



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **MARCH, 2021** /No. 102

**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 March: Welcome to the month of March, a month in which we are called by our Lenten observance to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This month presents us with these important feast days: **St. Patrick (17th March), St. Joseph, the Husband of Blessed Virgin Mary**, to whom this year is specially dedicated to **(19th March), Annunciation of the Lord (25th March)**.

2. A Few Thoughts on Lenten Observances: Once again we call attention to the following regarding the season:

a. Abstinence: All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age and above are required to abstain totally from meat or favorite dish or drink on **Good Friday (10th April, 2021)** and all the Fridays of Lent.

b. Fasting: All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 60 years are obliged to fast. In practice, fasting involves limiting oneself to a single full meal or two smaller meals a day. Those who are sick, pregnant or nursing, or those whose health would adversely be affected by fasting should not consider themselves bound by this norm.

c. Parents and teachers are responsible for helping young persons, who are not bound by the norms regarding fasting and abstinence to recognize the value of genuine acts of penance and self-denial.

3. 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH THE ARCHBISHOP: we are all invited to join the Archbishop, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins for daily Lenten Reflections on;

NTA 2, Channel 5 @ 6:55pm

Lumen Christi, DSTV Channel 350 @ 12:50pm

Radio: Metro 97.7FM @ 6am & 9:05pm

Also on all our Social Media Platforms: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram: Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos. God Bless you as you listen to the reflections and may the word of God nourish our souls. Amen.

4. YEAR OF ST JOSEPH (8th December 2020 – 8th December, 2021): the Holy Father Pope Francis proclaimed the "*Year of Saint Joseph*" beginning from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. Part of the activities to mark the celebration of the Year of St. Joseph in our Archdiocese in this month are as follows:

Activity: Inauguration of the Year of St. Joseph in Lagos Archdiocese

Date: Friday 19th March, 2021

Time: 10am

Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos

Attendance: Restricted, strictly by invitation to representatives of Deaneries and Associations of the lay faithful. The Mass would, however, be broadcast live on Lumen Christi Television Network, DSTV Channel 350.

Visit to the Altar of St. Joseph: individually or in groups. Parishes and deaneries may organise visits to the designated altars of St. Joseph for veneration always taking cognisance of the COVID-19 regulations.

Note: We hereby encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity of obtaining a **Plenary Indulgence** during the course of this year. The plenary indulgence is available to all the faithful who recite any 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 19th Day of each month**, and in particular, **19th March 2021** (Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary); **1st May, 2021** (feast of St. Joseph the Worker).

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

5. STILL ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: We again reiterate the need for everyone 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 admonish all parishes not to relax on safety measures that we have had in place for a while now in order to keep our churches safe for people to worship. Celebration of Masses would continue to 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.

6. RESUMPTION OF SOCIETIES MEETINGS: As you know by now, the Bishops' Conference of Lagos Ecclesiastical Province resolved that given that the Covid-19 virus which has adversely affected our lives is still very much with us, we must learn how to move on with our lives while ensuring that we keep safe at all times. For this reason, the Bishops of the province have directed the resumption of society meetings with the proviso that all meetings should be held in compliance with the covid-19 safety protocols, while maintaining the required physical distance. Parish Priest and priests-in-charge should ensure compliance with the regulations.

7. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY OFFERS NEW COURSES: our Augustine University has gotten approval to enrol students for the following new courses:

- B.Sc Mass Communication
- B.Sc Political Science
- B.Sc Biochemistry
- B.Sc Cyber Security
- B.Sc fisheries and Aquaculture
- B.Sc Information Technology
- B.Sc Software Engineering

The University is also offering JUPEB, so students can now gain entry into 200 Level after enrolling for JUPEB.

8. St. Augustine College of Education (Project Time), Akoka affiliated to the University of Ibadan:

a. We call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners that the above-named College has commenced admission procedures for its 2020/2021 session. With a minimum JAMB Score of 200 and above for Degree programs and 150 and above for NCE programs, St. Augustine College is the place for you. Our programs and their Requirements include:

- B.Ed. degree (Full-Time and Distance Learning Center) - 5 Credits at one sitting.
- NCE (Full- Time and Part-Time) - 6 Credits at two sittings.
- PDE (PGDE) - First Degree or H.N.D. From any recognized tertiary institution.
- Catechesis - practicing and intending Catechist OR O'Level Certificate.

For further enquiries, call - **08065954493; 08024582945; 08034919553.**

b. Parish Priests are requested to send their Catechists, Catechism Teachers and Marriage Counsellors for Advanced Diploma in Catechetics at St. Augustine's College of Education (Project TIME) Akoka, Yaba, Lagos. For more enquiries, visit **www.sacoedng.com** or **www.sacoed.edu.ng** or call **08034919553; 08065954493; 08033098523.**

c. St. Augustine's College of Education offers Admission in-Service Masters in Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum Development and Educational Evaluation and Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PDGE) in the following:

- Curriculum Development in Arts and Languages
- Curriculum Development in Information Technology
- Curriculum Development in Mathematics
- Curriculum Development in Pre-primary and Primary Education
- Curriculum Development in the Sciences
- Educational and Evaluation Research
- Test Construction and Public Examining
- Development and monitoring of Curriculum
- Psychological Testing, Assessment Evaluation and Counselling

- Schools/institutions' Accreditation and Evaluation
- Programme Evaluation
- Teaching etc.

9. On Registration of Churches for Marriage by Government: Given the present situation in which government is requiring Churches to register individually upon payment of some fees such that issuance of marriage licence is dependent on the registration of Churches for marriage, the Bishops' Conference has approved the proposal that our parishes will no longer seek to register their Churches with the Marriage Registry. The canonical form of Marriage (Church Marriage) is valid irrespective of licence from the registry. In any case, since canonical marriages are normally preceded by the Traditional Marriage, it is considered that by that fact the marriage is in accord with the Marriage Ordinance. Couples are free to obtain marriage certificates from the marriage registry on their own but it shall not be a requirement for marriage in the Church.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. 2021 CARITAS-LAGOS SUNDAY COLLECTION (28th February): This is to remind all Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge, that the proceeds from the Caritas-Lagos Collection is to be remitted into the Caritas Account on or before **Thursday 4th of March, 2021**. Account details are as follows: **FIDELITY BANK, 4110033795, CARITAS LAGOS**. We count on your cooperation.

b. Laity Week Celebration: The annual Laity week celebration comes up on the **14th March, 2021 to 21st March 2021** in all Parishes in the Archdiocese. We are all encouraged to participate actively.

(i) Sunday, 14th March, 2021: Opening Mass and presentation of awards @ St. Gregory's College, by 10am.

(ii) Sunday 21st March, 2021: Closing Mass and laity collection in all parishes in the Archdiocese. **Please note that the Laity Collection is mandatory.**

c. Training on Digital Accounting System for Quarterly Returns: In order to forestall irregularities, errors in calculation, and the time spent in preparing Quarterly Returns, the Chancery is introducing an Integrated Management Information System that makes the

preparation of Quarterly Returns easy, such that Quarterly Returns to the Chancery will be done at the click of a button. To this end, there shall be training in **March 2021** at which all Parish priests and Associate Priests are **REQUIRED** to participate. Each participant is also **REQUIRED** to come along with an internet connected laptop.

Training Schedule:

a. Maryland, Ikorodu, Ijede, Ikeja, Agege, Ipaja, Surulere, and Yaba Deaneries

Date: 16th March 2021

Venue: St. Agnes, Maryland

Time: 10 am

b. Lagos Island, Ajah, Lekki, and Epe Deaneries

Date: 18th March 2021

Venue: Church of Transfiguration, VGC

Time: 10 am

c. Festac, Isolo, Iba and Satellite Deaneries

Date: 23rd March 2021

Venue: Holy Family, Festac

Time: 10 am

d. Badagry, Ijanikin, and Ilemba Deaneries

Date: 25th March 2021

Venue: St. Cecilia, Ijanikin.

Time: 10am

e. Archdiocesan Catechetical Colloquium: The catechetical colloquium for this year is scheduled this month. Delegates from each deanery are to be in attendance following the information already given to the Deans. The programme is scheduled to hold as follows:

Theme: Re-Evangelization through the Ministry of Catechesis

Date: March 13, 2021

Time: 10.00am.

Venue: St. Anthony Catholic Church, Gbaja-Surulere

Speaker: His Lordship, Bishop John Oyejola (Oshogbo Diocese)

Registration: N 2000.00 per participant

Participation: Each deanery to send delegates as requested.

f. JDPC Lenten Campaign Collection: The Lenten Campaign is an annual programme of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) which is our collective action during the period of Lent. It applies the values of the Gospel to the problems and challenges of society and promote social justice, human development and sustainable peace in the Country. It is also a viable means by which the JDPC raises funds to deliver on its mandate as approved by the Church.

The Lenten Campaign collection comes up on **Sunday, 21st March, 2021, the Fifth Sunday of Lent**. All parishes are expected to take up a special collection and remit the proceeds by the end of the week to our account with the following details: **UNION BANK 000050113 Archdiocese of Lagos**. We urge all parish priests/priests-in-charge to encourage their parishioners to be generous and support this charitable collection.

g. Child Safeguarding Training by SARPI: As an effort to deepen the training already received on this important issue of Child Safeguarding, we have invited the Regional Pastoral Institute, (SARPI), Ede to facilitate a training on Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable persons at the different regions in our Archdiocese. The training will be taking place in all the jurisdictions in Lagos and Ibadan Ecclesiastical Provinces. It would be Lagos Archdiocese between **12th and 15th April 2021**.

It is scheduled to hold in the different Regions of our Archdiocese as follows:

1. Lagos Island, Lekki, Ajah and Epe Deaneries

12th April, 2021: Church of the Transfiguration, VGC.; 10 am.

2. Agege, Ijede, Ikorodu, Ipaja, Ikeja, Maryland, Yaba, Surulere Deaneries.

13th April, 2021: St Agnes, Maryland. 10am.

3. Apapa, Festac, Isolo, Iba, Satellite Deaneries

14th April, 2021: Holy Family, Festac, 10 am.

4. Ijanikin, Ilemba and Badagry Deaneries

15th April, 2021: St Cecilia, Ijanikin. 10am.

Those to attend: each Deanery should send the following representatives:

- (i) 2 Priests (ii) 2 Female Religious (iii) 2 Catechists (iv) 2 CYON members (v) 2 Teachers (vi) 2 medical/nursing workers.

The Episcopal Vicars and Deans are to nominate participants and help organise a successful training.

h. St John Paul II School for Marriage and Family: This Archdiocesan School is offering Learning opportunities and Skills development for Marriage Facilitators, Married Persons, Singles/Widowed, Parents, Lay/ Youth Leaders

List of courses/trainings

1. Marriage Theology and Lived Experience. 7
2. Teaching Sexuality Education in the Family
3. Theology of the Body Made Simple for Youth Teenagers and Adults
4. Natural Family Planning (NFP) Instructors Course
Managing Couple Fertility Naturally (Love & Life Method)
5. Basic Christian Counselling Skills
6. Formation Of Children (one day courses)
 - i) Parenting Skills for parents of children Ages 1-10
 - ii) Training a Child to love
 - iii) Steps to Building Character and Developing Core Values
7. Holidays at FHLU for Students (July/August)

This programme encompasses a range of interesting activities and information for positive youth enhancement and leadership.

- How to improve Relationships with Parents and other Adults.
- Teenagers, Love & Relationships

Courses already began in February 2020

For enquiries and registration, call Martina Ozegbe on 0813 028 5777 and 07030616170.

k. Department of Social Communication: The new edition of the Archdiocesan Catholic Herald Newspaper is out on sale in Catholic bookstores all around the Archdiocese. We

encourage the faithful to buy the newspaper and be informed about the faith and events concerning the Church. As part of the efforts to widen the scope of the Catholic Herald Newspaper, the Directorate of Social Communications hereby welcomes write-ups and contributions on matters of faith and morals as well as social issues from priests, religious (Male and female) as well as lay faithful. You can send your write-ups/ contributions to: **thecatholicherald2007@gmail.com or tonygeee23@gmail.com** for consideration.

We are expect Parish Priests and Associates to publicize the *Catholic Herald Newspaper* during Altar announcements. May God continue to bless and reward our apostolate. Amen.

I. Antioch Pastoral Institute: The Antioch Pastoral Institute of the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos Offers: Certificate in Theology of the New Evangelization.

Duration: 6 Months

For Whom: Parish Pastoral Assistants, Parish Evangelization Commission members, Faith Formators, Group Facilitators, Catholics who desire to grow and share our faith.

REQUIRED: Potential attendees are to be recommended by Parish priest, practicing/confirmed Catholic, possess minimum of SSCE or equivalent, a very good grasp of English Language, ability to use the relevant technology and handle the required level of work/assignments and keep to the Institute's rules.

Commencement Date: March 20, 2021.

Form available for #1,000

Enquiry/contact: Rel. Edu. Dept., 19, Maybe Street, off Montgomery

o. CYON APOSTOLATE: BECOME A TRAINED CATECHIST, MARRIAGE COUNSELLOR;

The CYON is calling on interested and passionate youths who will like to contribute their quota to the expansion of God's Kingdom and the growth of their Parishes. We invite such youths to collaborate with their Priests in teaching Catechism and functioning as trained and certified marriage counsellors in Parishes. We therefore encourage sincere, interested and passionate youths to make themselves available for this service. Kindly get in touch with **Rev. Fr. Gabriel Odunaiya**, the CYON Chaplain for further inquires and information on training and other terms of engagement.

11. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Obanla Anthony & Frs. Paul Hardy, Akhidue John, Adegun Francis, Lawrence Nwaneri, David Cheruiyot, Chikezie Wisdom, Ekpo Benjamin, Ideawor Kingsley, Martinos Theodore, Okpala Melchizedek and Gilbert Thesing as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversary this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!!*

12. Bereavement: With deep sympathy but with thanksgiving to God, we announce the demise of **Late Rev. Sr. Mary Jude Fakorede, EHJ** and **Late Mrs. Grace Babalola**, the mother of Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Babalola. 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