



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

April, 2014/No. 019

TO ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WORKING IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS, AND THE LAY FAITHFUL.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

1. **April:** As our Lenten journey gradually comes to a close, we solemnly ease into the glorious Season of Easter where we Commemorate/Celebrate the most sublime event in human history: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This Season constitutes the core of our Christian faith, the apex point of the economy of our salvation in which we celebrate the resurrection of Christ after commemorating his suffering and death on the cross. The celebration assures us that we are redeemed, our sins forgiven and eternal life is made available to us. However, this hallowed Season of Easter transcends mere observation of the rubrics to include an inner transformation, the complete rejection of Satan, his maleficent works and a holistic change in our attitudes towards work, our neighbour and the promotion of true Christian values. May the risen Lord imbue in us the corresponding graces to put our faith into practice. May the joy of Easter fill your heart.

2. LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN YEAR OF THE FAMILY

- i. As we continue our journey in this Year of the Family, we admonish Parish Priests and leaders of Lay Associations to ensure that they constantly refer to the programmes of the year as laid out in the **Year Planner** provided. This is necessary in order to ensure that we dutifully carry out all the activities outlined. The year is for the renewal of the family and re-awakening of the call to personal holiness. Parish Priests are to ensure that the proposed themes for reflection on Sundays are made use of so as to assist the faithful keep the ideals and objectives of the year in view.

Copies of the Year Planner are available for sale in the Chancery. *Jesus, Mary and Joseph; make our families like unto Thine.*

- ii. **Enthronement of Families:** As part of our Year of the Family celebration, all families in the parish will be required to enthrone the Holy Bible and the image of the Holy Family as signs of the commitment of the families to reading the word of God and living by the word of God. It is also a sign of the dedication of the families to the Holy Family of Nazareth and commitment to live as they lived. This should take place on any day within the week of 4th to 10th of May, 2014. A formula for the said dedication is in the Year Planner mentioned earlier. The pictures of the Holy Family can be purchased from Catholic Bookshops and from the Center for Media Development office in Ojota. They cost N200 each.
3. **"PRIVATE MINISTRIES":** Our attention has been drawn to some so-called "Private Ministries" being organized and undertaken by some lay persons without the approval of the Church. Such ministries operate outside of the Church and are alleged to be involved in curious practices. We call upon operators of such "Private Ministries" to retrace their steps and be at peace with God and the Church.
We call upon Priests who engage the "services" of such private ministry operators to desist from such acts. We shall not fail in our duty to protect the faith and orthodoxy of the Church. The salvation of souls and protection of the faithful from the negative influences of the times will not permit us to condone any errant person, clergy or otherwise.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - a. **CREATION OF A NEW DIOCESE:** His Holiness, Pope Francis has created the **Diocese of Pankshin**, carving it out from the Archdiocese of Jos and the Diocese of Shendam, as a suffragan Diocese of the Archdiocese of Jos. At the same time, the Holy Father has appointed **Rev. Fr. Michael Gobal Gokum** of the Archdiocesan clergy of Jos **as the First Bishop** of the new Diocese of Pankshin.
 - b. **ARCHDIOCESAN COORDINATOR OF FIDEI DONUM PRIESTS:** This is to inform everyone that our Vicar General, **Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Aniagwu** has been appointed to oversee the welfare and affairs of **Fidei Donum** Priests and Priests from other Dioceses studying in the Archdiocese of Lagos. By this mandate, the duties of the

Vicar General will include taking care of issues that have to do with the category of priests mentioned in consultation with the Archbishop. We ask everyone to take note of this.

- c. **CERPAC GREEN CARD ISSUANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION:** This is to inform all those concerned that the Nigeria Immigration Service has commenced the issuance of New Cerpac Green cards with enhanced security features to all expatriates in Nigeria. The new Cerpac Green Card:
- i. Shall have two (2) year validity subject to quota validity and all expatriates wishing to enjoy this facility must purchase two (2) Cerpac forms from accredited banks and at the approved rates;
 - ii. Has been configured to be issued for indefinite periods to Niger wives;
 - iii. Has been configured to be issued to diplomats subject to their accredited period in Nigeria.

In line with the above, various task teams have been dispatched to Cerpac issuing centres across the country to ensure speedy and seamless issuance of the cards within the designated period of two (2) months only (i.e. on or before 31/4/2014). By this information, we bring to the notice of all missionaries concerned the NIS position that the old Cerpac cards will cease to be accepted at the end of the exercise. All missionaries concerned should please take note of this.

- d. **TENURE OF OFFICE OF EXECUTIVES OF ASSOCIATIONS OF THE LAY FAITHFUL:** This is to inform all Associations of the Lay Faithful in the Archdiocese that the tenure of office for members of the Executive of their Associations has been restored to three (3) years in the first instance and renewable only according to the statutes of the Associations concerned. The circumstances that led to the decision of two (2) years tenure in the past years have been addressed. All priests, religious and laity should take note.
- e. **PACELLI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN:** is a non-tuition paying and not-for-profit institution for the blind and partially sighted children, located in the Archdiocese of Lagos. It has been sustained for the past 52 years of its existence through the generosity of donors and Churches in Lagos. The incumbent Principal, Sr. Jane Onyeneri, H.H.C.J and her Team will be going round

parishes in Lagos to solicit for support. Kindly accord them the necessary audience and support.

- f. **SAVE A LIFE TODAY:** The Archdiocese of Lagos in collaboration with the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP) on the Cancer Pandemic in Nigeria, calls on all Priests, Religious and Lay faithful of the Archdiocese to support this life-saving campaign aimed at providing 37 Mobile Cancer Centres (MCCs) in Nigeria. The mobile centres are to assist in the early detection of cancer at the grassroots particularly in the rural areas and save the lives of those at the risk of having cancer. The current statistics show that Nigeria has the 13th lowest life expectancy and 240 Nigerians die of Cancer every day. To join in the campaign against Cancer our Archdiocese has adopted "Grace" as our tagline/slogan. Simply send 'Grace' to 44777 at N100/SMS or give via the ATM or online at www.quickteller.com using code: 777516. You might just be saving somebody somewhere.
- g. **TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES TO DEANS AND PARISH PRIESTS:** The following guidelines should serve as Pastoral/Canonical guidelines to assist Parish Priests in dealing with Marriage and Family matters:
- Every Parish Priest is the First Advocate of every marriage case, The Parish Priest is required to attend conscientiously, pastorally and canonically to every case and send such matters to the tribunal **only** when they are beyond his competence.
 - The Parish Priest that recommends a case to the Tribunal should never disconnect himself from that case till the end of it. This will help to avoid long delay in the processing of cases.
 - Deaneries are also requested to choose convenient dates on which the Judicial Vicar may be invited to any of their meetings for detailed explanations on the purpose of this guideline.
- h. **ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING:** This comes up on Saturday 5th of April, 2014 at the usual venue and time. Deans, Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should ensure their Deaneries and parishes are duly represented.
- i. **SIGNIS JOURNALISM SEMINAR FOR YOUTH:** The Center for Media Development (CMD) in conjunction with the Youth Directorate requests Parish Priests to send 3 members of their parishes CYON to the one-day training in Journalism. Each participant is to pay only ₦1,000. **Theme:** *Practical Tips for*

Packaging News for Publication. **Date:** Saturday 5 April, 2014. **Venue:** Catholic Church of the Ascension, International Airport, Ikeja. **Time:** 9:00am prompt. Please encourage your Youth and help them to participate; for their good, the good of your parish and the good of the Church!

- j. **CARITAS LAGOS COLLECTION:** Proceeds of the special collection for the charity works of the Archdiocese of Lagos under the management of **CARITAS LAGOS** that took place on Sunday, **30th March, 2014** should be forwarded to the Chancery on or before **15th April, 2014**. This is to enable **CARITAS LAGOS** respond to pending appeals with minimum delay. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should kindly take note of this and act accordingly.
- k. **The MASS OF CHRISM:** This year's Chrism Mass will come up on **Tuesday 15th April and Thursday 17th April, 2014** at Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Catholic Church, Satellite Town, and Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos respectively. The time is 10:00am.
- l. **YOUNG CATHOLIC STUDENTS (YCS)' ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN STUDENT CONVENTION:** The Young Catholic Students (YCS) in the Archdiocese will be having their annual Convention scheduled as follows:**Date:** 21st - 27th April, 2014, **Venue:** St. Gregory College, Ikoyi West Lagos; **Theme:** Catholic Students: Agents for Effective Evangelization; **Time of Arrival and accreditation:** Easter Monday at 4:00pm; **Participation Fee:** Two Thousand Naira (2,000) only. All Parish Priests and Administrators of Schools are to help sponsor at least Twenty (20) students each to this formative event.
- m. **RELIC OF BLESSED JOHN PAUL II:** This is to bring to the notice of all the faithful that the relic of Pope John Paul II will be on display for veneration at the Monastery of Mother of the Church as from the 27th of April 2014. As his canonisation and the canonisation of Blessed John XXIII is going on in Rome, there will be a celebration of the Mass and other devotions in honour of Blessed John Paul II with all the graces that accrue to such devotion. We ask Parish Priests to bring this to the notice of parishioners who may wish to participate in the celebration on the day. All Christ's faithful are invited to be part of the celebration of this remarkable Pope.

- n. **CENTER FOR MEDIA DEVELOPMENT THEATRE ACADEMY:** The next set of the CMD Theatre Academy students will resume lectures on Monday 28th April, 2014. Priests and guardians are encouraged to sponsor their youths/wards to this life changing and highly empowering 3 months training. Lectures run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the period for ~~₦~~36,000 only including the form.
- o. **GOLDEN JUBILEE OF BLESSED MICHAEL IWENE TANSI:** The celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the death of Blessed Michael Iwene Tansi will be celebrated on Sunday 11th May, 2014 at Christ the King Catholic Church, Ilasamaja. All the faithful are invited to join in the celebration of this illustrious son of Nigeria. May the Blessed Tansi pray for us and our country Nigeria.
- p. **2014 ARCHDIOCESAN LAITY HARVEST:** will take place on Sunday, May 11, 2014 at St. Leo Catholic Church, Ikeja. We humbly ask our Deans and Parish Priests to give the Archdiocesan Laity Council the necessary support for the success of this event. More importantly, Parish Priests should graciously allow the distribution of the harvest envelopes in their Parishes.
- q. **FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT (FHLU):** This is to bring to the notice of everyone that the training programmes of the Family and Human Life Unit (FHLU) for 2014 have commenced.
- **Training on Billings Ovulation Method** - one Saturday a month (for 5 months) starting on the 3rd of May, 2014; **Time:** 10am - 4pm; **Certificate:** ~~₦~~2,500
 - **Training in Basic Christian Counselling Skills:** (one Friday a month for 3 months) stating on Friday, 16th May, 2014. **Time:** 10am - 4pm **Fee:** ~~₦~~ 3,500 per month (including tea break and lunch) **Certificate:** ~~₦~~ 1,500.
 - **Introduction to Canon Law for the Laity** begins on 20th May, 2014. **Facilitators** are: Rev Frs. Ogunsusi, Michael Banjo, Peter Okonkwo, Paul Ijasan and Charles Ukwe.
 - **Full - Time course on Marriage Theology and Lived experience** starting from 15th - 19th September, 2014.
Time: 10am - 4pm. **Fee:** ~~₦~~3,500.00 per month. **Graduation and Certificate** - ~~₦~~5,000.00.
Venue: 19, Maye Street, off Commercial Avenue, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos. Interested persons should call 08033804494 or 08028489999 for more information. As this is

the Year of the Family in our Archdiocese, we expect as many people as possible to take part in these programmes.

- r. **MARIE BALAVENNE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM:** is an institution established by the Daughters of the Holy Spirit Sisters. Admission into Jss 1, 2, 3 & SS. 1 for 2014/2015 Session into Marie Balavenne's Catholic College in Ilogbo-Ota, Ogun State. The exam comes up as follows;
- 2nd Batch 24th May 2014
 - 3rd Batch 19th July 2014. Time is 10:00am.
- s. **PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Raphael Adebayo, Gabriel Amolegbe, Vincent Olofinkua and Richard Fasuyi whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. Ad multos annos.

(Signed)

+ **Alfred Adewale Martins**

Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos.