



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **AUGUST, 2018** /No. 071

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 AUGUST:** The month of August is a transitional month in our seasonal calendar notable for breaks, pilgrimages, summer travels, and vacations. As we take time out to relax and refresh, let us keep alight our spiritual pathway and endeavor to deepen our friendship with God. The Church in her solicitude has provided a plethora of feasts in the month of August which allow the faithful to celebrate major events in the life of Christ, Mary and some remarkable saints. Two of these feasts are worthy of mention; the feast of the **Transfiguration** (August 6) which gives the faithful a preview of the glory of God to be revealed; the second is the **Solemnity of the Assumption** (August 15), which assures us that God fulfills his promises and *does not refuse any good to those who walk without blame*.

The month is also dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary renowned for purity and perseverance. We honor Mary's immaculate heart by recognizing her extraordinary holiness and the immense love she bestowed on Jesus as His mother and the role she played in the economy of salvation, especially her perseverance in Jesus' redemptive sufferings. The Blessed Virgin Mary is no doubt the most perfect example of Christian perseverance. Following Mary and the saints whose feasts we commemorate this month - **St. Alphonsus Ligouri** (August 1), **St. John Mary Vianney** (August 4), **Dedication of St. Mary Major** (August 5), **Transfiguration of the Lord** (August 6), **St. Sixtus II and Companions** and **St. Cajetan** (August 7), **St. Dominic** (August 8), **St. Lawrence** (August 10), **St. Clare** (August 11), **Jane Frances de Chantal** (August 12), **St. Maximilian Kolbe** (August

14), **St. Stephen of Hungary** (August 16), **St. John Eudes** (August 19), **the Queenship of Mary** (August 22), **St. Rose of Lima** (August 23), **St. Bartholomew** (August 24), **St. Louis of France** (August 25), **St. Augustine** (August 28) and the **Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist** (August 29) - let us embrace and practice the virtue of perseverance as we continue our journey in this second half of the year.

2. FORMAL PRESENTATION OF THE LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH POLICY;

The formal presentation the *Lagos Archdiocesan Youth Policy* to the whole Archdiocese will take place on **4th of August 2018** after the Press Conference that follows the Thanksgiving Mass on the 6th Anniversary of the enthronement of our Archbishop. 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. PRAYER FOR NIGERIA: On May 22nd 2018, we had a Prayer Procession through some of the streets of Lagos to show our dissatisfaction with the situation of our country Nigeria. Since then we have used all possible occasions to give expression to the problems that we see with the situation of Nigeria especially with regards to insecurity and threat to religious freedom and the rights of different ethnic groups to exist and flourish in the country that belongs to all citizens.

However, we know that *unless the Lord builds the house, the labourer labours in vain and unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman watches in vain*. It is therefore necessary to place our

desires and intentions into the hands of God even as we play our roles as human beings, citizens of our country.

To this effect, we hereby direct that all Priests, Religious and Lay faithful of our Archdiocese should gather together in their different Parishes for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary and other prayers between 5pm and 6pm on the last Sunday of every month till further notice.

We know that the Rosary has always been an effective weapon in moments of difficulty and in the fight against all forms of evil. We pray that by the intercession of our Blessed Mother in the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament that the will of the Lord for the welfare and good of His people will not be subverted.

4. VOTERS REGISTRATION: We asked the JDPC to conduct a survey on the problems that people are having in their efforts to register and get their Permanent Voters Card to enable them vote in the elections next year and in future ones. The feedback we are getting is that response to the questionnaire has been very poor even as we continue to receive information that there are difficulties with registering all over the place. The purpose of the survey is to enable us have the sort of data that we need in order to call attention of authorities concerned. We ask Parish Priests and indeed all priests and leaders of Associations of Lay faithful to take this as a matter of serious importance so that they can sensitize their members to the need.

We continue to encourage priests and people to ensure that they get themselves registered in preparation for the elections in 2019. It has been reported that the **deadline for the voters' registration for PVCs is 19th August, 2018**. 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.

5. 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 any expression or proverb in any vernacular language, he should endeavor to translate into English for the understanding of all those present at the Mass.

6. 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

6months. We expect all priests to keep this in mind, inform couples and adhere to this Regulation.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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 **1st March, 2018 till 31st 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.

12. 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.

12. 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.

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. 2nd 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. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. ARCHBISHOP'S INSTALLATION ANNIVERSARY: August 4, 2018 marks the 6th anniversary of the Installation of the Archbishop as Archbishop of Lagos. We thank the good Lord for His benevolence and graces he has received in these past 6 years as the Chief Shepherd of our Archdiocese. There shall be a Mass by 10am at the Holy Cross Cathedral. This would be followed by a Press Conference, and the formal presentation of the Archdiocesan Youth Policy. Kindly continue to pray for his intentions as he continues to shepherd the flock in the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos.

b. ARCHDIOCESAN NOVENA FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION: The Archdiocesan Novena comes up between the 6th of August and 15th of August, 2018 at the Archdiocesan Marian Shrine, Maryland beginning at 4:30 p.m daily. The theme is **Mary-Consolation for the Afflicted** (Litany of Blessed Virgin Mary).

c. CONSULTORS MEETING: The meeting of the College of Consultors for the third quarter shall be held on the Wednesday, 22nd of August, 2018, at the Chancery beginning at 10.00am. All those concerned should kindly take note.

d. SINGLES' DAY WITH THE ARCHBISHOP: The Singles' day with the Archbishop, a programme planned by the Directorate of the Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Archdiocesan body of the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria (CYON) will come up on **Saturday, 18th August 2018 at St. Gregory's College, Ikoyi.** 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**.

e. St Monica Orphanage, Iju: St Monica Orphanage which is a project of the Archdiocese cordially invites all Priests and Lay faithful of the Archdiocese to the Solemn Blessing/Feastday of the orphanage.

Venue: St Monica Orphanage, Iju. No 1, Victor Odunaiya Street off Agbado Road, Oke Ayo bus stop, Iju Ishaga, Lagos.

Date: Saturday 1st September, 2018.

Time: 11 am

Chief Celebrant: Most Rev Alfred Adewale Martins

f. SPECIAL INVITATION: The Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus cordially invite the Clergy, Religious and the Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos to the Perpetual Profession of Vows of: **Sister Agnes Mary Oguntoyinbo, E.H.J., Sister Esther Marie Anoshie, E.H.J., Sister Christiana Marie Efengbe, E.H.J., Sister Matilda Marie Nwokedi, E.H.J., Sister Anthonia Maris Obansa, E.H.J., Sister Gloria Marie Akobe, E.H.J and Sister Marcellina Awolusi, E.H.J.**

Date: August 15, 2018

Venue: St. Leo's Catholic Church, Ikeja, Lagos

Time: 10:00am Prompt.

g. 2018 PMAC CONFERENCE: The Provincial Marriage Advisory Care (PMAC) invites all Priests and Religious as well as Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese to her 2018 Annual Conference scheduled for **8th September, 2018.**

Theme: The Canonical Provisions for Validity of Catholic Marriage

Venue: Domus Mariae, Isolo, Lagos.

Date: Saturday 8th September, 2018

Time: 10:00am Prompt

Fee: N 2000 Per Delegate/ Participant.

h. CATHOLIC MEN ORGANIZATION OF NIGERIA: The Catholic Men Organization of Nigeria, Archdiocese of Lagos cordially invites all Priest and Religious as well as Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese to her 2018 CMO Week and Annual Convention which commences on the **6th of August, 2018** in all Parishes. The Annual Convention will take place at **St. Gregory College, Ikoyi from 10-12 August, 2018**. The Theme for the Convention is "**Stand Up for Jesus and Eliminate The Vacuum**" (Acts 1:15-26)

i. ANNIVERSARY OF ST PIO: This year, 2018, marks the Golden Jubilee of the death of St Pio and the centenary of the appearance of his visible stigmata (bleeding wounds similar to the wounds of Christ's crucifixion) which he bore for fifty years. To celebrate this dual Anniversary, the St Pio Prayer Group, Lagos Archdiocese, has laid down a solemn programme of activities as approved by the Local Ordinary to take place in some selected nine parishes in the Archdiocese of Lagos. **The Statue of St Pio will visit these selected Parishes and the statue will remain in the visited Parish for one week of Veneration and spiritual exercises.**

The list of the Parishes and the days of visit are as follows:

Week 1	21 st - 27 th July, 2018	Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos
Week 2	28 th July - 3 rd August	Our Lady of Fatima, Aguda
Week 3	4 th - 10 th August 2018	Ss Philip and James, Lekki
Week 4	11 th - 17 th August 2018	Christ the King, Akowonjo
Week 5	18 th - 24 th August 2018	Archangels, Satellite Town
Week 6	25 th - 31 st August 2018	St Alphonsus Akute
Week 7	1 st - 9 th September, 2018	Holy Family, festac
Week 8	8 th - 14 th September, 2018	St Paul Ebute Metta
Week 9	15 - 23 rd September, 2018	Our Lady of Apostles, Illupeju

j. 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.

k. FAMILY WEEK 2018: The annual Family Week begins in our Archdiocese from 29th July - 5th 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: 28th 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 sub-themes in their Parishes and at their Society meetings.

Sunday: 29th July 2018: Introduction of the Family week at all Masses in Parishes

Day 1. Monday 30th July 2018: Today's families

Day 2. Tuesday 31st July 2018: Families in the light of God's word

Day 3. Wednesday 1st August 2018: God's great wisdom

Day 4. Thursday 2nd August 2018: The great dream for everyone

Day 5. Friday 3rd August 2018: The culture of Life

Day 6. Saturday 4th August 2018: The Culture of hope and joy.

Deanery Special Events

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

I. 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, 12/08/2018 and 09/09/2018, Archdiocesan Education- 15/07/2018, St. Augustine College- 30/08/2018 and Laity- 29/08/2018 and 30/09/2018.

m. 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.

n. FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT (FHLU):

a. 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- 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 Msgr. Aniagwu John, Nwaezeapu Paschal, Sotos Ignatius and Rev. Frs. Arabi Christopher, Enearu Stephen, Olaitan Julius, Omofuma Pius, Opogah Innocent, Anyanwu Cletus, Echewodo Christian, Ngene Sebastian, Nnaemeka Augustine, Anosike Gregory, Osuntoyinbo Patrick, Akodu Peter, Agule Gabriel, Irabor Benson, Akaajime Frederick, Uwakwe Martins, Okafor Thaddeus, Ukaegbu Henry, Ukonu Andrew, Okuma Kelvin, Agu Samuel, Njoku Kingsley, Ujunwa Bethrand, Ajaero Henry, Ealefor Francis, Abhulime Andrew, Akaenyi Theodore, Yoest Robert. Others are Rev. Frs. Barike Nicholas, Gugong Jonah, Njoku Jude-Mary, Ubili Chidube Mary-Vincent, Anumba Peter, Celestine Ezenwa, Emmanuel Abah, Amojó Christopher, Peter Dim, Emmanuel Uche, Victor Ukanero, John Ukwa, Oguh Benedict, Mgbemere Camillius, Dike Francis, Victor Eke, Onukwugha Christian, Nwoke Jeffrey, Adiele Modestus, Nwokocha Collins, Anyanwu Christopher, and Onyebuchi Martins 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