



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

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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 SEPTEMBER:** Welcome to the month of September, the ninth month of the year which also signals the end of the third quarter. This month ushers us into the "ember" months which providentially are *harvest months* in our Archdiocese. The harvest period is a fitting opportunity to joyfully thank and praise God with the best fruits of our labours for His manifold benevolence, inexhaustible mercies, abiding faithfulness and boundless love upon us. We pray that the Lord of the Harvest will increase our harvest and accept our finest gifts as once He accepted the bread and wine offered by the Priest, Melchizedek.

During this month, we shall commemorate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th September), our Mother and Queen whose significant role in the economy of salvation continues to enrich our faith and deepen our piety. Also in this month, we shall commemorate the *Exaltation of the Cross* (14th September) which is the feast day of our Cathedral and Patron Feast of our Archdiocese, and Our Lady of Sorrows (15th September). These feasts call us to sober reflection on the excruciating pain Our Lord underwent on the Cross and the victory achieved therefrom; and the seven sorrows that pierced Our Lady's Heart, all of which was borne with a docile heart and complete trust in the supreme will of God.

May the month of September bring us a fullness of God's blessings and favors. Amen.

2. **EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY WEEKLY PILGRIMAGE:** The weekly pilgrimage to the Holy Cross Cathedral holds every **Tuesday**. The activities of the pilgrimage include: a tour of the Cathedral, Confession,

passing through the Door of Mercy into the Cathedral, audience with the Archbishop which climaxes in the celebration of Mass. This is followed by the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Prayers and issuance of certificates. All Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should be at the forefront of organizing and ensuring that 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 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.**

3. YEAR OF MERCY SONG AND PRAYER: It has come to our notice that many parishes in the Archdiocese do not recite the Year of Mercy prayer or sing the Year of Mercy anthem. In keeping with the celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are expected to say the prayer for the Year of Mercy and the anthem during Sunday Masses

4. CANONIZATION OF BLESSED MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA: Following the announcement of the canonization Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta scheduled for the **4th of September 2016**, 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 invite all Priests, Religious and Lay-faithful of the Archdiocese to the ceremony. Let us endeavour to turn out *en masse* and benefit from the special graces that accrue from the intercession of would-be St. Teresa of Calcutta.

5. ON THE AGE FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION/USE OF INDIGENOUS NAMES FOR BAPTISM: Following an exhaustive discussion of the appropriate age for the reception of First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation by the College of Consultors of the Archdiocese, we hereby inform the entire faithful that the minimum age for the reception of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Archdiocese is 8 and 10 years respectively. May we also reconfirm that those who so choose are free to use names in the local languages that reflect the attributes of God,

have spiritual significance and encourage the practice of the virtues for the Sacrament of Baptism.

6. ONGOING FORMATION OF THE LAITY: The importance and necessity of post-catechism class formation of the faithful cannot be over-emphasized. We expect Parish Priests to ensure that they devise programmes and activities for the required ongoing formation of the faithful. In conjunction with the Parish Pastoral Council Committee concerned we hope that this aspect of the life of the Church would be pursued more vigorously so as to enhance the spiritual growth of the faithful in our parishes.

7. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY:

- **DISCLAIMER:** It has come to our notice, that a group of swindlers parade themselves on the internet as "**St. Augustine University**" using the address of OUR University and its identity. All Priests, Religious and the Lay Faithful are asked to take note and to bear in mind that our University is **AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY, P.M.B. 1010, ILARA-EPE, LAGOS**. Our University website remains www.augustineuniversity.edu.ng.

We are not **St. Augustine University**. Parish Priests are asked to bring this to the notice of their parishioners so that they may not fall prey to this malicious act.

- **Admission Requirements for Augustine University, Ilara (AUI):** We call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners especially those seeking admission to universities of the Admission requirements for our 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 bulletins and keep repeating it.

**8. 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.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **ARCHDIOCESAN PRIESTLY ORDINATION:** Our deacons, **Rev. Atoyebi Christopher, Rev. Emiri Emmanuel and Rev. Ezeigwe Vitalis**, shall be raised to the Order of the Priesthood on **Thursday, September 22, 2016** at **St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland**. The time is **10.00am**. Let us keep them in our prayers as we continue to pray for all our Priests.

b. **This is to notify** priests in the Archdiocese of Lagos that the new registers for the various sacraments (First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and Matrimony) are out, and are available at the Chancery at the price of N7500.00 for a complete set of three. It will be made available to all the Deans. It is important that each parish gets a new set.

c. **Directory 2017:** The year 2017 is around the corner. Kindly go through this year's Directory again so as to point out possible errors, omissions, amendments and suggestions for the improvement of our Directory. Please, send your comments to the Chancery on or before the last week of October, 2016. You may also reach the Chancery through her e-mail address: arclagos@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

d. **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. When making their returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should also ensure they attach the front page of the **Blue Sheets** that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it. Kindly note these in your subsequent submissions.

e. **Jubilee Year of Mercy-MCA Pilgrimage:** The pilgrimage of MCA children to the Holy Cross Cathedral to mark the jubilee Year of Mercy comes up on **Thursday, 1st of September, 2016 at 9:00am**. Each Deanery is to be represented by only 100 children drawn from their different parishes. Children

who have already gone on this pilgrimage with their parents, parishes or schools are not to come on this day. Not more than 10 animators may accompany the children from each deanery and they are to make adequate provision for the welfare of the children under their care.

f. Children's Rally with the Archbishop: The annual Children's Rally with the Archbishop comes up on **Saturday, 8th October 2016** at Catholic Church of Ascension, Airport Road, Ikeja beginning with the Holy Mass at **10:00am**. Registration fee is #500.00 per child while the MCA Uniform (face cap, neck scarf & badge) is #1,000.00. Registration closes on **10th of September, 2016**.

g. Family and Human Life Unit: The Family and Human Life Unit in the Archdiocese shall be conducting the following Training Programmes during the year:

- **Basic Christian Counselling Course Part 1** (One Friday a month for 3 months), which began **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 meant 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**.

h. Grand-Finale of the Catholic Family Faith Competition, 2016: This quiz competition which has been on since last year will be brought to a conclusion on **September 18th, 2016**. The event will begin with a Holy Mass in St. Leo Catholic Church, Ikeja at 11.00am and it will be followed by other activities of the *grande*

finale including distribution of prizes to the Champion Families for the year 2016.

i. 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. Lay Liturgical Ministers, Parish office staff, Religious Sisters and Individuals who wish to refresh, update and upgrade their knowledge of the Catholic faith and morals are also invited to participate in these trainings. Those who do not belong to any of the above-mentioned categories but desire to be trained as Pastoral Agents should 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 Catechists /Religious Education.

j. Archdiocesan Catechetical Week: The annual Archdiocesan Catechetical Week will hold in all Parishes from **Sunday 2nd - 9th October, 2016**. The theme of this year's celebration is "**Family Catechesis: An Imperative for New Evangelization**". Parishes are to fix time that will be convenient for them daily. Also a mandatory collection is to be taken on **Sunday, 9th October** in all Parishes in Support of Religious Education activities in the Archdiocese and the collection should be forwarded to the Chancery or Religious Education Department.

k. Catechist Day Celebration: The Catechist day celebration comes up on **Sunday 9th October** at **Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Amuwo-Odofin** at 10:00 am.

l. 2016 Seminar/ Workshop on the New Archdiocesan Parish Guidelines for Members of Faith Formation and Education committee for all Parishes in Lekki Region: The program will be taking place on **Saturday 3rd of September, 2016** at **Catholic Church of the Transfiguration, V.G.C** at 10 am. Registration fee is **N1, 000** per participant and Parishes are expected to send four (4) representatives. For more information/enquiries, please call **08033574050** or **08090812202**.

m. **2016 Lagos Archdiocesan Cultural and Drama Festival, (LACDRAFEST):** This year's edition of LACDRAFEST 2016 grand finale is scheduled to hold in **September, 2016.**

n. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC LAWYERS-Celebration of 2016 New Legal Year Mass:** The National Association of Catholic Lawyers Lagos Archdiocese shall be having their annual celebration of the New Legal Year on **September 25th, 2016 at Holy Cross Cathedral at 10:00am. 48168.**

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

q. The Lagos Archdiocesan Music Commission presents a regional seminar/workshop titled: **CHORAL SINGING IN CATHOLIC WORSHIP.** Speakers at the workshop include:

- i. **Rev. Fr. Peter Osuntope**
- ii. **Mr. F.B.O. Eniayejuni**
- iii. **Professor Anthony Mereni**

The Regional venues and dates are as follows:

-**Ss. Philip & James Catholic Church, Lekki (Lekki Region)**

Date: Saturday, 24th September, 2016

Time: 11am-4pm.

-**Church of Annunciation, 7th Avenue, Festac (Badagry Region)**

Date: Saturday, 1st October, 2016

Time: 10am-4pm.

-**St. Leo's Parish Hall, Ikeja (Ikeja Region)**

Date: Monday, 3rd October, 2016

Time: 10am-4pm.

-St. Paul's Parish Hall, Ebute-Metta (Lagos Region)

Date: Saturday, 8th October, 2016

Time: 10am-4pm.

Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge are to encourage their choristers in this regard, by supporting in the participation fee, which is **N1, 000** per participant. The choir of each parish is expected to be represented by at least 25 participants. Individuals could also attend by paying the same fee.

r. Nigerian Federation of Catholic Students: The annual conference of **NFCS** will hold at St. Gregory College, Obalende-Lagos from **Thursday 1st - Sunday 4th of September, 2016**. The theme of the conference is "**Mercy at Work**". Parish Priests are requested to encourage parents to allow their children to attend.

s. Visitation of The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Parishes: As part of preparation towards the centenary anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima by next year 2017, members of the World Apostolate of Fatima (Blue Army) will be visiting parishes in the Archdiocese. We ask Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to give them audience.

t. Appointment of New Liaison Bishop: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) has appointed me as the new Liaison Bishop to the Armed Forces of Roman Catholic Chaplaincy. I sincerely thank my predecessor, Anthony Cardinal Okogie, who until recently occupied this position, for the good work he did with the Armed Forces, and pray God to grant me the grace to discharge this duty effectively. Between **22nd - 25th September, 2016** all the chaplains of the Armed Forces in Nigeria will gather in Lagos at **St. Michael's Catholic Church, Tamandu Barracks, Apapa- Lagos**, for the celebrations. As part of the event to mark the occasion is the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on qualified candidates of the Armed Forces and the commissioning of the **Chaplaincy's Rectory** in memory of Msgr. Col. Pedro Martins of blessed memory. This will take place on **Sunday the 25th of September, 2016, by 10.00am**. You are all invited.

10. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for our Archbishop and his classmates: Msgr. Edmund Akpala and Jerome Oduntan, Rev. Frs. Peter Oke, and Alphonsus Aina, as they mark their thirty-third priestly ordination anniversary in the Lord's vineyard. Also we are requested to pray for Revd. Frs. Adekoya Francis, Anyanwu Emmanuel, Azubuinye Patrick, Emeneogu Samuel, Fatoye Gabriel, Hunkokoe Michael, Ijasa Paul, Mautin Simeon, Monye Joseph, Oboh Alexander, Ogunmola Francis, Okhiria Victor, Olagbemi Christopher, Ugoje Gabriel, Elias Nwaodu, Boniface Okafor, Gabriel Ysasi, John Paul Taberner, Paulinus Uju-Echemnu, James Arebiyi, Philip Obasi, Arua Ethelbert, Ukwuani Leo, Magnus Onyeulor whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. Ad multos annos!!!

11. Bereavement:

- To the greater glory of God, we announce the passing on of **Pa Linus Umoh**, the Father of Rev. Fr. Mike Umoh. The Requiem Mass comes up at Catholic Church of the Ascension, International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos, on **Friday 2nd September, 2016 by 5pm**. We are all encouraged to attend.
- With gratitude to God for a life well spent, we announce the passing on to eternal glory of **Mr. Godwin Anumba**, the Father of Rev. Fr. Peter Anumba (O.S.J.). The burial will take place on the 4th of September, 2016 in Orlu Diocese, Imo State.
- We announce with heavy heart, the death of **Mrs. Patience Abiodun Eriamiantoe**, the eldest sister of **Rev. Fr. Andrew Abhulime**, the Parish Priest of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Elegbata. The burial ceremonies will take place in Benin City from the 22nd - 25th of September, 2016.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual Light shine on them.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.
Amen.

(Signed)

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