



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **OCTOBER. 2016**/No. 049

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 OCTOBER: Welcome to the month of October, the tenth month of the year which also ushers us into the beginning of the fourth quarter. The month of October is usually dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary and the Solemnity of Our Lady, Queen and Patroness of Nigeria. During this month, the Church invites us to meditate on the power of praying the Holy Rosary especially during the course of the October Devotion. All Catholics are therefore enjoined to participate, both at the Parish and family level, in the activities of October Devotion. Anyone one who prays the Rosary everyday with faith and a deep sense of devotion in contrast to mere mechanical and superficial recitation stands to receive divine favours and protection.

Also, in this month, we celebrate the 56th Independence Anniversary of our beloved country. Let us seize the opportunity that the month of October offers, to pray for our country, Nigeria; for economic stability, the triumph of justice, peace, reconciliation, progress and good governance. And in doing so, receive spiritual enrichment from Our Lady's Maternal intercession. May Our Lady of the Holy Rosary pray for us.

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, Divine Mercy Prayers and issuance of certificate. 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 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. Communiqué at the End CBCN 2016 Second Plenary Meeting: We thank God for the fruitful plenary meeting of Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria held in Akure, Ondo State, September 8th -16th, 2016. The outcome of the meeting is reflected in the Communiqué titled, "Religion as Instrument for Peace and Integral Human Development." Below are the highlights:

a. Events in the Church: In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Bishops expressed their heartfelt gratitude to God for His love and abundant blessings on the Church and our Country, Nigeria. On the note of gratitude also is the Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev. John Akinkunmi Oyejola as Bishop of Osogbo. On a sad note, they commiserated with the Diocese of Makurdi at the demise of Most Rev. Athanasius Usuh, the Bishop Emeritus of Makurdi Diocese who died on the 14th July, 2016.

b. Founding of Institution of Consecrated Life: While commending the bountiful harvest of vocation, and the desire of persons to establish institution of consecrated life, they cautioned against the rapid proliferation of congregations and association of Christ's faithful. All those concerned should please take note.

c. Aberrations in Catholic Worship: As already stated in our Special Circular in the Liturgy, the Bishops discussed extensively the increasing trend of abuses within the liturgy that mock our faith and reduce our worship to entertainment or opportunities to exploit the Religious credulity of the faithful. They made it known that these practices obscure the very essence of Catholic worship and are gradually eroding the true Catholic identity. As a way of guiding the Catholic identity, it was said that the liturgical books approved by the competent authority, are to be **FAITHFULLY** followed in the celebration of the Sacraments.

d. Religion: Recipe for Peace and Development: They identify the plethora of challenges plaguing our nation as a result of religious extremism and call for more concerted efforts in overcoming the spirit of unhealthy competition, religious intolerance, and suspicion between Christians and Muslims.

e. State of Nation: The Bishops decried the economic recession in our country, and advised the government to consider devolution of powers to create a healthy economic competition while at the same time encouraging Nigerians be more prudent in their spending. With regards curbing violence, they condemned the acts of vandalization of oil installations in the Niger Delta and urge the government to take decisive action against the wanton destruction of lives by the Fulani Herdsmen. For more details and information on the communiqué please visit the Archdiocesan website; www.lagosarchdiocese.com.

4. 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.

5. MEETINGS WITH THE ARCHBISHOP: As part of the efforts to interact and receive the thoughts of the Priests and Religious on the life of our Archdiocese, the following meetings have been scheduled to hold on the respective dates below by **11.00 a.m.** at the **Holy Cross Cathedral Hall;**

- ✓ Female Religious : **Thursday, 13th October, 2016**
- ✓ Diocesan Clergy (including Fidei Donum Priests) : **Thursday, 10th November, 2016**
- ✓ Male Religious : **Thursday, 24th November, 2016**

6. This is to inform the members of the Archdiocesan Curia and the Board of Consultors that will be meeting on **Wednesday 19th October, 2016, and Wednesday 23rd November, 2016** respectively. **The time is 11:00am.** All those concerned should please take note.

7. **ARCHDIOCESAN PRIESTS' SEMINAR:** The fourth quarterly seminar for Priests in the Archdiocese of Lagos comes up on **Wednesday 26th of October, 2016** at the following venues and regions in the Archdiocese.

- a. **St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland: Lagos and Ikeja Regions**
- b. **St. Thomas Catholic Church, Okokomaiko: Badagry Region**
- c. **Ss. Philip & James Catholic Church, Lekki: Lekki Region**

The time is **10.00 am**. Let us endeavor to be punctual.

8. **Seminar for the Lay Faithful on the Parish Guidelines:** The seminar for the Lay Representatives of the various councils in the Parish comes up on on the 29th October at St. Leo Catholic Church, Ikeja, by 11:am. Each Parish is to send two (2) representatives for the Finance and Administration/Human Resources Management Guidelines and another two (2) representatives for Parish Pastoral and Parish Laity Councils **from the current members of the various councils**.

9. **Pastoral Placements:** Following the recent Priestly Ordination, we carried out a limited transfer of priests, with effect from **Tuesday, 25th October, 2016**. Please find below the names and parishes of those concerned:

PARISH PRIESTS AND PRIESTS-IN-CHARGE

- 1. **St. Thomas Catholic Church, Okokomaiko**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Denis Emeana - Parish Priest
- 2. **St. Joseph Catholic Church, Aradagun, Badagry**
 - a. Rev. Fr. George Anibuike - Priest-in-Charge
- 3. **St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Ira, Ojo**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Peter Ekwenuya, MSP - Priest-in-Charge
- 4. **St. Anthony Catholic Church, Agbelekale, Meiran**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Raphael Kalu, SMMM - Priest-in-Charge
- 5. **St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Shagari Estate, Ipaja**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Lawrence Alle, OMV - Priest-in-Charge
- 6. **Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, Adaloko, Okokomaiko**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Peter Williams, CMF - Priest-in-Charge
- 7. **St. Louis Catholic Church, Egbeda**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Simon Iduh, CM - Priest-in-Charge
- 8. **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Iranla, Badore**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Ernest Chijioke Ndukwe, CSsR - Priest-in-Charge

ASSOCIATE PARISH PRIESTS

- 1. **St. Theresa Catholic Church, Epe**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Christopher Atoyebi
- 2. **St. Thomas Catholic Church, Okokomaiko**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Emiri
- 3. **St. Cyril Catholic Church, Okota**

- a. Rev. Fr. Vitalis Ezeigwe
- 4. St. Patrick Catholic Church, Igbogila**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Ugoje
- 5. St. Patrick Catholic Church, Alaba**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Philip Uchendu
- 6. St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ajegunle**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Joseph Yankson (From Cape Coast, Ghana)
- 7. Church of the Presentation, Festac Town**
 - a. Rev. Fr. Innocent Udumbo, OSJ

9. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY DISCLAIMER: It has come to our notice that a group of swindlers parade themselves on net the as “**St. Augustine University**” using the address of Our University and its identity. All Priests, Religious and 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 website remains www.augustineuniversity.edu.ng. Please do not fall a prey to this malicious act.

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 bulletin and keep repeating it.

10. 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.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **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. They will be made available to all Deans. It is important that each parish gets a new set.

b. **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.

c. **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.

d. 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.

e. Cardinal Okogie Annual Lecture: This lecture is organised by the Directorate of Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Association of the Knights of St. Mulumba Nigeria (KSM) of Lagos Archdiocese this year. It is scheduled to hold as follows:

Date: 20th October, 2015

Venue: McGovern Hall, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland

Time: 10.00 am

Theme: *"A Nation in need of Renewal: the Role of Justice and Mercy."*

Guest Speaker: Prof. Isaac Ukpokolo.

f. 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**.

g. A Retreat for Permanent Catechist in the Archdiocese of Lagos during the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, 2016: This program will hold at St. Andrew Catholic Church, Seme Border, Badagry, Lagos from **Monday 10th – Friday 14th of October, 2016**.

N.B. Each Permanent Catechist should bring 5,000 to help with the expenses of the Retreat, which should be paid by their parish.

h. The Statutory meeting of the Lagos Ecclesiastical Marriage Tribunal comes up on **19th October 2016 at St. Agnes Maryland by 10:00 am**. All those concerned should please note.

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 **₦500.00** only from Catechists /Religious Education Department office.

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.

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**.

m. Priests Recollection: the annual priests' recollection comes up on the **12th of October, 2016** at the following regions; **Lekki, Badagry and Ikeja/Lagos**. Please endeavour to be punctual and come along with your Rosary and Breviary. The time is **10:00am**. The respective venues shall be communicated by the Episcopal Vicars. For those in **Ikeja and Lagos regions**, the venue is **St. Agnes, Maryland**.

o. 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 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.

p. Admission into Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music: This Archdiocesan Music Academy approved by the Archbishop resumed in **September, 2016**. Hence, 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.

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

i. Rev. Fr. Peter Osuntope

- ii. Mr. F.B.O. Eniaiyejuni
- iii. Professor Anthony Mereni

The Regional venues and dates are:

-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.

That of Lekki Region was conducted in the month of September, 2016.

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 send at least 25 participants. Individuals could also attend by paying the same fee.

r. Teachers Day: The annual Teachers day celebration will hold at St. Gregory College, Obalende, Lagos, on the **2nd of October, 2016. The time is 10:00am.**

s. Visitation of The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Parishes: As part of preparations towards the centenary anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of 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.

10. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Revd Frs. Anthony Fadairo, Obi John, Innocent Uwakwe, Gabriel Feyisetan, James Anelu, Charles Ukwe, OP., Nicodemus Ugwu, OP., and Ntia Anthony 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.