



## The Holy See

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**LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI  
TO Mr JONATHAN GOODLUCK  
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE**

*To His Excellency  
Goodluck E. Jonathan  
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*

I am writing warmly to greet Your Excellency on the happy occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Independence of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In these days, I give thanks to Almighty God for the civil and political progress that has been achieved by the Nigerian people during the last five decades. It is gratifying to have the opportunity to encourage Your Excellency and, through you, all Nigerians to work ever more diligently for the peace and prosperity of their fellow citizens, for the continued spread of democracy and authentic human rights through wise and just legislation, and for the further integral development of all, with an especial care towards the poorest and the weakest.

Assuring Your Excellency and the noble people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of a special remembrance in my prayers on this auspicious occasion, I am pleased to invoke God's abundant blessings upon the whole nation.

*From the Vatican, 21 September 2010*

**BENEDICT XVI**

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