



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

APRIL, 2016/No. 043

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

The Lord is Risen, Alleluia! Happy Easter to you all.

1. THE MONTH OF APRIL: The month of April falls within the Season of Easter. Easter as we all know is the celebration of **the Lord's resurrection** from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. There are **50 days** of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost.

Easter is the Feast of feasts and the foundation of our Christian faith. It is the guarantee of our redemption and God's assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we are called to eternal life. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death, expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia! All articles and details of our Christian faith flows from faith in the resurrection: "*If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith.*" (1 Cor 15:14). From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, the Easters of this earth will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that He will come again with glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father.

The Easter season this year is unique for the unalloyed joy and gladness it brings to all Christians because it falls within the Year of Mercy. On the 3rd of April, we will join the Universal Church to celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy, a feast that offers us the opportunity to experience the unfathomable mercy of God made manifest in Jesus, the face of the Father's Mercy.

To make our celebration complete, a change in our attitude to work, attitude towards mercy and the practice of our faith are imperative and necessary. The feast will not be of much value if there is no corresponding effort to renew our friendship with God and grow in mercy, especially in our relationship with one another. The early Christians made many converts by their exemplary lifestyles and good works. Let us imitate them and go all out living the life of the Apostles. May the Risen Lord increase in us the gift of faith and give us the courage to put the faith in practice. May the Risen Lord increase our faith and teach to be merciful like the Father.

2. EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY 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 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 on **20th November 2016, Solemnity of Christ, the King of the Universe**.

3. RECENT PASTORAL PLACEMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS: We wish to bring to your notice the pastoral placements and appointments of the following priests.

1. Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Ahunkanna (OP) –Vicar for Religious

2. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Adeleke, Associate Parish Priest, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Victoria Island, (Fidei Donum Priest from Ilorin Diocese)

3. Rev. Fr. Peter Awobolaji, Associate Parish Priest, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Aguda, (Fidei Donum Priest from Ilorin Diocese)

4. Rev. Fr. Patrick Ejin, Assistant Parish Priest, Catholic Church of Visitation, Festac (On Sabbatical Leave from Maiduguri Diocese)

5. Rev. Fr. Cyriacus Onunkwo, Associate Parish Priest St. Charles Olodi Apapa (From Orlu Diocese)

4. 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.

5. SAINT PHILOMENA’S SOCIETY: Saint Philomena’s Society is one of the pious societies that is recognized and approved in the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos with Rev. Fr. Simeon Irabor as its current Spiritual Director. The Archdiocesan Officers are presently on evangelization visit to Parishes in the Archdiocese with a view to recruit new members in Parishes. Kindly welcome them in your respective Parishes and give them the opportunity to introduce the Society at the end of the Mass.

6. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY

Admission Requirements for Augustine University: We implore Parish Priests and Priests in- Charge to inform their Parishioners especially the young ones preparing to take JAMB forms 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 to include this announcement in their weekly bulletin and keep repeating it for the next twelve months.

7. ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (PROJECT TIME) AFFILIATED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN:

a. 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.

b. St. Augustine's College of Education offers Admission in-Service Masters in Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum Development and Educational Evaluation and Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PDGE) in the following:

- Curriculum Development in Arts and Languages
- Curriculum Development in Information Technology
- Curriculum Development in Mathematics
- Curriculum Development in Pre-primary and Primary Education

- Curriculum Development in the Sciences
- Educational and Evaluation Research
- Test Construction and Public Examining
- Development and monitoring of Curriculum
- Psychological Testing, Assessment Evaluation and Counselling
- Schools/institutions' Accreditation and Evaluation
- Programme Evaluation
- Teaching etc.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Quarterly Returns: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the First quarter of the year: Epiphany, CBCN, Laity, JDPC and Holy Land. This serves as a **final reminder** to 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 of 2015, including the Special Collections or are not up-to-date in this regard to please do so **unfailingly and without further delay.**

The Chancery also requires that all statutory levies and special collections be paid 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.

b. Parish Statistics: This comes as a reminder to all Parish Priests/Priests-in-Charge that are yet to turn in their Parish Statistics to kindly do so. This should be sent to the Chancery without further delay. Kindly note that the required statistics is for the **year 2015.**

c. Caritas-Lagos Collection: Parishes yet to forward the proceeds of the special collection for the charity works of the Archdiocese of Lagos under the management of **CARITAS-LAGOS** should do so as soon as possible. This is to enable **CARITAS-LAGOS** respond to pending appeals with minimum delay. The Cheque should be addressed as **Archdiocese of Lagos – Caritas** with "Caritas-Lagos" written behind. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should kindly take note of this and act accordingly.

d. 2nd National Meeting of Families, Nigeria: This national event is to be hosted by 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 **N 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

e. Year of Mercy Materials: All Priests who are yet to pay for their Year of Mercy materials are hereby requested to do so immediately or latest by April 14, 2016.

FIRST BANK PLC, CATHOLIC CMD LAGOS, 20172-73879. Please use your parish name as depositor. For clarifications you may call Fr. Mike Umoh on 08023062860

f. Catechists/Religious Education Department

➤ **Archdiocesan Catholic Faith Family Quiz Competition:** The Parish Quiz Competition is scheduled to hold on **Sunday, 17th April, 2016 at 1.00pm in all Parishes.** The Quiz/questions will be administered by representatives of Knights of St. John International (KSJI). Parish Catechists and Faith/Education Committee are required to cooperate and collaborate to ensure that they do the needful to ensure that the activities are successful.

For more information, please call **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. 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 **N 500.00** only from Catechetics /Religious Education.

g. 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 announcement.

h. Lay Leaders Seminar/Workshop – The Workshop for all Lay Leaders in the Archdiocesan, Deanery and Parish Laity Council; Archdiocesan and Deanery Executives of Lay Organizations/Societies/Associations and members of P.P.C, comes up as follows:

Theme: "Can you drink the cup that I must drink? (Mk. 10: 38) "

Date: 7th May, 2016

Time: 7:00 a.m. (Accreditation)

Venue: Catholic Church of the Ascension, Int'l Airport Rd, Ikeja, Lagos.

At least Ten (10) participants are expected from Parishes (Comprising of Executives from the P.P.C. and Laity Council) and also Ten (10) Participants from Archdiocesan Executives of Lay Organizations/Societies/Associations, while at least Five (5) Participants are expected from Deanery Executives.

Participation fee: ₦ 1,500.00 (Per participant)

This will cover workshop material and lunch. Please note that no one person should double in representation (i.e no one person should represent Deanery or Parish and Lay Organization at the same time). For further information and advert booking in the brochure, please contact the Director's Office on 07046395586 or 07046395587.

i. 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 helping them to discern their vocation. The retreat holds 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 is officially open for all the faithful who wish to go for personal and Group Retreat.

For more inquiries, please call 09085648168

j. Establishment of New Society: We appeal to Parish Priests/Priests-in-Charge to take special interest in the established societies in your Parish and its stations, so as to provide Pastoral assistance to them for the dispensation of their peculiar apostolate in the Church. Moreover, it is important to take interest in the

establishment of any new society that wishes to begin in your Parish before its members can be sent to the Lay Apostolate Centre for Archdiocesan recognition.

k. Children's Day Celebration: The children's Day Celebration this year will hold in parishes on 29th May, 2015. We request that adequate preparations be made in this respect.

l. Media Seminar for Nuns: There shall be Media Seminar sponsored by SIGNIS for 150 Nuns representing all the Congregations working in the Archdiocese of Lagos.

Theme: The Catholic Nun in a Digital World.

Special Guest of Honour: Archbishop Alfred Adewale Martins.

Keynote Address: Bishop Emmanuel Badejo.

Date: Monday 30th May, 2016

Time: 9am to 3pm.

Venue: Church of the Ascension, International Airport, Lagos.

Superiors who are yet to receive their letter should please contact Fr. Mike Umoh on 08023062860.

m. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Raphael Adebayo, Gabriel Amolegbe, Vincent Olofinkua and Richard Fasuyi whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. Ad multos annos.

n. Bereavement: With a heavy heart but total acceptance of the will of God, we announce the glorious exit of Mr. Matthew Idaewor, the father of Fr. Kingsley Idaewor. The burial arrangements are as follows: Christian Wake (18/04/16) at Residence (7th Avenue, 721 Rd, G Close) by 6.00pm; Requiem Mass (19/04/16) at Catholic Church of the Presentation, 23 Road Festac by 10.00am; Funeral Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul, Azukhala, Etsako-Central LGA, Edo State (22/04/16) by 10.00am.

We also announce the death of Mary Ighoyota, a sister to Rev. Sr. Gertrude Emadago EHJ who died recently. Let us remember our obligation to offer Mass for the repose of their souls. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen.

(Signed)

+ Alfred Adewale Martins

Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos.