



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

MAY, 2016/No. 044

**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 MAY: MARIAN DEVOTION: It is Mary's month in the Season of Easter and all of nature rejoices with the Queen of heaven at the Resurrection of the Son she was worthy to bear. As spring blossoms and new life sprouts, we spend this month full of joy and hope with Mary in anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Pentecost, the birth of the Church, is also among the celebrations of May. Though sprung from the side of Christ on the Cross, the Church marks as her birthday the descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles. At the 'birth' of the world, the Holy Spirit — the Breath of God — was the "mighty wind [that] swept over the waters" (Gen 1:2); at the birth of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was the power of the Most High that overshadowed Mary; at the birth of the Church the Holy Spirit was present again "like the rush of a mighty wind" to recreate the world in the image of Christ through His Church (Acts 2:2). We, the members of Christ's Mystical Body, are the present-day disciples sent by the Holy Spirit to bring Christ to the world. May we go forth as did Mary, who set out in haste to assist St. Elizabeth (feast of the Visitation, May 31).

As we reflect on the life and faith of Mary during this month, let us make special devotions in her honour. These devotions should include recitation of the Holy Rosary, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Talks on Mary and visits to the shrines and grottos of our Lady, amongst other pious activities. We pray for a fresh outpouring of the self-same Spirit upon us. It is our prayer that Mary,

daughter of the Father, mother of the Son and bride of the Spirit will continue to intercede for us all.

2. SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF THE CHURCH (MATER ECCLESIAE):

The Solemnity of the Mother of the Church, Patroness of the Archdiocese of Lagos comes up on Saturday before the Vigil of Pentecost each year which falls on the 14th of May, 2016, this year.

The Title of Mary Mother Church was originally proclaimed by Pope Paul VI on November 21, 1964 as he closed the third session of the Second Vatican Council. With this gesture, the Holy Father entrusted the Church to the maternal intercession and patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. With the decree made on **September 15, 2004** by His Eminence, Anthony Cardinal Okogie, now Emeritus-Archbishop of Lagos, Mary Mother of the Church was proclaimed the Patroness of the Archdiocese of Lagos.

We are requested to commemorate this Solemnity in all parishes and stations in the Archdiocese. Also, the decree stipulates that "all those who on the day of this Solemnity visit the monastery, recite the prayer to the Mother of the Church and pray in accordance with conditions stipulated by the Church (reciting once "the Creed", "Our Father", "the Hail Mary", "the Glory Be", "the ejaculation"; 'Mary, Mother of the Church, Pray for your children'; and making a sacramental confession within a week of the Solemnity) will receive a Plenary Indulgence."

3. 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 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 on the **20th of November 2016, Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe.**

4. OLD CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH WORLDWIDE:

Our attention has also been drawn to the presence of this religious body that calls itself "**Catholic**" but totally unaffiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in our Archdiocese. This dissident body is championed by **Rev. Fr. Raphael Fagbohun** originally of the Catholic Diocese of Ekiti but now suspended by his Bishop and no more in good standing with the Church. They teach and promote doctrines and practices that are incongruent and often opposed to the Catholic faith. By exploiting the similarities in names, they try to woo and deceive our people into believing it is one with the Catholic Church.

We use this medium to restate unequivocally that there is only One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church founded by our Lord Jesus Christ that has the Pope, the successor of St. Peter as its visible head and the Bishops as the successors of the Apostles. Because of the fundamental differences in doctrine, theology, spirituality and ministry between the Catholic Church and this body, we consider all actions, liturgical and sacramental, performed by this body, as unorthodox and invalid.

In line with the notification of the CBCN and in keeping with my mandate to maintain and defend the integrity of the Catholic faith, I hereby state categorically that this religious body is not in communion with the Catholic Church and therefore warn all Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Lagos **especially those in the Badagry region** to keep away from all their services and activities. Anyone who does the contrary does so at his or her own risk. We must be vigilant and wary of wolves in sheep clothing. All priests should please take note. May God protect and defend his Church.

5. RECENT PASTORAL PLACEMENT: We wish to bring to your notice the pastoral redeployment of **Rev. Fr. Gabriel Adeleke to Catholic Church of the Resurrection, Magodo.**

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. SAINT PHILOMENA'S SOCIETY: Saint Philomena's Society is one of the pious societies that was 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 set up the society in Parishes. Kindly welcome them in your respective Parishes and give them the opportunity to introduce the Society at the end of the Mass.

8. 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. **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.

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

a. Admission is in progress for the 2016/2017 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.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **Quarterly Returns:** Please be reminded that the Chancery 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 this 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. 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.

d. Caritas-Lagos Collection: Parishes yet to forward the proceeds of their special collection for the charity works of the Archdiocese of Lagos under the management of **CARITAS-LAGOS** should do so before the **7th of May, 2016**. This is to enable **CARITAS-LAGOS** respond to pending requests with minimum delay. The Cheque should be addressed to **Archdiocese of Lagos-Caritas** and "Caritas-Lagos" written behind. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should kindly take note of this and act accordingly.

e. 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.

f. Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria: The Catholic Nurses Guild in the Archdiocese shall be celebrating this year's International Nurses Week with a three day workshop from **Friday 6th to Sunday 8th May, 2016**. Also, there will be screening on cervical and prostate cancer on the 1st and 2nd day. Participation is open to all Nurses, Student Nurses, all Health Practitioners, Priests, Religious and lay faithful.

g. Pentecost Day Celebration/Confirmation of Candidates in the Archdiocese: The 2016 Pentecost day celebration and confirmation of candidates in the Archdiocese comes up on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Ikorodu by 10.00am. Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins, the Archbishop of Lagos, will preside over the ceremony. Kindly note that the age of confirmation for now is 14 years and above. All submissions should be made to the Religious Education Department, 19, Maye Street, Yaba. For more information please call: 08066224284,08033574050

h. CATECHISTS/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

➤ 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 **N500.00** only from Religious Education Dept.

i. Mater Ecclesiae Monastery:

▪ **Monthly Retreat:** Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, Lagos organizes a day of spiritual retreat for young girls from 15 years 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 Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, Lekki, Lagos.**

▪ **Mater Ecclesiae Retreat Center:** Mater Ecclesiae Retreat Center is officially open for personal and Group Retreat for the Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful. For more inquiries call 09085648168.

j. **Establishment of a 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' Day Celebration this year will hold in parishes on May 29, 2016. We request that adequate preparations be made in this respect.

l. **MEDIA SEMINAR FOR NUNS:** There shall be a 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 letters should please contact Fr. Mike Umoh on 08023062860.

m. **National Association of Catholic Lawyers:** The General Meeting of the National Association of Catholic Lawyers Lagos Archdiocese will be held on **Sunday June 26th, 2016** at the **Catholic Church of the Assumption, Falomo-Ikoyi** at 11am. Also, the inauguration of **National Association of Catholic Lawyers, Falomo** will be done during the mass.

11. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Eduke Godwin, Garber Leo and Monye Joseph whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur 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.