

CORONAVIRUS: AMUZI COMMUNITY REBRANDS FACE MASK, "OZONDU"

The Patriotic Citizens of Amuzi (PCA), a Non-

masks against COVID-19, for all her citizens resident in the community. The PCA embarked

- Set to be first African Community to be fully masked against Covid-19

Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s recommendation on wearing face masks, and

recommended that those most at risk, but can't afford a face mask, be issued one.

Commenting in corroboration of the PCA Health committee's recommendation, Professor Viola Onwuliri, a Biochemist, former Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister, and a native of Amuzi, said, "This is worrisome and very important as social distancing is not observed also in public transport (buses and taxis, 'Okada'), markets, village meetings, many shops and super markets etc. The mass mask program will reach many more people. I wish each person can have two masks so one can be washed each day used. They must be taught how to take care of it at the end of

use, otherwise, people can infect themselves."

The "CDC" recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

According to the Convener of the Organization, Professor Eddie Oparaoji, "this 'Ozondu for All' project is for now our best 'vaccination' strategy to protect our families back home against COVID-19. Our goal is to ensure that our citizens who have need to be in environments where they could be exposed to

COVID-19, are significantly protected. When accomplished in the coming days, we may have become the first rural African community to be fully face-masks compliant, against COVID-19."

The Patriotic Citizens of Amuzi (PCA) Organization was established to work alongside other progressive Organizations or entities to move Amuzi and her people into the global community. It is envisioned that the PCA would reignite dialogue, strengthen and re-energize the name Uhi Amuzi - to mean togetherness, and be a rallying platform to harness all Amuzi resources across the world, and make her an appealing global economic space.



MPR community informants from Amuzi ward at the palace of HRH Eze Ugochukwu

Governmental Organization focused on the developmental interests of the Amuzi Autonomous Community, in Ahiazu Mbaise, Imo State, recently rebranded the Face Mask, as "ozondu" in Igbo language, which means 'life saver'. The group is now set to launch the "Ozondu for All" initiative, to provide face

on this project, following concerns and recommendations of its Health Committee, Chaired by Mrs. Catherine Otuibe, who is also President of the Amuzi Progressive Union, women's wing. The committee had observed that the community was vulnerable to COVID-19, for being noncompliant with the

Catholic Church offers 425 hospitals as isolation centres - FG

The Federal Government of Nigeria has disclosed that the Catholic Church in Nigeria has offered its 425 hospitals and clinics nationwide to be used as isolation centres for coronavirus patients in the

country. The Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, Boss Mustapha, made this known in a briefing in Abuja on Monday. Mustapha, who is also the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, said the

high number of infections recorded in the country in the one week since the eased restriction in parts of the country was due to the increased testing capacity in Nigeria.

He said, "During the first week, the country generally recorded high cases. This is attributable to our expanded capacity for testing with the opening up of more testing centres and laboratories. As at today, there are 21 laboratories nationwide including private laboratories."

"We have encouraged states to have at least 300-bed isolation centres including intensive

care units. However, with the increase in cases, we have begun to experience some shortages of bed spaces in the isolation centres."

"As part of efforts to support the states in the establishment of isolation and treatment centres, I wish to remind our state governors that the Catholic Bishops' Conference has offered and volunteered all the 425 hospitals and clinics that belong to the Catholic Mission nationwide for adaptation and use as isolation centres. Governors are encouraged to approach Catholic Bishops and Archbishops in their states to access these facilities."

COVID 19: Mbaise Policy Roundtable activates Adopt-A-Village Initiative; reaches out to widows, vulnerable persons



Prof. Edward Oparaoji

The Mbaise Policy Roundtable (MPR) has activated its "Adopt-A-Village Initiative (ADAVI)" aimed at alleviating hunger and other forms of hardship in rural communities due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The MPR, which has offices in Owerri, Imo State and New York, USA held the first in the series of ADAVI events in the Amuzi community of Ahiazu Mbaise. Described as "resoundingly successful", in a statement signed by its Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Casca Chanele, one of the events was coordinated by Barr Maxwell Opara and supported by Dozie and Chidinma Onwuliri, Chief Mike and Dr. Nomsa Opara and 35 others, from Umukazi, a village in Amuzi.

The coordinators, according to the statement, raised close to N1 million and shared same among indigent citizens of the village, to assist them to buy food and medicines at this trying period. They also shared about 500 tablets of soap donated by one of them. This, it said, was done a day after they had engaged

and paid six trained health workers who moved from one house to another in the entire village to sensitize people on the preventive measures against COVID-19.

Commenting on

the events, the Chairman of MPR, Prof. Edward Oparaoji, said "I am very comforted by the engagement of our members, and from the initial outcome of this initiative. It is also very heartwarming to mention that what has just been reported is

only a scratch at the surface, as a whole lot more of our members are already stepping forward with humanitarian gestures to help someone in need. That is the MPR spirit."

COVID-19: Oparanadim in Diaspora give succour to community

By Anthony Okoroigwe



Eze Louis Nwokedi

The indigenes of Oparanadim community in Ahiazu Mbaise Local Government Area, recently smiled home with food items donated by their sons and daughters living in the United States of America, USA. Some of the items donated include 250 bags of rice, one hundred and fifty bags of beans, tomatoes among other items.

The organizers of the palliatives while distributing the items to the six villages in the autonomous community disclosed that the food items were brought by the indigenes of the villages that were based in USA in order to cushion the effect of lockdown by the federal and state governments occasioned by the Covid19 pandemic. They said that the donors were touched, considering the hardship most Nigerians are passing through in recent time, especially in this period the whole world is battling with coronavirus.

According to them, the donors who live in different parts of America came together to discuss

how to help those at home, adding that this is a trial time when government at all levels, corporate bodies and the rich in the society, should come to the help of the people, especially those who were elected to represent their people in government.

Speaking during the distribution of the food items, the traditional ruler of Oparanadim-Eziama autonomous community, Eze Louis Nwokedi (Dim IV and Ohazurume), commended those who made the donations for the human sympathy and for remembering their people in this period of suffering.

Stressing the importance of the individual role in combating the dreaded Coronavirus, the Royal Father intoned that

since the virus can only be transmitted by people, it then follows that people can stop its spread by following identified and laid down protocols.

The protocols, according to him, include regular washing of hands with soap under running

water, use of hand sanitizers when running water is not available, maintaining social distance, and staying at home as much as possible.

The Chairman and Secretary of Eze in Council, Chief Godson Eke and Chief Hyacinth Chikwe

respectively, said that the palliative is for all who are at home, advising that it should not cause any problem as it has no political undertone attached to the donation and distribution.

Let not your hearts be troubled

- Fr. Michael advised Christians

By: Prisca Nnadozie

The Administrator of Mater Ecclesiae Cathedral parish, Rev. Fr. Michael Anyanwu has advised the faithful not to let their hearts be troubled especially in this pandemic crisis. This statement was made during the Eucharist celebration at Mater Ecclesiae Cathedral Parish, Nnamibia Ahiazu on Sunday, May 10, 2020.

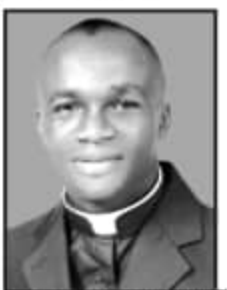
Speaking to the congregation, Fr. Michael advised the people to always stand by God no matter the situation, especially as the whole world is facing this deadly virus called COVID-19, that we all shall be victorious at the end.

Furthermore, the clergy encouraged the congregation to always have faith in God no matter what happens. "Faith is the assurance of things we hope for and certainty of what we cannot see. It was through faith that the woman with the issue of blood was healed immediately she touched Jesus' garment. It was also through faith that Daniel was saved from the Lion's den, he added.

The priest further stated that God is always there for His children. Even if a woman can abandon her own baby, God can never abandon His children. He said this by assuring the people that they are special breed marked out by God

for His glory and that glory shall shine out.

In conclusion, Fr. Michael urged the congregation not to panic, no matter what happens they should trust, focus and believe in God who is the way, truth and life.



Fr. Michael Anyanwu