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### Notes on Contributors

1. Sunday Enesi **Ododo**, Professor, Department of Creative Arts, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria
2. Olaniyi Oladimeji **Kaseem**, Ph.D., Department of Languages and Literary Studies, Kwara State University, Ilorin.
3. Patrick U. **Nwosu**, Ph.D., Department of Religions, Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.
4. Sam **Ukala**, Professor, Department of Theatre Arts Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria.
5. Abaya Angulu **Samson**, Ph.D., Department of English and Literary Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

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## **CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE AS PANACEA FOR A JUST AND EGALITARIAN AFRICAN SOCIETY WITH FOCUS ON NIGERIA**

Patrick U. Nwosu

*Department of Religions,  
Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.*

### **Introduction**

The reality of a society ordained by God is believed to inculcate the spirit by which the citizens of nations are to be animated in relation to God and to others. It brings about norms or procedures that are integral to culture, as transmitted in customs and traditions. But it has become clear that strange tension engulfs the contemporary society in general and Africa in particular.

Just like other continents, Africa is passing through difficult political, economic and social times. As noted by Pope Benedict XVI, during his recent apostolic visit to Africa,<sup>1</sup> certain values of the traditional society have been overturned. Relationships between different generations have evolved in a way that no longer favours the transmission of accumulated knowledge and inherited wisdom. The quality of facilities is deeply affected by this. Uprooted and fragile members of the younger generation, who often are without gainful jobs, seek to cure their pain by living in ephemeral and man-made paradises<sup>2</sup>. Indeed, social justice is grossly abused and human dignity is rapidly eluding the African society of the 21<sup>st</sup> century amidst corrupt leadership in many countries. For example, in Nigeria, the mere sickness of the

