

Title: Comprehensive Latin Course for Schools and Colleges
Author: Very Rev. Fr. Dr. N. I. Ndiokwere
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Reviewer: MBONU UGONNA. S. (Rev. Fr.)

LEGERE NIHIL SELIGERE, NEGLIGERE EST!
(TO READ AND NOT SELECT ANYTHING IS TO FORGET.)

I have read the Comprehensive Latin Course For Schools And Colleges over and over again. It is timely! My eyes were opened to a wide range of the author's literary sojourn from Grammar to Application and from Prose to Oral Latin. In fact, the name – Rev. Fr. Dr. N. I. Ndiokwere treads where angels fear to go!

The 21st century Linguistic scholarship has brought upon the academic field the tsunamic urge to go back to the roots. Knowing the urgency of this task – His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI said to the students and teachers of Christelijk Lyceum of Veenendaal, Netherlands – “You have come to Rome to be strengthened in your endeavour to learn the Latin Language. In fact, this language has much to contribute, both in the deeper study of antiquity and in the study of more recent history” (cf. Zenith News March 13, 2011.)

It is on this ground that the veteran author Very Rev. Fr. Dr. N. I. Ndiokwere came out with a 362 paged masterpiece – *COMPREHENSIVE LATIN COURSE FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES*. It is an encyclopedia of ideas and a compendium for the study of Latin. It is the resurrection of the ancient and forgotten folklores, mythology, legends, literature, history, language of Rome and the denial that Latin is a dead language! Almost all the modern languages are the grand-children of the language of the Romans.

The book is divided into six parts:-

PART 1: GRAMMAR:

Any language without grammar is barbaric! Most people quote Latin adages, term and botanical names without an idea of a good grammar in Latin. The author gave the basic grammatical tool for students and teachers of Latin language. This fundamental is the bedrock for accumulative study of this language.

PART 2: APPLICATION OF LATIN TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

It is a fact that Latin is no longer spoken as a Lingua Franca in any country but it is most useful for the study of English Language. English is a borrowed language. It is made up of more than 30% Latin phrases, expressions, proverbs, idioms and quotes. In the medical and legal studies, Latin is the official terminology. In the scientific study of animals and plants, botanical names are always Latin. Hence, before English language, Latin was!

PART 3: STORIES OF THE GRAECO-ROMAN WORLD:

In the learning process especially in Linguistics, stories and examples make for quick comprehension. You cannot separate the Graeco-Roman World from folklores, mythology, legends and stories. Such stories of Hercules, Tantalus, Phaethon, Niobe, Ovid, Virgil, Aeneid, Iliad, Odysseus, the Trojan War etc. help as an appetizer to the taste of the teacher and students in teaching and learning Latin.

PART 4: ORAL LATIN:

One of the reasons people study a language is to read, speak, write and understand it. Unless you are dumb student, you don't need the Oral Latin. All the ecclesiastical documents are in Latin. Hence, those aspiring to the Catholic priesthood must learn how to read Latin.

PART 5 & 6 ARE GENERAL REVISION AND VOCABULARY

A good teacher must set exams for his students. A good student can only write the exams after a general revision of what he was taught.

For the teacher and student of Latin to enrich their knowledge of Latin, they will first of all enrich their vocabulary. Repetition of the same words makes the Latin Grammar odious.

Fr. Rector has presented this well-researched book. It is unique and proffers fecund methods in studying Latin. No serious student can find it hard! The answer to a bad book is to write your own. If you want to hide something from Nigerians, write a book! It is Latin made easy!