



# CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **JANUARY, 2020** /No. 088

**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:** Happy New Year to you and welcome to the month of January. The first month of the year is the month of new beginnings, new opportunities and a chance for everyone to start afresh. In the first part of January, we continue our celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and in our hearts. We celebrate the wonderful feast of *Mary, Mother of God*, in which we honour the greatest of Mary's titles after which we go with 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 for a better future. We pray God to grant us a fruitful and prosperous year 2020.

2. **CONCERNING PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WHO OPERATE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE WITHOUT AUTHORISATION:** our attention has been drawn to presence of some Priests and Female Religious who are operating in the Archdiocese either without due authorization of the Archbishop or else without following the process laid out for them. We refer in particular to Joylink Foundation being run Rev. Fr. Stephen Nwokemodo and Fr. Franklin Iwunwa in Festac Deanery and Missionary Daughters of the Most Holy Name of Jesus and Mary in Ajaguro Parish of Ikorodu Deanery. The people involved give the impression that they have the authorization of the Archbishop to minister in the Archdiocese. They come into the

Archdiocese setting up so-called Foundations and Orphanages, going to Catholic Traders from shop to shop and calling them to prayer meetings in private houses. Such activities are contrary to the principles of Religious life and would not be tolerated in our Archdiocese. We hereby call on Priests and Religious any Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese to be watchful and report anybody who tries to mislead the faithful in this manner.

**3. DISCLAIMER! - TRIDENTINE MASS AT MODELE COMPOUND, TEJUOSO STREET, LAGOS:** We wish to call the attention of all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Lagos to a group that meets to celebrate the Tridentine Mass at **Modele Compound, Near Zenith Bank Tejuoso Street, Surulere** here in Lagos. They mislead people to believe that they have authorization to celebrate the Tridentine Mass and that it is an alternative place to the group that meets for Mass that holds at St Gregory College every Sunday.

We hereby call on all Catholics to be aware that this group, to all intents and purposes, is a schismatic group and is **NOT IN COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH**. We hereby call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to bring this information to the awareness of their Parishioners. Anyone who participates in the activities of this dissident group does so at a risk to the authenticity of his or her catholic faith and practice. We encourage everyone to be vigilant so as not to give wolves in sheep clothing a chance to lead people astray with all the consequences for our salvation.

**4.** In this regard, it has also been brought to our notice that some elements have been going around parishes in Lagos, with one of them calling himself **Fr. Andrew**, questioning some practices in our Church and giving parishioners contact phone numbers and addresses. We have little or not doubt that they are *foot soldiers* of the group that is not in communion with the church but is present in the Archdiocese as mentioned above.

**Parish Priests and Priest-in-charge are enjoined to alert the faithful in the parish, asking them to direct such persons who approach them to the Priests in order to address whatever issue they may bring up to them rather than engage them in phone calls or visiting the address they give.**

**5. Augustine University (AUI) offers Prelim Studies:** We again ask Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge to inform their parishioners that 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 for Prelim Studies to students who are preparing to enter University. 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 200 level of their Course of choice in the university. For more information about this, interested persons should contact the University, the University website or the Directorate of Education.

**6. Operational Guidelines for the implementation on Archdiocesan Youth Policy:** For some months now we have been calling attention to the need for study sessions on the Archdiocesan Youth Policy at the Regional level. We commend **Lagos and Ikeja Regions** that have conducted the session in their Regions. We hope that others would do the same soonest. The 3rd quarter of the year scheduled for it is at an end but we still expect that the study session would be carried out within the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year 2020.

The Operational guidelines for the Policy has already been presented and so we enjoin all parishes to use this much easier step by step guideline to ensure the faithful implementation of the Policy.

**7. St. Augustine College of Education (Project Time) affiliated to the University of Ibadan:**

a. We call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners that the above-named College has commenced admission procedures for its 2019/2020 session. With a minimum JAMB Score of 200 and above for Degree programs and 150 and above for NCE programs, St. Augustine College is the place for you. Our programs and their Requirements include:

- **B.Ed. degree (Full-Time and Distance Learning Center)** - 5 Credits at one sitting.
- **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 Catechist OR O'Level Certificate.

For further enquiries, call - **08065954493; 08024582945; 08034919553.**

b. 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 **08034919553; 08065954493; 08033098523**.

c. St. Augustine's College of Education offers Admission in-Service Masters in Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum Development and Educational Evaluation and Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PDGE) in the following:

- Curriculum Development in Arts and Languages
- Curriculum Development in Information Technology
- Curriculum Development in Mathematics
- Curriculum Development in Pre-primary and Primary Education
- Curriculum Development in the Sciences
- Educational and Evaluation Research
- Test Construction and Public Examining
- Development and monitoring of Curriculum
- Psychological Testing, Assessment Evaluation and Counselling
- Schools/institutions' Accreditation and Evaluation
- Programme Evaluation
- Teaching etc.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

a. **Diaconate Ordination:** To the glory of God, our Seminarists, **Brothers Akaeme Moses, Adesanya Martin, Izebuno Stephen, Izuagie Nicholas, Meke Martin, and Odozi Joseph**, will be raised to the Order of the Diaconate on **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at the Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos. The time is 10:30 a.m.** Kindly remember them in your prayers.

b. **Curia Meeting:** The first meeting of the Year of the Archdiocesan Curia comes up on **22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2020** at the Chancery by **10.00 a.m.** All those concerned should please take note.

c. **2020 Celebration of Ecumenical Week (19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2020):**

**Theme:** "Christian Unity: A Response to Systematic Violence, Insecurity and Social Justice" (Is 2:4b)

<b>Day 1(Sun)</b>	Awareness in all Parishes
<b>Day 2(Mon)</b>	Christian Communities Face to Face with Old and New Division
<b>Day 3(Tue)</b>	Christian Communities Face to Face with Economic, Injustice, Poverty, War and Violence
<b>Day 4(Wed)</b>	Christian Communities Face to Face with Discrimination and Social Prejudice
<b>Day 5(Thur)</b>	Christians' Response to RUGA
<b>Day 6(Fri)</b>	Christians' Call to God's Intervention (Ps. 44:23)
<b>Day 7(Sat)</b>	Lagos Archdiocesan Ecumenism Day at St. Leo Catholic Church, Ikeja(Two Talk Presentations) i. Christian Unity: A Response to Systemic Violence, Insecurity and Social Injustice (Is 2:4b) by Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah ii. Inter-Religious Dialogue: A Panacea for Nation Building by CAN

We call on all Parishes to ensure that their programme of Prayers for the New Year does not clash with the Week of Christian Unity which is a Universal week celebrated all over the Catholic World. The Universal takes precedence over Particular Celebrations.

**d. Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting:** The meeting of the Archdiocesan Finance Council for the first quarter comes up on the **28th January, 2020**, by **10.00 am** at the Chancery. All those concerned should please take note.

**e. Lagos Ecclesiastical Tribunal:** The meeting of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal comes up on **Wednesday 15th January, 2020** at The Chancery by **10:00 a.m.** All those concerned should please take note and attend.

**f. Orientation and Induction for New Priests:** We have the tradition in the Archdiocese of giving an orientation programme on liturgical and pastoral practices 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 **9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2020**. The venue for the orientation is **Domus Fidei, Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Generalate, Ikeja, Lagos**.

We notice that many of those who were supposed to have participated in the 2019 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 next year. We emphasize it again that only new priests and priests newly posted to the Archdiocese 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.

**g. 2020 Archdiocesan Directory:** The 2020 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.

**h. Parish Guidelines (Revised Edition):** This is to inform all Priests and Lay faithful that the Revised Edition of the Parish Guidelines is out. Kindly pick up copies for your Parishes and Lay organizations from the Chancery.

**i. Valentine Day with the Archbishop:** the Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Association of Friends of Jesus (FOJ) and Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria (CYON) invites all to the annual Valentine Day with the Archbishop

**Theme:** God is the Foundation of True Love

**Topic:** Living a Life of Love in a World Full of Hate and Strife?

**Date:** Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

**Time:** 10: 00 a.m. prompt starting with the Holy Mass

**Venue:** St. Finbarr's College, Akoka, Yaba

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

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

Goodwill Advert Placement costs ~~N~~30,000. For more information, contact, 08026156606 or 08077003036.

**j. Day of Consecrated Life:** This annual celebration comes up on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020, at Christ the King Catholic Church, Ilasamaja, Lagos. by 10.00am. The Archbishop will preside over the Mass. Other events follow after the Mass.

**k. Priests' Annual Leave-Roster:** Priests are to submit months of preference for their annual leave for the year 2020 to the Priests' Welfare Committee not later than end of January, 2020.

**l. Admission into the Catholic Secondary Schools:** This is to inform everyone that the process of admission into JSS1 for the 2020/2021 Academic Session in all Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese is in progress. The Entrance Examination comes up on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 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) or on any of the following schools' website. Sale of forms will close one week to the date of examination.

The 10 Catholic Archdiocesan Secondary Schools are:

1. St Gregory College, South-West, Ikoyi <http://www.stgregoryscollege.ng>
2. Holy Child Girls College, Ikoyi <http://www.holychildcollegeswikoyi.org>
3. St Finbarr College, Akoka <http://www.stfinbarrscollegeakoka.com>
4. Bethlehem Girls College, Abule-Ado <http://www.bethlehemgirlscollegeng.org>
5. Mater Ecclesiae College, Epe <http://www.materecclesiaecollege.com>
6. Sacred Heart College, Apapa <http://www.sacredheartcollegeapapa.com.ng>
7. Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School, Maryland <http://www.mcssmaryland.org>
8. Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba <http://www.olassyaba.sch.ng>
9. Marywood Girls College, Ebute-Metta <http://www.marywoodgc-lagos.org>
10. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic College, Okomaiko

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

**m. St John Paul II School for Marriage and Family:** This Archdiocesan School is offering Learning opportunities and Skills development for Marriage Facilitators, Married Persons, Singles/Widowed, Parents, Lay/ Youth Leaders

List of courses/trainings

1. Marriage Theology and Lived Experience.
2. Teaching Sexuality Education in the Family
3. Theology of the Body Made Simple for Youth Teenagers and Adults
4. Natural Family Planning (NFP) Instructors Course

Managing Couple Fertility Naturally (Love & Life Method)

5. Basic Christian Counselling Skills

6. Formation of Children (one day courses)

i) Parenting Skills for parents of children Ages 1-10

ii) Training a Child to love

iii) Steps to Building Character and Developing Core Values

7. Holidays at FHLU for Students (July/August)

This programme encompasses a range of interesting activities and information for positive youth enhancement and leadership.

- How to improve Relationships with Parents and other Adults.

- Teenagers, Love & Relationships

Courses begin in February 2020

For enquiries and registration, call Martina Ozegbe on 0813 028 5777 and 07030616170.

#### **n. Department of Social Communication:**

i. **Lagos Archdiocesan Communications Commission:** In view of rebranding the Communications apostolate in the Archdiocese, the Lagos Archdiocesan Communications Commission has been constituted. The Commission will be officially inaugurated by the Archbishop on **Wednesday 1st January 2020 at the of the Mass for the World Day of Peace which will hold at the Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos by 10am.**

ii. **Conference of Catholic Media Practitioners with the Archbishop:** In view of expanding the scope of the communications apostolates of the Archdiocese, the Archbishop shall be meeting with all Catholic Media Practitioners from all the parishes in the Archdiocese. Among other reasons, this conference aims at bringing Catholics in the media industry on board to play their roles in the Church.

**Theme: "Mobilizing Catholic Media Practitioners for the Mission of the Church in the digital era".**

**Date: Saturday 29th February, 2020.**

**Venue: McGovern Hall, St. Agnes' Catholic Church, Maryland, Lagos.**

**Time: 9.00 am.**

Follow on Facebook page: [fb.me/directorateofsocialcomm](https://fb.me/directorateofsocialcomm)



Twitter page: @dirofsocialcomm

Please click the link to register: <https://forms.gle/hd8o3DJDRmgKerpMA>

For Enquiries: Please call. The Acting Director of Social Communications on **08060572439** or President, SIGNIS Lagos on **08023051444**.

iii. **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 welcomes write-ups and contributions on matters of faith and morals as well as social issues from priests, religious (Male and female) as well as lay faithful. You can send your write-ups/ contributions to: **thecatholicherald2007@gmail.com** or **tonygjee23@gmail.com** for consideration.

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

o. **Lagos Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission:** We invite all the parish representatives (and heads of societies) to an **Evangelization Training Programme** from Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January to Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. The Training will be handled by **St. Paul Street Evangelization**, an evangelization Team from Detroit, U.S.A.

The Time-Table for the Programme is as follows:

**Saturday:** 9:00am - 4:00pm

**Sunday:** 10:00am - 4:00pm

**Monday to Wednesday** (2 Sessions each of the same training): (9:00am to 1:00pm and 5:00pm to 9:00pm).

Meanwhile, we appeal to Parish Priests who are yet to submit the list of their 12 Parish Representatives to the Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission to please do so. The Commission is organizing another **Introductory Seminar** for those parishes that missed the last two. This will hold on **Saturday, January 11, 2020**. This is to enable them catch up with others before the upcoming Training Programme. **Venue: Catholic Church of the Divine**

**Mercy, Lekki. Time: 9:00am.** We equally encourage the leaders of Societies in Parishes to also attend.

**p. Admission into Alberione Institute of Communication Education, Iju, Lagos:** AICE-Iju, Lagos is a media training Institute in Nigeria with core objective of training value-based, socially conscious and responsible media professionals in the Church and society at a large.

Admission for 2019/2020 Batch 'C' session is on for those who desire to specialize in the following: 1 Year Professional Diploma in Print, Broadcast and Online Journalism (Full/Part Time): 3-4 Months Certificate Course in Creative Writing, Video Editing, Cinematography, Film-making, Creative Arts & Designs, Web Design, Graphics, Photography, Theatre Art, Make-up Artistry.

Our maiden **Film-making 7-day workshop** for acting, directing, screen writing, producing, cinematography, and for new entrance into film-making comes up February 10-17, 2020.

The Institute is affiliated to the Nigeria Union of Journalists and an offshoot of S.P.I.C.E-St. Paul Institute of Communication Education, Mumbai, Bangalore, Brazil, and Mexico

For more information, visit [www.aicestudy.com](http://www.aicestudy.com), [info@aicestudy.com](mailto:info@aicestudy.com) or Tel: 08066938408, 08101806352

**q. Admission into the Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music 2019/2020 Session:** The Academy is calling for registration from prospective candidates who wish to acquire knowledge of 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 or text: 09030905196, 08083036356, 08056526856 or send email to: [directorceasam@gmail.com](mailto:directorceasam@gmail.com).

**r. CYON APOSTOLATE:**

- Introducing **CatholicYouths.com**: CatholicYouths.com is an online community of Catholic Youths with a focus on helping young Catholics/Christians grow spiritually and in the understanding of the Catholic Faith. Young Catholics and Christians now have the opportunity to ask questions on areas of the Catholic Faith on which they need clarification or information. The website also has articles that are tailored to

address the challenges affecting the spiritual and moral life of young people. Visit [www.catholicyouths.com](http://www.catholicyouths.com) to ask, learn and grow in the Catholic faith.

- **Year 2020: FOCUS MAJORLY ON PARISH CYON ACTIVITIES**

For the Archdiocesan programme of activities, 2020, major focus of our programmes of activities this year shall be at the Parishes with the mission to "Revitalizing Our Parishes for Effective Evangelism and Reach Out". It is our aim at engaging and re-activate the gifts of and energy of all Youths at the grassroots for the mission of evangelism, spirituality, social communication and empowerment.

- **Archdiocesan Youth Policy: Use of the Operational Guidelines**

Following the just concluded successful Extraordinary Meeting and Seminar on the Implementation of the Operational Guidelines of Youth Policy for Parish Presidents and Secretaries and the leadership of other Youth groups; it is expected that from January 2020 all Parishes should embark on setting up the **Parish Youth Policy Committee (PYPC)** to begin the Implementation of the Youth Policy using the Operational Guidelines. The details on how to set up the **PYPC** and the constituent members are found on page-16 of the Document on Implementation of the Operational Guidelines.

**s. St. Raphael Divine Mercy Specialist Hospital, Ijede:** This Archdiocesan Catholic Hospital calls the attention of the Priests, Religious and Faithful of the Archdiocese as well as the general public to their World Class Standard health care services at the Archdiocesan 300-bed purposely built hospital. The hospital boasts of exquisite private and semi-private wards in a serene and safe environment ideal for complete recuperation. The hospital offers the following services:

**Diagnostic Services:** which include, but not limited to; Complete Hormonal Profile, Full Laboratory Service, Scan, E.C.G, X-Ray. **Well Equipped Theaters:** for different specialized surgeries for **Eye, General, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Urology**. St. Raphael also has dedicated Labour Ward, Children's Ward with Incubators.

**Other Services available include:** Circumcision, Childhood and Adult Immunization, Ambulance Services, Mortuary Services.

**Available Clinics with Consultants Include:** Obstetrics/Gynecology, Ophthalmology/EYE, Pediatrics, Dental, Cardiology, Urology and Nephrology.

**N:B:** All these are in addition to our round the clock Out-Patient, Pharmacy, and Nursing Departments manned by warm and friendly professionals. Also, St. Raphael is a recognized primary and secondary service provider by NHIS and other reputable **HMO's**. Call Us Now: **08093878456, 08122360765, 07050949223, 09054465257, 09097370915, 08162916669.**

**St. Raphael Divine Mercy Specialist Hospital... Caring with Compassion!!!**

**t. 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 2020/2021 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. Closing date for all applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. 2020.

**u. 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 Collection- 05/01/2020** **AUI Collection- 12/01/2020, 19/02/2020, 08/03/2020, Caritas Lagos Collection- 08/03/2020, JDPC Collection- 22/03/2020, Laity Collection- 29/03/2020.**

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

**v. Mater Ecclesiae Monastery:**

**Monthly Retreat:** Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, Lagos organises a day of spiritual retreat for young girls from 15 years of age 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.

#### **9. 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, Babatunde Francis, 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!*

**Signed**

**+ Alfred Adewale Martins**

**Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos.**