

# CKC – THE BEAUTIFUL

A Campus Visit Report By Akunnia E. O. Agbimson



Making the turn from Oguta Road into the School Campus on November 28, 2011, was like driving from Gaza into the New Jerusalem, and the pervasive and extensive newly painted white and blue buildings, pavements, banners, poles, etc., students pullovers and almost all stationary objects decked in the school's legendary colors, helped deepen this feeling. The almost unbelievable spectacle and panoramic view in the campus creates an initial impression that the CKC of yore is back, and that the long drawn collective efforts of so many players aimed at reviving and revitalizing the school is finally paying off. Not surprisingly though, there is a lot more going on than what meets the eyes.

In the company of a hastily organized delegation and media rep by the Onitsha Branch of CKC Old Boys Association, and Chief Ofodile, we entered the campus virtually unannounced. It was the week following the annual feast of Christ The King Celebrations, Exhibitions and Cultural events in the school. However, classes and normal school activities had resumed. The Principal was attending a previously scheduled PTA meeting, so we had to wait in the Principal's office until he had a break.

The campus tour was detailed, all the main blocks, houses, dormitories and construction in progress were visited and the Principal gave briefings in tandem. Particularly impressive was the newly remodeled and refurbished refectory and laboratory. The school kitchen which was the focus and target of the CKC-AAA 2011 New York Convention action plan was inspected. Nothing has changed, structurally, technologically and procedurally from the 1950's and 1960s.

The same old equipments most of which have been rusty and inoperable for years are still there and worse still, firewood is now the main source of cooking fuel. The kitchen building itself remain a great state of disrepair and literally falling apart.

The checks presentation ceremony was abridged so that the Principal could return to the PTA meeting, as more and more parents continued to arrive.

Two checks were presented, one for N750,000, being the first installment of the CKC-AAA N1.6 million pledge for the rehabilitation of the School Kitchen. The second check was a personal donation to the school from me in the amount of N250,000.

After the presentation, I made a brief visit to the School Principal Emeritus and first indigenous Principal of the School Rev. Fr. N.C. Tagbo at his Sacred Heart Parish residence. He was quite healthy and actually looked robust. (See picture). He sent his special greetings to CKC-AAA members and I expressed the desire of many our members that he could be able to visit us in the near future. I also had a long telephone conversation with the School Proprietor and the Catholic Arch Bishop of Onitsha. His Grace, The Most Reverend Valleran Okeke. He was in Abuja and wished I could stay till Wednesday, November 29, 2011 to join him and other dignitaries in Opening of a new Youth Center in Anambra State. He is keeping an eye on what goes on in the school and is open to exchange of ideas on the direction of the school affairs.

All in all, although the visit was brief, it was a point of reflection and an opportunity to see the new CKC in action without any fanfare. I noticed that for the assembly bell, the School is using a jaded vehicle tire rim tied to the balcony ceiling and sounded more like a broken gong, than a bell. I promised the principal that I would try to raise private funds to provide the school with an appropriate assembly bell when I return to the United States.