



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **AUGUST, 2021** /No. 107

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

1. The Month of August: I welcome you all to the month of August. This month offers us the opportunity to evaluate ourselves and the growth that we may have attained during the earlier part of the year so that we can work out strategies that would help us use the rest of the year profitably for our souls and the common good.

Significant celebrations in the life of the Church during this month include: the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ (**Aug 6**) and the Assumption of Our Blessed Virgin Mary (**Aug 15**). As Christians, these two important feasts draw our attention to the profound mystery of experiencing the beatific vision after our sojourn here on earth. At the Transfiguration, Our Lord Jesus Christ revealed his glorified self to the three Apostles who were with him on Mount Tabor, giving them a foretaste of heaven. The solemnity of the Assumption enlivens in us the hope that, like Our Blessed Mother who was assumed into heaven, we too will one day become partakers at the heavenly banquet.

Among other saints, we celebrate the memorial of St. Augustine during this month on Aug. 28th. Upon realizing how far he had gone from source of his being, he exclaimed with remorse "*Late have I loved you O Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you; you called, you cried, you rid me of my deafness.*" Dear brothers and sisters, like St. Augustine let us examine our lives so far in this year, and return to God with remorse if we have gone astray far away from Him, so that we can be preparing ourselves to be united with him at the end of time.

2. Solemnity of the Assumption: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is celebrated on the 15th of August is one of the four dogmas of the Church concerning our blessed mother. It is a Holy Day of Obligation which falls on a Sunday and is nevertheless celebrated as a Solemnity. The Church teaches in this article of our faith that the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from the stain of original sin, lived in union with God all her life and

having completed the course of her earthly life was by the power of God taken into heaven body and soul. Since she was free from the corruption of sin from the moment of her conception and she lived her life in total union with God, her body could not be subjected to the corruption in the grave. The Assumption of Our Blessed Virgin Mary was declared a dogma by the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XXII in the year 1950. Let us like Mary strive for perfection so that we may merit eternal happiness.

3. On the 3rd Wave of Covid-19: Reports in recent times have indicated that there is an increase in cases of COVID-19 in Lagos State and other parts of the country. The so-called Delta variant which is said to be more easily transmitted has been identified among us for which reason at least one Tertiary Institution was shut down recently. It is therefore important to create awareness of this fact and call the attention of our faithful to the need to take serious care to ensure their safety from the infection of this highly infectious strain of the virus. Each one is urged to take personal responsibility for their safety by following the COVID-19 protocols that we all know very well now i.e. social distancing; washing of hands, use of face mask and hand sanitizers as well as keeping the basic hygiene rules. Parishes are urged to ensure that they do not relax on the protocols that we have put in place for the safety of those who come to worship in our parishes. May the lord deliver us from all evil.

4. HOLY SEE MAKES A CHANGE IN THE WORDS OF THE COLLECT: Let us remember to properly implement the directive of the Holy See on the definitive change of the formula concluding the Collect in the approved English translation of the Roman Missal. The words "**ONE** God, for ever and ever" have been 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 should now 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.*"

5. CALLING FOR CAUTION CONCERNING INSECURITY: 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 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 among others:

- 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 Queen of Nigeria and Help of Christians. Let us remember always that *"if the Lord does not watch over the city, in vain does the watchman keep vigil (Psalm 127:1).*

6. 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 the entire faithful of the Archdiocese in each parish to participate in this prayer. We, however, urge members of the Marian Societies, the Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Apostleship of Prayer, St. Jude and St. Rita to make participation at these prayer sessions their special obligation at this time, interceding on behalf of the nation.

7a. 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.

b. 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.

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 2021/2022 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).

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **Anniversary of the Archbishop's Installation:** The 9th anniversary of the installation of Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins as the Archbishop of Lagos comes up on **Wednesday, 4th August, 2021**. We thank the good Lord for His benevolence and the graces he has received in these past nine years as the Chief Shepherd of our Archdiocese. There shall be Mass at the **Holy Cross Cathedral** by **12noon**. During the Mass he will make a public presentation of the document which serves the blueprint for evangelization activities in our

Archdiocese. Kindly continue to pray for his intentions as he continues to shepherd the flock in the Archdiocese.

b. 2021 Priestly Ordinations: Our deacons, **Revds. Boniface Aniebue, Michael Ekoja, Theophilus Inegbeneboh, Stephen Izebuno, Joseph Odozi and John Madu** will be ordained priests on **Thursday, 2nd September, 2021** at **St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Ajao Estate**. The time is **10.00am**. Let us keep them in our prayers as we continue to pray for all our Clergy.

c. The Archdiocesan Consultors meeting which was scheduled to hold on **Wednesday, 25th August, 2021** has been suppressed due to the CBCN plenary meeting which was rescheduled to hold in the last week of August. Those concerned should please take note.

d. Novena for the Solemnity of the Assumption: This Archdiocesan novena comes up from **Friday, 6th to Sunday, 15th August, 2021**. Marian societies and associations should take note.

e. Msgr. Aniagwu celebrates Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination: Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Aniagwu will be celebrating his 50th priestly ordination anniversary this year. Activities have been lined up for the week-long celebration. We are cordially invited to the grand finale on **Saturday, 14th August, 2021, at St. Leo's, Ikeja, at 10:00am**.

f. Special Invitation: The Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus cordially invite the Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos to the Perpetual Profession of Vows as well as the Golden and Silver Jubilee anniversaries of First Profession of Vows of some of their sisters.

Date: Sunday, August 15, 2021

Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos

Time: 10:30am Prompt.

g. Singles' Day with the Archbishop: This annual Archdiocesan event organized by the Directorate of Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Archdiocesan bodies of the Apostolate of the Precious Blood of Jesus and St. Philomena Society comes up as follows:

Theme - Christianity: A Challenging but Rewarding Religion.

Date: Saturday, 21st August, 2021.

Venue: St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Ajao Estate.

Time: 10:00am.

Fee: N 1,500.00 per delegate.

This event shall begin with an opening Mass by His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, the Archbishop of Lagos; reception follows after. For advertisement/support/sponsorship in the brochure please contact the Director's office: **08026156606, 08077003036** or Amaku: **07064414184** or Simon: **08056913133**.

h. 2021 Family Week: The annual Family Week Celebration in the Archdiocese begins from **Sunday, 15th to Sunday, 22nd August, 2021**. The theme for this year is: **Amoris Laetitia: Impact of Good Parenting on Children and the Society**.

All Clergy, Religious and lay faithful are cordially invited to the conference that is being organized by the Archdiocesan Family and Human Life Unit (FHLU) to mark the Family Week this year. It would be held via a virtual platform on **Saturday, 7th August, 2021** from **4:00pm to 7:00pm**. The theme of the conference is: **"The Scourge of Sexual Abuse on Children and Vulnerable Adults."** To participate in the conference by Zoom, kindly click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8828599184?pwd=K05zNEQvV0ZSSHNyZGVTWmphVmpjdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 859 9184; Passcode: Abuse

Parishes and Associations of the lay faithful are expected to participate actively in the activities of the week by discussing the following sub-themes in their Parishes and at their Society meetings:

Day 1. Sunday, 15th August, 2021: Good Parenting for Character Development of Children.

Day 2. Monday, 16th August, 2021: Parent-Child Connectedness: The Unique Importance of Fathers in Their Children's Lives.

Day 3. Tuesday, 17th August, 2021: Parent-Child Attachment: The Crucial Role of Mothers in Shaping Their Children's Lives.

Day 4. Wednesday, 18th August, 2021: Child Abuse in the Home (Sexual Abuse) **or** How to Teach Your Children Chastity (Sexual Education).

Day 5. Thursday, 19th August, 2021: Parenting Gone Wrong: The Effects of Over-Protective Parenting on Children; **or**, Parenting Gone Wrong: The Impact of Uninvolved or Neglectful Parenting on Children.

Day 6. Friday, 20th August, 2021: The Role of Parents in the Digital Safekeeping of Their Children.

Day 7. Saturday, 21st August, 2021: Events Focusing on Those in Need, the Sick, the Elderly, the Widowed; **or**, Parish Celebrations of the Family; **or**, any other activities.

Day 8. Sunday, 22nd August, 2021: Closing Mass: **Family Week Collection** and Gifting Sunday.

NB: The Resource Booklet produced by the FHLU of the Catholic Secretariat is available for sale. All speakers on the above topics **must** use the booklet to prepare their talks. It is a resource that will be useful for parents even after the Family Week. Contact your Parish Family and Human Life Coordinator to get a copy.

i. Seminar for Catechists/Catechism Teachers: There shall be a **MANDATORY** training for all Catechists/Catechism Teachers working in the Archdiocese of Lagos at Regional Level. The theme of the training is **Professional Conduct in Ministry - Safeguarding of Catechumens**.

It is scheduled as follows:

Ikeja Region

7th August, 2021: Catholic Church of Ascension, Airport, Ikeja; 10:00am

Badagry Region

21st August, 2021: Holy Family Catholic Church, Festac Town; 10:00am

Lagos Island Region

28th August, 2021: St. Anthony Catholic Church, Gbaja; 10:00am

Lekki Region

4th September, 2021: Catholic Church of Transfiguration, VGC, Lekki; 10:00am

Registration: N500 per participant.

We appeal to all Parish Priests to ensure and encourage the participation of all the catechists in their various Parishes.

j. Quarterly Returns and Special Collections: Please be reminded that returns from the following Special Collection are to be made in the third quarter of the year: **AUI Collection - 09/08/2021, Family Week Collection -22/08/2021, Laity Collection - 29/08/2021.**

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. Also be reminded that all remittances to the Chancery should be made through **Bank Transfers** or pay cheques directly to the Chancery's bank accounts. **Note:** Do not bring cheques to the Chancery, bring **only Evidences of Payment.**

k. LAGOS CATHOLIC NETWORK, LCN (LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN MOBILE APP): Our Archdiocese has launched its first official mobile application: **Lagos Catholic Network (LCN).** This amazing platform is meant to help the catholic faithful: laity, religious and priests to enhance and grow their faith in an atmosphere of interaction within the digital community.

