



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

1. The Month of July: I welcome you all to the month of July. This month falls within the Liturgical season of Ordinary Time of the year. This season is chiefly marked by the hope it offers, hence, the colour *Green* used at this time in the Church signifies growth and life. Ordinary Time is a season which follows Christ's Ascension into heaven after his resurrection; a season where as Christians we await our own resurrection, a season of sowing in the hope of reaping, a season where we are expected to put into practice the Christian virtues which flow from Easter.

In this month we celebrate the following feasts: St. Thomas the Apostle (July 3); St. Maria Goretti (July 6); St. Mary Magdalene (July 22); Ss Joachim and Anne (July 26); St Ignatius of Loyola (July 31). As we rejoice in the communion of saints, may we imitate their virtues so that we can join their company when the time comes.

2. HOLY SEE MAKES A CHANGE IN THE WORDS OF THE COLLECT: Let us remember to properly implement the directive of the Holy See on the definitive change of the formula concluding the Collect in the approved English translation of the Roman Missal. The words "**ONE** God, for ever and ever" have been replaced with "**God, for ever and ever.**" This modification changes the conclusion of our prayers from being simply an affirmation of the Holy Trinity ('in the unity of the Holy Spirit') to being also an affirmation of the divinity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, ('God, for ever and ever'). The CBCN directed that the change should take effect from the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, **Sunday 30th May 2021**. So, the Collect should now conclude as follows: "*We ask this in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.*"

3. CALLING FOR CAUTION CONCERNING INSECURITY: The growing rate of insecurity in the nation has become an issue of great concern and so we urge everyone to take necessary measures to ensure adequate security around church premises, priests' residences, and

church gatherings. We must resume the practice of ensuring that parishioners do not bring big bags into our Church premises, searching all those who come into the premises and using the metal detectors at the gate. Everyone must be security conscious; call attention to strange persons and report strange movements and objects. We must be alert and security conscious, not taking anything for granted.

In the wake of the sad phenomenon of kidnapping that is very much present even in our state, we need to call attention again to the need for everyone to pay attention to the following security measures:

- a. Be alert and aware of your environment. Keep a low profile.
- b. Do not give vital/personal information to persons unfamiliar to you
- c. Avoid late outings and unnecessary night movements.
- d. Vary your route to work or leisure locations. **Do not make yourself predictable.**
- e. Do not discuss financial matters in the open and beware of those who boast of their wealth or plan for making money in the open.
- f. Always pre-plan your journey and ensure the vehicle is in good shape.
- g. Do not give a ride to strangers unduly.
- h. Stick to main roads and avoid lonely routes.
- i. Always remember, your security is your personal property. Keep yourself safe

In addition to the above, it is also important that we entreat the Lord on our nation's behalf, committing ourselves to the protective care of Our Lady Help of Christians. The words of the psalmist hold very true in this regard "if the Lord does not watch over the city, in vain do its watchmen keep vigil (Psalm 127:1).

4. CALL TO PRAYER FOR NIGERIA: In the light of the above, we hereby call for prayers in the midst of the difficulties facing our country at this time. (a.) We must continue the **Prayer for Nigeria in Distress** in parishes at Masses; those who have stopped should resume saying the prayers with attention and devotion. (b) Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge should organize adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction on Sundays, specifically in supplication for the **unity, safety and security** of the peoples of our country. (c) In addition, we also ask that individuals and families should also pray the rosary daily for the same intention.

We urge members of the Marian Societies, the Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Apostleship of Prayer, St. Jude and St. Rita to make participation at these prayer sessions a duty for them, interceding on behalf of the nation. We urge the entire faithful of the Archdiocese in each parish to participate in this prayer as well.

5. ADVERTISEMENT FOR VACANT POSITIONS AT THE AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY:

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following vacant positions:

- i. **ACADEMIC STAFF- DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH- Assistant Lecturer:** Applicant should possess a Master's degree in English Language and expected to have registered for a Ph.D Programme.
- ii. **UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE- Senior Medical Officer:** Applicants should possess a degree in Medicine and Surgery with evidence of registration with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and a minimum of Seven years post qualification experience.
- iii. **BURSARY DEPARTMENT- Accountant II:** Applicants should possess minimum of five (5) O'Level credit passes including English and Mathematics plus a University degree with minimum of second class, lower division in Accounting or any other relevant discipline. The possession of a Professional Certificate, e.g. ICAN, ACCA, ANAN, etc, will be an added advantage.

6. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY, ILARA (AUI) OFFERS NEW COURSES: Our Augustine University has got NUC approval to enrol students for the following new courses:

- **B.Sc Mass Communication**
- **B.Sc Political Science**
- **B.Sc Biochemistry**
- **B.Sc Cyber Security**
- **B.Sc Fisheries and Aquaculture**
- **B.Sc Information Technology**
- **B.Sc Software Engineering**

The University is also offering JUPEB, so students can now gain entry into 200 Level in the University after completing the JUPEB programme. Please bring this to the notice of your parishes and Associations of the lay faithful.

7. ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (PROJECT TIME), AKOKA 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 2021/2022 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. For a few months now, we have been publishing the courses available. Kindly refer to the immediate past circulars for courses leading to In-Service Masters Degrees in Curriculum Development and Educational Evaluation as well as Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PDGE).

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **Call to Glory:** with gratitude to God for a life well-spent in the service of God and His Church, we announce the death of **His Lordship, Bishop Albert Ayinde Fasina**, the Emeritus Bishop of Ijebu Ode who died on 29th June 2021. The funeral arrangements would be announced as soon as it is concluded. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

b. **SEMINAR ON CATECHESIS FOR PRIESTS:** You will recall that we announced this seminar in our Special circular of June 26, 2021. We now call attention to emphasise the importance of this seminar that will be facilitated by the **Most Rev. John Oyejola**, the **Bishop of Osogbo Diocese** and **Chairman, CBCN Committee on Catechesis**. The seminar is scheduled to hold from **13th to 16th July, 2021** as follows:

1. Lagos Island, Lekki, Ajah and Epe Deaneries
13th July, 2021: Church of the Transfiguration, VGC.; 10 am.
2. Agege, Ijede, Ikorodu, Ipaja, Ikeja, Maryland, Yaba, Surulere Deaneries.
14th July, 2021: St Agnes, Maryland. 10am.
3. Apapa, Festac, Isolo, Iba, Satellite Deaneries
15th July, 2021: Holy Family, Festac, 10 am.
4. Ijanikin, Ilemba and Badagry Deaneries
16th July, 2021: St Cecilia, Ijanikin. 10am.

All priests are expected to participate in this seminar. Catechesis are a necessity for adequate formation of our catechumens in these times and these seminars will sharpen the appetite of everyone concerned to give all that it takes. We expect that all priests to attend punctually and participate actively at each of the venues.

The Episcopal Vicars and Deans are expected to assist in making the seminars successful. The Deans of the locations for the seminar for each group of deaneries is to ensure that proper logistics are put in place and that a conducive atmosphere is created for successful seminars.

c. Curia Meeting: This comes up on **Wednesday, 7th July, 2021** at the Chancery by 10:00am. Those concerned should please take note.

d. LEP-CBCN: The meeting of the Lagos Ecclesiastical Province of the **CBCN** comes up on **Wednesday, 14th July, 2021** at **St Agnes Maryland**. All those concerned should kindly take note.

e. Singles' Day with the Archbishop: This annual Archdiocesan event organized by the Directorate of Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Archdiocesan bodies of the Apostolate of the Precious Blood of Jesus and St. Philomena Society comes up as follows:

Theme - Christianity: A Challenging but Rewarding Religion

Date: Saturday, 21st August, 2021

Venue: St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Ajao Estate

Time: 10:00am.

Fee: ₦ 1,500.00 per delegate.

This event shall begin with the opening Mass by His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, the Archbishop of Lagos; reception follows after. For

advertisement/support/sponsorship in the brochure please contact the Director's office: **08026156606, 08077003036** or Amaku: **07064414184** or Simon: **08056913133**.

f. Archdiocesan Laity Harvest: The Archdiocesan Laity Harvest celebration comes up on **Sunday, 4th July, 2021, at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland**. The time of Mass is **10.30 am**. **Theme: Harvest of Divine Sustenance**. Those concerned should please take note.

g. Msgr. Aniagwu celebrates Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination: Msgr. John Aniagwu will be celebrating his 50th priestly anniversary this year. activities have been lined up for the week-long celebration. We are cordially invited to the Grand Finale on **Saturday, 14th August, 2021 at St. Leo's, Ikeja, at 10am**.

h. Quarterly Returns and Special Collections: Please be reminded that returns from the following Special Collection are to be made in the third quarter of the year: **AUI Collection - 11/07/2021**.

All Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are reminded to follow the new system of Quarterly returns remittance as directed in the seminars held in the month of March. Also be reminded that all remittances to the Chancery should be made through **Bank Transfers** or pay cheques directly to the Chancery's bank accounts. **Note:** Do not bring cheques to the Chancery, bring **only Evidence of Payment**.

i. LAGOS CATHOLIC NETWORK, LCN (LAGOS ARCHDIOCESAN MOBILE APP): Our Archdiocese has launched its first official mobile application: Lagos Catholic Network (LCN). This amazing platform is meant to help the catholic faithful: laity, religious and priests to enhance and grow their faith in an atmosphere of interaction within the digital community. Live Broadcast of Masses; Daily Readings and reflections, various novenas and other catholic prayers would be available on the App. The App will give access to a lot of information from the Archdiocese, including the content of the online Catholic Herald Newspaper. Trending topics in the Catholic world would be available for discussion on this platform. This platform would create an exciting new **"Catholic Community on Social Media"** that will enhance our spiritual growth through new information in an interactive and fun-filled environment.

To download the LCN app, do the following:

1. Go to Google Play Store
2. Search for "LCN" or "LAGOS CATHOLIC NETWORK"

3. Download the App, register, connect with other Catholics and enjoy!!

j. St. Gregory School of Pastoral Music: This is the Catholic school of music school of the Archdiocese of Lagos that offers choirmasters, choristers, and interested music lovers a Diploma Certificate in Pastoral Music after successfully completing a program of 3 years' part-time studies. It is aimed at training Music Directors for parishes, communities, schools and similar institutions as it helps to develop their interest in music and the relevant theological/pastoral knowledge required for making them into *Pastoral Musicians*. The school is currently in discussion with Augustine University on affiliation for the award of the Diploma.

To join the preparatory class, please click the link below for registration:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15wZ44Sa>

WIkvZ6BnpSxELOitoBwk7pE1lZKA2oQ8icY/edit?usp=drivesdk

The preparatory class is a 3-months study time geared towards preparing interested persons for the Entrance Examination to join the Diploma program. Interested persons can also visit the school's page on Facebook with the link below:
<https://www.facebook.com/StGregoryDiplomaSchoolOfPastoralMusic>

For more information about the school, please contact the: Mr. Simon Eze **07069289868** (Registrar) or Rev. Fr. Peter Osuntope **08023700587** (The Director)

k. FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTORATE

i. Become a Trained Catechist, Marriage Counselor: The CYON is calling on interested and passionate youths who will like to contribute their quota to the expansion of God's Kingdom and the growth of their Parishes. We invite such youths to collaborate with their Priests in teaching Catechism and functioning as trained and certified marriage counsellors in Parishes. We therefore encourage sincere, interested and passionate youths to make themselves available for this service. Kindly get in touch with **Rev. Fr. Gabriel Odunaiya**, the CYON Chaplain.

ii. Archdiocesan Youth Day (AYD) Ikorodu 2021/35th Anniversary Celebration: The Archdiocesan Youth Day 2021 marks the 35th Anniversary celebration of the CYON in Lagos. The event begins with the celebration of the Holy Mass at 10am by our Chief Shepherd, Most

Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, followed by a grand reception. **Date: 8th August, 2021.**
Hosts: Ikorodu Deanery. Time: 10am -4pm. Registration ends on 30th June 2021. Click https://bit.ly/AYD_2020 to register after delegate payment of ₦800.00 has been made through the respective Deaneries

iii. **Lagos Ecclesiastical Province (LEP CYON) Youth Convention/Election 2021:** The Youth Convention/Election of the Lagos Province takes place tentatively in **July 2021**. With the theme of the year being, "Stand Up, I Appoint You as A Witness to What You Have Seen (Acts 26:16)" the venue is **Louisville Retreat Centre, Ijebu Itele**, in Ijebu Ode Diocese. Participants are Youth Leaders from the Arch/Dioceses, Deaneries and Parishes within the Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos.

l. 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 2021/2022 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.

m. 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.

9. Priestly Ordination Anniversary: We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Frs. John Agbolade, Paul Ighabor, Anthony Oyeniyi, Anthony Okeke, Emmanuel Ogundele, Marcus Famosaya, Alfred Omoleye, John Okelue, Christopher Chafa, Kaainjo Jonathan, Jacob Usman, Sebastian Appiah, Michael Afrifa, Paschal Aggrey Seiku, Anthony Boateng, Mark Tizhe, Anthony Obiamalu, Jude Udemezue, Evaristus Mbanusi, Bonaventure Ifebibo, Innocent Madubuko, Emmanuel Babalola, Charles Onuoha, Emmanuel Amadi, Crescent Iloka, Jonathan Okafor, Daniel Chigbu, Anthony Eboh, Kingsley Joseph, Patrick Akinrimisi, John Okoro (OSA), Francis Iwu, Dominic Nnaedozie, Daniel Onyeayana, Jude Anyaehie, Marcellinus Igirigi, Emmanuel Ubi, Paul Ameh, Peter Williams, Louis Ajinge,

Philip-Mario Agada, Charles Onwordi, AveMaria Erhariefe, Clement Uzoanya, JudeMary Owoh, Samuel Akalite, Emmanuel Adama, Clestine Agwu, Augustine Ebido, Gabriel Odin, Patrick Morrison, Joseph Osunde, Charles Chibogu, Alexius Agba, Victor Ukoh, Augustine Obiosa, Paulinus Onyenuru, Barnabas Nwabor, Christopher Nze, Dominic Okpara, Augustine Nwodo, Edogbo Andrew, Victor Orilua, Lambert Nlemadim, Joseph Aloo, Chukwuyenum Afiawari, Odey Kelvin, Chioma Nwosu, Aghadi Onu, Agbo Chikere, Mike Offordum, Lukpata Clement, Donatus Essien, Innocent Uduak Udomboh, Anthony Thompson, James Vembe, Thaddeus Egwu, Nobert Opara, Clement Odoemene, Jude Dibia, JohnCross Nkanta, Noel Eshikena, Desmond Ebulue, Samuel Kurungu, Hyacinth Agomuoh, Vincent Oko, Godfrey Udeh, Jude Nwachukwu, Joseph Yusuf, Babatunde Pius, Kingsley Anoghala, Stephen Okechukwu, Paul Adegoriola, Michael Nzekwe, Philip Offor, Chikezie Ekugbah, Okoro Maximus, Peter Morba, Julius Temuyi, Amuda John, Vincent Udoye, Anthony Nworu, Raphael Kalu, Edwin Nwalozie, Gordian Opara, Emmanuel Omoroke, Dilibe Sixtus, Jerome Odiejije, Jeremiah Anande, Christiantus Ugwueze, Simon Iduh, Nicholas Ikpeme, Ignatius Okoligwe, Emmanuel Nwaloka, Jenfa Adebayo and Richard Igbangi whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos.*

10. Bereavement: We announce, with deep sympathy the demise of **Mrs. Comfort Kehinde Okhiria**, the mother of Rev. Fr. Victor Okhiria. She died in the month of June, 2021. Kindly celebrate Masses for the repose of her soul and consolation to the family. May God grant her eternal rest. Amen.

+ **Alfred Adewale Martins**
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos