



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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**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 January: Welcome to the month of January. No doubt, the first month of the year is the month of new beginnings, new opportunities and a chance of starting afresh. Thus, while the past year has been a rather memorable for the wrong reasons, we hope and pray that as we step into the year 2021 with the joys of the season of Christmas at heart, it will become for us a year of restoration. In the first part of January we continue to rejoice and celebrate Christ's coming at Bethlehem and in our hearts. We have the wonderful feasts of Mary, the Mother of God, where we honor Mary's highest title, and then we follow the Magi to the crib as they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on Epiphany. Finally, we reach the culmination of this season with the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Reluctantly, we take down our Christmas decorations and enter into the liturgical period known as the Ordinary Time of the Year during which we devote ourselves to the mystery of Christ in its entirety. The liturgical colour changes from white to green — a symbol of the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

2. STILL ON COVID-19: We call attention again to the need to focus on encouraging our people to pay attention to the safety precautions that we all know very well by now i.e., wearing of face masks, regular washing of hands, the use of sanitizers, maintaining physical distance, resisting the urge to touch our eyes and faces and observing the basic rules of hygiene.

We also expect all parishes to reawaken and renew the safety measures that we had in place to keep our churches safe and secure for people to worship. Celebration of Masses would be at 50% of the Church's capacity as indicated by government. Just as it was before, parishes should consider making use of other available spaces within the Church premises such as Parish halls so as to have more Masses available for the faithful.

3. ATTENTION!!!! SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD (Sunday 24th January 2021): We recall that on September 30, 2019, the Holy Father Pope Francis established the **Third Sunday in the Ordinary Time each year as the SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD** With the letter, *Aperuit Illis*, the Holy Father invites all Catholics across the world to deepen their appreciation, love and faithful witness to God and His Word. That day is to be observed as a special day devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

The celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God for this year comes up on **Sunday 24th January 2021**. On this day, we shall have the **Enthronement of the Word of God** in all parishes in the Archdiocese. Hence, we direct that all priests should begin to sensitize the faithful about this special Sunday and the prominence of the Word of God in the Life of the Christian.

We have already sent out the **Rite of Enthronement of the Bible** that shall be used. You will notice that the rite is embedded in the Mass of the day and it gives prominence to the Word of God. The Bible remains enthroned until **Tuesday, 16th February 2021**, the day before Ash Wednesday.

4. YEAR OF ST JOSEPH (8th December 2020 - 8th December, 2021): With the Apostolic Letter "*Patris corde*", the Holy Father Pope Francis proclaimed the "*Year of Saint Joseph*" beginning from **8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021**. The year is meant to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. By calling our attention to this loving and obedient *father* of our Lord, the Holy Father hopes that every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will.

We call the attention of all the faithful to the opportunity of obtaining a **Plenary Indulgence** that the Holy See has made available during the course of the year. The plenary indulgence is available to all the faithful who recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph on the following days **Every Wednesday**, (a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition); **the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; the 19th Day of each month**, and in particular, 19 March (Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary); 1 May, (feast of St. Joseph the Worker).

Kindly note that the plenary indulgence is granted only to the faithful who fulfills the following usual conditions: **sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions.**

5. A DISCLAIMER ON JOYKLINIK FOUNDATION: Since we published the disclaimer last month, one of the priests involved, Fr. Stephen Nwokemodo (aka Fr. Nwebe Joy), has informed us that they have *closed down the foundation indefinitely*. We keep watch on their activities to establish the reality concerning the matter.

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 started since 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 Curia Meeting: The first meeting of the Year of the Archdiocesan Curia comes on the **20th January, 2021** at the Chancery by 10am. All those concerned, particularly the newly appointed Deans, should please take note.

b. Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting: The meeting of the Archdiocesan Finance Council for the first quarter comes up on the **26th January, 2021** at **10.00 am** in the Chancery. All those concerned should please take note.

c. Lagos Inter-Diocesan Tribunal: The meeting of the Tribunal comes up on **27th January, 2020** in The Chancery at **10:00 a.m.** All those concerned should please take note and attend.

d. Orientation and Induction of New Priests: We have the tradition in the Archdiocese of giving an orientation programme on liturgical and pastoral practices in the Archdiocese to newly ordained priests as well as priests newly appointed to serve in the Archdiocese of Lagos. This will come up from **14th to 16th January, 2021**. The venue for the orientation is **Domus Fidei, Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Generalate, Ikeja, Lagos.**

We notice that some of those who were supposed to have participated in the 2020 programme did not. All the priests posted to the Archdiocese but have not participated, no matter how long they may have been in the Archdiocese are expected to participate this year. We emphasize it again that only new priests and priests newly posted to the Archdiocese who duly take part in the orientation programme can be appointed Parish Priests in the Archdiocese. Everyone concerned should note that participation in this orientation programme is mandatory.

e. 2021 Day for Consecrated Life: The 2021 Day for Consecrated Life celebration comes up on **Tuesday, 2nd February, 2021** at **St. Dominic Catholic Church, Yaba. @10am.**

f. Priests Recollection: Our Priests' Recollection for the first Quarter comes up on **Wednesday, 3rd February, 2021**. It would be organized at the different regions of the Archdiocese. Episcopal Vicars and Deans should kindly take note.

g. 2021 VALENTINE'S DAY WITH THE ARCHBISHOP: The Archdiocesan Programme planned by the Directorate of the Catholic Lay Apostolate in conjunction with the Archdiocesan bodies of the Couples for Christ (CFC) and the Catholic Biblical Instructor's Union (CBIU) will come up as follows:

DATE: Saturday, 13th February, 2021

TIME: 10:00 a.m. starting with the Holy Mass

VENUE: Catholic Church of the Ascension, Int'l Airport Road, Ikeja

There will be Renewal of Marital Vows for interested couples during the Holy Mass. Couples interested in the renewal of their vows should kindly call any of the telephone numbers below. Goodwill placement cost Twenty Thousand Naira Only (N20,000.00).

For more information, kindly call the Planning Committee on 08033481595 or 08033577190 and the Director's office on 08026156606 or 08077003036

h. 2021 Archdiocesan Directory: The 2021 Archdiocesan Directory is out. Kindly collect copies for your Parishes from the Chancery if you have not done so yet. The Female Religious should please also pick their copies from the Chancery.

i. Priests' Annual Leave-Roster: Priests are to submit months of preference for their annual leave for year, 2021 to the Priests' Welfare Committee not later than end of January, 2021.

j. Admission into the Catholic Secondary Schools: This is to inform everyone that admission into JSS 1 for the 2020/2021 academic session in all Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese is in progress. The Entrance Examination comes up on **20th February, 2021** at the selected schools. Forms can be obtained from the school of choice, all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese, selected parishes and electronically on www.cmsslagos.ng or on any of the following schools' website. Sale of forms will close one week to the date of examination.

The 10 Catholic Archdiocesan Secondary Schools are:

1. St Gregory College, South-West, Ikoyi <http://www.stgregoryscollege.ng>
2. Holy Child Girls College, Ikoyi <http://www.holychildcollegeswikoyi.org>
3. St Finbarr College, Akoka <http://www.stfinbarrscollegeakoka.com>
4. Bethlehem Girls College, Abule-Ado <http://www.bethlehemgirlscollegeng.org>
5. Mater Ecclesiae College, Epe <http://www.materecclesiaecollege.com>
6. Sacred Heart College, Apapa <http://www.sacredheartcollegeapapa.com.ng>
7. Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School, Maryland <http://www.mcssmaryland.org>
8. Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba <http://www.olassyaba.sch.ng>
9. Marywood Girls College, Ebute-Metta <http://www.marywoodgc-lagos.org>
10. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic College, Okomaiko

Let us give our children a sound upbringing in the Catholic Faith.

k. Quarterly Returns and Special Collections: every Parish is expected to fulfill the canonical obligation of giving an account of its income and expenditures to the Chancery and make the required financial returns.

Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the first quarter of the year: **Epiphany Collection- 05/01/2021** **AUI Collection- 12/01/2021, 19/02/2021, 08/03/2021,** **Caritas Lagos Collection- 08/03/2021,** **JDPC Collection- 22/03/2021, Laity Collection- 29/03/2021.**

We reiterate our advice that Parish Priests/Priests-in-charge should use the **Pay-Direct** option or make **bank transfers** to forestall the challenges of returned cheques, irregular signatures and other problems that cause cheques to bounce. For those who insist on making their financial returns with cheques, kindly pay attention to your entries and signature. We emphasize again that when making returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should ensure

that they attach the front page in the booklet that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it and fill all the pages of the Booklet.

l. 2021 Priests' Leadership Training on Zoom Platform: this is to inform Priests who have not participated, of yet another opportunity to attend the Priests' Leadership training in the new year. New participants and those completing the program are kindly requested to register using this link <https://forms.gle/oB7aza4Hxt6rCC7F8>. **The deadline for registration is January 31, 2021.**

Who to attend:

- Priests that did not participate in 2019
- Priests that missed specific topics in 2019.

Schedule of Training:

February 24, 2021: Module 1: Leading Effective Organizations

1. Delegating for Mission
2. Building Effective Teams and Teamwork
3. Running Effective Meetings

March 24, 2021: Module 2: Leading Self for Mission

1. Developing a personal mission statement
2. Developing a personal stress management plan

March 25, 2021: Leading Self for Mission (Contd.)

3. Solving difficult and complex problems for mission
4. Gaining Credibility and Influence

April 28, 2021: Module 3 - Leading Self for Mission

5. Motivating for mission
6. Managing conflicts for mission

April 29, 2021:

7. Empowering and Engaging for Mission
8. Leading positive Change for Mission

m. Call for Regional Volunteer Training Facilitators: the Archdiocesan Parish Guidelines Implementation and Monitoring Team is seeking Volunteer Training Facilitators (VTFs) from

each of the four regions of the Archdiocese to implement the Workshop "Leading for Mission" - designed to enhance the leadership skills of all current and future lay leaders in the Archdiocese. There will be a Train the Trainers for all volunteers.

Role of Training Facilitators

The facilitator has a wide range of tasks to perform in order to 'make things easier' for people who participate in a facilitated discussion learning:

- Support individuals within a group in understanding their common objectives.
- Help people collectively move through a process.
- Structure conversations and apply appropriate group facilitation techniques to keep discussions effective.
- Foster participation and get people to come up with ideas, thoughts and perspectives that add value.
- Get all individuals in the room to feel like they are in a group with a shared interest.

<https://www.sessionlab.com/blog/facilitation-skills/>

Profile of Potential Training Facilitators:

1. Meet one or more of the following:
 - Have previous experience as trainers in the areas of management and leadership
 - Have previous experience as middle to top-level managers and leaders in medium to high scale organizations or as owner managers
 - Have experience in facilitating discussions and engendering participation and/or consensus.
 - Knowledge and Practice of the Catholic Faith and Servant Leadership
 - Topics to facilitate include: Leading Effective Organizations, Leading Oneself and Leading Others
2. Have stable access to Internet, a computer and electricity.

If you meet the above criteria, kindly register for **all** the topics using the accompanying link and send your CV to leadingformission2019@gmail.com.

Due to the amount of voluntary resources (data, electricity, diesel, missed opportunities, preparations and other human input) that go into organizing these sessions, kindly ensure you

do not miss any sessions. There is a penalty fee of N500 per topic, in the event of a future make up session. Kindly register using this link:

1. January 2021 – Saturdays only

<https://forms.gle/1QLWurDdECy4rp7M7>

Registration ends on December 31, 2020 at midnight.

2. February 2021 – Fridays and Saturdays

<https://forms.gle/jDNvdWv4grfN9uLE8>

Registration ends on January 31, 2021 at midnight.

3. March 2021 – Week day evenings only

<https://forms.gle/45t8eUmNF2amW7Fs7>

Registration ends on January 31, 2021 at midnight.

n. **2020/2021 ANTIOCH TRAINING SESSION:** the Antioch Pastoral Institute, Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos has commenced admission into its 18month **Online Certificate course** in Catechetical Studies.

Resumption: November 7, 2020. Orientation and Registration

Time: 10am. Please attend with your forms.

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:

- Recommendation 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 obtained the form earlier at any of the proposed centres should kindly call or visit the office for more updates.

o. NaProTechnology now in Badagry: The faithful of the Archdiocese is hereby informed that **Our Lady and St Francis Catholic Hospital, Badagry** now offers Fertility care Services with Naprotechnology. The hospital is located near Badagry and it helps in the management of Infertility, Miscarriage, Irregular Cycles, Premenstrual Syndrome, Ovarian Cyst, Tubal blockage, Unusual Bleeding, Chronic discharge, Endometriosis, Polycystic ovarian disease, Postpartum depression, Menstrual cramps, as well as advanced scientific and natural family planning methods of achieving and avoiding Pregnancy in marriage.

Anyone who has need for these services should kindly contact Sr. Cecilia Adache OSF: 08100118006; 07084210005; Email: cessiemary@yahoo.com; osfhospital@yahoo.com; franciscanfertilitycare.org

p. Application for Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation Scholarship: We wish to inform all interested applicants that the Application Form for the Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation Scholarship for the 2020/2021 can be obtained from the Archdiocesan Website. Applicants are requested to click on the following link: <http://www.lagosarchdiocese.org/down/g14.pdf> to download the forms, fill and submit them to the Chancery. Closing date for all applications is the 31st of March. 2021.

8. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for the following confreres, whose Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries occur this month: Rev. Frs. Joachim Ochibili, Richard Ogedengbe (OP), Amosun Anthony, Babatunde Francis, Bastos Paul, Echefu Augustine, Ehiedu Emmanuel, Mensah Michael, Njorteah John. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos