



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **OCTOBER, 2020** /No. 097

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

1. **The Month of October:** Welcome to the month of October, which ushers us into the fourth quarter of the year. October is another *Month of Mary* during which we celebrate her as *Our Lady of the Holy Rosary* and *Queen and Patroness of Nigeria*. During this month, the Church invites us to rededicate ourselves to the maternal patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the praying of the Holy Rosary and participation in the October Devotion. All the faithful are therefore enjoined to participate in the activities of October Devotion, at the Parish and family levels. Anyone one who prays the Rosary every day with faith and devotion stands to receive divine favours and protection.

On the first day of this month, we celebrate the 60th Independence Anniversary of our dear Country. Let us seize the opportunity that this month offers to pray for Nigeria in these trying times: for economic stability, security, peace, reconciliation, progress and good governance. As we do so, we shall receive spiritual benefits of Our Lady's maternal intercession. May Our Lady, Queen and Patroness of Nigeria pray for us.

The Church further presents us with the lives of the following saints as models in the course of this month: **St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7), St. Ignatius of Antioch (October 17), St. Anthony Mary Claret (October 24) and Ss. Simon and Jude (October 28).**

2. **Catholic Bishops' Conference requests prayers for an end to insecurity especially in Southern Kaduna and for good governance:** the 1st of October marks the end of our forty days' prayer against the spate of insecurity and terrorism especially in Northern Nigeria. We remind all the faithful of the invitation of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) pray the Five (5) Decades of the Sorrowful Mysteries starting at 12 noon for the many needs of our nation especially for good governance, peace and security.

3. Reception of Holy Communion during Covid-19: We reiterate again that as we receive Holy Communion on our hands, we must do so with reverence and decorum, making sure that we do not allow any particle to fall all on the ground. As the communicant approaches the Sanctuary, she/he stretches out the arm; places the left hand on top the right hand. Then the Priest shows him/her the Holy Communion, he/she says "Amen" pulls down the face mask, reverently picks up the Holy Communion with the right hand and puts Him in the mouth, wears the face mask before returning to their seat. At all times keep in mind that you are receiving Jesus, body soul and divinity and so receive Him with the decorum and reverence due to God.

4. It bears repeating again that what is called **NEW NORMAL** concerning liturgical celebrations, is in fact extraordinary and is a coping strategy which cannot be elevated to *normal*. We continue saying this in order to affirm that 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, receiving His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. So, we eagerly look forward to when we can go back to the **REAL NORMAL** again.

We however urge all the faithful to realize that COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet and we must therefore continue to take 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. May God help us to bring the pandemic to an end.

5. Dealing with Possible Fallout of COVID-19 Pandemic: While we are still contending with the pandemic, it is necessary that we continue to examine and identify the fall-outs that we can expect from this scourge. We ask the Deaneries and the Associations of the Lay Faithful to devote some time to discussing the challenges that may arise from the pandemic and propose solutions that may be used to deal with them.

6. 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 in 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.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting:** The meeting of the Archdiocesan Finance Council comes up on the **13th October, 2020 at 10am** in the Chancery's Conference room. Those concerned should please take note.

b. **2020 PMAC Conference:** The Provincial Marriage Advisory Council (PMAC) invites all Priests and Religious as well as Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese to her virtual Conference for the year 2020 scheduled to hold on **Saturday 10th October, 2020 on Zoom Online platform.**

Theme: The Fundamental Nature of Christian Marriage (**Canons 1055 - 1062**)

Sub Themes: (1) The Marriage Covenant, its Validity and Matrimonial Consent.

(2) Right to Marry, Divine Law and Civil Effects of Marriage.

(3) What constitutes the following? Valid Marriage, Ratified & Consummated Marriage, Putative Marriage and A Promise to Marry.

c. **2020 CATECHETICAL WEEK PROGRAMME:** The Catechetical Week programme will take place as follows:

Date: 4th - 11th October, 2020

Venue: the various Parishes

Theme: Crisis in Married Life

The Catechetical Week Booklet is on sale at the Religious Education Department @ N150 per copy. **Please Note that the mandatory 2nd collection for Catechetical Week should be taken on 11/10/2020 for Catechetical apostolate in the Archdiocese.**

d. **Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation Annual Lecture:** This event is being organized in conjunction with the Association of Papal Knights and Medalists and is scheduled as follows:

Date: Thursday, 15th October, 2020

Venue: McGovern Hall, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland (tentatively)

Time: 10:00 a.m. prompt

Topic: "Nigeria: A Nation in need of Redemption: Spiritually, Socially and Politically"

Guest Speaker: Prof. Pat Utomi

e. **Annual Leave for priests:** Given the present circumstances brought about by the Covid-19 reality, priests cannot proceed on the normal one-month leave for this year. However, priests

who have needs may proceed on a short break (during the week) after arrangements have been concluded for the care of the faithful and with due information to the Dean and his expressed approval.

f. Quarterly Returns: every Parish is expected fulfill the canonical obligation of giving an account of its income and expenditures to the Chancery and make the required financial returns. We are all aware that there has been suspension of public Masses since the middle of March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This does not excuse the parishes from giving an account of their income and expenditure, no matter what they may be. To this effect, we expect not just the paper work but also the financial returns at least for the 1st and 4th Quarters of this year as well as the Special Collections.

g. 2020/2021 ANTIOCH TRAINING SESSION: The Antioch Pastoral Institute, Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos commences admission into its 18months E-learning Online Certificate course in Catechetical Studies.

For Whom: Catechists in the Parish/Schools, Sunday School Teachers, Parish Pastoral Agents, Faith Formators, Catholics who desire to grow in and share the faith.

Requirements:

- Recommended by the Parish Priest or School Administrator/Superior
- Practicing/confirmed Catholic
- Possess a minimum of SSCE or its equivalent
- A very good grasp of English
- Ability to cope with relevant technology/applications necessary and with level of work/assignments.

Forms are available for N1000 @ Religious Education Department, 19, Maye Street, off Montgomery Road (opposite Lebanese School), Yaba.

For further Inquiries: Call or SMS 08033574050, 08066224284.

Those who have obtained the form earlier at any of the proposed centers should kindly call or visit the office for more updates.

h. Archdiocesan 2021 Directory: The year 2021 is around the corner. Kindly go through the Directory for this year 2020 again so as to identify and point out errors, omissions, amendments and suggestions for the improvement of our Directory. Please, send your

comments to the Chancery on or before the last week of October, 2020. You may also reach the Chancery through her e-mail address: arclagos@yahoo.com.

8. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Revd Frs. Anthony Fadairo, Obi John, Innocent Uwakwe, Gabriel Feyisetan, James Anelu, Nicodemus Ugwu, OP., Jeremiah Irabor, OMV, Onwuka Kyrian, Samugana Gilbert, Peter Jirgba, and Ntia Anthony whose sacerdotal ordination anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!!!*

9. Bereavement: With deep sympathy but with thanksgiving to God, we announce the demise of **Late Mayor Okenze S.J.O Nworuh** the father of Rev. Fr. Anthony Nworuh, **Late Nana Agyenim Boateng** the Father of Rev Fr Anthony Boateng; **Late Madam Cecilia Ealefoh**, the Mother of Rev. Fr. Francis Ealefoh; **Late Mr. Jude Ayonote**, the brother of Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ayonote. We ask that Masses should be celebrated for the repose of their souls and the consolation of their families. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Signed

+ **Alfred Adewale Martins**
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos