



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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

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 JANUARY: January, the first month of the year is a month of beginnings, a month of starting afresh. In the first part of January we continue to rejoice and celebrate Christ's coming at Bethlehem and in our hearts. We have the wonderful feasts of Mary, Mother of God, with which we honour Mary in her most sublime title, and then we follow the Magi to the crib as they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on Epiphany. Finally we reach the culmination of this season with the Baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist. With a touch of reticence we take down our decorations and enter into the liturgical period known as the Ordinary Time of the year during which we will devote ourselves to the mystery of Christ in its entirety. The liturgical colour changes from white to green – a symbol of the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

It is a new year and a time for new beginnings. A time to chart new course, do things differently and start afresh with optimism and hope in a better future. We pray God to grant us a fruitful and prosperous Year 2017.

2. ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION ON EVANGELISATION: In keeping with the missionary mandate of Christ to His Church and to individual members of the Church, we have constituted an **Archdiocesan Commission on Evangelization** to motivate and enhance this mandate in our Archdiocese. This Commission is headed by Msgr. Paschal Nwaezeapu and has the following, as well other individuals, as members: Archdiocesan Directress of Religious Education, the Archdiocesan leaders of the Legion of Mary, the Block Rosary, Association of Catholic Trained Evangelizers and the Charismatic Renewal.

The Terms of Reference of the Commission include the following: proposing fresh methods of carrying out both primary and secondary evangelization efforts in the Archdiocese, stimulating deliberate and focused evangelization activities in our educational institutions, formation of Lay leaders and the youths in particular in the art of evangelization, focus on ministry to teenagers and other matters related to helping people to encounter Christ in a personal way.

We urge all priests, Religious Women and Men and the laity in general to cooperate with this Commission in attaining the goal of evangelization that Christ set for his Church. We are all aware of the challenges to the faith that has led to serious decline in the practice of the faith in some other parts of the world. We must take proactive steps to ensure that we stem the tide of secularism and the aggressive proselytizing by other sects and denominations by formation of our members in the faith and in the art of evangelization. If members are strong in the faith having had their encounter with Christ, they will be zealous for proclaiming the faith also.

3. ALPHA COURSE- CATHOLIC CONTEXT

The Alpha Course is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of guided talks and discussions. It aims to help people to either discover or rediscover the meaning and joy of the Christian message. It gives one an opportunity to leverage on the experiences of others in a friendly, warm and simple atmosphere. Alpha is an invaluable tool for evangelization.

Alpha courses are being run in Churches, homes, workplaces, prisons, universities and a wide variety of other locations. The course is being run around the world by all major Christian denominations. In our Archdiocese it has been organised in different Parishes and Centres such as St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Victoria Island, Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos, Catholic Church of Divine Mercy, Lekki, and Lagos Resource Centre, to mention a few.

Parish Priests and Heads of Institutions are encouraged to embrace this laudable Programme and we strongly encourage them to run **Alpha** in the Parishes and institutions. In order to arrange for the courses, kindly contact Rev. Fr. Anthony Nwosu on 08063853466 or Mrs. Aima Lijadu on 080333454777,08136304244.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION: We remind all parish Priests and Priests in charge that the formula for announcement concerning

the reception of Holy Communion especially at celebrations at which visitors are present is as follows "It is time for the reception of Holy Communion. The grace of this mass is for everyone present, but the Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and practicing Catholics who have prepared themselves to receive the Lord. We acknowledge in our midst our brothers and sisters of other Denominations, Ecclesial Communion and Faith who have come to worship and participate in our Liturgy. We request that you kindly remain on your seat and pray along with the Church and for the intention of the celebrant, while asking the Lord to come to you Spiritually. May God bless us all. Amen."

5. DISCLAIMER - ZION PRAYER MOVEMENT OUTREACH

- We wish to call the attention of all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Lagos to the above-named movement located in the Okota-Ago axis of the Archdiocese, in between Festac and Isolo Deaneries.
- We have reached out to the leaders of this movement requesting that they submit themselves and their activities to the authority of the Church but they have refused and failed to submit themselves for guidance and the discipline of the Church. Hence, we therefore call the attention of all Catholics to beware of this movement and desist from any association with this group. Although the leaders say their Catholics and indeed they invite Catholic priests of doubtful character to celebrate Mass in their location, we can say quite clearly that their practices and dispositions constitute a danger to the Catholic Faith and the faith of individuals regarding the authentic Teaching of the Church and Liturgical Discipline.
- Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are to bring this information to the awareness of their Parishioners. Anyone who participates in the activities of this movement does so at a risk to the authenticity of his or her catholic faith and practice. We encourage everyone to be vigilant so as not to give wolves in sheep clothing a chance to lead people astray with all the consequences for our salvation.
- In the Spirit of Christ who does not wish that any of the flock is lost, we call the Leaders of the ministry to a change of attitude and to submission to lawful authority for guidance and direction, may they not be found guilty of leading the little ones astray and breaching the unity of faith and good of people for which Christ prayed and died.

6. PRESENTATION OF BOOKS/WORKS FOR IMPRIMATUR: This is to advise those who want to present their works for Imprimatur, to first seek editing of their works from capable hands particularly their Priests before sending them to the Archbishop for consideration.

7. CORRECTIONS TO SOME ERRORS IN THE 2017 LITURGICAL CALENDER (THE ORDO)

Kindly note the following corrections to the errors we observed in the 2017 Liturgical Calendar. If we find some more, we shall duly inform you.

- The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord was omitted; it is to be celebrated on the 9th of January, 2017; the Monday immediately after the Feast of Epiphany.
- The 9th of August is the memorial of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross whose other name is Edith Stein.
- The 18th of November is the Optional Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica of Sts Peter and Paul, and **not** Mary Major.
- The Feast of Apostles as always goes with the Preface of Apostles.
- The Season of Easter has Five Prefaces and not Six as in the 2017 Ordo.

8. VERITAS TRAVELS & TOURS an IATA registered Travel Agency owned and sponsored by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria provides Travel and Tour services which include:

- Ticketing
- Pilgrimages
- Educational Tours
- Bespoke Vacations

For more enquires call 08188168700 or visit the Catholic Secretariat Building, No. 6, Force Road, Onikan, Lagos.

9. 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 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 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. **Orientation and Induction of New Priests:** We have the tradition in the Archdiocese of giving an orientation programme on liturgical and pastoral practices in the Archdiocese to newly ordained priests as well as priests newly appointed to serve in the Archdiocese of Lagos. This will come up between **12th and 14th January, 2017**. The venue for the orientation is **Domus Fidei, Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, Ikeja, Lagos. Arrival is 7.00pm on Thursday, 14th January 2017**. All those concerned should note that participation in this orientation programme is mandatory.

b. **Curia Meeting:** The first meeting of the Archdiocesan Curia comes up on the **18th of January, 2017**, at the Chancery by 10.00am.

c. **Finance Council Meeting:** The Finance Council meeting for the First Quarter shall be held on the **31st of January, 2017**, at the Chancery by 10.00am

d. **The Feast of the Presentation (Feast of Consecrated Life):** This annual ceremony comes up on the **2nd of February, 2017**, at **St. Jude's Catholic Church, Mafoluku**, by **10.00am**. The Archbishop will preside over the Mass. Other events follow after the Mass.

e. **Consultors Meeting:** The meeting of the College of Consultors for the first quarter shall be held on the **8th of February, 2017**, at the Chancery by 10.00am

f. **Valentine's Day with the Archbishop:** This annual event will come up on Saturday, 11th February, 2017 at **Catholic Church of the Ascension, International Airport Road, Ikeja** with the theme: **"God is Love (1 Jn:8)"**. Topic: **The Love of God as the Essence of Genuine Relationship**. It will commence with the Holy Mass to be celebrated by the Archbishop, His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins by 10:00 a.m. For more information, enquires and advert placement, please contact: 08033020984, 08023113996 or the Director's office on 08182431997, 08127736117.

g. **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 (1st Sunday of the year), CBCN Collection (3rd Sunday of the Year), Laity Collection (5th Sunday of the Year) and Caritas Lagos Collection (2nd Sunday of Lent)**. We remind all Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge who are yet to remit their returns for the previous quarters including the Special Collections to please do so **unfailingly before the end of January, 2017**. We are taking note of repeat defaulters in this matter and we encourage them to make amendments before it is too late.

We reiterate our call that we use the Pay-Direct option or make transfers to forestall the challenges of returned cheques, irregular signatures and other problems that cause cheques to bounce. For those who insist on making their returns with cheques, we request that you kindly pay attention to you entries and signature.

Invariably, 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.

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. 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.

i. **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 both the theory and practice of Sacred Music.

j. **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, which shall take place this year; 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.

We shall make a few proposals of how the centenary should be celebrated in the Archdiocese and will inform you all as soon as they are fully articulated.

k. **Priests' Annual Leave-Roster:** Priests are to submit months of preference for their annual leave to the Priests' Welfare Committee not later than middle of January, 2017, this month.

l. **2017 Archdiocesan Directory:** The 2017 Archdiocesan Directory is out. Kindly pick up copies for your Parishes from the Chancery if you have not done so yet. The Female Religious should please pick their copies from the Chancery also.

m. **Family and Human Life Unit (FHLU):**

1. MARRIAGE THEOLOGY AND LIVED EXPERIENCE

Part Time Classes:

✦ **YABA CENTRE**

i. Weekday, First Tuesday of each month for 10 months begins 7th February, 2017

ii. Weekend, First Saturday of each month for 10 months begins 14th February, 2017.

❖ **ISOLO CENTRE**

St Francis Catholic Church Idimu

Fourth Saturday of each month for 10 months begins 25th February, 2017

❖ **IKORODU CENTRE St. Augustine Catholic Church Ikorodu**

Fourth Tuesday of each month for 10 months begins 28th February 2017

❖ **FESTAC CENTRE Holy Family Catholic Church Festac**

Second Tuesday of each month begins 14th February, 2017

❖ **APAPA CENTRE St Margaret Catholic Church Osho Drive**

Third Tuesday of each month continues 17th January 2017

2. LOVE AND LIFE Ovulation Method (BILLINGS) of Natural Family Planning

First Saturday of each month for 7 months begins 4th of February 2017.

3. CANON LAW COURSE FOR LAITY

Third Friday of each month for 10 months begins 17th February, 2017.

4. BASIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING COURSE PART 1

One Friday a month for 3 months beginning from 20th January 2017

For all individuals who are interested and wish to be trained to work in areas of Marriage, Family and *Human Life* as Facilitators, Counselors or Social workers.

PLEASE register now by calling: 08033804494 or 08023547952 for more details

VENUE: Church and society building, 19 Maye Street, off commercial avenue, Sabo, Yaba.

Course fee: 3,500 per session (includes materials, tea break and lunch) and duration for each session 6hrs (10am to 4pm).

Total course fee with certificate: Marriage theology and Lived experience: 40,000.00; Canon Law for Lay Faithful: 40,000.00; Love and Life (billings) ovulation method of natural family planning: 30,500 and Basic Christian Counseling: 12,000.00. NOTE: PAYMENT DETAILS: FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT- CATHOLIC ARCDIOCESE OF LAGOS, ECO BANK ACCT NO. 3772028512.

n. The Inter-Denominational Divine Service of Christian Association of Nigeria

The Inter-Denominational Divine Service of Christian Association of Nigeria, Lagos State will take place on **Sat. 18th Feb. 2017**, beginning by **9am** at **Apostolic Convention**

Ground, Olorunda, Ketu. We appeal passionately to All Deans and Deanery Laity Chairmen to mobilize at least 100 Catholic Faithful's across Parishes and Societies within their Deaneries to attend in large numbers in their uniforms. The Catholic Church is an active member of CAN. Please attend en-mass.

12. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: : We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for the following confreres, whose Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries occur this month: Rev. Frs. Joachim Ochibili, Richard Ogedengbe (OP), Joseph Ahukanna(OP), Amosun Anthony, Bastos Paul, Echefu Augustine, Ehiedu Emmanuel, Mensal Michael, Njorteah John, and Alphonsus Afina. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

(Signed)

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos.

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS