



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

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

1. The Month of June: I welcome you to the month of June, 2021. In this month, the Church takes us into the Ordinary Time of the liturgical year; a period of growth. It is a period we are called to bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit having received His gifts at Pentecost. As St. Paul did to Timothy, we are reminded to fan into a flame the gifts of God which we have received through the anointing with the sacred Oil of Chrism at Baptism and Confirmation. We are expected to re-evaluate ourselves in the light of the Paschal Mystery that we just celebrated in order to confirm whether we are following the promptings of the Holy Spirit by proper use of the gifts He has given us.

Remarkable Celebrations in the month of June include; Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ **06/06/2021**, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus **11/06/2021**, Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist **24/06/2021** and the Solemnity of Ss. Peter & Paul **29/06/2021**.

2. HOLY SEE MAKES CHANGE IN WORDS OF OPENING PRAYER: You will recall that in a recent special circular, we called attention to directive of the Holy See making a definitive change of the formula concluding the Collect in the approved English translation of the Roman Missal. Hence, the words "**ONE** God, for ever and ever" are simply replaced with "**God, for ever and ever.**" This modification changes the conclusion of our prayers from being simply an affirmation of the Holy Trinity ('in the unity of the Holy Spirit') to being also an affirmation of the divinity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, ('God, for ever and ever'). The CBCN directed that the change should take effect from the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, **Sunday 30th May 2021**. So, the Collect from then would conclude as follows: "*We ask this in the name of Our*

Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen."

3. ON THE COVID-19 VACCINE: We continue to encourage the entire faithful to consider carefully and decide to take the Covid-19 vaccination. We are convinced that the discovery of the vaccine in record time is an indication that our prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic has not been in vain. We know that there are controversies concerning the vaccines at this time. But we must be wise in our decision looking at the example of such personalities as our 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.

4. SECURITY ALERT: The growing rate of insecurity in the nation has become an issue of great concern and so we urge everyone to take necessary measures to ensure adequate security around church premises, priests' residences, and church gatherings. We must resume the practice of ensuring that parishioners do not bring big bags into our Church premises, searching all those who come into the premises and using the metal detectors at the gate. Everyone must be security conscious; call attention to strange persons and report strange movements and objects. We must be alert and security conscious, not taking anything for granted.

In the wake of the sad phenomenon of kidnapping that is very much present even in our state, we need to call attention again to the need for everyone to pay attention to the following security measures:

- a. Be alert and aware of your environment. Keep a low profile.
- b. Do not give vital/personal information to persons unfamiliar to you
- c. Avoid late outings and unnecessary night movements.

- d. Vary your route to work or leisure locations. **Do not make yourself predictable.**
- e. Do not discuss financial matters in the open and beware of those who boast of their wealth or plan for making money in the open.
- f. Always pre-plan your journey and ensure the vehicle is in good shape.
- g. Do not give a ride to strangers unduly.
- h. Stick to main roads and avoid lonely routes.
- i. Always remember, your security is your personal property. Keep yourself safe

In addition to the above, it is also important that we entreat the Lord on our nation's behalf, committing ourselves to the protective care of Our Lady Help of Christians. The words of the psalmist hold very true in this regard "if the Lord does not watch over the city in vain do its watchmen keep vigil (Psalm 127:1).

5. Call to Prayer for Nigeria: In the light of the above, we hereby call for prayers in the midst of the difficulties facing our country at this time. (a.) We must continue the **Prayer for Nigeria in Distress** in parishes at Masses; those who have stopped should resume saying the prayers with attention and devotion. (b) Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge should organize adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction on Sundays, specifically in supplication for the **unity, safety and security** of the peoples of our country. (c) in addition, we also ask that individuals and families should also pray the rosary daily for the same intention.

We urge members of the Marian Societies, the Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Apostleship of Prayer, St. Jude and St. Rita to make participation at these prayer sessions a duty for them, interceding on behalf of the nation. We urge the entire faithful of the Archdiocese in each parish to participate in this prayer as well.

6. Elevation of Quasi parishes to full parishes status: You may recall that at the Chrism Masses for this year, we announced, among other things, that some of our quasi parishes were due for elevation to the status of full parishes. In following up with that observation, we hereby

present the list of the quasi parishes that have become parishes with effect from 30th March 2021:

A.

AGEGE DEANERY

- St. Christopher, Ijaiye
- St. Christopher, Oke-odo

APAPA DEANERY

- St. Kizito, Alaba-oro

BADAGRY DEANERY

- St. Joseph, Aradagun

EPE DEANERY

- Church of Assumption, Awoyaya
- Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Ibeju
- Our Lady Mother of Mercy, Abijoh
- Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Lakowe
- Regina Caeli, Bogije
- St. Peter, Agbowa-Ikosi

FESTAC DEANERY

- Church of Presentation, Festac
- Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, Okota

IBA DEANERY

- St. Maria Goretti, Abaranje

IJANIKIN DEANERY

- Blessed Tansi, Magbon
- Holy Spirit, Aiyetoro

IJEDE DEANERY

- Corpus Christi, Egbin
- St. Monica, Igbogbo

IKORODU DEANERY

- Divine Mercy Chaplaincy, Ijede Road
- Good Shepherd, Owode-Ajegunle
- St. Michael, Ajaguro, Ikorodu
- St. Patrick, Owode-Ibeshe

ILEMBA DEANERY

- Holy Redeemer, Shibiri
- St. John, Ilufe
- St. Joseph, Ketu - Ijanikin

IPAJA DEANERY

- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oke-Shasha
- St. Anthony, Agbelekale
- St. Louis, Egbeda

ISOLO DEANERY

- Holy Rosary, Arida
- St. Lawrence, Isheri-olofin

LEKKI DEANERY

- Church of the Pentecost, Ilasan Jakande

MARYLAND DEANERY

- Church of Presentation, Agiliti

SATELLITE DEANERY

- Mother of Perpetual Help, Ijegan Imore
- Queen of All Saints, Adaloko

B. In the same vein, the following **Station Churches** that have recorded a significant measure of growth and have therefore been raised to the status of **Quasi-Parish**:

1. Agege Deanery

- i. St. Charles Lwanga, Omotoye Estate, Agege - carved out from St. Sabina, Idimangoro.

2. Surulere Deanery

- ii. Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Oyewole, Aguda, - carved out from Our Lady of Fatima, Aguda.

3. Iba Deanery

- iii. Our Lady Help of Christians, - carved out from St. Augustine, Iba.

4. Ikorodu Deanery

- iv. St. Timothy Bayeku, carved out from St Monica, Igbogbo.
- v. St Anne Odokekere, carved out from Sacred Heart, Odogunyan
- vi. Our Lady Queen of Peace, Odonla carved out from Sacred Heart Odogunyan

vii. St Anthony Ipakodo, carved out from St Patrick, Owode

5. Ijanikin Deanery

viii. St. Lucy Ibiye, - carved out from Blessed Tansi, Magbon

ix. St Anthony, Era carved out from St Cecilia, Ijanikin

x. Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Era-Awori, carved out from Holy Spirit, Aiyetoro

6. Apapa Deanery

xi. St Thomas Villanova, Abata, carved out from Our Lady of Lourdes, Orile Coker.

7. Ijede Deanery

xii. Immaculate Heart, Maya, carved out from St Andrew, Itamope.

xiii. Our Lady of Fatima, Adamo, carved out from St Andrew, Itamope.

We encourage the stations that have just been made quasi parishes to speed up work on the building and completion of the Fathers' houses in order that they can be elevated further as soon as possible.

7. Advertisement for Vacant Positions at the Augustine University: Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following vacant positions:

- i. **ACADEMIC STAFF- DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH- Assistant Lecturer:** Applicant should possess a Master's degree in English Language and expected to have registered for a Ph.D Programme.
- ii. **UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE- Senior Medical Officer:** Applicants should possess a degree in Medicine and Surgery with evidence of registration with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and a minimum of Seven years post qualification experience.
- iii. **BURSARY DEPARTMENT- Accountant II:** Applicants should possess minimum of five (5) O'Level credit passes including English and Mathematics plus a University degree with minimum of second class, lower division in Accounting or any other relevant discipline. The possession of a Professional Certificate, e.g. ICAN, ACCA, ANAN, etc, will be an added advantage.

8. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY, ILARA (AUI) OFFERS NEW COURSES: Our Augustine University has got NUC 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. Please bring this to the notice of your parishes and Associations of the lay faithful.

9. 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).

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **ARCHBISHOP'S BIRTHDAY:** June 1st 2021 marks my 62th birthday. We thank the Good Lord for His benevolence and His many blessings that I have experienced in these past 62 years. There shall be a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Holy Cross Cathedral, at 12noon. This will be followed by a Press Conference. Kindly pray for my intentions as I continue my service as the Chief Shepherd of the flock of Christ in Lagos Archdiocese.

b. **Recollection for Priests:** The quarterly Regional Priests' Recollection comes up on **Wednesday, 9th June, 2019**. All Priests are required to take part in this unique spiritual exercise. The Episcopal Vicars are expected to ensure the participation of all priests in their regions.

c. **Seminar for Priests:** The seminar for Priests will be coming up on **Wednesday, 23rd June, 2019**. We expect all Priests to avail themselves of this opportunity for ongoing formation.

d. **Lawyers' Day with the Archbishop:** The Catholic Lawyers in the Archdiocese of Lagos shall be having a Day with the Archbishop. The event is scheduled to hold on **Thursday, 3rd June, 2019** on Ziroom Online Platform. We urge Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to encourage Catholic Lawyers in their Parishes to send their representatives to attend this event. For more information please contact Mr. P. O. Njeteneh, **0802 696 1685**

e. **St Raphael Divine Mercy Specialist Hospital Ijede Celebrates 10th Anniversary:** to the glory of God, our Archdiocesan Hospital, St Raphael Divine Mercy Hospital, Ijede, Ikorodu will be celebrating her 10th Anniversary. We are cordially invited.

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021

Venue: St Raphael Divine mercy Specialist Hospital. Ijede Ikorodu.

f. 120th Anniversary of St. Paul's Catholic Church, Ebute Metta: St. Paul's Catholic Church, Ebute Metta, celebrates her 120th anniversary of the parish. The parish is the oldest parish on Lagos mainland from whom all other parishes were born. This historic event will be commemorated with a solemn Thanksgiving Mass on **Saturday 26th June, 2021, at 10:00am**. All priests and Religious who have served in the parish or all those whose spiritual life started in the parish as their original home parishes {priests, Religious and lay faithful} are cordially invited. For adverts, sponsorship of projects and confirmation of attendance, please call; **09021094816** (Parish Priest), **08058921555** (Parish Office).

g. Catholic Action-Nigeria: We inaugurated the *Catholic Action-Nigeria* and authorized them to function in our Archdiocese. The leaders have been asked to visit Deans and Parish Priests who would assist them to create awareness about the ideals and workings of the body, and then form the Catholic Action-Nigeria at parish levels. There shall be a meeting of parish nominees on **Saturday, 26th June, 2021**. Deans and Parish Priests should kindly assist. For more information, please contact Sir Godwin Nosa Ehigiator on **08033024982**.

h. Archdiocesan Laity Harvest: The Archdiocesan Laity Harvest celebration comes up on the **Sunday, 4th July, 2021, at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland**. The time of Mass is **10.30 am**. Those concerned should please take note.

i. LAGOS CATHOLIC NETWORK, LCN (LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN MOBILE APP): our Archdiocese has launched its first official mobile application: Lagos Catholic Network (LCN). This is an amazing Platform to helps all catholic faithful, priests and religious to enhance and grow their faith in an atmosphere of interaction within the digital community. From Live Broadcast of masses to daily readings and reflections; from various catholic prayers to pious novenas, there is a whole lot available for us. We also have access to lots of information from the Archdiocese and of course, the online Catholic Herald Newspaper as well as lots of trending topics in the catholic world making it an exciting platform that has created a new "Catholic Community on Social Media" that will enhance our spiritual growth through information, interaction and fun.

To download the LCN app, do the following:

1. Go to Google Play Store
2. Search for "LCN" or "LAGOS CATHOLIC NETWORK"
3. Download the App, register, connect with other Catholics and enjoy!!

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: **AUI Collection - 13/06/2021, Peter's Pence - 27/06/2021**. 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 month of March.

j. 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 authorized 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.

k. Caritas Lagos Collection: We hereby express our appreciation to all those who participated and contributed generously towards the Caritas Lagos Collection in February. Your contributions will go a long way to help the Church to grow and develop in places outside the Archdiocese that are less endowed financially. May God continue to bless and reward you for your generosity. Donations can still be made directly to the bank account with details as follows: **FIDELITY BANK, 4110033795, CARITAS-LAGOS**.

In the same vein, we strongly urge all Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge who have not done so to immediately ensure that the proceeds of the Caritas Sunday Collection from their parishes are paid into the Caritas-Lagos Account or forwarded to the Chancery.

l. St. Gregory Diploma School of Pastoral Music: is the Catholic diploma music school in the Archdiocese of Lagos that offers choirmasters, choristers, and all music lovers a Diploma

Certificate in Pastoral Music after successfully completing a program of 3 years' part-time studies. It is aimed to produce music directors of churches, communities, schools and the likes by developing their music interests, and integrating them with theological/ pastoral knowledge and church music into becoming pastoral musicians. The school is currently in the process of affiliation with the Augustine University.

To join the preparatory class, please click the link below for registration:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15wZ44Sa>

WIkvZ6BnpSxELOitoBWk7pE1lZKA2oQ8icY/edit?usp=drivesdk

The preparatory class covers for 3 months' studies which is geared towards preparing you for the entrance examination into the diploma program. You can also visit our page on Facebook with the link below: <https://www.facebook.com/StGregoryDiplomaSchoolOfPastoralMusic>

For more information about the school, please contact the: Mr. Simon Eze **07069289868** (Registrar) or Rev. Fr. Peter Osuntope **08023700587** (The Director)

m. 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 9
 - 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 Ozeigbe on 0813 028 5777 and 07030616170.**

n. Antioch Pastoral Institute: The Antioch Pastoral Institute of the Archdiocese of Lagos offers a programme that leads to the award of a 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: Participants are to receive recommendations from their Parish priests, practicing/confirmed Catholics, possess a 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.

Forms available for #1,000

Enquiry/contact: Religious Education Department, 19, Maye Street, off Montgomery Road, Yaba

o. FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTORATE

i. Become a Trained Catechist, Marriage Counselor: 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.

ii. **Novena to St. Charles Lwanga & Companions 2021:** As it has become our tradition, the Novena to St. Charles Lwanga & Companions will have Daily Reflections on "The Attributes of Mary" shared to all members in the Archdiocese of Lagos. **Date: May 25th - June 3rd 2021.** All Parishes in the Archdiocese of Lagos are encouraged to join in the Prayer. Check our Social Media @cyonadclagos (Instagram & Twitter) for daily reflections.

iii. **Archdiocesan Youth Day (AYD) Ikorodu 2021/35th Anniversary Celebration:** The Archdiocesan Youth Day 2021 marks the 35th Anniversary celebration of the CYON in Lagos. The event begins with the celebration of the Holy Mass at 10am by our Chief Shepherd, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, followed by a grand reception. **Date: 8th August, 2021.**

Hosts: Ikorodu Deanery. **Time:** 10am -4pm. Registration ends on 30th June 2021. Click https://bit.ly/AYD_2020 to register after delegate payment of ₦800.00 has been made through the respective Deaneries.

iv. **Lagos Ecclesiastical Province (LEP CYON) Youth Convention/Election 2021:** The Youth Convention/Election of the Lagos Province takes place tentatively in **July 2021**. With the theme of the year being, "Stand Up, I Appoint You as A Witness to What You Have Seen (Acts 26:16)" the venue is **Louisville Retreat Centre, Ijebu Itеле**, in Ijebu Ode Diocese. Participants are Youth Leaders from the Arch/Dioceses, Deaneries and Parishes withing the Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos.

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 2021/2022 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.

q. **Admission into Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music (Foundation Program):** The Academy is calling for application from prospective candidates who wish to acquire foundational knowledge in Music to register. Admission is still ongoing. Courses offered include Rudiments/Theory of Music; Voice and Conducting; Basic Piano; Gregorian chant and Applied Music (any instrument of your choice). Instructional centers are located in Festac; Surulere; Lekki; Ikeja and Ejigbo.

Tuition fee is very affordable. For further enquiries, call/text: 09083036356/09030905196/08056526856 or directorceasam@gmail.com

11. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Ogunsakin Festus, and Rev. Frs. Anyanwu Francis, Ayangbola Peter, Ayonote Lawrence, Egwuatu Julian, Okelezo Simon, Oladunjoye Sylvester, Oritseweyimi Kingsley, Umole Fidelis, Etegene Michael, Ogunyase Matthew, Michael Oyedare, Jude Kanu, Livinus Orakwe, Michael Etekpo, Francis Anozie, Emmanuel Etim, Peter Ekwenuya, Pius Femi Oladele, Augustine Nwagbologu, Macjoe Akpan, Nathaniel Ogar, John Oni, Oviemuno I. Obi, Cyril Odey, Timothy Inok, George Erumetse, Denis Chukwudindu, Prayer Odede, Cletus Onwudiwe, Kevin O'Hara, Daniel Monaghan and Osbert Egbe 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