



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular November, 2021 /No. 110

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 November: Welcome to the penultimate month of the Year. During this month, the Church commemorates the Solemnity of *All Saints* and *Commemoration of All Souls* to remind her faithful of the importance of sanctity of life and the reality of human mortality. These feasts give due expression to our faith in the Communion of Saints i.e., the relationship that exists among the faithful who have already attained the joys of heaven (Church Triumphant), the faithful departed who are still undergoing the pains of expiation for their sins in Purgatory (Church Suffering) and the faithful who are still on pilgrimage in this world, working out their salvation amidst the vicissitudes of life (Church Militant). *"In this wonderful exchange, the holiness of one profits others, well beyond the harm that the sin of one could cause others...."* (CCC, 1475).

a. All Saints' Day (Nov.1): All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation set aside to remember and celebrate all the Saints and Martyrs throughout Christian history, known or unknown, canonized or beatified whose holy and virtuous lives have *earned* a beatific place in our heavenly home. The feast inspires tremendous hope and reminds us of the *universal call to holiness* (*Lumen Gentium*, 40). We rejoice with them and hope that their prayers will bring us God's mercy and forgiveness. All Saints; Pray for Us.

b. All Souls' Day (Nov.2): Directly following the feast of All Saints is the feast of All Souls. This feast reminds us of human finitude and mortality. On this day, the Church remembers and prays for the souls of the faithful departed especially those who are atoning for their sins in the purifying fires of purgatory waiting to join the league of the saints. The Sacred Scripture declares that *"it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins."* (2 Mac 12: 46). The Church mandates all Priests to celebrate three (3) Masses on this day: one for the faithful departed, one for the priest's or any person's intention, and one for the intention of the Holy Father.

All the faithful are encouraged to express our solidarity with the souls in purgatory through public and private prayers, offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and giving alms to the poor.

Members of the Pilgrim Church, all of us are also encouraged to obtain plenary indulgences for the souls in purgatory. Ordinarily, the indulgences are obtainable in eight days following the All-Souls Day but as it was last year, the Church has confirmed that the faithful can gain plenary indulgences for souls in purgatory on every day of the month of November. This is in response to the continuing disruption of life by the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage the faithful in our Archdiocese to take full advantage of this provision granted us

2. Solemnity of Christ the King and Corpus Christi Procession: The celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King comes up on **Sunday, 21st November, 2021**. It marks the beginning of the last week of the 2020/2021 Liturgical Year. On this day, Eucharistic Processions are held throughout Nigeria.

In our Archdiocese, rather than have the combined Corpus Christi procession that begins at Holy Cross Cathedral and is concluded at St. Gregory College, each Parish is mandated to organise a well-coordinated and safety-conscious procession with the Blessed Sacrament in their various parishes. We expect that each parish would organise the procession in such a way as to ensure that they keep the physical distance and other relevant COVID-19 protocols.

3. Review of Covid-19 Induced Practices: We have in recent times been reviewing some of the practices that we put in place in the heat of the COVID-19 pandemic and we have reason to adjust some of them. While not forgetting that the pandemic is still with us and since a small fraction of the population has received the vaccination, we make the following adjustments:

a. Henceforth, Mass offerings should be taken at the appointed time during Mass i.e., **after the Prayer of the Faithful.**

b. At the time for the kiss of peace, we still do not shake hands but we make a gesture of peace to those around us with a bow and a smile of peace.

c. However, we must still continue to keep the other relevant COVID-19 protocols: wash hands, keep the physical distance, use hand sanitizers, use the face mask etc.

4. Praying for Nigeria: As we have said over the last few months, we reiterate again our need to continue to pray for divine intervention in the situation of things in our country. **(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 general but in particular, 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.

5. MARIAN AWARENESS GROUP: Some time ago, we informed the faithful of the Archdiocese of the activities of *Marian Awareness Group* and how it was operating in a private home and we called attention to the fact that they had been misleading some of the credulous faithful and feeding them with teachings that are heretical in content. The group hides under love for the Traditional Latin Mass but have shown that they do not believe in some of the teachings of the Magisterium and are averse to the authority of our Holy Father, the Pope.

We hereby call attention to this group again especially as the leader has now distanced himself from the provisions made for the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass and has gone all the way to Uganda to bring in a priest who does not have the faculty to celebrate the Sacraments in our Archdiocese. The Ugandan priest lives in his house and celebrates the sacraments there illicitly.

Once again, we ask that this information be passed on to the faithful in our parishes in order to make them aware of the status of the group as being irregular and therefore not recognized and authorized to operate in the Archdiocese of Lagos.

6. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY, ILARA (AUI) OFFERS NEW COURSES: Our Augustine University has got NUC approval to enroll 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.

7. 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).

8. CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA

a. **Seminar on Youth Policy:** the seminar/training on the Archdiocesan Youth Policy for Priests and Youth Animators has been ongoing in the Archdiocese. However, due to the recent transfers in the Archdiocese, the seminar will be held again in all regions of the Archdiocese and would be held in batches. The batches, regions and dates will be communicated in due course.

b. **Annual General Meeting:** the annual general meeting of the CYON Archdiocese of Lagos will be held on the **6th of November, 2021**. This year's AGM shall be hosted by

Satellite Deanery. We appeal to all delegates from parishes within the Archdiocese to be punctual and come prepared.

c. **How much do you know about CYON:** you are invited to join a monthly interactive series titled "What does CYON stand for? How much do you know about CYON?" every 3rd Sunday of the Month by 7:30pm. The link will be shared as the time approaches in the given month. The topic for this month's discussion is "**Identity, Aims and Objectives**". To join the zoom Meeting for this month, kindly use this link and (Meeting ID: 84986726371 & Passcode: 739268)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84986726371?pwd=TVQ2OFZGWEE2T0tHZjRS Sm5yQ2hn dz09>

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **ANNUAL LAITY RETREAT:** this year's Annual laity Retreat comes up on Saturday, 6th November, 2021 at St. Francis Catholic Church, Oregon, Lagos.

b. **CONSULTORS' MEETING:** This is to inform the members of the College of Consultors that their next meeting will hold on **Wednesday 17th November, 2021**, at **the Chancery's Conference room**. The time is 10:00am. All those concerned should please take note.

c. **Annual Priests Retreat:** The Annual Retreat of Priests in the Archdiocese for this year has been scheduled to hold as follows:

First Batch: **7th to 12th November 2021**

Second Batch: **5th to 10th December, 2021.**

Third batch: **12th to 17th December 2021**

Venue: **Domus Fidei (EHJ Generalate) 7, Amore Street, Ikeja, Lagos.**

To this end, all priests are requested to promptly fulfill their financial obligations through the Priests Welfare Committee, **Rev Fr Stephen Akinsowon.**

Please note that the retreat is obligatory and **NOT** optional. Hence, **ALL** priests are required to participate.

d. MCA RALLY WITH THE ARCHBISHOP: The annual Missionary Children Association Rally with the Archbishop comes up on **Saturday, 13th November, 2021** at **the Catholic Church of the Ascension, Airport Road, Lagos** beginning with the Holy Mass at **10:00am.**

e. GRATITUDE-ANTHONY CARDINAL OLUBUNMI OKOGIE FOUNDATION: We express our profound gratitude to the Guest Speaker, **Chief John Nnia Nwodo**, our invited Guests, Priests, Religious, and Lay Faithful who honored the to invitation to participate with their presence (physical and virtual) and financial contributions to this year's edition of the Anthony Cardinal Okogie Annual Lecture/Foundation. May God reward you all abundantly.

f. Quarterly Returns and Special Collections: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the fourth quarter of the year: **AUI Collection- 14/11/2021, C.I.W.A- 28/11/2021.** 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.**

g. 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!!

h. 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).

i. 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-19 protocols will be strictly enforced.

j. 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.

10. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Erinle Anthony, Obayomi Patrick and Rev. Frs. Adeyemi Peter, Nwanua Joseph, Opara Hubert, Onwudiegwu Michael, Ethelbert Ukpabi, Ibe

Hyacinth, Osuntope Peter, Udoh Gabriel, Abulu Jude, Amadi Marcellinus, Anokerie Joseph, Teko Marcellinus, Emeana Denis, Mordi Cosmas, Omoregie Jerome, Okonkwo Christian, Iwu Simeon, Ogidan Andrew, Remigius Okafor, Thaddeus Onyenedum, Ozonwafor Martin, Raymond Emedo, Oyekunle Joseph, Otukpe PaulMary, Teye Andrew 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 with the family concerned, the demise of **Lolo Ezinne Maria Chinyere Nworuh** the mother of **Rev. Fr. Anthony Nworuh, SMMM**; **Pa Augustine Ayodele Omoleye** the father of **Rev. Fr. Alfred Omoleye**; **Mr. Samuel Ogwuche Odeh** the father of **Rev. Sr. Adah Odeh, SSMA**; and **Mrs. Mary Adesanya**, the mother of **Rev. Fr. Martin Adesanya**. They died in the month of October, 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