



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **September, 2018** /No. 072

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 SEPTEMBER:** Welcome to the month of September, the ninth month of the year which also signals the end of the third quarter. This month ushers us into the "ember" months which providentially are harvest months in our Archdiocese. Harvest period is a fitting opportunity to joyfully thank and praise God with the best fruits of our labours for His manifold benevolence, inexhaustible mercies, abiding faithfulness and boundless love upon us. We pray that the Lord of the Harvest will accept our finest gifts as once He accepted the bread and wine offered by the Priest, Melchizedek.

During this month, we shall commemorate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th September), our Mother and Queen whose significant role in the economy of salvation continues to enrich our faith and deepen our piety. Also, in this month, we shall commemorate the *Exaltation of the Cross* (14th September) which is the feast day of our Cathedral and Patron Feast of our Archdiocese, and Our Lady of Sorrows (15th September). These feasts call us to sober reflection on the excruciating pain Our Lord underwent on the Cross and the victory achieved there from; and the seven sorrows that pierced Our Lady's Heart, all of which was borne with a docile heart and complete trust in the supreme will of God. We shall also celebrate the feast of the Apostle, St. Matthew on 21st Sept to remind us of our duty to be Agents of Evangelisation and as we celebrate the feast of the

Archangels on 29th Sept, we express our faith in the existence and the roles of the Angelic Beings in our spiritual lives.

As the school holidays draw to a close, and our children resume school, we pray for a fruitful and beneficial academic session. May the month of September bring us a plenitude of God's blessings and favors. Amen.

2. FORMAL PRESENTATION OF THE LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH POLICY;

The formal presentation the *Lagos Archdiocesan Youth Policy* to the whole Archdiocese took place on 4th August 2018. We hereby reiterate that 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 regard 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. DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION: It has been brought to our notice that some priests ask seminarians, still in formation to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. This is, to say the least, a breach of the regulations with regard to the use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and it almost amounts to a sacrilege. We hereby warn all such priests to desist from such a practice and all seminarians that if they accept to carry out such an illicit instruction, they put their vocations at risk. Whether they belong to Institutes of Religious life or the Archdiocese, seminarians are not authorized to distribute Holy Communion just by the fact that they are in formation for the Priesthood.

We use this opportunity once again to call the attention of all priests to the Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion which was published recently. Wherever there is the need (we know that there is a need in many parishes) priests should take advantage of the regulations in the Guidelines to get properly appointed Extraordinary ministers to assist in this important ministry.

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 in 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 urge all Parish priests to exercise due prudence and 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: We have noticed 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. 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.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. PRIESTLY AND DIACONATE ORDINATIONS: Our deacons, **Rev. PaulMary Otukpe, Rev. Raymond Emedo, Rev. Joseph Oyekunle, Rev. Martins Ozonwafor, Rev. Andrew Toye** shall be raised to the Order of the Priesthood and **Mr. Harrison Okoli** to the Order of Diaconate on **Thursday, November 8, 2018** at **Catholic Church of Ascension, Airport Road. The time is 10.00am.** Let us keep them in our prayers as we continue to pray for all our Clergy.

In view of the above, the Ordination Planning Sub-Committee of the All-Purpose Committee hereby appeals to all parishes, parishioners, friends and relatives of the ordinands for adverts and Goodwill messages. Please find below the rates:

i.	Outside Back Cover -	N250,000.00k
ii.	Centre Spread Pages -	N200,000.00k
iii.	Inside Back Cover -	N100,000.00k
iv.	Inside Front Cover -	N100,000.00k
v.	Holy Pictures -	N100,000.00k
vi.	Pope/Pope Emeritus -	N50,000.00k
vii.	Archbishop/Archbishop Emeritus -	N50,000.00k
viii.	Parish Congratulatory Messages -	N50,000.00k
ix.	Societies/Associations -	N50,000.00k
x.	Profile Page of Ordinand -	N25,000.00k
xi.	Liturgical Readings page -	N25,000.00k

Payments should please be made into the below account: -

Bank : Zenith Bank

Account Name: Archdiocese of Lagos, All Purpose Committee, Ordination Acct,

Account No : 1015264195.

All Goodwill messages should please be forwarded to any or all of the following:

Rev. Fr. Augustine Ikuomola ikuomola2004@gmail.com **Tel: 0802 833 5623**

Mrs. Teniola Jaiyeola tenijaiyeola@hotmail.com **Tel: 0803 337 4333**

Mr. Emmanuel Coker emman.coker@gmail.com **Tel: 0803 305 9797**

b. FEST2LAFF 2018: There will be the Season 2 of the Gospel Comedy Concert/Charity fund-raiser organized to create entertainment and raise funds to assist the less privileged tagged: **"Fest2laff with MC smart and Catholic Comedians...The Wheel of Charity."**

This event was organized for the first-time last year and the proceeds were paid into an Archdiocesan account from which charities jointly decided upon between the organizers and the Archbishop were supported e.g. the conjoined twins in Satellite Town and Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation.

Details of the 2018 edition are as follows:

Date: Monday 1st October 2018

Time: 3pm -9pm

Venue: McGovern Hall, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland.

Ticket: Regular ₦ 2,000. VIP ₦ 5,000

Table for 10- ₦200,000

Tickets are available in all Parishes.

For Sponsorship and enquiries: Please call 08062499548

c. 2018 CATECHETICAL WEEK CELEBRATION: This will begin from 7th to 14th October in all the Parishes. The theme is "Live and Let's Live: A Case for the Sanctity of Human Life." Please, Contact the Religious Education Department 19, Maye Street, Yaba, for details and sub-topics.

d. 2018 CATECHISTS DAY CELEBRATION: This will take place at St. Raphael Catholic Church, Anthony Village, Maryland. Date: Sunday 14th of October, 2018. Chief Celebrant: His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins. Host: Rev. Fr. Eric Onyeoziri.

e. SILVER JUBILEE OF EHV SISTERS: The Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, South West Region, cordially invite Priests and Religious of Lagos Archdiocese to the Thanksgiving Mass for the 25th Anniversary of the first profession of Sr. Theresa Maris Afareha, EHV, Sr. Josephine Maris Onyedibe, EHV, Sr. Mary Judith Madueke, EHV, and Sr. Mary Jacinta Nwaigwe, EHV. This will take place at Catholic Church of Ascension, Airport Road, Ikeja. Date: October 3, 2018. Time: 10am.

f. SPECIAL INVITATION: The Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles Nigeria Province cordially invites all to the Silver Jubilee of Rev. Sr. Joy- Gertrude N. Okonkwo, OLA and Rev. Sr. Monica Rhoda Ghibi, OLA and the Final Religious Profession of Sr. Fidelia Chukwumah, OLA, Sr. Anastasia Inyama, OLA, Sr. Immaculata Onyenakasa, OLA, Sr. Gloria Onyebuchi, OLA, Sr. Elizabeth Oforlea, OLA, Sr. Roseline Uvieghara, OLA.

Date: 28th September, 2018,

Venue: St. Agnes Catholic Church Maryland, Lagos,

Time: 10am.

Chief Celebrant: Most Rev. Alfred A. Martins

g. Anthony Cardinal Okogie Annual Lecture: This comes up on Thursday, 18th October, 2018 at McGovern Hall, St. Agnes Catholic

Church, Maryland. The programme is planned by the Directorate of the Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Lagos Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Organisation (LACCWO). Time: 9:00 a.m. We implore Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge of Parishes and Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese to kindly place Goodwill Message at a minimum of ₦30,000.00 and also send five (5) for ₦25,000.00 while Archdiocesan Lay Organisation/Society/Association to kindly place Goodwill Message for N10,000.00 and also send two (2) for N10,000.00. Please send the soft copy of the goodwill material to catholiclayapostolatecentre@yahoo.com and call the Director's office on 08127736117 or 08029270402 for further information. Thank you for your generous support.

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

Theme: The Canonical Provisions for Validity of Catholic Marriage

Venue: St. Mary Catholic Church, Isolo, Lagos (Domus Marie)

Date: Saturday 8th September, 2018

Time: 10:00am Prompt

Fee: N 2000 Per Delegate/ Participant.

i. NEW LEGAL YEAR MASS AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: All Catholic Lawyers are invited to attend the New Legal Year Mass and Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) of the National Association of Catholic Lawyers (**NACL**) Lagos Archdiocese on Sunday 23rd September, 2018.

Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral Lagos

Time: 10am

Dress code: Full robes over proper regulation dress.

Note: The Annual General Meeting will hold in the Cathedral Hall after the Mass and top on the Agenda is the Election of new Executive Committee Members. We urge Parish Priests to call the attention of lawyers in their parishes to this important activity.

j. The 2018 National Conference of Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria is being hosted by our Archdiocese. The theme of the Conference is **Education for Health and Sustainable Development in**

Nigeria. It will hold from **27th to 30th Sept 2018.** Venue: **St. Leo Catholic Church Hall, Ikeja** beginning with Opening Mass at 9.00am on the 27th Sept. All Nurses and other Health Care Personnel as well as Nurse Educators and Student Nurses and Midwives are expected at the Conference.

k. 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- 30/09/2018. Be reminded also that on those days, the Special Collections take the place of normal 2nd Collections.

l. Archbishop Alfred Adewale Martins Catholic Faith Family Project- Quiz Competition: a project of the Knights of St. John International and Ladies Auxiliary, in collaboration with Religious Education Department, Lagos Archdiocese has been on for a while now. The finals of the competition will take place on **Sunday, 9th September 2018** after the 10.30am Mass at the **Holy Cross Cathedral.**

m. 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 by calling 08130285777 or 09082053445. Training schedules include:

1. MARRIAGE THEOLOGY AND LIVED EXPERIENCE

PART TIME:

YABA CENTRE

i. **Weekday:** First Tuesday of each month for 10 months beginning on 6th February, 2018 @ 19 Maye Street, Yaba.

ii. **Weekend:** First Saturday of each month for 10 months beginning on 3rd February, 2018 @ 19 Maye Street, Yaba.

FULL TIME:

YABA CENTRE: Begins on 20th September, third Thursday weekly for ten weeks.

ISOLO CENTRE

Last Saturday of every month for 10 months beginning 24th February, 2018 @ St Francis Catholic Church, Idimu

IKORODU CENTRE

Fourth Tuesday of each month for 10 months beginning 27th February 2018 @ St Augustine Catholic Church Ikorodu

FESTAC CENTRE

Second Tuesday of each month for 10 months beginning 13th February, 2018 @ Holy Family Catholic Church, Festac.

APAPA CENTRE

Third Tuesday of each month beginning 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 beginning 3rd February, 2018

OLODI APAPA:

i. 3rd Tuesday of every month for 8 months beginning 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 beginning 16th March, 2018.

OLODI APAPA:

i. One Tuesday a month beginning 20th February, 2018.

Total course fee- N 12,000 with certificate.

NOTE: Payment details: **FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT-CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE 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.

12. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for our Archbishop and his classmates: Msgri. Edmund Akpala and Jerome Oduntan, Rev. Frs. Peter Oke, and Alphonsus Aina, as they mark their 35th priestly ordination anniversary in the Lord's vineyard. Also we are requested to pray for Revd. Frs. Adekoya Francis, Anyanwu Emmanuel, Azubuinye Patrick, Emeneogu Samuel, Fatoye Gabriel, Hunkokoe Michael, Ijasan Paul, Mautin Simeon, Monye Joseph, Oboh Alexander, Ogunmola Francis, Okhiria Victor, Olagbemi Christopher, Ugoje Gabriel, Elias Nwaodu, Boniface Okafor, Gabriel Ysasi, John Paul Taberner, Paulinus Uju-Echemnu, James Arebiyi, Philip Obasi, Arua Ethelbert, Ukwuani Leo, Magnus Onyeulor, Atoyebi Christopher, Emiri Emmanuel and Vitalis Ezeigwe, Emmanuel Avoseh, Vincent Chukwujekwu, Kenneth Mereh, Matthew Nugbode and Mark Okojie 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