



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

19, CATHOLIC MISSION STREET, P. O. BOX 8, LAGOS-NIGERIA
TEL/FAX: 01- 8448669

Monthly Bulletin /Circular **JANUARY. 2018**/No. 064

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 JANUARY:** Welcome to the month of January; the first month of the year; a month of new beginnings; a month of starting afresh. In the first part of January we continue to rejoice and celebrate Christ's coming at Bethlehem and in our hearts. The church, offers us on the first day, the wonderful feast of Mary, Mother of God, when we honour Mary's highest title. Then we follow the Magi to the crib as they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on Epiphany. Finally, we reach the culmination of this season with the Baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist. With a touch of reticence, we take down our decorations and enter into the liturgical period known as Ordinary Time where we will devote ourselves to the mystery of Christ in its entirety. The liturgical colour changes from white to green — a symbol of the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is a new year and a time to chart a new course, doing things differently and better, starting afresh with optimism and hope for a better future. We pray God to grant us a fruitful and prosperous Year 2018.

2. **ARCHDIOCESAN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** it has come to our notice that some Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are not aware of the extant regulation concerning Special Collections in the Archdiocese. **We therefore inform those who do not know and remind all other priests of the tradition in the Archdiocese for very many years now, is that on such Sundays when there is a Special Collection to be taken, it becomes the 2nd Collection and as such THERE IS NO 2ND COLLECTION at all Masses on that day.** Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge are to take note and duly inform parishioners of such collections.

3. REVIEW OF ARCHDIOCESAN GUIDELINES: Earlier on in the year, we sent the working documents for **Guidelines for the Archdiocesan Pastoral and Laity Councils**, and **Guidelines for Deanery Pastoral and Laity Councils** for the attention of Deans, Parish Priests, Priests-in-Charge and representatives of Associations of the Lay faithful. We expect all those concerned to read through these important documents and note their observations.

Seminars on the Guidelines will be facilitated by members of the Archdiocesan Guidelines Implementation and Monitoring Team in order to review the implementation of the Parish Guidelines in the past year as well as to discuss the documents mentioned above on the Pastoral and laity Councils at the Archdiocesan and Deanery levels. You will recall that similar seminars were held on the Parish Pastoral, Laity and Finance Councils. To this end, we have attached the questionnaire for the review of the implementation of the Parish Guidelines in the past year to this circular. We expect all Deans, Parish Priests, Priests-in-Charge and representatives of Lay Associations concerned to kindly download and fill the questionnaire, and submit to their Deans for onward submission to the Chancery. Kindly note that the deadline for the submission of the questionnaires is the **30th January, 2018**.

- Seminar with the Deans and representatives of Lay Associations (in view of the Deanery Pastoral and Laity Councils Guidelines): **10th March, 2018**
- Regional Seminar with Priests working in the Archdiocese (to review the implemented Parish Guidelines): **27th June, 2018**

ALL PRIESTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. While we thank you sincerely for your cooperation thus far, we appeal to you to lend in your support and pastoral collaboration.

4. RE-PROFILE UPDATE FOR PRIESTS: We had expected by now to have the record of all priests working in the Archdiocese. However, a number of our priests are yet to heed our directive by updating their profile. We call on priests who are yet to update their profile to do so by opening the following link on an internet-connected laptop or desktop computer: http://chancery.zendsolutions.com/personnel/add_profile Select Priests under Personnel. Carefully fill the data form provided. Kindly ensure you also upload your passport size photograph before clicking on SAVE. We expect the DEANS ensure that all the priests in their deaneries carry out this important instruction. **IT IS ALREADY PAST DEADLINE.** Any priest who does not do the needful in good time

would be holding us back and would ultimately be excluding himself from the benefits of the exercise. For more inquiries, contact the Chancery.

5. 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.

6. SUPPORT FOR AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY.

We want to thank all the Parishes that have heeded the call to support the Augustine University by sending in the fruits of their Augustine University Sunday 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.

We hereby repeat again the following directives concerning the support for the University:

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 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 with Priests at their Deanery 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". The advantage of this is that each parish can see what comes in from the parish. 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 how much they are contributing to the University and give us opportunity to adequately acknowledge the Parish and the Parish-Priest. We REQUIRE the Parish Priests to give this his personal attention and

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. Kindly see that you 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. Please see that this is done.

7. ARCHDIOCESAN LAITY SUNDAY

We hereby acknowledge again the contribution of the Laity Council at every level - Parish, Deanery, Archdiocese - to the spiritual and physical development of the Archdiocese in spite of its financial challenges. We repeat again the directive 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. Kindly remit the proceeds to the Chancery for onward transmission to the Council.

8. 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. **Diaconate Ordination:** To the glory of God, our Seminarians, **Brothers Emedo Raymond, Oyekunle Joseph, Ozowanfor Martins and Toye Andrew**, will be raised to the Order of the Diaconate on **Sunday, 7th January, 2018 at St Anthony Catholic Church, Gbaja, Lagos. The time is 11:30 a.m.** Kindly remember them in your prayers.

b. **ORIENTATION AND INDUCTION OF NEW PRIESTS:** We have the tradition in the Archdiocese of giving an orientation programme on liturgical and pastoral practices in the Archdiocese to newly ordained priests as well as priests newly appointed to serve in the Archdiocese of Lagos. This will come up between **11th and 13th of January, 2018.** The venue for the orientation is **Domus Fidei, Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Generalate, Ikeja, Lagos.**

We notice that many of those who were supposed to have participated in the 2017 programme absented themselves. **All the priests posted to the Archdiocese and have not participated, no matter how long they may have been in the Archdiocese are expected to participate next year. We emphasise it again that participation in that programme by new priests and priests newly posted to the Archdiocese will constitute part of the criteria for appointment to the responsibility of Parish Priest in the Archdiocese. Everyone concerned should note that participation in this orientation programme is mandatory.**

c. **LAGOS ECCLESIASTICAL TRIBUNAL:** The Inaugural meeting of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal comes up on **Wednesday 17th January, 2018** at The Chancery by **10:00 a.m.** All those concerned should please take note and attend

d. **CURIA MEETING:** The first meeting of the Year of the Archdiocesan Curia comes on the **24th January, 2018** at the Chancery by 10.00 a.m. All those concerned should please take note.

e. **ARCHDIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING:** the meeting of the Archdiocesan Finance Council for the first quarter comes up on the **30th January, 2018** by 10.00 am at the Chancery. All those concerned should please take note.

f. **ST. GREGORY'S COLLEGE @ 90:** The Management, Staff and Students of St. Gregory's College, South-West, Ikoyi, Lagos cordially invite all Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos to the **90th Anniversary Celebration** of the College.

Date: 18th January, 2018

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Venue: St. Gregory's College Chapel.

Celebrant: Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, Archbishop of Lagos.

g. **THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION (Feast of Consecrated Life):** This annual ceremony comes up on the **2nd of February, 2018, at St. Ferdinand Catholic Church, Boy's Town Ipaja, Lagos, by 10.00am.** The Archbishop will preside over the Mass. Other events follow after the Mass.

h. **VALENTINE'S DAY WITH THE ARCHBISHOP:** the Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Confraternity of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) invites all to the annual Valentine's Day with the Archbishop which comes up on **Saturday 3rd February, 2018**

Theme: Christian Love: Our Missionary Mandate

Date: Saturday, 3rd February, 2018

topic: Any need to celebrate Valentine's Day in a world filled with violence?

Time: 11: 00 a.m., starting with the Holy Mass

Venue: St. Dominic Catholic Church, Yaba

Fee: single/ youth- ₦1,000, Couple- ₦2,500

NB: there will be renewal of marital vows for interested couples during the Mass.

Goodwill Advert Placement costs ₦30,000. For more information, contact, 08104740835, 08023817484, 08033444932, 08037728394 or the Director's office on 08029270402 and 08182431997.

i. CATECHETICAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS/CATECHISM TEACHERS AND PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

The Antioch Pastoral Institute hereby informs all Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge of the training for catechists and Pastoral Assistants for the 2018/2019 Session

Venue: St. Dominic's Parish School Block, Herbert Macaulay Road, Yaba

Holds: Second Saturday of every month- starting **February 10, 2018**

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Forms: Obtainable from Religious Education Department, 19 Maye Street Off Montgomery (opp. Lebanese School) Yaba @ #1,000.00

For contacts and enquiry call: 08033574050, 08035040118 or 08066224284

j. PRIESTS' ANNUAL LEAVE-ROSTER: Priests are to submit months of preference for their annual leave for this year, 2018 to the Priests' Welfare Committee not later than end of **January, 2018**.

k. 2018 Archdiocesan Directory: The 2018 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.

l. ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DIPLOMA IN CATECHETICS:

Parish Priests are requested 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 12

m. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the first quarter of the year: **Epiphany- 07/01/2018; AUI-14/01/2018, 11/02/2018 and 11/03/2018; Caritas Lagos Collection- 25/02/2018; JDPC- 18/03/2018 and Holy Land- 30/03/2018.**

n. QUARTERLY RETURNS COLLECTIONS: We commend all the parish priests who have been faithful to making their quarterly returns as when due and those who have taken advantage of our reminders in the last two circulars to make their returns.

Only a few are yet to do so. We shall have to be publishing the names of repeat defaulters soon. Kindly take note.

We want to encourage the use of the Pay-Direct option or Bank transfer in order 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, you need to 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.

o. ADMISSION INTO THE CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

This is to inform everyone that admission into JSS.1 for the 2018/2019 academic session in all Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese is in progress. The Entrance Examination comes up on Saturday 10th March, 2018 at the selected schools. Forms can be obtained from the school of choice, all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese, selected parishes and electronically on www.cmsslagos.ng.

The Ten Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese are:

1. St Gregory College, South-West, Ikoyi
2. Holy Child Girls College, Ikoyi
3. St Finbarr College, Akoka
4. Bethlehem Girls College, Abule-Ado
5. Mater Ecclesiae College, Epe
6. Sacred Heart College, Apapa
7. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic College, Okokomaiko
8. Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School, Maryland
9. Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba
10. Marywood Girls College, Ebute-Metta

Let us give our children sound upbringing in the Catholic Faith.

p. FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT (FHLU): this is to notify all who wish to be trained in the areas of marriage, family and human life as facilitators, counselors or social workers to register now by calling 08130285777 or 09082053445. Training schedules include:

1. MARRIAGE THEOLOGY AND LIVED EXPERIENCE

PART TIME CLASSES:

YABA CENTRE

- i. Weekday: First Tuesdays of each month for 10 months begins 6th February, 2018 @ 19 Maye Street, Yaba.
- ii. Weekend: First Saturdays of each month for 10 months begins 3rd February, 2018 @ 19 Maye Street, Yaba.

FULL TIME YABA CENTRE: Begins 20th September, third Thursday weekly for ten weeks.

ISOLO CENTRE

- i. Last Saturday of every month for 10 months begins 24th February, 2018 @ St Francis Catholic Church, Idimu

IKORODU CENTRE

- i. Fourth Tuesday of each month for 10 months begins 27th February 2018 @ St Augustine Catholic Church Ikorodu

FESTAC CENTRE

- i. Second Tuesday of each month for 10 months begins 13th February, 2018 @ Holy Family Catholic Church Festac

APAPA CENTRE

- i. Third Tuesday of each month begins 20th January 2017 @ St Margaret Catholic Church Olodi Apapa

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

YABA CENTRE:

- i. 1st Saturday of every month for 8 months begins 3rd February, 2018

OLODI APAPA:

- i. 3rd Tuesday of every month for 8 months begins 19th June, 2018

Total course fee- ₦ 30,500 with certificate.

3. BASIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING COURSE

YABA CENTRE:

- i. one Friday a month for three months begins 16th March, 2018.

OLODI APAPA:

i. one Tuesday a month begins 20th February, 2018.

Total course fee- ₦ 12,000 with certificate.

NOTE: Payment details: **FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT- CATHOLIC ARCDIOCESE OF LAGOS, ECO BANK ACCT NO. 3772028512.**

q. 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 with and request your prayers for the following confreres, whose Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries occur this month: Rev. Frs. Joachim Ochibili, Richard Ogedengbe (OP), Joseph Ahukanna (OP), Amosun Anthony, Bastos Paul, Echefu Augustine, Ehiedu Emmanuel, Mensah Michael, Njorteah John. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

11. BEREAVEMENT: We announce with deep sympathy with the families concerned the demise of **Late Mrs Lorreta Okoroafor**, the Sister of Very Rev. Msgr. Paschal Nwaezeapu; **Late Mrs Emilia Augustine Etim**, the Mother of Sr. Rosemary Etim, DHS. Burial arrangements are as follows: Christian Wake: **January 11th, 2018** and Burial Mass on the 12th January, 2108 at the Holy trinity college, MBIAKONG URUAN. Akwa ibom State. They died in the month of December, 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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS