



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **MARCH, 2018**/No. 066

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 MARCH:** I heartily welcome you to the month of March. In this month we continue the solemn season of Lent. The Lenten observances continue to guide us through the month and gradually prepare us for the celebration of Easter. The "O come and mourn with me a while" with which we started this month climaxes with the Holy Week at the end of the month. The Holy Week celebration starts with Palm Sunday (**March 25th**) wherein with palms we sing "Hosanna to the Son of David" who gradually approaches the hour of his death to redeem us. This leads us to the Easter Triduum; Holy Thursday (**March 29th**), Good Friday (**March 30th**) and Holy Saturday (**March 31st**). May the grace of Lent prepare us for the blessings of Easter. Amen.

2. **MASS OF THE CHRISM 2017:** This will take on **Tuesday 27th March and Thursday 29th March, 2018 AT Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Catholic Church, Satellite Town and Holy Cross Cathedral respectively, Time: 9:00am.**

3. **CATHEDRATICUM-** One of the very laudable practices at the Masses of Chrism is the presentation of gifts that are distributed to the less-privileged and the needy in various Homes and prisons around the Archdiocese. We noticed a big drop in the measure of gifts that come from parishes which obviated a little last year. 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.

4. 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH THE ARCHBISHOP:

The Daily Lenten Reflections with the Archbishop, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins continues on Radio Nigeria, 103.50 FM at 6.05 am and 8.55pm daily. Also, on Rhythm FM by 5:30pm daily. Kindly inform your parishioners and encourage them to tune in to the frequencies and listen to the reflection. May the word of God nourish our souls. Amen.

5. ARCHDIOCESAN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: We reiterate again our observation 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.

6. 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.

There shall be a Seminar with the **Deans and representatives of Lay Associations on 10th March, 2018 by 10am at St Leo Catholic Church, Ikeja.** This is in view of the Deanery Pastoral and Laity Councils Guidelines. We request that all Deans nominate two representatives from each of the following groups of societies operating at the Deanery level to attend the Seminar.

- Liturgical Committee
- Faith Formation and Education Committee
- Devotional Group
- Community Building
- Welfare and Social Action

In your nominations, kindly select people that are able to disseminate the information contained in the guidelines adequately to other deanery members.

While we thank you sincerely for your cooperation thus far, we appeal to you to lend in your support and pastoral collaboration.

7. VOTERS REGISTRATION: The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) at the end of her first plenary meeting, (17 - 23 February, 2018) issued a Communique that addressed a number of issues bothering on situations in the Church and the Nation. Among the several concerns that were raised, is the ongoing voter's registration process towards the 2019 general elections. While we continue to call on the government to ensure that the forthcoming general election processes are free, fair and credible, we strongly encourage ALL to participate actively in the process of choosing our Leaders by getting registered, obtaining their PVCs and casting their votes to elect leaders of their choices on the actual day of the elections.

All priests are hereby directed to adequately inform, sensitize and strongly encourage their parishioners on the need to exercise this civic responsibility.

8. FORMATION OF PARISH EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEES FOR THE ARCHDIOCESAN EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

We had earlier authorised the formation of Evangelisation Committees in all Parishes in the Archdiocese. The deadline for the submission of the names of the Parish Evangelisation Committee to the Archdiocesan Evangelisation Commission was November 26, 2017. However only a few parishes have complied with this directive. We hereby **reiterate and direct all Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to form Evangelisation Committees in their various parishes** and forward the names of the members to the Archdiocesan Evangelisation commission through the Chancery. IT IS ALREADY PAST DEADLINE, SO WE EXPECT THIS TO BE DONE URGENTLY. The Archdiocesan Evangelisation Commission will be organizing an ORIENTATION SEMINAR ON THE CHURCH'S MISSION for ALL MEMBERS of the Parish Evangelisation Committees on **Saturday, 21st April, 2018 at the Catholic Church of the Divine Mercy, Lekki at 10:00am**. Registration begins at 9:00am. Please, be punctual.

9. 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 authorized "Painless Giving" project asking for whatever each person can afford even if it is not more than ₦ 500.00 per month through Bank Transfer, POS or ATM. Members of the Fund Raising Committee of the University Priests at 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. APPRECIATION FROM THE EHJ SISTERS: The Superior General and the entire Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, express their immense gratitude to His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, the Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos, for the solidarity through individual and collective prayers, Masses offered, and other action done towards the safe release of our sisters. May God bless and reward you all. We thank God for hearing our prayers. We shall continue to pray for a peaceful and safe Nigeria.

b. NCDPA LAGOS: This is to inform all Priests that the meeting of the National Catholic Diocesan Priests Association slated for 21st February, 2018 has been moved to **1st March, 2018. Venue: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ojota.** All Diocesan priests working in the Archdiocese are expected to attend.

c. CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA (CYON)

(i) **Lagos Ecclesiastical Provincial CYON 3rd Leadership Retreat & seminar:** The event is scheduled to take place between Friday March 2nd-4th March, 2018, at Louisville Retreat Center, Ijebu- Itete, Ijebu- Ode Diocese with the theme: "Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God" Various programmes have been outlined to enable Deanery youth leaders from the 3 Dioceses encounter the person of Christ and serve him better as young people.

(ii) **2018 Lagos Archdiocesan CYON Leadership and Entrepreneurship Workshop:** Focus: "Non-commitment and incompetence among youth leaders" on the 24th of March, 2018 at the Salesians of Don Bosco Retreat Centre, Kayfarm, Iju, Lagos. Parish CYON participation fee is N5,000 for 5 principal Officers.

(iii) **33rd Archdiocesan Youth Day:** Scheduled to take place on the 8th of April 2018 with Holy Mass at Church of the Annunciation, 7th Avenue, Festac and reception at Federal Housing Authority (FHA) football field, 23 road, Festac Town. We appeal that parishes support our youths with placement of Goodwill messages and other support they can render. I urge our youths to comply with the directives to register online before the stipulated deadline of March 18th to enable the organizers make adequate logistical preparations

d. SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES' LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: there shall be a Leadership Workshop for Leaders and Facilitators of the Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese on **March 3, 2018** by 10.00am at **Holy Cross**

Cathedral Hall. This workshop is aimed at improving the Leadership skills of Leaders and Facilitators of the Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese. Attendance is highly recommended.

e. 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.

f. LAITY WEEK CELEBRATION- the annual Laity week celebration comes up from the 11th - 18th March, 2018 in all parishes in the archdiocese. We are all encouraged to participate actively.

g. 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS MOVEMENT NIGERIA AND AN AWARD CEREMONY-

this is to invite the entire clergy and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos to the 60th Anniversary and Award Ceremony of the Young Christian Workers Movement scheduled as follows:

Date: 1st May, 2018

Venue: Catholic Church of Ascension, Airport Road, Lagos

Time: 10:00am

h. 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 due information to him.

i. CHRISM MASS 2017: The 2018 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 parish 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.

j. ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DIPLOMA IN CATECHETICS: Parish Priests are required to send their Catechists, Catechetical 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

k. CATECHETICS/ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: This is to notify all parishes and collaborators about the Regional Catechists Training on the theme: "catechesis: Mission to Evangelize". The following are the venues/ schedules:

March 10, 2018- St. Anthony's Parish, Gbaja Surulere, Facilitated by Rev. Msgr. Bernard Okodua and Rev. Fr. Vincent Bankole by 10:00am Prompt.

March 17, 2018- St. Leo's Parish, Toyin Street, Ikeja, facilitated by Rev. Msgr. John Aniagwu, by 10:00am Prompt

March 24, 2018- Divine Mercy Parish, Lekki Phase 1, Facilitated by Rev. Msgr. Paschal Nwaezeapu, by 10:00am Prompt

April 28, 2018- Holy family Parish, Festac Town, facilitated by Rev. Fr. Longinus P. Ogbeide, by 10:00am Prompt

I. ARCHDIOCESAN NOVENA FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

This Novena comes up between the 3rd of April to 9th of April 2018 at the Archdiocesan Marian Shrine, Maryland. The details are as follows:

Novena: 3rd April- 8th April 2018

Solemnity: April 9th, 2018

Theme: Mary- Channel of our Peace

Venue: Archdiocesan Marian Shrine, Maryland

Time: 4:30pm daily

m. ARCHDIOCESAN CHILDREN (AGE 7-15) CATECHETICAL SPELLING BEE:

This is to inform all parishes and collaborators about the upcoming Archdiocesan Children Catechetical Spelling Bee whose curriculum covers: Sacraments and Sacramentals, Liturgy, Words used at mass and during Liturgical celebrations, Names of Prophets and who they are etc.

The timeline/ competition schedule are as follows:

February- April: Coaching, Instructing, Preparing Participants

April 29: Parish Competition (To hold in Deans Parish)

May 13: Deanery Competition (To hold in Episcopal Vicar's Parish except for Badagry that will hold at Holy Family Parish, Ajara)

July 8: Grand Finale - Archdiocesan level at Sacred heart Parish, Ojota. The Star prize for the Ultimate winner includes One Year payment(Scholarship) of school fees.

Other consolation prizes include sponsoring of school textbooks, school bags, religious books/ articles etc.

See Posters for more information/ CONTACT/ SUPPORT & SPONSORSHIP

08033574050, 08052036886, 07066313304, 08066224284.

n. 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.

o. 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.

p. LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN MUSIC COMMISSION (LAMCOM): This is to inform all that the Archdiocesan Music Commission would be sending the procedures for the selection/appointment of Parish Choirmasters to all the Parish Priests in the Archdiocese. We encourage all Parish Priest / Priests-in-charge to receive and cooperate with the Music Commission accordingly.

q. 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.**

r. 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.

12. 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!*

13. BEREAVEMENT: We announce, with deep sympathy with the families concerned, the demise of **Late Mrs Maria Moyosore Martinos**, the mother of Rev. Fr. Theodore Martinos; **Late Pa Gabriel Banji Olagbemi**, the father of Rev. Fr. Christopher Olagbemi; **Late Mrs. Grace Ezeuze**, the Mother of Rev. Fr. Vincent Ezezue C SSR; **Late Mama Elizabeth Adegbite**, the mother of Late Fr. Patrick Adegbite. They died in the month of February, 2018. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of their souls and the consolation of the families. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen.

(Signed)

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