**A PROFILE OF REV. SEND ELIJAH WANGER (IMAC)**

It was the Lord’s doing that in the early hours of 30th December, 1972, Revd. Sende Elijah Wanger was born to the family of Hon. Dennis Sende Vihi and Mrs. Rebecca Sende of Mbaduku, Kunav, in Vandeikya L.G.A of Benue State.

This robust, strong, energetic, dynamic and fine looking Rev. was named Wanger at birth, baptized an infant as Elijah (little was it know that he will grow up to be a priest (prophet), like the biblical Elijah), and confirmed as Gerald.

At the age of twelve, Wange with overwhelming anxieties completed his elementary education at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Nursery and Primary School, Gboko Benue State, from 1980-85. With the qualities exhibited by him, he was nominated Head-boy. At this stage in his growth, the young Elijah distinguished himself in astuteness and intelligence among his peers.

In 1985, Rev. Elijah was admitted into the prestigious St. James Junior Seminary, Makurdi (Now in Yandev-Gboko LG, Benue State). His admission was a gateway to the Catholic priesthood. His physical appearance and outfit, comportment and decisiveness won him the post o kitchen Prefect. His records have remained unbeatable till date. He graduated in 1991 from the Junior Seminary.

Thereafter, Rev. Elijah proceeded to the College of Education Kastina-Ala from 1993-1996, and completed with a National Certificate in Education (NCE). Within these three years, he was saddled with various responsibly. He was the secretary to National Union of Benue State Students; President – Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN) and Secretary-Christian Religious Student Association (CRSA). His interactions, commitment to these responsibilities, and uncompromising attitude and sincerity won the position of Director of Operation (NANS). Rev Elijah also had the privilege of work with Benue Teaching Service Board from 1966-1998.

The period at the college of Education, served or Rev. Elijah as a turning point in his life time for decision-making. The burning zeal to serve from God as a priest in the order of Mechizedech came in 1998.

After these years of discernment of the will of God, Elijah applied and was admitted and was admitted into the spiritual year 1998 – (now St. Charles Lwanga’s Preparatory Seminary, Makurdi) to study for the priesthood under the Catholic Diocese of Makurdi.

In 1999, Elijah proceeded t the esteemed St. Thomas Aquinas’ Major Seminary Makurdi, and graduated in June 2006. Here, he did his philosophical and theological studies and bagged a Bachelor’s degrees in Philosophy (B. Phil) and in Theology (B.TH) respectively, both from the Urbanian University Rome. While in the Seminary he served as the Kitchen Prefect. President – Student Council; President – St. Rita Society; Diocesan Leader Makurdi Diocesan Seminarians; President Abuja Province of YCSN.

After his seminary formation, Rev. Elijah opted for religious life. He joined the Missionary Servants of the Church (MSC) and later on joined the institut Missionaire des Amis du Christ (IMAC) [Missionary Institute of the Friends of Christ] where he was ordained as a Deacon on 2nd of June, 2012 at St. Michael Parish, Umuach, Aba Diocese.

After his diaconate ordination, he was appointed Vocations Director and Bursar of the congregation by the Superior General and he serves currently at IMAC secretariat, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State.

As he will be ordained priest on 1st December, 2012 by Most Rev. Dr. Evaristus Chengula, Catholic Bishop of Mbeya Diocese, Revd. Fr. Sende Elijah will be the first Tiv Priest of IMAC Congregation. He perseverance has won him his heart’s desire despite all odds, trials, and turbulent moments in his vocation, to the priesthood. Fr. Elijah has a very strong devotion to St. Rita of Cascia (Mama Rita – Wonder Worker) and to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Rev. Fr. Elijah Sende Wanger IMAC was ordained a Catholic priest on the 2nd of December 2012 at St. John the Baptist Catholic cathedral Gboko.

Currently Fr Elijah is the delegate superior Nigerian/Cameroon Delegation of IMAC congregation. Fr is a very committed and wonderful administrator and indeed a great gift to the Church.

s+{1(5s?j&h2