

# Requiem Mass For HRH Eze Charles O. Iheke



**Blessed Sacrament Church, Elizabeth, NJ**

**1096 North Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201**

**Friday, March 20, 2020**



# BIOGRAPHY

**His Royal Highness, Eze Charles Onwukwe Iheke**  
(Nkalu-Ukwu 1 of Amankalu Igbere Autonomous Community)

Eze Charles Onwukwe Iheke, the Ochiriozuo 1 of Igbere Clan and the Nkalu-Ukwu 1 of Amankalu Igbere Autonomous Community was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1935 to Chief and Chief (Mrs.) Isaac Iheke Onwukwe of Ndi-Awaukwu Royal Family of Umuobasi, Amankalu Igbere Autonomous Community of Bende Local Government Area of Abia State of Nigeria.

His early days in Amankalu Igbere saw him going through the rigorous upbringing of a first male child in a typical Igbo family. He had to start early in life to be involved in farming and community responsibilities as demanded by the time of his youthful days. He stood out as a hard working youth.

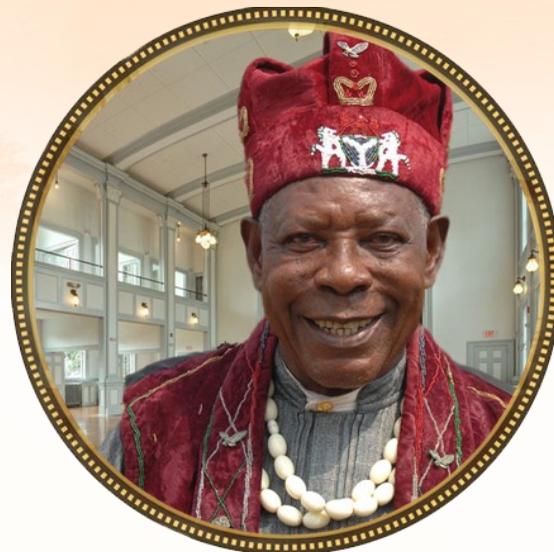
His formal education was shared between Church Missionary Society (C.M.S.) school, Kafanchan, in the then Northern Nigeria (now Kaduna State) and Igbere Central School, Onu-Igbere. He was an excellent student. On graduation from school, he took up trading at Afiom, in Abakiliki Area of now Ebonyi State. From Afiom, he moved to Jos (now in Plateau State) where he joined his uncle, Mazi Ukaegbu Onwukwe for more training in the art of trading.

In Jos, his versatile attributes came to the fore. He became very involved in sports, leading to his formation of the Bende United Football Team, which he captained. He was a member of many social clubs including Motor Cycle Owners Club, a great ball-room dancer and a prominent socialite. He was very proficient in the Hausa language.

He fought in the Nigerian/Biafra civil war. The civil war (1967 – 1970) forced him to relocate to Aba from where he continued his commercial business. While in Aba, his interest in trading changed as he began travelling to Britain to import goods for sale, making Aba his headquarters. He was a successful trader and merchant, an agent of Parbury Henty & Company Ltd. of United Kingdom. He imported Faberge products and various types of luggage and storage containers.

Eze Charles was a patriot, a philanthropist and a great achiever. He loved his people and cared greatly for their welfare. As a founding member of the UCHE EBIRI AGE GRADE, he made the first donation of stationeries for its take-off before the Nige-

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HRH Eze Charles Onwukwe Iheke  
Nkalu-ukwu 1 of Amankalu Igbere  
August 10, 1935—November 4, 2020



# THE ORDER OF THE MASS

## ENTRANCE HYMN

## INTRODUCTORY RITE

### GREETING

**Celebrant:** In the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Celebrant:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All:** And with your spirit.

### PENITENTIAL RITE

**Celebrant:** My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins.

**All:** I confess to almighty god

And to you my brothers and sisters,  
That I have greatly sinned,  
In my thoughts and in my words  
In what I have done and in what I have failed to do  
Through my fault Through my fault Through  
my most grievous fault  
Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever- Virgin,  
All the angels and saints,  
And you my brothers and sisters,  
To pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Celebrant:** May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

**All:** Amen.

### KYRIE

**Celebrant:** Lord have mercy.

**All:** Lord have mercy.

**Celebrant:** Christ have mercy.

**All:** Christ have mercy.

**Celebrant:** Lord have mercy.

**All:** Lord have mercy.

### Let Us Pray

**Celebrant:** Almighty God, our Father, we firmly believe that your son died and rose to life. We pray for our brother, Eze Charles Iheke, who has died in Christ. Raise him at the last day to share in the glory of the risen Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (25:6 – 9)

The Lord will destroy death forever.

On this mountain, the lord of Hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain, he will

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# USORO EMUME MISSA

## UKWE MBATA

### INTRODUCTORY RITE

**Onye isi emume:** N'aha Nna, na Nwa, na Muo-Nso

**Oha:** Amen

**Onye isi emume:** Ka ngozi nke Onye new anyi Jesu Kristi, na ihu nanya nke Chineke, Nna, na idiko n'out nke Muo-nso na-enye unu nile

**\*Oha:** Diri Kwa Gi.

### PENETENTIAL RITE

**Onye isi emume:** Umunnam, ka anyi kwado onwe anyi nile nke oma maka nnukwu emume nke Eukarista site na Ikwuputa njo anyi.

**Oha:**

Ekwuputam gwa Chineke ji Ike nole na unu umunnam, na Emehiem nke ukwu site na echichem, na okwu na omume Nke kwesiri na m'ga eme; site na mmehiem nke kacha ukwu. Yak am ji ario Maria di ngozi, virgin okpu; na ndi muo-oma na ndi nso nile, na unu umunnam, ka unu riorom Osebruwa Chukwu anyi aririo.

**\*Onye isi emume:** Ka Chineke ji Ike nile mere anyi ebere, gbaghara anyi njo anyi, ma duruo anyi na ndu ebere.

**\*Oha:** Amen

**\*Onye isi emume:** Onye new anyi, mee ebere

**\*Oha:** Onye nwe anyi, mee ebere

**Onye isi emume:** Kristi, mee ebere

**Oha:** Kristi, mee ebere

**Onye isi emume:** Onye nwe anyi, mee ebere

**Oha:** Onye nwe anyi, mee ebere

Ka anyi rio aririo

Chetu ntakiri kpee ekperen'ime obi.

Onye isi emume:

### IHE OGUGU NKE MBU

The ogugu nke ewetara n'akwukwo nke onye Amuma Isaiah (25:6-9)

Dinwenu ga-emebi onwu ebere.

N'elu ugwu nke a, ka Dinwenu nke igwe ndi agha ga akwadobere ndi mmadu nile ebe oriri. N'ugwu nke a k'Oga-ekpughepu akwa iru uju kpuchiri ndi mmadu, na ihe ojo ninle kpuchiri mba nile. Oga ewepuru ndi nke ya ihere ebe obula n'uwa, obu Dinwenu kwuru anyi tukwasiri obi maka nzoputa; o bun a Dinwenu k'anyi tukwasiri obi. Anyi n'eto n'enwe anuri maka na o zoputago anyi.

Okwu nke **Oseburuwa**

**Oha:** Ekene Diri Chukwu



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remove the mourning veil covering all peoples and the shroud enwrapping all nations and he will destroy death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. On that day, it will be said; see, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation, the Lord is one whom we hoped. We exalt and we rejoice that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 84)

**Response:** One day in your court is better than a thousand elsewhere.

My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and soul ring out their joy to God, the living God: R/

The sparrow herself finds a home and a nest for her brood, she lays her young by Your altars, Lord of Hosts, my King and my God: R/

They are happy, who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.

They are happy; whose strength is in you, in whose hearts are the roads to Zion: R/

One day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. The threshold of the house of God I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked: R/

For the Lord God is rampart, a shield; He will give us His favor and glory.

The Lord will not refuse any good to those who walk without blame: R/

### SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13 - 18)

We would have to be clear about those who sleep in death, brothers; otherwise you might yield to grief, like those who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with him from the dead, those also who fall asleep believing in him. We say to you as if the Lord himself has said it, that we who live, who survive until his coming, will in no way have an advantage over those who have fallen asleep. No the Lord Himself will come down from heaven at the word of command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet, and those who have died in Christ will rise first. Then we, the living, the survivors, will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Thenceforth, we shall be with the Lord unceasingly. Console one another with this message.

The word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God,



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### ABU OMA E KWE A ZAA (Ps:84)

**Aziza:** Otu ubochi na be Gi ka mma karia nnu nnu n'ebe ozo

Ka m sig u ulo Gi n'anya Chukwu nke igwe ndi agha ka mkpuruobi m si acho, na-agbali maka ulo nke Chukwu. Mkpuruobi m na ahu m na-ekwere Chukwu ndu ukwe anuri: A/

Eleke achotago umu ya; ayoru achotago akwu maka umu ya n'ebe Altar Gi, Chukwu nke igwe ndi agha,

Eze m na Chukwu m: A/

Anuri bukwa nke ndi be n'ulo Gi ebeebe, na-ekwe otito Gi. Anuri bukwa nke ndi Ike ha dina Gi, ndi obi ha dina Zayon: A/

Out ubochi na be Gi ka mma karia nnu ubochi abuo na ugu iri n'eve ozo: Sooso ikwuru n'onu uzo ulo Chukwu ka mma karia ibi n'etiti ndi ajo mmadu: A/

Nilri na Chukwu bu onye ugu na onye nchedo; onye nanye amara na otito. Chukwu anaghi aju ndi na-ebi ndu n'enweghi ita uta obula: A/

### IHE OGUGU NKE ABUO

Ihe ogugu nke a si n'akwukwo mbu Paul di aso degara ndi Tessalonica (4: 13-18)

Umunna, anyi achoghi ka unu ghara imata ezi okwu ban-yere ndi no na-ezumike nke onwu, ka o-ghara iwute unu dika osi ewute ndi ozo na-enweghi nchekwube. N'ih na anyi kwere na Jesu mvuru, sikwa n'onwu billie ozo, out ahu kwa ka Chineke ga-eji site na Jesu kporo ndi ahu no na-ezumike nke onwu kwenye nay a.

Nke a mere anyi ji agwa unu okwu nke Oseburuwa, na anyi bu ndi din du, ndi ga-ano ruo mgbe Dinwenu ga-abia, agaghi ebu ndi nwuru anwu uzo rute. Onyenwe anyi na onwe Ya ga-esi n'eluigwe gbadata, were olu ike na olu onye isi ndi muo-oma na olu opi nke Chineke, iji kpokota anyi. Ndi nwuru na Kristi ga-ebu uzo kulie Emechaa, akporo anyi bu ndi foro ndu, were wegolite anyi na ha n'urukpuru izute Dinwenu anyi na mbara igwe, ka anyi na Ya were biri ebebe. Werenu okwu ndi a na atasi onwe unu obi.

Okwu nke Osebruwa.

Oha: Ekene diri Chukwu

\* Otito na Nsopuru diri gi Chrisi.

Anuri n'adiri ndi nwuru n'ime Dinwenu.

Ha aruchago oru ha,

Ugbua ha ga ezuru ike ebighiebi,

N'ih na ezi-omume ha n'eso ha'ga.

\*Otito na Nsopuru diri gi Christi.

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## ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia  
Happy are those who died in the Lord.  
Now they can rest forever after their work, since their good deeds go with them. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Celebrant:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (11:17 – 27)

**All:** Glory to you, o Lord.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would never have died. Even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask Him." "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. Martha replied, "I know he shall rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, though he should die, will come to life and whoever is alive and believes in me will not die. Do you believe this?" "Yes Lord," she replied. "I have come to believe that you are the messiah, 'the Son of God,' He who is to come into the world."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** Let us pray with faith and confidence to God our Father who raised His Son, Jesus Christ from death, that he may give comfort to the living and eternal rest to the dead.

**Response:** Oo Nna anyi Chukwu eu bi n'igwe, gee nti nuru olu anyi; mere anyi ebere.

-For our departed brother and servant of God: may our beloved father and brother Eze Charles Iheke who received the grace of baptism, reap its full fruits as he enjoys the vision of God in the happiness of eternal life.

We pray O Lord: R/

- For the forgiveness of sins as we remember with love and affection the life of our departed brother and father, Eze Charles Iheke. May he always be in our prayers as we ask God's mercy to forgive his sins.

We pray O Lord: R/

-For those who are left to mourn, may they be thinking today not of the darkness of death, but of the brightness of the Resurrection, and of the day when they will meet again their beloved brother and father, whom they have lost awhile.

We pray O Lord: R/

-For those to whom this world is the be-all and end all, that they may come to believe the good news of Salvation, renew their lives and have faith in Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

We pray O Lord: R/

- For all who are gathered here to pray for the dead, that we may always live, act and speak in full realization that

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## OZIOMA

Onye isi emume: Onyenweanyi noyere unu.

Oha: Nonyere kwara gi.

Onye isi emume: the ogugu nke a si n'Ozioma di aso nke Jon dere (11: 17-27)

Martha wee gwa Jesu si ya: "Dinwenu, asi n'ino ebea, onwero ka nwanne m nwoke aka esi nwu. Buragodu kita, ejim aka na Chineke g'enyere Gi ihe obula nke iyoro ya." Jesu zara ya si: "Nwanne gi nwoke g'ekulite kwa ozo." Martha were kwue si, "Aniaram n'oga ekulite ozo na mbosi mbinite n'onwu nke ikpe azu." Jesu zaghachiri ya ozo si: "Mu onwem bu mbinite n'onwu na ndu. Onye obula kwere na M, buragodu onwuru anwu, o ga abata na ndu. Onye obula kwere na M ama nwunata anwu. Ik-wetere nkea?" Martha were za Ya si, "eyee, ekwetelam n'obu Gi bu onye nzoputa, Nwa nke Chineke, onye nke g'abia n'uwa."



Ozioma nke Oseburuwa

Oha: Otito diri Gi Kristi.

## EKPERE NKE NDI KWERENU

Onye isi emume:

K'anyi were okwukwe na nchekwube rio Chukwu Nna anyi, onye kunitalu nwa ya bu Jesu Kristi n'onwu, k'onye ndi din du aru idi mma, mee ka ndi nwulu anwu nweta ezumike nke ndu ebere.

\*Aziza: 0-0 Nna anyi, Chukwu bi n'igwe, gee nti nuru olu anyi; mere anyi ebere,

\* Maka nwanne anyi nwoke, bu nw'odibo nke Oseburuwa hapuru uwa nke a, mee ka nwanne anyi nwoke, bu Professor Cyril Chiedozie Nwako, onye natara ngozi nke mmiri Chukwu nweta ugwu dire ya nuju.

\*Anyi ario Gi, Dinwenu: A/

\*Maka mgbaghara nke njo, ebe anyi ji ihunanya na obi mmetuta n'echeta ndu na nrapu nke nwanne anyi nwoke, Professor Cyril Chiedozie Nwako, mee ka anyi na-echeta ya na ekpere anyi oge mile, ka anyi na-ario Chukwu onye ebere ka ogbaghara ya njo ya nine.

\*Anyi ario Gi, Dinwenu: A/

\*Maka ndi n'eru uru na mmadu nwunarili ha, ka ha ghara iche echiche tata maka-ochichi nke onwu, kama ka ha na-eche maka ihe nke mbilite n'onwu ya na ubochi ha gazute nwanne ha ozo bu onye ha agaghi ahu anya nwa obere oge.

\*Anyi aria Gi, Dinevnu: A/

\*Maka ndi nchekwube ha niile kwusiri n'uwa a, ka habia kwere n'oziuma na nzoputa ebe, gbanwoo ndu ha, bia

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one day we shall be called upon to answer for our thoughts, words, and actions.

We pray O Lord: R/

**Celebrant:** In the silence of our minds and hearts, we pray for our own needs to God, our loving Father.

**Celebrant:** Lord, may these humble petitions find favor in your presence for the salvation of Eze Charles Iheke, your servant and all who have died in Christ who is Lord for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## OFFERTORY HYMNS



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ria/Biafra War. He contributed in no small way to the reorganization of the AGE GRADE at the end of the civil war. Some of his innovative contributions to the social/community existence of his people include but not restricted to.

In 1976 he built what is now his befitting palace and thereafter, embarked on the electrification of Umuobasi Village and the environs, long before National Electricity Power Authority (NEPA) extended electricity to the entire Igbere Clan. His giant electricity generating plant provided light for the entire Umuobasi Village and the environs during this period. He installed Television Sets for the viewing locals at the Umuobasi Hall powering same from the said generating plant. He hired one Mazi James Ukoha to be the operating manager of these services.

When Justice Agbai Ikwecheghi was elevated as a supreme court judge he single handedly organized a befitting reception for this great Igbere son in Aba. He contributed in building one of the school blocks at Igbere Secondary School and donated a trophy for football activities at the School.

As a sportsman and lover of sporting activities, he was an active member of the ABA SPORTS CLUB and was of the LAWN TENNIS and DARTS sections, which membership dates back to 1977. He donated a trophy for the DARTS section to enhance competition.

He was also an active member of People's Club of Nigeria. He hosted the said Club during the burial of late Chief J.C. Awa in October, 1980.

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nwee okwukwe na Kristi onye bu-Uzo, Eziokwu na Ndu.

\*Anyi ario Gi, Dinwenu: A/

\*Maka ndi niile gbakoro ebea ikpere onye nwuru amvu ekpere: K'anyi na echeta oge niile nke ndu anyi, n'out ubochi n'anyi g'aza ajuju maka echiche anyi, n'out ubochi n'anyi g'aza ajuju  
Maka echiche anyi niile, okwu onu anyi, ha n'omume anyi

Onye isi emume:

O Osebruwa, biko mee ka ekpere anyi ndia di ume ala rute n'iru Gi maka nzoputa nke nwa-odibo Gi bu Eze Chaeles Iheke, na nke ndi mile nwuru na Kristi, Onye din du n'achi uwa ebebe.

Oha: Amen

## \*UKWE ONYINYE

### Biography of Eze Charles Iheke, continued

As a man of his people, he was one of the illustrious sons of the town that were mandated to receive the then Military Administrator Col. Sunday Adenihu, when the later visited Igbere to commission the AMANKALU IGBERE CIVIC CENTER.

As a Chief launcher during the fund raising ceremony for the construction of Afia Nkwo Ebele of Igbere, in the present permanent site, he contributed generously. HRH Eze Iheke was honest and upright in politics. He, alongside others, anchored the then ruling political party, "National Party of Nigeria" Igbere branch, with Shehu Shagari as President and Alex Ekwueme as Vice President.

On reintroduction of political parties in Nigeria 1979, he was very involved as an official of the party member of the ruling National party of Nigeria (NPN) party. He was very much involved with the activities of the then minister of communications Mr. Audu Ogbe and the local organization of the party in old Imo State 1979 –1983  
It was for all these accomplishments and good qualities, that made the late Eze of Igbere, H.R.H. Eze Sampson Uwaka Ukaegbu to confer on him in 1987 the Chieftaincy Title of OCHIRIOZUO 1 OF IGBERE.

On this occasion, the entire Igbere clan in Bende Local Government Area, of Abia State Nigeria under the able leadership of His Royal Majesty, Eze Sampson U. Ukaegbu Ebiri II of Igbere, honored 18 of their illustrious sons for various accomplishments and contributions to the Igbere Community. Among the 18 selected from the 13 villages which make up Igbere, was Chief Charles

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Onwukwe Iheke who was honored with the title Ochirio-zuo 1 of Igbere. Other notable Igbere greats includes Elder E.E. Ukaegbu, Mazi Anyaogu Elekwachi Ukonu (Maduoha), Chief P.I. Chukwu, Dr. Jonah Okorie Nduka, now Orji 1 of Amoji Igbere, etc.

His selection and coronation as the NKALU-UKWU 1 of Amankalu Igbere Autonomous Community was celebrated on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2000 following the gazetting of Amankalu Igbere as one of the autonomous communities in Abia State. On this day, he was given the staff of office by the then governor of Abia State of Nigeria, His Excellency Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu (MON).

Eze Charles Iheke stood like a colossus during and after the crisis that engulfed the entire Igbere clan following the killing of Eze Sampson Ukaegbu. He was always alert at any attempt to encroach on any part of Amankalu, Igbere ancestral land. He left a legacy of lasting peace for the people of Amankalu Igbere. Eze Charles Iheke was a good family man and a devout Christian.

He is survived by his lovely wife Ugoeze Comfort Iheke, his son, Christian Charles Onwukwe Iheke, his brothers

Chief John Ndubueze Iheke, Chief Alexander Iheke (Opiegbe) of Elizabeth, NJ (Publisher of Igbo Basics Publications and [www.igbobasics.com](http://www.igbobasics.com)), his sisters Mrs. Erinma Ukeje, Mrs. Helen Ijeoma Obiegwu and many more members of his extended family.

He is represented in USA by a member of his Royal council Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, (Agu Di Na Mba) of Amankalu Igbere who is President, North Carolina State Conference NAACP.

Eze Iheke is extended in Elizabeth, NJ by the Iheke family Chief Alex Iheke (Member of the Board of Directors of Egenolf Early Childhood Development Center in Elizabeth), his wife and children.



*L-r Chief Charles Iheke (Ochiriozuo) Christian Charles Iheke, Chief Mrs. Mgbo Iheke a/k/a Akpara-adighiachi (Ochiko Inyom 1 of Igbere), late Evidence Ifeanyi Iheke, Ugo-Eze Comfort Iheke during the celebration of Akpara-adighiachi's chieftaincy title given by HRM Eze Samson U. Ukaegbu Ebiri II of Igbere*



*Olivia Nkasi Iheke Serving mass at Blessed Sacrament Church in Elizabeth NJ*



# Final Journey Events For A King



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