



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

JUNE, 2019 /No. 081

**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 June:** *Come O! Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of your Faithful and enkindle in them the Fire of your Love*, with these words of prayer I heartily welcome you to the month of June, 2019. This month leads us from the joys of Easter to an anticipation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, a revival of the Spirit of God which we all received at our Baptism and Confirmation. In the spirit of St. Paul's advice to Timothy, we remind ourselves to *fan into a flame* the gifts of God which we received from the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and Confirmation.

Having come to the beginning of the second half of the year in this month, we need to evaluate how far we have fared in keeping the resolutions that we made at the beginning of the year. It is also important for us to examine how we have responded or not to the promptings of the Holy Spirit through the proper use of the gifts He has given us.

During this month, we shall celebrate such remarkable feasts as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity **16th June**, Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ **23rd June**, and the Solemnity of Ss. Peter & Paul **29th June**. May we be built up in the practice of our faith as we celebrate these treasures of faith.

2. **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 29th and 30th 2019

Module 2 - June 26th and 27th

Module 3 - July 24th and 25th

Module 4 - September 25th and 26th

3. 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. 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 **name(s)** of students being sponsored, the **year** the sponsorship began and **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.

4. 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 sat for JAMB Exam but did not secure admission or those 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 in the university. For more information about this, interested persons should contact the University or the Directorate of Education.

5. 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 Chaplains to be the arrow-heads in preparing the Study Sessions. We expect that these sessions should take place by the last Quarter of this year, 2019.

Let us all remember that care of the Youth is of paramount importance and cannot be left to chance. The Policy is a 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. Let us always remember that any group of people who do not form their youth are jeopardising the future.

6. 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. ARCHBISHOP'S BIRTHDAY: This is to thank His Eminence, our Emeritus Archbishop, the entire Clergy and Religious and all the faithful for the love, the good wishes and good will that they showed me on the occasion of my 60th Birthday anniversary. The week-long activities that were concluded with a Mass of Thanksgiving and the reception with the Books Presentation and launching of the Foundation for Youth Empowerment were greatly appreciated. Your participation and presence were encouraging. May the Lord bless and reward you for the sacrifices that you made to make the celebrations joyful and successful.

b. Recollection for Priests: The Annual Priests' Recollection comes up on the **12th of June, 2019**. All Priests are required to take part in this unique spiritual exercise. The Episcopal Vicars are expected to ensure the participation all priests in their Regions.

c. Seminar for Priests: The seminar for Priests will come up on the **26th of June, 2019**. We expect all Priests to avail themselves of this opportunity for ongoing formation.

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

e. Catholic Lawyers' Day with the Archbishop: The Catholic Lawyers in the Archdiocese of Lagos shall have *Catholic Lawyers' Day with the Archbishop*, on **Thursday 20th of June, 2019 at The Marquee, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Victoria Island, Lagos**. Parish Priests and Priests-In-Charge are to encourage Catholic Lawyers in their Parishes to announce this in their parishes and encourage the lawyers to be present.

f. LAMCOM PENTECOST CONCERT 2019: The LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN MUSIC COMMISSION (LAMCOM): presents the second edition of Pentecost Concert/ Dinner Award to celebrate the birth of the Church in a musical grand style. The event would showcase the Archdiocese Choir and the Diploma Chorale of the Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music, awards presentation and investiture of LAMCOM patrons amongst others. All priests, religious, and the laity are cordially invited.

Date: Wednesday, June 5th 2019.

Venue: MUSON CENTRE.

Time: 4pm (Red Carpet)

For more details, kindly contact the director of LAMCOM, Rev. Fr. Peter Osuntope on 08023700587. **Chief Host: Most Rev. Dr. Alfred A. Martins - The Archbishop of Lagos.**

g. 2019 ACMPN Scientific Conference & AGM: The Association of Catholic Medical Practitioners (ACMPN) will host its 14 annual scientific conference and Annual General Meeting. This provides an avenue for Catholic medical practitioners to examine the trends and

challenges facing medical and health care professionals in Nigeria to reinforce the catholic bioethics in medical practice. Invitees to the conference include scientists at the fore-front of this problem, real drug addiction management success cases, institutions, companies, federal and state agencies. Also presentations on integrative medicine, update on radiology, Napro-techology, planning for retirement and much more.

THEME: EFFECTS OF DRUG ADDICTION ON INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

DATE: July 4 - 7, 2019.

TIME: 9am Daily

VENUE: Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island Lagos.

For Further Enquiries, Sponsorship, Advert Placements and Partnership, you can contact us through our Email: acmpnlagos_info@yahoo.com Or Call Dr. Ronald Ikpe: **08034348145**, Dr. Anne Okonma: **08067011188**

h. 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 or tonygeee23@gmail.com for consideration.

We are 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.

i. 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 advise all **Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge**, to ensure that the proceeds of the Caritas Sunday Collection received from their parishes are immediately paid into the above Caritas Lagos Account or forwarded to the Chancery. We count on your cooperation.

j. 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.

k. 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 reawaken 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.

l. 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.

m. 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.

n. **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.

o. **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.

p. **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

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. 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: **Communications Day Collection-02/06/2019, AUI Collection- 09/06/2019, Laity Collection- 30/06/2019.** 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.

t. 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 and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Ogunsakin Festus, and Rev. Frs. Anyanwu Francis, Ayangbola Peter, Ayonote Lawrence, Egwuatu Julian, Okelezo Simon, Oladunjoye Sylvester, Oritseweyimi Kingsley, Umole Fidelis, Etegene Michael, Ogunyase Matthew, Daniel Monaghan and Michael Oyedare. Others are, Rev. Frs. Francis Anozie, Maurice Iboro, Emmanuel Etim, Peter Ekwenuya, Cyprian Nnamani, Cyprian Ijezie, Pius Femi Oladele, Michael Etekpo, Augustine Nwagbologu, Nathaniel Ogar, John Oni, Livinus Orakwe, Iwobi Joseph, Xavier Inyang, Timothy Inok, Vincent Ukoma, Osbert Egbe, Edgar Debany, Kingsley Joseph and Jude Kanu whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

9. Bereavement: We announce, with deep sympathy the demise of **Pa Olusegun Amosun** the father of **Rev. Fr. Anthony Amosun**, **Madame Juliana Oni**, the mother of **Rev. Fr. John Oni, MSP**; and **Mr Lawrence Abebe** the father of **Rev. Sr Edith Abebe**. They died in the

month of May, 2019. Kindly celebrate Masses for the repose of their souls and consolation to their families. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen.

+ Alfred Adewale Martins

Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos

ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS