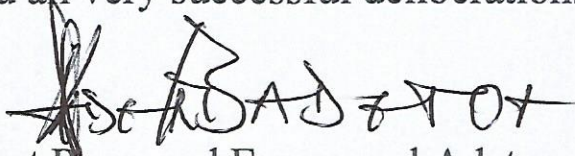


prominence in the magisterium of Pope Francis and especially in the reorganization which brought about the creation of the new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development on 31 August 2016. The Dicastery has Peter Cardinal Turkson of Ghana as its first Prefect. That Dicastery was given responsibility for “issues regarding migrant, those in need, the sick, the excluded and marginalized, the imprisoned and the unemployed, as well as victims of armed conflict, natural disasters, and all forms of slavery and torture”. I believe that your concerns cannot be far from seeing how the media can be engaged to pursue the interests expressed in this task in Africa. And who could ever suggest that Africa does not have more than her fair share of such vulnerable groups?

Precisely because of the relevance of Integral Human Development to the continent, the Bishops of Africa have taken up these concerns at various levels. Only in May 2018, in Antananarivo, Madagascar the Bishop delegates of SECAM had a week-long meeting with delegates of the German Bishops Conference precisely on Integral Human Development. A message summarizing the outcome of the meeting expressed the consensus of the Bishops that everything must be done to support this cause.. It is therefore my fervent hope that in this all-important pastoral enterprise, UCAP will be a vigorous collaborator with the Church in Africa and at the Universal level. In his very recent letter on child sex abuse and cover-ups in the Catholic Church Pope Francis called us to a solidarity that demands that we “... condemn whatever endangers the integrity of any person. A solidarity that summons us to fight all forms of corruption, especially spiritual corruption...” There is thus more than enough work for this Conference to do. I therefore do not wish to take more of your time except to wish you all very successful deliberations.



Most Reverend Emmanuel Adetoyese Badejo

Bishop of Oyo, Nigeria/President of CEPACS