



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 September: We welcome you all to the month of September, the ninth month of the year which notably brings the Third Quarter of the year to an end. This month ushers us into the "ember" months which reminds us that the year is gradually coming to an end and the need to examine the progress made thus far especially in our Christian journey. In our Archdiocese, the month of September leads us into a period of Harvest. This period offers us the opportunity to thank God with the best fruits of our labour for His abiding love, faithfulness and blessings upon us. We pray that the Lord of the harvest will accept our gifts as He accepted the gift of His servant, Abel the just.

In this month, the Church in her wisdom presents to her faithful, feasts which assist us to understand and appreciate the paschal mystery of Our Lord Jesus Christ. These feasts include; the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8 and the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14**. The Nativity of Mary marks the beginning of the unraveling of God's plan of salvation for his people, while the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, which is the patron feast day of our Archdiocese, brings to completion the mission of God's plan for his people on the Cross. By his death on the cross, Christ destroyed their enmity; by means of the cross he united both races into one body and brought them back to God. (Eph. 2:16).

2. CONCERN FOR OUR COUNTRY NIGERIA: The situation of things in our country is desperate and as we continue to challenge government to institute good governance, fairness and equity, we call on our lay faithful in their different formations to also exercise their rights as citizens of the nation as they engage in party politics so as to bring the values of the faith to bear on the way things are run. We encourage the study of the Social Teaching of the Church by the lay faithful in their associations so that it can be a guide in making their voices heard on issues that affect the welfare the country, the Church and all citizens.

As we do what we can, we need to also call down divine intervention. This is why we called 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 all 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. To this effect, we ask Parish Priests to ensure that the faithful are deliberately encouraged to participate in the prayers. People should not be holding meetings when prayers are being offered in such a desperate situation that we have found ourselves as if it does not concern them. 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.

3. COMMUNIQUE OF THE CBCN MEETING-ENUGU 2021: The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria having just concluded its second plenary meeting for the year at Enugu from 19 - 27th August, 2021 issued a communique to the catholic faithful and all people of goodwill in the country. The communique is available on the Archdiocesan website: lagosarchdiocese.org We encourage everyone to read the communique in full. The following are some of the highlights:

- The increasing insecurity and violence in the land have made life to become so cheap in our country.
- Death in the hands of kidnappers, killer herdsmen, bandits, terrorist groups have made Nigeria one of the most terrorized countries in the world.
- The government must do more by taking full responsibility for the present culture of violence and impunity in the country and show more strategic commitment and sincerity in this fight against insecurity and violence.

- The Eucharist remains central to the life of the Church; as such should be celebrated with untainted faith, deep love and manifest devotion.
- We should always take care that monetary matters do not distract or detract the people from the solemnity of the celebration.
- Priests are encouraged to show and grow their commitment to the Eucharist. They are to celebrate the Eucharist as "servants" of the mystery and not "masters" of it. As servants, priests are called to refrain from adding or subtracting from the approved Missal for mass.
- On October 1 every year, parishes all over the country are expected to hold a candlelight procession and pray twenty decades of the rosary for peace and unity of our country.

4.a. 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.

5. 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).

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Priestly Ordinations: To the glory of God, 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.

b. Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: This Feast comes up on Tuesday, 14th September, 2021. This is the Principal Feast Day of our Archdiocese. This year's celebration shall witness the Investiture Ceremony of the Papal Honorees in our Archdiocese. The Mass would be at the Holy Cross Cathedral at 10am.

c. Recollection for Priests: The quarterly Regional Priests' Recollection comes up on **Wednesday, 15th September, 2021**. 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.

d. Seminar for Priests: The seminar for Priests will be coming up on **Wednesday, 29th September, 2021**. We expect all Priests to avail themselves of this opportunity for ongoing formation.

e. 2021 SEASON OF CREATION (1st September - 4th October, 2021): This is the annual Ecumenical Christian Celebration of Prayer and Action for Our Common Home - The Earth.

Date: 1st September - 4th October, 2021

Theme: "A Home for All? - Renewing The *Oikos* of God". (*Oikos* Is the Greek Word For "Home" or "Household")

THIS YEAR'S SYMBOL IS ABRAHAM'S TENT signifying our commitment to safeguard a place for all who share our common home just as Abraham did in the book of Genesis. The Tent invites us to create a home for all, hence we are encouraged therefore to PRAY, ENGAGE IN SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS AND ADVOCACY

PRAY: Host a prayer service (possibly outdoor) with the goal of caring for our common home

SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS: Organize or take part in a cleanup project, plant trees and reduce your carbon footprint by change in lifestyles and consumption habits.

ADVOCACY: Raise your prophetic voice in the public sphere for climate justice by participating or leading an on-going campaign to save the planet from overheating to the point of no return.

For more information, please contact the Archdiocesan Committee: Fr Julius Olaitan or Dame Marie Fatai-Williams.

f. 2021 New Legal Year Mass: All Catholic Lawyers are invited to attend the New Legal Year Mass and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the National Association of Catholic Lawyers (NACL), Lagos Archdiocese

Date: Sunday 26th September, 2021

Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral Lagos

Time: 10:30am

Note: The Annual General Meeting will hold in the Cathedral Hall after the Mass.

g. NCDPA Annual General Meeting: The Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Catholic Diocesan Priests' Association comes up from **25th - 29th of October, 2021 at St. Leo's Catholic Church, Ikeja, Lagos.** The theme for this year's gathering is: **THE FOUNDATIONAL AND HOLISTIC REORIENTATION OF THE NIGERIAN PERSON: AN URGENT IMPERATIVE FOR THE CHURCH AND STATE.**

Members of the Planning Committee are encouraged to intensify their preparations towards this event. For further inquiry, contact Rev. Fr. Stephen Akinsowon on 08038688853.

h. Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation Annual Lecture: This programme is being planned by the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation in conjunction with the Lagos Commandery of the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of St. John Int'l (KSJI) as follows:

Date: Thursday, 14th October, 2021

Topic: "Whither Nigeria: Restructuring, Secession or the Status Quo"

Guest Speaker: Chief John Nnia Nwodo

Venue: McGovern Hall, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland, Ikeja

Time: 10:00 a.m. prompt

Delegate card: N5,000.00 per person

We expect Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge of Parishes and Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese to place Goodwill Messages at a minimum of N30,000.00 and also send three (3) participants on the day at N15,000.00. Archdiocesan Lay Organisation/Society/Association are to kindly place Goodwill Message at N10,000.00 and also send two (2) participants at N10,000.00. Kindly write cheques in favour of **Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre with "ACOF" written at the back OR Direct payment into Access Bank Account No 0024595531**. Please send the soft copy of the goodwill materials to catholiclavapostolatecentre@yahoo.com and call the Director's office on 080261566066 or 08077003036 for further information. Thank you for your generous support.

NB: Delegate cards can be purchased at the Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre, Ebute - Metta.

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:

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. Centenary Celebration of the Legion of Mary: The Legion of Mary which was formed on 7th August, 1921, would be celebrating her 100 years Anniversary. In the light of this, activities have been lined up for the celebration of this event. We are all enjoined to participate. The activities are as follows:

- **Saturday, 4th September, 2021: Talk on the Legion of Mary at St. Finbarr's Hall, Akoka at 10am.**

- **Sunday, 5th September, 2021:** *Peregrinatio Pro Christo* and Prison Visitation.
- **Tuesday, 7th September, 2021:** Praesidium meeting in all parishes and station churches where the Legion of Mary exist.
- **Thursday, 9th September, 2021:** Visit to Orphanage homes.
- **Saturday, 11th September, 2021:** Anniversary Mass/Spiritual Director Conference at Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos at 10am.
- **Sunday, 12th September, 2021:** Thanksgiving in all parishes and station churches in the Archdiocese of Lagos.

Note: The Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral would be attended by selected officers of the Legion

k. 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 - 12/09/2021.**

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.**

I. 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!!

m. 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)

n. FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTORATE

i. 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 Itеле, Ijebu-Ode**. Participants are Youth Leaders from the Arch/Dioceses, Deaneries and Parishes within the Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos.

o. 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.

p. 2021 CATECHETICAL WEEK PROGRAMME: The Catechetical Week programme will take place as follows: **Date: 3rd – 10th October, 2021** Venue: Parish level. Theme: **Proliferation of Prayer Houses and Ministries in Nigeria: Towards A Proper Catechesis on Faith and Prayer.**

The Catechetical Week Booklet is on sale at the Religious Education Department @ N200 per copy. Please note that the mandatory 2nd Collection for Catechetical Week should be taken on **10/10/2021** for Catechetical apostolate in the Archdiocese.

q. 2022 Directory: The year 2022 is around the corner. Kindly go through this year's (2021) Directory so as to point out possible errors, omissions, amendments and suggestions for the improvement of our Directory. You may also reach the Chancery through her e-mail address: arclagos@yahoo.com We look forward to hearing from you.

7. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for our Archbishop and his classmates: Msgr. Edmund Akpala, Jerome Oduntan and Peter Oke, and Rev. Fr. Alphonsus Ania, as they mark their 38th priestly ordination anniversary in the Lord's vineyard. Also, we are requested to pray for Revd. Frs. Christopher Agboola, Paul Ijasan, Cornelius Olaniran, Michael Hunkokoe, Francis Adekoya, Emmanuel Anyanwu, Patrick Azubuinye, Samuel Emeneogu, Gabriel Fatoye, Simeon Mautin, Joseph Monye, Alexander Oboh, Francis Ogunmola, Victor Okhiria, Christopher Olagbemi, Gabriel Ugoje, Christopher Atoyebi, Emmanuel Emiri, Vitalis Ezeigwe, Emmanuel Avoseh, Vincent Chukwujekwu, Kefas Martins, Kenneth Mereh, Matthew Nugbode, Mark Okojie, Paul Ariole, Harrison Okoli, Emmanuel Onyia, Simeon Reuben, Elias Nwaodu, Charles Epetuku, Boniface Okafor, Gabriel Ysasi, Sylvester Nwaokolo, Paul Akin-Otiko, Andrew Kondovoh, Kenneth Odoh, Benjamin Nwugo, Ethelbert Arua, Philip Egbuniwe, Leo Ukwuani, Cornelius Adaka, James Arebiyi, Joachin Oladoke, Basil Okoro, Fabian Ekwelem and Peter Edward whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur

this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad Multos Annos!!!*

8. Bereavement: We announce, with deep sympathy with the family concerned, the demise of **Late Mrs. Charity Ngozi Ekugbah** the mother of Rev. Fr. Chikezie Ekugbah, SDB and **Late Pa. Columba Emeneogu** the father of Rev. Fr. Samuel Emeneogu. They died in the month of August, 2021. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of their souls and consolation to their families. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen.

Signed

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS