

Remarks by His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia on the Occasion of the Mass for the Conferral of Pallium on His Grace Archbishop Gabriel Blamo S. Jubwe of the Catholic Archdiocese of Monrovia.

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Broad Street, Monrovia.

August 4, 2024

His Excellency, Monsignor Walter Erbi,

Apostolic Nuncio from the Holy Sea to Liberia;

His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Gabriel Blamo Snosio Jubwe , Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Monrovia;

Most Rev. Anthony Fallah Borwah, President of Catholic Bishops' Conference of Liberia and Bishop of Gbarnga;

Bishop James Bombo Sallee, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Liberia;

Clergy, Religious, Deacons, seminarians;

Members of the Sacred Heart Parish;

The Lay faithful

Officials of Government;

Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I am humbled and honored to be invited by the Archdiocese of Monrovia to Mass this morning, the 18th Sunday in Ordinary time, year B, and to attend and witness this all important and historic Conferral of Pallium on His Grace Archbishop Gabriel Blamo S. Jubwe.

This is a significant moment not only in the catholic Church but also in our nation's spiritual journey. I am happy to worship with the church faithful in this historic and symbolic chapel.

First of all, it is my honor, to extend, on behalf of the people of Liberia, our government and nation's heartfelt gratitude to His Holiness Pope Francis I for appointing the Most Rev. Dr. Gabriel Jubwe as the new Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Monrovia. In our view, this appointment reflects a deep recognition of Archbishop Jubwe's exemplary leadership and selfless dedication to the Church and the nation.

Second, it is important to recognize that the Catholic Church's presence in Liberia dates back to the early days of our country's history. Contrary to some popular beliefs, the Church's involvement in Liberia is not a recent phenomenon but rather an enduring legacy that parallels the establishment of our state. It will interest you to note that the seeds of the Catholic Church were planted in this soil in the 1800s, even before independence, and it has been here as long as the country has been in existence.

From the early missionaries who ventured into Liberia as a result of concern expressed by American Catholic Bishops who petitioned Pope Gregory XVI the (16th) to send Irish born priests from the United States to help care for expatriate Catholic settlers in the early 1840s, to the tireless efforts of the clergy and laypeople who have followed, the Catholic Church has played a very crucial role in our nation's growth and prosperity.

The contributions of the Catholic Church to Liberia's development have been significant. For years, it has impacted our society, profoundly shaping our socio-economic and cultural landscapes. The church has not only been molding the minds of our children for decades through education, and providing health services to citizens, it has crucially been a pillar of spiritual growth, and to the country leadership and moral conscience.

In the last few weeks, I have been engaging different stakeholders in our society to work together to advance a common agenda because we have a one in a generation opportunity to transform our country for good. We, therefore, look forward to a continued strong partnership between the state and the Church to build a new Liberia for all Liberians, working hand in hand to advance our common goals for the betterment of our society.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Catholic Church for its unwavering support and dedication. Together, let us strive for a future where every Liberian can thrive and reach their fullest potential.

Please join me in congratulating Archbishop Jubwe on his well-deserved appointment. May God bless and favor him, and may his tenure be filled with wisdom and grace as he labors in the Lord's vineyard and leads the archdiocese and church.

Thank you very much, and may God bless us all and save our country.