



# CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

**JANUARY, 2019** /No. 076

**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 January:** Welcome to the month of January. The first month of the year is the month of new beginnings, new opportunities and a chance of starting afresh. In the first part of January we continue to rejoice and celebrate Christ's coming at Bethlehem and in our hearts. We have the wonderful feasts of Mary, the Mother of God, where we honour Mary's highest title, and then we follow the Magi to the crib as they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on Epiphany. Finally, we reach the culmination of this season with the Baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist. With a touch of reticence, we take down our decorations and enter into the liturgical period known as Ordinary Time of the Year during which we devote ourselves to the mystery of Christ in its entirety. The liturgical colour changes from white to green – a symbol of the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is a new year and a time to chart a new course, do things differently and start afresh with optimism and hope in a better future. We pray God to grant us a fruitful and prosperous year 2019.

2. **2018 Priests Annual Retreat:** We recall the refreshing period of retreat that we had in December 2018 and we'd like to call attention to some salient points for our continuous reflection and action:

- a. We were **created** human, **called** to Christian life, **chosen and consecrated** as priests and **sent** on a mission.
- b. our mission is to be *Spiritual Masters* and not mere *Religious Administrators*
- c. In order to be *Spiritual Masters*, we must be different and like the Apostles make a deliberate choice to dedicate our lives to **prayer** and **preaching the Word**. This will give us the spiritual edge that we need in order to minister as Masters.

d. In order to be *Spiritual Masters* we must have Spiritual Self Perception so as to assess who we believe in. **We must have faith in God and faith in ourselves. God has conferred 'titles' upon us that give us authority. We are Sons of God (SG.), Friends of Jesus (FJ), Landlord of God (LLG) i.e. Temple of the Holy Spirit and Another Christ (AC).**

e. We must be possessed **not** by a person or a thing but by the Holy Spirit.

f. Knowing who we are, we must use the arsenal that God has given us to accomplish our mission: i. **Communion** with God, one another and all Creation; ii. Authority of the **Word of God**; iii. **Discipline**. An undisciplined priest is a cross and a hindrance to the mission

g. There are powers in the world that can attempt to sabotage our mission. The most powerful is the power of **sin** in all its manifestations. The Power of the Holy Spirit helped the Apostles to overcome all the powers that tried to mute the voice of God. We must be in the power and under the influence of the Holy Spirit

h. we need intimacy with the Holy Spirit in order to be effective in our mission.

May the Lord continue to guide us as we strive to do His will and live our vocations.

**2. Concerning the Formation of New Parish Pastoral, Laity and Finance Councils:** With the expiration of the tenure of the above-mentioned Councils which were constituted using the Guidelines promulgated in 2015, new councils should have been inaugurated in all parishes by now **for a four-year non-renewable tenure**. All parishes that have not done the inauguration should ensure compliance immediately. Parish priests should also take note of the Special Circular of November 2018 in which we made clarifications concerning tenures of members of the Executive of Associations of the lay faithful vis-à-vis their membership of the Parish Councils in order to avoid the confusion expressed by some.

**3. Leadership Training for Priests:** This to restate that 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. **The dates for the first Batch of 25 Priests are as follows:**

**Module 1 - January 30 and 31 2019**

**Module 2 - February 27 and 28**

**Module 3 - March 27 and 28**

**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 is to the effect that on **the last Sunday of every month, there would be the praying of the rosary and other prayers with the blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar.** This is especially necessary given the elections that are forthcoming in February.

We also encourage individuals and families to cultivate or else 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 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 few 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.

**7. 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.

#### **9. Provision of Scholarship 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 and so it remains only to call attention to the request **that parishes should offer 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 this request in mind.

**10. Admission Requirements into St. Augustine College of Education, (Project T.I.M.E):** We call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners that the above named college has commenced admission procedures for its 2018/2019 session. Admission requirements include:

(a) A minimum JAMB Score of 200 and above for Degree programmes and 100 and above for NCE Programmes & OND.

(B) Available Programmes and their requirements include:

- University of Ibadan Degree (Full-Time and Distance Learning Centre)- 5 Credits at one sitting  
**OR**
- NCE (Full-Time and Part-Time) - 6 Credits at two sittings.
- PDE (PGDE)- First Degree or H.N.D. from any recognized tertiary institution
- Catechesis- Practicing and intending Catechists and O' Level Certificate.

For further enquiries: 08034989663, 08034919553, 08034700872, 08023891300, and 08065954493

We urge Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to kindly inform their parishioners.

#### **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**a. Curia Meeting:** The first meeting of the Year of the Archdiocesan Curia comes on the **23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2019** at the Chancery by **10.00 a.m.** All those concerned should please take note.

**b. Celebration of Ecumenical Week 2019:** The Directorate of Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Dialogue hereby calls the attention of the entire **Archdiocese** to the celebration of the **Week of**

Prayer for Christian Unity. The activities of the Week shall be celebrated at the Parish level concentrating attention on the theme: **Give to Caesar what is Caesar's (Matt. 22:21).**

The topics for each day are as follows:

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>- Sensitization in all parishes**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>- The Christian and Politics (Rom. 13:1-7)**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>- The Christian Leader in Government; why we must be involved (Is. 38:21; 1 Pet. 2:9-11)**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>- Voting: A necessary tool for change (Ex. 18:21)**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>- Voting and partisan politics: A necessary obligation for commitment**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup>- Christians called to serve and not to be served (Matt. 20:**

The **World Day of Ecumenism** itself shall be on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. **Theme: Peaceful Co-existence: A Panacea for True Democracy (1 Tim. 1:1-4)** It is expected that the day shall be celebrated at the Deanery level. Deans of Deaneries have been contacted and would announce their choice of venue for their deanery day. In the spirit of ecumenism, we request that other Christian Churches (CCN, OAIC, ECWA, CPFN/PFN) in each deanery be officially invited and assigned roles.

We solicit the cooperation of all organs- Director and Chaplains of Ecumenism, Deans and priests and CSN leadership representing us in the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) to ensure that the above programme is given wide publicity and well organized.

**c. Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting:** the meeting of the Archdiocesan Finance Council for the first quarter comes up on the **29<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, by 10.00 am** at the Chancery. All those concerned should please take note.

**d. Lagos Ecclesiastical Tribunal:** The Inaugural meeting of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal comes up on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018** at The Chancery by **10:00 a.m.** All those concerned should please take note and attend

**e. The Feast of the Presentation (Feast of Consecrated Life):** This annual ceremony comes up on the **2<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2019, at St. Ferdinand Catholic Church, Boy's Town Ipaja, Lagos, by 10.00am.** The Archbishop will preside over the Mass. Other events follow after the Mass.

**f. 2019 Archdiocesan Directory:** The 2019 Archdiocesan Directory is out. Kindly pick up copies for your Parishes from the Chancery if you have not done so yet. The Female Religious should please pick their copies from the Chancery also.

**g. Orientation and Induction of New Priests:** We have the tradition in the Archdiocese of giving an Orientation Programme on liturgical and pastoral practices etc. in the Archdiocese to newly ordained priests as well as priests newly appointed to serve in the Archdiocese of Lagos. This will come up between **10th and 12th January, 2019**. The venue for the orientation is **Domus Fidei, Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Generalate, Ikeja, Lagos**.

We notice that some of those who were supposed to have participated in the 2018 programme absented themselves. All the priests posted to the Archdiocese but have not participated, no matter how long they may have been in the Archdiocese are expected to participate in 2019 session. **We emphasize it again that only priests who duly take part in the orientation programme can be appointed Parish Priests in the Archdiocese. Everyone concerned should note that participation in this orientation programme is mandatory.**

**h. Priests' Annual Leave-Roster:** Priests are to submit months of preference for their annual leave for the year 2019 to the Priests' Welfare Committee not later than end of January, 2019.

**i. St. Augustine's College of Education Diploma in Catechetics:** Parish Priests are requested to send their Catechists, Catechism 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 12

**j. Valentine's Day with the Archbishop:** The Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Young Christian Workers (YCW) and Catholic Youths Organization of Nigeria (CYON) invites all to the annual Valentine's Day with the Archbishop

**Theme:** Agape Love: The source of unity

**Date:** Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

**Topic:** Can love alone heal and bind a nation divided by tribe and religion?

**Time:** 9: 00 a.m. prompt starting with the Holy Mass

**Venue:** St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Ajao Estate

**Fee:** N 1,000 per participant

**NB:** There will be renewal of marital vows for interested couples during the Mass.

Goodwill Advert Placement costs N30,000. For more information, contact, 08028259301, 07039412341, 08037166852 or the Director's office on 08029270402.

**k. Admission into the Catholic Secondary Schools:** This is to inform everyone that admission into JSS 1 for the 2019/2020 academic session in all Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese is in progress. **The Entrance Examination comes up on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019 at the selected schools.** Forms can be obtained from the school of choice, all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese, selected parishes and electronically on [www.cmsslagos.ng](http://www.cmsslagos.ng).

The 10 Catholic Archdiocesan Secondary Schools are:

1. St Gregory College, South-West, Ikoyi
2. Holy Child Girls College, Ikoyi
3. St Finbarr College, Akoka
4. Bethlehem Girls College, Abule-Ado
5. Mater Ecclesiae College, Epe
6. Sacred Heart College, Apapa
7. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic College, Okomaiko
8. Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School, Maryland
9. Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba
10. Marywood Girls College, Ebute-Metta

Let us give our children sound upbringing in the Catholic Faith.

**l. Application for Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation Scholarship:** We wish to inform all interested applicants that the Application Form for the Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation Scholarship for the 2019/2020 can be obtained from the Archdiocesan Website. Applicants are requested to click on the following link: <http://www.lagosarchdiocese.org/download/g14.pdf> to download the forms, fill and submit them to the Chancery.

**m. Admission into Alberione Institute of Communication Education, Iju, Lagos.**

The above is a media training institute with the core objective of training value-based, socially conscious and responsible media professionals.

Admission for 2018/2019 Session is on for those who want to specialize in the following: One year Professional Diploma in **Print, Broadcast and Online Journalism**, 3-4 months Certificate Course in

**Video Editing, Cinematography, Make-up Artistry, Creative Arts & Designs, Graphics, Photography, Theatre Art.**

The institute is affiliated to the Nigeria Union of Journalists. It is an offshoot of SPICE-St Paul Institute of Communication Education, Mumbai, India, Ireland, Brazil, Mexico, Philippines. For more information, visit [www.aicestudy.com](http://www.aicestudy.com), [info@aicestudy.com](mailto:info@aicestudy.com), [enquiries@aicestudy.com](mailto:enquiries@aicestudy.com) or Tel: 08101806352, 08066938408.

**n. Catechetical Training for Catechists/ Catechism Teachers and Pastoral Assistants**

The Antioch Pastoral Institute hereby informs all Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge of the training for catechists and pastoral assistants for the 2019/2020 session

**Venue:** St. Dominic's Parish School Block, Herbert Macaulay Road, Yaba

**Holds:** Second Saturday of every month- starting from **February 2019**

**Forms:** Obtainable from Religious Education Department, 19 Maye Street Off Montgomery (opp Lebanese School) Yaba @ #1,000.00

For contacts and enquiry call: 08033574050, 08035040118 or 08066224284

**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.

**p. Quarterly Returns Collections:** Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the first quarter of the year: **Education-06/01/2019, AUI Collection- 13/01/2019, 10/02/2019, and 10/03/2019, Caritas Lagos Collection- 17/03/2019, and Laity Collection-31/03/2019.**

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 do so immediately.

We reiterate our advice that Parish Priests/Priests-in-charge should use the **Pay-Direct** option or make **bank 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 financial returns with cheques, kindly pay attention to your entries and signature.

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

**13. Priestly Ordination Anniversary:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for the following confreres, whose Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries occur this month: Rev. Frs. Joachim Ochibili, Richard Ogedengbe (OP), Joseph Ahukanna (OP), Amosun Anthony, Bastos Paul, Echefu Augustine, Ehiedu Emmanuel, Mensah Michael, Njorteah John. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

**14. Bereavement:** We announce, with deep sympathy with the family concerned, the demise of **Sally Judith Aggrey**, the sister of **Rev. Fr. Paschal Aggrey**. She died in the month of December, 2018. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of her soul and consolation to the family. May God grant her eternal rest. Amen.

(Signed)

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