



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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SPECIAL CIRCULAR ON MARIAN YEAR **APRIL, 2017/No.055.1**



To All Clergy, Religious & Laity in the Archdiocese of Lagos

Peace of Christ!

1. It is 100 years this year since the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. In view of this, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has declared a Centenary Celebration running from November 27th 2016 to November 26th 2017.
2. Following suit, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) has directed that the Marian Year be celebrated all over the country.
3. We are therefore pleased to inform all Christ' faithful in the Archdiocese of plans towards celebrating this great event in our Archdiocese.
4. To set the ball in motion, a Committee was set comprising of members drawn from all Marian bodies in the Archdiocese; Rev Fr. Andrew G. Abhulimen heads the Committee, while Very Rev. Fr. Michael Umoh is in charge of the publicity.

5. Inauguration ceremony in our Archdiocese will begin with a Novena in all Parishes from Thursday May 18th – Friday May 26th, 2017. On Saturday, May 27th, there will be a Marian procession from the National Stadium to the Marian Shrine in Maryland at 7.00am. The Inaugural Mass follows immediately after the procession. Deans and Parish Priests should please mobilize the people of God to participate actively in this event.
6. The Year should be observed in the following ways:
 - I. Monthly Novena prayers ending with First Saturday Devotion in all Parishes.
 - II. Prayer for the Marian should be said in all Parishes.
 - III. Family Marian Devotion and Rosary.
 - IV. Solemn celebration of all Marian Feasts in the Parishes.
 - V. Parishes and Deaneries to embark on Pilgrimage to key Marian Shrines in the Archdiocese; Maryland, Ave Maria Ikate and Marian Grotto at Ibiye.
7. Closing ceremony begins with
 - I. Novena Prayers in all Parishes from October 19th – 27th, 2017.
 - II. Closing Mass on 28th October at a venue yet to be determined.
8. The Committee will make available to all Parish Priests in charge (through the Deans) and heads of all Archdiocesan establishments and Religious Institutes, the other programmes and media materials.
9. We request that special attention should be focused on all Marian Grottos within our Archdiocese by way of repairs, maintenance and adornment during this season and more devotions should be organized around them.
10. We request that all Episcopal Vicar, Deans and Parish Priests and Priests in Charge give maximum support in all manners appropriate and necessary towards ensuring the success of this programme for the spiritual benefit of the people and nation, and for the well-deserved honor of our Blessed Mother Mary.
11. Please direct all enquiries to the Archdiocesan Marian Year Programme Coordinator, Rev Fr. Andrew Abhulimen (08053095933)

12. Prayer for the Marian Year should be said in all Parishes. Please find below the prayer for the Marian Year:

13. PRAYER FOR MARIAN YEAR IN NIGERIA 2017

Oh Our Lady, Queen and Mother of Nigeria we beseech thee,
We come to your throne of grace seeking your face
In a special way in this year of our celebration
Of the Marian Year and Centenary of Fatima

We come to you this year, Mother of the Holy Family
To intercede for our troubled families
We come to you, Help of Christians
To intercede for the persecuted Christians in Nigeria
We come to you Our Lady of Perpetual Help
To intercede for our Country and our leaders

We come to you especially, Our Lady of Fatima
In this Centenary of your appearance in Portugal
When you brought peace to that once troubled country
And as we mark that historic moment this year,
We beg of you to do the same in our country, Nigeria

Obtain for us that peace which can only come from Heaven:
Peace in our hearts, homes, places of work and our nation
May the celebration of the Marian Year in Nigeria
And the eventual re-consecration of our country
To your Immaculate Heart, restore total peace

Oh Holy Mother of God and Mother of the Church,
With our hearts free from evil and hatred,
And make us able to bring to all others true joy and peace,
Which come to us from your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
Lives and reigns, forever and ever, Amen

14. We entrust you all, our Archdiocese and our nation Nigeria to the loving and maternal intercession of our Mother Mary, the Queen of Nigeria.

Signed

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop of Lagos