



## CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **JUNE, 2017**/No. 057

**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 JUNE:** Welcome to the month of June; this month which concludes the first half of this year, offers us yet another reason to reflect on how fast time flies. There is a lot to accomplish, yet we can hardly have time to do so. This insufficiency of time should prompt us to always make hay while the sun shines because time indeed is always moving on. In this month, we conclude the glorious mysteries of the Easter season with the celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost (4<sup>th</sup> June) when we receive the fresh outpouring of Holy Spirit as promised by Christ. The Spirit therefore leads us from the *empty tomb* of Easter Season to the new life ushered by the season of Ordinary Time. Green colour which is identical with this liturgical season, is a sign of nature, and as such represents growth, life and hope. It is our sincere hope that like the mustard seed which grows into a mighty oak, the new life in the spirit which the risen Christ offers us would yield a bountiful harvest of hundred folds in eternal life.

Also in this month, we celebrate the Solemnities of Most Holy Trinity (11<sup>th</sup> June) and Corpus Christi (18<sup>th</sup> June) as well as the solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (23<sup>rd</sup> June). These great feasts of Our Lord call us to ponder on the mystery of Divine love. The love of the heart of Jesus is the love of the love of the Trinitarian communion. This love Christ shares with us in the Holy Communion when he gives us his body to eat and his blood to drink. This in return, demands of us is an ardent love for Christ in the Holy Eucharist which is our own way of giving back to God what we have so gratuitously received from him. We therefore encourage everyone to visit the Blessed Sacrament regularly.

May the love of the heart of Jesus which the Spirit gives, draw us closer to the Holy Eucharist so that as we appreciate this love which the Father has lavished upon us, we would in turn share it among ourselves as children of the same Father. Amen.

**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 Mrs. Aima Lijadu on 080333454777, 08136304244.

**4. 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.

**5. VERITAS TRAVELS & TOURS:** A special package has been put together by the CBCN through the Veritas Travel Agency to avail the faithful with the graces and merits of this year's centenary celebration of the apparition of Our Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal. This package is available for those who desire to offer a grace-filled gift to their old parents, for their wedding anniversaries and retirement thanksgiving with Mary, to travel to Fatima and Rome (8<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> August), Israel Only (3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October), Lourdes and Fatima (3<sup>rd</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> October). Those who wish to make this faith pilgrimage should pick up the form in their Parishes Offices. For more enquires call 08188168700 or visit the Catholic Secretariat Building, No. 6, Force Road, Onikan, Lagos.

**6. 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).

**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**

1. B.Sc. Mathematics

2. B.Sc. Computer Science
3. B.Sc. Microbiology
4. B.Sc. Biology
5. B.Sc. Chemistry
6. B.Sc. Physics

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

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**a. MATER ECCLESIA MONASTERY:** celebrates the solemnity of her Patroness, Mother of the Church who is also the Patroness of the Archdiocese on the **3<sup>rd</sup> of June**. Holy Mass will be offered in the Monastery at 10am followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Anyone who visits the Monastery on that day is privileged to receive a plenary indulgence. A priest would be available throughout the day for the sacrament of confession.

**b. PRIESTS RECOLLECTION:** The Annual Priests' Recollection comes up on the **21<sup>st</sup> of June, 2017**. All Priests are required to take part in this unique spiritual exercise. The Episcopal Vicars are expected to ensure the participation all priests in their regions.

**c. SEMINAR FOR PRIESTS:** The seminar for Priests will come up on the **28<sup>th</sup> of June, 2017**. We expect all Priests to avail themselves of this opportunity for ongoing formation.

**d. 16<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH CONVENTION:** This event is scheduled to take place from August 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> at Augustine University, Ilara-Epe (AUI). All Catholic Youths in the Archdiocese are advised to register online to participate in this event. Parish Priests and individuals are encouraged to support them.

**e. CATHOLIC PRISON CHAPLAINCY-** Parishes, Organizations, Societies or Individuals that wish to visit any prison or prisons, in the name of the Archdiocese should contact or notify the Archdiocesan Prison

Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Jacob Adeyemi C.M on 08030600439 especially during the Lenten season and Eastertide. Let us not go there without his information.

**f. Quarterly Returns:** Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be

made in the second quarter of the year: **JDPC (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year), Holy Land Collection (Good Friday), Youths Collection (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter), Seminary Collection (Good**

**Shepherd Sunday; 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter), Holy Childhood (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter), Social Development (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of June) and Communications Day (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in June).**

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.

We reiterate our call for the use of the Pay-Direct option or making of Bank transfers to avoid challenges with 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 also ensure that 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.

#### **g. 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. Time for Public Adoration to the Most Holy Sacrament is from **Mondays to Saturdays 9:00am to 8:30pm; on Sundays after 9:00am Mass to 12:15pm; and from 3:30pm to 5:00pm.** Also, you can visit the Book Centre.

**For more inquiries, call 09085648168.**

**h. Statistical Questionnaire Form:** This is to remind Parish Priests and Priests-In-Charge, who have not done so yet, that the Questionnaire Form given to them, should be returned to the Chancery "quam primum" duly completed.

#### **8. CATECHISTS/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

- **Catholic Faith Family and Quiz:** The Knights of St. John International in collaboration with the Religious Education Department is organising the competition with the aim of boosting knowledge of the faith and its practices in Catholic families. We urge all priests to co-operate in carrying out this laudable program. The sensitization and teaching ought to

have started in all the Parishes. The Knights of St. John International representatives or delegates will be available to administer the quiz questions/competition. Faith Formation and Education Committee and Parish catechists are to cooperate and galvanize to ensure the success and fruitfulness of the event. The areas to cover include:

- i. **Old Testament- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, Book of Numbers.**
- ii. **New Testament- Gospel of Luke, Letter to the Romans.**
- iii. **Papal Document for Study: *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) of the Holy Father, Francis.**
- iv. **Catechism: Sacraments, Doctrines and Tradition.**

The timelines for implementation include:

**April - August 2017: Study**

**July 2 - Parish Competitions**

**July 16, 2017- Deanery Competitions.**

**August 20, 2017- Regional Competitions.**

**September 16, 2017- Grand Finale.**

We encourage you to do the needful. For more information, contact the following: 0803320831, 08033574050, 08059304736, 08066224284.

➤ **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 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.

**9. 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 which began on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017
- ii. Weekend, First Saturday of each month for 10 months which began on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

**ISOLO CENTRE: St Francis Catholic Church Idimu:** Fourth Saturday of each month for 10 months which began on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

**IKORODU CENTRE: St. Augustine Catholic Church Ikorodu:** Fourth Tuesday of each month for 10 months which began on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**FESTAC CENTRE: Holy Family Catholic Church Festac:** Second Tuesday of each month which began on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

**APAPA CENTRE: St Margaret Catholic Church Osho Drive:** Third Tuesday of each month which began on 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 began 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2017.

## 3. CANON LAW COURSE FOR LAITY

Third Friday of each month for 10 months began 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, 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:** We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Ogunsakin Festus, and Rev. Frs. Anyanwu Francis, Ayangbola Peter, Ayonote Lawrence, Egwuatu Julian, Okelezo Simon, Oladunjoye Sylvester, Oritseyeyimi Kingsley, Umole Fidelis, Etegene Michael, Ogunyase Matthew, Daniel Monaghan, Michael Oyedare and Anthony Kanu. Others are, Rev. Frs. Michael Okoh, Jude Ibe, Benjamin Eseroghene, Kingsley Onyekuru, Callistus Onyeausi, Paschal Ahanonu, Emeka Amaefule, Francis Anozie, Maurice Iboru, Emmanuel Etim, Peter Ekwenuya, Cyprian Nnamani, Cyprian Ijezie, Pius Femi Oladele, Michael Etekpo, Augustine Nwagbologu, Nathaniel Ogar, John Oni, Livinus Orakwe, Iwobi Joseph, Xavier Inyang, Timothy Inok, Vincent Ukoma, Osbert Egbe, Edgar Debany, Kingsley Joseph and Jude Kanu whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. Ad multos annos.

**12. BEREAVEMENT:** We announce with a heavy heart the demise of **Mr. Gabriel Omofuma**, the father of Rev. Fr. Pius Omofuma; **Pa Joseph Anyanwu**, the father of Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Anyanwu and **Mr. Godwin Ijezie**, the father of Rev. Fr. Cyprian Ijezie who died in the month of May, 2017. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of their souls and consolation to the families. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen.

**(Signed)**

**+ Alfred Adewale Martins**  
**Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos**

