



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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

1. **THE MONTH OF MAY:** A warm welcome to the month of May to everyone. In this month, the Church specially draws attention to the mother of the Risen Lord who stood beside her son in his Passion and on the cross and now shares in his glory having been conferred with the title of *Regina Caeli* i.e., *Queen of heaven*. During the entire month of May, which coincides with the Easter time, the Church echoes the *Regina Caeli* among her prayers as we pray: "*O! Queen of Heaven rejoice..... Alleluia ... for the Lord has risen indeed*", WE relish the joy that Mary shares with her Son in his triumphant Resurrection. By adoptive Sonship, we also, in a most profound way are made partakers in the joy of the Resurrection; we participate in the fullness of life that Christ offers. May Christ's resurrection by which heaven is wedded to earth and reconciled God with Man be our eternal hope and reward.

2. **SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD:** This comes up on Thursday 26th of May 2022. The solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord marks the day when we Christians commemorate Our Lord's glorious entry into heaven, body and soul. It is officially celebrated on the 40th day of Easter. Forty Days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Acts of the Apostles records Jesus' ascension into heaven. The origin of the feast of Ascension dates back to 4th century AD. In some parts of the world, the celebration of the feast is transferred to the Sunday after the traditional day. The Ascension feast attests to the reality of the person of Jesus; true God and true man, returning to the Father in order to come again at the *Second Coming*. Our faith teaches us that meanwhile, He sits at the right hand of God the Father until He comes to *judge the living and the dead*. By the feast of the Ascension, may our eyes be turned towards heaven where our true treasure lies.

3. 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

4. ON THE NEED FOR MORE ATTENTIVE PARENTING: Sometime in April this year, some children of a school in Lagos were involved in an indecent sexual activity during the course of their trip overseas at which they represented their school at an international event in Dubai. They filmed the act and uploaded it on the social network. The matter has generated social media outrage and sparked conversations around parenting.

We wish to use this medium to encourage parents to pay more special attention to the emotional needs of their children given the general atmosphere of moral laxity that we are experiencing in our country as in other parts of the world. Parents must give more quality time to listen to their children, gain their confidence and pay attention to the influences that they are being exposed to.

We are in an era in which the use of devices such as smart phones, television sets, sophisticated computers and tablets have become an imperative for education and entertainment. Parents must therefore ensure that they devise means of monitoring what the materials their children are exposed to and restrict them from access to inappropriate and immoral sites. The technological devices of our children should be restricted to educational sites only. Indeed, we advise parents not to purchase devices that are way beyond the minimum their children require for educational purposes.

We know that parenting is not an easy task, it has never been but we must make more efforts. May God continue to bless our efforts as parents and guide our children to growth in moral values and holiness of life. Amen.

5. ARCHDIOCESAN SEMINAR FOR PRIESTS ON BOOK VI OF THE CODE OF CANON

LAW: At the Curia meeting of the Archdiocese held recently, it was agreed that the Seminar for Priests scheduled for the month of June will be dedicated to a study of the Book VI of the Code of Canon Law and it shall take place simultaneously in four regions within the Archdiocese as follows:

Date: Wednesday 22nd June, 2022

Time: 10:00am

Venues:

IKEJA AND LAGOS REGIONS: St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland.

BADAGRY REGION: Holy Family Catholic Church, Festac Town.

LEKKI REGION: SS. Philip and James Catholic Church, Lekki.

We appeal to the Episcopal Vicars and the Deans to help ensure the smooth planning of this seminars.

6. LEADING FOR MISSION SEMINAR: The Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos began the **Leading for Mission Seminar** for all priests in 2019 since when over 80% of the clergy completed the leadership enhancement programme. There is an annual opportunity for new and remaining priests to complete the programme. The **Leading for Mission Seminar for lay leaders** began in July 2021 and is ongoing.

It has become necessary to clarify that going forward:

1. It is mandatory that anyone that is elected, selected, appointed, or otherwise assumes a leadership position at the parish, deanery and archdiocesan levels

completes the training within six months or steps down for those that have completed the programme.

2. All current leaders, whose tenures will not expire this year, have until the end of 2022 to complete the training, or step down for those that have completed the programme.

The Archdiocese is putting in a lot of resources into the training of lay leaders and it has become necessary that we all pull together to maximize our limited resources. There are an estimated 15,000 lay leaders that need to be trained. **Some Deans and Parish Priests** have been supporting our efforts by providing training halls, power, equipment, refreshments, and other materials while the **Leading for Mission volunteers** continue to sacrifice their time, talents, and material resources, to achieve our goal of having leaders empowered for their roles by adequate training in our Archdiocese. We are very grateful to them. We are requesting that the Volunteers and those to be trained should be provided with all necessary support.

In order to make training easier, from now on we have decided that rather than going to a parish centre in each deanery for the training:

1. All **parishes** with a minimum of 50 lay leaders are to organize and mobilize all their leaders to be trained by the LFM Team in the premises of their parishes. We expect the Deans to work with the LFM Team and Parish Priests to come up with a schedule that completes the training of all parishes in one year. Parish Priests and the Parish Laity Council executives in each parish will provide the required logistics.
2. The Deans and Deanery Laity Councils and the Archdiocesan Laity Council and the Director of the Lay Apostolate Centre are to coordinate the trainings in the deanery level and Archdiocesan levels respectively. We expect the training of the leaders at each level to be completed within one year.
3. We expect everyone concerned to support the timely and smooth completion of this programme by suspending or at least minimizing programmes targeted at the same group or running at the same time as LFM Seminars so that we can conclude this intensive stage successfully.

We are grateful to Deans and Parish Priests and ask them to continue to playing their assigned roles so we can achieve our goals of growing more engaged parishes and

spiritually- committed Catholics in the Archdiocese. May God bless you as you contribute to developing more spiritually-committed servant leaders for our common task of evangelization.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **Archdiocesan Laity Harvest:** The harvest celebrations would hold on **Sunday 1st May, 2022** at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Ifako, Agege. Holy Mass begins at 10:00am. Those concerned are to take note.

b. **Altar Wine:** Due to the rise in the cost of importation, consequent on the value of the Naira, the new batch of Altar wine that we have now will cost **N35,000.00 per carton** effective from **1st May, 2022**. Parish priests and Priests-in-charge should please take note.

c. **Vocation Sunday:** **Sunday, 8th May, 2022** is Vocation Sunday. Let us pray to God for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life that God will raise up in our land many holy Priests, brothers and sisters who will lead the people to knowledge of Him and for service.

d. **Quarterly Returns and Special Collections:** Please be reminded that returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the second quarter of the year: **Seminary Collection (Good Shepherd Sunday/4th Sunday in Easter) - 08/05/2022; Holy Childhood Collection (6th Sunday in Easter) - 22/05/2022; Communications Day Collection (7th Sunday in Easter) - 29/05/2022; 5th Sunday Laity Collection - 29/05/2022.**

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.

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

Date: Saturday, 21st May, 2022

Venue: Christ the King Catholic Church, Akowonjo

Theme: "Visionary Leadership in times of Global Crises"- Keynote address to be delivered 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, 29th 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 29th April, 2022 attracts N500.00 per delegate

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

f. MCA Children's Day Celebration: The Missionary Childhood Association will be having her Children's Day Celebration on **Sunday 29th of May, 2022** in all parishes in the Archdiocese.

g. Archdiocesan Consultors Meeting: This comes up on **Tuesday 31st of May, 2022** at the Chancery by **10:00am**. Those concerned should please take note.

h. 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-Itele, Ogun State from **29th April to 1st May, 2022**. Delegates are expected from Lagos Archdiocese, Ijebu-Ode and Abeokuta Dioceses. All deaneries are expected to send at least 2 delegates as part of the delegation 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 4th of June, 2022. **Venue:** Mother of Perpetual Help, Amuwo- Odofin in Festac Deanery, beginning with Mass at 10am. For more information, please reach the Electoral Committee on cyonlagoselections@gmail.com. We pray for the success of the election.

36th Archdiocesan Youth Day (AYDIPAJA2022): The celebration of the 36th Archdiocesan Youth Day will hold on Sunday the 17th of July, 2022 and will be hosted by Ipaja Deanery. The Holy Mass will start at 10am.

2022 National Youth Day Cross and Icon Movement: As part of the events preceding the National Youth Day in Ibadan, the NYD Cross and Icon would be in Lagos Province between the 30th of May, 2022 to the 25th of June, 2022 and would move across Lagos Archdiocese, Abeokuta and Ijebe-ode Dioceses. We enjoin all Catholic youths to be part of this spiritual exercise. The Cross and Icon will be within Lagos Archdiocese from the 30th of May, 2022 to the 7th of June, 2022.

i. World Communications Week, 2022: This year's celebration will begin on Sunday May 22nd, 2022 and end on Sunday May 29th, 2022. All Parishes are expected to key into this week-long event by organizing seminars bordering 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)

j. 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.**

k. Feast of Mater Ecclesia: The Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of "Mother of the Church, *Mater Ecclesia*," is venerated in our Archdiocese on the Saturday that precedes Pentecost Sunday. The celebration on Saturday before the Pentecost is particular to our Archdiocese because of our special devotion to her as the Patroness of our Archdiocese. The feast day this year comes up on Saturday 4th June, 2022. We remind all the faithful of the opportunity that we have of obtaining a Plenary Indulgence on the said day by visiting the **Holy Cross Cathedral** or the **Mater Ecclesiae Monastery**, as well as fulfilling the conditions for receiving the indulgence: going to Confession, receiving Holy Communion and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father.

l. St. Gregory School of Pastoral Music: This School of Music of the Archdiocese of Lagos 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 has been affiliated to **Augustine University, Ilara** 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. 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.

n. 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 every 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, 2022; **Physical classes:** March 12, 2022

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

8. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Eduke Godwin, Garber Leo, Monye Joseph, Sebastian Ukwandu, Anthony K. Odoh, Josh Nunez, Leonard U. Ogbanufe, Anthony Babafemi Ogunsanya, Agapitus Tobechukwu Okoye, Anthony Oche, Augustine Okeke, Ifeanyi Ogboh and Elobuiké A. Asogwa, as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries 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 **Rev. Fr. Joseph Nwanua**, who died on Saturday, 30th April, 2022. Kindly celebrate masses for the repose of his soul and consolation of his family. May God grant him eternal rest. Amen.

(Signed)

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos