



## **CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS**

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

**FEBRUARY, 2017/No. 053**

**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 FEBRUARY:** As we bid goodbye to the month of January, I heartily welcome you to the month of February, 2017, a month rich in liturgical activities and spiritual memorials. Beginning with the Feast of the Presentation (Feb.2), the Church calls us to re-dedicate ourselves to God, presenting our dreams, hopes and fears to Him and making sacrificial offerings of our lives in service of the Gospel. She further presents us with the lives of the following saints as guide in the course of this month: **St. Blaise** (February 3), **St. Agatha** (February 5), **St. Paul Miki & Companions** (February 6), **St. Jerome Emiliani** and **St. Josephine Bakhita** (February 8), **St. Scholastica** (February 10), **Our Lady of Lourdes** (February 11), **Sts. Cyril and Methodius** (February 14), **Seven Founders of the Orders of Servites** (February 17), **Peter Damian** (February 21), and the **Chair of St. Peter** (February 22).

**2. February 2: The Feast of the Presentation (Day of Consecrated Life):** This annual celebration comes up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. All priests in the Archdiocese and Religious are invited to this celebration.

**3. On Night Vigils, Outdoor Programmes and Similar Activities:** Our attention has been drawn to the wave of Pentecostalism that is gradually creeping into our Churches and threatening to adulterate the decorum expected in our places of worship. This is with special reference to those organizing outdoor programmes, parish retreats, night vigils, revivals, New Year foundation prayers and similar events. In the name of publicity, some have gone overboard as to make misleading flyers, posters, and banners with pictures of so called evangelists and artistes that don't represent the message they intend to pass across. We

call on those who have engaged themselves in such acts to desist from such liturgical aberration forthwith as we shall not condone any action that distorts the purity of our faith and integrity of our worship.

There is nothing wrong with expressive forms of worship that involve singing, dancing, clapping, outreach and vocal prayers. There is also nothing wrong with organizing and advertising spiritual activities that promote personal encounter with Jesus and re-awaken the gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism. However, we must not do these at the expense of our orthodoxy and our Catholic identity. The mission of evangelization must continue but it must be done in line with Sacred Scripture, Tradition of the Church and our Archdiocesan Regulations.

**4. On Priestly Ordination Anniversaries/Birthdays:** It is worthwhile and indeed necessary to celebrate important milestones in our lives such as Priestly Ordination Anniversaries and Birthdays. There is no doubt in my mind that the people of God are eager to go the extra mile to appreciate our hard work, spiritual guidance, pastoral services and personal sacrifices. While we appreciate their generosity, benevolence and goodwill, we must also be mindful of their limited resources and other financial obligations.

It is therefore necessary to re-examine and reconsider the frequency with which we celebrate these events in our Archdiocese and beyond. Taking into cognizance the economic reality of the time and the recurrent financial obligations on the people of God at family and parish levels, we expect that such celebrations would be kept simple, moderate, and done with modesty with regard to gifts.

We enjoin all priests and religious to refrain from encouraging elaborate celebrations that put a heavy strain on the People of God. Henceforth, we expect such celebrations to be reserved to landmark anniversaries, namely 10th Anniversary, Silver Jubilee, perhaps 40 years, Golden Jubilee and beyond. Even at that, we should ensure that we do not allow that undue pressure be put on people as they must be completely voluntary. May God bless and reward our benefactors abundantly.

**5. February 14: Valentine's Day with the Archbishop:** This annual event will come up on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> 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 at 10:00 a.m.

For more information, enquiries and advert placement, please contact: 08033020984, 08023113996 or the Director's office on 08182431997, 08127736117.

**6. From the Marriage Tribunal: Administrative Fee:** Each Deanery is strongly reminded of their obligation to pay the annual sum of N100,000 to the Tribunal. Deans should ensure that the due is paid as well as the three years arrears for deaneries that have not paid. It is mandatory and to be treated as urgent.

- A seminar to update Priests on the Tribunal process on marriage matters in view of the document *Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus* is to hold Region by Region. It aims at helping priests to know what to do when faced with couples who have marital problems and also to train Auditors to assist in facilitating the judicial process of the declaration of annulment. Episcopal Vicars are expected to fix date for their Regions in consultation with the Judicial Vicar. We hope this would be done as soon as possible. Kindly contact the Judicial Vicar Msgr. Philip Hoteyin on 08023180154.

**7. CELEBRATION OF WEDDING MASS WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER.** We wish to call attention to the fact that the celebration of Wedding Mass, which falls within the class of Ritual Masses, is prohibited on the days within the octave of Easter as well as on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on All Souls' day, on Ash Wednesday, during Holy Week, taking due account of the norms given in the ritual books or in the Masses themselves. Cf. General Instruction on the Roman Missal (GIRM) no: 372 & 374.

**8. 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.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION:** In order to foster uniformity in our expression of pre-communion announcement in the Archdiocese, we shall henceforth use this formula: "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 practising Catholics who have prepared themselves spiritually to receive the Lord. We acknowledge the presence of our brothers and sisters of other denominations, ecclesial communions and other faiths who have come to worship with us and participate in our Liturgy. We request that you kindly remain on your seats and pray along as you sing with the choir. Let us keep up the prayers for the unity of Christians as we ask the Lord to come to you spiritually. May God bless us all." Amen.

**10. 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.

**11. VERITAS TRAVELS & TOURS:** IATA is a 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.

**12. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY, ILARA (AUI)**

- The time is approaching for our young ones to fill JAMB forms and sit for the examinations. We ask our parishes to actively and deliberately encourage students and parents in their parishes to choose our Augustine University as they fill the forms.
- Even though we cannot guaranty scholarship for all but the possibilities are there for students from Catholic but indigent families.
- We wish to passionately appeal to individuals and Associations who are able to kindly take up the offer of scholarships for Catholic students who are qualified, bright and from indigent homes but want to study in our Augustine University (AUI). This will go a long way in ensuring that we empower our young ones and at the same time support the University that we all wished for and worked for its establishment. May God bless your generosity.
- 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

- **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](http://www.augustineuniversity.edu.ng).

Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are expected to include this announcement in their weekly bulletin and keep repeating it.

#### **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a. **Consultors Meeting:** The meeting of the College of Consultors for the first quarter shall be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, 2017, at the Chancery by 10.00am.
- b. **Caritas Lagos:** The Committee-in-Charge of Caritas Lagos will meet on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at St. Leo's Catholic Church, Ikeja at 10:00am. All members should please be punctual.
- c. **Curia and Consultors Retreat:** Retreat for members of the Curia and Board of Consultors comes up from 6pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> to lunch time on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017. Venue: Lagos Resource Centre VI.
- d. **Statistical Questionnaire Form:** This is to remind Parish Priest and Priest-In-Charge that the Questionnaire Form given to them, should be returned to the Chancery *quam primum* duly completed.

e. **NCDPA:** The meeting of all Diocesan Priests, not minding your country or diocese of incardination, will be hosted by Lekki Region at SS. Philip and James, Catholic Church, Lekki on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 by 11am. All Diocesan Priests are expected to be in attendance.

f. **Lenten Campaign for 2017:** The Annual Lenten Campaign for the JDPC will take place on the first Sunday of Lent (March 5th). All Parish Priests and Priests-In-charge are encouraged to lend their support to the JDPC personnel(s) who will come around the parishes to solicit for support to further the cause of Justice, Development and Peace in the Archdiocese.

g. **Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation (ACOF) Scholarship:** We thank all those who bought into this noble Archdiocesan Project in honour of our Archbishop Emeritus, Anthony Cardinal Okogie. Forms to access this scholarship will be out by next month, 2017.

h. **Catholic Women Organization (C.W.O):** This to inform members of (C.W.O) in the Archdiocese of Lagos that election of Officers shall take place in this order;

- Parish C.W.O elections to hold in the month of February, 2017
- Deanery CWO elections to hold in the month of April, 2017
- LACCWO election to hold in the month of June, 2017
- Inauguration of new LACCWO Officers, August, 2017.

Please take note that the guidelines for the election has been given to the co-ordinators and LACCWO executives with instruction to give it to their Parish Priests and Parish CWO president. Also list of delegates to Deanery and LACCWO elections must be countersigned by Parish Priest and the Dean respectively. List of elected officers in parishes must be submitted through Deanery CWO Coordinator within one week of elections to LACCWO while LACCWO elected Officers' list shall be submitted within the same period through the LACCWO Chaplain to the Archbishop.

i. **Chrism Mass 2017:** The 2017 Chrism Mass Planning Committee meets every Thursday at Holy Cross Cathedral Hall at 6:00p.m. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are reminded to nominate two parishioners to represent their parish at the Chrism Mass planning committee weekly meetings.

All the Parishes that fall under the following deaneries: Isolo, Satellite, Badagry, Festac and Apapa are to send their representatives to the LOC weekly meetings at Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Satellite Town every Sunday at 5:00p.m.

- j. **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 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the year)**, **CBCN Collection (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year)**, **Laity Collection (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year)** and **Caritas Lagos Collection (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 advice that parishes should use the Pay-Direct option or make transfers to forestall the challenges that arise from 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 your entries and signature.

When making their returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should 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.

- k. **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. Also you can visit the book centre.

**For more inquiries, call 09085648168.**

l. **Celebrating The International Day of Prayer in Memory of St. Bakhita:** This year's celebration of the international Day of prayer and awareness against Human Trafficking focuses on "**Trafficking in Children: Children they are and not slaves**". With the following activities;

- **Press Conference-** 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017
- St. Leo Catholic Church Ikeja, 10:00am
- **Vigil of Prayer-** 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017
  - Marian Shrine, Maryland. Time: 6:00p.m- 8:00pm



- **Celebration of the Feast of St. Bakhita-** 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 in all Parishes.

m. **CATECHISTS/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

- **THE ANTIOCH PASTORAL INSTITUTE:**

Application for admission into Antioch Pastoral Institute for the 2017/20178 session have commenced for persons desiring to be trained as catechist and catechism teachers. You are also qualified to apply, if you are a lay liturgical minister, a parish office staff, religious community, society, or individuals wishing to develop your knowledge of Catholic faith. If you do not belong to any of these categories but desire to be trained as a pastoral agent, please feel free to apply

Forms are obtainable at the Catechetics/ Religious Education Department Archdiocese of Lagos, 19, Maye Street, Yaba, Lagos, on or before April 28, 2017 for 500 only. For further inquiries call 0803504118, 08033574050, and 08066224284.

- **FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE (FF&EC) ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS:**

In line with the New Parish Guidelines of our Archdiocese, we request each Parish to send two members of the Faith Formation/ Education Committee to the Archdiocese inaugural Meeting which will hold:

**Date:** Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

**Venue:** Church and Society Centre Hall, 19, Maye Street (opp. Lebanese School) off Montgomery Road, Yaba.

**Time:** 10.00am prompt

You can send names, Parish and phone numbers to the following contacts: 08066224284, 08033574050 or E-mail: [redlinkmag@yahoo.com](mailto:redlinkmag@yahoo.com).

n. **World Day of the Sick:** This year's world day of the sick with the **Theme "Amazement of what God has accomplished"** comes up from **11<sup>th</sup> February to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**. As part of the activities marking the event, Masses are to be offered in all parishes and outstations for the sick on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 2017. Please take note.

o. **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. 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2017**, beginning by **9am** at **Apostolic Convention 10 Ground, Olorunda, Ketu**. We appeal passionately to All Deans and Deanery Laity Chairmen to mobilize at least 100 Catholic Faithful 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.

p. **Priest's Day with Catholic Friendly Society:** This year's celebration will be on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2017 at Sagamu. All Priests are encouraged to be part of this *weight-shedding camaraderie*.

q. **Mater Ecclesiae Monastery:** Mater Ecclesiae Monastery celebrates her 13<sup>th</sup> year of foundation on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at 11:00am Mass. The Chief celebrant by God's grace shall be the Archbishop of Lagos, Alfred Adewale Martins.

r. **Small Christian Communities' Leadership Workshop:** There shall be a Leadership Workshop for the leaders and facilitators of Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese as follows:

**Date:** March 4, 2017; **Time:** 10.00 a.m.

**Venue:** Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos.

The workshop is the continuation of a series aimed at improving the leadership skills of leaders in Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese. Attendance is highly recommended.

s. **Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage:** The annual Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage holds on **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2017** at the **Ave Maria Grotto**. It will be organized by **Lekki Region in Collaboration with the Archdiocesan Commission on Evangelisation**.

✓ **Theme:** "Man Shall Not Live On Bread Alone But By the Word of God...(Matt 4:4)

✓ **Time:** 9:00am

All Priests and Lay Faithful are expected to attend and participate actively in this spiritual exercise. All priests are obliged to be present and should take time to encourage their parishioners to come in their numbers.

t. **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, 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.

• The Centenary Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrated in the Archdiocese from 18<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 both on Parish level and Archdiocesan level. We will inform you all as soon as the programs are fully articulated.

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

v. **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.

w. **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 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017
- ii. Weekend, First Saturday of each month for 10 months begins 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

**ISOLO CENTRE**

St Francis Catholic Church Idimu

Fourth Saturday of each month for 10 months begins 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

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

Fourth Tuesday of each month for 10 months begins 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**FESTAC CENTRE Holy Family Catholic Church Festac**

Second Tuesday of each month begins 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

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

Third Tuesday of each month continues 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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

First Saturday of each month for 7 months begins 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2017.

### 3. CANON LAW COURSE FOR LAITY

Third Friday of each month for 10 months begins 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

### 4. BASIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING COURSE PART 1

One Friday a month for 3 months beginning from 20<sup>th</sup> 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, Counsellors 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:** 3,500.00 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 ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS, ECO BANK ACCT NO. 3772028512.

x. **Tax Payment:** All workers in the Parish or Church's establishment who earn salaries should pay tax. Parish Priests and those in charge of these establishments should ensure that this is done. What you need to do is to approach the Tax office closest to you for the procedure or else contact the Chancery for information.

**12. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Daniel Nwankwo, Kioko Muindi and Gabriel Ukhurebor as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversary 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.**