

BISHOP CHIKPA WILFRED ANAGBE, CMF



His Excellency, Bishop Chipka Wilfred Anagbe is the Bishop of Makurdi Diocese, in the Benue State of Nigeria. He entered into religious life as a Claretian missionary and has carried out many administrative duties for the Order, including responsibilities for its farms for which his state is well known. Bishop Anagbe received his formal educational training, beginning seminary at the age of 15, obtaining a B.Phil certificate from the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, Master's Degree in Theology from Duquesne University in Pittsburg, USA, and his PhD in Church History in Spain. He was ordained a Catholic priest on August 6, 1994 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral Makurdi and was appointed bishop of Makurdi by Pope Francis on the 4th Oct, 2014, on the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. His episcopal motto is 'to serve Jesus and the Brethren.' The Makurdi diocese is where the worst of violent persecution in Nigeria is occurring by militant Fulani causing the highest number of displaced people living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps.

Makurdi's IDP camps are the site of daily attacks perpetrated by militant Islamist extremists of the Fulani ethnic group. In the Benue state alone, with a population of nearly 6 million, 99% of them are Christian (80% are Catholic), and 1/3 of the population, over 2.25 million people are now displaced and living in IDP camps. Attending to this population, living in dehumanizing conditions all while enduring daily massacres has become Bishop Anagbe's work.

Service to his Lord and to his brothers overrides his personal interest.

During his life, he has been a teacher, a pastor, a farmer, an administrator, a retreat preacher, a consultant and a chaplain to the military. He has established solid relations with Nigerian diaspora in the US and Europe. He speaks four languages fluently: Tiv, English, Igbo and Spanish.