



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

NOVEMBER, 2018 /No. 074

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 November:** Welcome to the penultimate month of the Year. During this month, the Church commemorates the Solemnity of All Saints (Nov.1) and All Souls (Nov.2) to remind her faithful of the importance of sanctity of life and the reality of human mortality. These feasts give due expression to our faith in the Communion of Saints i.e. the link among the faithful who have already attained the joys of heaven (Church Triumphant), the faithful departed who are still undergoing the pains of expiation for their sins in Purgatory (Church Suffering) and the faithful who are still on pilgrimage in this world, working out their salvation amidst the vicissitudes of life (Church Militant). "In this wonderful exchange, the holiness of one profits others, well beyond the harm that the sin of one could cause others...." (CCC, 1475).

a. **All Saints' Day:** All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation set aside to remember and celebrate all the Saints and Martyrs throughout Christian history, known or unknown, canonized or beatified whose holy and virtuous lives have earned a beatific place in our heavenly home. The feast inspires tremendous hope and reminds us of the *universal call to holiness (Lumen Gentium, 40)*. We rejoice with them and hope that their prayers will bring us God's love, mercy and forgiveness. All Saints; Pray for Us.

b. **All Souls' Day:** Directly following the Feast of All Saints is the feast of All Souls. This feast reminds us of human finitude and mortality. On this day, the Church remembers and prays for the Souls of the Faithful Departed especially those who are atoning for their sins in the purifying fires of Purgatory waiting to join the league of the saints. The Sacred Scripture declares that "it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins." (2 Macc 12: 46). We are therefore encouraged to express our solidarity with the souls in purgatory through public and private prayers, and by obtaining plenary indulgences through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, visiting a church or cemetery and giving alms to the poor. The Church

mandates all Priests to celebrate three (3) Masses on this day: one for the faithful departed, one for the priest's intention or any person, and one for the intention of the Holy Father.

c. Christ the King: The celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King comes up on **Sunday, 25th November, 2018**. It marks the beginning of the last week of the 2017/2018 Liturgical Year. On this day, Eucharistic Processions are held throughout Nigeria. The Procession at Holy Cross Cathedral begins at **2:00 p.m. prompt** from the Cathedral to St. Gregory College, Obalende. With this procession, we profess our faith in Christ as the King of the Universe and His completion of the renewed creation that marks the fullness of the Kingdom of God. Let us all march out and proclaim Christ the Universal King.

2. Concerning the Formation of New Parish Pastoral, Laity and Finance Councils: The Archdiocesan Parish Guidelines for **Parish Pastoral, Laity and Finance Councils** came into effect on November 29, 2015 (First Sunday of Advent) with the inauguration of the above Councils in all Parishes of the Archdiocese. The tenure of the Councils was set for three years, to end by November, 2018. In line with this, preparations for the inauguration of new councils should be well on the way by now.

The Timetable for the constitution of new Parish Pastoral, Laity and Finance Councils was sent in a Special Circular of 18th September 2018. By that schedule all the Councils **MUST** be inaugurated on **December 2, 2018** (First Sunday of Advent) for a **four-year non-renewable tenure**. Parish Priest should kindly take note and ensure strict compliance.

3. Leadership Training for Priests: The Archdiocese is organizing a Leadership training for **all Priests** working in the Archdiocese. It is being facilitated by some of the staff of Lagos Business School as well as other professionals within the Archdiocese. The aim of the training is to better equip priests to carry out their responsibilities as pastors. The trainings would take place in the four Regions of the Archdiocese at places that would be communicated by the Episcopal Vicars. We expect that the Deans will collaborate with the Episcopal Vicars in order to choose the priests who will be in the groups of twenty-five each that will participate and in the choice of the locations within the Regions.

4. Prayer for Nigeria: **a.** Since August 2018 we began praying for Nigeria in the Archdiocese of Lagos as a follow-up to the procession that we held in May 2018 concerning the situation of insecurity in our nation. The directive was expressed as follows:

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 hereby reiterate that the directive remains in force till further notice.

b. However, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria in the communique issued at the end of its 2nd Plenary Meeting in Sokoto early in September directed that, **throughout the month of October, the entire Church in Nigeria as our "October Devotion" intensify the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary, as families and parishes with the specific intention of praying for God to save our country, Nigeria.**

As the month of October has come to an end, we encourage that as individuals and families, we should keep up the habit of praying the rosary daily for the nation and for our individual intentions. 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 the will of the Lord for the welfare and good of His people will not be subverted.

5. Distribution of Holy Communion: As we reiterate the regulation on the distribution of the Holy Communion, we continue 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.

6. In the last couple of monthly circulars, we have called attention to the following items: **The Use of Vernacular during Masses; 6-Month Mandatory Preparation for Marriage; Mass Stipend and Stole Fees.** We would like to ask that reference should be made to the circulars in order to keep the matters in mind for necessary action.

9. Concerning Priests who claim to have authorization of the Archbishop for Private Ministries: Please 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.

We are beginning to have incidents now of priests coming from outside the Archdiocese who claim to have the authorization of the Archbishop to carry out activities that our particular laws do not permit. We expect that our priests who are faced with such claims should request for the letter giving the authorization claimed. Such incidents should be brought to the notice of the Deans and the Archbishop immediately.

10. Final Blessing at Masses with the Archbishop: We have noticed an improvement in the responses of the faithful to the liturgical formula for the final blessing and dismissal at Masses celebrated by the Bishop. We commend the priests who have instructed the faithful on the responses to the prayers. Those who may not have done so should pay attention and do the needful 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

11. 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.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Advent Season: The Season of Advent is around the corner again. Advent starts the new Liturgical Year and can be seen as another opportunity to spiritually begin anew. There are

particular themes in the Liturgy throughout Advent: a spirit of waiting, of conversion and joyful hope. It is a season of expectation and longing for the Messiah who is to come. We sing the song "O Come, O come, Emmanuel" with eager hope and longing, for our messiah who came to us first as a child in the manger and who has promised to come again. Let us therefore avail ourselves the opportunity that Advent provides to renew our relationship with the King who is to come so that we can reap the fruits of Christmas.

b. Meetings with the Archbishop: As part of the efforts to interact and receive the thoughts of the Priests and Religious on the life of our Archdiocese, the following meetings have been scheduled to hold by **11.00 a.m.** at the **Holy Cross Cathedral Hall** on the respective dates below:

Diocesan Clergy (including Fidei Donum Priests): Thursday, 15th November, 2018

Male Religious: Thursday, 22nd November, 2018

Female Religious: Wednesday, 28th November, 2018

c. Directory 2019: The year 2019 is around the corner. Kindly go through this year's 2018 Directory again so as to point out possible errors, omissions, amendments and suggestions for the improvement of our Directory. You may also reach the Chancery through her e-mail address: arclagos@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

d. 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: 1015-264-195.

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

e. Consultors Meeting: This is to inform the members of the Board of Consultors that their next meeting will hold on **Wednesday 14th November, 2018**, at the **Chancery's Conference room**. The time is **11:00am**. All those concerned should please take note.

f. Children's Rally with the Archbishop: The annual Children's Rally with the Archbishop comes up on **Saturday, 10th November, 2018** at **St. Gregory College, Obalende** beginning with the Holy Mass at **10:00am**

g. Small Christian Communities' Leadership Workshop: There shall be a Leadership Workshop for the leaders and facilitators of Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese as follows:

Date: December 8th, 2017

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos.

The workshop is a continuation of a series aimed at improving the leadership skills of leaders in Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese. Attendance is highly recommended.

h. Archdiocesan Novena for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: there shall be a novena in preparation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at the Archdiocesan Marian Shrine, Maryland:

Date: 29th November- 7th December, 2018.

Solemnity: December 8th, 2018.

Theme: Mary Intercedes; Jesus Provides (John 2:5)

Venue: Archdiocesan Marian Shrine, Maryland.

Time: 4:30 pm daily

i. Conference of the Canon Law Society of Nigeria: Our Archdiocese would be hosting the 2018 Conference of the Canon Law Society of Nigeria. This Conference would have in attendance Canon Lawyers from English and French Speaking Parts of West Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. The Conference is scheduled to hold from **19th - 23rd November, 2018**, at **St. Leo Catholic Church, Ikeja.**

We ask all priests to cooperate with the Planning Committee as well as support them financially so that our Archdiocese can host this important event in a befitting manner. We also encourage those priests and Religious who may not have had higher studies in Canon Law to participate in the Conference as a means of ongoing formation.

j. Gratitude: We express profound gratitude to the Guest Speaker, **Dr. Mrs. Franca Atoh**, our invited Guests, Priests, Religious, and Lay Faithful who honoured our invitation with their physical presence and financial contributions to the 11th edition of the Anthony Cardinal Okogie Annual Lecture/Foundation. May God reward you all abundantly.

k. 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 Olofin 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

I. 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.

m. Quarterly Returns Collections: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the fourth quarter of the year: **Catholic Teachers Day- 07/10/2018, AUI Collection- 14/10/2018, 11/11/2018, and 09/12/2018, Mission Sunday- 21/10/2018, Catechetical collection- 07/10/2018, C.I.W.A-02/12/2018, Health Collection- 09/12/2018, Laity-30/12/2018 and VUNA Collection.**

We remind all Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge who are yet to remit their returns for the previous quarters including the Special Collections as directed in the last few circulars to note their repeat violation of the deadlines. Once again, we encourage repeat defaulters in this matter to make amendments before it is too late. We reiterate our call that we use the Pay-Direct option or make transfers to forestall the challenges of returned cheques, irregular signatures and other problems that cause cheques to bounce. For those who insist on making their returns with cheques, we request that you kindly pay attention to your entries and signature.

We want to reiterate again that when making their returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should ensure they attach the front page of the Blue Sheets that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it and fill the all the pages of the Booklet. Kindly note these in your subsequent submissions.

13. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Erinle Anthony, and Rev. Frs. Adeyemi Peter, Obayomi Patrick, Nwanua Joseph, Opara Hubert, Onwudiegwu Michael, Ethelbert Ukpabi, Ibe Hyacinth and Mordi Cosmas whose sacerdotal ordination anniversaries occur this month. Others are: Osuntope Peter, Udoh Gabriel, Abulu Jude, Amadi Marcellinus, Anokere Joseph, Emeana Denis, Teko Marcellinus, Omoregie Jerome, Okonkwo Christian, Iwu Simeon, Ogidan Andrew, Alabi John, Remigus Okafor and Thaddeus Onyenedum,. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos.*

(Signed)

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos