

Archdiocese of Chicago/ Office of Catholic Schools
Project Genesis Catholic Education
In Partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Nsukka, Nigeria

Mbido Olu Igu Akwukwo Katolik

In 2007, the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) began a partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Nsukka, Nigeria in order to provide technical assistance in reestablishing a sustainable Catholic School System under the leadership of Bishop Francis E. Okobo. Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., and Dr. Nicholas Wolsonovich, Superintendent of Catholic Schools approved the partnership and appointed Esther Hicks, OCS Director of Catholic School Identity and Mission, to manage the project. Bishop Okobo appointed Rev. Dr. Wilfred Odo to manage the project in the Diocese of Nsukka.

In April 2007, Esther visited Nsukka for the first time and met with Bishop Okobo to begin the process of building relationships needed for the ultimate success of the partnership. Also in 2007, OCS appointed a Committee of Interests in the Archdiocese of Chicago to manage the work projects that will ensure a sustainable Catholic School System with the capacity to have long-term impact on the educational goals of the Church and of Nigeria.

Since the inception of the partnership, Esther, over twenty Committee of Interests members and Catholic school educators have visited the people of Nsukka to learn, create trust and initiate planning processes. This case statement is the result of over five years of work to achieve a clear vision of the future and goals that will realize the vision of educating children who will be leaders for their society.

Why this for OCS? Why Nigeria? Many people ask why a Catholic School office would take on such a project! Inherent to the Catholic identity of our schools is the challenge to teach the mission of the Catholic Church. Catholic schools are involved with mission education and response to global needs. In the Archdiocese of Chicago, our Catholic schools support mission projects around the world. Catholic school students help to build schools in developing countries, dig wells, provide food, contribute to emergency relief and much more. They do this as a direct response to the Church's call to live justly, to take action and to make peace. Because the Catholic schools of Chicago are a large system they can make a big splash that creates a difference!

And that's why Nigeria! Nigeria has the largest population in Africa and the fastest growing Catholic population in the world! At the same time, Nigeria continues to suffer from the vestiges of a terrible civil war in the late 1960's and a gradual transition to civilian government under a parliamentary democracy. In Nigeria's effort to improve the life of its people President Obasanjo initiated free and compulsory education to be achieved by 2015 through a number of government programs that currently net only limited results. Even with current President Goodluck Jonathan's continued support of the UN literacy goals the government schools have not been able to provide the quality of education needed to educate for a successful democracy. Creating possibilities for effective education, government and private interests will contribute to a moral democratic state. The Church is a major influence in this social and moral enterprise with

Catholic education seen as a major factor for change.

Project Genesis Catholic Education

What has our partnership done?

We have built relationships.



Future Search Conference May 2009
Bishop Francis Okobo

We have conducted training sessions to assess school buildings.



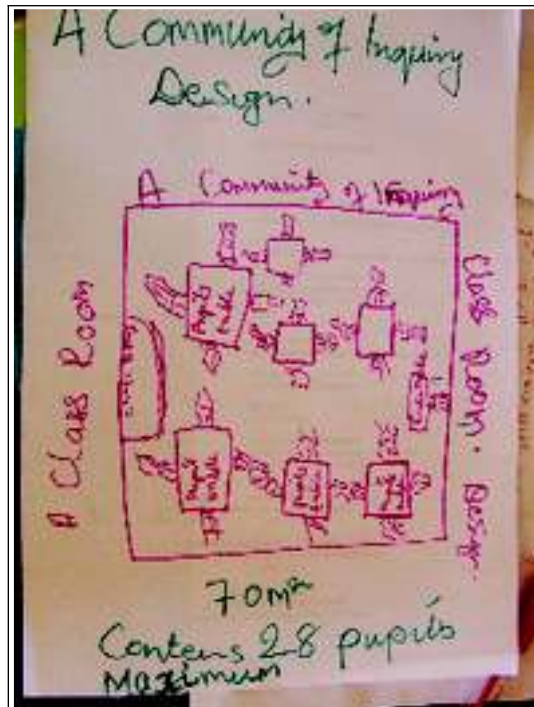
Chuck Newman, President of Schools for the Children of the World and Fr. Charles Dine, May 2008 Training

We initiated the Catholic Diocese of Nsukka, Nigeria *School Facility Guidelines* completed in November 2009 by Chuck Newman.

With SCW, we are beginning to build

the model school that will be the template for a new vision of education.

We have conducted a Future Search Conference to create the 2020 Vision Plan for the Catholic Schools of Nsukka.



Future Search Conference May 2009, Nsukka

We agreed on common values and planning goals.



Project Genesis Catholic Education Catholic Diocese of Nsukka, Nigeria

Statistical Analysis



Taken from the World Bank Year 2009

Population	151.2 M
Ethnic Groups	200
Indigenous Languages	500
Annual Population Growth	2.3 %
Life Expectancy	47.9
Infant Mortality Rate	95.8 (per 1000)
Mortality Rate under 5 yrs.	72 (per 1000) (in 2008)
Literacy Rate	64.6 % (females ages 15-24)
GDP	207.1 B (\$US)
External Debt	4.9 B (\$US)
Unemployment	
15-24 yrs.	52.9%
25-44 yrs.	41.1%
Literacy Rate	
Age 15+	48.66%
Age 24+	73.58%
Primary School	
Girls not in school	51.0%

“International Statistics” Friedrich Hueber

2003	Children of Primary Age attending School	60.1%
2003	Students in Secondary School	35%
2003	Average Earnings per Day	1.25 (\$US)

UN Summit Report 2010

Maternal Deaths	35% due to hemorrhaging
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Project Genesis Catholic Education Catholic Diocese of Nsukka, Nigeria

In May 2009, Esther Hicks and a team of five facilitators conducted a **Future Search Conference** to create a long-term plan for the Catholic School System of the Diocese of Nsukka, Nigeria. Based on work of 100 Catholic school educators who participated in the conference, the participants agreed on eleven **Common Ground Values** that underpin the goals of the plan. They are

- ❑ Catholic Identity
- ❑ Education in Christian values and moral living for the Human and Cultural Formation of the Person
- ❑ Students Have a Vision for the Future
- ❑ Students Disciplined, Respectful and Motivated to Learn
- ❑ Students Educated and Trained as Contributors with Jobs and Economic Progress
- ❑ Students Contribute to Social Transformation of Nigeria
- ❑ Quality Learning Programs that Parents Support with Confidence
- ❑ Dedicated and Trained Teachers
- ❑ Commitment of Bishop
- ❑ Competitive
- ❑ Improve over Time with Adequate Teaching and Learning Resources

The current situation of the Catholic schools indicate high performance capacities even in substandard classrooms and school buildings. It is amazing what teachers can do in very limited circumstances. Generally speaking, students pass the state exams and go on to the next grade. They learn through rote memorization and writing copious notes taken from the teacher's blackboard instruction. "Chalk and Talk" is a great saying of the teachers!



Upper Primary Students (6th Grade)



Project Genesis Catholic Education Catholic Diocese of Nsukka, Nigeria

The Future Search Conference crafted the major goals that will create the desired Diocese of Nsukka Catholic School System. The goals are aligned in five categories:

- ❑ IMPROVE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BASED ON 21ST CENTURY STANDARDS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING
- ❑ EDUCATE AND TRAIN TEACHERS USING A "MODEL SCHOOL" APPROACH TO CREATE A QUALIFIED TEACHING FORCE
- ❑ BUILD AND EQUIP SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND RESEARCH BASED EDUCATION
- ❑ COLLABORATE WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ENTITIES TO PROVIDE HOLISTIC CARE OF CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL SETTINGS
- ❑ DEVELOP THE FULL HUMAN POTENTIAL OF STUDENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN NIGERIA

The goals listed above are supported by major efforts to train qualified educators in Nsukka as the major component of sustaining a viable Catholic School System in the future. These goals will only be achieved by creating partnerships and by doing the groundwork to complete the strategies for realizing the 2020 Vision. The strategies include the following and anticipate the cost to be \$5M over a five-year period.

- Create a partnership with Catholic university to educate at the graduate level ([completed with partnership of Loyola University Chicago](#))
- Build the model school complex as a diocesan teachers college with nursery through secondary lab school ([construction begun for first building](#))
- Develop long range plan to provide wages to teachers who are trained and commissioned in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Nsukka ([Montessori Teacher Training begun for 14 pilot schools in Nsukka; first planning meeting conducted by Loyola University and 10 delegates from Nsukka](#))
- Sustain partnerships that will promote the 2020 Vision for Catholic education in the Diocese of Nsukka ([new partnerships every year](#))
- Work with government and nongovernmental entities to provide a holistic health care system addressing malaria, HIV/ AIDS, pathogen diseases, water and food ([Diocese of Nsukka work with Nigerian government](#))
- Identify schools as an "anchors" for economic development in Nsukka

Project Genesis Catholic Education
Catholic Diocese of Nsukka, Nigeria

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

CONTRIBUTE TO THE DOLLARS FOR DREAMS CAMPAIGN!



Bishop Francis Okobo receiving check from students of Prince of Peace School, Chicago

JOIN THE PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORTING THE 2020 VISION!



Chuck Newman, Schools for the Children of the World

Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic
Schools



Carol Fendt, PRAIRIE Group

Join Us in Completing Projects for the 2020 Vision!

The Diocese of Nsukka, Nigeria Catholic School System

This list describes the projects and costs needed over the next five years.

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|--|-------|
| □ Nursery through Secondary/ Vocational
"Model School" & Teachers College | 8M |
| □ Education of Teachers at Graduate Level | 1.5 M |
| □ Professional Development of Teachers | .5 M |
| □ Upgrade of Existing Schools with Water,
Renewable Energy, Technology, Durable
Teaching Materials | 5 M |
| □ Health Care Initiatives | 2 M |

This list is part of the ongoing work of the Committee of Interests members who have already contributed money, services and goods through partnerships. Below is an estimate of these contributions from 2007-2012.

Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools	30,000
Catholic Diocese of Nsukka	50,000
PRAIRIE Research Associates	50,000
Schools for the Children of the World	285,000
Rotary International	28,000
Caritas for Children (Sponsorship Program for poor students)	10,000
Nsukka Committee of Interests	75,000
Sr. Solina Hicks, RSM, Sisters of Mercy (art)	10,000
Sisters of St. Joseph Generous Promise Grant	128,000
Loyola University (first strategic planning workshop)	50,000
Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach (hospital equipment)	2,500,000
Koch Foundation	25,000
Individual Donors	16,000

As we continue to tell our story we know that our partnerships will develop as the news spreads about the work already begun is a success story that will impact lives for many years beyond the 2020 Vision. The people of Nsukka are vibrant in their hope for their children and the Church is focused on education for transformative justice in Nigeria. Join us and our brothers and sisters in Nsukka who are counting on our work of love!
EHICKS/OCS/2013