Live Broadcast of Masses; Daily Readings and reflections, various novenas and other catholic prayers would be available on the App. The App will give access to a lot of information from the Archdiocese, including the content of the online Catholic Herald Newspaper. Trending topics in the Catholic world would be available for discussion on this platform. This platform would create an exciting new **"Catholic Community on Social Media"** that will enhance our spiritual growth through new information in an interactive and fun-filled environment.

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!!

l. St. Gregory School of Pastoral Music: This is the Catholic School of Music school of the Archdiocese of Lagos that offers choirmasters, choristers, and interested music lovers a Diploma Certificate in Pastoral Music after successfully completing a program of 3 years' part-time studies. It is aimed at training Music Directors for parishes, communities, schools and similar institutions as it helps to develop their interest in music and the relevant theological/pastoral knowledge required for making them into *Pastoral Musicians*. The school is currently in discussion with Augustine University on affiliation for the award of the Diploma.

To join the preparatory class, please click the link below for registration:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15wZ44SWIkvZ6BnpSxEL0itoBWk7pE1lZKA2oQ8icY/edit?usp=drivesdk>

The preparatory class is a 3-month study time geared towards preparing interested persons for the Entrance Examination to join the Diploma program. Interested persons can also visit the school's 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. FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTORATE

i. 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 celebration of the Holy Mass at 10am by our Chief Shepherd, His Grace Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, Catholic Archbishop of the Metropolitan See of Lagos, and followed by a Grand Reception. Date: **the 8th of August, 2021. Hosts: Ikorodu Deanery. Time: 10am - 4pm.**

Note: All Deanery Youth Chaplains are expected to come to the AYD with their youths as this goes a long way to encourage and help in their formation.

ii. Lagos Ecclesiastical Province (LEP) CYON Youth Convention/Election 2021: The Youth Convention/Election of the Lagos Province takes place from the **30th of September to 3rd October 2021**. The theme: **"Stand Up, I Appoint You as A Witness to What You Have Seen (Acts 26:16)"**. The venue is: **Louisville Retreat Centre, Ijebu Itele, Ijebu-Ode**. Participants are Youth Leaders from the Arch/Dioceses, Deaneries and Parishes within the Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos.

iii. Seminar / Training On the Archdiocesan Youth Policy: The Seminar on the Archdiocesan Youth Policy and Implementation for newly elected Deanery Executives will be done in the four Regions of the Archdiocese of Lagos. The Parish to host the seminar shall be the parishes of one of the Deans in the Region. Deaneries are to Pay a sum of N5,000 (honorarium) for the Seminar. First Batch: **Ikeja Region - 22nd August 2021** and Second

Batch: Lagos Region - **29th August 2021**. It is compulsory for all newly elected Deanery Executive Council members to participate in this Seminar.

n. 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.

10. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Msgri. John Aniagwu, Paschal Nwaezeapu and Ignatius Sotos; and Rev. Frs. Stephen Enearu, Pius Omofuma, Christopher Arabi, Julius Olaitan, Innocent Opogah, Cletus Anyanwu, Christian Echewodo, Sebastian Ngene, Augustine Nnaemeka, Gregory Anosike, Peter Akodu, Patrick Osuntoyinbo, Gabriel Agule, Awobolaji Peter, Benson Irabor, Jude Ugboime, Paul Okobi, George Chiedu, Mark-Anthony Nwoko, Franklin Nnamdi, Michael Osamor, Gabriel Osiegbu, Frederick Akaajime, Martins Uwakwe, Thaddeus Okafor, Henry Ukaegbu, Hyginus Zikora, Andrew Ukonu, Kingsley Njoku, Gasper Ibe, Francis Ealefoh, Andrew Abhulime, Theodore Akaenyi, Robert Yoest, Nicholas Bariki, Joseph Jiwok, Michael Okpe, Jude-Mary Njoku, Valentine Anyanwu, Fidelis Okudolo, Moses Ani, Mary-Vincent Ubili Chidube, Matthew Uwaya, Vitalis Chukwudebelu, Felix Koussade, Anthony Isah, Luke Nwolo, Emmanuel Olewuezi, Chrysogonus Uzor, Peter Anumba, Kenneth Nwachukwu, Martin Okwara, Augustine Otika, Charles-Andy Unachukwu, Kingsley Agada, Emmanuel Uche, Christopher Ndukuba, Camilius Mgbemere, Victor Eke, Francis Dike, Peter Amadi, Jeffrey Nwoke, Martins Onyebuchi, Magnus Onyeulor, John Ukwa, Joachim Irahbor, Saviour Edim, Benedict Olelewe and Paul Aransiola, whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos.*

11. Bereavement: We announce, with deep sympathy the demise of **Mrs. Theresa Olaniran**, the mother of **Rev. Fr. John Paul Olaniran**. She died in the month of July, 2021. Kindly celebrate Masses for the repose of her soul and consolation to the family. May God grant her eternal rest. Amen.

Signed

+ Alfred Adewale MARTINS

Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS