



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 April:** Welcome to the month of April, 2019, a month when our Lenten journey leads us into the special season of Easter. This season begins with the celebration of the Resurrection of our Jesus Christ, the climax of the Holy Week celebrations. In this month, these remarkable events leading to our salvific Mystery are celebrated: **Palm Sunday** (April 14th), **Holy Thursday** (April 18th), **Good Friday** (April 19th), **Holy Saturday** (April 20th), **Easter Sunday** (April 21st). Towards the end of the month, the Church celebrates the joy of Easter and the gift of New Life in Christ. Though the way to the Resurrection was the Via Crucis, the Sacrificial Lamb of God is now and forever Christ our Light, the eternal High Priest of the New Covenant. And his sorrowful mother, the *Stabat Mater* of Good Friday, becomes the jubilant *Regina Caeli*.

2. **A Few Thoughts on Lent:** As we enter the 4th week of Lent, we remind all the faithful of the Lenten practices and observances:

a. **Abstinence:** All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age and above are required to abstain totally from meat or favorite dish or drink on Ash Wednesday (March 6) and Good Friday (April 19) and all the Fridays of Lent.

b. **Fasting:** All the faithful between the ages of 18 and that have not reached 60 years of age are bound to fast. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal or two smaller meals as the case may be. Those who are sick, pregnant or nursing or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting should not consider themselves bound by these norms.

c. **Parents and teachers** are responsible to see that young persons, who are not bound to the above requirement, are educated in an authentic sense of penance. Also, we are called to pray fervently for those catechumens and candidates who will receive the sacraments during this period.

- i. **Avoid Sin:** Keep yourself away from all occasions that could lead to sin. Repent and return to God by a good sacramental confession and do appropriate penance if you fall into sin.
- ii. Practice self-control; be more generous especially in giving to the poor and needy and in contributing to the works of the church, remission of debts and payment of just wages.
- iii. Pursue and achieve **reconciliation** with anyone with whom you are not at peace.
- iv. **Read the Scriptures** in order to deepen your intimacy with God, spread the kingdom of Christ and help others to know and return to Christ.
- v. **Pray before the Blessed Sacrament**, go to Mass often, if possible daily.
- vi. Be regular at the **stations of the cross** on Wednesdays and Fridays and do it every day if you can.
- vii. Take part in the **Lenten programmes and retreats** that will be organised in your parish. Take full part in the **Holy week ceremonies**.
- viii. Pray your **Rosary** daily.

Bear in mind that all other Fridays of the year remain Days of penance in prayerful remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ.

3. Easter: towards the end of the month, our Lenten journey will give way to the joys of Easter. The word "Easter" derive from the Old English meaning the, "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the Risen Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle is the symbol of Christ, the divine light. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time, and lit for all liturgical celebrations.

Easter is the celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and the sending of the Holy Spirit on the day of the Pentecost upon the Church. Easter season is the most important of all liturgical times. The octave of Easter comprises the eight (8) days which stretch from the Easter Sunday to the second Sunday of Easter. That is a way of savoring the joy of the resurrection of Jesus. In a sense, every day of the Octave is like a little Easter Sunday. There are 50 days of Easter that comes to an end on Pentecost Sunday.

Easter is characterized by the joy of the resurrection and victory over death, expressed most fully in the resounding singing of the *Alleluia!* All other expressions of faith flow from faith in the resurrection: *"If Christ had not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith."* (1 Cor 15:14)

From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, the celebrations of Easter in this world will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that He will come again in glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father. May this Easter bring us good tidings and heavenly blessings.

4. 40 Days of Lenten Reflection with the Archbishop:

The Archbishop, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins for daily Lenten Reflections has been giving a daily Lenten reflection since Ash Wednesday and it will go on till Easter Sunday DV on Metro 97.7 FM at 6.00 am and 9.00pm daily. Priests should inform their parishioners and encourage them to tune in to this frequency and listen to the reflection. May the word of God nourish our souls. Amen.

5. Cathedraticum: One of the very laudable practices at the Masses of Chrism is the presentation of gifts that are distributed to less privileged and the needy in various Homes and prisons around the Archdiocese. We have noticed a big drop in the measure of gifts that come from parishes for this most salutary practice. We expect Parish Priests and Priests-In-Charge to make deliberate and concerted efforts to encourage Parishioners to generously donate gift items to the growing number of indigent people that come around with high expectations at this time. Parish Priests should create awareness that the resources saved by our Lenten fast are supposed to be used for charity rather than as savings for other personal use.

6. 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.

7. 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 fulfills 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 Youths 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 e.g. with regards to empowerment, general welfare and attendance at programmes.

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. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Mass of The Chrism 2019 will take on **Tuesday 16th April and Thursday 18th April, 2019.**
Venue: Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Catholic Church, Satellite Town and Holy Cross Cathedral respectively, **Time: 9:00am.**

b. Chrism Mass Committee Meetings: The 2019 Chrism Mass Planning Committee meets every Thursday at Holy Cross Cathedral Hall at 6:00p.m. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are reminded to send two parishioners to represent their parishes at the weekly Chrism Mass Planning Committee meetings. All the Parishes that fall under the following deaneries: Isolo, Satellite, Badagry, Festac and Apapa are to send their representatives to the LOC weekly meetings at Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Satellite Town every Sunday at 5:00p.m.

c. Curia Meeting- Members of the Archdiocesan Curia are hereby reminded of their meeting scheduled to hold on Wednesday 3rd of April, 2019 at 10:00am in the Chancery Conference Room.

d. Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting: This comes up on Tuesday 9th of April, 2019 at the Chancery by 10:00am. Those concerned should please take note.

e. Caritas Lagos Collection: We appreciate all those who participated and contributed generously towards the Caritas Lagos Collection. Your contributions will go a long way to put smiles on the

faces of those in need. May God continue to bless and reward you for your generosity. Amen. Contributions can still be made directly to our bank account with Details as follows: FIDELITY BANK, 4110033795, CARITAS LAGOS.

In the same vein, we strongly urge all **Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge**, to kindly ensure that the proceeds of the Caritas Sunday Collection received from all the parishes are immediately paid into the above Caritas Lagos Account or forwarded to the Chancery. We count on your cooperation.

f. Archbishop's Meeting with all Catholic Medical Doctors in the Archdiocese: The Archbishop of Lagos, His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins will be holding a meeting with all Catholic Medical Doctors in the Archdiocese on **Wednesday 24th of April, 2019 at 10: 00am.** **Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral Hall.** All Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge are required to encourage all Medical Doctors in their parishes to attend this important meeting. While they encourage all to attend the Parish Priests expected to send at least one Doctor as the official representative from their parishes.

g. Catholic Prison Chaplaincy: This is to inform Parishes, Organizations, Societies or individuals in the Archdiocese who wish to visit any of the prisons especially during the Lenten season and Eastertide to kindly contact the Archdiocesan Prison Chaplain: **Rev. Fr. Kingsley Agada on 07038040153.** This will help to facilitate logistics.

h. Department of Religious Education: There will be a general meeting of all Faith Formation/ Education Committee members in the Archdiocese, on the **13th of April @ 10am.** **Venue is: Religious Education Department, 19, Maye Street, off Montgomery road, Yaba.** Contact: 08033574050, 08052036886 for further information. Note: Only the Parish Chairman and secretary or 2 representatives are to attend.

i. Archdiocesan Lay Leaders' Seminar/Workshop- This workshop meant for all Lay Leaders' in the Archdiocese i.e. Deanery, Parish Laity Councils, Archdiocesan and Deanery Executives of Lay Organizations, Societies, Pious Associations and Members of P.P.C. and P.F.C comes up as follows: **Date:** Saturday, 18th May, 2019 **Venue:** St. Finbarr's College, Akoka, Yaba **Theme:** *No Servant is greater than the master* (Jn. 13:16) **Time:** 7: 00 a.m. accreditation **Participation Fee:** #2,000. 00 per delegate **Delegate:** 10 delegates from Parishes, 10 delegates from Lay Organizations/Society/Association, 5 delegates from Deaneries.

Note: (i) No person should double in representation i.e. No person must represent Parish or Deanery or Society at the same time.

(ii) Payments can be made at the Centre or deposited into our bank account as follows: **Account Name:** Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre **Bank:** Access **Account No:** 0024595531 **Depositor's Name:** Parish/ Deanery/Society's Names.

(iii) The names of the delegates duly paid for should be sent to the Centre for production of certificates via catholiclayapostolatecentre@yahoo.com or by calling any of the following numbers; 08029270402 or 08127736117, two weeks to the date of the Seminar (i.e. 25th April, 2019).

j. CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA (CYON)

i. **Archdiocesan Youth Day:** Ikeja Deanery is hosting the 34th Archdiocesan Youth Day 2019; the Youth day is the single largest gathering of the Catholic Youths in the Archdiocese of Lagos. Program Details are as follows:

Date: 28th. April 2018

Theme: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Venue: Holy Mass at St. Leo's Catholic Church, Toyin Street, Ikeja. Reception at Police College (Filed 2), Oba Akinjobi Street, Ikeja GRA.

The Registration Link AYD IKEJA 2019: <https://goo.gl/forms/5XhYj2y0Yd7iRQiE2>

ii. **CYON Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS):** The Life in the Spirit Seminar is organised by the Archdiocesan CYON in conjunction with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Nigeria and will take place according to the registration of Participants in each Parish. It would **begin on the 5th of May, 2019**. The LISS is the first of its kind organized by the CYON Lagos Archdiocese. **It runs for 6 weeks from 5th of May to 9th of June, 2019**. The LISS has two main objectives:

a. To renew and ignite the power of the Holy Spirit that we received at baptism and confirmation.

b. To promote an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord and to experience a personal Pentecost in our lives.

We encourage every youth in the Archdiocese to attend. Please register through the following link: www.bit.ly/LISS_2019 More information will be coming soon.

k. Mass Wine & Quarterly Returns Booklets: we have received a new supply of Mass Wine. Given the rise in the cost of importation and other logistics, the price has increased also. Parishes can now buy Mass wine from the Chancery at **#19,500:00** per carton.

In a similar vein, the new Quarterly Returns Booklets are now available in the Chancery at **#1,500:00** per booklet.

I. Lagos Interdiocesan Tribunal

i. **Seminar on Marriage Act:** There is a new development by the Federal Government on the Marriage Act. There will be a seminar to further educate priests on this matter. The date for the seminar will be communicated soonest. Deans are to forward the names of two priests to represent their Deaneries to Rev. Msgr Philip Hoteyin. The Marriage Facilitators of each deanery must also attend.

ii. **On those to be given or denied Christian Burial:** The stipulations of the Code of Canon Law are to be adhered to (cf. canons 1183- 1185). In any situation of doubt or confusion, especially judgement concerning “**manifest sinners**”, parish priests/ priests in charge should consult with the Archbishop.

m. **St. Augustine 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

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/download/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 application from prospective candidates who wish to acquire foundational knowledge in Music to register. 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 centers 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. 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. The courses are as follows:

□ **Online Certificate Course in Catechesis and Faith Development:** This course is accessed online but classroom contact holds every quarter on the first Saturday of the relevant month. The course draws from the Scriptures, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and selected documents of the Second Vatican Council, offering a balance of theology, spirituality and catechetical skills.

Duration: Two Years, beginning from 6th of April, 2019. **Venue:** St. Dominic's Parish School Block, Herbert Macaulay Road, Yaba.

□ **Certificate in Catechesis:** This course is for developing and advancing Catechetical activities for Catechists, Catechism Teachers, Sunday School Facilitators and Parish Pastoral Assistants.

Duration: 18 Months, with class contact holding 3rd Saturdays of every month beginning from 6th April, 2019.

□ **Introduction to Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC):** This is a refresher course on the four Pillars of our faith as presented in the CCC. It is a mandatory program for all Catechists and Catechism teachers. **Duration:** Lecture holds 4th Saturdays beginning from May to August, 2019.

To obtain a form and for other enquiries, contact Religious Education Department, 19 Maye Street Off Montgomery (Opp. Lebanese School) Yaba or call: 08033574050, 08056550390 or 08066224284

r. Family and Human Life Unit: *St. John Paul II School for Marriage and Family* of the Archdiocese is running training courses on Church teaching for interested persons in the following areas:

□ Marriage Theology and Lived Experience

□ How to Teach Human Sexuality to Children and Youth- Theology of the Body

□ Managing Couple Fertility Naturally (Love and Life Method)

□ Basic Christian Counseling Skills

□ Canon Law for the Laity

Note that courses for Part-time and Full-time begin in February and September, 2019, respectively. For more enquiries and registration, call Martina Ozegbe on 08130285777 or 07030616170.

s. 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

t. Quarterly Returns Collections: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the second quarter of the year: **JDPC Collection-07/04/2019, AUI Collection- 14/04/2019, Holy Land Collection- 19/04/2019, Youths Collection-28/04/2019.** 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.

10. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Raphael Adebayo, Gabriel Amologbe, Vincent Olofinkua, Richard Fasuyi, Johnpaul Olaniran, Chukwubuikem Opechi OP and Benedict Okolo CM as they mark their Sacerdotal

Ordination anniversary this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS