Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

THE MONTH OF JULY: We welcome you to the month of July; the month where Mother Church calls our attention and special devotion to the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we venerate the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus who is God, so we venerate the Most Precious Blood of Jesus, the fountain of our salvation. This is the blood of the new and eternal covenant; the blood that pleads for our salvation more insistently than Abel’s. Each drop that flowed from the wounds of the Saviour remains a pledge of man’s eternal salvation. For indeed, the church, born from the blood that flowed from His wounded side, continues its salvific work of protection and deliverance, purification and preservation, reparation and restoration through this Mystical Body; thus, providing nourishment for regeneration and renewal of its members. It is our prayer that in this month of July, the precious blood that gushed forth from the wounded side of Jesus would cleanse us from sin, deliver us from every evil and sustain us in our pursuit of salvation. Amen.

This entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time and the Church further presents us with the lives of the following saints as guide in the course of this month: St. Junipero Serra (July 1), St. Thomas the Apostle (July 3), St. Elizabeth of Portugal (July 5), St. Maria Goretti, (July 6), St. Benedict (July 11), St. Henry (July 13), St. Bonaventure (July 15), St. Camillus (July 18), St. Mary Magdalene (July 22), St. Charbel (July 24), St. James (July 25), Ss. Joachim and Anne (July 26), St. Ignatius of Loyola (July 31).

2. Re-DISCLAIMER ZION PRAYER MOVEMENT OUTREACH

We refer to the January circular 2017 in which we called attention to the above-named Movement asking among other things that the leaders of the Movement should submit themselves to the guidance and authority of the Church. Up till now, there has not been any sign of heeding our pastoral admonition. Indeed, reports reaching us indicate a deliberate expression of defiance of our admonition. The leaders have persisted in inviting dissident priests to carry out illicit celebration of the Sacraments, they have continued to claim they are Catholic and carry out activities that are Catholic in appearance but often with much
aberration. The leaders still go around chapels of Perpetual Adoration in Parishes holding what is called **consultations** with people who come for prayers. He has refused to heed the admonition of Msgr. Bernard Okodua, (who once visited the premises of the ministry and observed activities of praying the rosary etc.), to submit himself to the discipline of the Church after Archbishop’s January 2017 Circular. They simply have refused to subject themselves to the discipline of the Church as is wont of authentic Catholics. Every genuine gift of the Holy Spirit is to be exercised in unity with the Church. No one is to use gifts in such a way as to disrupt the unity of the Body of Christ. The Lord gave the first place to the Apostles (cfr. 1 Cor. 12:28) for good reason, to lead and guide the Church. Anyone who persists disobedience is hurting the unity of the Church and needs to be corrected.

In the light of all of these and in order to ensure that the Catholic faithful are not misled, we are constrained to instruct that the main leader of the Group, Mr. Ebuka Anozie should henceforth stop receiving Holy Communion if he goes to Mass in any of our parishes. Secondly, if he goes to any Chapel of Perpetual Adoration, he should restrict himself to praying personally and is not permitted to interact with any of the faithful within the premises of any Parish within the Archdiocese. Thirdly, we call on all priests who come to celebrate Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation and other Sacraments illicitly in the premises of the Movement to respect the dignity of their priesthood and not allow material inducements to becloud their sense of respect for the rules of the Church. The law requires that priests do not go to celebrate any of the Sacraments in any jurisdiction outside theirs without the due permission of the competent authority. A lay person cannot be a competent authority to invite a priest for the celebration of the Sacraments.

All Priests all over the Archdiocese are hereby directed to enforce this sanction strictly in their various parishes. They are to catechize the faithful on this and help them to understand that anyone who participates in the activities of this movement does so at a risk to the authenticity of his or her catholic faith and practice. We pray that the Holy Spirit would beam His light of understanding of all those concerned and help them to retrace their steps.

**3. SECURITY ALERT:** The growing rate of insecurity in the nation is of grave concern and so we urge everyone to take the necessary precautionary measures to ensure adequate security around church premises, the different institutions, Priest’s residence, and other gatherings of the faithful. We should be alert and conscious, not taking anything for granted. In the wake of the sad phenomenon of kidnapping that is fast becoming a fad, we need 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.
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 responsibility.

In addition to the above, it is also important that we entreat the Lord on our nation’s behalf, committing ourselves to the protective mantle of our Lady, Help of Christians. Indeed, the words of the psalmist holds true in this regard that "if the Lord does not watch over the city in vain do its watchmen keep vigil (Psalm 127:1-2)."

4. **PROFILE UPDATE FOR PRIESTS:** It has become very important and urgent that we have proper and detailed record of all priests working in the Archdiocese. In view of this, we reiterate our instruction that all priests working in the Archdiocese should update their profile by opening the following link on an internet connected laptop or desktop computer: [http://chancery.aclclassconsult.com/personnel/add_profile](http://chancery.aclclassconsult.com/personnel/add_profile) Select Priests under **Personnel**. Carefully fill the data form provided. Kindly ensure you also upload your passport size photograph before clicking on **SAVE**. Owing to its importance, we expect that this action be done on or before 15th July, 2017. July 15th 2017 is the deadline for carrying out this important instruction. For more inquiries, kindly contact the Chancery.

5. **BULK SMS:** Our attention has been drawn recently to the growing number of priests, particularly MTN subscribers, who do not receive information we circulate via bulk SMS. Priest with this issue should speak to the customer care service of their Service Provider. For MTN, call 180 and request that your mobile line be activated for bulk SMS.

6. **PARISH GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION:** Following the successful training of Deanery representatives in the implementation of the Parish Guidelines, it is now time to constitute the Deanery Implementation Teams whose responsibilities will be to organize seminars and workshops at the deanery level for all priests and parish council executives within the deanery. We request the Deans to ensure that these seminars and workshops are carried out in the various Deaneries and the report sent to the Chancery. For further inquiries, kindly contact the Fr Julius Olaitan on 08023135237 or call 08035354590.

7. **ON THE SALE AND PURCHASE OF VEHICLES:** While we await the policy document on the above, we hereby inform all priests, heads of educational institutions, medical establishments and departments that the decision to sell or purchase official vehicles for parishes and other Archdiocesan establishments needs to be confirmed with the Chancery.
You would understand that the practice of buying vehicles without due consultation is not appropriate and is capable of leading to abuse. Kindly take note and comply.

8. Four Year-term Non-Renewable for Elected Officers

This is to bring to the notice of all Associations of the Lay Faithful that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) at its first plenary meeting of the year, which held from 4th to 10th March, 2017 at the Daughters of Divine Love and Retreat Centre, Lugbe, Abuja; acting upon credible reports from the relevant bodies of Lay Associations and Sodalities in the Church in Nigeria, resolved that the tenure of office for all elected officers of all Sodalities, Organisations and Societies should henceforth be **four years non-renewable**.

It is to be noted that those who are already in their leadership role, having been sworn in with the constitutional provision of three years or by common understanding of three years as a policy, will not serve four years as a result of the new policy. They will complete their three years; however, the clause of non-renewable binds them. Those to be elected hereafter will serve four years non-renewable.

9. PRESENTATION OF BOOKS/WORKS FOR IMPRIMATUR: This is to advise those who want to present their works for Imprimatur, to first seek editing of their works from capable hands particularly their Priests before sending them to the Archbishop for consideration.

10. Admission Requirements for Augustine University, Ilara (AUI): We call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners especially those seeking admission to Universities of the Admission requirements for our Augustine University. A minimum JAMB Score of 180 in relevant subject combinations is required. For more information, please visit the University website at [www.augustineuniversity.edu.ng](http://www.augustineuniversity.edu.ng).

**Available Programmes are:**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

1. B.Sc. Economics
2. B.Sc. Business Administration
3. B.Sc. Accounting
4. B.Sc. Banking and Finance
5. B.A. English
6. B.A. Philosophy
7. B.A. Religious Studies

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

1. B.Sc. Mathematics
2. B.Sc. Computer Science
3. B.Sc. Microbiology
4. B.Sc. Biology
5. B.Sc. Chemistry
6. B.Sc. Physics

Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge are expected to include this announcement in their weekly bulletin and keep repeating it.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. CURIA MEETING- Members of the Archdiocesan Curia are hereby reminded of their meeting scheduled to hold on the 12th of July, 2017 at 10:00am in the Chancery’s Conference Room.

b. ARCHDIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING: This comes up on Tuesday 25th of July, 2017 at the Chancery by 10:00am. Those concerned should please take note.

c. CATHOLIC FAITH FAMILY COMPETITION AND QUIZ: PARISH COMPETITIONS will begin July 2, 2017 in all parishes. The Knights of St. John International representatives or delegates will be available to administer the quiz questions/competition. Faith Formation and Education Committee and Parish catechists are to cooperate and galvanize to ensure the success and fruitfulness of the event. The areas to cover include:
   i. Old Testament- 1st and 2nd Samuel, Book of Numbers.
   iv. Catechism: Sacraments, Doctrines and Tradition.

   The timelines for implementation include:
   April - August 2017: Study
   July 16, 2017- Deanery Competitions.
   August 20, 2017- Regional Competitions.
   September 16, 2017- Grand Finale.

We encourage you to do the needful.

For more information, contact the following: 0803320831, 08033574050, 08059304736, 08066224284.

d. ARCHDIOCESAN EDUCATION WEEK: This Archdiocesan event begins from Sunday, July 23rd and concludes on the 30th of July, 2017. The theme is: Family Life and Faith Development. All Parishes are expected to observe this week at a time of the day that is most convenient in order to encourage active participation of the people. A second collection for
Education is to be made on the 30th of July, 2017, which is to be remitted to the Chancery. The weekly programme is as follows:

Day 1: Monday 24th July - The Origin of the Family - Ecclesial Community (Genesis 1: 27 - 28)

Day 2: Tuesday 25th July - The Identity & Mission of the Family (Matthew 19: 4 - 8)


Day 4: Thursday 27th July - Preserving the Catholic Faith in a secular world (2 Thessalonian 2: 15, 1 Corinthians 16: 13)

Day 5: Friday 28th July - Faith & Spirituality (Amoris Laetitia Chapter 9)

Day 6: Saturday 29th July - Film show on the Apparitions of Our Lady and discussion on the messages.

Day 7: Sunday, July 30, 2017: Education Sunday/Thanksgiving Mass in all Parishes

- Inauguration of New Faith Formation and Education Committee members
- Renewal of commitment by those FF&EC members already inaugurated
- Education Sunday collection at all Masses
- Other activities as directed by the Parish

NOTE:

- Daily Theme to be used as reflections during homily at the Morning /Evening Mass or any other time suitable and acceptable to the Parish
- Nominate Societies/Organizations to drive weekly activities i.e. allocate the day's Theme to a society that can mobilize both their members and other parishioners to attend.

For further inquiries, please call, 08033574050.

e. YOUNG CATHOLIC STUDENTS OF NIGERIA (YCSN): The Young Catholic Students of Nigeria, Lagos Ecclesiastical Province is hosting the National Convention of Young Catholic Students of Nigeria.

Date: July 31st - August 5th, 2017.


We appeal to our Parish Priests and Administrators to support and encourage the students for a successful hosting. For Support or Registration, contact 08175103636 or 07033148715.
f. SPECIAL INVITATION: The Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus cordially invite the Clergy, Religious and the Lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos to the PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF VOWS of Sister Justina Marie Kehinde Ojo, EHJ.

Date: August 15, 2017.
Venue: St. Peter Claver’s Catholic Church, Ajao Estate, Lagos.
Time: 10.00am.

g. CECILIAN ACADEMY OF SACRED MUSIC (LAGOS ARCHDIOCESE):

i. Admission into the Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music for the 2017/2018 Session is on. Kindly obtain your forms/ study guide at the cost of ₦1,000 in preparation for the entrance examination which comes up on 29th July, 2017.

COURSES OFFERED include: Foundational rudiments in Music theory, Basic Voice and Conducting, Basic Piano, Gregorian Chants and Music history, Applied/Practical music (Orchestra & Band instrumentals).

Forms can be obtained at your Parish Office; it is also available online @ www.cecilianacademyng.com FOR MORE INFOMATION PLEASE CALL (09030905196, 08170790818) email: director@cecilianacademyng.com, admin@cecilianacademyng.com

ii. ADMISSION INTO DIPLOMA PROGRAM shall begin with a 3-month PREPARATORY CLASSES for prospective students. The classes would begin in August 2017 at Centres in Ikeja, Lagos, Lekki and Badagry Regions. Prospective Students would then sit for entrance examinations into the DIPLOMA PROGRAM in November 2017. Admission examinations would feature assessments in Graded Music theory, Vocals and Piano/Organ (for practicals) to a minimum of Grade 5.

For more enquiries on the DIPLOMA PROGRAM, Kindly contact these numbers: 08181919593 (Mr Benedict Okoekhian), 08062852271 (Ms Fatima Anyekema), 08067504883 (Ms Angela Izegbu), 09077175554 (Ms Juliet Akighir), 08023700587 (Rev. Fr. Peter Osuntope)


i. CATHOLIC BIBLICAL INSTRUCTORS’ UNION (C.B.I.U) LAGOS ARCHDIOCESE: we more and more see the need for more knowledge of the Scriptures and the teachings of the
Church. To this end we encourage priests to support the founding of Catholic Biblical Instructors Union (CBIU) in their parishes to complement their Bible Study Groups. For further enquiries on th CBIU, please contact the leaders on the following telephone nos: 08028454115, 08034159996, 08069519596.

j. OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS ON MEDIA MATERIALS FOR YEAR OF MERCY AND MARIAN YEAR: It has come to our notice some priests are yet to for the media materials supplied to their parishes nearly one year since end of the Year of Mercy. Some have even moved on to other parishes without settling this debt. We expect all those concerned to pay up immediately as we have asked the CMD for a full report on the production and sale of Marian Year materials by the first week of August, 2017. Deans should please assist.

k. Quarterly Returns: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the 3rd Quarter of the year: Peter’s Pence-09/07/2017, Archdiocesan Education Sunday-30/07/2017 and St. Augustine’s College (Project Time)-10/09/2017.

We remind all Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge who are yet to remit their returns for the previous quarters including the Special Collections as directed in the last circular note their repeat violation of the deadlines. Once again, we encourage repeat defaulters in this matter to make amendments before it is too late.

We reiterate our call that the Pay-Direct option or make transfers should be used in order to forestall the challenges of returned cheques, irregular signatures and other problems that cause cheques to bounce. For those who insist on making their returns with cheques, we expect that you would pay attention to you entries and signature.

Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should also ensure they attach the front page of the Blue Sheets that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it. Kindly take note.

l. 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 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.

m. CATECHISTS/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- THE ANTIOCH PASTORAL INSTITUTE:

Application for admission into Antioch Pastoral Institute for the 2017/2018 session are invited from persons desiring to be trained as catechist and catechism teachers. You are also qualified to apply, if you are a lay liturgical minister, a parish office staff, religious community, society, or individuals wishing to develop your knowledge of Catholic faith. If you do not belong to any of these categories but desire to be trained as a pastoral agent, please feel free to apply.

Forms are obtainable at the Catechetics/ Religious Education Department Archdiocese of Lagos, 19, Maye Street, Yaba, Lagos, on or before April 28, 2017 for 500 only. For further inquiries, call 0803504118, 08033574050, and 08066224284.

n. Family and Human Life Unit (FHLU):

1. MARRIAGE THEOLOGY AND LIVED EXPERIENCE

Part Time Classes:

YABA CENTRE

i. Weekday, First Tuesday of each month for 10 months which began on 7th February, 2017

ii. Weekend, First Saturday of each month for 10 months which began on 14th February, 2017.

ISOLO CENTRE: St Francis Catholic Church Idimu: Fourth Saturday of each month for 10 months which began on 25th February, 2017.

IKORODU CENTRE: St. Augustine Catholic Church Ikorodu: Fourth Tuesday of each month for 10 months which began on 28th February 2017

FESTAC CENTRE: Holy Family Catholic Church Festac: Second Tuesday of each month which began on 14th February, 2017

APAPA CENTRE: St Margaret Catholic Church Osho Drive: Third Tuesday of each month which began on 17th January 2017
2. **LOVE AND LIFE** Ovulation Method (BILLINGS) of Natural Family Planning First Saturday of each month for 7 months began 4th of February 2017.

3. **CANON LAW COURSE FOR LAITY**

Third Friday of each month for 10 months began 17th February, 2017.

4. **BASIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING COURSE PART 1**

One Friday a month for 3 months beginning from 20th January 2017

For all individuals who are interested and wish to be trained to work in areas of Marriage, Family and Human Life as Facilitators, Counselors or Social workers. PLEASE register now by calling: 08033804494 or 08023547952 for more details.

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

**Course fee:** 3,500 per session (includes materials, tea break and lunch) and duration for each session 6hrs (10am to 4pm).

**Total course fee with certificate:** Marriage theology and Lived experience: 40,000.00; Canon Law for Lay Faithful: 40,000.00; Love and Life (billings) ovulation method of natural family planning: 30,500 and Basic Christian Counseling: 12,000.00. NOTE: PAYMENT DETAILS: FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT-CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS, ECO BANK ACCT NO. 3772028512.

Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. Ad multos annos.

12. BEREAVEMENT: We announce with deep sympathy with the families concerned the demise of Mr. Camillus Odunaiya, the father of Rev. Fr. Gabriel Odunaiya; Mrs. Dorothy Osu, the mother of Very Rev. Msgr. Gabriel Osu and Mr. Emmanuel Offordum, the father of Rev. Fr. Michael Offordum. They died in the month of June, 2017. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of their souls and consolation to the families. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen.

(Signed)

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos