



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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

Monthly Bulletin /Circular

MARCH, 2016/No. 042

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 MARCH: I welcome you all to the month of March, the last month of the first quarter of the Year. The beginning of March as we all know is a continuation of the liturgical season of Lent marked by penance, mortification and contrition in addition to the traditional practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The remainder of the month falls within the Season of Easter when we celebrate the most sublime event in human history: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During this month we continue our journey of carrying the wondrous cross to cavalry albeit with the hope of exchanging it for a crown. Indeed, we shall pass over from the suffering of Good Friday to the Joy of Easter Sunday as we trade in the purple of penance for the white of the Resurrection.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ assures us that we are ransomed, healed, restored and forgiven, and that eternal life is made available to us. While we march to victory in praise of the risen Lord, let us spare a thought for those who lost their lives during this Season, particularly, the nuns of the Handmaid Sisters and the Vincentian Seminarians. Let us also walk along the spiritual pathway of inner transformation, living out our call to holiness and intimate friendship with Jesus while rejecting Satan and his empty promises.

Please keep in mind the Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of Mary whose feast we celebrate on the 19th day of March and the Feast of the Annunciation normally celebrated on March 25, but transferred to April 4 because it falls on Good Friday. May the joy of Easter fill your hearts and bring you peace.

2. 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH THE ARCHBISHOP: Join the Archbishop, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins for daily Lenten Reflection on **Radio Nigeria, 103.50 FM** at 6.05 am and 8.55pm daily. Kindly inform your parishioners and encourage them to tune in to this frequency and listen to the reflection. May the word of God nourish our souls. Amen.

3. THE CBCN FIRST PLENARY MEETING, 2016:

At the end of the Second Plenary Meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria held at the Daughters of Divine Love Retreat and Conference Centre (DRACC), Lugbe, Abuja, 13-19 February, 2016, the Bishops issued a **communiqué** which can be found on our Archdiocesan Website; www.lagosarchdiocese.com. Kindly find time to read it. I wish to specially highlight a few items in the communiqué for your attention and action:

a. Year of Mercy in Action: The Catholic Bishops of Nigeria, have called on all to recognize that in this Jubilee Year of Mercy that mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life (*Misericordiae Vultus* 10) and a criterion for the credibility of our faith namely, 'Blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy' (Matt 5:7).

As members of God's household, beneficiaries of the abundant mercy of God, we must make ourselves credible ambassadors of God's mercy to our neighbours and to our world. We urge particular Church in Nigeria to initiate programmes that will promote living this Holy Year as an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal.

b. Peace: A Task for All: We reiterate the incisive statement of Saint Pope John XII to the effect that "there can be no peace between people unless there is peace within each one of them, unless, that is, each one builds up within oneself the order wished by God" (*Pacem in Terris*, 165). We re-affirm that the human family is fundamental in attaining peace in the society. With renewed urgency, we urge all families, especially Christian families, to live up to their expectations as harbingers of peace by shunning violence, building tolerance, creating an atmosphere of love, harmony, and mutual affection among their members.

As a Church we shall continue to promote repentance, reparation, reconciliation, justice and peace by preaching the truth of the gospel, by witnessing of life, by strengthening and sustaining our various structures for conflict management and by advocating right order in the Church and the Society.

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

2. EXPATRIATE QUOTA: The Expatriate Quota is due for renewal since it will expire in April, 2016. The Federal Ministry of Interior requests that all companies and establishments with expatriates should submit the data page of International passports of their expatriates.

We therefore request for the data page of the expatriates in your congregation/institute to be sent to the Chancery on or before March 8, 2016 in order to enable us facilitate the renewal before the date of expiration.

Please treat as urgent.

3. ST ALBERT THE GREAT MAJOR SEMINARY FORMAL INAUGURATION CEREMONY: St. Albert the Great Major Seminary, Idowu-Offonran formally invites Priests, Religious and Lay Faithfull of the Archdiocese to her Inauguration Ceremony scheduled to hold at the Seminary Compound on **Thursday, March 17th, 2016 at 10.00am prompt.** We particularly expect that Parishes and Associations that helped in the construction of the different buildings would honour the invitation to the ceremonies.

4. EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY: In keeping with the provisions of the Bull of Indiction *Misericordiae Vultus* and the Archdiocesan Special Circular on the Year of Mercy, the following programmes are scheduled to hold in the year 2016 have already begun and we commend all those who are taking part in the activities:

a. Weekly Pilgrimage: The weekly pilgrimage to Holy Cross Cathedral holds **every Tuesday.** The activities of the pilgrimage includes 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 fro the venue of the pilgrimage. For more information please contact the Fr. Julius Olaitan (08023135237) or confer 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 the Family (Family Reconciliation Week): The Jubilee for the Family has begun on Sunday **28th of February, 2016** and will run through till **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.

5. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY

Admission Requirements for Augustine University: We once again ask Parish Priests and Priests in- Charge to inform their Parishioners especially the those seeking admission to Universities and their parents 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. 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 EXPECTED to include this announcement in their weekly bulletin and keep repeating it for the next twelve months. This is a paramount need and we expect that no parish priest will ignore this call. To ignore the call amounts to working against the interest of the Archdiocese in the care of the young and their future.

6. ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (PROJECT TIME) AFFILIATED TO

THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN: Admission is in progress for the 2014/2015 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.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. 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 5th, 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 Committee are required to:
 - Collaborate with the Knight of St. John International and their Parish Priest to sensitize and awaken the interest of parishioners in the faith family Project by ensuring that they receive 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 Families 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 who desire to be trained as Evangelizers, Catechists and Catechism Teachers. You are also qualified to apply, if you are a Lay Liturgical Minister, a Parish office staff, a Religious Sister, or Individual who wishes to refresh, update and upgrade their knowledge of Catholic faith and morals. 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 from two centres: Ikeja Region and Lagos / Lekki regions. Forms are obtainable at ₦ 500.00 only from Catechetics /Religious Education.

b. 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 Chaplains within the Lagos Ecclesiastical Province. It is scheduled to hold as follows:

Date: 5th 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

- c. **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 5th, 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.

- d. **Quarterly Recollection:** The first Quarterly Recollection for all Priests in Lagos Archdiocese comes up on **Wednesday, 9th March 2016**. This will be done at the designated parishes in the four Ecclesiastical Regions of the Archdiocese. The Episcopal Vicars will communicate the venue and time accordingly.

- e. **Entrance Exam to all Catholic Secondary Schools:** Entrance Examination into nine Catholic Secondary Schools in Lagos Archdiocese comes up 12th March, 2016. The schools include: **St. Gregory's College, Ikoyi (Boys only), Holy Child College, SW-Ikoyi (Girls only), St. Finbarr's College, Akoka (Boys only), Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba (Girls only), Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School, Maryland (Boys and Girls), Sacred Heart College, Apapa (Boys and Girls), Marywood Girls' College, Ebutte-Metta (Girls only), Bethlehem Girls' College, Abule-Ado (Girls only), and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic College, Okokomaiko (Boys and Girls).**

Entrance Forms can be obtained from any of the above schools, designated parishes and our Catholic Nursery and Primary Schools.

Parish Priests are kindly requested to give due publicity to this announcement.

f. **Parish Statistics:** This comes as a reminder to all Parish Priests/Priests-in-Charge that the Parish Statistics should be sent to the Chancery as soon as possible. Kindly note that required statistics is for the **year 2015**.

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 parishes 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. **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 send in their parishes' returns for the **1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th** quarters including the Special Collections or are not up-to-date in this regard to please do so **unfailingly before the end of March.**

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.

i. **JDPC Collection:** This comes as a reminder to all Parish Priests/Priests-in-Charge that the Special Collections for the **JDPC** comes up on the 5th Sunday of Lent, 13th March, 2016. All are expected to support the activities of the JDPC in the Archdiocese.

j. **International Pilgrimage:** The International Pilgrimage for those devoted to the spirituality of Divine Mercy in Rome between 1st-3rd April, 2016 for 2000 US. The deadline for payment is 29th February, 2016 (*Instalmental payment is acceptable*). For more information kindly call any of the following telephone numbers: 08022232498, 08035029660.

k. **Special Easter Pilgrimage:** The Veritas Travels and Tours is organizing a special Easter Pilgrimage to **ISRAEL, ROME, CASCIA AND ASSISI** between 18th - 29th March, 2016 for ₦ 770,000 plus ₦ 20,0 00 Admin charges. The deadline for payment is 24th 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.

l. **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 adverts 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 advertorials to docaninv@yahoo.com

m. **2016 LAITY HARVEST:** The Annual Archdiocesan Laity Harvest will take place as follows:

Theme: "Harvest of Divine Mercy"

Date: 1st May, 2016

Venue: Catholic Church of the Assumption, Falomo.

We appeal to all parish Priests to ensure that the Harvest Envelopes are distributed and collected for onward delivery on or before the date of the Harvest. Kindly ensure that you include this information in your Parish Bulletin and Announcements.

n. **PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for the following confreres, whose Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries occur this month: Rev. Msgr. Obanla Anthony, Frs. Adegun Francis, Chikezie Wisdom, Ekpo Benjamin, Idaewor Kingsley, Martinos Theodore, Okpala Melchizedek, Emmanuel Likoko, Emmanuel Sikuku, John Nwanze and Hubert Obaedo. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

o. **Bereavement:** We announce with a heavy heart, the death of Mrs. Patricia Rose Umekwe, the mother of Rev. Sr. Vivian Ogu, E.H.J. She will be buried on the 3rd of March, 2016 at their hometown in Umuahia. The Funeral Mass will be at St. Declan's Catholic Church, Amizi Olokoru, Umuahia Diocese. We are reminded of our obligation of celebrating Masses for the repose of her soul. May God grant her eternal rest.

(Signed)

+ Alfred Adewale Martins

Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos.