

Reckless driver kills parishioner

IF he knew death was awaiting him, the late Mr Thomas Eremosele, a member of the St Augustine's Catholic Church, Lagos-Ikorodu Road, Ikorodu, would have delayed his relocation to the community.

Up till a year ago, he lived in Shomolu. At a point, he felt the need to move close to his church, thus he relocated to Pashoko, Aga, Ikorodu. Finally, he moved opposite the church in Okeria along the Ikorodu-Lagos Road. It was about four months ago.

However, he did not live his dream. Reason: A reckless bus driver cut short his life on July 7 in a hit-and-run scenario. He was on his way to a morning mass about 6.15 am. His remains were said to have since been interred at his Edo State home.

His parish pastor, Reverend Father Augustine Medayedo, told *The Nation*: "The news came to us as a rude shock. We all ran out and when we got there, we could not identify the perpetrator of the evil act. Eremosele loved to attend all programmes of the church. The man's wife and four children are quite devastated. Now, something must be done."

He expressed his worry: "Sometimes, about

By Joke Kujenya, Assistant Editor

5.30am, most of the bus drivers ply the roads without their head lamps. So, commuters who often cross the roads would not know that a bus is approaching. They just get hit and killed. Therefore, we want the state government to give Ikorodu people a pedestrian bridge to arrest unwarranted killings of our people.

"Yes, we appreciate the ongoing dualisation of the Lagos-Ikorodu Road, but the major problem is the danger being faced by residents who cross the roads. Already, our church has become like a passage for those living on the other side of Ikorodu, especially those behind it. They pass through here to hit Lagos Road or connect neighbouring communities. Now, people are being killed; how do we cope when the express lanes are fully operational? This is why we need government's help. We cannot continue to lose people."

Another parishioner, Mr Thadeus Aderemi Amusa, narrated his narrow escape on the route, saying: "I had a similar encounter just after my 61st birthday on November 21, last year. I was almost killed by one of the reck-

less drivers while going for the morning mass. I had looked at the road carefully in my estimation and then, moved to cross. It was a little before 6.30am. It was God that saved my life. I spent two weeks at the Lagos State Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), before I began to regain consciousness. It was later I learn that the church picked me up in a pool of my blood. I lost a set of teeth. My left eye remained shut for several months. And till date, though wide open, it sees nothing; its visibility is zero."

Reverend Medayedo added: "The greatest challenge we are facing is the recklessness of the commercial bus drivers (danfo) and that of the officers of the state who are supposed to control traffic flow and ensure safety, but are failing woefully in their assigned duties."

"It is sad that traffic wardens including policemen are always there to extort money from road users. Between the Agric end and our church, God save you if you try to cross the road. We have lost a number of lives due to carelessness of danfo drivers on this road since work began even though the residents chose to fight their battles privately."



•The late Eremosele

**Man held for
alleged incest**

Ernest Nwokolo, Abeokuta

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