



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **APRIL, 2017/No. 055**

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 APRIL: The season of Lent is gradually drawing to a close as we ease into the glorious and solemn Season of Easter which begins with the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the climax of the Holy Week celebrations. Throughout the entire month, the Church continues to celebrate the joy of Easter and the gift of New Life in Christ. Though the way to the Resurrection was the *Via Crucis*, the Sacrificial Lamb of God is now and forever Christ our Light, the eternal High Priest of the New Covenant. And his sorrowful mother, the *Stabat Mater* of Good Friday, is now the jubilant *Regina Caeli*.

2. EASTER: The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. **The Paschal Candle** is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time, and lit for all liturgical celebrations.

Easter is also the celebration of **the Lord's resurrection** from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Easter Time is the most important of all liturgical times. There are **50 days** of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and victory over death, expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia! All other expressions of faith flow from faith in the resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor 15:14)

The octave of Easter comprises the eight (8) days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. In a sense, every day of the Octave is like a little Sunday.

a. Easter is the feast of feasts, the unalloyed joy and gladness of all Christians. This truly is "the day that the Lord has made." From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, the celebrations of Easters on this world will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that He will come again in glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father. May this Easter bring us good tidings and heavenly blessings

3. MASS OF THE CHRISM 2017: This will take on **Tuesday 11th April and Thursday 13th April, 2017.** Venue: **Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Catholic Church, Satellite Town and Holy Cross Cathedral respectively, Time: 9:00am.**

4. CATHEDRATICUM- One of the very laudable practices at the Masses of Chrism is the presentation of gifts that are distributed to less privileged and the needy in various Homes and prisons around the Archdiocese. We have noticed a big drop in the measure of gifts that come from parishes for this most salutary practice. We expect Parish Priests and Priests-In-Charge to make deliberate and concerted efforts

to encourage Parishioners to generously donate gift items to the growing number of indigent people that come around with high expectations at this time. The resources saved by our Lenten fast are supposed to be used for charity rather than as savings for other personal use.

5. 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH THE ARCHBISHOP:

Since Ash Wednesday, the Archbishop, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins has been giving Lenten Reflections daily on Radio Nigeria, 103.50 FM at 6.05 am and 8.55pm daily and also, on Rhythm FM at 6:35am daily. Kindly inform your parishioners and encourage them to tune in to this frequency and listen to the reflection which shall go on till Easter DV. May the Word of God nourish our souls. Amen.

6. LENTEN PILGRIMAGE 2017 AND ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION ON EVANGELISATION (ARCE): This Commission which was inaugurated a few months ago to motivate and enhance the missionary mandate given to all followers of Christ in our Archdiocese made a very remarkable contribution to the Lenten Pilgrimage for this year. We commend this Commission headed by Msgr. Paschal Nwaezeapu for the fresh initiative in proposing fresh methods of carrying out both primary and secondary evangelization efforts in the Archdiocese. We expect that it would take further steps to stimulate 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.

7. ALPHA COURSE– CATHOLIC CONTEXT

Once again we draw the attention of Parish Priests and Heads of other institutions in the Archdiocese to the Alpha Course. The course to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of guided talks and discussions 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.

It already being organized in different Parishes and Centres such as St. Charles Borromeo's, 1004, Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos, Catholic Church of Divine Mercy, Lekki, and Lagos Resource Centre, to mention a few. We encourage other parishes and institutions to embrace this laudable Programme and 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. JAMB and Augustine University, Ilara (AUI): Our young people are at this time preparing to choose the Universities they intend to do their studies as they take the JAMB exams We call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to make deliberate efforts to encourage students to consider our Augustine University in making their choices.

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. Economics
5. B.Sc. Business Administration
6. B.Sc. Economics
7. B.Sc. Economics
8. B.Sc. Business Administration
9. B.Sc. Accounting
10. B.Sc. Banking and Finance
11. B.A. English
12. B.A. Philosophy
13. 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.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. WALK FOR THE POOR: The maiden edition of **WALK FOR THE POOR** – a Charity Walk organized by **Couples for Christ (CFC)** will take place on Saturday April 1, 2017. It will start at 8.00am

from Saints Mulumba and David Catholic Church Lawanson, Surulere and terminate at the National Stadium.

The Walk is being organized to draw attention to the plight of the poor and disadvantaged children in our communities and to mobilize support for them. It is also being organized to raise awareness and support for the CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME – a unique Scholarship Programme of Couples for Christ. The theme of the Walk is “**TAKE A STEP AND CHANGE THEIR FUTURE.**” All faithful are enjoined to participate; support or sponsor. For more information can be obtained by contacting Couples For Christ on 07031808979 or 08033481595.

b. CURIA MEETING- Members of the Archdiocesan Curia are hereby reminded of their meeting scheduled to hold on the **6th of April, 2017 at 10:00am** in the Chancery Conference Room.

c. TOWARDS PRODUCING A CAR POLICY FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE: We hereby remind all Deans, Heads of Religious Institutes, Educational Institutes and Archdiocesan Departments to kindly forward their response on the questionnaire sent to them on this subject to The Chancery by 14th of April, 2017. Please treat as urgent as these have taken such a long time in coming!

d. ARCHDIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING: This comes up on Thursday 20th of April, 2017 at the Chancery by 10:00am. Those concerned should please take note.

e. 32ND ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH DAY: This event comes up on the 23rd of April with Holy Mass at Church of the Annunciation, Abraham Adesanya Estate, Ajah. The reception is at Lagos Business School. We appeal to Parish Priests and Priest-in-Charge to support our youth and also make efforts to place Goodwill messages in the programme. Youths that wish to participate are required to register online.

f. MAIDEN ARCHDIOCESAN CYON ESSAY COMPETITION: Appreciation to all those who participated in this competition and submitted their entries on or before the submission deadline. Qualified entries are currently being reviewed and the winners would be announced soonest.

g. 16TH BIENNIAL ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH CONVENTION: This event is scheduled to take place from August 24th-27th in the premises of our Archdiocesan University, Augustine University, Ilara-Epe. All Catholic Youths in the Archdiocese are enjoined to register online to participate in this event. Parish Priests and individuals are encouraged to support them.

h. LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN MUSIC COMMISSION (LAMCOM): The Lagos Archdiocesan Music Commission (LAMCOM) celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus in a musically grand style as she presents: **THE FESTIVAL OF CHORAL CHAMPIONS.** It is scheduled to take place as follows: **Date: Sunday 30th April 2017. Venue:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help, V.I, Lagos. **Time:** 4pm prompt. This day is set aside to share in the Love, Joy, & Gladness of Easter. Musicals ranging from Easter songs, Classical hymns, Traditional Hymns, etc. shall be rendered by Deanery choirs of our Archdiocese.

g. CATHOLIC PRISON CHAPLAINCY- Parishes, Organizations, Societies or Individuals that wish to visit any prison or prisons, in the name of the Archdiocese need to contact or notify the Archdiocesan Prison Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Jacob Adeyemi C.M on 08030600439 especially during the Lenten season and Eastertide. It is necessary that he should be informed of the intention to do so for coordination of visits and arrangement of due logistics.

h. ANTHONY CARDINAL OKOGIE FOUNDATION (ACOF) SCHOLARSHIP: We thank all those who have keyed into this charitable project of the Archdiocese of Lagos initiated in honour of Anthony Cardinal Okogie. Forms to access this scholarship will be out in this month of April 2017. Parish Priests to take note.

i. 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;

- 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 copies of the Guidelines for the Election has been given to the Deanery Coordinators and LACCWO Executives with instruction to hand them over to the Parish Priests and Parish CWO Presidents. Please note that lists of delegates to Deanery and LACCWO elections must be countersigned by Parish Priests and the Deans respectively. Lists of elected officers must be submitted through Deanery CWO Coordinator within one week after elections to LACCWO while LACCWO elected Officers' list shall be submitted within the same period through the LACCWO Chaplain to the Archbishop.

j. CHRISM MASS PLANNING COMMITTEE: 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 parishes 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.

k. 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 as directed in the last circular note their repeat violation of the deadlines. Once again, we encourage repeat defaulters in this matter to make amendments before it is too late.

Once again we wish to encourage the use of the Pay-Direct option or funds transfer to forestall the challenges of returned cheques due to 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 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.

l. 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. Visitors can also pay visits to the Book Centre.

For more inquiries, call 09085648168.

m. 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.

n. CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FATIMA APPARITION IN LAGOS ARCHDIOCESE: The Archdiocese will be having her centenary celebration of the Fatima Apparition on Saturday 27th May, 2017 beginning with Rosary Procession starting from National Stadium, Surulere at 7.00am to the Marian Shrine Maryland. This will be preceded by 9 days programme in all Parishes between 18th & 26th of May. We kindly request the co-operation of Archdiocesan Organs and Marian groups with Committee headed by Fr. Andrew Abhulimen, Co-ordinator/Archdiocesan Chaplain of Block Rosary Crusade.

o. CATECHISTS/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

□ THE ANTIOCH PASTORAL INSTITUTE:

Application for admission into Antioch Pastoral Institute for the 2017/2018 session are invited from persons desiring to be trained as Catechists and Catechism Teachers. Lay Liturgical Ministers, Parish Office staff, members of Institutes of Religious Life, members of Associations of Lay Faithful, or individuals wishing to develop your knowledge of the Catholic faith are also qualified to apply. Anyone who wishes to be trained to function as Pastoral Agent, should please feel free to apply.

Forms are obtainable at the Catechetics/ Religious Education Department of the Archdiocese of Lagos, 19, Maye Street, Yaba, Lagos, on or before April 28, 2017 for N500 only. For further inquiries call 0803504118, 08033574050, and 08066224284.

p. ARCHDIOCESAN LAY LEADERS' SEMINAR/WORKSHOP: The Workshop for all Lay Leaders in the Archdiocesan, Deanery, Parish Laity Council levels; Archdiocesan and Deanery Executives of Associations of Lay faithful; members of PPC & PFC, comes up on Saturday, 13th May, 2017. **Theme:** "Good Leaders are products of good followers". The programme starts with accreditation by 7am. Parishes (comprising of Executives from PPC, PFC & Laity Council and Archdiocesan Lay Organisation/Society are to send Ten (10) delegates while Deaneries are to send Five (5) delegates. **Participation Fee:** N1,500.00 per participant. **PLEASE NOTE:** No one person should double in representation [i.e. representing Parish or Deanery and Society at the same time]

q. 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.

r. FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT (FHLU): The following courses are available for those interested:

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 began 25th February, 2017

IKORODU CENTRE St. Augustine Catholic Church Ikorodu

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

FESTAC CENTRE Holy Family Catholic Church Festac

Second Tuesday of each month began 14th February, 2017

APAPA CENTRE St Margaret Catholic Church Osho Drive

Third Tuesday of each month began 17th January 2017

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

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

3. CANON LAW COURSE FOR LAITY

Third Friday of each month for 10 months began 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 ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS, ECO BANK ACCT NO. 3772028512.

10. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Obanla Anthony & Frs. Adegun Francis, Chikezie Wisdom, Ekpo Benjamin, Ideawor Kingsley, Martinos Theodore, Okpala Melchizedek, Emmaneul Likoko, John Nwanze and Gilbert Thesing as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversary this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

11. BEREAVEMENT: We announce with a heavy heart, the death of Sr. Rosemary Atuegbu, SHCJ who died on 16th March 2017. Until her death, Sr. Rosemary was the Administrator of the Holy Child College, Obalende. She was buried on 31st March 2017 after a funeral Mass at the Church of Assumption, Falomo. We are all reminded of our obligation of celebrating Masses for the repose of her soul. May God grant her eternal rest.

(Signed)

+ **Alfred Adewale Martins**

Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos.

