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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

1. The Month of August: We welcome you to the month of August, the eighth month of the year. This month is noted for breaks, pilgrimages, vacations and travels. As we take time out to relax and refresh, let us keep alight our spiritual pathway and endeavor to deepen our friendship with God.

In this month of August, the Church has provided the faithful with feasts which assist us to celebrate major events in the life of Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary and some of the saints. Two of these feasts are worthy of particular mention i.e. the feast of the Transfiguration (6th August) which gives the faithful a foretaste of the glory of God to be revealed; the second is the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15th August), which assures us that God fulfils his promises and does not refuse any good to those who walk in his presence without blame.

In the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints that we celebrate this month, we find an assurance of heavenly glory for Christians who persevere to the end. The Blessed Virgin Mary is no doubt the most perfect example of Christian perseverance. Following Mary, we also have some saints in this month whose lives inspire us to imitate their faith. They include: St. Alphonsus Liguori (August 1), St. John Mary Vianney (August 4), Dedication of St. Mary Major (August 5), St. Sixtus II and Companions and St. Cajetan (August 7), St. Dominic (August 8), St. Lawrence (August 10), St. Clare (August 11), Jane Frances de Chantal (August 12), St. Maximilian Kolbe (August 14), St. Stephen of Hungary (August 16), St. John Eudes (August 19), the Queenship of Mary (August 22), St. Rose of Lima (August 23), St. Bartholomew (August 24), St. Louis of France (August 25), St. Augustine (August 28) and
the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (August 29) - let us embrace and practice the virtue of perseverance as we continue our journey in this second half of the year.

2. **Concerning Priests standing as Guarantor**: This is a final reminder to all Priests and Religious working in the Archdiocese of the age-long regulation that inasmuch as they may give "Letters of Recommendation" to the people they know whenever they ask, no Priest or Religious is allowed, by the virtue of his or her status, to stand or sign as Surety or Guarantor or to bail anyone, not even a member of his or her family. We strongly admonish priests working in the Archdiocese to observe this age-long regulation to the letter.

3. **USE OF THE CHURCH FOR SHOOTING SCENES IN FILMS**: we again call the attention of Parish Priests to the need for carefulness in allowing filmmakers to shoot scenes of their films inside the Church, especially with the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. This sort of activity does not give the reverence due to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament or the Church as the House of God. We hereby demand extreme caution in allowing our church buildings to be used for purposes that we cannot vouch for or the intention for using the inside of our Churches that we are not aware of. We expect that Parish Priests should seek the advice of the Social Communications Directorate and/or Centre for Media Development in considering requests for the use of our Churches. We must be careful.

4. **Augustine University (AUI) offers Prelim Studies**: We again ask Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge to inform their parishioners that having obtained her Permanent License, the Augustine University, in collaboration with the Government Body responsible for Preliminary Studies in Nigeria, would soon be offering opportunities for Prelim Studies to students who are preparing to enter University. This opportunity is for young people who sat for JAMB Exam but did not secure admission or those who are awaiting their results. The advantage for those who do the Preliminary Studies is that they will be able to go on straight to 200 level of their Course of choice in the university. For more information about this, interested persons should contact the University, the University website or the Directorate of Education.

5. **Study Sessions for Priests on the Archdiocesan Youth Policy**: With the launching of the Archdiocesan Youth Policy in August 2018, there is a need to ensure that it fulfils its purpose.
We hereby restate again the need for study sessions for priests and leaders of the lay faithful so as ensure that everyone is familiar with its content so as to bring it to fulfil its purpose for which many months of hard work was dedicated. We ask the Deans in discussion with the Episcopal Vicars to organise Study Sessions on the document. We expect the Deanery Youth Chaplains to be the arrow-heads in preparing the Study Sessions which should take place by the last Quarter of this year, 2019.

Let us all remember that care of the Youth is of paramount importance and cannot be left to chance. The Policy is a proactive effort to take deliberate steps to form the youths and give them the tools they need in order to lead the Church with commitment into the future. Let us always remember that any group of people who do not form their youth are jeopardizing the future.

6. Admission Requirements into St. Augustine College of Education, (Project T.I.M.E): We call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners that the above-named College has commenced admission procedures for its 2018/2019 session. Admission requirements include:

(a) A minimum JAMB Score of 200 and above for Degree programmes and 100 and above for NCE Programmes & OND.

(B) Available Programmes and their requirements include:

University of Ibadan Degree (Full-Time and Distance Learning Centre) - 5 Credits at one sitting

OR

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 Catechists and O’ Level Certificate.

For further enquiries: 08034989663, 08034919553, 08034700872, 08023891300, and 08065954493. We urge Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to kindly inform their parishioners.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
a. **Anniversary of the Archbishop’s Installation:** The 7th anniversary of the Installation of His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins as the Archbishop of Lagos comes up on **Sunday 4th of August, 2019.** We thank the good Lord for His benevolence and the graces he has received in these past seven years as the Chief Shepherd of our Archdiocese. We request that you to kindly pray for his intentions as he continues to shepherd the flock in the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos.

b. **Archdiocesan Novena for the Solemnity of Assumption:** This Archdiocesan Novena comes up from **Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 15th of August, 2019** at the Archdiocesan Marian Shrine, Maryland. The theme for this year’s Novena is, “**His Mercy is upon those who fear him**” Lk.1:50, Time: 4:30pm daily.

c. **Invitation to Perpetual Profession of Vows:** The Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus cordially invite the Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lagos to the Perpetual Profession of Vows of: **Rev. Srs. Fidelia Maris Amune, EHJ, Lucia Marie Sylvanus, EHJ, Mary Bibiana Ikpeen, EHJ, Mary Grace Lawani, EHJ, Dorothy Maria Goretti Dangi, EHJ, Mary Stella Okoroafor, EHJ and Mary Helen Ashaka, EHJ.**

**Date:** August 15, 2019

**Venue:** St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland, Lagos

**Time:** 10:00am Prompt.

d. **Catholic Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (CAMPAN):** This Association comprising Journalists across the Print, Electronic and Social Media; as well as Advertising, Public Relations, New Technology practitioners and Catholic Lecturers has been approved by the Archbishop to operate at Chapters level in the Parishes. Parish Priests are expected to give them the necessary support and encouragement.

e. **Singles’ Day with the Archbishop:** This annual Archdiocesan event organized by the Directorate of Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre will be held this year in conjunction with the Archdiocesan body of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Nigeria (CCRN). The Day comes up on **Saturday 24th August, 2019** at Catholic Church of the Ascension, Airport Road, Ikeja,
Lagos by 10:00am. This event will begin with the Opening Mass by His Grace, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, the Archbishop of Lagos. For Advertisement/support/sponsorship in the brochure please contact the Director’s office: 08029270402, or CCRN President: on 08038428028.

f. Female Catechists’ Forum: The Religious Education Department of the Archdiocese is organizing a one-day forum for all female catechists in the Archdiocese of Lagos with the theme: “Responding to Mission: the example of Mary Magdalene” (Jn. 20:17-18) on Saturday 21st September, 2019 at Domus Fidei, Ikeja by 8:30am. Interested participants are to pay the sum of N1,500.

g. Couples for Christ Group: This is an Archdiocesan organization that helps guiding couples and couples-to-be on the path of the Church’s vision for married life in our world today. Led by their Chaplain, Rev. Fr Sebastain Ukwandu, they would be going round parishes to create awareness, sensitize parishioners on the visions of the group and to request for members. Let us kindly give them due attention.

h. Family Week 2019: The annual Family Week Celebration in the Archdiocese holds from Sunday 28th of July to Sunday 4th of August 2019. The theme for this year is: “Responding to the modern-day challenges of Human Life, Marriages and Family in Africa.” We are all invited to the FHLU thought-provoking Conference that inaugurates the Family Week. This is to hold on 27th July, 2019 at the Church and Society Hall; 19, Maye Street, Yaba by 10am. The theme of this Year’s Conference is: “Human Sexuality: A Divine Agenda.” Registration Fee is N2,500 which includes cost of conference materials and lunch.

It is expected that Parishioners participate actively by discussing the following sub themes in their Parishes and at their Society meetings:

- **Sunday the 28th of July 2019** will be the Introduction of the Family week at all Masses in Parishes.
- **Day 1. Monday 29th July 2019:** The United Nation’s “sexual and reproductive health and rights” agenda for Africa.
- **Day 2. Tuesday 30th July 2019:** The truth about contraception.


Day 5. Friday 2nd August 2019: The United Nations comprehensive sexuality Education: sowing the seed of “the culture of death in our children.


Day 7. Sunday 4th of August 2019: Parish Family celebrations, Gifting Sunday, renewal of marriage vows, celebration of silver/golden jubilee, wedding anniversaries. A Special Collection will be taken up on that day for Family and Human Life Unit of the Archdiocese.

i. CYON APOSTOLATE:

(i) CYON Archdiocesan Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS): The Life in the Spirit Seminar being organised by the Archdiocesan CYON in conjunction with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Nigeria will take place at a parish within the close proximity of those registered in the Deanery within the hours of 2:00pm to 5:00pm. It is an 8 weeks Seminar that began on the 2nd of June, 2019. The LISS is the first of its kind organized by the CYON Lagos Archdiocese. The LISS has two main objectives:

a. To renew and reawaken the power of the Holy Spirit that we received at Baptism and Confirmation.

b. To promote an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord and to experience a personal Pentecost in our lives.

We encourage every youth in the Archdiocese to attend. Please register through the following link: www.bit.ly/LISS_2019. More information will be coming soon.

(ii) CYON Lagos Ecclesiastical Province (LEPCYON) Pilgrimage to Uganda: The CYON Pilgrimage to Uganda this year, which will hold from 10th to 24th of August, 2019, promises to consist of interesting packages that will be educative, spiritual, social as well as knowledge in networking activities. Interested participants can register online before the actual date via this link: http://bit.ly/LEPCYONUG19. Also, the payment of ₦ 400,000.00 which will comprise of accommodation, feeding, souvenirs, sightseeing and lots more, can be made in full or in installments through the following account details, Bank Name: Fidelity Bank, Acct Name: Catholic Youth Organisation of Nigeria (LEP), Acct Number: 4110040423.
(iii) CYON Lagos Archdiocesan Biennial Youth Camp (AYC) 2019: This will be coming up from Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th of August, 2019 at St. Finbarr’s College, Akoka, Yaba. Registration and payment have commenced since Sunday 28th of April, 2019 and will close Friday 2nd of August, 2019. Interested participants can register online via the link: https://forms.gle/QEohR4RE7ZLxr8PV8. Also, participants can pay the Delegate fee of ₦3,000 through this bank account details, Bank Name: First Bank, Acct Name: CYON Archdiocese of Lagos, Acct Number: 2008399744.

(iv) National Youth Seminar: The Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Abuja, is organizing a National Youth Retreat with the theme: “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.” Venue: Archbishop Obiefuna Retreat Centre, Awka, Anambra State. Date: Wednesday 7th – Sunday 11th August 2019. Amongst the host of speakers are; Most Rev. Dr. Hassan Matthew Kukah and Rt. Rev. Msgr. (Dr.) John Aniagwu. Attendance is strictly by delegation. Delegates from the Archdiocese should please take note.

(v) Passionate Appeal: We call on Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful in the Archdiocese to please take seriously matters concerning the youth and to give them support in regards to organization and attendance at programmes, general welfare and empowerment.

j. Archdiocesan Catholic Herald Newspaper: As part of the efforts to widen the scope of the Archdiocesan Catholic Herald Newspaper, the Directorate of Social Communications hereby welcomes write-ups and contributions on faith and morals as well as social issues from priests, religious (Male and female) as well as lay faithful. You can send your write-ups/contributions to: thecatholicgherald2007@gmail.com or tonygeee23@gmail.com for consideration.

We are also appealing to Parish Priests and Associates to please publicise the Catholic Herald Newspaper during Altar announcements. May God continue to bless and reward our apostolate. Amen.

k. Catholic Prison Chaplaincy: This is to inform Parishes, Organizations, Societies or individuals in the Archdiocese who wish to visit any of the prisons to kindly contact the Archdiocesan Prison Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Kingsley Agada CM on 07038040153. This will help to take care of logistics.
I. Mass Wine & Quarterly Returns Booklets: We have received a new supply of Mass Wine. Given the rise in the cost of importation and other logistics, the price has increased also. Parishes can now buy Mass wine from the Chancery at ₦19,500:00 per carton. In a similar vein, the new Quarterly Returns Booklets are now available in the Chancery at ₦1,500:00 per booklet.

m. Training for Tribunal Facilitators: In compliance with a requirement in the Motu Prorio of Pope Francis titled, ‘Mitis Iudex’, this training/seminar will come up on 19th August, 2019 at St. Agnes Catholic Church Maryland by 10.00am. All the appointed Deanery representatives are required to be in attendance.

n. St. Augustine College of Education Diploma in Catechetics: 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 01-793-3594 12.

o. 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 2019/2020 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.

p. 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

q. Catechetical Training for Catechists/ Catechism Teachers and Pastoral Assistants
The Antioch Pastoral Institute hereby informs all Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge of the training for Catechists and Pastoral Assistants for the 2019/2020 session. The courses are as follows:
i. **Online Certificate Course in Catechesis and Faith Development:** This course is accessed online but classroom contact holds every quarter on the first Saturday of the relevant month. The course draws from the Scriptures, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and selected documents of the Second Vatican Council, offering a balance of theology, spirituality and catechetical skills. Duration: Two Years, beginning from **6th of April, 2019.** Venue: St. Dominic’s Parish School Block, Herbert Macaulay Road, Yaba.

ii. **Certificate in Catechesis:** This course is for developing and advancing Catechetical activities for Catechists, Catechism Teachers, Sunday School Facilitators and Parish Pastoral Assistants. Duration: 18 Months, with class contact holding 3rd Saturdays of every month beginning from 6th April, 2019.

iii. **Introduction to Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC):** This is a refresher course on the four Pillars of our faith as presented in the CCC. It is a mandatory program for all Catechists and Catechism teachers. Duration: Lecture holds on 4th Saturday of each month beginning from **May to August, 2019.** To obtain a form and for other enquiries, contact Religious Education Department, 19 Maye Street Off Montgomery (Opp. Lebanese School) Yaba or call: 08033574050, 08056550390 or 08066224284.

r. **Family and Human Life Unit:** St. John Paul II School for Marriage and Family of the Archdiocese is running training courses on Church teaching for interested persons in the following areas:

- Marriage Theology and Lived Experience
- How to Teach Human Sexuality to Children and Youth - Theology of the Body
- Managing Couple Fertility Naturally (Love and Life Method)
- Basic Christian Counseling Skills
- Canon Law for the Laity

Note that courses for Part-time and Full-time begin in **February and September, 2019,** respectively. For more enquiries and registration, call Martina Ozegbe on 08130285777 or 07030616170.
s. Quarterly Returns Collections: Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the third quarter of the year: Peter's Pence Collection- 07/07/2019, AUI Collection- 14/07/2019, AUI Collection- 11/08/2019, AUI Collection- 08/09,2019, Laity Collection- 29/09/2019.

We reiterate our advice that Parish Priests/Priests-in-charge should use the Pay-Direct option or make bank transfers to forestall the challenges of returned cheques, irregular signatures and other problems that cause cheques to bounce. For those who insist on making their financial returns with cheques, kindly pay attention to your entries and signature. We emphasise again that when making returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should ensure that they attach the front page in the booklet that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it and fill all the pages of the Booklet.

t. Mater Ecclesiae Monastery:

Monthly Retreat: Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, Lagos organises 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.

Camillius, Dike Francis, Victor Eke, Nwoke Jeffrey and Onyebuchi Martins whose sacerdotal ordination Anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. Ad multos annos!!!

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos