



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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

Monthly Bulletin /Circular

JUNE, 2016/No. 045

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 JUNE: You are all welcome to the month of June which heralds the end of the first half of the year. Following Pentecost, the Church begins her slow descent from the great peaks of the Easter Season to the verdant pastures of Ordinary Time, the longest of the liturgical seasons. Ordinary Time is the hour to "go out to whole world and proclaim the good news." The feasts of June highlight this call to work for the expansion of the Church. At least ten times, the Church vests in the red of the martyrs whose blood is the very seed of her growth. She also celebrates the feasts of the apostles Peter and Paul, and the birth of St. John the Baptist, proto-disciple and prophet. We too are called to be witnesses like the apostles and martyrs and be agents of the new evangelisation.

The Month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and so we are called to reflect on the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** (June 3) and the **Immaculate Heart of Mary** (June 4). Understood in the light of the Scriptures, the term "Sacred Heart of Jesus" denotes the entire mystery of Christ, the totality of his being, his salvific mission and sanctification of mankind. This feast calls for the attitudes that are necessary for conversion and reparation, love and gratitude, apostolic commitment and dedication to Christ and his saving work. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the fount of love and mercy, propelling us to love and be merciful like the Father.

May the Heart of Jesus inflame our hearts so that we may be worthy of our Baptismal call to holiness. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

2. EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY WEEKLY PILGRIMAGE: The weekly pilgrimage to the Holy Cross Cathedral continues to hold every **Tuesday**. The activities of the pilgrimage as usual include a tour of the Cathedral, Sacramental confession, celebration of Mass, passing through the Door of Mercy into the Cathedral, audience with the Archbishop, and issuance of certificate of pilgrimage among others. All Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should be at the forefront of organizing and ensuring that pilgrims from their Parishes participate actively. They should also ensure they are well catered for and are conveyed to and from 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 a close on the **20th of November 2016, Solemnity of Christ the King.**

3. JUBILEE FOR PRIESTS: We wish to remind all Priests in the Archdiocese of the Jubilee for Priests coming up on Thursday, 2nd June, 2016 by 10.00am at Holy Cross Cathedral Lagos. The Jubilee entails among other things; a tour of the Cathedral, entrance into the Cathedral through the Holy Door and Holy Mass. Please, come along with your Green coloured Chasuble, Rosary and Breviary.

4. YEAR OF MERCY ANTHEM AND PRAYER: In keeping with the celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, all the faithful are expected to say Pope Francis' prayer for the Year of Mercy and sing the anthem during Sunday Masses. The anthem may be sung immediately after the Gospel before the Homily and the Prayer before the post-communion prayer.

5. CANONIZATION OF BLESSED MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA: Following the announcement of **4th of September, 2016** as the date for the canonisation of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, there shall be a Holy Mass to commemorate this event in our Archdiocese on **September 17, 2016 at St. Michael Catholic Church, Ketu by 10.00am**. The Archbishop will preside over the Mass. We cordially request the presence and participation of all Priests, Religious and Lay-faithful of the Archdiocese at the celebration. Let us endeavour to turn out *en masse*

and benefit from the special graces that accrue from the intercession of the would-be St. Teresa of Calcutta.

6. ANTHONY CARDINAL OLUBUNMI OKOGIE 80TH BIRTHDAY: The 80th Birthday celebration of our Archbishop Emeritus comes up **on the 16th of June, 2016**. Kindly refer to the **Special Circular** already sent as regards the events and activities to mark the combined celebration of the 80th birthday and 50th anniversary of Priestly ordination. We appeal to all Parish Priests and Associations to act in accordance with the instructions in the circular.

7. June 1st 2016 marks my own 57th birthday. Kindly include my intentions in your prayers and Masses on the day. There shall be a Mass of thanksgiving at the Holy Cross Cathedral by **12.00 noon** and a Press Conference organised by the Knights of St. Mulumba after the Mass.

8. BEWARE: Our attention has been drawn to a man who claims to be a Priest of a Diocese in Cameroun and studying in the **Philippines**. We understand that he has been going round Parishes and institutions in the Archdiocese soliciting for financial assistance. He does not have our permission to go round as he is doing. You are advised to direct him to the Chancery if he turns up in your parish or school.

9. SECURITY ALERT: We are deeply disturbed and indeed disheartened by the ugly spate of kidnapping ravaging our beloved country, Nigeria. In recent times a number of priests and female Religious have also been kidnapped. We cannot be sure whether that is deliberate or not. Whatever the case may be, we charge all our priests and religious to be more vigilant and to take necessary security precautions. We urge everyone to pray in particular that the Lord would shield his people from this evil. While we recourse to God our unfailing watchman and ultimate protector, let us keep to our timeless value of simplicity of lifestyle and avoidance of any activity or practice that may draw undue attention to us. May God defend us from all evil.

10. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY

Admission Requirements for Augustine University: Once again, we request Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners especially those young people seeking admission to Universities of the admission requirements of our Augustine University, Ilara (AUI). 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 item of announcement in their weekly bulletin and keep repeating it for the next twelve months.

11. ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (PROJECT T.I.M.E) 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.

12. 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 these in your subsequent submissions.

b. Caritas-Lagos Meeting: This is to inform **all members** of the Caritas-Lagos Committee that their meeting is scheduled to hold as follows:

Venue: St. Leo's Catholic Church, Ikeja
Date: Thursday, 9th June, 2016
Time: 10:00 AM

c. Family and Human Life Unit: The Family and Human Life Unit of the Archdiocese shall be have the following Training Programmes during this year 2016:

- **Basic Christian Counselling Course Part 1** (One Friday a month for 3 months), it begins **10th June, 2016.**
- **Marriage Theology and Lived Experience (Full Time Course)** running for 10 weeks (One Tuesday a week), it begins **20th September, 2016.**

Venue: Church and Society Building; 19, Maye Street, off Commercial Avenue, Sabo-Yaba, Lagos.

Cost: #3,500 per month (Includes Tea break and Lunch)

Graduation and Certificate Fees: #5,000 (Marriage Theology and Lived Experience Course); **#5,000** (Canon Law Course for Laity)

Certificate Fees: #2,500 (Billings Ovulation Method Course)

Certificate Fees: #1,500 (Basic Christian Counselling Course)

Time: 10am-4pm.

These courses are for interested individuals who wish to be trained to work in the area of marriage, family and human life as facilitators, counsellors or social workers. For more information/enquiries, please call **08033804494** or **08028489999.**

d. 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 **₦ 500.00** only from Catechists/Religious Education Department. For more information/enquiries, please call **08033574050**.

e. Catholic Faith Family Competition: The next phase of the Catholic Faith Family Competition at the Deanery Level holds on **Sunday, June 19, 2016** in the following parishes and Deaneries:

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| a. St. Sabina Catholic Church, Idimangoro - | Agege Deanery |
| b. St. Charles Catholic Church, Olodi-Apapa - | Apapa Deanery |
| c. Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Badagry | Badagry Deanery |
| d. Church of Annunciation, Abraham Adesanya | Epe Deanery |
| e. Holy Family Catholic Church, Festac | Festac Deanery |
| f. St. Leo's Catholic Church, Ikeja | Ikeja Deanery |
| g. St. Augustine Catholic Church, Ikorodu | Ikorodu Deanery |
| h. Ss. Joachim and Anne Catholic Church, Meiran | Ipaja Deanery |
| i. Our Lady of Perpetual Help, VI | Lagos Island Deanery |
| j. Ss. Philip and James, Lekki | Lekki Deanery |
| k. St. Agnes, Maryland | Maryland Deanery |
| l. St. Anthony, Gbaja | Surulere Deanery |
| m. St. Dominic, Yaba | Yaba Deanery |
| n. St. Patrick, Alaba | Satellite Deanery |

f. Catholic Youth Organisation of Nigeria – The Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria-Lagos Archdiocese shall embark on a pilgrimage to the Cathedral on the **26th of July, 2016.**

g. 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.** The inauguration of **National Association of Catholic Lawyers, Falomo** will be done during the mass at **Church of Assumption Catholic Church, Falomo, Lagos.**

h. 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 Ecclesia Monastery, Sangotedo, Lekki, Lagos.

- **Mater Ecclesiae Retreat Center:** Mater Ecclesiae Retreat Center is officially open to everyone for personal and Group Retreats.

For more inquiries, call 09085648168.

i. Priests Recollection: The Annual Priests' Recollection comes up on the **15th of June, 2016.** All Priests are required to take part in this unique spiritual exercise. The Episcopal Vicars are expected to ensure the participation all priests in their regions.

j. Seminar for Priests: The seminar for Priests will come up on the **21st of June, 2016.** We expect all Priests to avail themselves of this opportunity for on-going formation.

k. **Admission into Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music:** This Archdiocesan approved Music Academy will resume in **September, 2016**. Admissions into the Academy are now on-going. For download of registration forms, entrance exams dates and other relevant information, please check the website: www.cecilianacademyng.com. Come and learn about the theory and practice of Sacred Music.

13. MEMORIAL MASS FOR REV. FR. GODWIN OFONYELU: It is now one year since our brother; Fr. Godwin Ofonyelu left us to the eternal kingdom. There shall be a one-year memorial mass for him at Our Lady Queen of Nigeria Catholic Church, Clegg Street on **Friday, 10th June, 2016 at 6:30pm**. We are all encouraged to attend. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.

14. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Msgr. Festus Ogunsakin and Rev. Frs. Anyanwu Francis, Etegene Michael, Ogunyase Matthew, Ayangbola Peter, Ayonote Lawrence, Egwuatu Julian, Okelezo Simon, Oladunjoye Sylvester, Oritseweyimi Kingsley, and Umole Fidelis 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.