



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

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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 February: As we bid goodbye to the month of January, I heartily welcome you to the month of February 2019, a month rich in liturgical activities and memorials of saints. Beginning with the **Feast of the Presentation** (Feb.2), the Church calls us to re-dedicate ourselves to God, presenting our dreams, hopes and fears to Him and making sacrificial offerings of our lives in the service of the Gospel. She further presents us with the lives of the following saints as spiritual guides in the course of this month: **St. Blaise** (February 3), **St. Agatha** (February 5), **St. Paul Miki & Companions** (February 6), **St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Josephine Bakhita** (February 8), **St. Scholastica** (February 10), **Our Lady of Lourdes** (February 11), **Sts. Cyril and Methodius** (February 14), **Seven Founders of the Orders of Servites** (February 17), **Peter Damian** (February 21), and the **Chair of St. Peter** (February 22).

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.

3. 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.

It has been brought to our notice that some parishes have simply re-cycled those who were in the councils before now. We hereby instruct those who have breached the Guidelines in this brazen way to retrace their steps and reconstitute the Councils according to the Guidelines. Deans are required to ensure strict adherence to this directive.

4. 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 started since 30th January in all the Regions according to the dates already

communicated. We have written to the individuals concerned and we expect that they would take full advantage of this unique opportunity for growth.

5. Towards 2019 Elections: The general elections are here and once again, it is necessary to continue to encourage all who have registered and received their Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) to ensure that they exercise their franchise and not allow themselves to be intimidated or discouraged by any factor at all. Those who have not got their PVCs should continue to make the effort to receive them and report whatever hindrances they may have so that they can in turn be reported to the INEC officially.

Secondly, we encourage all the faithful to keep up with the prayers for Nigeria that we began since August 2018 with the confidence that the Lord will take absolute control of the situation that give us concern as a people. Let us keep on using the known effective weapon that we have to battle against all evils in confronting our present predicaments. May the Lord be our help and strength.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Implementation of the Archdiocesan Youth Policy and Care of the Youth: We launched the Archdiocesan Youth Policy since August 2018. We hereby reaffirm the need that Parish Priests and others concerned with the implementation should do the needful in ensuring that the Policy fulfils the purpose for which so much effort was expended in order to publish.

We also appeal to everyone to take responsibility for the care of the Youth in our Archdiocese. We call on all priests, Religious and Lay faithful to please take matters concerning the Youths with all seriousness and to give them support as they require eg with regards to empowerment, general welfare and attendance at programmes.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Ongoing Formation for Priests: A formal programme of Ongoing Formation for younger priests has been put in place beginning from this year 2019. The first set to take part in this programme are the **priests who were ordained between 2013-2018**. Each of them must have been personally informed by now.

Date: 5th-8th February 2019. Venue: Domus Fidei, Ikeja. The parish of each participating priest is required to pay the sum of Thirty-Nine Thousand Naira (**₦39,000.00**). For further details, contact Rev. Fr. Augustine Ikuomola- 08028335623

b. Priests Recollection: The Priests' Recollection for the first quarter of this year comes up on **20th February, 2019** at the designated parishes in the Four Regions of the Archdiocese. The

Episcopal Vicars would communicate the time and venue accordingly. All Priests are required to be in attendance.

c. Consultors Meeting: The meeting of the College of Consultors for the first quarter shall be held on the **13th of February, 2019** at the Chancery by 10.00am. The 2019 Retreat for the Curia and Consultors will begin on the evening of the same day at the Lagos Resource Centre. All those concerned should please take note.

d. Lagos Interdiocesan Tribunal: The statutory meeting of this Tribunal comes up on **Tuesday 5th February, 2019** at The Chancery by **10:00 a.m.** All those concerned should please take note and attend.

e. The Feast of the Presentation (Day for the Consecrated Life): This annual celebration comes up on the **2nd of February, 2019, at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Ikorodu, Lagos, by 10.00am.** The Archbishop will preside over the Mass. Other events follow at the end of the Mass.

f. JDPC Lenten Campaign 2019: The JDPC annual Lenten Campaign for 2019 is around the corner. This Campaign is an annual programme of the CBCN, and is implemented by each Arch/Diocese during the period of Lent. To this effect there will be a Lenten Campaign Collection taken up in all Parishes on **First Sunday of Lent - 10th March, 2019** at all Masses.

Proceeds should be paid into the JDPC, Lagos, **First Bank Account - 2003805932** within two weeks of taking up the collection. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should give this announcement the publicity it deserves.

g. World Day of the Sick: this year's world day of the sick runs from **11th to 15th of February, 2019.** As part of the activities marking the event, Masses are to be offered in all parishes and outstations for the sick all over the world on the **11th of February, 2019.**

h. 2019 Archdiocesan Directory: The 2019 Archdiocesan Directory has been out for a couple of months now. 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.

i. Small Christian Communities' Leadership Workshop: there shall be a Leadership Workshop for Leaders and Facilitators of the Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese on **March 9th, 2019** by 10.00am at Holy Cross Cathedral. This workshop is aimed at improving the Leadership

skills of Leaders and Facilitators of the Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese. Attendance is highly recommended.

j. Priests' Day with Catholic Friendly Society: This year's celebration will be on Thursday, 28th February, 2019 at Sagamu. All Priests are encouraged to be part of this *weight-shedding camaraderie*.

k. 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 or www.sacoed.edu.ng or call 01-793-3594 12

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

Theme: Agape Love: The Source of Unity

Date: Saturday, 9th 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.

m. Admission into the Archdiocesan Catholic Secondary Schools: This is to inform everyone that admission into JSS 1 for the 2019/2020 academic session in all Archdiocesan Catholic Secondary Schools is in progress. **The Entrance Examination comes up on 23rd February, 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.

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.

n. 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/down/g14.pdf> to download the forms, fill and submit them to the Chancery.

o. Admission into Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music (Foundation Program): the Academy is calling for admission from prospective candidates who wish to acquire foundational knowledge in Music to register as admission is still ongoing. Courses offered include Rudiments/Theory of Music; Voice and Conducting; Basic Piano; Gregorian chant and Applied Music (any instrument of your choice). Instructional centres are located in Festac; Surulere; Lekki; Ikeja and Ejigbo. Tuition fee is very affordable. For further enquiries, call/text: **09083036356/09030905196/08056526856** or directorceasam@gmail.com

p. 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, info@aicestudy.com, enquiries@aicestudy.com or Tel: 08101806352, 08066938408.

q. 91st CYON National Executive Council Meeting/Leadership Workshop: this is scheduled to hold in Lagos from February 7th to 10th, 2019. **Venue:** Domus Marie Ultra-Modern Social Complex,

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Isolo. **Theme:** "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

r. Annual Archdiocesan Essay Competition: this will commence on the 2nd of February, 2019. **Topic:** "The Rising effect of alcoholic and substance abuse in Nigeria." **Deadline for Submission:** Midnight, 28th February, 2019. Winners for 2018 and 2019 editions would be published in the 13th Race Magazine and Prizes will be awarded at the Lagos AYD Ikeja, 2019.

s. 9 Days Open Year Prayers in Honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help: We express our appreciation to all members of CYON in the Archdiocese for their active participation in 9 Days Open Year Prayers from January 13th - 22nd, 2019. We also passionately encourage Parishes who could not follow through the prayers to comply to such spiritual activities of the organization in the future.

t. Public Lecture on Good Governance: This program is organized by the Laity Council of the Archdiocese of Lagos, the JDPC and the Catholic Herald. Lay people are strongly encouraged to get involved in the party politics in our country Nigeria. What role(s) is (are) the electorate to play in safeguarding our very fragile and nascent democracy? Come and discuss issues bordering on elections, electorates and politics as a whole.

Date: Thursday 7th February, 2019

Time: 10am prompt

Venue: Archbishop Alfred Martins Hall, St Leo's Catholic Church, Ikeja, Lagos.

Theme: THE POWER OF THE ELECTORATE IN A DEMOCRACY: NIGERIA AS A CASE STUDY.

Chief Host: His Grace, Most Rev Alfred Adewale Martins

Parish priests and Priests in Charge are encouraged to remind their parishioners of this very important program.

u. International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking: Friday 8th February, 2019 is the Memorial of St Bahkita, an African Saint and a victim of human trafficking. On this day, the Church encourages us to pray and create awareness against Human Trafficking. Parish Priests and Priests in charge are encouraged to organize a prayer vigil for an hour on the evening of that day during or after the evening Mass as well as instruct their parishioners on the reality of human

trafficking in our society and the dangers inherent in it. This can be done on Sunday 10th February at all the Masses!.

Prayer booklets have been circulated around the Archdiocese by the JDPC, Women Religious and the Laity Council of the Archdiocese of Lagos. Parish Priests and other Priests are expected to kindly follow the instructions in the Prayer Manual and guide your Parishioners in the Prayer vigil for trafficked persons and to end this malaise in our country and the world.

May St Bahkita continue to intercede for us all.

v. Lagos Archdiocesan Music Commission 2019 Choral Competition: this year's completion is tagged "**Archbishop Choral Competition (A.C.C 2019)**" in honour of our Archbishop. It begins from February 10th through June 2019 to commemorate the Archbishop's 60th birthday.

The following parishes and dates have been selected to host the different groups in the first round of the Competition:

Group 1: St. Agnes Maryland	-	March 17
Group 2: St. Leo Ikeja	-	March 10
Group 3: Sacred Heart Ojota	-	March 24
Group 4: St. Francis Oregun	-	March 10
Group 5: St. Thomas Okokomaiko	-	March 31
Group 6: St. Andrews Ilemba	-	March 24
Group 7: Holy Family Festac	-	Feb 24
Group 8: Church of Annunciation, Festac	-	Feb 24
Group 9: Holy Cross Cathedral Lagos	-	Feb 10
Group 10: St. Anthony Gbaja	-	Feb 10
Group 11: Our Lady of Perpetual Help VI	-	Feb 24
Group 12: Church of Transfiguration VGC	-	March 31
Group 13: Ss. Philip and James Lekki	-	March 17

Do kindly note that:

- Competition is compulsory for all parishes
- Parishes are to pay N5,000.00 participation fees
- Parish priests/priests in charge are to ensure active participation of their Choirs.
- All Priests in charge of the hosting parishes are kindly implored to give maximum co-operation to the Music Commission for the use of their parish/halls

For further enquiries, please consult the Music Commission Director, **Fr. Peter Osuntope** on **08023700587**

w. 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

x. 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.

y. 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: **Epiphany-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.

14. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Daniel Nwankwo, Kioko Muindi and Gabriel Ukhurebor as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversary this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

15. Bereavement: We announce, with deep sympathy with the family concerned, the demise of **Mrs Catherine Tadafe**, the Mother of **Rev. Sr. Elizabeth Tadafe, OP**. She died in the month of January, 2019. 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

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS