



# CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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

Monthly Bulletin /Circular **JUNE. 2018/No. 069**

**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:** You are all welcome to the month of June which heralds the end of the first half of the year. Following Pentecost, the Church begins her slow descent from the great peaks of the Easter Season to the verdant pastures of Ordinary Time, the longest of the liturgical seasons. Ordinary Time is the hour to "go out to whole world and proclaim the good news." The feasts of June highlight this call to work for evangelization. Many times, the Church vests in the red of the martyrs whose blood is the very seed of her growth. She also celebrates the feasts of the Apostles Peter and Paul, and the birth of St. John the Baptist, the proto-disciple and prophet. We too are called to be witnesses like the Apostles and Martyrs and be agents of the New Evangelization.

The Month of June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and so we are called to reflect on the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** (June 8) and the **Immaculate Heart of Mary** (June 9). Understood in the light of the Scriptures, the term "*Sacred Heart of Jesus*" denotes the entire mystery of Christ, the totality of his being, his salvific mission and sanctification of mankind. This feast calls for the attitudes that are necessary for conversion and reparation, love and gratitude, apostolic commitment and dedication to Christ and his saving work. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the fount of love and mercy, propelling us to love and be merciful like the Father. May the Heart of Jesus inflame our hearts so that we may be worthy of our Baptismal call to holiness. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

**2. ON THE USE OF VERNACULAR DURING MASSES:** it has come to our notice that a number of our priests use expressions or proverbs in vernacular languages at Masses especially during the homily. We wish to

call the attention of all priests to always keep in mind that our parishes are cosmopolitan and multi-lingual nature and so all parishioners do not speak the same language or understand all the languages. Hence, if any one uses an expression or proverb in any vernacular, he should endeavor to translate into English for the understanding of all those present at the Mass.

**3. 6 MONTHS MANDATORY PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE:** The Sacrament of Marriage which is not only a gift of immense value to the church, it is a means of grace and is of immense value for the married life of couples. A Sacrament of such importance should involve adequate preparation so that couples who are approaching it go through courses to help them develop a better understanding of the Sacrament; to evaluate and deepen their readiness to live married life; and to gain insights into themselves as individuals and as couples.

Marriage preparation in the Archdiocese of Lagos involves a process. Hence, it is **obligatory** for couples planning to receive the Sacrament to contact their Parish Priests not later than **SIX MONTHS** before the anticipated wedding date in order to begin the marriage preparation process. The period of preparation in the Archdiocese is 6 months. We expect all priests to keep this in mind, inform couples and enforce this Regulation.

**4. BOOKING OF MASS AND STOLE FEES:** It is an ancient tradition of the Catholic Church and a provision of Canon Law that the faithful give an offering for the administration of certain Sacraments as well as for booking of masses. However, it is important to note that the Sacraments are not for sale. And since the purpose of this offering is chiefly the support of the church and the clergy. The faithful are expected to give it voluntarily. In determining the amount for mass booking and Stole fees, the financial strength of the faithful must be considered. It is to be kept in mind always that poor parishioners who genuinely cannot afford to give the stipulated amounts should be attended to without insisting on the payment of the stipulated offerings. We shall soon give a regulation on the stipend and stole fees that are to be expected for the administration of the Sacraments in the Archdiocese.

**5. CONCERNING PRIVATE MINISTRIES:** We refer to the January 2017 Circular in which we called attention of all Priests and faithful in the Archdiocese to the menace of private ministries in and around the Parishes as well as in the homes of Parishioners. Such ministries are often run by individuals as private

ventures with their personal interests in mind. They beguile unsuspecting members of the faithful as having solutions to their problems. We call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to continue to sensitize their Parishioners. Anyone who participates in the activities of these private ministries does so at a risk to the authenticity of his or her catholic faith and practice. We encourage everyone to be vigilant so as not to give wolves in sheep clothing a chance to lead people astray with all the consequences for our salvation.

**6. FINAL BLESSING AT MASSES WITH THE ARCHBISHOP:** It has come to our notice that a good number of our lay faithful are not aware of the liturgical formula for the final blessing and dismissal at Masses celebrated by the Bishop. So we ask the Parish Priests to instruct the faithful on the responses to the prayers that precede the solemn final blessing. Thus, the formula for the final blessing is as follows:

V: The Lord be with you

R: **And with your spirit**

V: May the name of the Lord be blessed

R: **Both now and forever**

V: Our help is in the name of the Lord

R: **Who made heaven and earth**

V: May almighty God bless you + Father + Son and + Holy Spirit

R: **Amen**

**8. ARCHDIOCESAN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** We repeat this item in 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.

**9. VOTERS REGISTRATION:** As we reminded the people at the Chrism Masses and as we get closer to the 2019 elections, we use this as another opportunity to encourage priests and people to ensure that they get themselves registered in preparation for the 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. Our JDPC will be working on getting data on the problems that people have in getting registered. Please cooperate with them so that our people can participate actively in the process of choosing our future leaders.

**10. 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.

**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](http://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](mailto:calacof2003@yahoo.com).

**12. 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 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 N500.00 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.

**13. 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. 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.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**a. ARCHBISHOP'S BIRTHDAY:** June 1st 2018 marks my 59th birthday. We thank the Good Lord for His benevolence and His many blessings that I have experienced in these past 59 years. There shall be a Mass of Thanksgiving at the **Holy Cross Cathedral, at 12noon** on the day of the anniversary. This will be followed by a Press Conference. Kindly pray for my intentions as I continue my service as the Chief Shepherd of the flock of Christ in Lagos Archdiocese.

**b. PRIESTS RECOLLECTION:** The Annual Priests' Recollection comes up on the **13<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018**. 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. CARITAS LAGOS COMMITTEE MEETING:** This comes up on Thursday **14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at the Chancery by 10:00am**. Those concerned should please take note.

**d. ANTHONY CARDINAL OLUBUNMI OKOGIE 82<sup>ND</sup> BIRTHDAY:** The 82<sup>nd</sup> Birthday celebration of our Archbishop Emeritus comes up **on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018**. Kindly remember him in your prayers and endeavor to book masses for his special intentions.

**e. SEMINAR FOR PRIESTS:** The seminar for Priests will come up on the **27<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018**. We expect all Priests to avail themselves of this opportunity for ongoing formation.

**f. APPRECIATION:** The Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus wish to use this medium to express their profound gratitude to His Grace as well as to all the Clergy, Religious and Lay faithful of the Archdiocese for their prayerful support and solidarity during the 75<sup>th</sup> foundation Anniversary of their institute. May God bless you all abundantly.

**g. SPECIAL INVITATION:** The Men's Guild of the Catholic Church of the Assumption Falomo is organizing a Conference titled: "**Threats to Christian Faith in Contemporary Nigeria**", slated for **June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018** at the **Shell Hall of the Muson Centre, Onikan, Marina** by 10am. Parishes are kindly requested to send representatives to attend.

**h. (i) CYON ST. CHARLES LWANGA FEAST DAY CELEBRATION, 2018:** St Charles Lwanga is the Patron Saint of the Youth. To mark this year's Feast Day, as it is the custom, Novena to St. Charles Lwanga shall be held at the parish level from **25<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018**. We therefore encourage every parish to undertake this spiritual exercise conscientiously in order to reap the fruits that accrue from it.

**Grand finale of the Feast:** The grand finale of this celebration shall come up as follows:

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2018. **Venue:** St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Paiko, Idimu (Ipaja Deanery)

**Time:** Mass at 10am and other events shall follow immediately.

**(ii) TRIENNIAL NATIONAL YOUTH DAY (NYD), CALABAR 2018:** In line with the declaration of St. Pope John Paul II in 1985, the World Youth Day was initiated to offer Youths (Catholic Youths) all over the World the platform to evangelize and interact on global issues relating to the growth of the Church and the Society. In an effort to ensure all youths benefit from this experience, the National Youth Day was considered in each country/region to serve similar purpose.

This year's National Youth Day event shall take place in Calabar in the month of August. It is a seven-day convention that offers Youths from all over the nation the opportunity to evangelize, educate, interact and enrich themselves on issues that cut across the Catholic Faith, socio-economic and moral growth in the society/nation. Our Archdiocese shall be fully represented (with close to 200 delegates). To this end, we passionately appeal to all our revered priests, religious and indefatigable lay faithful of the Archdiocese to massively support our youths as they plan towards this great event.

For God and for Youth, through Christ!

**i. 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](http://www.sacoedng.com) or [www.sacoed.edu.ng](http://www.sacoed.edu.ng) or call 01-793-3594

**j. 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 also 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.

**k. 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.

**l. Archbishop Adewale Martins Catholic Faith Family Project- Quiz Competition** anchored by the Knights of St. John International and Ladies Auxiliary, in collaboration with Lagos Archdiocesan Religious Education Department is an effort to promote Catechesis and gain knowledge 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.

We urge families that have registered to ensure continuous preparation for successful participation.

**m. 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.

**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 Mr. 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**

### **A. 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.

### **B. FULL TIME CLASSES:**

**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- N 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- N 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.

**15. 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, Oritseweyimi 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 Onyeanusi, 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.

**(Signed)**

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