



Fr Augustine Ebido, OP is a Dominican missionary Priest from Nigeria. He has worked on mission here in the prairies (Saskatoon diocese) from 2010-2016 before returning to Nigeria to help in the work there. He spoke to us about his current work in Nigeria on the weekend (October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>). An overview of what he spoke about is the effort of his Order to help fight poverty, unemployment, corruption, bad leadership, and collapse of good education in his country. The Dominican Order has been involved in providing sound education as part of evangelization and the development of societies around the world for 800 years!

### **FR AUGUSTINE'S MISSION APPEAL MESSAGE**

The year after I returned to Nigeria from mission in the United States and Saskatchewan (2016), I met a young man, Valentine, aged 32 at the time. He worked as a security man in a hotel where he was paid N20,000.00 Naira (less than 60 CDN \$) a month. That was not able to provide him with rent nor to talk of feeding or transportation. So, he was technically unemployed. Keep in mind, there is nothing like welfare for the unemployed, or for anyone for that matter in Nigeria! You are basically on your own. Now imagine that this same Valentine had distinction when he finished High School (grade 12), he got admission to study Medicine

but dropped out because he has nobody to help him with his tuition. He lost his father a few years earlier. He was depressed, confused, angry with himself, with society, and with God. I took him in, gave him a job to run errands, while we see if we could help him improve his skills to get a better job. Even though we doubled what the hotel was paying him, it was still like nothing. It could not get him off his feet to a better life. The only real help would be to get him back to college. We have many young people like Valentine in Nigeria, who are very brilliant, but have nobody to support them through school. What happens is that they grow up angry, delinquent, unemployed, and a problem to themselves, to their families, to society. **To add to this problem, most public universities, run by government, are always on strike such that it takes 8 years to graduate from a 4 year program! As of today, students have been at home for 7 months because of a union strike by lecturers! Moreover, these Universities take only a fraction of the students that apply. Overall, the quality is very poor. Evangelicals run the highest number of private Universities. We lose many of our Catholic students that attend these protestant-run Universities.**

Dominican University came into being in 2016 to help solve these problems and provide good education to so many of our youths that cannot find admission into the few universities available. **This is where we can send some of these talented young people like Valentine.** Our goal is to change the story of people like Valentine so they can be part of the development solution for the country instead of being part of the problem. Like the yeast, they will help leaven the larger story of the country.

The cost of sending a Valentine to Dominican University in 2022/2023 Session is:

- 1 academic year: Tuition, Room & Board is N820,000.00 (\$2500 CDN)
- 1 academic year: Tuition, Room without feeding is N620,000.00 (\$1900 CDN)
- 1 academic year: Tuition only is N500,000.00 (\$1500 CDN)

**My appeal is that you support us to send as many Valentines as possible to school and change their story and their future. Individually or collectively, we can be part of removing any number of youths from the unemployment and poverty list. This is one good way to participate in evangelization. Leave a legacy with us and your name will be immortalized in our University history book.**

**Send your support by e-transfer to:** Nigeria-Ghana Dominicans in Canada Society Inc.,

Bank: Affinity Credit Union #1101807 or drop your donation in a designated envelope at Holy Cross parish.  
Please include your name and address. **Further inquiries** call or text: **Fr Augustine Ebido 1-306-510-1116**  
**(emekaebido@gmail.com, frebido@du.edu.ng)**

**Background:** Nigeria is a country in West Africa. Currently it has a population of 200 Million. There are about 370 ethnic groups in Nigeria, speaking about 500 languages. So English is the central language, along with Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, the name and language of the three major ethnic groups. The country is divided in the middle between Moslem North and Christian South. Over the years, there are many Christians in the North, and Moslems in the Southwest. Christian Missionaries brought both Christianity and Western Education to Nigeria in 1800s firstly to Lagos, Southwest, and then to other parts particularly to the Southeast part of the country where I come from. Irish Catholic Missionaries brought education to the Southeast. They were supported by potato farmers in their home country. Dominicans came to Nigeria in the 50s to help evangelize the North, and South of Nigeria. The pioneers were American Dominicans. We are now working in the US and Canada as missionaries.