



# CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

**MAY, 2019** /No. 080

**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 May:** I warmly welcome you all to the month of May, 2019. In this month, the Church specially draws our attention to the Mother of the Risen Lord who stood beside Her Son in His Passion and on the Cross but now shares His glory with Him as She has been conferred with the title: *Regina Caeli*. In the whole of the month of May, the Church echoes the *Regina Caeli* in her prayers as we pray: "**O! Queen of Heaven rejoice..... Alleluia for the Lord has Risen Indeed**". the joys Mary shares with Her Son in His triumphant Resurrection. By adoptive Sonship, we also, in a most profound way are made partakers of the joys of Resurrection, we participate in the fullness of life Christ offers. May Christ resurrection which wedded heaven to earth and reconciled God with Man be our eternal hope and reward.

**2. Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord:** This comes up on **Thursday 30th of May 2019**. The solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord marks the day when as Christians, we commemorate Our Lord's glorious entry into heaven body and soul. It is officially celebrated on the 40th day of Easter. Forty Days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Acts of the Apostles records Jesus' ascension into heaven. The origin of the feast of Ascension dates back to 4th century AD. In some parts of the world, the celebration of the feast is transferred to the Sunday after the traditional day. The Ascension attests to the reality of Jesus Christ; true God and true man, returning to the Father in order to come again at the *Second Coming*. Our faith teaches us that meanwhile, He sits at the right hand of God the Father until He comes to *judge the living and the dead*. By the Feast of the Ascension, may our eyes be turned to heaven where our true treasure lies.

**3. Leadership Training for Priests:** while we continue to be grateful to God for the success of the first batch of the Leadership Training for Priests, we announce the commencement of

the second batch and we call on all Priests enlisted for the second batch to take full advantage of this unique opportunity for growth, to attend PUNCTUALLY and participate ACTIVELY in the sessions. **The dates for the Second Batch of 25 Priests are as follows:**

**Module 1 - May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Module 2 - June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Module 3 - July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Module 4 - September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**

**4. Collating the number of Scholarships for Augustine University offered so far.** 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. At this time, we call on those parishes and individuals who have offered scholarships to give the information to the office of the Director of Education. Kindly inform the Directorate of the the **name(s)** of students being sponsored, the **year** the sponsorship began, the **course of study**. We once again appeal to Parishes to offer scholarships to young people 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.

**5. Augustine University offers Preliminary Studies:** Having obtained her permanent License, the Augustine University, in collaboration with the Government Body responsible for Preliminary Studies in Nigeria, would soon be offering opportunities to do Preliminary Studies to students in a University environment. This opportunity is for young people who having attempted JAMBE did not secure admission to the University or who are awaiting their results. The advantage for those who do the Preliminary Studies is that they will be able to go on straight to 200level of their programme of studies. For more information about this, interested persons should contact the University or the Directorate of Education.

**6. Study Sessions for Priests on the Archdiocesan Youth Policy:** 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 expect that Deans in discussion with the Episcopal Vicars will organise Study Sessions on the Policy with the aim of assuring that the Priests are familiar with the content of the Policy. We

expect the Deanery Youth Chapalins to be the arrow-heads in preparing the Study Sessions. These sessions should take place by the last Quarter of this year.

Let us all remember that care of the Youth is of paramount importance and cannot be left to chance. The Policy is proactive effort to take deliberate steps to form the youths and give them the tools they need in order to lead the Church with commitment into the future. Any group of people who do not form their youth are jeopardising the future.

#### **7. 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.

#### **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**a. Archdiocesan Consultors Meeting:** This comes up on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2019 at the Chancery by 10:00am. Those concerned should please take note.

**b. Archdiocesan Laity Harvest:** The aforesaid harvest earlier scheduled to hold on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 has now been rescheduled. The harvest celebrations would now hold on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2019** at the **Catholic Church of Divine Mercy, Lekki**. Those concerned are to take note.

c. **Evangelization Training:** This is to inform Parishes that did not send their 12 representatives to the last **Orientation Seminar on Evangelization** that they have an opportunity to do so. Another Seminar would be coming up on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2019** at **Catholic Church of the Divine Mercy, Lekki** at **10:00am**. Kindly reach Msgr. Paschal Nwazeapu on this number: **07039006000** to inform him that your representatives will be attending.

d. **MCA Children's Day Celebration:** The Missionary Childhood Association will be having her Children's Day Celebration on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of May, 2019 in all parishes in the Archdiocese.

e. **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 Eastertide to kindly contact the Archdiocesan Prison Chaplain: **Rev. Fr. Kingsley Agada** on **07038040153**. This will help to facilitate logistics.

f. **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 the Council's 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).

**g. LAMCOM Archbishop Choral Competition A.C.C. 2019:** The "Archbishop Choral Competition (A.C.C.)" in honour of the forthcoming 60th birthday of our Archbishop is now at the second stage. Forty Choirs qualified from the first stage and have been grouped into four groups for the Round Two. The following parishes have been chosen to host the round two competition:

Group A: St. Anthony Gbaja - May 5, 2019

Group B: St Agnes Maryland - May 5, 2019

Group C: Sacred Heart Ojota - May 12, 2019

Group D: Church of Assumption Falomo - May 12, 2019

The above parishes are expected to give LAMCOM maximum cooperation in order to have a successful round two competition. The Finals of the competition comes up on **May 29, 2019 at the Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos**. Only the top two choirs across the four groups will participate at the finals. For further enquiries, please contact the Music Commission Director, Fr. Peter Osuntope on 08023700587.

**h. World Communications Week:** In view of upcoming World Communications Week, the Directorate of Social Communications in conjunction with SIGNIS Lagos Archdiocese, will be having a series of activities with the General Theme: **'We are Members One of Another: From Network Community to Human Communities.'** The activities are as follows:

**Day 1: Saturday 25th May, 2019:** Lagos Archdiocesan Workshop on Communications for Presidents, Secretaries, and P.R.Os of Lay Organisations and Societies as well as Members of Board of Church Wardens, Board of Lectors, and Man of Order and Discipline (M.O.D.). The Theme is: **"The Church and Communication in a Digital Era."** Venue: **St. Peter Claver Catholic Parish Hall, Ajao Estate**. Speakers at the Workshop are: Very Rev. Frs. Mike Umoh, Innocent Opogah, and Emmanuel Ndubuisi. Chairman, Plenary Session: Dame Marie Fatayi-Williams. Key Note Address by Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, The Archbishop of Lagos.

Accreditation starts by 8am. Participation fee is N2,000 naira only.

**Day 2: Sunday 2nd June, 2019:** Thanksgiving Mass for World Communications Day followed by Press Conference (Interactive section with the Media) by His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins. Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos. Time: 10:30am.

**Day 3, Wednesday 5th June, 2019:** WALK FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA Time: 7a.m, Take Off Point: **St. Leo Catholic church, Toyin Street, Ikeja.** Would terminate at the Governor's Office with the formal presentation of the Papal Message to the new Governor.

All Presidents, Secretaries and PROs of Archdiocesan Laity Council, Lay Organizations and Societies as well as Parish Laity Council Chairmen are to participate in the Walk and attend the World Communications Day Holy Mass. All to be in white tops and black trousers/skirts/wrappers for the Walk.

For further enquiries, kindly contact the Acting Director, Director of Social Communications or President, SIGNIS, Archdiocese of Lagos (08060572439, 08023051444).

**i. Archdiocesan Catholic Herald Newspaper:** As part of the efforts to widen the scope of the Archdiocesan Catholic Herald Newspaper, the Directorate of Social Communications hereby welcome from priests, religious (Male and female) as well as lay faithful, write-ups and contributions on faith and morals as well as social issues. You can send your write-ups/ contributions to: [thecatholicherald2007@gmail.com](mailto:thecatholicherald2007@gmail.com) or [tonygeee23@gmail.com](mailto:tonygeee23@gmail.com) for consideration.

We're also appealing to Parish Priests and Associates to please publicise the Catholic Herald Newspaper during Altar announcements. May God continue to bless and reward our apostolate. Amen.

**j. Lumen Christi 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Public Lecture:** to mark her 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Lumen Christi Catholic TV Network is organizing her maiden Annual Public Lecture scheduled to hold on **Tuesday the 21st of May, 2019 beginning with Eucharistic Celebration by 10.00am.**

Guest lecturer: **His Eminence John Cardinal Onaiyekan** - Archbishop of Abuja

Lecture Topic - **Evangelisation through mass media - Role of the leadership of the Church, Priests, Religious and Laity.**

You are all cordially invited.

**k. Caritas Lagos Collection:** We hereby express our appreciation to all those who participated and contributed generously towards the Caritas Lagos Collection. Your contributions will go a long way to help the Church to grow and develop in areas that are less endowed financially. May God continue to bless and reward you for your generosity. Donations can still be made directly to the 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.

**l. CYON Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS):** The Life in the Spirit Seminar being organised by the Archdiocesan CYON in conjunction with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Nigeria 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 reawakwn 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](http://www.bit.ly/LISS_2019). More information will be coming soon.

**m. 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.

**n. 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.

o. **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](http://www.sacoedng.com) or [www.sacoed.edu.ng](http://www.sacoed.edu.ng) or call 01-793-3594 12.

p. **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.

q. **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](mailto:directorceasam@gmail.com)

**r. 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.

**s. 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.

**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: **Social Development Collection-05/05/2019, AUI Collection- 12/05/2019, Seminary Collection- 12/05/2019, Holy Childhood Collection-26/05/2019.** 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.

**u. 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

**8. Priestly Ordination Anniversary:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. Raphael Adebayo, Gabriel Amolegbe, Vincent Olofinkua, Richard Fasuyi, Johnpaul Olaniran, Chukwubuikem Okpechi OP and Benedict Okolo CM as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

**9. Bereavement:** We announce, with deep sympathy with the family concerned, the demise of **Pa Anthony Oladele Oyedare, JP**, the father of Rev. Fr. **Michael Oyedare** He would be buried in the month of May. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of his soul and consolation to the family. May God grant him eternal rest. Amen.

+ **Alfred Adewale Martins**

**Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos**

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS