the Book

The irony of human existence is that men, instead of preferring to dine at the table of truth and light, have preferred falsehood and have preferred to vest on the fallacies and errors promoted by different individuals or group of individuals. One of such lies, fallacies and errors of humanity is the one propagated and vehemently promoted and defended by Karl Marx and his followers. Is all well with Karl Marx's philosophy and the ideologies he seemed to be promoting? This is the question that initially aroused my motive for this book. A critical thinker and one who values the theistic foundations of humanity should always react negatively to the philosophy of Karl Marx. All is not well with a philosophy or an ideology that portrays God as an enemy of His own Creature and the presence of the individual human person in the world as a "gravious error". The book attempts to expose the philosophy of Karl Marx, the background behind his doctrines and then to expose the illogicalities, fallacies, errors inherent in his philosophy. By doing such, I present most of the conclusions of Karl Marx and Marxism as one of the ideologies that have caused more harms to our humanity as I uphold the importance of God and religion.

The visit of the provincial superior of the Salesians of Don Bosco English speaking West Africa (AFW) **Very Rev Fr Michael Karikunnel SDB** was a blessing to us. Even in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic, our superior father came to hear from us and to share his words of wisdom. An optimistic and holy religious who believes that our business as religious is to be holy. According to our Baba Fr Michael, if one wants to succeed in life, one must form one's mind positively. What one believes is what one goes for. We are moved by hope, and to move by hope, one must have love and God is love and who dwells in love dwells in God.



Published by:

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