

## **Table of Contents**

### **General Introduction**

Background.....	1
Statement of the Problem .....	2
Purpose of the Work.....	6
Method of Research .....	6
Scope and Limitations of the Work.....	7
Structure of the Work.....	7

### **Chapter One**

#### **An Igbo-Christian Understanding of Marriage**

1.1 Introduction.....	9
1.2 Igbo Understanding of Marriage.....	9
1.2.1 The Igbo of Nigeria .....	12
1.2.2 Importance of Marriage among the Igbo.....	14
1.2.3 Preparation for Marriage among the Traditional Igbo.....	17
1.2.4 Ends of Marriage for the Igbo.....	21
1.2.5 Conclusion .....	24
1.3 Forms and Practices of Marriage among the Igbo.....	24
1.3.1 Monogamy .....	25
1.3.2 Polygamy .....	26
1.3.3 Some Other Practices .....	30
1.3.4 Conclusion .....	31
1.4 The Conflict between the Igbo and Christian Understandings of Marriage.....	32
1.5 Literature Review .....	36
1.6 Conclusion of Chapter One .....	42

### **Chapter Two**

#### **The Importance of Children and the Challenges and Consequences of Childlessness among the Igbo**

2.1 Introduction .....	43
2.2 Importance of Children .....	43
2.2.1 Economic Value.....	44
2.2.2 Family Sustainability and Inheritance.....	50

2.2.3	Insurance for Old Age .....	54
2.2.4	Socio-political Value .....	58
2.2.5	Conclusion .....	62
2.3	Challenges and Consequences of Childlessness among the Igbo .....	63
2.3.1	Loss of Status and Respect in the Society .....	63
2.3.2	Family and Social Pressure.....	68
2.3.3	Crises of Faith Resulting from Childlessness.....	69
2.3.4	Childlessness Resulting in Divorce.....	73
2.3.5	Conclusion .....	77
2.4	Conclusion of Chapter Two.....	78

### **Chapter Three**

#### **Canonical Norms on the Essential Elements and the Ends of Marriage**

3.1	Introduction .....	80
3.2	The Canonical Norms of the 1917 Code on Marriage.....	80
3.2.1	The Sacramental Dignity of Marriage.....	81
3.2.2	Begetting and Education of Children as the Primary End of Marriage.....	85
3.2.3	Mutual Help and Remedy for Concupiscence as the Secondary End of Marriage.....	90
3.2.4	Conclusion .....	94
3.3	The Teaching of the II. Vatican Council on the Nature and Ends of Marriage.....	95
3.3.1	Partnership of the Whole Life.....	95
3.3.2	Covenant of Love and Fidelity .....	97
3.3.3	Conjugal Love .....	99
3.3.4	On the Ends of Marriage .....	101
3.3.5	The Sacramental Nature of Marriage.....	103
3.3.6	Conclusion .....	105
3.4	The History of Canon 1055 CIC/1983 .....	106
3.5	The Essential Canonical Norms of CIC/1983 on Marriage .....	121
3.5.1	Matrimonial Covenant between a Man and a Woman.....	121
3.5.2	Partnership of the Whole of Life .....	125
3.5.3	Ordered to the Well-being of the Spouses.....	128
3.5.4	Ordered to the Procreation and Education of Children.....	132
3.5.5	The Sacramental Dignity of Marriage.....	137

3.5.6	Unity and Indissolubility of Marriage.....	141
3.5.7	Conclusion .....	146
3.5.8	Conclusion of Chapter Three .....	147

## **Chapter Four**

### **Possibility of Impediments due to Childlessness**

4.1	Introduction.....	149
4.2	The Foundation of Marriage.....	150
4.2.1	Matrimonial Consent.....	151
4.2.2	Possibility of Impediments due to Invalid Matrimonial Consent.....	155
4.3	Impotence and Sterility.....	170
4.4	Remarriage or Polygamy Due to Childlessness .....	176
4.5	Conclusion of Chapter Four.....	182

## **Chapter Five**

### **The Future of Christian Marriage among the Igbo vis-à-vis Childlessness: A Canonical and Pastoral Approach**

5.1	Introduction.....	184
5.2	Importance of Marriage Preparation .....	185
5.2.1	Marriage Preparation and Pastoral Care of Marriage in CIC/1983.....	187
5.2.2	Purpose of Marriage Preparation .....	199
5.2.3	Agents of Marriage Preparation.....	203
5.2.4	Stages of Marriage Preparation.....	208
5.2.4.1	Early (Remote) Preparation for Marriage .....	208
5.2.4.2	Personal Preparation for Marriage .....	212
5.2.4.3	Fruitful Celebration of the Marriage Liturgy .....	215
5.2.4.4	Continual Formation of Married Couples .....	217
5.2.5	Conclusion .....	222
5.3	Special Goals of Church's Teaching and Preaching.....	223
5.3.1	Introduction.....	223
5.3.2	Dignity and Right of the Girl-Child.....	224
5.3.3	Equal Dignity of the Spouses.....	229
5.3.4	Christian Understanding of Marriage and Family in the Plan of God.....	233
5.3.5	Adoption as a Panacea.....	238
5.3.6	Conclusion .....	243

5.4 Conclusion of Chapter Five ..... 244

**Chapter Six**

**General Evaluation and Conclusion**

6.1 General Evaluation ..... 246  
6.2 Recommendations ..... 250  
6.3 General Conclusion ..... 251

**Sources and Bibliography**

Sources ..... 255  
Bibliography ..... 258