



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular **DECEMBER, 2017/No. 063**

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

1. **DECEMBER:** Welcome to the last month of the year. We thank the Lord for His many blessings on us and for preserving our lives to the last month of the year 2017. The month of December is a month of expectation, joy and celebration. Within it we celebrate the Seasons of **Advent, Christmas** and the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**. This is a month of stock taking, self-evaluation, re-assessment and thanksgiving to God. On the **3rd day of December**, we begin the Season of Advent during which we prepare ourselves spiritually and physically for the coming of the Child Jesus. The liturgical colour of this season, **purple**, paints a spiritual portrait of hope and expectation, of longing and waiting, of conversion and penance in preparation for Christmas. Christmastide begins with the First Vespers (Evening Prayer) of Christmas on December 24th and ends on the Sunday after Epiphany. The Christmas Season expresses the boundless love of God; a love that heralds hope, inaugurates peace, engenders faith, and establishes the triumph of justice. Christmas is indeed a season of joy, gladness, love, forgiveness, peace, salvation and celebration. While we busy ourselves with shopping, partying, cleaning and other material preparations for Christmas let us not lose sight of its spiritual significance - the opportunity to encounter the child Jesus at the manger and embrace his offer of friendship and salvation.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year in advance.

2. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION FROM THE CHANCERY TO PARISHIONERS: It has come to our notice that much of the information circulated via the Archdiocesan circular do not get to the awareness of as many parishioners in the parishes as we expect. This is often due to the failure of Parish Priests to either make the announcement in the parishes' bulletins or give it the

necessary emphasis it deserves. We wish to **remind all Priests in the Archdiocese of their responsibility** to communicate and emphasise all information coming from the Archdiocesan Chancery to the parishioners placed in their care. It is a lot of disservice to the people if they are starved of information due to them.

3. REVIEW OF ARCHDIOCESAN GUIDELINES: In view of the need for a better understanding and implementation, we have forwarded the working documents for the **Guidelines for the Archdiocesan Pastoral and Laity Councils, and the Deanery Pastoral and Laity Councils** for the attention of Deans, Parish Priests, Priests-in-Charge and representatives of lay associations. We expect all those concerned to read these important documents and make their observations known to the Archdiocesan Guidelines and Implementation Committee. We hope to organise a Seminar in this regard, within the first quarter of next Year. Please treat as urgent. We thank you sincerely for your cooperation and pastoral collaboration.

4. ON THE USE OF PICTURES FOR BROCHURES: We wish to call the attention of all Priests and Lay faithful that the proper place for pictures of the Archbishop or celebrants of occasions is inside the brochure **NOT on the front cover**. Pictures on front covers should draw attention to Christ, Mary or the liturgical ceremony being celebrated. Hence, when producing brochures for any Parish or Archdiocesan event, pictures of people should **NOT** be placed on the front cover of the brochure.

5. FORMATION OF PARISH EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEES: We use this as another opportunity to repeat the instruction that all Parishes and quasi-parishes in the Archdiocese constitute their Parishes' Evangelization Committees to be made up of about 12 members and forward their names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to the Chancery and the Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission (aeclagos@yahoo.com). Consideration may be given to the following: the Catechists' Association, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Charismatic Renewal, Legion of Mary, C.W.O and C.M.O. Please, indicate the name of the Parish, and the Parish Priest or Priest-in-charge and his telephone number. This information should reach us before **December 15, 2017**. Some of their functions are stated below. Dates scheduled for their training will be communicated very soon.

PARISH EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEES

1. The heads of the Parish Committee will represent the Parish at the Deanery Level.

2. Deanery Committee Heads are to attend the meetings of Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission.

3. Some of their duties (Temporary) will include:

i. To work closely with the Parish Priest on issues bordering on Evangelization in the Parish, Deanery and the Archdiocese.

ii. To popularize, organize and prepare Parishioners for Archdiocesan Pilgrimages and other Archdiocesan Pastoral and Evangelization Events

iii. To spearhead the organization of Life in the Spirit Seminar, Alpha and Evangelization Training in the Parish without interfering with the activities of the societies involved at the society level.

iv. To interact with Associations and Groups in the Parish to keep them focused on the re-evangelization of their members and on Mission ad gentes

v. Dissemination of Materials and information from the Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission.

vi. To work with the Parish Priest to organize Parish Outreach (Mission ad gentes)

vii. To collaborate with the Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission in organizing Archdiocesan Outreach Programmes.

viii. To assist the Parish Priest in organizing or facilitating evangelization training programmes in the Parish. (This presumes that they would have undergone training themselves).

ix. To organize evangelization training for the Parish Catechists and heads of societies.

x. To collaborate with the Parish Catechists to ensure that candidates for the Sacraments are properly evangelized before sacramentalization.

4. Other duties will be stated as time progresses.

6. SUPPORT FOR AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY.

We want to thank all the Parishes that have heeded the call to support the Augustine University by sending in the fruits of their **Augustine University Sunday** so far. As you are aware the University is now in the third year and needs your support more than ever for its maintenance and for the establishment of more Faculties in order to proceed to the second phase of its development.

We hereby repeat again the following directives concerning the support for the University:

a) that the **Second Sunday of every month** throughout the Archdiocese be known as **Augustine University Sunday**. On that day, we expect that the priest himself will speak for a while on the situation of the University as it concerns courses on offer, facilities available, possibilities of a few scholarships etc. Parishioners are to be invited to make a collection for University. Proceeds from the collection are to be immediately remitted to the Chancery.

b) You will recall that we authorised "Painless Giving" project asking for whatever each person can afford even if it is not more than N500.00 per month through Bank Transfer, POS or ATM. Members of the Fund Raising Committee of the University Priests at Deanery meetings to discuss the modalities for this. We expect each parish to open a sub-parish account into which the parishioners will make their monthly "painless donations". The advantage of this is that each parish can see what comes in from the parish. At the end of each Quarter, the money will be transferred to the Central Archdiocesan account which is on our website, and which has already been circulated in our monthly Bulletin. This process will enable Parishes to know how much they are contributing to the University and give us opportunity to adequately acknowledge the Parish and the Parish-Priest. We REQUIRE the Parish Priests to give this his personal attention and the publicity it deserves. We shall take note of the attention each priest pays and duly acknowledge their devotion to this common laudable cause.

c) Friends of Augustine University should be established in every Parish with the objective of rendering moral and financial assistance to the University. Kindly see that you organize this group and ensure that they commence operation immediately.

d) Rev. Fr. Michael Umoh has been assigned the duty of liaising with the AUI Public Relations Office to publicize the University. Kindly give him your optimal co-operation.

e) You will recall that Parishes were asked to offer scholarships to indigent students. Please see that this is done.

7. ARCHDIOCESAN LAITY SUNDAY

We hereby acknowledge again the contribution of the Laity Council at every level - Parish, Deanery, Archdiocese - to the spiritual and physical development of the Archdiocese in spite of its financial challenges. We repeat again the directive that a **Second Collection be taken up on the 5th Sunday**, whichever month it occurs. This

is already being done in many of our parishes; the practice should now be carried out in all parishes of the Archdiocese. This will give opportunities for more lay persons to contribute to the activities of their Council and reduce the number of levies imposed at Deanery and Parish levels. Kindly remit the proceeds to the Chancery for onward transmission to the Council.

8. GUIDELINES FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

The duty of Priests and Deacons regarding the distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful within and outside the Holy Mass in some cases are becoming more and more difficult due to the enormous pastoral demands of their ministry. This has become a source of serious concern to us. In attending to this pastoral necessity, we have approved the Guidelines for the Ministry of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to be used wherever the need arises in the Archdiocese. Ordained ministers remain Ordinary Ministers responsible for the distribution of Holy Communion but where needed we may approve the use of Extraordinary ministers. This can be done only following the Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. All Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should pick up copies of the Guidelines for the Ministry of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from the Chancery at the cost of N500 each.

9. 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.

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

8. B.Sc. Mathematics
9. B.Sc. Computer Science
10. B.Sc. Microbiology
11. B.Sc. Biology
12. B.Sc. Chemistry
13. B.Sc. Physics

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

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. ADVENT SEASON: The Season of Advent is around the corner again. Advent starts the new Liturgical Year and can be seen as another opportunity to spiritually begin anew. There are particular themes in the Liturgy throughout Advent: a spirit of waiting, of conversion and joyful hope. It is a season of expectation and longing for the Messiah who is to come. We sing the song "O Come, O come, Emmanuel" with eager hope and longing, for our messiah who came to us first as a child in the manger and who has promised to come again. Let us therefore avail ourselves the opportunity that Advent provides to renew our relationship with the King who is to come so that we can reap the fruits of Christmas.

b. BANS OF ORDINATION: This is to inform all the faithful of the Archdiocese, that the following Seminarians are being proposed for Diaconate Ordination:

1. Emedo Raymond
2. Oyekunle Joseph
3. Ozonwafor Martins
4. Toye Andrew

Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should kindly call the bans for three (3) consecutive weeks as required and let us have the results not later than 20th December, 2017.

c. PRAYER FOR THE ABDUCTED EHJ SISTERS: the news of the recent abduction of six EHJ sisters from their community on 13th November, 2017 has once again called our attention to the spate of insecurity in our country. While we call on all Catholics especially Priests and Religious to be more security conscious as we

approach the festive season (conf. Circular May, 2013), we direct that from **Sunday 3rd December, 2017 till Saturday, 9th December, 2017**, at every mass celebrated throughout the Archdiocese, a special prayer (one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory be) be said for the safe release of the abducted sisters.

d. ARCHDIOCESAN ADVENT PILGRIMAGE: This Year's Advent Pilgrimage will be hosted by the Badagry Region.

Date: 16th December, 2017

Venue: Stargem Events Centre at Igboelerin Bus Stop, Opposite Navy Barracks Field, Okokomaiko, Lagos

Time: begins at 8:00am.

All Priests and Lay Faithful are expected to attend and participate actively in this spiritual exercise. Parish Priests & Priests-in-Charge are requested to encourage and arrange for the participation of their Parishioners to come in large numbers.

In view of the above, we hereby direct that **all Parish Priests/Priests-in-Charge should publish the following in your Parish Bulletin for two Sundays:(December 3rd and 10th) and sensitize your parishioners.**

PROGRAMME FOR THE 2017 ADVENT PILGRIMAGE

Theme: Let every Valley be Filled-in" - Is. 40:4

- A. 8:00am - Evangelization of the Area by Legionaries/Charismatics
- B. 8:30am - Arrival/Confessions/Counselling and Special Prayers
- C. 9:00am - Rosary/Confessions continue
- D. 9:45am - Opening Prayer/Brief Welcome Address by the Episcopal Vicar
- E. 10:00am - Praise and Worship
- F. 10:30am - Message/Conscious Commitment to the Work of Evangelization
- G. 11:30am - Intercessory Prayers for Various Intentions
- H. 11:55pm - Eucharistic Adoration by All
- I. 1:15pm - The Holy Mass

PREPARATION FOR THE 2017 ADVENT PILGRIMAGE BY INDIVIDUAL PILGRIMS, FAMILIES, GROUPS AND SOCIETIES

We want every pilgrim to approach this pilgrimage with some expectations. To make a fruitful pilgrimage, a high level of mental and spiritual preparedness is necessary. What is below is meant to prepare us for a fruitful pilgrimage from Sunday, 10th - Saturday, 16th December, 2017.

Sunday, 10th December: On Thanksgiving.

- ✓ **Bible Reading:** Ps 107:1-9 b. **Memory Verse** Ps 107:1 c. **Prayer Points:** Pray for the family; for the Church in Nigeria; and for Nigeria.

Monday, 11th December: On Repentance and Forgiveness.

- ✓ **Bible Reading:** Mt. 3:1-10 b. **Memory Verses:** Mt. 3:10 c. **Prayer Points:** Pray for personal conversion and God's forgiveness; for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; for grace to forgive others; for the conversion of non-believers and for the souls in purgatory.

Tuesday, 12th December: On Faith and Obedience

- ✓ **Bible Reading:** Mk 11:22-25 b. **Memory Verses:** Mk 11:23 & Jn. 14:15 c. **Prayer Points:** Pray for the fear of the Lord and openness to the Holy Spirit among the clergy and religious; for greater commitment to Christ's command to go out and share the Gospel (evangelization) among Catholics; for the conversion of traditional worshippers and atheists.

Wednesday, 13th December: On Love of Neighbour.

- ✓ **Bible Reading:** 1 Cor. 13:1-7 & 13 b. **Memory Verse:** 1 Cor. 13:13 c. **Prayer Points:** Pray for love of God and neighbour; intercede for other pilgrims who have challenges, e.g. conversion or spiritual growth, sickness, challenge with accommodation, fruits of the womb, future partner, business, etc.

Thursday, 14th December: On Spiritual Fruitfulness

- ✓ **Bible Reading:** Gen.1:26-31 b. **Memory Verses:** Gen. 1:28 & Jn. 15:16; c. **Prayer Points:** Pray for our Archbishop and all bishops; for the success of the work of evangelization in our Archdiocese and parishes; for Catechists and lay evangelizers.

Friday, 15th December: On Prayer and Deeper Relationship with God

- ✓ **Bible Reading:** Jn. 15:1-5 b. **Memory Verse:** Jn. 15:4 c. **Prayer Points:** For greater emphasis on and dependence on the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the Church; for spiritual renewal in your life, in your family, in the Church, in our seminaries and in the societies and groups in the Church.

Saturday, 16th December: On Life Challenges

- ✓ **Bible Reading:** Is. 43:1-3 & Jer. 29:11-14 b. **Memory Verses:** 43:1 & Jer. 29:11 c. **Prayer Points:** Pray for God's solution to every problem in your life; for God's special favours on all the pilgrims; for a renewing or transforming encounter with Jesus at this pilgrimage.

d. ANNUAL PRIESTS RETREAT: The Annual Retreat of Priests in the Archdiocese for this year has been scheduled to hold from 4th December to 15th of December, 2017.

First Batch: 4th to 8th December, 2017

Second Batch: 11th to 15th, December, 2017.

Venue: Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Generalate's Domus Fidei, Ikeja, Lagos.

To this end, all priests are requested to promptly fulfil their financial obligations through the Priests Welfare Committee Chairman, **Rev. Msgr. Jerome Oduntan.**

Please note that the retreat is obligatory and NOT optional. Hence, **ALL** must attend.

e. PRIESTS' AND RELIGIOUS GET-TOGETHER 2017: This has been scheduled to hold on Thursday, **28th December, 2017.** Venue: **St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland.** Kindly endeavour to be present.

f. ADHERENCE TO MASS SCHEDULE: we wish to call the attention of Priests to the growing practice of celebrating masses on Sundays as to encroach into the time for the next mass. We should always keep in mind the time allotted for each mass and adhere strictly mass schedule as provided. We should not keep the people of God outside waiting for too long by prolonging the mass unnecessarily.

You will recall that our Special Circular for the Month of September, 2016 stipulated the Guidelines for Liturgical Celebrations in the Archdiocese. We call on all Priests to read and understand these guidelines as provided so as not to engage in liturgical aberrations when celebrating the Liturgy. In view of this, we have attached a copy the Guidelines to this Circular so that it can be made available to all Priests in the Archdiocese.

g. SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: The Archdiocesan Novena for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception started on **Wednesday, 29th November, 2017** and it will end on **Thursday, 7th December, 2017.**

Venue: Archdiocesan Marian Shrine, Maryland.

Time: 4:30pm daily.

As Advent prepares us for Christmas, our hearts must turn to the Immaculate Mary who eagerly awaited the birth of Jesus by her life of prayer, purity and whole-hearted submission to God's will. We hereby encourage everyone to participate in this spiritual exercise.

The Mass of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Closing Mass for the Novena will hold on **8th December 2017** at the Maria Shrine to be led by the Archbishop Alfred Adewale Martins at **6pm DV**.

h. 2017 UNUSUAL PRAISE: The Catholic Church of Divine Mercy, Lekki Phase1, with the approval of the Archbishop, cordially invites all Catholics and non-Catholics to a **Night of Unusual Praise** on the **9th of December, 2017 at Divine Mercy Catholic Church, Lekki. Unusual Praise** is an exciting and spirit-filled **all-night Praise and Worship event** organized by Divine Mercy Parish for the praise of God and for the purpose of evangelisation. It would begin at 5 p.m. and will be concluded with Holy Mass at 4.00 a.m. on Dec. 10th 2017. **Admission into the venue is free;** light refreshments and water will be provided during the course of the night. For more information and volunteering please visit www.unusualpraise.com or contact Msgr. Paschal Nwaezeapu. Priests are requested to encourage parishioners to attend.

i. ARCHDIOCESAN CHRISTMAS CAROLS: The Lagos Archdiocesan Music Commission (LAMCOM) in collaboration with Holy Cross Cathedral presents the Lagos Archdiocesan Christmas Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This event will feature prominent solo artists, the Holy Cross Cathedral Choir, the Archdiocesan Choir and the Ikeja, Badagry, Lagos, and Lekki Regional Choirs.

Chief Host: His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, Archbishop of Lagos.

Date: 17th December, 2017

Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos

Time: 2pm. All are cordially invited.

Let's celebrate the birth of Christ in a musical grand style.

j. SPECIAL INVITATION: The Congregation of the Religious of Jesus and Mary (RJM), Lagos cordially invites the Clergy, Religious and the Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos to the Thanksgiving Mass of the Bicentenary (200 years) of its foundation as a Congregation and the Silver Jubilee Anniversary in Nigeria

Date: December 9th, 2017

Venue: St. Denis Catholic Church, Bariga

Time: 10:00a.m

Chief Celebrant: Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins

Reception follows immediately at **St. Finbarr's Hall, Akoka**

k. 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: December 4th, 2017

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Venue: Holy Cross Cathedral, 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.

l. ORIENTATION AND INDUCTION OF NEW PRIESTS: We have the tradition in the Archdiocese of giving an orientation programme on liturgical and pastoral practices in the Archdiocese to newly ordained priests as well as priests newly appointed to serve in the Archdiocese of Lagos. This will come up between **11th and 13th of January, 2018**. The venue for the orientation is **Domus Fidei, Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Generalate, Ikeja, Lagos**.

We notice that many of those who were supposed to have participated in the 2017 programme absented themselves. **All the priests posted to the Archdiocese and have not participated, no matter how long they may have been in the Archdiocese are expected to participate next year. We emphasise it again that only new priests and priests newly posted to the Archdiocese who duly take part in the orientation programme can be appointed Parish Priests in the Archdiocese. Everyone concerned should note that participation in this orientation programme is mandatory.**

m. PRIESTS' ANNUAL LEAVE-ROSTER: Priests are to submit months of preference for their annual leave for next year, 2018 to the Priests' Welfare Committee not later than January, 2018.

n. ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DIPLOMA IN CATECHETICS: Parish Priests are required to send their Catechists, Catechetical 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 01-793-3594

o. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: 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-01/10/2017, Mission Sunday-22/10/2017, Catechetical Collection- 05/11/2017, C.I.W.A-26/11/2017, Health Collection-10/12/2017 and VUNA Collection.**

p. QUARTERLY RETURNS COLLECTIONS: We commend all the parish priests who have been faithful to making their quarterly returns as when due and those who have taken advantage of our reminders in the last two circulars to make their returns. Only a few are yet to do so. We shall have to be publishing the names of repeat defaulters as from next year DV. Kindly take note.

We want to encourage the use of the Pay-Direct option or Bank transfer 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, you need to pay attention to you entries and signature.

When making their returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should also ensure that they attach the front page of the Blue Sheets that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it. Kindly note these in your subsequent submissions.

q. CATECHETICAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS/ CATECHISM TEACHERS AND PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

The Antioch Pastoral Institute hereby is informs all Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge of the training for catechists and pastoral assistants for the 2018/2019 session

Venue: St. Dominic's Parish School Block, Herbert Macaulay Road, Yaba

Holds: Second Saturday of every month- starting **February 10, 2018**

Time: 9:30 a.m

Forms: Obtainable from Religious Education Department, 19 Maye Street Off Montgomery (opp Lebanese School) Yaba @ #1,000.00

For contacts and enquiry call: 08033574050, 08035040118 or 08066224284

r. ADMISSION INTO THE CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

This is to inform everyone that admission into JSS 1 for the 2018/2019 academic session in all Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese is in progress. The

Entrance Examination comes up on Saturday 10th March, 2018 at the selected schools. Forms can be obtained from the school of choice, all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese, selected parishes and electronically on www.cmsslagos.ng.

The Ten Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese are:

1. St Gregory College, South-West, Ikoyi
2. Holy Child Girls College, Ikoyi
3. St Finbarr College, Akoka
4. Bethlehem Girls College, Abule-Ado
5. Mater Ecclesiae College, Epe
6. Sacred Heart College, Apapa
7. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic College, Okomaiko
8. Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School, Maryland
9. Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba
10. Marywood Girls College, Ebute-Metta

Let us give our children sound upbringing in the Catholic Faith.

s. 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.

11. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for the following confreres, whose Sacerdotal Ordination anniversaries occur this month: Anthony Cardinal Okogie, Msgri. Christopher Boyo, Bernard Okodua, Philip Hoteyin, Francis Ogunmodede, Gabriel Osu, Frs. Christopher Chindo, Benjamin Bello, Jerome Akinyemi, Michael Adebayo, Andrew O'Sullivan,

Michael Umoh, Francis Opara, Gabriel Iheanacho, Felix Onomeghie, Ihekwoaba Paul Miki, Eugene Oguzie, AmechiUgwu, Justin Obuka, Agor Paschal, Joseph Anyanwu, Wilfred Nwachukwu, Gasper Olanrewaju, Anthony Aderibigbe, Paul Anyasi, Innocent Chiamaka, Francis Ike, and Augustine Okhueigbe. Others are; George Anubuike, Augustine Ikuomola, John Okoro, Charles Orekoya, Emmanuel Ayeni, Anthony Godonu, Simeon Irabor, Martin Iwueze, Longinus Ogbede, Anthony Orioha, Stephen Akinsowon, John-Paul Ale, Damian Alozie, Raymond Anoliefo, Melvis Mayaki, Hyginus Nwanze, Eric Onyeoziri, Abatan Peter, Philip Sosu-Mobee, Anthony Nwosu, Gabriel Odunaya, Paul Adekoya, Robert Oji, John Nutayi, Philip Uchendu, Anthony Okoro, Michael Omughele, Joseph Nwokeforo, Paul Amenaghawon, Houesou Leon, Bankole Vincent , Onuoha Dominic, Peter Azagba and Ugochukwu Collins. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos!*

12. BEREAVEMENT: It is with gratitude to God for a life well spent, that we announce the home-call of Fr. Pius Afiabor SMA and Mr. John Nwokeocha, the father of Rev. Fr. Collins Nwokeocha SDV who died in the months of October and November, 2017. Kindly celebrate Mass for the repose of their souls and the consolation to the families. May God grant them eternal rest.

(Signed)

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos.