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

**19, CATHOLIC MISSION STREET, P. O. BOX 8, LAGOS-NIGERIA**

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**Monthly Bulletin /Circular** **MARCH, 2015/No. 030**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,**

1. **THE MONTH OF MARCH:** Welcome to the month of March, the last month of the 1st quarter of the Year. The Season of Lent is still fresh and we continue our struggle against sin and evil through the observance of the three traditional pillars of Lent namely; Fasting, Prayer and Almsgiving.

In this Month of March, we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of Mary (19th March); we honour Joseph for the role he played as the foster father of the Lord Jesus and as the spouse of Mary. Also, we shall be celebrating the Solemnity of the Annunciation (25th March). 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 fulfillment in the Incarnation when He accepted to offer himself for the salvation of the human race was completed by his sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection. May the Lord march with us this month.

1. **GENERAL ELECTIONS**

The general elections in our country Nigeria is coming up this month. In the spirit of Lent, I call on everyone once again to do this conscientiously and responsibly. This particular election is very important and significant for the future of our nation. We all must go out and vote for the right candidate. Make efforts to collect your Permanent Voters Cards and vote for candidates with integrity, fear of God and the requisite competence to lead us aright. I also encourage you all to pray for our dear nation; pray for peace, unity, and progress in Nigeria. May God give us credible leaders, and direct everyone concerned to make this election free and fair. In the spirit of Lent, let us toe the paths of peace, reconciliation and holiness. May our Lenten observances be spiritually enriching and full of grace.

1. **PRAYER FOR NIGERIA IN DISTRESS:** At this precarious time in the history of our nation, we need God’s help and intervention. In the light of this, I call on Parishes to offer the **PRAYER FOR NIGERIA IN DISTRESS** with deep faith and conviction especially on Sundays, asking God to bless and uphold our Nation, Nigeria. We also encourage the praying of the rosary for the intercession of Our Lady Queen of Peace and Queen of Nigeria.
2. **40 DAYS OF LENT WITH THE ARCHBISHOP:** Join the Archbishop, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins for daily Lenten Reflection on **Radio One, 103.5 Fm**. The time is 6:10 a.m. daily. Kindly inform your parishioners and encourage them to tune to this frequency and listen to the reflection.
3. **SUPPORT FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE NORTH-EAST:** We sincerely thank and appreciate the contributions of some Parishes in the Archdiocese for the internally displaced people in the North-East. We are glad to inform you that the relief items collected have been duly conveyed and they are indeed grateful. We eagerly await other contributions and support from the designated parishes especially those that are yet to reach us on this appeal. May God’s blessing abide with you all.
4. **ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (PROJECT TIME) AFFILIATED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN:** Admission is in progress for the 2014/2015 Session. With a minimum JAMB Score of 180 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 – 07051491674; 07051592559; 08034919553.

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
2. **Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage:** The annual Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage comes up on **Saturday, 21st March, 2014** at the **Ave Maria Grotto, Ikate-Elegushi, Lekki.** It will be organized by **Lekki Region.**

* **Theme: “Here I am Lord, I Come to do Your Will”**
* **Time: 10:00 a.m.**

All Priests and Lay Faithful are expected to attend and participate actively in this spiritual exercise. Parish Priests should take time to encourage their Parishioners to come in their numbers and should also endeavour to be present.

1. **Quarterly Recollection:** The first Quarterly Recollection for all Priests in Lagos Archdiocese comes up on **Wednesday, 11th March 2015.** This will be done at the designated parishes in the four Ecclesiastical Regions of the Archdiocese.The Episcopal Vicars will communicate the venue and time accordingly.
2. **Parish Statistics:** This comes as a reminder to all Parish Priests/Priests-in-Charge that the Parish Statistics should be sent to the Chancery as soon as possible. Kindly note that required statistics is for the **year 2014.**
3. **Chrism Mass 2015:**

* The 2015 Chrism Masses are coming up on Tuesday, 31st March, 2015 at Ss. Michael, Raphael & Gabriel Catholic Church, Satellite Town, Lagos, and on Thursday, 2nd April, 2015 at the Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos. The time is 9:00 a.m. **Note that the URL for the Chrism Mass streaming is** [**http://goo.gl/x7MxgS**](http://goo.gl/x7MxgS)**.**
* The 2015 Chrism Mass Planning Committee meets every Thursday at Holy Cross Cathedral Hall at 6:00p.m. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are reminded to nominate two parishioners to represent their parishes at the weekly meetings**.**
* All the Parishes that fall under the following deaneries: Isolo, Satellite, Badagry, Festac and Apapa are to send their representatives to the LOC weekly meetings at Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Satellite Town every Sunday at 5:00p.m. Please be informed that the deadline for the submission of adverts and goodwill messages for the 2015 Chrism Mass is 5th March, 2015. Whatever comes after the deadline will be graciously received as donations. See flyers for the advert rates.

1. **IDDS 2015:** The **Annual Interdenominational Divine Service (IDDS),** organised by Lagos State CAN, will come up this year on Saturday 14th March 2015, at The Apostolic Church, Alapere-Ketu, at 10:00am. It is for all Christians irrespective of denominational differences. Please, note the change of date - from February to March, because of the elections in February. All Parish Priests are hereby admonished to mobilize their parishioners in order to have a very strong **Catholic** presence there.
2. **Small Christian Communities’ Leadership Workshop:** There shall be a leadership workshop for the leaders and facilitators of Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese as follows:

**Date:** March 7, 2015

**Time:** 10.00 a.m.

**Venue:** College Hall, St. Gregory’s College, Obalende, Lagos.

The workshop is a continuation of a series aimed at improving the leadership skills of leaders in Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese. Attendance is highly recommended.

1. **Quarterly Returns**: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the fourth quarter of the year: **Catholic Teachers Day, Catechetical Collection, Mission Sunday, C. I. W. A, Health Collection and VUNA (5% of Harvest Collection).** We remind all the Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge who are yet to send in their parishes’ returns for the **1st, 2nd, 3rd** **and 4th** quarters including the Special Collections or are not up-to-date in this regard to please do so **unfailingly before the end of March.**

The Chancery also requires that every payable levy and special collection be made with different cheque leaves to avoid mix-ups. Also, when making their returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should ensure they attach the **Blue Sheets** with the front page that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it. Kindly note these in your subsequent submissions.

**NB:**

**1. HENCEFORTH, “QUARTERLY RETURNS” SHOULD BE ADDRESSED ONLY TO THE ARCHBISHOP.**

**2. QUARTERLY RETURNS OF A PARTICULAR QUARTER SHOULD BE MADE NOT LATER THAN TWO (2) WEEKS INTO THE NEXT QUARTER.**

1. **JDPC Collection:** This comes as a reminder to all Parish Priests/Priests-in-Charge that the Special Collections for the **JDPC** comes up on the 5th Sunday of Lent, 22nd March, 2015. All are expected to support the activities of the JDPC especially on the Election Drive.
2. **Special Easter Pilgrimage:** The Veritas Travels and Tours is organizing a special Easter Pilgrimage to **JORDAN, ISRAEL, CASIA AND ROME** between 24th March and 6th April, 2015 for €2,870 or its Naira Equivalent plus N30,000 Admin charges. The deadline for payment is 24th February, 2015 (*Instalmental payment is acceptable*). For more information kindly call any of the following telephone numbers: 08023081198, 08077287319, 08077287338 or visit the Catholic Secretariat Building at 6, Force Road, Onikan, Lagos.
3. **Young Catholic Students of Nigeria:** The 2015 Annual Student Convention of the Young Catholic Students for all students has been scheduled to hold in the Archdiocese as follows:

**Theme: “Educating Youth for Life”**

**Date: Tuesday, 7th – Sunday 12th April, 2015**

**Venue: St. Gregory’s College, Obalende.**

**Participation Fee: N2,500:00 (Two Thousand Five Hundred Naira, Only)**

1. **FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT (FHLU):**

* **Marriage Theology and Lived Experience (Part Time) Courses:**

Week day Part Time (one Tuesday a month for 10 months) begins 10th February, 2015. Time:10 a.m-4p.m

Weekend Part Time (One Saturday a month for 10 months) begins 7th February, 2015.

Time: 10am-4pm.

* **Training on Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Planning (one Saturday a month for 7 months) begins on the 7th February, 2015. Time: 10am-4pm.**

**Venue:** Church and Society Building, 19 Maye Street, off Commercial Avenue, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos.

**Fees:** N3,500 per month (including tea break and lunch)

**Graduation & Certificate Fees:** N5,000 (Marriage Theology and Lived Experience Course)

**Certificate Fees:** N2,500 (Billings Ovulation Method Course)

For more information/enquiries, please call 08033804494 or 08028489999.

1. **CATECHETICS/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:**

* **Archdiocesan Catechetical/Catechists Summit**

**Theme: “**Go Forth, and Make Disciples of all Nations.”

**Venue:** Holy Cross Cathedral Hall, Lagos.

**Date:** 18th-20th March, 2015

**Time:** 9:00a.m. each day

**Special Guest:** His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins

* **Final Rites of RCIA and Confirmation of Candidates:**

**Venue:** St. Dominic’s Catholic Church, Yaba

**Date:** Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, 2015

**Time:** 11:00a.m.

**Chief Celebrant:** His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins

**Note:** List of Confirmation candidates must be signed by the Parish Priest.

**Age:** 14 years and above (Please no under-aged candidate should be allowed)

Submission of names to the department must be done on or before April 29, 2015.

1. **PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for the following confreres, whose Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries occur this month: Rev. Msgr. Obanla Anthony, Frs. Adegun Francis, Chikezie Wisdom, Ekpo Benjamin, Idaewor Kingsley, Martinos Theodore, Okpala Melchizedek, John Nwanze and Hubert Obaedo. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

**(Signed)**

**+ Alfred Adewale Martins**

**Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos.**