



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

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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 DECEMBER: We thank the Lord for preserving our lives to see the beginning of the last month of the year 2022 and for walking with us through the most difficult times that we have experienced in the course of the year. The month of December is a month of hope, expectation, joy and celebration. During the month we have celebrations such as the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the birth our Lord at Christmas and the Feast of Holy Family of Nazareth.** The month is one of introspection, stock-taking, self-evaluation and thanksgiving to God.

2. The Season of Advent is already with us. The liturgical colour of the season i.e., purple, paints a spiritual portrait of hope and expectation, of longing and waiting, of conversion and penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent marks the beginning of the new Liturgical Year and can be seen as another opportunity to renew ourselves spiritually. There are particular themes in the liturgy throughout Advent: waiting, joyful expectation, conversion and hope. It is a season of eager longing for the Messiah who is to come. We sing the song "*O Come, O come, Emmanuel*" to express our eager longing and hope for the coming of our messiah who came to us first as a child in the manger and who will come again at the end of time in all His glory. Let us therefore avail ourselves of the opportunity that Advent provides to renew our relationship with God: do penance, works of charity and carry out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy so that we can reap the fruits of the Lord's coming both at Christmas and at the end of time.

The Christmas Season on its part expresses the boundless love of God; a love that heralds hope, inaugurates peace, engenders faith, and establishes the triumph of justice. While we busy ourselves with traveling, shopping, partying, cleaning and other material preparations for Christmas let us not lose sight of its spiritual significance - the opportunity to encounter Jesus and embrace his offer of friendship and salvation.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year in advance

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

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

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. 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 expected to be present for the Seminar.

b. Annual Priests Retreat: The third batch of the Annual Retreat of Priests in the Archdiocese for this year has been scheduled to hold from 4th to 9th December, 2022. Priests are enjoined to participate actively.

c. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: The novena in preparation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception has already started at the Marian Shrine, Maryland beginning at 4.30pm every day. It will go on till **7th December, 2022** and will be concluded with the celebration of the Mass of the Immaculate Conception on 8th December 2022.

d. CYON END OF THE YEAR PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING: In thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness and love, CYON members, at the level of parishes, are to observe the annual End of the Year Prayer/thanksgiving, from 1st - 9th or any date convenient for the parish within this month, December, 2022. At the Deanery level Masses are to be booked for the nine (9days).

WORLD YOUTH DAY, LISBON PORTUGAL, 2023: In preparation for the World Youth Day, Lisbon, Portugal 2023.

The screening for the intending delegates shall be held as follows:

I. Abuja Center.

Date 9th December 2022.

Venue: CSN Durumi 1, Abuja. Time: 9 am prompt.

II Lagos Center.

Date: 13th December 2022.

Venue: CSN Force Road, Lagos. Time: 9 am prompt. All concerned should ensure adequate preparation.

e. St. John Bosco Computer School Graduation: St. John Bosco Computer School Graduation comes up on **Friday 2nd December, 2022.**

f. 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 never before. Gospel artistes such as 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, let us all join in and worship him. Kindly save the date. **Friday, December 9th.** Venue: **Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS).** Time: 5pm.

g. Archdiocesan Advent Pilgrimage (Ikeja Deanery): The Archdiocesan Advent Pilgrimage comes up on **Saturday 10th December, 2022.** It will take place at Church of the Ascension, Airport beginning at 8am. Parish priests and priests-in-charge are expected to mobilise their parishioners and lead them to the pilgrimage. Everyone is highly encouraged to participate actively in this spiritual exercise.

h. "One Million Rosary Challenge" Missionary Childhood Association: Children across all the parishes in the Archdiocese of Lagos are called to gather at **3:30pm on Sunday 11th**

December, 2022 in praying the Rosary for the peace and unity of our dear country as well as for free, fair and credible Elections in 2023.

This prayer initiative '**One Million Rosary Challenge**' of the Missionary Childhood Association of Lagos Archdiocese focuses on God, the Father of love. In the words of St. Pio, *'when a million children pray the Rosary, the world will change'*. May our Country Nigeria experience this positive Transformation, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

i. Quarterly Returns and Special Collections: Please be reminded that returns from the **Health Collection (PLWHA)- 11/12/2022** will be made in the fourth quarter of the year. All Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are reminded of the need to follow the new system of Quarterly returns remittance as instructed by the Archdiocese. 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**.

j. Young Missionary Movement of Nigeria (YOMM): The Archdiocesan members of YOMM will be having their Second Archdiocesan Induction ceremony and missionary commissioning on **Sunday, 18 December, 2022** at the Catholic Church of the Nativity, 6th Avenue, Festac town, Lagos by **11:00am**. Other activities follows immediately after the Mass. All YOMM members and coordinators are invited. For further information please, contact 08054532606, 08130479952, 07032999111. Missio Nigeria - Christ to the whole world.

k. Priests' and Religious Get-Together 2022: This has been scheduled to hold on **Thursday, 29th December, 2022**. Venue: St. Agnes, Maryland. We shall begin with Holy Mass to be offered in thanksgiving for the gift of our vocations at 10am. All priests and Religious are expected to be present.

l. Archdiocesan Christmas Carols: The Lagos Archdiocesan Music Commission (LAMCOM) in collaboration with Holy Cross Cathedral presents the Lagos Archdiocesan Christmas Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with the theme: **THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON (Mt. 1:23)**. This festival will feature the Holy Cross Cathedral Choir, the Archdiocesan

Choir, the Ikeja, Badagry, Lagos, and Lekki Regional Choirs, the Musica Casa Chorale and the Cecilian Diploma Chorale.

Chief Host: Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, Archbishop of Lagos.

Date: Sunday, 18th December, 2022

Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral

Time: 3:00pm All are cordially invited.

Let's celebrate the birth of Christ in a musical grand style.

m. Orientation and Induction of New Priests: We have the tradition in the Archdiocese of giving an orientation programme on liturgical, pastoral and related practices in the Archdiocese to newly ordained priests as well as priests newly appointed to serve in the Archdiocese of Lagos. This will come up from 12th to 14th January, 2023. The venue for the orientation is *Domus Fidei, Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Generalate, Ikeja, Lagos*.

All the priests posted to the Archdiocese who have not participated, no matter how long they may have been in the Archdiocese, are expected to participate next year. We emphasize it again that it is only those newly ordained priests and priests newly posted to the Archdiocese who duly take part in the orientation programme that will qualify to be appointed Parish Priests in the Archdiocese. Everyone concerned should note that participation in this orientation programme is mandatory.

n. 2023 Leading for Mission for Clergy: Leading for Mission was introduced as leadership training for all the clergy in the Archdiocese of Lagos in February 2019. There is an annual re-run for all those who have not participated due to extenuating circumstances. The 2023 Batch will be offered on the last Wednesday and Thursday of every month from February to April 2023. It is mandatory that all sessions are completed. Newly ordained or newly posted clergy as well as those who did not complete the sessions in the past are expected to attend.

The dates are: February 15 and 16; March 29 and 30; April 26 and 27. Those concerned are expected to register their participation by January 31, 2022 using this link: <https://forms.gle/GFVe2CPydjtKVMxC8>

o. 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: N2,000.00 (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.

p. ADMISSION INTO LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

This is to inform our parents that admission into Basic 7 (JSS 1) for the 2023/2024 academic session in all Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese of Lagos is in progress. The Entrance Examination comes up on Saturday 11 February, 2023 at the schools. Forms can be obtained at the school of choice, all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese, selected parishes and electronically on examcentre.ng or on any of the following 10 Catholic Archdiocesan Secondary Schools' websites:

1. St Gregory College, South-West, Ikoyi <http://www.stgregorycollege.ng>
2. Holy Child Girls College, Ikoyi <http://www.holychildcollegeswikoyi.org>
3. St Finbarr College, Akoka <http://www.stfinbarrcollegeakoka.com>
4. St Kizito's College, Iju-Ishaga
5. Mater Ecclesiae College, Epe <http://www.materecclesiaecollege.com>
6. Sacred Heart College, Apapa <http://www.sacredheartcollegeapapa.com.ng>
7. Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School, Maryland <http://www.mcssmaryland.org>
8. Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba <http://www.olassyaba.sch.ng>
9. Marywood Girls College, Ebute-Metta <http://www.marywoodgc-lagos.org>
10. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic College, Okokomaiko

Sales of forms will close one week to the date of examination. Let us give our children the holistic advantages that Catholic education offers!

q. 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**

r. 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

s. 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.

7. Priestly Ordination Anniversaries:

We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for the following confreres, whose Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries occur this month: Anthony Cardinal Okogie, Msgr. Christopher Boyo, Bernard Okodua, Philip Hoteyin, Francis Ogunmodede, Gabriel Osu, Frs. Christopher Chindo, Benjamin Bello, Jerome Akinyemi, Michael Umoh, Francis Opara, Gabriel

Iheanacho, , Eugene Oguzie, , Agor Paschal, Joseph Anyanwu, Egbo Newman, Gasper Olanrewaju, Anthony Aderibigbe, Paul Anyasi, Innocent Chiamaka, Francis Ike, and Augustine Okhuelegbe. Others are; George Anubuike, Augustine Ikuomola, John Okoro, Charles Orekoya, Emmanuel Ayeni, Anthony Godonu, Simeon Irabor, Martin Iwueze, Longinus Ogbede, Anthony Orioha, Stephen Akinsowon, John-Paul Ale, Damian Alozie, Raymond Anoliefo, Melvis Mayaki, Hyginus Nwanze, Eric Onyeoziri, Abatan Peter, Philip Sosu-Mobee, Anthony Nwosu, Gabriel Odunaiya, Paul Adekoya, Robert Oji, John Nutayi, Philip Uchendu, Anthony Okoro, Michael Omughele, Joseph Nwokeforo, Paul Amenaghawon, Houesou Leon, Bankole Vincent, Onuoha Dominic, Peter Azagba, Ugochukwu Collins, Moses Olayi, Adesanya Martins, Akaeme Moses, Izuagie Nicholas and Nnama Stephen. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

8. Bereavement: With deep sympathy and thanksgiving to God, we announce the demise of **Mrs. Florence Ndidi Onwordi**, mother of **Rev. Fr. Charles Onwordi**; **Catechist Paulinus Jonah Essien**, father of **Rev. Fr. Donastus Essien, OSJ** and **Mr. Paul Anagboso**, father of **Rev. Fr. Augustine Anagbaso**. Who died in the month of November.

We ask that Masses should be celebrated for the repose of their souls and the consolation of their families. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Signed

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos

