



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **FEBRUARY, 2020** /No. 089

**TO ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WORKING IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS, AND
THE LAY FAITHFUL**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

1. I heartily welcome you to the **month of February, 2020**, a month rich in liturgical activities and spiritual memorials. Beginning with the Feast of the Presentation (Feb.2), the Church calls us to re-dedicate ourselves to God, present our dreams, hopes and fears to Him and offer our lives in the service of the Gospel. She further presents us with the lives of the following saints to guide us in our spiritual journey in the course of this month: **St. Blaise** (February 3), **St. Agatha** (February 5), **St. Paul Miki & Companions** (February 6), **St. Jerome Emiliani**, **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).

The month of February is also the month in which we begin the Holy Season of Lent, a season in which we are called to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. With the **Ash Wednesday** (February 26), the liturgical colour changes to violet; and this Holy Season offers us the unique opportunity of repentance and interior conversion.

2. A Few Thoughts on Lenten Observances: As we begin the season of lent, we hereby remind everyone of the following regarding the season:

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** (February 26) and **Good Friday** (April 10) and **all the Fridays** of Lent.

b. **Fasting:** All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 60 years are obliged to fast. In practice, fasting involves limiting oneself to a single full meal or two smaller meals a day. Those who are sick, pregnant or nursing or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting should not consider themselves bound by this norm.

c. **Parents and teachers** are responsible for helping young persons, who are not bound by the norms regarding fasting and abstinence to recognize the value of genuine acts of penance and self-denial.

We are also required to pray fervently for the catechumens who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation during this period.

d. Please find below some of the other ways we can observe this period of Lent in order to receive the graces of the season in full:

i. **Avoid Sin:** Keep yourself away from all occasions that could lead to sin. If you fall into sin, repent and return to God by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, doing appropriate penance and making a firm resolution not to fall into sin again.

ii. **Practice Charity;** 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 or with whom you have a quarrel of misunderstanding.

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. 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH THE ARCHBISHOP: Join the Archbishop, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins for daily Lenten Reflections on Metro 97.7 FM at 6.00am and 9.05pm daily. Kindly inform your parishioners and encourage them to tune in to this frequency and listen to the reflection. May the Word of God nourish our souls. Amen.

4. CONCERNING PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WHO OPERATE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE WITHOUT AUTHORISATION: Once again, we call the attention of everyone to the 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. The Joylink Foundation being run by 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. Those involved give the impression that they have the authorization of the Archbishop to be present and to work in the Archdiocese.

Groups such as the two mentioned come into the Archdiocese: set up so-called Foundations and Orphanages, go to Catholic Traders from shop to shop and call 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 and any Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese to be watchful and call attention to anyone: clergy, Religious or lay persons, who tries to mislead the faithful in this manner.

5. 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 expect Lekki and Badagry Regions to conduct their study sessions their study sessions within the 1st quarter of this year, if they have not done so yet. Once again, we commend **Lagos and Ikeja Regions** that have conducted the session in their Regions.

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

6. 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** or **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.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Ongoing Formation for Young Priests: The Archdiocese is organizing an Ongoing Formation Programme for newly ordained Priests. **The first set of Priests ordained between 2013 and 2018 began the programme last year. They are required to participate in this second module of the programme.**

Date: 24th-25th February 2020

Venue: Domus Fidei, Ikeja.

Each Priest is expected to pay the sum of **₦19,000.00**. For further details, contact Rev. Fr. Augustine Ikuomola - 08028335623.

b. Consultors Meeting: The meeting of the College of Consultors for the first quarter shall be held on the **12th of February 2020** at the Chancery by **10.00am**.

c. Retreat for the Curia and Consultors: the retreat for this year will come up on **Wed. 12th and Thurs. 13th February** at the Lagos Resource Centre, Victoria Island. The theme for this year is: **Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home-What we need to do**. Arrival is at 6pm on Wednesday and departure is 2pm on Thursday. All concerned should kindly take note.

d. Priests Recollection: The Priests' Recollection for the first quarter of this year comes up on **19th February 2020** 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.

e. Seminar for Priests Facilitators of Marriage Cases: This is scheduled to hold from **11th to 13th March 2020** at **Domus Fidei, Ikeja**. Each Deanery is required to send 3 Priests whose names should get to the Chancery on or before **15th February 2020** for onward transmission to the Archdiocesan Tribunal office. Please note that the Seminar is for those who participated in the previous seminar as well as those who will be nominated newly for the role of Facilitators. This session is to be a deepening on the programme of the previous seminar. Each participant is expected to pay **₦ 25,000.00** and the cost is to be borne by their respective Deaneries. Kindly make your payments to **Lagos Interdiocesan Tribunal, Fidelity Bank, A/C No. 6220040166**

f. Small Christian Communities' Leadership Workshop: there shall be a Leadership Workshop for Leaders and Facilitators of the Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese on **14th March 2020** 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. We expect all concerned to attend and participate actively.

g. 2020 Archdiocesan Directory: The 2020 Archdiocesan Directory has been in circulation for a few months now. Priests and Female Religious who have not picked up their copies should kindly pick them up from the Chancery for their Parishes and Communities.

h. Valentine Day with the Archbishop: The Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Association of Friends of Jesus (FOJ) and Catholic Youths 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, 8th February 2020

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

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

Fee: ₦ 1,000 per participant

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

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

i. 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.

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

k. Priests' Day with Catholic Friendly Society: This year's celebration will be on **20th February, 2020** at **Larfarge Sports Club, Sagamu**. All Priests are encouraged to be part of this *weight-shedding camaraderie*. Buses have been made available to pick us at **St Agnes Maryland** by **9am**. For further information and logistics please contact: Dr Olumide on **08022238932**.

l. World Day of the Sick: This year's World Day of the Sick themed "**Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest**" (Matt 11:28) runs from **11th to 16th of February, 2020**. The scheduled Program is as follows:

Date	Activity	Venue	Time
11/02/20	Opening Mass	Holy Cross Cathedral	10am
12/02/20	Hospital Visitation	various Parishes	
13/02/20	Free Health Outreach	Parishes/Hospitals/Clinics	
14/02/20	Valentine Day in the Hospital	Catholic Nurses Guild	
16/02/20	Thanksgiving	Holy Cross Cathedral	10am

m. JDPC LENTEN CAMPAIGN FOR 2020: The Annual Lenten Campaign for the JDPC will take place on the first Sunday of Lent (**1st March, 2020**). All Parish Priests and Priests-In-charge are encouraged to lend their support to the JDPC personnel(s) who will come around the parishes to solicit for support to further the cause of Justice, Development and Peace in the Archdiocese.

n. Admission into the Catholic Secondary Schools: This is to inform everyone that admission into JSS 1 for the 2020/2021 Academic Session in all Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese is in progress. The Entrance Examination comes up on **29th February 2020** at the selected schools.

Forms can be obtained from the school of choice, any of the Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese, selected parishes and electronically on www.cmsslago.ng or on any of the following schools' website:

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

Sale of forms close one week to the exams. Let us give our children a sound upbringing in the Catholic Faith.

o. 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. (i) Natural Family Planning (NFP) Instructors Course
(ii) 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.

p. Department of Social Communication:

i. Conference of Catholic Media Practitioners with the Archbishop: In view of expanding the scope of the communications apostolate of the Archdiocese, the Archbishop shall be meeting with all Catholic Media Practitioners from all the parishes in the Archdiocese at a Conference. Among other reasons, the conference aims at bringing Catholics in the media industry on board in order to encourage them to play their roles as media professionals 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

Twitter page: @dirofsocialcomm

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

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

ii. Archdiocesan Catholic Herald Newspaper: As part of efforts to widen the scope of the Archdiocesan Catholic Herald Newspaper, the Directorate of Social Communications hereby requests for 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 tonygeee23@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.

q. 2020 International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking: JDPC Lagos is organizing a celebration of the 2020 International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. This is celebrated on 8th of February every year, on the Feast Day of Saint Josephine Bakhita, the former slave who arriving as a migrant in Europe, persevered in the faith and welcomed the call she felt to become a Religious Sister.

The **Theme** of this year's celebration is **"Together Against Human Trafficking"**. And the scheduled activities are as follows: **Press Conference:** Friday 7th February 2020 by 10am

Venue: St. Leo's Catholic Church, Ikeja - Conference Hall.

Prayers Against Human Trafficking is to be said in all **Parishes** during the Holy Mass on **Saturday 8th February 2020**. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are also to create awareness on the reality and ills of Human Trafficking on **Sunday 9th February, 2020** with special reference to the Holy Father's Address to Participants at the International Conference on Human Trafficking.

r. 2020 IDDS (Inter-Denominational Divine Service): The 2020 Inter-Denominational Divine Service of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Lagos State Chapter will take place on **Saturday, 15th February 2020** at the **Shepherd Hill Baptist Church, Obanikoro Bus stop, Ikorodu Road** by **9am**. As a Catholic Community in Lagos State and an active bloc of CAN, we humbly request each Deanery Laity Council in the Archdiocese, Lay Organizations, Societies and Associations of the Archdiocese to mobilize and take active part in this program as always. It is expected that a delegation of about 250 participants from each Deanery will be in attendance. Archdiocesan Lay Associations, including the Laity Council, in their various uniforms are also expected to facilitate the participation of at least 100 members from across the Archdiocese. We appeal to our Beloved Deans, Parish Priests and Lay Leaders to do the needful in this regard. May God bless our preparation and participation in Jesus name. Amen.

s. 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 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, info@aicestudy.com or Tel: 08066938408, 08101806352

t. 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.

u. CYON APOSTOLATE:

- Introducing **CatholicYouths.com**: CatholicYouths.com is an online community of Catholic Youths with a focus on helping young Catholics/Christians grow spiritually in the understanding of the Catholic Faith. Young Catholics and Christians now have the opportunity to ask questions on areas of the Catholic Faith. The website also has articles that are tailored to the challenges affecting the spiritual and moral life of young people. Visit www.catholicyouths.com to ask, learn and grow in the Catholic faith.
- **Year 2020: MAJOR FOCUS ON PARISH CYON ACTIVITIES**
For the Archdiocesan programme of activities, 2020, major focus of our programmes of activities for this this year shall be on the Parishes with the mission of "Revitalizing Our Parishes for Effective Evangelism and Reach Out". It is our aim to engage with and re-activate the gifts and energy of all Youths at the grassroots for the mission of evangelisation, 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.

v. St. Raphael Divine Mercy Specialist Hospital, Ijede: This Archdiocesan Catholic Hospital calls the attention of the Priests, Religious and lay Faithful of the Archdiocese as well as the general public to their World Class 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!!!

w. 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: **AUI Collection- 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.

x. Mater Ecclesiae Monastery:

Monthly Retreat: Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, Lagos organises 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. Daniel Nwankwo, Simeon Adejo, Emmanuel Edet, Joseph Okpala 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!*

Signed

+ Alfred Adewale Martins

Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos