

ST RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HARVEST REPORT**

INTRODUCTION/PREAMBLE

The youth and young adult harvest is an offshoot of the parish harvest. It is a microcosm of the central harvest macrocosm whose main objective/goal is fundraising. This year's youth and young adult harvest was designed to blend in with the National Youth week which began on the 3rd of August through 10th of August.

AIM/OBJECTIVES

The aim of the committee, however, was to achieve a reawakening of the consciousness of the youths and young adults to the needs and demands of the church – reviving the lukewarm and reinvigorate the active ones while maintaining the primary aim of the harvest – which is to raise fund. With the above in mind, the committee was drawn from both faction – balancing its numerical representatives and fostering a spirit of oneness.

Hence, the committee adopted the general theme: **Harvest of Grace and Thanksgiving**

MEMBERSHIP

The committee was composed of both male and female from both groups – youth and young adult – with a total number of 13 persons with the average attendance of 7 persons at every weekly meeting.

COMPOSITION:

The Committee is comprised of 13 youths and young adults in different capacity as follows:

S/N	NAME	CAPACITY
1	Mr. Nwanike Simon Peter	Chairman
2	Miss Utsuokpa Madgdaline	Secretary
3	Miss Idowu Blessing	Treasurer
4	Mr. Udedike Austine	Member
5	Mr. Onuegbu Emmanuel	Member
6	Miss Bogwu Nneka	Member
7	Mr. Eze John	Member
8	Miss Onwuehi Sandra	Member
9	Miss Onwuehi Ogechi	Member
10	Mr. Ifeanyi Francis	Member
11	Miss Nnediolisa Clementina	Member
12	Miss Oshiname Rita	Member
13	Mr. Nworie Sunday	Member

BACKGROUND WORK

The committee began work in earnest deliberating on which modality to adopt in celebrating this year's youth and young adults' week cum harvest/cultural day and also took into proper cognizance the economic realities of the moment and thus, came up with salient program of activities for the week and the harvest day. The week's activities were designed in a way that it would be cost effective and money friendly.

DECISION: The committee agreed on a general harvest levy of ₦2,000 for youths and ₦5,000 for young adults respectively. With the budget in view, the program of activities was drawn.

The committee in their wisdom also drafted out programs cutting across both tech skills – social media marketing, soft skills – mentorship program, and spiritual exercise – praise evening, in a bid to have a holistic program in consonant to human needs and that of the church.

More so, bearing in mind that the agreed levies for both youths and young adults will not be able to sustain the harvest related expense, the committee in conjunction with the central harvest committee agreed to mark out Sunday, 3rd of August as a fund-raising Sunday and this particular Sunday was also dubbed the Jersey Sunday. Other modalities the committee adopted to raise funds was via sponsorship through various individuals both within and outside the church.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES:

The table below present highlights that was planned for the week.

Program	Day	Time
Jersey Sunday	Sunday 3 rd , August	6:30am/9:30am Mass
Content creation/social media marketing	Tuesday 5 th , August	4:00pm
Rehearsals	Wednesday 6 th , August	5:00pm
Mentorship Program	Thursday 7 th , August	4:00pm
Praise Evening	Friday 8 th , August	5:00pm
General rehearsals/decoration/cleaning	Saturday 9 th , August	4:00pm
Grand Finale/Harvest	Sunday 10 th , August	8:30am

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ABOVE PROGRAMS

Jersey Day: This day, from the embryonic stage of the harvest planning, was designed for fund-raising exercise. Six clubs – Chelsea, Arsenal, Real Madrid, Manchester United, Barcelona, and Liverpool were chosen as thanksgiving clubs. To aid this fund-raising exercise, the committee approached two different societies – *St Charles and Young Men's League* to spearhead this endeavor at both 6:30 am and 9:30 am Masses respectively. X-ray the event and the feedbacks from parishioners, the exercise was successful.

Content creation/social media marketing: With skill acquisition exercise, the committee aimed at achieving two distinct things, namely; to equip parishioners (participants) with relevant media skills and to create a media team for the parish. The committee contacted and employed a resource person who facilitated this event. The training started at about 4:30 pm through 5:50 pm and there was a short break for the evening Mass and after the Mass which ended at about 6:40

pm, the training continued through 7:30 pm. About 70 participants were in attendance. X-raying the event and the feedbacks from parishioners, the training was impactful.

Rehearsals: The rehearsal took place on Wednesday with both youths and young adults showing up for the activities

Mentorship Program: Bearing in mind the variant complexities in the relationship between the youths and the young adults, the harvest committee in their wisdom decided to set up this program in a bid to bridge the gap between these two groups. The aim of this program was to harmonize the youths and young adults, foster unity, encourage young adults to be truly mentor to the youths, as well as Animators. With the aforementioned, a member of the young adult was tasked to facilitate the program. The program started at about 4:45 pm through 6:00 pm and thereafter, the evening Mass which served as the concluding part for the program. About 60 Attendees were in attendance. X-raying the event and the feedbacks from youths and young adults, the program was impactful.

Praise Evening: Acknowledging that spiritual exercise is one of the key means of reconciling with oneself, with God and between one and God, the committee came up with the idea of organizing a praise night. An avenue for participants – youths and young adults – to bring all their worries to God, the almighty Father with the attitude of grace and thanksgiving. The committee with a view of organizing this, came up with the following aim:

- ❖ To provide an avenue for participants to assess their current path if it is in accordance with God's perfect Will for his children;
- ❖ To assure participants that though the journey to life success may be demanding, God's grace is indispensable;
- ❖ To remind each of us that amidst the troubles of life, we cannot exempt ourselves from God given Graces to scale through.

Although the above program was stipulated to hold overnight, the issues of insecurities and youthful exuberance plagued this plan for an all-night praise. Thus, an evening of praise was more suitable due to some concerns raised by parishioners about the safety of their children. And by praise evening, parishioners (and not just youths and young adults) were in attendance. The population at this spiritual exercise exceeded our wildest imagination as the whole church was nearly filled up. Feedbacks from parishioners indicated that the praise evening was spirit filled.

General rehearsals/decoration/cleaning: The rehearsals, decoration, and cleaning was carried out both in the morning (immediately after the 6:30 am Mass) and in the evening, with both members of the youths and young adults in attendance.

Grand Finale/Harvest: The grand finale was a blend of cultural and harvest day. The program took place in two dimensions – In-Mass program and post-Mass program. Program inside the

church was targeted at fund-raising, while program outside the church (church compound) was majorly entertaining with a sprinkle of fund-raising activities. Numerous modalities were adopted for fund-raising exercises vis-a-vis donation by the invited dignitaries/guests, sales of sacramentals, thanksgivings, breaking of kola, sales of vendor stand, dance/presentations among cultural groups, auction sales – American auction, etcetera. X-raying the event and the feedbacks from parishioners, the harvest/cultural day was a success but with some sprinkling of mishaps especially in the areas of food distribution.

RECORD: Overall, the youth and young adult week/harvest day was a huge success as it served as a curtain raiser to other events/exercises targeted at reviving the lukewarm (especially) youths and young adults in the parish.

CHALLENGES:

1. **Late payment of harvest levy:** Quite a number of youths (specifically) did not pay their harvest levy timely and a large number of youths did not pay at all. Whereas, some paid on the harvest/cultural day. These factors affected logistics.
2. **Unrewarding atmosphere displayed by the youths and young adults:** A good number of the youths and young adults abruptly backed down from attending the week's activities (especially the Wednesday and Saturday program) and thus, leaving a heavy task of duty on some individual committee which in turn affected the coordination of the harvest/cultural day atmosphere.
3. **Display of nonchalant attitude by parishioners:** A good number of parishioners (especially the parents of some of this youths) remained indifferent throughout the cause of the youth and young adult's week cum cultural/harvest day, by not encouraging their children to participate, withdrawing them abruptly, or by isolating them entirely and hence, it impacted the general outcome of the week and harvest day.
4. **Poor attitude to the week and cultural/harvest day by the young adults:** A good number of the young adults did not attend the week's program at all – making it appear as if it was solely a youth-only program, and a good number of them remained unperturbed on the harvest day which in turn affected the general atmosphere of the day.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Having looked at the general outcome of the entire program in hindsight, the committee recommends the following:

1. It is recommended that the Harvest committee be set-up as early as possible for thorough investigation of the logistics and planning.
2. It is recommended that the harvest date should come up timely when other financial commitments are not so much.
3. Being a fund-raising exercise, it is recommended that the youths and young adults should have a separate harvest, as this would eventually bring more money into the parish purse.
4. It is recommended that where recommendation 3 is not feasible, no hesitation should be made in settling for a joint harvest.

5. It is recommended that logistics be concluded as early as possible so that parishioners can be duly informed and sponsors can be sought for.
6. In the case of having the youth or young adult week as prelude to the harvest, it is recommended that there should always be spiritual exercise among the activities of the week.

FINANCIAL REPORT (*as at the time of writing this report*)

ACTIVITY	INCOME
6:30 AM Mass	₦34,350
9:30 AM Mass	₦1,853,150
Breaking of kola	₦103,000
American auction	₦49,000
Children's dance	₦48,700
Jersey Sunday	₦137,000
Support from people/parishioners	₦132,500
Youths & Young Adults contributions/stand sales	₦291,600
Late donations	₦112,500
GRAND TOTAL	₦2,763,800

EXPENDITURES: *The table below displays the list of expenditures made for the week and the harvest*

ITEM	AMOUNT
Printing of sponsorship letters	₦7,000
Sacramentals	₦10,000
Award items	₦13,000
The Cook	₦94,000
Disposable pack and its miscellaneous	₦22,000
Canopy and chairs	₦28,000
Microphone Battery	₦1,500
Muffler	₦15,000
Decoration items	₦31,500
Content creation and social media marketing	₦10,000
Garden and kola	₦10,400
Chicken	₦65,000
Fuel	₦8,000
Table water and small Bigi	₦25,500
Can Malt	₦21,300
Palm wine	₦10,000
TOTAL	₦375,100

BALANCE SHEET:

Total Income less Total Expenditure = ₦2,763,800 - ₦375,100 = ₦2,388,700

CONCLUSION:

Our Appreciation goes first to God Almighty for His faithfulness in granting us a successful week and harvest. We thank our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Augustine Nkem Nwajagu for his kind and generous support, his guidance extremely impacted the outcome of the week/harvest, positively. We equally extend our sincere gratitude to Rev. Fr. Philip Ejusie, whose presence throughout the entire course of the week and harvest was a colossal impact, he is more than a director. More so, we appreciate all the members of the central harvest committee for their Fatherly and Motherly support. Their guidance and direction were of great impact on the harvest. Finally, we sincerely thank the youths and young adults for availing themselves towards the course of the week/harvest. May our Heavenly Father strengthen us as we continue our journey on earth and grant us the grace to live out our divine filiation, according to His loving will.
Amen!

Mr. Nwanike Simon Peter
Chairman

Miss Magdalene Utsuokpa
Secretary

Rev. Fr. Augustine Nkem Nwajagu
Parish Priest