



# 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 FEBRUARY:** The Year 2016 is one month old already and we thank God for His faithfulness and love. I heartily welcome you to the month of February, 2016. Though the shortest month of the year, February is rich in Liturgical activity, for it typically begins in one Liturgical Season (Ordinary Time), ends in another (Lent), and contains the Feast of Presentation (Feb. 2) that is like a bridge that connects two other seasons (Christmas and Easter). The small Christ-child is still in His Mother's arms, but already she is offering Him in Sacrifice. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord recalls the Christmas' mystery of Light except that now, the baby Jesus is *"the light of Revelation to the Gentiles who will save his people from their sins."* Candles, symbolizing Christ our Light, will be carried in procession this day, as will be the Paschal candle during the Easter Vigil Liturgy.

As the month progresses, the Liturgical colour changes to Purple signaling our entrance into the penitential Season of Lent. By accepting the cross of blessed ashes on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 10), we are reminded of our mortality and our need for penance and mortification, and are called to plunge ourselves into the spiritual exercises of Lent - Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving, - laying our thoughts and prayers on the heart of Mary, the Mother of Sorrows. She who offered her Son in the Temple and on the Cross, will teach us how to deny ourselves, take up our Cross daily, and follow after Jesus, her Son.

- a. **February 14:** is Valentine's Day popularly called Lovers' Day. It is not just a day reserved exclusively for lovers to express their mutual love for each other. It is most importantly a day when Children of God and indeed all beneficiaries of Christ's Love renew their love and friendship with the God who is Love.

To mark this day in our Archdiocese, the Lay Apostolate is organizing a programme for all Christ Faithful titled; **"Valentine's Day with the Archbishop"** with the theme: **"Love:**

**A Perfect Measure of Understanding God's Mercy".** The topic to be discussed is; **"The Importance of Mercy in a World that is Searching for Love."** This will take place on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> of February at St. Finbarr's College, Akoka, Yaba. The time is 10.00 am and the events begin with the Holy Mass to be presided over by the Archbishop. Please be punctual. For more information, enquires and advert placement, please contact: 08033481595, 08034314510 or the Director's office on 07046395586, 08127736117 or 01-4535922

**FAMILY ROSARY AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR SIX MONTHS:** Since the month of October, we have been following the directive of The Catholic Bishops of Nigeria calling us all to pray for our country. In many respects, it can be said that our Nation is today at the crossroads. Although the general elections were peaceful, our problems are far from over; hence, the need to renew the call to prayer. In addition to the prayers already being said for the Nation, CBCN asks individuals, families and parishes to intensify their prayers for a period of six months from that October according to the following programme:

- (i) Family Rosary- Every Saturday evening
- (ii) Rosary and One Hour Adoration in Parishes-Last Sunday of the month (between 3.00pm and 6.00 pm).

The family Rosary and the Eucharistic Adoration should always end with either the **Prayer against Bribery and Corruption** or the **Prayer for Nigeria in Distress**. This six-month prayer programme is expected to end on 4th April 2016, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Let us all heed this call and continue to storm the heavens.

**3. EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY:** In keeping with the provisions of the Bull of Indiction, *Misericordiae Vultus* and the Archbishop's Special Circular on the Year of Mercy, the following programmes are scheduled to hold in the year 2016 beginning from first quarter of the Year:

**a. Weekly Pilgrimage:** The weekly pilgrimage to Holy Cross Cathedral holds **every Tuesday**. The activities of the pilgrimage include a tour of the Cathedral, confessions, celebration of Mass, passing through the Door of Mercy into the Cathedral, audience with the Archbishop and issuance of certificate, among others. All Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should be at the forefront of organizing and ensuring pilgrims from their Parishes participate actively, are well catered for and are conveyed to and from the venue of the pilgrimage. For more information please contact the Fr. Julius Olaitan

(08023135237) or refer to the time table for the pilgrimage already sent to your email addresses. The Jubilee Year comes to an end of **20th November 2016, Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe.**

**b. Jubilee for Consecrated Life and Closing of the Year of Consecrated Life:** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, there shall be the Jubilee for Consecrated Life and this will officially mark the closing of the Year of Consecrated Life in the Archdiocese. The venue is **St. Mary's Catholic Church, Isolo, Lagos. The time is 10.00am.**

**c. Jubilee for Members of the Archdiocesan Curia and Consultors:** This will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2016 at the **Lagos Resource Centre, VI.** It will be a two-day long programme beginning in the evening of **February 21st.** All those concerned: Episcopal Vicars, Deans and Chancery officials should please take note.

**d. Jubilee for the Family (Family Reconciliation Week):** There shall be a Jubilee for the Family from **Sunday the 28th of February, 2016 to Saturday 5th March, 2016.** During this jubilee there shall be an installation of a Special Divine Mercy image in every family. The images are to be provided by the Spirituality and Catechesis sub-Committee of the Jubilee Year of Mercy and should be installed in the homes after they must have been blessed by the Priest.

**6. ALTAR WINE:** Due to the high exchange rate which affected the cost of purchase, the price of our Altar Wine has increased from **₦ 15,000 to ₦18,000.00.** The current practice of purchasing of the Wine with Parish Cheque remains.

## **7. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY**

**Admission Requirements for Augustine University:** We implore Parish Priests and Priests in-Charge to inform their Parishioners especially the Jambites of the Admission requirements for the Augustine University. A minimum JAMB Score of 180 in relevant subject combinations is required. For more information, please visit the University website at

[www.augustineuniversity.edu.ng](http://www.augustineuniversity.edu.ng). Available Programmes are:

### **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

1. B.Sc. Economics
2. B.Sc. Business Administration
3. B.Sc. Accounting
4. B.Sc. Banking and Finance
5. B.A. English
6. B.A. Philosophy
7. B.A. Religious Studies

## **FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

8. B.Sc. Mathematics
9. B.Sc. Computer Science
10. B.Sc. Microbiology
11. B.Sc. Biology
12. B.Sc. Chemistry
13. B.Sc. Physics

Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are to include this announcement in their weekly bulletin and keep repeating it for the next twelve months.

**8. ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (PROJECT TIME) AFFILIATED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN:** Admission is in progress for the 2015/2016 Session. With a minimum JAMB Score of 180 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 - 07051491674; 07051592559; 08034919553.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **a. FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT (FHLU):**

#### ➤ **Marriage Theology and Lived Experience (Part Time) Courses:**

Yaba Week day Part Time (one Tuesday a month for 10 months) begins 2nd February, 2016.

Week end Part Time (One Saturday a month for 10 months) begins 6th February, 2016.

Holy Family Parish, Festac (one Tuesday a month for 10 months) commencing 9th February, 2016.

➤ **Canon Law Course for Laity** (one Friday a month for 10 months) commencing 19th February, 2016.

➤ **Love and Life Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning** (on Saturday a month for 7 months) commencing 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

**Venue:** Church & Society Building, 19, Maye Street, off Commercial Avenue, Sabo, Yaba

**Cost:** 3,500.00 per month (includes Tea Break & Lunch)

**Graduation & Certificate Fees:** Marriage Theology & Lived Experience - ~~₦~~ 5,000.00

Human Psychology and Christian Counselling Course Part 2	₦ 5,000.00
Canon Law Course for Laity	₦ 5,000.00
Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning	₦ 2,500.00
Basic Christian Counselling Course Part 1	₦ 1,500.00
Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	

For more information/enquiries, please call 08033804494, 08028489999

- b. **THE ARCHDIOCESAN LITURGY COMMITTEE BI-MONTHLY MEETING:** The Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee Bi-Monthly Meeting comes up on the **13<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016**. The chairmen and Secretaries of the Liturgy Committees in the parishes of the Archdiocese are expected to be present. The Presidents and Secretaries of the liturgical groups (Lectors, Church Wardens, Altar servers and Choir) should also be in attendance.

**Time:** 11.00 am

**Venue:** St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland Conference Center.

- c. **IDDS 2016: The Annual Interdenominational Divine Service (IDDS).** This is an annual programme of Prayers and Praise for All Christians in Lagos State. It is organised by the Christian Association of Nigeria Lagos State (CAN). The Catholic Church is a founding member and a key stakeholder in this Association, therefore we appeal to All our Deans and Deanery Laity Chairmen to lead a delegation of at least 100 Catholics from their deanery with banners and society uniforms to this prayer service this year. While the Archdiocesan Lay Organisations and Groups at this level should endeavour to mobilise their members and attend as well.

**Date:** Saturday 13th February 2016

**Theme:** Great Faith; the Antidote for Helplessness

**Venue:** The Apostolic Church Convention Ground, LAWN, Ketu Alapere.

**Time:** 10:00 am prompt.

- d. **Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage:** The annual Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage comes up on **Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2016** at the **Ave Maria Grotto, Lekki**. It will be organized by **Lekki Region**.

✓ **Theme:** I desire Mercy and not Sacrifice (Matthew 9:13)

✓ **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

This is an Archdiocesan spiritual activity at which we expect All Priests and Lay Faithful are expected to attend and participate actively. Parish Priests are expected to take time to encourage their Parishioners to come in their numbers and they are also required to attend.

e. **Caritas-Lagos Collection (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, 21-02-2016):** Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are to ensure that a special collection is made on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2016 (Second Sunday of Lent) for the charity works of the Archdiocese of Lagos under the management of **CARITAS-LAGOS**. This is to enable the Archdiocese respond to requests for support of Churches who need assistance in their pastoral activities. The Cheque should be addressed to **Archdiocese of Lagos** and "Caritas Lagos" written behind. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should kindly take note of this and do well to encourage their parishioners to donate generously as this collection is made only once a year.

f. **Small Christian Communities' Leadership Workshop:** There shall be a leadership workshop for the leaders and facilitators of Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese as follows:

**Date:** March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Time:** 10.00 a.m.

**Venue:** Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos.

The workshop is a continuation of a series aimed at improving the leadership skills of leaders in Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese. It is also designed as a pilgrimage opportunity to the Cathedral for the participants as they will have the chance of going through the Holy Door in the celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Attendance is highly recommended.

g. **Chrism Mass 2016:** The 2016 Masses of Chrism come up on Tuesday of Holy week, **March, 22nd, 2016** at Ss. Michael, Raphael & Gabriel Catholic Church, Satellite Town, Lagos, and on Holy Thursday, **March 24th, 2016** at the Holy Cross Cathedral at 9:00 a.m prompt. In keeping with the need to carry out the Corporal works of mercy during this Year of Mercy, Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are enjoined to collaborate with their Deans to ensure that they provide sufficient gift items for the poor and needy, and coordinate its delivery to the chancery as is the practice.

The 2016 Chrism Mass Planning Committee meets every Thursday at the Holy Cross Cathedral Hall at 6:00p.m. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are reminded to nominate two parishioners to represent their parish at the Chrism Mass planning committee weekly meetings.

All the Parishes that fall under the following deaneries: Isolo, Satellite, Badagry, Festac and Apapa are to send their representatives to the LOC weekly meetings at Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Satellite Town every Sunday at 5:00p.m.

While thanking you for your support in the past, we appeal to you once again this year for donations, advert placements and goodwill messages. Cheques should be addressed to **Holy Cross Cathedral** with "Chrism Mass" written at the back. The deadline for the adverts and goodwill messages is Thursday March 3rd, 2016. See flyers for the advert rates.

- h. St. Theresa Catholic Minor Seminary Oke Are Ibadan:** hereby calls young boys who feel called to the priesthood by God to obtain a Common Entrance form for 2016/2017 Session from any of the Centres listed on the handbills and posters. The Common Entrance will hold in all the Centres on Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 10 am prompt and Interview will be held in **(ONLY) ST. THERESA MINOR SEMINARY, OKE-ARE, IBADAN ON APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at 10am prompt**. Admission Form is **₦ 5000** Only. Materials to be brought are listed on the handbills posters.

For more inquires please call Rev. Fr. Peter Onabamiro on 07069325030

- i. Special Easter Pilgrimage:** The Veritas Travels and Tours is organizing a special Easter Pilgrimage to **ISRAEL, ROME, CASCIA AND ASSISI** between 18<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 for **₦ 770,000** plus **₦ 20,000** Admin charges. The deadline for payment is 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 (*Instalmental payment is acceptable*). For more information kindly call any of the following telephone numbers: 08023081198, 08077287319, 08077287338 or visit the Catholic Secretariat Building at 6, Force Road, Onikan, Lagos.
- j. Quarterly Returns:** Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the fourth quarter of the year: **Catholic Teachers Day, Catechetical Collection, Mission Sunday, C. I. W. A, Health Collection and VUNA (5% of Harvest Collection)**. We remind all the Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge who are yet to remit their returns for the **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>** quarters especially the Special Collections or are not up-to-date in this regard to please do so **unfailingly before the end of February.**

The Chancery also requires that every payable levy and special collection be made with different cheque leaves to avoid mix-ups. Also, when making their returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should ensure they attach the **Blue Sheets** with the front page

that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it. Kindly note these in your subsequent submissions.

#### **k. CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF NIGERIA (CYON)**

- **CYON Provincial Leadership Retreat/Seminar:** there shall be a Provincial Leadership Retreat/Seminar for all Youth Leaders and their Chaplain within the province. It is scheduled to hold as follows:

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

**Venue:** St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland, Lagos

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Guest Speaker:** Most Rev. Dr. Peter Odetoyinbo, Bishop of Abeokuta Diocese

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

- **World Youth Day.** The World Youth Day is an international annual event (pilgrimage) organized by the Catholic Church to bring together youth and young adults from the four corners of the world for prayer, worship and celebration of the Catholic faith. Intending participants are expected to pay ₦ 395,710.00 please note that the amount may change due to dollar fluctuation. Nevertheless, interview for participants will hold on February 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria office in Lagos.

We also solicit for sponsorships, so as to sponsor some of our youths to participate in this spiritual exercise (**World Youth Day**). All Cheques are made payable to **CYON, ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS. (Cash are payable to First Bank: 2008399744 CYON, ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS)**. For further clarification please call Rev. Fr. Gabriel Odunaiya, the Archdiocesan/provincial CYON Chaplain on 08025693293.

- **Passionate Appeal:** While appreciating all those who have been very supportive, it has been observed that some of our priests, religious and lay faithful do not or adequately support our youths with regards to organization and general welfare. We sincerely appeal to you dear members of the church to please support and encourage this indispensable arm of the church as they are the future of the church.

#### **I. CATECHISTS/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

- **Faith Formation/Education Committee-Inaugural meeting/Seminar:** In line with the new Archdiocesan Directive, Parishes are hereby requested to send the Chairman and Secretary or two representatives, of the above committee to the inaugural



meeting/seminar scheduled to hold on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> , 2016, Venue: St. Dominic Parish Hall, Herbert Macaulay Way, Yaba, Time: 10.00am. Seminar Fee: ₦ 2000.00 per parish-to cover for materials and refreshment.

### **Catholic Faith Family Competition:**

As you already know the Catholic Faith Family Competition has been inaugurated by the Archbishop. In keeping with the rules and regulations of the competition and to ensure its success, the **Faith Formation/Education Committees** in parishes are to:

- Collaborate with the Knights of St. John International and their Parish Priests to sensitize and awaken the interest of parishioners in the faith family project by ensuring that they pass on regular and adequate information.
  - They are to arrange the curriculum for study, in such a way that it is covered by the end of March 2016.
  - Also ensure active involvement and participation of families in the competition.
- Competition at SCC and Parishes commences March-May 2016

Call Catechetics / Religious Education Department for Clarifications on **08066224284** and **08033574050**

### ➤ **The Antioch Pastoral Institute:**

Application for admission into Antioch Pastoral Institute for the 2016/2017 session has commenced. Admission is open to persons desiring to be trained as Evangelizers, Catechists and Catechism Teachers. Lay Liturgical Minister, Parish office staff, Religious Sisters, or Individuals who wish to refresh, update and upgrade their knowledge of the Catholic faith and morals also qualify to apply. If you do not belong to any of these categories but desire to be trained as a Pastoral Agent, please feel free to apply.

The current session will operate at two centres in Ikeja and Lagos/Lekki Regions. Forms are obtainable at ~~₦500.00~~ only from **Catechetics /Religious Education Dept.** office.

**m. 2nd National Meeting of Families, Nigeria:** This national event is to be hosted in our Archdiocese from Monday 11th - 14th April 2016.

- Opening Mass and Ceremonies shall be on **Tuesday 12th at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland**. The Closing Mass and Gala Night shall be on Wednesday 13th at the **Church of the Ascension Airport Road** by 5.00pm.
- All the faithful are invited and indeed expected to attend the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, while each Deanery is expected to sponsor 2

persons each to attend the Conference Sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday. Registration per Deanery Delegate shall be ₦ 5,000 only.

- Parishes, Groups, Organisation and Societies are expected to place advert at the following rates  
One Full Page- 100,000  
Half Page- 60,000  
Goodwill Message (Quater Page)- 50,000  
Centre -250,000  
Inside Front-250,000  
Inside Back-250,000  
Back Page-300,000

Please forward all advert materials to [docaninv@yahoo.com](mailto:docaninv@yahoo.com)

**m. BEREAVEMENT:**

- a. Some of our confreres lost their parents in the month of January, they are:  
**Mr. Peter Ugwu**, the Father of **Rev.Fr. Kelvin Ugwu, MSP; Chief Patrick Onemheghie**, the Father of **Very Rev. Fr. Felix Onemheghie, OP**; and Mrs. Cecilia Nwankwo, the Mother of Rev. Fr. Angel Nwankwo, CSsR.
- b. Also, we announce with a heavy heart the glorious exit of **Mr. Fabian Onyeugo** who until his death was the driver of the Cardinal. He passed on in the month of December at the age of 59.  
We are reminded of our obligation of celebrating Masses for the repose of their souls and consolation to their families. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen.

**n. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Daniel Nwankwo, Kioko Muindi and Gabriel Ukhurebor as the marks their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversary this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

**(Signed)**

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