



# CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

19, CATHOLIC MISSION STREET, P. O. BOX 8, LAGOS-NIGERIA

TEL/FAX: 01- 8448669

Monthly Bulletin /Circular **APRIL, 2021** /No. 103

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

**1. The Month of April:** Welcome to the month of April 2021, a month during which we enter into the holy season of Easter. The season begins with the celebration of the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday, the climax of the Holy Week celebrations. During this month, these remarkable events of the mystery of our salvation are celebrated: **Holy Thursday (April 1), Good Friday (April 2), Holy Saturday (April 3), Easter Sunday (April 4)**. Throughout the entire month, the Church continues to celebrate the joy of Easter and the gift of New Life in Christ. As we celebrate the way of the cross with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Sorrows on Good Friday, we are led to the state of eager-longing on Holy Saturday for Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world to shine forth as the light of the world on Easter night so that when he rises we can rejoice with the Blessed Virgin Mary as we begin to say the Regina Coeli.

**2. Easter:** The word "Easter" has an etymology that leads us to recognise the risen Christ as the Light of the world symbolised in the Paschal Candle that is kept close to the ambo and is lit for all liturgical celebrations. Our celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead gently moves us to His Ascension to the Father and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Easter season is obviously, the most important of all liturgical seasons, a period of 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. **All christian expression** of faith flow from faith in the resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor 15:14).

From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ until that blessed day when Christ will come again in glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father. May this Easter bring us good tidings and heavenly blessings.

**3. CELEBRATING THE HOLY WEEK THIS YEAR:** We earlier issued a guideline for the celebration of Holy Week this year. We are aware that some parish priests flouted the guidelines for Palm Sunday. While we keep that in memory, we hope that as we restate the guidelines, such priests would demonstrate the virtue of adherence to guidelines for the common good.

**Chrism Mass:** Chrism Mass shall be celebrated as follows this year:

- **Tuesday, 30th March, 2021:** Catholic Church of the Nativity, Festac, at **9am**.
- **Thursday, 1st April, 2021:** Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos at **9am**

Attendance at the Masses of Chrism this year shall be as follows:

- ALL Priests
- Representatives of Communities of Female Religious in each of the areas covered by the two Masses as arranged by the Association of Female Religious.
- The Executive of Archdiocesan Laity Council, divided out to the two Masses; two representatives of the Papal Knights and Medalists, two representatives of Archdiocesan CMO, CWONLA, CYAA, CYON; two representatives of Knights of St. Mulumba and Knights of St. John International. We expect that the two representatives (or another two as they choose) would be at each of the two Masses of Chrism.
- The other Female Religious and lay faithful that will not be able to participate physically are encouraged to join the Chrism Mass online as all the activities of the Holy Week beginning from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021, would be broadcast live from the Holy Cross Cathedral via the following channels:
  - Lumen Christi TV Channel 350,
  - DSTV Pop Up Channel 197,
  - GOTV Pop Up Channel 85,

**Mass of the Lord's Supper:**

- The washing of feet, which is ordinarily optional, should be omitted.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is done after the Post Communion prayer. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the Main Altar, after it is incensed, a suitable period of adoration, not exceeding 30 minutes, is observed by the worshipping community. Thereafter,

the priest concludes, using the humeral veil, solemnly transfers the Blessed Sacrament to the normal Altar of Repose in each parish .

- The entire celebration should end well before 11.00pm.

**Good Friday:**

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross should be held without the people moving from one station to another. Rather, the people should remain in their places while the celebrant and altar Servers move from one station to another as appropriate. In this same spirit, the outdoor dramatization of the Stations of the Cross shall not hold this year.

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion:** during this celebration, at the Universal Prayer, the following special intention shall be inserted immediately after the intention: For all in Public Office (IX):

**IX b. For the afflicted in time of pandemic**

Let us pray also for the afflicted in the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

*(let us kneel, Prayer in silence). (let us rise) Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God, only support of our human weakness, look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children who suffer because of this pandemic; relieve the pain of the sick, give strength to those who care for them, welcome into your peace those who have died and, throughout this time of tribulation, grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love. Through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen

**Veneration of the Cross:** the kissing of the Crucifix shall be done by the celebrant ONLY. Others are to do the veneration by bowing to it. At the end of the Passion Celebration, the Priest may hold up a big Cross on the Sanctuary while the faithful would make a reverent bow as they solemnly exit the Church.

**The Easter Vigil:**

- The blessing of fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle is to be done with only a small group of the faithful who will represent the entire worshipping community. The others are to remain in their places inside the church.
- the number of Old Testament readings may be reduced so as to make the celebration as concise as people. This must be done in accordance with the provisions of the Roman Missal.
- If baptism takes place, care is to be taken to observe all the Covid-19 protocols.
- The entire celebration should end well before 11.00pm.

**Easter Monday Galilee Day Celebration:**

- Given the restriction in the number of people permitted to gather, the Galilee Day Celebration would be omitted this year.

**N.B:** In all these celebrations, please note that the 50% of the capacity of the Church still applies. Please, keep in mind that these guidelines have been put in place in order to enhance the safety of everyone. As we celebrate the paschal festivities, let us always keep to the required Covid-19 regulations: wash your hands, use sanitizer, wear a face mask, maintain physical distance. May the Lord continue to save us from this evil.

**4. ON THE COVID-19 VACCINE:** We are all aware that different Covid-19 Vaccines have been discovered and are in circulation now. We are aware of the controversies that surround the vaccines at this time. We, however, see the vaccines coming out in record time as an indication that our prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic has not been in vain. We urge everyone to carefully consider receiving the vaccine and take their own wise decision looking at the example of such personalities as the Holy Father, the Pope. We pray the Lord to guide us as we go through the challenges of the time.

Meanwhile, we must continue to take the precautions of 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. The virus is still with us even if it is not as virulent or as widespread as in other parts of the world and so we cannot afford to relax on the safety measures.

**5. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY, ILARA (AUI) 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 in the University after completing the JUPEB programme.

**6. 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. For a few months now, we have been publishing the courses available. Kindly refer to the immediate past circulars for courses leading to **In-Service Masters Degrees** in Curriculum Development and Educational Evaluation as well as **Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PDGE)**

**7. 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.

#### **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**a. Diaconate Ordination:** By the grace of God, four of our seminarians: Bros. **Aniebue Boniface, Ekoja Michael, Inegbeneboh Theophilus and Madu John** would be ordained Deacon for the Archdiocese on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**, at the **Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos; by 10:30am**. Let us continue to pray that the Lord would send faithful servants to work in his vineyard.

**b. Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting:** This comes up on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021** at the Chancery by 10:00am. Those concerned should please take note.

**c. Curia Meeting-** This is to inform members of the Archdiocesan Curia that their meeting which was earlier scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> April has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2021** at 10:00am at the Holy Cross Cathedral Hall.

**d. 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 in the four Regions in our Archdiocese. The training to be facilitated by SARPI is scheduled to take place all Ecclesiastical jurisdictions in Lagos and Ibadan Ecclesiastical Provinces. It would be the turn of Lagos Archdiocese between **12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021**.

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

1. Lagos Island, Lekki, Ajah and Epe Deaneries

**12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021:** Church of the Transfiguration, VGC.; 10 am.

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

**13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021:** St Agnes, Maryland. 10am.

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

**14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021:** Holy Family, Festac, 10 am.

4. Ijanikin, Ilembe and Badagry Deaneries

**15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**e. Lay Leaders Seminar:** the 2021 Archdiocesan Lay Leaders' Seminar for members of Executives and Representatives of Archdiocesan and Deanery Laity Councils and Lay organizations, societies and associations comes up as follows:

**Date:** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

**Venue:** St Jude Catholic Church, Mafoluku.

**Theme:** Accountable Stewardship, a Criterion of Judgement for Christian Leaders (Jas 3:1)

**Accreditation:** begins by 8:30am.

**Delegates:** as contained in the letter to the Deanery Laity Councils, as well as Lay organizations, societies and associations

**Seminar fee:** #5,000 to be paid into the lay Apostolate Fidelity bank Account: **4110028140**. Depositor should be Deanery or Society names. Please do not use personal names. Deadline for payment is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

For more information, kindly contact the Director of the Lay Apostolate Centre, Rev Fr Hyacinth Ibe.

**f. Quarterly Returns and Special Collections:** Please be reminded that returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the second quarter of the year: **Holy Land Collection (Good Friday)- 02/04/2021, Youths Collection-11/04/2021, Social Development Collection- 18/04/2021, Seminary Collection (Good Shepherd Sunday)- 25/04/2021.** All Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are reminded to follow the new system of Quarterly returns remittance as directed in the seminars held in the previous month.

**g. Salus Trust Limited (National HMO):** Salus Trust is our national Catholic Health Maintenance Organisation (HMO), owned by the CBCN. Apart from the regular health insurance programs that the HMO markets across the country, it has now improved in its operations by collaborating with State-owned Health Insurance Agencies in Nigeria. The Salus Trust, our HMO, has been appointed by the Lagos State Government to market a very robust and affordable health plan, which is as low as ***#8500 per person, per year***. The officials have been authorised to enroll willing faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos on this robust health plan to the benefit of all. We ask you to cooperate with the officials of Salus Trust and the Lagos State Health Management Agency as they visit your parishes to sensitize, mobilize and enroll the Catholic Faithful.

**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.
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 program 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**.

**i. 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.

**j. 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

**k. 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 inquiries and information on training and other terms of engagement.

**9. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Raphael Adebayo, Gabriel Amologbe, Vincent Olofinkua, Richard Fasuyi, Johnpaul Olaniran, Chukwubuikem Okpechi OP and Ramagele Rakotsoane OMI as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. **Ad multos annos!**

**10. BEREAVEMENT:** We announce, with sincere sympathy, the demise of **Late Mrs Mary Chinenye Nnadozie**, the mother of Rev Fr Dominic Nnadozie OFM Cap.; **Late Pa Innocent Echefu**, the father of Rev Fr. Augustine Echefu; and **Late Mr Anthony Okeke**, brother of Sr Regina Okeke, Carmelite. They died in the month of March, 2021. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of their souls and the consolation of their families. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen.

**Signed**

**+ Alfred Adewale Martins**

**Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos**