



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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

Monthly Bulletin /Circular **MAY. 2018**/No. 068

**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 May: I heartily welcome you to the month of May. It is Mary's month in the Easter Season and all of nature rejoices with the Queen of Heaven at the Resurrection of the Son she was made worthy to bear. Every year, during the Eastertide, the Church invites us to bear witness to the risen Lord by the quality of our lives and nobility of our aspirations, and to embrace a faith-based and mission-driven lifestyle that leads to a deep friendship with Christ. The month of May is one of such moments that afford us the spiritual opportunity to rediscover the role of the Virgin Mary in Christian Life. She sets the stage for the economy of salvation starting from her fiat at the annunciation to the birth of Jesus, his death, resurrection and ascension to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; the establishment of the Church and the ongoing work of redemption to which you and I are witnesses. After the Resurrection, Mary stayed with the Apostles in the Upper Room and played the role of both Mother and Teacher, a role she continues to carry on in our age and time. During this month, let us seek her maternal solicitude and intercession through fervent prayer, daily recitation of the Rosary, Novenas, visits to the grottoes of Our Lady, talks, reflections on Mary, acts of piety and regular attendance of Mass. May Mary, the Star of Evangelization, teach us the way of salvation and lead us to Jesus, her son.

2. DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH VICTIMS OF THE RECENT KILLINGS IN MAKURDI: the atrocious terrorist attack at St Ignatius Catholic Church, Ukpor-Mbalom, Benue State that witnessed the brutal killings of two Catholic Priests and a number of Parishioners on 24th April, 2018 is one of the ugly incidences that calls our attention to the spate of insecurity in the country and the failure on the part of the government to ensure the security of lives and properties

of its citizens. In light of this unfortunate incident, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria has directed that all dioceses should organise a peaceful demonstration on the date of their burial in solidarity with the victims of these brutal killings and celebrate Requiem Masses for the repose of their souls.

In the Archdiocese of Lagos, this Demonstration of Solidarity will be organised by the JDPC of the Archdiocese. **We shall have Requiem Mass on Tuesday, 22nd May, 2018 at St. Leo Catholic Church, Ikeja by 10 am. After the mass, we shall have peaceful procession from the church to the Governor's office at Alausa, Ikeja.** The Archbishop will celebrate the Mass and lead the procession. We urge all Catholic faithful to come out *en masse* in their parish and society uniforms or white tops. **All Priests are hereby directed to sensitise and mobilise their parishioners to come out and be part of this important event.**

3. FEAST OF MATER ECCLESIAE: As was announced at the Chrism Masses, our Holy Father, Pope Francis has promulgated the Decree that the celebration of the memorial of "Our Lady Mother of the Church - Mater Ecclesiae" be incorporated into the Liturgical Calendar of the Universal Church. As Patroness of our Archdiocese, Our Lady, Mother of the Church would be celebrated as a **FEAST** throughout the Archdiocese on the **Saturday before the Pentecost. This comes up on Saturday, 19th May, 2018. All Parishes in the Archdiocese are therefore expected to observe this liturgical celebration as a Feast in the Archdiocese.** All faithful are strongly encouraged to make a visit in the form of a Pilgrimage to the Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos, or Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, on this special day so as to obtain the Plenary Indulgence granted.

4. PLENARY INDULGENCE: The Holy See has graciously promulgated another Decree by which she granted the faithful of our Archdiocese the special privilege of obtaining a Plenary Indulgence by making a visit in the form of a Pilgrimage to the Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos, and Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, on two special days.

- The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, the primary patron of our Archdiocese, (every September 14)
- The Feast of "Our Lady, Mother of the Church - Mater Ecclesiae," Patroness of our Archdiocese. (Saturday before Pentecost)

It is however important to note that the conditions of going for confession, participating at Mass, receiving Holy Communion and praying for the Holy Father's intentions, are to be fulfilled in order to receive the plenary indulgence.

5. MARONITE EPARCHY: We call attention again to the different opinions being circulated on the Social Media concerning the Maronite Church in Nigeria existing in the same space as our Roman Catholic Church. In order to address all concerns, we refer everyone to the official Press Statement of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) on the subject matter.

In addition, we make the following points:

- that the Maronite Catholic Church is one of the Eastern Catholic Churches that are in full communion with the Holy See.
- the Maronite Church has existed since the 5th Century, and the Maronite Jurisdiction in Africa has been in existence in Nigeria since 2014 to cater for the pastoral needs of the Maronite faithful living in West and Central Africa.
- The faithful of the Church have been receiving the pastoral care of priests of their Rite for a while in our Archdiocese. Msgr. Simon Faddoul was appointed to be in charge of the faithful since 2014 but he was not appointed a Bishop until recently. After his ordination in Lebanon he will begin his ministry as a Bishop immediately the ceremony of his installation takes place.
- Since they belong to the Oriental Rite, the priests of the Maronite Church, whether married or unmarried, do not go about parishes of the Latin Rite celebrating Masses, but only provide pastoral care and celebrate masses for their faithful within the oriental rite.

Let us take care to guard our faith from false teachings and misinterpretations.

6. ARCHDIOCESAN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: We repeat this item on our circular because it has come to our notice that a few Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are still not abiding with the regulation. The extant regulation concerning Special Collections in the Archdiocese **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.

7. VOTERS REGISTRATION: As we reminded the people at the Chrism Masses, we use this as another opportunity to encourage priests and people to ensure that they get themselves registered in preparation for the forthcoming elections in 2019. We enjoin the Priests to sensitize and strongly encourage their parishioners that the power to determine their present and future wellbeing and welfare lies in the votes they cast during elections. It is therefore important that they participate actively in the process of choosing our Leaders.

8. REVIEW OF ARCHDIOCESAN GUIDELINES: There would be a Seminar facilitated by members of the **Archdiocesan Guidelines Implementation and Monitoring Team** in order to review the implementation of the Guidelines in the past year. This shall be hold for all the Priests working in the Archdiocese on **27th June, 2018**. The seminars will hold at designated places in the four Regions. **ALL PRIESTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE** While we thank you sincerely for your cooperation thus far, we expect everyone to lend support and pastoral collaboration to this milestone development.

9. SUPPORT FOR AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY.

We once again 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 5TH SUNDAY LAITY COLLECTION:

We hereby remind all Priests and Priests-in-charge of the 5th Sunday Collection in support of the Laity Council. This is already being done in many parishes and it gives 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 as directed should immediately after the Sunday be 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. ANTHONY CARDINAL OKOGIE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM:

In keeping with our promise to give scholarship to outstanding indigent students for Secondary and Tertiary education, we are pleased to inform you that the Scholarship Application Form is now out and accessible on the Archdiocesan Website (www.lagosarchdiocese.org). Kindly click on the following link: <http://www.lagosarchdiocese.org/down/g14.pdf> to download the form, fill and submit to the Chancery. Deadline for submission of application forms is **30th June, 2018**. For more information, please visit our website or send a mail to calacof2003@yahoo.com.

12. 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.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. ARCHDIOCESAN LAITY HARVEST: The Archdiocesan Laity Harvest has been zoned to Apapa Deanery. It comes up on the **6th of May, 2018 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Coker, Orile**. The theme of the 2018 Laity Harvest is **"Harvest of Divine Visitation"**. We therefore solicit for an active participation by all. We appeal to all Parish Priests to ensure that the Harvest Envelopes are distributed and collected for onward delivery on or before the date of the harvest. Kindly ensure that you include this information in your parish bulletin announcements.

b. ASCENSION THURSDAY: This comes up on the **10th of May 2018**. All are encouraged to take note. Ascension Day is a Christian holiday to commemorate the day that Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. It is officially celebrated on the 39th

day after Easter Sunday, which is a Thursday and is the 40th day of Easter (following the accounts given in Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, Acts 1:2). In some parts of the world, the feast is transferred to the Sunday after the traditional date. Forty Days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Acts of the Apostles records Jesus' ascension into heaven. The Ascension is an important Christian holiday that attests to the reality of Jesus Christ, God and human, returning to the Father, to return again in the future second coming. The Ascension is the final component of the paschal mystery, which consists also of Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection. Ascension Day is also referred to as Ascension Feast which originated in the 4th century AD. It is on that day that The risen Jesus was taken up to heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father.

c. CONSULTORS MEETING: This comes up on Tuesday **22nd May, 2018 at the Chancery by 10:00am.** Those concerned should please take note.

d. 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

e. JOHN MARY VIANNEY GROUP ANNUAL PICNIC- The members of the John Mary Vianney Group cordially invite all our elderly Priests and Rev. Sisters to their annual Picnic scheduled to hold on the **24th May 2018 at St. Leo's Parish Ikeja by 11:30am.** As a custom, it is an occasion to celebrate and appreciate the meritorious contributions and services of Priests and religious in the Lord's vineyard with particular attention to elderly priests and Religious. Please keep a date with them.

f. 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION OF SISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC HEART OF JESUS GENERALATE- The Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, cordially invite the Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful to celebrate with us the 75th anniversary of the foundation of their institute (SISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC HEART OF JESUS). Your prayers and presence will be highly appreciated.

DATE: SATURDAY 26TH MAY, 2018

VENUE: ST. LEO CATHOLIC CHURCH, IKEJA LAGOS

TIME: 10:00am Prompt.

g. ARCHDIOCESAN LAY LEADER'S SEMINAR/ WORKSHOP: The workshop for all lay leaders in the Archdiocesan, deanery, Parish Laity Council, Archdiocesan and Deanery Executives of Lay organizations/ societies/ Associations and members of P.P.C. and P.F.C. comes up as follows:

Date: Saturday, 19th May, 2018

Venue: St. Finbarr's College, Akoka, Yaba

Theme: The greatest Among You Shall Be Your Servant

Time: 7:00a.m. accreditation

Participation Fee: ~~N=~~2,000.00 per delegate

Delegate: 10 Delegates from Parishes

10 delegates from Lay organization/Society/Association

5 delegates from Deaneries

Note:

(i) No one person should double in representation [i.e. One person must NOT represent parish or Deanery and Society at the same time]

(ii) Pay at the centre or deposit into our account with the following particular:

Account Name: Catholic Lay Apostolate centre **Bank:** Access

Account No: 0024595531 **Depositor's Name:** Your Parish/Deanery/Society's names

h. ST. AUGUSTINE'S 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

i. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

(a) CARITAS LAGOS COLLECTION: This is to remind all Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge who are yet to remit the proceeds of the Caritas Lagos Collection held on the Second Sunday of Lent to do so to the Chancery immediately.

(b) Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the second quarter of the year: **Youths- 08/04/2018, AUI- 08/04/2018, 13/05/2018 and 10/06/2018, Social Development- 15/04/2018,**

Seminary- 22/04/2018, Holy Childhood- 06/05/2018, Communications Day- 13/05/2018 and Laity- 29/04/2018.

j. ANTIOCH PASTORAL INSTITUTE, CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS: commences admission into its one-year Evangelization training program. Forms can be obtained from the Directorate of Religious Education's office, 19, Maye Street, Yaba at the cost of N1000 only.

The training programme begins on **21 July 2018** at Church and Society Hall, 19, Maye Street, Yaba. For further inquiries contact: **08033574050, 08066224284, 08038540118.**

k. Archbishop Adewale Martins Catholic Faith Family Project- Quiz Competition: Anchored by the Knights of St. John International and Ladies Auxiliary, in collaboration with Religious Education Department, Lagos Archdiocese. We are called to unite and promote Catechesis that will help families make progress in the growth of their faith. The areas for coverage this year include **Old Testament:** Genesis and Isaiah; **New Testament:** Gospel of John and Letter to the Ephesians; the Creed, Sacraments and Doctrines of the Church.

Registration closes April 22, 2018

The posters and registration form is in circulation. Please seek more information. For contacts and enquiry, call 08033574050, 08037096269, 07034000974, 08066224284.

l. Archdiocesan Children (7-15) Catechetical Spell and Explain Competition: it is a remarkable religious instructional method for the children organized in a competitive environment, also with the objective to enhance growth and development in Christian faith and understanding of the doctrines of the Church. The curriculum covers Sacraments, Sacramentals, Liturgy, Words used at Mass and during Liturgical celebrations, Names of prophets in the bible and major attributes, etc. The timeline/ competition schedule proposed as follows:

February- April: Coaching, Instructing, preparing participants

April 29: Parish Competition (To hold in all Parishes)

May 13: Deanery Competition (To hold in the Dean's Parish)

June 10: Regional competition (To hold in the Episcopal Vicars Parish) Except for Badagry Deanery that will hold at **Holy Family Parish, Ajara Badagry.**

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 and SPONSORSHIP 08033574050, 08052036886, 07066313304, 08066224284.

m. 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.

n. FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT (FHLU):

(a) NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING TRAINING- 2018

Family and Human Life Unit- Archdiocese of Lagos, in conjunction with the Archdiocesan Health Department is organizing a training on LOVE and LIFE Fertility regulation method derived from the Billings Method.

For Whom: Administrators of Health institutions or their Representatives, other Medical professionals and interested Couples.

Dates: April 28th- 29th; June 2nd- 3rd; June 30th- July 1st 2018

Venue: EHJ Domus Fidei - Ikeja

Course fees: 21,000 Naira for the three weekends

Payment to family and Human Life Unit Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos ECOBANK Account Number 3772002512

PS: Enquiries, Reservations and SMS payment confirmation to John Chukwuma 0803384494

b. FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE TRAINING: 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**

o. 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.

14. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Eduke Godwin, Garber Leo, Monye Joseph, Njugi A. Gichuki, Anthony K. Odoh, Josh Nunez, Leonard U. Ogbanufe, Marc Nkulu SMA, Gilbert Thesing OP, Martin Aitsebaomo OP and Oche Anthony SDB as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversary this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

15. BEREAVEMENT: We announce, with deep sympathy with the families concerned, the demise of **Late Madam Kehinde Aderibigbe**, the Mother of Rev. Fr. Anthony Aderibigbe; **Late Mr. Johnbull Makanjuola Abu**, the brother of Rev. Fr. Andrew Abhulime and **Late Mrs. Maxiana Okuma**, the Mother of Rev. Fr. Kevin Okuma; **Late Mr Lawrence Ogunniyi**, the father of Rev Fr Michael Ogunniyi. They died in the month of April and May, 2018. 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