



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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TO ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WORKING IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS, AND THE LAY FAITHFUL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

1. **NOVEMBER:** Welcome to the penultimate month of the Year. During this month, the Church commemorates the Solemnity of All Saints (Nov.1) and All Souls (Nov.2) to remind her faithful of the importance of sanctity of life and the reality of human mortality. These two important celebrations call our attention to the Church's teaching on the Communion of Saints. i.e. the link with the faithful who have already reached heaven (i.e. Church Triumphant), the faithful departed who are still undergoing the pains of expiation for their sins in Purgatory (i.e. Church Suffering) and the faithful who are still on pilgrimage in this world, working out their salvation amidst the vicissitudes of life (i.e. Church Militant). "In this wonderful exchange, the holiness of one profits others, well beyond the harm that the sin of one could cause others..." (CCC, 1475).

a. **All Saints' Day:** All Saints' Day is a Holy Day of Obligation set aside to remember and celebrate all the Saints through out Christian history, known or unknown, canonized or beatified whose holy and virtuous lives have earned them a beatific place in our heavenly home. The feast inspires tremendous hope and reminds us of the *universal call to holiness* (Lumen Gentium, 40). As we reflect on the outcome of their lives, we are called to imitate their faith.

b. **All Souls' Day:** Directly following the Feast of All Saints is the Commemoration of All Souls. This feast reminds us of human finitude and mortality. On this day, the Church remembers and prays for the Souls of the Faithful Departed. We are therefore encouraged to express our solidarity with the souls in purgatory through public and private prayers, and obtain plenary

indulgences by offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, visiting a Church or a Cemetery and giving alms to the poor. The Church mandates all Priests to celebrate three (3) Masses on this day: one for the faithful departed, one for the priest's intention or any person, and one for the intention of the Holy Father. We will do well to remember victims of the various disasters in the world and in our country Nigeria.

2. **CHRIST THE KING:** The celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King comes up on **Sunday, 26th November, 2017**. It marks the beginning of the last week of the 2016/2017 Liturgical Year. On this day, Eucharistic Procession is held throughout Nigeria. The Procession at Holy Cross Cathedral begins at **2:00 p.m. prompt** from the Cathedral to St. Gregory's College, Obalende. With this procession, we profess our faith in Christ as the King of the grace Universe and His completion of the renewed creation that marks the fullness of the Kingdom of God. Let us all march out and proclaim Christ the Universal King.

3. **SUPPORT FOR AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY.**

Once again, we express our gratitude to you our beloved brothers and sisters for your support for our Augustine University (AUI) so far. As you are aware the University is now in the third year and needs your support more than ever for its maintenance and for the establishment of more Faculties in order to proceed to the second phase of its development. To this end, and after due consultation, we hereby direct as follows:

a) that the **Second Sunday of every month** throughout the Archdiocese be known as **Augustine University Sunday**. On that day, we expect that the priest celebrating each Mass on the day would himself will speak for a while on the situation of the University as it concerns courses on offer, facilities available, possibilities of a few scholarships etc. Parishioners are to be invited to make a collection for University. Proceeds from the collection are to be immediately remitted to the Chancery.

b) You will recall that we authorised "Painless Giving" project asking for whatever each person can afford even if it is not more than N500.00 per month through Bank Transfer, POS or ATM. Members of the Fund Raising Committee of the University met Priests at Deaneries meetings to discuss the modalities

for this. We expect each parish to open a sub-parish account into which the parishioners will make their monthly "painless donations". At the end of each Quarter, the money will be transferred to the Central Archdiocesan account which is on our website, and which has already been circulated in our monthly Bulletin. This process will enable Parishes to know those who make contributions from among the parishioners and them to know how much they are contributing to the University. 'Tis will also give us an opportunity to adequately acknowledge the Parish and the Parish-Priest. We REQUIRE the Parish Priests to give personal attention to this and it the publicity it deserves. We shall take note of the attention each priest pays and duly acknowledge their devotion to this common laudable cause.

c) Friends of Augustine University should be established in every Parish with the objective of rendering moral and financial assistance to the University. Parish priests should see that they organize this group and ensure that they commence operation immediately.

d) Rev. Fr. Michael Umoh has been assigned the duty of liaising with the AUI Public Relations Office to publicize the University. Kindly give him your optimal co-operation.

e) You will recall that Parishes were asked to offer scholarships to indigent students in their parishes with special attention to children of church workers. Please see that this is done.

4. ARCHDIOCESAN LAITY SUNDAY

The Laity Council at every level - Parish, Deanery, Archdiocese - has contributed tremendously to the spiritual and physical development of the Archdiocese in spite of its financial challenges.

To support the Council, we hereby direct that a **Second Collection be taken up on the 5th Sunday**, whichever month it occurs. This is already being done in many of our parishes, the practice should now be carried out in all parishes of the Archdiocese. This will give opportunities for more lay persons to contribute to the activities of their Council and reduce the number of levies imposed at Deanery and Parish levels.

The proceeds should be immediately disbursed to the different levels of the Laity Council as follows: 20% to the Archdiocesan Laity Council; 20% to the Deanery Laity Council and 60% to be retained for the Parish Laity Council. The leaders of the PLC should liaise with the Parish Priests to facilitate the disbursements.

5. GUIDELINES FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: The duty of Priests and Deacons regarding the distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful within and outside the Holy Mass in some parishes is becoming more and more difficult due to the enormous pastoral demands of their ministry. This has become a source of serious concern to us.

In attending to this pastoral circumstance, we have approved the Guidelines for the Ministry of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to be used wherever the need arises in the Archdiocese. Ordained ministers remain Ordinary Ministers responsible for the distribution of Holy Communion but where needed we may approve the use of Extraordinary ministers. Approvals can be given only if the approved Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have been duly followed. All Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should pick up copies of the Guidelines for the Ministry of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from the Chancery at the cost of N500 each.

6. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION FROM THE CHANCERY TO PARISHIONERS: It has come to our notice that much of the information circulated via the Archdiocesan circular do not get to the awareness of as many parishioners in the parishes as we expect. This is often due to the failure of Parish Priests to either make the announcement in the parishes bulletins or give it the necessary emphasis it deserves. We wish to **remind all Priests in the Archdiocese of their responsibility** to communicate and emphasise all information coming from the Archdiocese to the parishioners placed in their care. It is a lot of disservice to the people if they are starved of information due to them.

7. ON THE USE OF PICTURES FOR BROCHURES: We wish to call the attention of all Priests and Lay faithful that the proper place for pictures of the Archbishop or celebrants of occasions is inside the brochure **NOT on the front cover**. Pictures on front covers should draw attention to Christ, Mary or the

liturgical ceremony being celebrated. Hence, when producing brochures for any Parish or Archdiocesan event, pictures of people should NOT be placed on the front cover of the brochure.

8. FORMATION OF PARISH EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEES: We hereby reiterate the need for all Parishes and quasi-parishes in the Archdiocese to form an Evangelization Committee in their parishes. There should be about 12 members in each parish committee; their names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses should be forwarded to the Chancery and the Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission (aeclagos@yahoo.com). In forming the Committee, consideration may be given to members of the following: the Catechists' Association, Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Charismatic Renewal, Legion of Mary, C.W.O and C.M.Q. While sending information concerning members of the Committee, kindly indicate the name of the Parish, and the Parish Priest or Priest-in-charge and his telephone number. This information should reach us before November 20, 2017. They will be invited for training and further explanations on their roles very soon. The dates for the training will be communicated to them and the priests concerned soonest.

ON THE PARISH EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEES

1. The heads of the Parish Committee will represent the Parish at the Deanery Level.
2. Deanery Committee Heads are to attend the meetings of Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission.
3. Some of their duties will include:
 - i. To work closely with the Parish Priest on issues bordering on Evangelization in the Parish, Deanery and the Archdiocese.
 - ii. To popularize, organize and prepare Parishioners for Archdiocesan Pilgrimages and other Archdiocesan Pastoral and Evangelization Events
 - iii. To spearhead the organization of programmes to assist in empowering the faithful to take personal responsibility for evangelisation in a measurable way.
 - iv. To interact with Associations and Groups in the Parish to keep them focused on the re-evangelization of their members and on Mission ad gentes
 - v. Dissemination of materials and information from the Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission.

- vi. To work with the Parish Priest to organize Parish Outreach (Missio ad gentes)
 - vii. To collaborate with the Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission in organizing Archdiocesan Outreach Programmes.
 - viii. To assist the Parish Priest in organizing or facilitating evangelization training programmes in the Parish. (This presumes that they would have undergone training themselves).
4. Other duties will be stated as time progresses.

9. 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.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **Advent Season:** The Season of Advent is around the corner again. Advent starts the new Liturgical Year and can be seen as another opportunity to spiritually begin anew. There are particular themes in the Liturgy throughout Advent: a spirit of waiting, of conversion and joyful hope. It is a season of expectation and longing for the Messiah who is to come. We sing the song "O Come, O come, Emmanuel" with eager hope and longing, for our messiah who came to us first as a child in the manger and who has promised to come again. Let us therefore avail ourselves the opportunity that Advent provides to renew our relationship with the King who is to come so that we can reap the fruits of Christmas.

b. **MEETINGS WITH THE ARCHBISHOP:** As part of the efforts to interact and receive the thoughts of the Priests and Religious on the life of our Archdiocese, the following meetings have been scheduled to hold on the respective dates below by 11.00 a.m. at the Holy Cross Cathedral Hall:

Diocesan Clergy (including Fidei Donum Priests): Tuesday, 14th November, 2017.

Female Religious: Tuesday, 21st November, 2017

Male Religious: Wednesday, 29th November, 2017

c. **CONSULTORS MEETING:** This is to inform the members of the Board of Consultors that their next meeting will hold on **Wednesday 15th November, 2017**, at the **Chancery's Conference room**. The time is **11:00am**. All those concerned should please take note.

d. **GRATITUDE:** We express profound gratitude to our Guest Speaker, Mr Peter Obi, our invited Guests, Priests, Religious, and Lay Faithful who honoured our invitation with their physical presence and financial contributions at the 10th edition of the Anthony Cardinal Okogie Annual Lecture/Foundation. May God reward you all abundantly.

e. **ARCHDIOCESAN NOVENA FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** there shall be a novena in preparation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at the Marian Shrine, Maryland:

Date: November 29th- December 7th, 2017

Venue: Archdiocesan Marian Shrine, Maryland

Time: 4: 30 p.m. Daily

f. 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: December 4th, 2017

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos.

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

g. SPECIAL INVITATION

The Congregation of the Religious of Jesus and Mary (RJM), Lagos cordially invites the Clergy, Religious and the Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos to the Thanksgiving Mass of the Bicentary (200 years) of its foundation as a Congregation and its Silver Jubilee Anniversary in Nigeria

Date: December 9th, 2017

Venue: St. Denis Catholic Church, Bariga

Time: 10:00a.m

Chief Celebrant: Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins

Reception follows immediately at **St. Finbarr's Hall, Akoka**

h. ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DIPLOMA IN CATECHETICS: Parish Priests are encouraged to send their Catechists, Catechism Teachers and Marriage Counsellors for Advanced Diploma in Catechetics at St. Augustine's College of Education (Project TIME) Akoka, Yaba, Lagos. For more enquiries visit www.sacoedng.com or www.sacoed.edu.ng or call 01-793-3594

i. DIRECTORY 2018: The year 2018 is around the corner. Kindly go through this year's Directory again so as to point out possible errors, omissions, amendments and suggestions for the improvement of our Directory. You may also reach the Chancery through her e-mail address: arclagos@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

j. QUARTERLY RETURNS COLLECTIONS: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the fourth quarter of the year: **Catholic teachers day-01/10/2017, Mission Sunday-22/10/2017, Catechetical collection- 05/11/2017, C.I.W.A-26/11/2017, Health Collection-10/12/2017 and VUNA Collection.**

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 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.

k. 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.

10. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Erinle Anthony, and Rev. Frs. Adeyemi Peter, Obayomi Patrick, Nwanua Joseph, Opara Hubert, Onwudiegwu Michael, Ethelbert Ukpabi, Ibe Hyacinth and Mordi Cosmas. Others are: Osuntope Peter, Udoh Gabriel, Abulu Jude, Amadi Marcellinus, Anokere Joseph, Emeana Denis, Teko Marcellinus, Omoregie Jerome, Okonkwo Christian, Iwu Simeon, Ogidan Andrew, Alabi John, Remigus Okafor and Thaddeus Onyenedum, whose sacerdotal ordination anniversaries occur 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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS