



# CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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

Monthly Bulletin /Circular

**JULY**, 2018 /No. 070

**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 JULY:** You are all welcome to the second half of the year which begins with the month of July. As we step into this part of the year it is necessary to take stock of our activities in the first part of the year, reflect on the things we have done, what we have left undone and what our prospects are for the remaining year.

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. Our Lord's blood, which poured out on the Cross for our Salvation, washed clean the robes of the Martyrs, and gave birth to the Church as it flowed from His wounded side. This precious blood of Christ continues its salvific work of protection and deliverance, purification and preservation, reparation and restoration through his Mystical Body, the Church by providing nourishment for regeneration and renewal of its members. This blood that coursed through the veins of Christ was part of Sacred Humanity, made possible by the maternity of Mary, whose parents Ss. Joachim and Anne are honoured this month (26<sup>th</sup> July). Hence, it is an aberration when people chant "the blood of Jesus" like a slogan or phrase to be employed almost as a magic formula. It is not a magic formula but an expression of deep faith in the power of the precious blood of Jesus to deliver us from sin and make us whole.

This entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time and the Church further presents us with the lives of the following saints as guides in the course of this month: St. Junipero Serra (**July 1**), St. Thomas the Apostle (**July 3**), St. Elizabeth of Portugal (**July 5**), St. Maria Goretti, (**July 6**), St. Benedict (**July 11**), St. Henry (**July 13**), St. Bonaventure (**July 15**), St. Camillus (**July 18**), St. Mary Magdalene (**July 22**), St. Charbel (**July 24**), St. James (**July 25**), Ss. Joachim and Anne (**July 26**), St. Ignatius of Loyola (**July 31**).

May the precious blood of Jesus cleanse us from sin, deliver us from every evil and sustain us with the power of love. Amen.

## **2. LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH POLICY**

With gratitude to God Almighty for His faithfulness and love, we presented the **Lagos Archdiocesan Youth Policy** to the CYON on the occasion of the Archdiocesan Youth Day celebrations. The Document was prepared by a Committee of talented and insightful men and women constituted by the Archbishop about two years ago. Under the guidance of Rt. Rev. Msgr John K.A. Aniagwu and the CYON Chaplain they worked tirelessly to ensure a document that should serve as a guide to the youths in our Archdiocese in the various aspects of their lives as Catholic youths.

It is written in a language suitable for young people, structured in a colourful, pictorial format meant to give the young person additional help in understanding the pressing themes that are discussed and their significance to his life. Furthermore, this Youth Policy offers such support elements as quotations from Sacred Scriptures, Fathers of the Church and various other spiritual writers.

This Policy/Guideline is entrusted to **ALL YOUTHS, PRIESTS, RELIGIOUS AND the LAY FAITHFUL IN LAGOS ARCHDIOCESE.**

Let everyone make it a personal duty to promote youth ministry, and

help our young people discover Catholicism anew. Copies of the Youth Policy are available in every Parish across the Archdiocese.

**3. 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.

**4. 6-MONTH MANDATORY PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE:** The Sacrament of Marriage which is not only a gift of immense value to the Church but also a means of grace for living the married life by couples. A Sacrament of such importance should involve adequate preparations such that couples who are approaching it go through programs designed to assist them develop an appropriate understanding of the Sacrament and evaluate as well as deepen their readiness for married life. Such a program should help to provide insights into getting to know one another better as individuals preparing to become married couples.

Marriage preparation in the Archdiocese of Lagos involves a process. Hence, it is required that couples planning to receive the Sacrament should 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 adhere to this Regulation.

**5. MASS STIPEND 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 commodities 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 offered as Mass stipend 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 amount stipulated as offerings. We hope to give a new guideline on the stipend and stole fees that are to be expected for the administration of the Sacraments in the Archdiocese soonest possible. Meanwhile we expect moderation on this matter.

**6. 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.

**7. 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. SEMINAR FOR DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES - July 7, 2018.**

We express our sincere appreciation to all our Priests who attended and participated at the Priests' Seminar held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. In furtherance of the objectives of that Seminar, there shall be another seminar **organised for representatives of the Deaneries who would have the duty of offering support and assistance to Parishes** in their Deaneries that may need their services

concerning the Archdiocesan Pastoral Guidelines. It shall hold on **Saturday, July 7, 2018** at 10am at **St Leo Parish Hall, Ikeja**.

The Seminar would be facilitated by members of the Archdiocesan Guidelines Implementation and Monitoring Team and **Each Deanery is expected to send eight (8) representatives to attend** and participate at this Seminar. We expect all Deans to cooperate and see to that they are represented as directed.

#### **9. 6-MONTH GRACE PERIOD TO GET APPROVAL FOR AND REGULARISATION OF LAND DOCUMENTS AND BUILDING PLANS**

The Lagos State Government has offered a 6-month grace period to allow land owners who wish to commence construction or those with existing structures but are yet to perfect their land title or approve their building plans to obtain planning permits/approval **without penalty**. In view of this, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 till 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2018, Penal fees on Building Assessment Charges would be waived and permits/ approvals would be granted to land owners who wish to perfect their land title or approve their building plans.

We encourage Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge who need to take advantage of this window of opportunity to regularize their land documentations and obtain their Building Plan Permits. However, Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge who intend to do so are **strongly advised to contact the Chancery first before any action is taken**. May Our Lady Queen of the Clergy continue to intercede for us all.

**10. IKOYI MARRIAGE REGISTRY:** We would like to draw attention to the ongoing legal tussle between Lagos State and the Federal Government on the matter of marriage licence. Our Judicial Vicar

advises that Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge maintain the status quo until we get a clearer view of the situation.

**11. 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.

**12. VOTERS REGISTRATION:** we continue 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 is 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.

**13. SUPPORT FOR AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY.**

For some time now, we have been repeating the item concerning support for Augustine University in our monthly circular. By now we presume that everyone is familiar with the expectations. In summary, the required areas of support are: **1.** Augustine University Sunday i.e. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month. **2.** Painless Giving of at least 500.00 per

month through POS or ATM or Bank Transfer into the account of the University on the Archdiocesan website. **3.** The formation of **Friends of Augustine University** in each parish. **4.** Parishes are requested to consider offering scholarship to children in their parishes who are from indigent homes but are brilliant and have admission to the University.

We ask all Priests and the lay faithful to keep these expectations and requests in mind.

**14. 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.

## **15. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **a. 2018 ARCHDIOCESAN EDUCATION WEEK.**

This will be from **July 1-8, 2018** with the theme: **CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN A CHALLENGING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT**. It is expected to run in all parishes and will culminate with the Grand Finale on **July 8, 2018**. Posters with theme for each day are available in the Religious Education Department, **No. 19, Maye Street, Yaba, Lagos**.

### **b. MAIDEN ARCHDIOCESAN CATECHETICAL SPELL AND EXPLAIN COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN WITHIN AGES 7&15.**

The Grand finale will take place on Education Sunday, **July 8** at **Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 41 Ogudu Road, Ojota**. Mass at **10.30am**. All Faith Formators/Education Committee members are expected to attend. Please Note: Prizes for winners from Deanery to the Archdiocesan level will be given on same day. Kindly bring the children to this event.

**c. CURIA MEETING-** Members of the Archdiocesan Curia are hereby informed that the meeting earlier scheduled to hold on the **11th of July, 2018** has had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. I would now hold on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018** at 10:00am in the Chancery's Conference Room. Apologies for inconveniences.

**d. ARCHDIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING:** This comes up on **Tuesday 24th of July, 2018** at the Chancery by 10:00am. Those concerned should please take note.

**e. SINGLES' DAY WITH THE ARCHBISHOP:** The **Singles' Day with the Archbishop**, a programme of the Directorate of the Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria (CYON) will come up on **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> August**

**2018** at a venue to be announced later. Kindly watch out as it promises to be fun filled and entertaining. **Time: 10:00 a.m.** starting with the Holy Mass by Our Chief Shepherd, His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins. For Advertisement/support/sponsorship in the brochure please contact Director's office: **08029270402, 08127736117** or CYON President on **08064283367**.

**f. FAMILY WEEK 2018:** The annual Family Week begins in our Archdiocese from 29<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The theme is: **The Gospel of the Family; joy for the world.**

All are invited to the FHLU thought-provoking CONFERENCE that inaugurates the FAMILY WEEK.

**CONFERENCE THEME: POWER IN THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY.**

**CONFERENCE DETAILS:**

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018      **Time:** 10 am prompt to 4pm

**Venue:** Church and Society Hall- 19 Maye St. Yaba, Lagos

**Registration Fees:** N2,500 per participant including Lunch and Conference materials

It is recommended that Parishioners participate actively by discussing the following subthemes in their Parishes and at their Society meetings.

**Sunday:** 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018: Introduction of the Family week at all Masses in Parishes

**Day 1.** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018: Today's families

**Day 2.** Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018: Families in the light of God's word

**Day 3.** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018: God's great wisdom

**Day 4.** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018: The great dream for everyone

**Day 5.** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018: The culture of Life

**Day 6.** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018: The Culture of hope and joy.

**Deanery Special Events:**

**Day 7.** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018: Parish Family Celebrations: Gifting Sunday; Celebration, renewal of marriage vows, celebration of silver/golden jubilee, wedding anniversaries, and special collections.

We wish to remind all Parish priests and Priests-in-Charge that **there will be a Special Collection on Sunday 5 August 2018** in all Parishes in support of the Family and Human Life Unit of the Archdiocese.

**g. 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 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

**h. 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 all over the nation the opportunity to evangelize, educate, interact and enrich themselves in 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 in all ramifications as they plan towards this great event.

**j. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:**

Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the third quarter of the year: Peter's Pence- 01/07/2018, AUI-08/07/2018, Archdiocesan Education- 15/07/2018, St. Augustine College- 30/08/2018 and Laity- 29/08/2018 and 30/09/2018.

**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 Alfred Adewale Martins Catholic Faith Family Project- Quiz Competition** is 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.

**m. 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:

**i. 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

**ii. 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.

**iii. 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**

**n. 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.

**16. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Reverend Fathers'. John Agbolade, Paul Ighabor, Anthony Oyeniya, Anthony Okeke, Jacob Usman, Emmanuel Idoko, Michael Afrifa, Sebastian Appiah, Anthony Boateng, Paschal Aggrey Seiku, Christopher Chafa, Emmanuel Babalola,

Jonathan Okafor, Anthony Eboh, Jude Odiaka, Chioma Nwosu, Aghadi Onu, Chijioke Azuawusiefe, Chukwuma Muoneme, Kelechi Ahamefula, Gabriel Ubong Attai, Anthony Nworu, Vincent Udoye, Raphael Kalu, Ohaekwe Magnus, Callistus Ojike, Edwin Nwakezie, Emmanuel Omoroke. Others are Rev. Frs. Joachim Osigwe, Anthony Edogame, Nicholas Okeke, Collins Akhigbe, Felix Udolisa, Ignatius Saiki, Frederick Tettey, Emmanuel Taiwo, Joseph Okotie, Cornelius Ewuoso, Charles Nwordi, Augustine Awodipe, Calistus Nwachukwu, Joseph Yusuf, Vincent Ezezue, Samuel Kurungu, Henry Ogbonna, Kenmaria Onuoha, Paul Adegoriola, Remigius Okere, Henry Omeika, Linus Imoedemhe, Desmond Ebulue, Jude Dibia, Mike Offordum, Nicholas Ibeneme, Uvenus Itheme, Gregory Ndaeyo, Jacob Adeyemi, Innocent Madubuko, Chikezie Ekugbah, Joseph Aloo, Donatus Essien, Osho Joseph, Robert Wayas, Kingsley Anoghala, Richard Odok, Christian Eze, Jude Dimonyekwere, Samuel Umana, Augustine Nwodo, George Egbetu, Edogbo Andrew, Victor Orilua, Cajetan Odoh, Michael Eke, Henry Omonisaye, Jude Anyaehie, Emmanuel Ubi, Anthony Brown-Ugbomeh and Emmanuel Ajah whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. Ad multos annos.

**17. BEREAVEMENT:** We announce, with deep sympathy with the family concerned, the demise of **Chief Lawrence Oluwadare Ogunniyi**, the father of Rev. Fr. Michael Ogunniyi. He died in the month of June, 2018. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of his soul and consolation to the family. May God grant him eternal rest. Amen.

**(Signed)**

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