



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

19, CATHOLIC MISSION STREET, P. O. BOX 8, LAGOS-NIGERIA
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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 (Nov.1) and All Souls (Nov.2) 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 link 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 love, 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 Macc 12: 46). We are therefore encouraged to express our solidarity with the souls in purgatory through public and private prayers, and by

obtaining plenary indulgences through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, visiting a church or cemetery and giving alms to the poor. The Church mandates all Priests to celebrate three (3) Masses on this day: one for the faithful departed, one for the priest's intention or any person, and one for the intention of the Holy Father.

All the faithful are encouraged to express 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. The indulgences are obtainable in eight days following the All-Souls Day.

2. SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING AND CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION: The celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King comes up on **Sunday, 20th November, 2022**. It marks the beginning of the last week of the 2021/2022 Liturgical Year. On this day, Eucharistic Processions are held throughout Nigeria.

3. DISCLAIMER: ZION PRAYER MOVEMENT OUTREACH

We refer to the July 2017 circular in which we called attention to the above-named Movement and placed a sanction on the main leader in order to encourage him to submit himself to the guidance and authority of the Church. However, he has persisted in his ways and in leading the activities of the Movement.

We reiterate that all genuine and authentic Catholics have an obligation of submitting themselves to the discipline and guidance of the Church and every genuine gift of the Holy Spirit is to be exercised in unity with the Church. No one who truly has a gift is to use it in such a way as to disrupt the unity of the Body of Christ. The Lord gave the first place to the Apostles (cfr. 1 Cor. 12:28) for good reason i.e., to lead and guide the Church. Anyone who persists in disobedience is hurting the unity of the Church and needs to be corrected.

In the light of all these and in order to ensure that the Catholic faithful are not misled, we are constrained to instruct that the sanction on the main leader of the Group, Mr. Ebuka Anozie continues to remain in force i.e., to stop receiving Holy Communion if he goes to Mass in any of our parishes. Secondly, if he goes to any Chapel of Perpetual Adoration, he should

restrict himself to praying personally and is not permitted to interact with any of the faithful within the premises of any Parish within the Archdiocese. Thirdly, if there are still any priests who come to celebrate Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation and other Sacraments illicitly in the premises of the Movement to respect the dignity of their priesthood and not allow material inducements to becloud their sense of respect for the laws of the Church. The law requires that priests do not go to celebrate any of the Sacraments in any jurisdiction outside that in which they are incardinated without the due permission of the competent authority. A lay person cannot be a competent authority to invite and authorize a priest to celebrate the Sacraments.

All Priests all over the Archdiocese are hereby directed to continue to enforce this sanction strictly in their various parishes. They are to catechize the faithful on this and help them to understand that anyone who participates in the activities of this movement does so at a risk to the authenticity of his or her catholic faith and practice. We pray that the Holy Spirit would beam His light of understanding of all those concerned and help them to retrace their steps.

5. NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC AND PASTORAL CONGRESSES:

a. National Pastoral Congress: The National Pastoral Congress is usually celebrated alongside the National Eucharistic Congress. It is a gathering of selected members of the Church, Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful, to discuss and come up with a pastoral vision for the Church in Nigeria with the next ten years in view. The first of its kind was held in 2002. For the year 2022, the Congress will hold from **November 8th - 11th** in Benin City. The working document and focus of discussion at the Congress will be the National Synthesis of the recently concluded Synodal processes held at various local levels. Participation will be by representation and those concerned will be informed in due course.

b. The National Eucharistic Congress is a Spiritual exercise which entails the gathering of all members of the Church, (Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful), with the objective of focusing on the way that our encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist empowers us to live and share his love with others. The major aim is to enlighten, educate and promote a deeper Eucharistic Spirituality. The Congress holds every ten years with the first edition held in 1982 (Abuja), the second in 1992 (Owerri), the third in 2002 (Ibadan), the fourth in 2012 (Abuja) while the 2022 edition will hold from **11th to 13th November, 2022** in Benin-City.

6. INAUGURATION OF NEW PARISH PASTORAL, FINANCE AND LAITY COUNCILS - ARCHDIOCESAN PARISH GUIDELINES

The Archdiocesan Guidelines for Parish Pastoral, Finance and Laity Councils came into effect on November 29, 2015 (First Sunday of Advent). The tenure of the Councils was three years, and ended in November, 2018. The Guidelines were reviewed first in June, 2016 and again in June, 2018.

New Councils were constituted through an approved process between September and November, 2018 and inaugurated on December 2, 2018 (First Sunday of Advent) for a four-year non-renewable tenure, to end in November, 2022.

The timetable for constituting the new Councils which are to be inaugurated on November 27, 2022 (First Sunday of Advent) is as follows:

1. Parish Forum - Sunday, October 16, 2022. Parish Priests to refresh parishioners on the roles of the three councils (Pastoral, Finance and Laity), membership and tenure, using the Archdiocesan Parish Guidelines booklets. Notice of the Forum to be given to parishioners the Sunday before, that is, October 9, 2022.
2. Collation of New Names - Collation of New Names for the PPC and PFC and elections of PLC executives to be completed by Sunday, October 30, 2022.
3. Orientation/Training - Orientation/Training of all proposed Councillors to be held on Saturday, November 12, 2022, on Deanery basis.
4. Joint Meeting - Joint Meeting of the old and new PPC, PFC and PLC on Sunday, November 20, 2022.
5. Inauguration - Inauguration of the New Councils on Sunday, November 27, 2022 (First Sunday of Advent).

7. 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

We urge Parish Priests and leaders of Associations of the lay faithful to bring the information to their parishioners and members.

8. ANTIOCH PASTORAL INSTITUTE: The Antioch Pastoral Institute offers a programme that leads to the award of a certificate in Theology of the New Evangelization.

Duration: 1 year (10 modules). This programme is open to Parish Pastoral Assistants, Parish Evangelization Commission members, Faith Formators, Group Facilitators and all Catholics who desire to grow in and share the faith.

Requirements: Interested participants are;

1. To obtain recommendation letters from their Parish priests,
2. To be practicing/confirmed Catholics
3. To possess a minimum of SSCE or equivalent, possessing a good grasp of English Language, able to use the relevant technology and handle the required level of work/assignments and keep to the institute's rules.

Forms are available for **N1,000.00**. For further enquiries, kindly visit: Religious Education Department, 19, Maye Street, off Montgomery Road, Yaba or contact: 08108846869, 08066224284

9. THE MUSTARD SEED (New Catechism Book): This is a new catechism book approved in the Archdiocese for preparation of children for the Sacraments of Baptism/First Holy Communion. The book is now available and is sold for **N800.00 per copy**. All parishes should contact the Religious Education Department: 08108846869, 08066224284.

10. 2023 ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTORY: In preparation for the production of the Directory for 2023, we enjoin Priest to send in their details (Full name, Parish and phone number) to the Chancery for proper and effective compilation in order to update or else effect corrections

to the last edition. The update should be written out and sent to the Chancery for necessary action.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. SPECIALIST EYE SCREENING PROMO: The Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos, Management of St Raphael Divine Mercy Specialist Hospital, Ijede Road, Ikorodu invites you to a One-Month program of subsidized eye screening, with free registration, free consultation, highly subsidized eye tests and laboratory tests, glasses and surgeries.

Date: 10th October, 2022 to 4th November, 2022.

Note: Consultation is by appointment.

For Enquiries and booking for Appointments

Please call us on 07048828247 or 08140191942.

b. SEMINAR FOR PRIESTS (Region Level): The Seminar for Priest comes up on **Wednesday 9th November 2022**. This Seminar would hold on regional level.

c. MCA RALLY WITH ARCHBISHOP: The MCA Rally with Archbishop comes up on **Saturday 5th November, 2022 by 10:00am at Catholic Church of the Ascension, Airport Road, Ikeja**

d. CONSULTORS MEETING: This is to inform the members of the College of Consultors that their next meeting will hold on **Wednesday 16th November 2022, at the Chancery's Conference Room. The time is 10:00am.** All those concerned should please take note.

e. PRIESTS' RETREAT 2ND and 3rd BATCHES: The 2nd Batch of Priests' Retreat comes up from **27th November to 2nd December, 2022** while the 3rd batch will be between **4th and 9th December DV.** Priests are enjoined to participate actively.

f. Small Christian Community SEMINAR: The Archdiocesan SCC Seminar will hold on **Saturday, 3rd December, 2022 by 10am at Holy Cross Cathedral.** SCC leaders and Facilitators are encouraged to be present for the Seminar.

g. UNUSUAL PRAISE 2022: The Unusual Praise 2022 takes place on **Friday, December 9th** at the Tafawa Balewa Square Lagos.

This year's edition promises to be more uplifting and Spirit-filled like ever before. Ministers like Nathaniel Bassey, Dunsin Oyekan, Jude Nnam, Mercy Chinwo, Mr M & Revelation amongst many others will be participating.

This event will be aired LIVE on DSTV and will also be streamed on all social media platforms. Facebook, YouTube, Twitter @Unusualpraise.

The Theme this year is "*Let Everything That Has Breath Praise The Lord*" - Psalm 150:3

If you're interested in getting Tshirts, face caps or you want to support in any capacity, please contact **Tonia- 08023432054** and follow us on all our social media platforms @Unusualpraise for more updates.

Our God deserves all our praise, Pls join in let us worship him. Kindly save the date. **Friday, December 9th.** Venue: **Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS).** Time: 5pm.

h. 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**

i. 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: N2,000 (Two thousand naira only)

Resumption: January 21, 2023.

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

We encourage all parish priest/ priest-in-charge to sponsor their Catechists.

j. St. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, AKOKA, YABA, LAGOS (Project T. I. M. E) AFFILIATED TO UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN: we call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners that Admission is in progress for the 2022/2023 Session. With a minimum JAMB score of 200 and above for Full-Time and below 200 for Part-Time Degree programmes; 100 and above for NCE programmes, the College is the place for you. Our programmes include:

DEGREE PROGRAMMES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN:

Arts and Social Science:

B.Sc (Ed.) Economics

B.Sc (Ed.) Political Science

B.A (Ed.) English Language

B.Ed Social Studies

B.A (Ed.) CRS/IRS

B.Ed Educational Management

B.Ed Guidance and Counselling

Science and Technology Department

B.Sc (Ed.) Physics

B.Sc (Ed.) Chemistry

B.Sc (Ed.) Mathematics

B.Sc (Ed.) Biology

B.Sc (Ed.) Computer Science

All Degree Certificates are awarded by the University Of Ibadan.

NIGERIA CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (NCE) PROGRAMMES:

- i. Computer science, Economics, CRS/IRS, Political Science, English Language, Social Studies, Business Education (Accounting & Secretarial studies), Primary Education Studies (PES), Early Childhood care & Education (ECCE), Adult and Non-formal Education, and Mathematics.
- ii. Science and Technology: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Integrated Science.

All NCE Certificates are awarded by the College

DURATION: Full Time-3years, Part Time-4 Years

Requirement for Degree and NCE Programmes (Full-Time and Part Time): 5 or 6 Credits in One or Two sittings

PDE (Professional Diploma In Education)-First Degree or H. N. D. from any recognized Tertiary Institution.

Catechesis- Practicing and intending Catechists or O' Level Certificate.

METHOD OF APPLICATION TO ALL COLLEGE PROGRAMMES:

Obtain your application form at **St. Augustine College Of Education**, 2, Moronfolu Street, by Pako Bus stop, Close to FCE (Technical) and UNILAG, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos State.

OR LOG-ON TO www.staugustinecollege.edu.ng and follow the guidelines.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL: 08065954493, 08024582945 OR 08033244652(Catechesis), 07035121621.

k. JDPC FOOD BANK PROJECT: The food Bank project organized by the Justice Development and Peace Center (JDPC) Lagos is still in progress. We therefore appeal to Parish Priests and all people of goodwill to kindly support the JDPC in cash or kind. Financial

donations can be made to JDPC FOOD BANK PROJECT, Zenith Bank- 1224609969 while food items can be sent to the JDPC office @ 19, Maye Street, Off Commercial Avenue, Yaba, Lagos or contact the office on 08102580516.

11. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Msgri. Obayomi Patrick, Erinle Anthony, and Rev. Frs. Opara Hubert, Onwudiegwu Michael, Ethelbert Ukpabi, Ibe Hyacinth and Mordi Cosmas whose sacerdotal ordination anniversaries occur this month. Others are: Osuntope Peter, Udoh Gabriel, Abulu Jude, Amadi Marcellinus, Anokerie Joseph, Emeana Denis, Teko Marcellinus, Omoregie Jerome, Okonkwo Christian, Iwu Simeon, Ogidan Andrew, Remigius Okafor and Thaddeus Onyenedum, Ozonwafor Martin, Raymond Emedo, Oyekunle Joseph, Otukpe PaulMary, Toye Andrew. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos.*

12. BEREAVEMENT: With deep sympathy but with thanksgiving to God, we announce the demise of **Late Mr. Luke Kayode Famosaya**, the Father of Rev. Fr. Marcus Famosaya. Who died in the month of October. We ask that Masses should be celebrated for the repose of his soul and the consolation of his family. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Signed

+ **Alfred Adewale Martins**
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos