



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

1.The Liturgical Season of Lent begins in the month of **March**. It is a period of 40 days during which we journey with the Lord in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We begin this journey on Ash Wednesday by receiving ashes on our foreheads and donning the purple colour indicating penance during liturgical celebrations. This gesture reminds us of our mortality ("**Rememberman thou art dust**") and the shortness of life ("**and to dust thou shall return**"). As the Psalmist implores, "**Make us know the shortness of our lives that we may gain wisdom of heart**" (Ps. 90:12), we are called upon in the season of lent to pay attention to the need for redirecting our lives when necessary as we journey gradually to the end of our lives. It is also an opportunity for us to turn our lives around for good especially in areas we have had shortfalls. Just like Christ's earthly life, every moment of our lives should be lived as if it is our last day on earth, a life leading up to the last moment - when for eternity we will either go to God or suffer the fires of hell. Hence, as the weeks of Lent progress, let us not be tired of intense prayers, penance and doing good works, but continue to march on with enthusiasm *en route* Easter.

In this Month of March, we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation which comes up during Lent. This notable feast is indeed worthy of mention as it is the celebration of Mary's *fiat* to the angel's message and her resultant overshadowing by the Holy Spirit. This feast is intimately linked to the Paschal Mystery. For what was begun at the Annunciation and found fulfilment in the incarnation of when He accepted to offer himself for the salvation of the human race was completed by his sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection.

As we continue our journey, "to Jerusalem" during the month of March, three prominent events are proposed for our contemplation by the liturgy of Lent: The Passion and death of Christ, His

Resurrection from the dead, and our call to repentance and penance. In the Spirit of Lent and the Year of the Family, let us toe the paths of peace, reconciliation and holiness. May our Lenten observances be a spiritually enriching and full of grace.

2. LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN YEAR OF THE FAMILY: We wish to thank all the Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful in the Archdiocese for the large turnout and active participation at the Inaugural Mass for the opening the Lagos Archdiocesan Year of the Family. Parish priests are to ensure that they meticulously follow the programmes of the year as laid out in the **Year Planner** provided. Those who were not present at the Inaugural Mass should ensure they get a copy of the Year Planner from the Chancery in order to follow the Calendar of Year of the Family.

Deans, Parish Priests and Parish Councils should also ensure that they draw up programmes as it suits them in alignment with the Year Planner to complement the ones drawn up for celebration at the Archdiocesan level. In the same vein, leaders of all Associations of the Lay Faithful should endeavor to focus their activities in this year on issues of marriage and family life while ensuring that they carry their members along in the programmes.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. SEMINAR/WORKSHOP FOR ALL RCIA FACILITATORS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE: comes up on March 1, 2014 at the **Church and Society Hall, 19,Maye Street Yaba, Lagos** by 10.00am

b. FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT (FHLU):This is to bring to the notice of everyone that the training programmes for the Family and Human Life Unit (FHLU) for 2014 has commenced.

i. Marriage Theology and Lived experience Training

Part-Time Courses

- **Weekday - one Tuesday a month** (for 10 months) started on the 4th of February, 2014.
- **Weekend - one Saturday a month** (for 10 months) started on the 1st of February, 2014.
- **Full - Time course on Marriage Theology and Lived experience** starting from 15th - 19th September, 2014.

Time: 10am - 4pm.

Fee: ~~N~~3, 500.00 per month

Graduation and Certificate ~~N~~5,000.00

ii. Family and Human Life Unit (FHLU) presents training in Basic Christian Counseling Skills: (one Friday a month for 3 months) stating on Friday, 16th May, 2014.

Time: 10am - 4pm

Fee: ₦ 3,500 per month (including tea break and lunch)

Certificate: ₦ 1,500

iii. **The Training on Billings Ovulation Method** - one Saturday a month (for 5 months) starting on the 3rd of May, 2014

Time: 10am - 4pm

Certificate: ₦2,500

iv. **Introduction to Canon Law for Marriage Facilitators, Church leaders, Parish Pastoral Council etc** begin in **March/April, 2014**. **Venue:** 19, Maye Street, off Commercial Avenue, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos. Interested persons should call 08033804494 or 08028489999 for more information.

As this is the Year of the Family in our Archdiocese, we expect as many people as possible to take part in these programmes.

c. ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: This comes up on Saturday 5th of April, 2014 at the usual venue and time. Deans, Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should ensure their Deaneries and parishes are duly represented.

d. BASIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: The Leadership Workshop for leaders and facilitators of Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese comes up on the 8th of March, 2014 at Holy Cross Cathedral Hall by 10.00am.

The workshop is a continuation of a series aimed at improving the leadership skills of leaders in Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese. Ensure your Parish is duly represented. These communities provide opportunities for families in the same neighbourhood to come together and support one another in ways necessary. They can be instruments for strengthening family life also. Parish Priests should encourage the communities leaders to take part in this workshop.

e. 70TH BIRTHDAY OF RT. REV. MSGR. J. K. ANIAGWU: We rejoice with and congratulate our Vicar General and the Episcopal Vicar of Ikeja Region, Rt. Rev. Msgr. J.K. Aniagwu as he celebrates his 70th Birthday on the 15th of March, 2014. The Thanksgiving Mass will come up on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at St. Leo Catholic Church, Ikeja at 11.00am. We are all encouraged to grace the occasion with our physical presence and remember to keep him in our prayers.

f. ARCHDIOCESAN LENTEN PILGRIMAGE: The annual Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage initially scheduled for Saturday 15th March, 2014 has been moved to **Saturday 22nd March, 2014** at **Ave Maria Grotto, Ikate-Elegushi, Lekki**. It will be organized by **Lekki Region**. The time is 9.00am. Kindly mobilize and encourage your parishioners to attend this spiritual exercise.

g. SIGNIS JOURNALISM SEMINAR FOR YOUTH: The Center for Media Development (CMD) in conjunction with the Youth Directorate kindly request Parish Priests to send 3 members of their parishes' CYON to the one-day training in Journalism. Each participant is to pay only ₦1,000. **Theme:** *Practical Tips for Packaging News for Publication*. **Date:** Saturday 5 April, 2014. **Venue:** Catholic Church of the Ascension, International Airport, Ikeja. **Time:** 9.00am prompt. Please encourage your Youth and help them to participate; for their good, the good of your parish; the good of the Church!

h. The PACELLI SCHOOL OF THE BLIND: is a non-tuition paying and not-for-profit institution for the blind and partially sighted children, located in the Archdiocese of Lagos. It has been sustained for the past 52 years of its existence through the generosity of donors and Churches in Lagos. The incumbent Principal, Sr. Jane Onyeneri, H.H.C.J and her Team will be going round parishes in Lagos to solicit for support. Kindly accord them the necessary audience and support.

i. SAVE A LIFE TODAY: The Archdiocese of Lagos in collaboration with the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP) on the Cancer Pandemic in Nigeria, calls on all Priests, Religious and Lay faithful of the Archdiocese to support this life-saving campaign aimed at providing 37 Mobile Cancer Centres (MCCs) in Nigeria. The mobile centers are to assist in the early detection of cancer at the grassroots particularly in the rural areas and save the life of those at the risk of having cancer. The current statistics show that Nigeria has the 13th lowest life expectancy and 240 Nigerians die of Cancer every day. To join in the campaign against Cancer our Archdiocese has adopted "Grace" as our tagline/slogan. Simply send 'Grace' to 44777 at ₦100/sms or give via atm or online at www.quickteller.com using code:777516. You might just be saving somebody somewhere.

j. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Obanla Anthony, Frs. Adegun Francis, Chikezie Wisdom, Ekpo Benjamin, Idaewor Kingsley, Martinos Theodore, Okpala Melchizedek, John Nwanze and Hubert Obaedo whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversary occurs this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. Ad multos annos.

k. YOUNG CATHOLIC STUDENTS (YCS)' ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN STUDENT CONVENTION: The Young Catholic Students (YCS) in the Archdiocese will be having their annual Convention scheduled as follows:

- **Date:** 21st - 27th April, 2014
- **Venue:** St. Gregory College, Ikoyi West Lagos.
- **Theme:** Catholic Students: Agent for Effective Evangelization.
- **Time of Arrival and accreditation:** Easter Monday at 4:00pm.

➤ Participation Fee: Two Thousand Naira (2,000) only. All Parish Priests and Administrators of schools are to help sponsor at least Twenty (20) students each to this formative event.

I. CARITAS LAGOS COLLECTION: Following the injunction of Christian solidarity which requires our fraternal and charitable intervention as an Archdiocese to other dioceses and institutions that are less endowed than we are, an organ has been set up with the name CARITAS LAGOS. This organ is to see to the coordination of this ministry of charity of our Archdiocese.

In view of gathering the funds that are needed for the ministry, all parishes in the Archdiocese are requested to take a **special collection for CARITAS LAGOS on Sunday, 30th March, 2014. The proceeds should be forwarded to the Chancery on or before 15th April, 2014.** This is to enable CARITAS LAGOS respond to pending appeals with minimum delay. Parish priests and Priests-in-Charge should kindly motivate their parishioners to contribute generously, so that the funds available for disbursement to beneficiaries may be adequate.

m. TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES TO DEANS AND PARISH PRIESTS: The following guidelines should serve as Pastoral/Canonical guidelines to assist Parish Priests on marriage and Family matters:

- i. Every Parish Priest is the First Advocate of every marriage case, The Parish Priest is required to attend conscientiously, pastoral and canonically to every case, and send such matters to the tribunal **only** when they are beyond his competence.
- ii. The Parish Priest that recommends a case to the Tribunal should never disconnect himself from that case till the end of it. This will help to avoid long delay in the processing of a case.
- iii. Deaneries are also requested to choose convenient dates on which Judicial Vicar may be invited to any of their meetings for detailed explanations on the purpose of this guideline.

n. SAINT PHILOMENA'S SOCIETY: Saint Philomena Society is one of the Pious Societies recognized and approved since September 21, 2006 in our Archdiocese. **This society among its objectives engages in anti-Abortion Crusades as well as in spreading devotion to the Rosary-of-the-Unborn.** The Archdiocesan Officers are presenting on evangelization visits to parishes in the Archdiocese with a view to establish the Society in parishes. Kindly welcome them in your respective parishes and give them the opportunity (**airtime**) to introduce the Society at the end of the Mass.

o. MARIE BALAVENNE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM: is an institution established by the Daughters of the Holy Spirit Sisters. Admission into Jss 1, 2, 3 & SS. 1 for 2014/2015 Session into Marie Balavenne's Catholic College, Ilogbo-Ota, Ogun State is in progress. The exam comes up in 3 batches;

- **Ist Batch 8th March, 2014**
- **2nd Batch 24th May 2014**

➤ **3rd Batch 19th July 2014**

Time is 10:00am.

- b. **BEREAVEMENT:** We announce with a heavy heart the glorious exit of **Mrs. Monica Ihuoma Njoku**, mother of **Rev. Fr. Jude-Mary Njoku, OP**; who passed on in the month of December at the age of 97. We also announce the transition into glory of **Mrs. Roseline Nene Akpala Oseni**, the younger sister of **Rev. Msgr. Edmund Akpala**. We are reminded of our obligation of celebrating Masses for the repose of their souls. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen.

(Signed)

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos.

