

The Lifeline

Lifeline for amputee orphan

From **Wilson Okereke, Afikpo**

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD boy, Master Emmanuel Ezaka, who lost his parents and his right leg in a road accident, was on December 5, 2021, given scholarship by the parish priest of St. Paul's Catholic Church, Onuebonyi, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Rev. Fr. Abraham Nwali.

Succour came the way of the poor boy, who lost his parents in 2020, during the 2021 annual thanksgiving and bazaar of the parish. Nwali said he was excited in the sense that the particular event was his first bazaar in the parish and, as God would have it, the programme was unique because the boy was not only given scholarship but would be provided with a prosthetic (artificial leg).

"While I was talking, the Lord graciously directed me to provide the boy with an artificial leg before December 25, 2021, and, by next week, we will contact an American company so that the leg will be replaced and, additionally, I have offered scholarship, as long as his intellect will carry.

"His Excellency has equally given some money for his upkeep. For me, the boy is a child of destiny and I believe that he will surely rewrite his story," he said.

The priest, who is also the chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Ebonyi State chapter, and Special Adviser to Ebonyi State Governor on Religious and Welfare Matters, equally cited a case of another child simply identified as Obinna, who lost his hand to a machet cut around



• Emmanuel with aged relation

2005.

Nwali said he had trained the same boy in primary and secondary school before establishing him as a patent medicine dealer even without knowing the boy's parents in the past 11 years.

He said: "I always see in these kind of people an invitation to change life. Thus, I really appreciate everyone and, more importantly, His Excellency, the state gov-

ernor and his disciples of leadership."

Ebonyi State Governor, David Nweze Umahi, represented by his deputy, Dr. Kel-echi Igwe, described Nwali as a priest that is beyond description in the sense that he means different things to different people.

"Some people call him by his priestly name, Reverend Father, and some call him an academic, while those who do not understand life and time regard him as a

politician.

"But one thing the people should know is that Jesus Christ is the highest politician because He is the only man who was able to convert the whole world into his political party.

"I will also remind the people that God had already given us the power to dominate every environment, to always serve as the head, not the tail, and in order to be the head, the person must be a leader.

"Based on this fact, one must be a politician to be able to convince his people over his manifestos because even Christ came with his manifesto, which the world was convinced with and the people believed him.

"But, surprisingly, those who do not understand the period which we are into only capitalise on the deceitful nature of some persons and hurriedly generalise that every politician is the same.

"No, that is wrong because genuine politicians do go with their clear manifestos," he explained.

He commended the priest for his posting to the hinterland, where, through his ingenuity, he would affect more lives positively, and also pledged that his government would remain supportive to him at all times.

"Father, we thank God that you are here to prove your ministry once more, since your calling is characterized with patience, long-suffering and perseverance," he said.

Emmanuel's guardian, Otubo Anavochukwu, who narrated the young boy's ordeal, said his parents, Friday Ezaka and Mrs. Blessing Ezaka, died in a ghastly ac-