



# CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

**JULY, 2020** /No. 094

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

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:**

**1. Welcome to the month of July**, one of the months that fall into the *Ordinary Time of the Year*. The color green that is predominant color for this season characterizes hope, growth and life. The Ordinary Time bespeaks the season which follows Christ Ascension into heaven after his resurrection; a season of sowing in the hope of reaping, a season where we are expected to put into practice our Christian virtues which flow from Easter and therefore makes us, as Christians await our own resurrection with eager longing.

In this month of July, the Holy Father calls on all the faithful to pray for Priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, that they may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother Priests.

**2. Additional Titles for Our Lady and more invocations added to the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has approved the inclusion of three additional invocations to the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are: **"Mother of Mercy," "Mother of Hope"** and **"Comfort of Migrants."**

In this new arrangement of the Litany, **"Mother of Mercy,"** comes after "Mother of the Church"; then comes "Mother of Divine Grace" to be followed by **"Mother of Hope."** Further down after invoking Mary as "Health of the Sick" and "Refuge of Sinners," we then add **"Comfort of Migrants."**

**3. Suspension of Scheduled reopening of Churches in Lagos State:** It is very unfortunate that the State Government suspended the scheduled opening of Churches for Public worship because of the increase in the number of COVID-19 infections and the belief that the Church is a fertile ground for new infections. We have written a Special Circular on this matter. We urge the Clergy and Lay faithful of our Archdiocese not to be discouraged but to accept it as the Will of God for us at this point in time.

**4. CHANCERY OFFICE RESUMPTION:** Please be reminded that the Chancery office is reopened for activities. However, given the need to observe the safety precautions due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, **visiting the Chancery would be strictly by APPOINTMENT.** Visitors who wish to see the Archbishop need to secure an appointment through the Chancery line: **07025128843** either by making a call, sending an SMS or a WhatsApp message. In the alternative, people may send an email to [arclagos@yahoo.com](mailto:arclagos@yahoo.com).

Kindly note that all visitors are expected to do the following:

1. Wear a face Mask.
2. submit to the taking of body temperature
3. Wash and sanitize hands before entering the office
4. observe the required physical distance as directed.

**5. WHAT IS NEW NORMAL?** It bears repeating for more months that what has been the *new normal* concerning liturgical celebrations in the last three months or so, is in fact an aberration brought about by what could be described as a war situation. Mass on television and Spiritual Communion can never and will never replace Mass as a gathering of God's People to offer the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross in a bloodless manner. What we have been doing is merely an effort to worship as best as we could and at the same time stay alive and healthy in anticipation of when we can go back to our normal gathering as God's People to worship and praise the Lord. So, while we participate at Mass on TV the best way we can, we must know that this does not and **CANNOT** replace in any conceivable way, the gathering as a community of people to worship.

Inasmuch as we cannot afford to relax our vigilance especially with regards to taking the required precautions: **washing of hands regularly, keeping a physical distance of two meters from one another, wearing of face masks in public, resisting the urge to touch our faces and staying at home to reduce contact with crowds of people;** we eagerly look forward to when we can sing and pray under the same roof, go to confession and receive Holy Communion on our tongues again and carry out our acts of worship, meeting in societies and continuing our different societal programmes of the year. May the Lord see us through to the end of these difficult times. Amen.

**6. LIVE TRANSMISSION OF MASSES:** Many certainly have noticed that we have not been able to have live transmission of Masses on all the Channels that we were able to use in the earlier part of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are particularly pained that we have been unable to transmit on GOTV being the channel that most people are tuned to. We are exploring other possibilities to supplement the services being offered by Lumen Christi Television Network. **However, liturgical**

*celebrations for weekdays and Sundays shall continue to be transmitted live on Lumen Christi Television Network on DSTV Channel 350.*

We continue to express our gratitude to the Founder of **Lumen Christi**, Prince Soji Olagunju, the Management and staff for the good work that they are doing in transmitting Mass Live and daily from our Cathedral since the present problems of COVID-19 disrupted the way we celebrate normally. We also thank Mr. John Ugbe, the CEO of Multichoice, Nigeria as well as the Management and staff of the Company for the services they rendered for all the period of time that they did. We pray God to reward their generosity richly from His abundance.

**7. PASTORAL PRESENCE TO THE FAITHFUL:** We continue to acknowledge the efforts of the priests and leaders of Associations of lay faithful who have found ways and means of keeping the line of communication with their parishioners and members open in these past months that we have not been able to come together in worship and meeting. Many parishes have been live-streaming Masses for the benefit of their parishioners where possible and Associations of lay faithful have been meeting through various means electronic and/or social media networks. May God bless you as we urge you not to rest on your oars.

**8. Online Interview for Augustine University (AUI):** We wish to inform the Catholic faithful that our Augustine University, Ilara has commenced **online interview** for candidates seeking admission into the University for the 2020/2021 Academic Session starting from October 2020. Candidates are advised not to come to the campus for the screening exercise owing to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We urge Parish Priests and Priests in-charge to kindly inform their parishioners about this development using their various means of communication with their parishioners.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**a. Curia Meeting:** This comes up on **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2020 by 10am on Zoom Online platform.** All those concerned should please take note.

**b. Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting:** This comes up on the **Tuesday, 7 July, 2020 by 10am on Zoom Online platform.** All those concerned should please take note.

**c. Tribunal Marriage Facilitators:** This is to notify the Deans, Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge that following their training on the Motu Proprio, '**Mitis Iudex**', they can now seek the assistance of the following priests in matters of marriage before onward transmission of marriage cases to the Marriage Tribunal. They are:

1. Rev. Fr. Victor Eke, SDV (Agege Deanery)
2. Rev. Fr. Elias Nwaodu (Agege Deanery)
3. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Adeleke (Agege Deanery)
4. Rev. Fr. Sylvester Onasanya, (Apapa Deanery)
5. Rev. Fr. Oviemuno .I. Obi, SDV (Apapa Deanery)
6. Rev. Fr. Peter Ayangbola (Badagry Deanery)
7. Rev. Fr. Clement Odoemene, CSSR (Badagry Deanery)
8. Rev. Fr. Oscar Obi (Epe Deanery)
9. Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ayonote (Epe Deanery)
10. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Fatoye (Epe Deanery)
11. Rev. Fr. Eric Onyeoziri (Festac Deanery)
12. Rev. Fr. Panachy Ogbede (Festac Deanery)
13. Rev. Fr. Melvis Mayaki (Festac Deanery)
14. Rev. Fr. Innocent Ogah (Ikeja Deanery)
15. Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Ibe (Ikeja Deanery)
16. Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Omonbe, SMMM (Ikeja Deanery)
17. Rev. Fr. Stephen Akinsowon (Ikeja Deanery)
18. Rev. Fr. Livinus Orakwe (Ikorodu Deanery)
19. Rev. Fr. Kevin Okuma (Ikorodu Deanery)
20. Rev. Fr. Anthony Nworah, SMMM (Ikorodu Deanery)
21. Rev. Fr. Mike Etekpo, MSP (Ipaja Deanery)
22. Rev. Fr. Joachim Erhabor, SDV (Ipaja Deanery)
23. Rev. Fr. Joseph Monye (Isolo Deanery)
24. Rev. Fr. George Chiedu, (Isolo Deanery)
25. Rev. Fr. Paschal Aggrey, (Isolo Deanery)
26. Rev. Fr. Christopher Atoyebi (Lagos Island Deanery)
27. Rev. Fr. Alexander Oboh (Lagos Island Deanery)
28. Rev. Fr. Vincent Bankole (Lagos Island Deanery)
29. Rev. Fr. Marcellinus Teko (Lagos Island Deanery)
30. Rev. Fr. Leo Gaber (Lekki Deanery)
31. Rev. Fr. Dominic Onuoha (Lekki Deanery)
32. Rev. Fr. Jacob Usman (Lekki Deanery)
33. Rev. Fr. Anthony Fadairo (Maryland Deanery)
34. Rev. Fr. Paul Ijasan (Maryland Deanery)
35. Rev. Fr. Bastos Paul (Maryland Deanery)
36. Rev. Fr. Augustine Ikuomola (Maryland Deanery)
37. Rev. Fr. Christopher Agboola (Maryland Deanery)
38. Rev. Fr. Martin Onyebuchi, SDV (Maryland Deanery)
39. Rev. Fr. Anthony Isah (Satellite Deanery)

- 40.Rev Fr. Cornelius Olaniran (Satellite Deanery)
- 41. Rev. Fr. James Arebiyi, CSSR (Satellite Deanery)
- 42. Msgr. Bernard Okodua (Surulere Deanery)
- 43.Rev. Fr. Alphonsus Ania (Surulere Deanery)
- 44.Rev. Fr. Paul Anyansi (Surulere Deanery)
- 45.Rev. Fr. Paul Igabor (Surulere Deanery)
- 46. Msgr. Jerome Oduntan (Surulere Deanery)
- 47.Rev. Fr. Charles Onwordi, OP (Yaba Deanery)
- 48.Rev. Fr. Michael Okonkwo (Yaba Deanery)
- 49.Rev. Fr. Simeon Irabor (Yaba Deanery)

**d. A Plea to Support Catholic Herald Newspaper:** As part of the efforts to widen the scope of the Archdiocesan Catholic Herald Newspaper, the Directorate of Social Communications has gone online and has been delivering news, features and articles since the pandemic began.

The inability to publish as normal has affected the running of the Herald and hampered the logistics. We hereby appeal for generous donations towards keeping our Catholic Herald alive. The newspaper has been kept alive since 1924 and we cannot allow the pandemic to kill it. The Publisher and management have been rediscovering and renewing the newspaper and so we call on Parishes, individuals, Associations of lay faithful and corporate institutions to support the Catholic Herald and help to see it through these difficult times. May God continue to bless and reward our apostolate. Amen.

**10. Priestly Ordination Anniversary:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Reverend Fathers': John Agbolade, Paul Igabor, Anthony Oyeniyi, Anthony Okeke, Marcus Famosaya, Alfred Omoleye, Emmanuel Ogundele, Jude Okelue, Christopher Chafa, Cornelius Azor, Jacob Usman, Michael Afrifa, Sebastian Appiah, Anthony Boateng, Paschal Aggrey Seiku, Emmanuel Babalola, Jonathan Okafor, Mark Tizhe, Anthony Obiamalu, Jude Udemezue, Bonaventure Ifedibo, Innocent Mmadunuko, Charles Onuoha, Emmanuel Amadi, Crescent Iloka, Daniel Chigbu, Chukwuyenum Afiawari, Odey Kelvin, Chioma Nwosu, Aghadi Onu, Julius Temuyi, Anthony Nworu, Vincent Udoye, Raphael Kalu, Emmanuel Omoroke, Callistus Ojike, Edwin Nwalozie, Gordian Opara, Dilibe Sixtus, Kingsley Joseph, Patrick Akinrimisi, John Okoro, Francis Iwu, Clement Uzoanya, Charles Onwordi, AveMaria Erhariefe, JudeMary Owoh, Richard Odok, Emmanuel Adama, Gabriel Odin, Clestine Agwu, Augustine Ebido, Patrick Morrison, Joseph Osunde, Charles Chibogu, Alexius Agba, Paulinus Onyenuru, Anthony Thompson, James Vembe, Thaddeus Egwu, Nobert Opara, Donatus Chukwu, Clement Odoemene, JohnCross Nkanta, Noel Eshikena, Desmond Ebulue, Samuel Kurungu, Hyacinth Agomuoh, Vincent Oko, Godfrey Udeh, Jude Nwachukwu, Joseph Yusuf, Paul Adegoriola, Babatunde Pius, Kingsley Anoghala, Stephen

Okechukwu, Michael Nzekwe, Philip Offor, James Raphael Udem, Lukpata Clement, Innocent Uduak Udomboh, Mike Offordum, Anthony Agbessime, Donatus Essien, Edogbo Andrew, Victor Orilua, Ignatius Okoligwe, Simon Iduh, Barnabas Nwabor, Christopher Nze, Dominic Opara, Augustine Nwodo, Edogbo Andrew, Victor Orilua, Lambert Nlemadim, Joseph Aloo, Daniel Onyeayana, Jude Anyaehie, Agada Israel, Ubi Emmanuel Terseer, Moses Okpanachi, Ameh Paul, Peter Williams, Louis Ajinge, Godwin Odom, Ekugbah Chikezie, Okoro Maximus, Jeremiah Anande, Sabinus Chukwumezie and Joe Ben Onyia 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**

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS