



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

19, CATHOLIC MISSION STREET, P. O. BOX 8, LAGOS-NIGERIA
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TO ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WORKING IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS, AND THE LAY FAITHFUL

1. THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER: We welcome you all to the month of September, the ninth month of the year which notably brings the third quarter of the year to an end. This month ushers us into the "ember" months which reminds us that the year is gradually coming to an end and of the need to examine the progress made thus far particularly in our Christian journey. In our Archdiocese, the month of September leads us into a period of harvest thanksgiving and bazaar. This period offers us the opportunity to thank God with the best fruits of our labour for his abiding love, faithfulness and blessings upon us. We pray that the Lord of the harvest will accept our gifts as he accepted the gift of his servant, Abel the just.

In this month, the Church in her wisdom presents to her faithful, feasts which assist us to understand and appreciate the paschal mystery of Our Lord Jesus Christ. These feasts include; the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8** and the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14**. The Nativity of Mary marks the beginning of the unraveling of God's plan of salvation for his people, while the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, which is the patron feast day of our Archdiocese, brings to completion the mission of God's plan for his people on the Cross. By his death on the cross, Christ destroyed their enmity; by means of the cross he united both races into one body and brought them back to God. (Eph. 2:16).

2. THE MUSTARD SEED (New Catechism Book): This is a new catechism book approved in the Archdiocese for preparation of children for the Sacraments of Baptism/First Holy Communion. The book is now available and is sold for **N800.00 per copy**. All parishes should contact the Religious Education Department: 08108846869, 08066224284.

3. 50TH MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY: The Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos celebrates the 50th memorial anniversary of the first African Archbishop of the Metropolitan See of Lagos, Most Rev. Dr. John Kwao Amuzu Aggey DD. The memorial anniversary Mass is scheduled to hold on 14th September, 2022. (Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross) by 10:00am prompt at the Holy Cross Cathedral.

4. 2022 SEASON OF CREATION: As you are probably aware, the *Season of Creation* is the annual Christian celebration by which we are called to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation. It is an occasion when in the spirit of ecumenism, Christians of various denominations all around the world unite together in prayer and renewal of their commitment to protecting the earth - our common home. The celebration of the 2022 Season of Creation begins on **1st September**, the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*, and ends on **4th October**, the *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*, the Patron Saint of ecology. The theme for the celebration this year is: "**Listen to the Voice of Creation.**" and the adopted universal logo is "*The Burning Bush*" (Ex.3:1-12).

In prayer, let us bring to focus the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor. May this 2022 Season of Creation bring about the renewal of our bonds of love and peace in unity of life and action towards rescuing our planet earth from the perils caused by environmental degradation and abuse. We encourage, individuals, societies and communities to participate in the celebration through prayer, sustainability projects, and advocacy.

Let us all embrace and deepen the culture of Eco-friendly actions: deliberate effort to conserve energy, Tree planting and embrace the culture of *Reduce, Re-use and Recycle* as we journey towards more simple and sustainable living and lifestyles of integral ecology.

5. ANTIOCH PASTORAL INSTITUTE: The Antioch Pastoral Institute offers a programme that leads to the award of a certificate in Theology of the New Evangelization.

Duration: 1 year (10 modules). This programme is open to Parish Pastoral Assistants, Parish Evangelization Commission members, Faith Formators, Group Facilitators and all Catholics who desire to grow in and share the faith.

Requirements: Interested participants are;

1. to obtain recommendation letters from their Parish priests,
2. to be practicing/confirmed Catholics

3. to possess a minimum of SSCE or equivalent, possessing a good grasp of English Language, able to use the relevant technology and handle the required level of work/assignments and keep to the institute's rules.

Commencement Date: August 27th, 2022. Forms are available for **N1,000.00**. For further enquiries, kindly visit: Religious Education Department, 19, Maye Street, off Montgomery Road, Yaba or contact: 08108846869, 08066224284.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: This Feast comes up on Wednesday, 14th September, 2022. This is the Principal Feast Day of our Archdiocese.

b. Recollection for Priests: The quarterly Regional Priests' Recollection comes up on **Thursday, 15th September, 2022**. All Priests are required to take part in this unique spiritual exercise. The Episcopal Vicars are expected to ensure the participation of all priests in their regions.

c. Quarterly Returns and Special Collections: Please be reminded that returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the third quarter of the year: **Augustine University Collection- (11/09/2022)**.

We reiterate the instruction that Parish Priests/Priests-in-charge should make bank transfers to forestall the challenges of returned cheques, irregular signatures and other problems that cause cheques to bounce. We emphasize again that Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should ensure that they log into the new digital platform (HYELLA) to make their returns.

d. 2022 Catechetical Week: The annual Catechetical Week program in the Archdiocese begins from **Sunday, 2nd October to Sunday, 9th October, 2022**. The theme for this year is: **"Lord do you not care that we are perishing?"**

It is recommended that Parishioners participate actively as it is a parish based program. The pamphlet for this program will be available at the Religious Education Department @ N250 per copy. For further enquiries contact: 08108846869, 08066224284

e. Mater Ecclesiae Monastery:

Monthly Retreat: Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, Lagos, organizes 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, located in the serene atmosphere of the Monastery, 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**

f. St. Gregory School of Pastoral Music: This School of Music of the Archdiocese of Lagos 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 has been affiliated to **Augustine University, Ilara** for the award of the Diploma. To join the preparatory class, please click the link below for registration:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15wZ44SWIkvZ6BnpSxEL0itoBWk7pE1ZKA2oQ8icY/edit?usp=drivesdk>. The preparatory class is a 3-month 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).

g. St. Augustine College of Education, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos (Project T. I. M. E)
Affiliated to University of Ibadan: we call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners that Admission is in progress for the 2022/2023 Session. With a minimum JAMB score of 200 and above for Full-Time and below 200 for Part-Time Degree programmes; 100 and above for NCE programmes, the College is the place for you. Our programmes include:

DEGREE PROGRAMMES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN:

Arts and Social Science:

B.Sc (Ed.) Economics

B.Sc (Ed.) Political Science

B.A (Ed.) English Language

B.Ed Social Studies

B.A (Ed.) CRS/IRS

B.Ed Educational Management

B.Ed Guidance and Counselling

Science and Technology Department

B.Sc (Ed.) Physics

B.Sc (Ed.) Chemistry

B.Sc (Ed.) Mathematics

B.Sc (Ed.) Biology

B.Sc (Ed.) Computer Science

All Degree Certificates are awarded by the University Of Ibadan.

NIGERIA CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (NCE) PROGRAMMES:

- i. Computer science, Economics, CRS/IRS, Political Science, English Language, Social Studies, Business Education (Accounting & Secretarial studies), Primary Education Studies (PES), Early Childhood care & Education (ECCE), Adult and Non-formal Education, and Mathematics.
- ii. Science and Technology: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Integrated Science.

❖ **All NCE Certificates are awarded by the College**

DURATION: Full Time-3years, Part Time-4 Years

Requirement for Degree and NCE Programmes (Full-Time and Part Time): 5 or 6 Credits in One or Two sittings

- ❖ PDE (Professional Diploma In Education)-First Degree or H. N. D. from any recognized Tertiary Institution.
- ❖ Catechesis- Practicing and intending Catechists or O' Level Certificate.

METHOD OF APPLICATION TO ALL COLLEGE PROGRAMMES:

Obtain your application form at **St. Augustine College Of Education, 2, Moronfolu Street, by Pako Bus stop, Close to FCE (Technical) and UNILAG, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos State.**

OR LOG-ON TO www.staugustinecollege.edu.ng and follow the guidelines.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL: 08065954493, 08024582945 OR 08033244652(Catechesis), 07035121621.

h. Admission into Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music (Foundation Program): The Academy is calling for application from prospective candidates who are music lovers and those who desire to improve their music career to register and be enrolled. Admission and classes started on **Saturday 20th August, 2022, Time is 10am** every Saturday or by special arrangement. Courses offered include orchestral instruments, sight reading, voice grooming/management, piano and Choir management. For further enquiries, contact Mr. Wilson on **09030905196/ 07035454075.**

i. Pauline Foods Empowerment Program: The third batch of this program on food processing and packaging started on Saturday 27th August, 2022. The program is scheduled to hold every Saturday for a period of two months. **Time is 10am- 4pm at St. Paul Catholic Church, Ebute-Metta. For further enquiries, call Joseph: 09044946744 & 07037673899.**

k. Holy Family Home for the Elderly: This is one of the Archdiocesan charities that is concerned with the care and wellbeing of the aged and Elderly amongst us. To aid sustenance of this very vital project, we call on Parishes and the various Associations of lay faithful to visit this home and make generous donations to enhance the work of charity done there and improve on the general upkeep of the home.

l. Christeens 2022 Summer Camp: Children between the ages 8-15 are invited to 2022 Christeens Summer Camp scheduled to hold on Saturday 3rd September, 2022 at the Domus Fidei Center, 7, Amore Street, off Toyin Street, Ikeja. Registration fee is **N1,000.00** per child. For more enquiries, kindly contact Whatsapp- 08037081933, 07038400333 or 08033574050.

m. Worldwide Marriage Encounter Nigeria: The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Team will be holding a program titled "**An Original Weekend**". This program is aimed at unlocking the powers of marriage with a view to enhancing a healthy Christian marriage in the growth and development of holiness of life.

Date: 24th-25th September, 2022

Venue: Lagos Resource Center, 9, Anifowose Street, off Adeola Odekun Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Arrival: 7am, 24th September, 2022

Participation Fee: N50,000 (Accommodation & 2 days meal).

Kindly make payments to: Worldwide Marriage Encounter Nigeria, FCMB: 3426431011
For Further Enquiries, please contact Rev. Fr. Dominic Onuoha (07030857067), Fr. Miguel Gomez (08098644835), Adiele & Ngozi (08033238822) or Timothy & Martina (08182800166).

n. Appreciation: The Superior General, the Council and the entire Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, express their profound gratitude and appreciation to the Clergy, religious and laity of the Archdiocese for their prayers, presence and solidarity at the celebration of the Perpetual profession of vows of five of their sisters on August 15th, 2022. May God bless you.

o. Fest2Laff Concert: The Gospel Comedy Concert/Charity fund program (Season 4), aimed at assisting the less privileged tagged "Fest2Laff with MC Smart and Catholic Comedians... The Wheel and the Testament" comes up on Sunday 16th October, 2022 at McGovern Hall, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland. Time: 4pm-6pm

Ticket: Regular N3,000, VIP N10,000

Seat on a Table N50,000, Table for 10 N500,000

Tickets are available in all Parishes. For sponsorship and enquiries, please call MCSMART on: 08062499548

p. Directory: In preparation for the production of the new directory for 2023, we enjoin priests to send in their details (Full name, parish and phone number) to the chancery for proper and effective compilation.

q. Rosary Procession/Reparation Prayer for Peace in Nigeria: Due to the magnitude of the security and economic challenges facing the country at the moment, parishioners are encouraged to join in this year's Rosary procession for Peace in Nigeria which commence from National Stadium Surulere and terminates at St. Agnes Catholic Church Maryland.

Date: Saturday October 1st 2022

Time: 7 am.

r. 1ST OCTOBER PILGRIMAGE: The World Apostolate of Fatima (Blue Army) in conjunction with the Legion of Mary, Lekki Deanery presents its Annual Pilgrimage/Rosary Procession 2022 as scheduled below:

Date: Saturday 1st October, 2022

Venue: Procession begins from SS Philip and James Catholic Church, Lekki down to the Ave Maria Grotto, Lekki.

Time: 8 am.

Theme: 'BEHOLD, OUR MOTHER MARY IS WITH US...' Jn. 19:25-27

Activities for the day include; Rosary Procession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Talk etc.

Come and let us pray together for our dear country Nigeria.

s. JDPC FOOD BANK PROJECT - The Justice Development and Peace Center (JDPC) Lagos will be carrying out a food bank project from the month of October, 2022. We therefore appeal to Parish Priests and all people of goodwill to kindly support the JDPC in cash or kind. Financial Donations can be made JDPC FOOD BANK PROJECT, Zenith Bank - 1224609969 while food items can be sent to the JDPC office @ 19, Maye Street, Off Commercial Avenue, Yaba, Lagos or contact the office on 08102580516.

t. Archdiocesan Seminar for Priests on Communications: The Priests Welfare Committee in conjunction with the Directorate of Social Communications will be anchoring the quarterly seminar for Priests for this month:

General Theme: "The Use of the Digital Media as tool of Evangelization in the Covid-19 Era".

Date: Wednesday 28th September 2022.

Time 10.00am

Venues:

IKEJA AND LAGOS REGIONS: St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland.

BADAGRY REGION: Holy Family Catholic Church, Festac Town.

LEKKI REGION: Ss. Philip and James Catholic Church, Lekki.

We appeal to the Episcopal Vicars and the Deans to help ensure the smooth planning of this seminar.

7. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for our Archbishop and his classmates: Msgri. Edmund Akpala, Jerome Oduntan, Peter Oke, and Rev. Fr. Alphonsus Ania, as they mark their 39th priestly ordination anniversary in the Lord's vineyard. Also, we are requested to pray for Revd. Frs. Christopher Agboola, Paul Ijasan, Cornelius Olaniran, Michael Hunkokoe, Francis Adekoya, Emmanuel Anyanwu, Patrick Azubuinye, Samuel Emeneogu, Gabriel Fatoye, Simeon Mautin, Joseph Monye, Alexander Oboh, Francis Ogunmola, Victor Okhiria, Christopher Olagbemi, Gabriel Ugoje, Christopher Atoyebi, Emmanuel Emiri, Vitalis Ezeigwe, Emmanuel Avoseh, Vincent Chukwujekwu, Kefas Martins, Kenneth Mereh, Matthew Nougbo, Mark Okojie, Paul Ariole, Harrison Okoli, Emmanuel Onyia, Simeon Reuben, Gabriel Adeleke, Elias Nwaodu, Boniface Okafor, Gabriel Ysasi, Johnpaul Taberner, Peter Achuonye, OFM, Modestus Ngwu, O.P, Felix Nnabuchi, O.P, Paul Akin-Otiko, Andrew Kondovoh, Kenneth Odoh, Benjamin Nwugo, Philip Egbuniwe, Leo Ukwuani, Cornelius Adaka, James Arebiyi, Joachin Oladoke, Basil Okoro, Fabian Ekwelem, Peter Edward, Imonesa Henry Ejiro, Siji Pannakathil, Aniebue Boniface, Ekoja Michael, Inegbeneboh Theophilus, Izebuno Stephen, Mmadu John, Odozi Joseph and Claude-Marie Madi whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos.*

8. BEREAVEMENT: We announce, with deep sympathy with the family concerned, the demise of **Late Mrs. Fidelia Adaugo Opara** the mother of Rev. Fr. Hubert Opara who died in the month of August, 2022. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of her soul and consolation of the family. May God grant her eternal rest. Amen.

Signed

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos

Archdiocese of Lagos

