



## CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

19, CATHOLIC MISSION STREET, P. O. BOX 8, LAGOS-NIGERIA  
TEL/FAX: 01- 8448669

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 APRIL:** Welcome to the month of April, 2022, a month that leads us into the special season of Easter. This season begins with the celebration of the Resurrection of our saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ, the climax of the Holy Week celebrations. In this month, these remarkable events leading to the mystery of our salvation are celebrated: **Palm Sunday** (April 10th), **Holy Thursday** (April 14th), **Good Friday** (April 15th), **Holy Saturday** (April 16th), **Easter Sunday** (April 17th). Throughout the entire month, the Church continues to celebrate the joy of Easter and the gift of New Life in Christ. Though the way to the Resurrection was the Via Crucis, the Sacrificial Lamb of God is now and forever Christ our Light, the eternal High Priest of the New Covenant. And his sorrowful mother, the Stabat Mater of Good Friday, is now the jubilant Regina Caeli.

**2. EASTER:** The word "Easter" is a derivative from the Old English meaning the, "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time, and lit for all liturgical celebrations. Easter is also the celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Easter Time is the most important of all liturgical times. There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and victory over death, expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia! All other expressions of faith flow from faith in the resurrection: "If Christ has not

been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor 15:14) The octave of Easter comprises the eight (8) days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. In a sense, every day of the Octave is like a little Sunday. Easter is the feast of feasts, the unalloyed joy and gladness of all Christians. This truly is "the day that the Lord has made." From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, the celebrations of Easter in this world will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that He will come again in glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father. May this Easter bring us good tidings and heavenly blessings.

**3. MASS OF THE CHRISM 2022:** This will take place on **Tuesday 12th April and Thursday 14th April, 2022. Venue: Catholic Church of the Nativity, Festac Town and Holy Cross Cathedral respectively, Time: 9:00am.** In preparation for the 2022 Chrism Mass, all Parish priests are to pay the sum of N50,000 to their respective Deans who are in turn to remit the money as a Deaneries to the Planning Committees.

**4. CATHEDRATICUM-** One of the very laudable practices at the Masses of Chrism is the presentation of gifts that are distributed to the less-privileged and the needy in various Homes and prisons around the Archdiocese. We expect Parish Priests and Priests-In-Charge to make deliberate and concerted efforts to encourage Parishioners to generously donate gift items to the growing number of indigent people that come around with high expectations at this time. The resources saved by our Lenten fast are supposed to be used for charity rather than as savings for other personal uses.

**5. A Few Thoughts on Lenten Observances:** As we continue the season of lent, we hereby remind everyone of the following regarding the season:

a. **Abstinence:** All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age and above are required to abstain totally from meat or favorite dish or drink on **Good Friday** (April 15) and **all the Fridays** of Lent.

b. **Fasting:** All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 60 years are obliged to fast. In practice, fasting involves limiting oneself to a single full meal or two smaller meals a day. Those who are sick, pregnant or nursing or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting should not consider themselves bound by this norm.

c. **Parents and teachers** are responsible for helping young persons, who are not bound by the norms regarding fasting and abstinence to recognize the value of genuine acts of penance and self-denial.

We are also required to pray fervently for the catechumens who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation during this period.

d. Please find below some of the other ways we can observe this period of Lent in order to receive the graces of the season in full:

i. **Avoid Sin:** Keep yourself away from all occasions that could lead to sin. If you fall into sin, repent and return to God by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, doing appropriate penance and making a firm resolution not to fall into sin again.

ii. **Practice Charity;** be more generous especially in giving to the poor and needy and in contributing to the works of the church, remission of debts and payment of just wages.

iii. Pursue and achieve **reconciliation** with anyone with whom you are not at peace or with whom you have a quarrel of misunderstanding.

iv. **Read the Scriptures** in order to deepen your intimacy with God, spread the kingdom of Christ and help others to know and return to Christ.

v. Pray your **Rosary** daily.

Bear in mind that all other Fridays of the year remain Days of penance in prayerful remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ.

**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

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **Curia Meeting-** Members of the Archdiocesan Curia are hereby reminded of their meeting scheduled to hold on Wednesday 20th of April, 2022 at 10:00am in the Chancery Conference Room.

b. **Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting:** This comes up on Tuesday 3rd of May, 2022 at the Chancery by 10:00am. Those concerned should please take note.

c. **Quarterly Returns and Collections:** Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the second quarter of the year: **JDPC Collection-03/04/2022, Holy Land Collection (Good Friday) - 15/04/2022, Youths Collection- 24/04/2022.**

We reiterate our advice that Parish Priests/Priests-in-charge should use the **Pay-Direct** option or make **bank transfers** to forestall the challenges of returned cheques, irregular signatures and other problems that cause cheques to bounce. For those who insist on making their financial returns with cheques, kindly pay attention to your entries and signature. We emphasize again that when making returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should ensure that they attach the front page in the booklet that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it and fill all the pages of the Booklet.

### d. **Mater Ecclesiae Monastery:**

**Monthly Retreat:** Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, Lagos organizes a day of spiritual retreat for young girls from 15 years and above for the purpose of discerning their vocation. The retreat is scheduled to hold on the first Saturday of every month. **Time: 9:00 am - 4.00 pm.** Venue: Mater Ecclesia Monastery, Sangotedo, Lekki, Lagos.

**Mater Ecclesiae Retreat Center:** Mater Ecclesiae Retreat Center, located in the serene atmosphere of the Monastery, is officially open to everyone for personal and Group Retreats. Time for Public Adoration to the Most Holy Sacrament is **from Mondays to Saturdays** 9:00am to 8:30pm; on **Sundays** after 9:00am Mass to 12:15pm; and from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Also, you can visit the Book Centre. **For more inquiries, call 09085648168**

**e. 2022 Leading for Mission for Clergy:** Leading for Mission was introduced as a leadership training programme for all the clergy in the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos in February 2019. There is an annual re-run for all those who have not participated due to extenuating circumstances. The 2022 Batch will be offered on the last Wednesdays and Thursdays of every Month from February to April 2022. It is mandatory that all sessions are completed. Those who did not complete previous batches, newly ordained or newly posted clergy are expected to attend.

**f. St. Gregory School of Pastoral Music:** This is the Catholic School of Music 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 affiliated to Augustine University, Ilara 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).

**g. St John Paul II School for Marriage and Family:** the Archdiocese of Lagos 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- Become a Trained Counsellor

For enquiries and registration, call Martina Ozegbe on 0813 028 5777 and 07030616170.  
Courses began in February, 2022.

**h. Diploma in Catechesis (Regular and Online Program):** For all Pastoral workers, Catechists; and lay faithful who wish to build their Catholic Faith.

Regular Classes: Twice a month - 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the month

Online - Entirely ONLINE - Once a week via zoom.

It is structured to enable participants meet up with their respective work/business.

Forms: Two thousand naira only

Resumption: Online: March 10; Physical classes: March 12

For further inquiries: +234 803 357 4050 or +234 703 512 1621

**i. Archdiocesan Lay Leaders' Spiritual/Pastoral Formation Seminar:** The seminar for Lay Leaders in the Archdiocesan and Deanery Executives of Laity Council and Lay Organizations/ Societies/ Associations comes up as follows:

**Date:** Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2022

**Venue:** Christ the King Catholic Church, Akowonjo

**Theme:** "Visionary Leadership in times of Global Crises"- Keynote address by His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins

**Subtopics:** i. As the Father has sent me so I send you (Jn. 20:21)

ii. Delegation: An indispensable tool for contemporary leaders.

**Fee:** N3,000.00 per delegate.

**No of Delegates:** As contained in the letter written to Deanery Laity Councils and Lay Organizations/ societies/ Associations.

**Note:** i. Deadline for payment is Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

ii. Pay at the Lay Apostolate Centre or Deposit into Fidelity Bank: **Account Name:** Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre **Account No:** 4110028140

iii. Payment after 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 attracts N500.00 per delegate

Kindly call 08026156606 or 08077003036 for more information. Thanks for your cooperation.

**j. Invitation to the blessing/ commissioning of Lumen Christi TV Retreat & media centre:**  
The blessing/commissioning of the Lumen Christi TV retreat and media centre by His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, the Catholic Archbishop of the Metropolitan see of Lagos comes up on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 with Holy Mass at 12:00 noon at the Centre- Our Lady of Fatima complex of Lumen Christi Catholic TV Network, Osapa, Lekki, Lagos. This will be followed immediately by the blessing/ commissioning of the Centre. The Retreat centre will be available for workshops, seminars, retreats, tourism, conferences for Bishops, Priests/Religious and lay Organizations/Faithful as groups, families, and individuals.

**k. Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria (CYON) Directorate:** CYON Annual Retreat 2022 for the Lagos Ecclesiastical Province will take place at the Saint Abbe Louis Ville Retreat Centre in Ijebu-Itelle, Ogun State from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2022. Delegates are to come from Lagos Archdiocese, Abeokuta, and Ijebu-Ode Dioceses. All deaneries are expected to send at least 2 delegates as part of the members from Lagos Archdiocese. The fee per delegate is N6,000 while the **theme for the retreat is: Mary arose and went with haste (Luke 1:39).**

**Archdiocesan CYON General Elections:** This comes up on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, 2022. Venue: Festac Deanery, beginning with Mass at 10am. For more information, please reach the Electoral Committee on [cyonlagoselections@gmail.com](mailto:cyonlagoselections@gmail.com). Screening of candidates would be done per region and begins from Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

**I. World Communications Week, 2022:** This year's celebration will begin on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 and end on Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022. All Parishes are expected to key into this week-long event by organizing seminars bothering on the following sub-themes:

**Day 1-** Listening together for Spirit-Guided Decisions

**Day 2-** Building Faith through Listening

**Day 3-** Listening to God in times of Suffering and Sorrow

**Day 4-** Listening in unwelcoming cultures

**Day 5-** Patient Listening and Witnessing

**Day 6-** Listening brings Confidence

**Day 7-** Listening for Encouragement (Insightful listening) Special Media Programme for Youths on the topic: Effects of Social Media on Youths in Nigeria

**Day 8-** Listening brings Unity (Communications collection at all Masses).

**8. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Gabriel Amologbe, Frs. Raphael Adebayo, Vincent Olofinkua, Richard Fasuyi, Johnpaul Olaniran, Chukwubuikem Opechi OP, Ramagele Rakotsoane OMI, Benedict Okolo CM, Simon Oniga and Ernest Zuzu as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversary this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

#### **9. BEREAVEMENT:**

We announce with deep sympathy, the demise of **Mrs. Angela Idaewor**, the mother of **Rev. Fr. Kingsley Idaewor**, **Mrs. Anne- Marie Ayonote** the mother of **Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ayonote** and **Mr. Nnama Ugochukwu Christopher** the brother of **Rev. Fr. Stephen Nnama** who died in the month of March, 2022. Kindly celebrate Masses for the repose of their souls and consolation of their families. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen

**Signed**

**+ Alfred Adewale Martins**

**Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos**