

**EPE DEANERY LAITY COUNCIL 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2<sup>ND</sup> AGM 2026) HELD THIS DAY SATURDAY THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2026 AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION, AWOYAYA.**

**A REPORT OF STEWARDSHIP BY ENGR. PATRICK EKPAT, THE DEANERY LAITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BETWEEN THE PERIOD OF 2021 TO MARCH 2026.**

Protocol

A Minute silence for our Dear Patron, Engr. Dr. S. K. Ilugbekhai, KSM.....may his soul rest in peace. Amen.

It gladdens my heart to welcome you all to this 2nd Annual General Meeting in the year 2026 themed, **“Leading with Love, Serving with Purpose. Focus: Charity (Caritas), Unity, and Mission-Driven Service Within the Church Community”**. This offers my Executives and I a great opportunity and rare privilege to x-ray and examine the challenges we met when we came onboard, how we tackled them, and the progress we have achieved all these years. All these are embedded in the body of this report.

Since our election into this noble Council on the 11th April 2021 and Inauguration on the 16th May 2022, we have organized key and major programs and events that have added value to us as one Body of Christ; the programs fostered bonding, evangelization, and united us in love to learn and grow in our Catholic faith as well as being aware of the vision of the Deanery.

**Key Achievements/Major Events**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Deanery Lay Leaders Pastoral & Spiritual Seminar held at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Lakowe in September 2021
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Deanery Laity Day & Award Day & Investiture of Patrons/Patroness themed **“Well done, good and faithful servants” (Matt. 25:23)** 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022
1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Deanery Lay Leaders Pastoral & Spiritual Seminar held at the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, theme: **“EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND ITS CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY”** 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
2. Developed & Execute the Know Your Faith Program (KYFP) for the Youths of our Deanery; Inaugurated the Board on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – the Maiden grand finale was at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Lakowe in 2023 which CYON RCCC, Bogije won the Trophy, & the 2<sup>nd</sup> one was held at the Catholic Church of Annunciation, Abraham Adesanya, in November 2025. CYON RPCC, Sangotedo won the Trophy
3. A One-Day Deanery Laity Retreat for All Laity Council Officers, Societies/Lay Apostolate Organizations Officers at Parishes & Deanery, themed **“ROOTED IN FAITH, GROWING IN LOVE”** held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 at Regina Pacis Catholic Church, Sangotedo.
4. 2nd Deanery Laity and 1st Ever cultural Day celebration, theme of the Day, **“Let Brotherly Love Continue. (Hebrews 13:1)”** held at Regina Pacis Catholic Church, Sangotedo, on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024
5. Inaugural Annual General Meeting, themed, **“Salt of the Earth, Light of the World – In the Light of a Purposeful Leadership Perspectives in the Challenging Times”** held at Regina Pacis Catholic Church, Sangotedo, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2025
6. Developed and launched a robust Website for the Epe Deanery Laity [www.epedeanerylaitycouncil.org](http://www.epedeanerylaitycouncil.org) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@EpeDeaneryLaity) Media Handle [@EpeDeaneryLaity](https://www.youtube.com/@EpeDeaneryLaity) on the Inaugural AGM 2025. We are still pleading with the Leaders to send in their programs so that we keep the website busy for all of us.

Through these carefully thought-out programs, more awareness of the Laity Council and her activities have been created across the Deanery.

### **Other items worthy of mention are**

1. Achieved 75% debt recovery from Parishes/PLCs in the Deanery due to the DLC's/Chaplain's/Dean's magnanimity in approving the 40% debt reduction.
2. Continued to maintain a Clean Bill (Zero Debt) with the Archdiocesan Laity Council and Lay Apostolate Centre; we have even paid up our 2026 Annual Dues (N150,000.00) to the Archdiocese.
3. We have participated and fully represented the Deanery with good turnout of Leaders at all the Archdiocesan programs such as;

- ✚ LALC Quarterly Meetings
- ✚ Valentine's Carnival with the Archbishop
- ✚ Laity Week Opening Ceremony
- ✚ Laity Harvest
- ✚ LALC Lay Leader's Spiritual/Pastoral Formation Seminar
- ✚ Singles Day with the Archbishop
- ✚ Archbishop's Prison Evangelization

### **Areas of Improvement/Challenges**

1. **Know Your Faith Program:** This program was instituted to encourage the youths as well as offer them the opportunity to continue to learn more about the Church teachings, Sacred Scriptures & traditions, Magisterium, etc, so that they can keep that close ties with the Mother Church and her faith; We are hoping that the Board that govern and drive this program would do all in their power and mandate to drive funds for this program, with the support of the DLC.
2. **Debts:** We would keep encouraging Parishes, PLCs and OSAs on the need to meet their financial obligations and stay commitment to the ideals of the Council. As of this month of May 2026 the PLC Regina Caeli Catholic Church, Bogije has only reduced their Debt by N45,000, and so they still have an outstanding of N278,475.00.
3. **5th Sunday Laity Collections Remittance:** We are grateful to those Parishes that have been very faithful in consistently remitting the 5th Sunday Collections, however, we are not there yet as remittances are delayed, and some PLCs remit what they have decided to give which may not be based on the approved statutory percentage (20%) sharing or they don't remit it at all, even as it is a mandate from the Archbishop himself.
4. **Dues:** We thank the PLCs, Societies and Lay Apostolate Organizations for being so faithful and committed to payment of their dues. We are also not doing well in this space, as some Groups do not care at all; the reason we find it not so pleasing to respond to them when they call on us for support. Because you cannot harvest from where you did not sow. We have to be financially committed and responsible so that when you need support the Council can also respond with joy.

We thank the following Council and Lay Groups for paying up even their 2026 Annual Dues.

- Cath. Church of Annunciation, Ajah
- Catholic Church of Assumption, Awoyaya
- Regina Pacis Catholic Church, Sangotedo
- Our Lady Mother of Mercy Cath. Church, Abijo
- St. Theresa Cath. Church, Epe
- Catholic Women Organization (CWO)

- Confraternity of Christian Mothers (CCM)
- Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Nigeria (CCRN)

We are therefore pleading and appealing to those PLCs and OSAs to do all they can to clear their dues and stay financially free with the Council.

**5. Reports/Meetings:** We have educated ourselves on the need to attend meetings as well as send in your report and timely too. It is an obligation and one of the very reasons you were elected. We need to improve in this aspect this coming year 2025.

### **The Lookahead Activities**

We are planning for;

- Deanery Election for both Council and Deanery Lay Groups in June 2026
- Know Your Faith Competition across the Deanery
- Post - Election & Leadership seminar and awareness to usher in the incoming leaders
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Deanery Laity Day & Cultural Celebration on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026

The last two proposed programs would be carried out by the Incoming Leadership if they so desire.

In all of these, my dear leaders, Councilors, Patrons and Patroness, Priests and Religious, we celebrate our shared belief, sacrifices, commitment, love, unity, growth, resilience, relentless effort, hardwork, and collective wins, and look forward to a continuous fruitful future.

As we step into year the year 2026, our resolve is to deepen and drive continuous Growth and foster Unity stronger like never before. I am very sure the Incoming Leadership would be committed to building on the successes we have recorded while seeking more opportunities for collective good and spiritual growth as noble Council members, as well as encouraging the Parish Laity Councils and Deanery Societies and Lay Apostolate Organizations to do same, irrespective of the challenges they might meet while in service.

We thank our Dean, Rt. Rev. Monsignor Gabriel Amolegbe, our beloved Chaplain, Very Rev. Fr. Michael Kendra Etegene, our highly esteemed Patrons and Patroness, Outgone PLC Chairmen & Secretaries, Deanery Coordinators & Secretaries, and Board Chairman and Members of the Know Your Faith Program (KYFP), for all their sacrifices and commitment to the growth of the Laity Council and the Church. We sincerely thank the Lay Apostolate Director, Rev. Fr. John Obi, the Lagos Archdiocesan Laity Council President and his team of Executives for their guidance always.

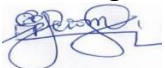
Your support has been very instrumental to the successes we have recorded, and we are sincerely grateful.

Thank you for standing with us all these years and helping us to drive the positive change needed.

We pray that our Mother Mary the Star of Christianity and great intercessors would continuously intercede for us through Christ our Lord. Amen

Wishing you a very fruitful deliberation.

Warm Regards



Patrick Ekpat *MNSE, NIPetE,*

Chairman, Deanery Laity Council,  
For DLC Executives