



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

OCTOBER, 2021 /No. 109

**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 October: Welcome to the month of October, the tenth month of the year which also ushers us into the beginning of the fourth quarter. The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. During this month, the Church invites us to rededicate ourselves to the maternal patronage of Our Mother Mary through the praying of the Holy Rosary especially during the course of the October Devotion.

All Catholics are therefore enjoined to participate, both at the Parish and family level, in the activities of October Devotion. Anyone one who prays the Rosary every day with faith and a deep sense of devotion in contrast to mere mechanical and superficial recitation stands to receive divine favours and protection.

Within this month, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lady Queen and Patroness of Nigeria on October 1st, which is in this year marks the 61st Independence Anniversary of our beloved country. Let us seize the opportunity that the month of October offers, to pray for our country, Nigeria in these trying times; for economic stability, the triumph of justice, peace, reconciliation, progress and good governance and in doing so, receive spiritual enrichment from Our Lady's maternal intercession. May Our Lady of the Holy Rosary pray for us.

The Church further presents us with the lives of the following saints as guide in the course of this month: **St. Francis of Asisi (October 4), Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7), St. Ignatius of Antioch (October 17), St. Anthony Mary Claret (October 24) and Ss. Simon and Jude (October 28).**

2. OCTOBER 1ST ROSARY PROCESSION: We call attention again to the communiqué of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria in August 2021, in which they directed that on

October 1st every year, all **parishes all over the country are expected to hold a candlelight procession and pray twenty decades of the rosary for peace, unity, economic progress and social welfare of our country.** We expect all Parish priest must have set the process for the prayer procession. We pray God to listen to us and grant our prayers for the country.

3. 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.

4. THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2023: The Holy Father Pope Francis wishes to convoke the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. The theme for the Synod is **"For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission"**. With this convocation, the

Pope invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission. It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.

In preparation for this Synod, the church has outlined a procedure which will begin on the **9th – 10th of October 2021** in Rome and on the following Sunday **17th of October, 2021** in all the dioceses of the world. In our Archdiocese, this Pre-Synodal process will be officially kick off with a liturgical celebration by the Archbishop on **Sunday 17th October, 2021 at the Holy Cross Cathedral Lagos, at the 8.30am Mass**. There will also be the official inauguration of the Archdiocesan Synod Team (AST).

We enjoin all Priests, Religious and Lay faithful to co-operate actively with the team and to participate actively in order to achieve successful Pre-Synodal journey. The Prayer for the Synod "**Adsumus Sancte Spiritus**" is to be publicised and prayed by all at Masses and in family prayers.

For further information, kindly contact Rev. Fr. Marcellinus Teko (09096554884 marceltek@yahoo.co.uk), and Rev. Fr. Victor Okhiria (08056562966).

5a. 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.

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 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).

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **Curia Meeting:** Members of the Archdiocesan Curia are hereby reminded of their meeting scheduled to hold on **Wednesday 6th October, 2021 at 10:00am** in the Chancery's Conference Room.

b. **Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting:** The meeting of the Archdiocesan Finance Council comes up on **Tuesday, 12th October, 2021 at 10am** in the Chancery's Conference room.

c. **MCA Eucharistic Adoration (Deanery Level):** This will hold on **Saturday 2nd October, 2021**. The Eucharistic Adoration will be held at the Deanery level.

d. **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.*

Day One (Monday): Clarification of Terms: Proliferation; Ministries; Catechesis; Prayer Houses; Faith.

Day Two (Tuesday): The Church and Prayer Houses

Day Three (Wednesday): Factors Responsible for The Proliferation of Prayer Houses and Ministries

Day Four (Thursday): Dangers of Proliferation of Prayer Houses and Ministries

Day Five (Friday): Proper Catechesis on Faith and Prayer

Day Six (Saturday): Steps to Curb the Proliferation of Prayer Houses and Ministries

Day Seven (Sunday): Catechetical Sunday

Note: Mandatory Second Collection for Catechetical Apostolate in The Archdiocese.

The Catechetical Week Booklet is on sale at the Religious Education Department @ N200 per copy.

The 2021 Catechists' Day Celebration in our Archdiocese will take place at **St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Gbaja on Sunday 10th October, 2021.**

e. Priests Recollection: The Priests' Recollection at the Regional level comes up on **20th October, 2021**. All Priests are required to take part in this unique spiritual exercise. The Episcopal Vicars are expected to ensure the participation all priests in their Regions.

f. Seminar for Priests: The Seminar for priest at the Regional level comes up on **10th November, 2021**. We expect all priests to avail themselves of this opportunity for ongoing formation.

g. 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, 21st October, 2021

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

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

Time: 10:00 a.m. prompt

Guest Speaker: Chief John Nnia Nwodo

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 catholiclayapostolatecentre@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.

h. Quarterly Returns Collections: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the fourth quarter of the year: **Catechetical Collection-** 03/10/2021, **AUI Collection-** 10/10/2021, **Mission Sunday-** 17/10/2021, **Laity**

Collection- 31/10/2021. 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. 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.

j. 2021 Annual Priests' Retreat: This is to inform all Priests and Religious of the following schedule of the Priests' Retreat, 2021:

1st Batch - 7th to 12th November 2021

2nd Batch - 5th to 10th December 2021

3rd Batch -12th to 17th December 2021

VENUE: Domus Fidei, Ikeja

k. Psycho-Spiritual Self Awareness in Ministry: The Catechetics and Religious Education Department of the Archdiocese is organizing an eight-week certificate program in psycho-spiritual self-awareness from **16th October to 4th December, 2021**. The program is aimed at exposing catechists to Psycho-spiritual awareness of themselves and others by developing spiritual intelligence, emotional intelligence and acquiring basic counseling skills and techniques in dealing with youths, marriage and family. The course fee is #5000 per candidate. Payment can be made to acct name: Religious Education Department, Acct no: 5020128216, Bank name: Fidelity bank.

Learning Outline:

Week One- Spiritual Intelligence

Week Two- Emotional Intelligence

Week Three- Self Awareness

Week Four- Anger and Forgiveness
Week Five- Self-Care in Ministry
Week Six- Counseling Skills and Techniques
Week Seven- Basic Marriage and Family Interventions
Week Eight - Youth Counseling

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. Small Christian Community Seminar: there will be SCC Archdiocese of Lagos Seminar for SCC leaders and facilitators on **Saturday, 4th December, 2021, at Holy Cross Cathedral by 10:00am**. Each Parish should send 3 delegates. Please all Covid protocols will be strictly enforced.

o. 2022 Directory: The year 2022 is around the corner. Kindly go through this year's (2021) Directory again 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.

8. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Revd Frs. Anthony Fadairo, Obi Oscar John, Innocent Uwakwe, Gabriel Feyisetan OP, James Anelu, Nicodemus Ugwu, OP., Jeremiah Irabor, OMV, Onwuka Kyrian, OSJ, Samugan Gilbert, OSJ, Stephen Adedeji, OSJ, Luke Osabohien OSJ, Peter Jirgba, OSJ and Ntia Anthony, OSJ whose sacerdotal ordination anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!!!*

9. Bereavement: We announce, with deep sympathy with the families concerned, the demise of **Mr Augustine Obinna Onyeoziri** the brother of Rev. Fr. Eric Onyeoziri, **Mrs Felicia Chinonye Orioha**, the mother of Fr. Anthony Orioha, **Pa Augustine Ayodele Omoleye**, the father of Rev. Fr. Alfred Omoleye; **Mr Bonaventure Jirgba**, the father of Rev. Fr. Peter Jirgba, OSJ and **Sir Ezinna Ichie Cosmos Ihedike**, the father of Sr. Hycinthia Ihedike EHJ. They died in the month of September, 2021. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of their souls and consolation to the family. May God grant him eternal rest. Amen.

Signed

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS