



# CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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TEL/FAX: 01- 8448669

Monthly Bulletin /Circular

**OCTOBER, 2018** /No. 073

**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 October:** Welcome to the month of October, the tenth month of the year which also ushers us into the beginning of the fourth quarter. The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary and the Solemnity of Our Lady, Queen and Patroness of Nigeria. During this month, the Church invites us to rededicate ourselves to the maternal patronage of Our Mother through the praying of the Holy Rosary especially during the course of the October Devotion. All Catholics are therefore enjoined to participate, both at the Parish and family level in the activities of October Devotion. Anyone one who prays the Rosary every day with faith and a deep sense of devotion in contrast to mere mechanical and superficial recitation stands to receive divine favours and protection.

Also, in this month, we celebrate the 58<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary of our beloved country. Let us seize the opportunity that the month of October offers, to pray for our country, Nigeria in these trying times: for economy stability, the triumph of justice, peace, reconciliation, progress and good governance; more so, as we gradually approach the 2019 general elections and in doing so, receive spiritual enrichment from Our Lady's Maternal intercession. May Our Lady of the Holy Rosary pray for us.

The Church further presents us with the lives of the following saints as guide in the course of this month: **St. Francis of Asisi** (October 4), **Our Lady of the Rosary** (October 7), **St. Ignatius of Antioch** (October 17), **St. Anthony Mary Claret** (October 24) and **Ss. Simon and Jude** (October 28). May the faithful in the Church Triumphant continue to intercede for us.

**2. CONCERNING THE FORMATION OF NEW PARISH PASTORAL, LAITY AND FINANCE COUNCILS:** The Archdiocesan Parish Guidelines for **Parish Pastoral, Laity and Finance Councils** came into effect on November 29, 2015 (First Sunday of Advent) with the inauguration of the above Councils in all Parishes of the Archdiocese. The tenure of the Councils was set for three years, to end by November, 2018. In line with this, preparations for the inauguration of new councils are to be set in motion where this has not already started.

A Timetable has been drawn up for the constitution of new Parish Pastoral, Laity and Finance Councils which **MUST** be inaugurated on **December 2, 2018** (First Sunday of Advent) for a **four-year non-renewable tenure**. Kindly refer to our Special Circular of 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 for the timetable on the formation of new Parish Pastoral, Laity and Finance councils.

**3. LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR PRIESTS:** The Archdiocese is organizing a Leadership training for **all Priests** working in the Archdiocese. It is being facilitated by some of the staff of Lagos Business School. The aim of the training is to better equip priests to carry out their responsibilities as pastors. The trainings would take place in the four Regions of the Archdiocese at places that would be communicated by the Episcopal Vicars. We expect that the Deans will collaborate with the Episcopal Vicars in order to choose the priests who will be in the groups of twenty-five each that will participate and in the choice of the locations within the Regions.

**4. PRAYER FOR NIGERIA:**

a. Since August 2018 we began praying for Nigeria in the Archdiocese of Lagos as a follow-up to the procession that we held in May 2018 concerning the situation of insecurity in our nation. The directive is hereby expressed below:

**To this effect, we hereby direct that all Priests, Religious and Lay faithful of our Archdiocese should gather together in their different Parishes for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary and other prayers between 5pm and 6pm on the last Sunday of every month till further notice. This directive remains in force as given.**

b. However, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria in the communique issued at the end of its 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting in Sokoto early in September directed that, **throughout the month of October, the entire Church in Nigeria as our "October Devotion" intensify the daily**

**recitation of the Holy Rosary, as families and parishes with the specific intention of praying for God to save our country, Nigeria.**

Kindly note that the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary for our country as directed by the CBCN would last throughout the month of October, the month of Mary, as part of our normal "October Devotion". **This however does not undermine or replace the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary Devotion that we do in the Archdiocese between 5pm and 6pm on the last Sunday of every month till further notice.**

We know that the Rosary has always been an effective weapon in moments of difficulty and in the fight against all forms of evil. We pray by the intercession of our Blessed Mother in the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament that the will of the Lord for the welfare and good of His people will not be subverted.

**5. DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION:** It has been brought to our notice that some priests ask seminarians, still in formation to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. This is, to say the least, a breach of the regulations with regard to the use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and it almost amounts to a sacrilege. We hereby warn all such priests to desist from such a practice and all seminarians that if they accept to carry out such an illicit instruction, they put their vocations at risk. Whether they belong to Institutes of Religious life or the Archdiocese, seminarians are not authorized to distribute Holy Communion just by the fact that they are in formation for the Priesthood.

We use this opportunity once again to call the attention of all priests to the Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion which was published recently. Wherever there is the need (we know that there is a need in many parishes) priests should take advantage of the regulations in the Guidelines to get properly appointed Extraordinary ministers to assist in this important ministry.

**6. On the Use of Vernacular during Masses:** It has come to our notice that a number of our priests use expressions or proverbs in vernacular languages at Masses especially during the homily. We wish to call the attention of all priests to always keep in mind that our parishes are cosmopolitan and multi-lingual in nature and so all parishioners do not speak the same language or understand all the languages. Hence, if any one uses any expression or proverb in any vernacular language, he should endeavor to translate into English for the understanding of all those present at the Mass.

**7. 6-Month Mandatory Preparation for Marriage:** The Sacrament of Marriage which is not only a gift of immense value to the Church but also a means of grace for living the married life by couples. A Sacrament of such importance should involve adequate preparations such that couples who are approaching it go through programs designed to assist them develop an appropriate understanding of the Sacrament and evaluate as well as deepen their readiness for married life. Such a program should help to provide insights into getting to know one another better as individuals preparing to become married couples.

Marriage preparation in the Archdiocese of Lagos involves a process. Hence, it is required that couples planning to receive the Sacrament should contact their Parish Priests not later than **SIX MONTHS** before the anticipated wedding date in order to begin the marriage preparation process. The period of preparation in the Archdiocese is 6 months. We expect all priests to keep this in mind, inform couples and adhere to this Regulation.

**8. Mass Stipend and Stole Fees:** It is an ancient tradition of the Catholic Church and a provision of Canon Law that the faithful give an offering for the administration of certain Sacraments as well as for booking of Masses. However, it is important to note that the Sacraments are not commodities for sale. And since the purpose of this offering is chiefly the support of the church and the clergy, the faithful are expected to give it voluntarily. In determining the amount offered as Mass stipend and Stole fees, the financial strength of the faithful must be considered. It is to be kept in mind always that poor parishioners who genuinely cannot afford to give the stipulated amounts should be attended to without insisting on the amount stipulated as offerings. We urge all Parish priests to exercise due prudence and moderation on this matter.

**9. Concerning Private Ministries AGAIN:** We refer to the January 2017 Circular in which we called attention of all Priests and faithful in the Archdiocese to the menace of private ministries in and around the Parishes as well as in the homes of Parishioners. Such ministries are often run by individuals as private ventures with their personal interests in mind. They beguile unsuspecting members of the faithful as having solutions to their problems. We call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to be alert and to continue to sensitize their Parishioners. Anyone who participates in the activities of these private ministries does so at a risk to the

authenticity of his or her catholic faith and practice. We encourage everyone to be vigilant so as not to give wolves in sheep clothing a chance to lead people astray with all the consequences for our salvation.

We are beginning to have incidents now of priests coming from outside the Archdiocese who claim to have the authorization of the Archbishop to carry out activities that our particular laws do not permit. We expect that our priests who are faced with such claims request for the letter given the authorization claimed and they need to bring such incidents to the notice of the Deans and the Archbishop immediately.

**10. Final Blessing at Masses with the Archbishop:** We have noticed that a good number of our lay faithful are not aware of the liturgical formula for the final blessing and dismissal at Masses celebrated by the Bishop. So, we ask the Parish Priests to instruct the faithful on the responses to the prayers that precede the solemn final blessing. Thus, the formula for the final blessing is as follows:

**V: The Lord be with you**

**R: And with your spirit**

**V: May the name of the Lord be blessed**

**R: Both now and forever**

**V: Our help is in the name of the Lord**

**R: Who made heaven and earth**

**V: May almighty God bless you + Father + Son and + Holy Spirit**

**R: Amen**

**11. Support for Augustine University.**

For some time now, we have been repeating the item concerning support for Augustine University in our monthly circular. By now we presume that everyone is familiar with the expectations. In summary, the required areas of support are: **1.** Augustine University Sunday i.e. 2nd Sunday of every month. **2.** Painless Giving of at least 500.00 per month through POS or ATM or Bank Transfer into the account of the University on the Archdiocesan website. **3.** The formation of Friends of Augustine University in each parish. **4.** Parishes are requested to consider offering scholarship to children in their parishes who are from indigent homes but are brilliant and have admission to the University.

We ask all Priests and the lay faithful to keep these expectations and requests in mind.

## 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. **Priestly and Diaconate Ordinations:** Our deacons, **Rev. PaulMary Otukpe, Rev. Raymond Emedo, Rev. Joseph Oyekunle, Rev. Martins Ozonwafor, Rev. Andrew Toye** shall be raised to the Order of the Priesthood and **Mr. Harrison Okoli** to the Order of Diaconate on **Thursday, November 8, 2018** at **Catholic Church of Ascension, Airport Road. The time is 10.00am.** Let us keep them in our prayers as we continue to pray for all our Clergy.

In view of the above, the Ordination Planning Sub-Committee of the All-Purpose Committee hereby appeals to all parishes, parishioners, friends and relatives of the ordinands for adverts and Goodwill messages. Please find below the rates:

- i. **Outside Back Cover - N250,000.00k**
- ii. **Centre Spread Pages - N200,000.00k**
- iii. **Inside Back Cover - N100,000.00k**
- iv. **Inside Front Cover - N100,000.00k**
- v. **Holy Pictures - N100,000.00k**
- vi. **Pope/Pope Emeritus - N50,000.00k**
- vii. **Archbishop/Archbishop Emeritus - N50,000.00k**
- viii. **Parish Congratulatory Messages - N50,000.00k**
- ix. **Societies/Associations - N50,000.00k**
- x. **Profile Page of Ordinand - N25,000.00k**
- xi. **Liturgical Readings page - N25,000.00k**

Payments should please be made into the below account: -

**Bank:** Zenith Bank

Account Name: Archdiocese of Lagos, All Purpose Committee, Ordination Acct,

**Account No:** 1015-264-195.

All Goodwill messages should please be forwarded to any or all of the following:

**Rev. Fr. Augustine Ikuomola: ikuomola2004@gmail.com Tel: 0802 833 5623**

**Mrs. Teniola Jaiyeola: tenijaiyeola@hotmail.com Tel: 0803 337 4333**

**Mr. Emmanuel Coker: emman.coker@gmail.com Tel: 0803 305 9797**

b. We wish to announce the completion of the Incardination process for **Rev. Fr. Cornelius Olaniran** and **Rev. Fr. Sebastian Ukwandu**. They have therefore been incardinated into the Archdiocese of Lagos with all the rights, privileges and obligations attached. May God bless their apostolate in the Archdiocese.

We also welcome Rev. Frs. **Franklin Nnamdi**, **George Chiedu**, **Jude Ugbome** and **Paul Okobi** who have come to join us as Fidei Donum Priests from Issele-Uku Diocese. We pray the Lord to give them fruitful ministries among the People of God in our Archdiocese.

c. **Curia Meeting:** Members of the Archdiocesan Curia are hereby reminded of their meeting scheduled to hold on the **3rd October, 2018 at 10:00am** in the Chancery's Conference Room.

d. **Finance Council Meeting:** The meeting of the Archdiocesan Finance Council comes up on the **23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018 at 10am** in the Chancery's Conference room.

e. **Priests Recollection:** The Priests' Recollection at the Regional level comes up on the **10th October, 2018**. All Priests are required to take part in this unique spiritual exercise. The Episcopal Vicars are expected to ensure the participation all priests in their Regions.

f. **Seminar for Priests:** The Seminar for priest will come up on the **24th of October, 2018**. We expect all priests to avail themselves of this opportunity for ongoing formation

g. **Fest2laff 2018:** There will be the Season 2 of the Gospel Comedy Concert/Charity fundraiser organized to create entertainment and raise funds to assist the less privileged tagged: **"Fest2laff with MC Smart and Catholic Comedians...The Wheel of Charity."**

This event was organized for the first-time last year and the proceeds were paid into an Archdiocesan account from which charities jointly decided upon between the organizers and the Archbishop were supported e.g. the conjoined twins in Satellite Town and Anthony Cardinal Okogie Foundation.

Details of the 2018 edition are as follows:

**Date:** Monday 1st October 2018

**Time:** 3pm -9pm

**Venue:** McGovern Hall, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland.

**Ticket:** Regular N 2,000.00 VIP N 5,000.00

**Table for 10-** N 200,000.00

Tickets are available in all Parishes.

For Sponsorship and enquiries: Please call 08062499548

**h. 2018 Catechetical Week Celebration:** This will be held from **7th to 14th October** in **all the Parishes**. The theme is **"Live and Let's Live: A Case for the Sanctity of Human Life."** Please, Contact the Religious Education Department 19, Maye Street, Yaba, for details and sub-topics.

**i. 2018 Catechists Day Celebration:** This will take place at **St. Raphael Catholic Church, Anthony Village, Maryland**. **Date: Sunday 14th of October, 2018. Chief Celebrant: Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins. Host: Rev. Fr. Eric Onyeoziri.**

**j. Silver Jubilee of EHV Sisters:** The Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, South West Region, cordially invite Priests and Religious of Lagos Archdiocese to the Thanksgiving Mass for the 25th Anniversary of the first profession of **Sr. Theresa Maris Afareha, EHV, Sr. Josephine Maris Onyedibe, EHV, Sr. Mary Judith Madueke, EHV, and Sr. Mary Jacinta Nwaigwe, EHV**. This will take place at **Catholic Church of Ascension, Airport Road, Ikeja**. **Date: October 3, 2018. Time: 10am.**

**k. Nigerian Catholic Diocesan Priests Association:** will be holding her meeting on the **11<sup>th</sup> of October, 2018, at Regina Mundi Catholic Church, Mushin**. All Diocesan Priests working in Lagos Archdiocese are expected to attend and be punctual. **Time: 10am**

**l. Anthony Cardinal Okogie Annual Lecture:** This comes up on **Thursday, 18th October, 2018 at McGovern Hall, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Maryland**. The programme is planned by the Directorate of the Catholic Lay Apostolate Centre in conjunction with the Catholic Women Organisation of Nigeria- Lagos Archdiocese (CWONLA). **Time: 9:00 a.m.** We implore Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge of Parishes and Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese to kindly place Goodwill Message at a minimum of N30,000.00 and also send five (5) for N25,000.00 while Archdiocesan Lay Organisation/Society/Association to kindly place Goodwill Message for N10,000.00 and also send two (2) for N10,000.00. Please send the soft copy of the goodwill material to [catholiclayapostolatecentre@yahoo.com](mailto:catholiclayapostolatecentre@yahoo.com) and call the Director's office on 08127736117 or 08029270402 for further information. Thank you for your generous support.

**m. Directory 2019:** The year 2019 is around the corner. Kindly go through this year's 2018 Directory again so as to point out possible errors, omissions, amendments and suggestions for the improvement of our Directory. Please, send your comments to the Chancery on or before the last week of October, 2018. You may also reach the Chancery through her e-mail address: arclagos@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

**n. Family and Human Life Training:** This is to notify all who wish to be trained in the areas of marriage, family and human life as facilitators, counselors or social workers to register by calling 08130285777 or 09082053445. Training schedules include:

**1. MARRIAGE THEOLOGY AND LIVED EXPERIENCE**

**PART TIME:**

**YABA CENTRE**

i. **Weekday:** First Tuesday of each month for 10 months beginning on 6th February, 2018 @ 19 Maye Street, Yaba.

ii. **Weekend:** First Saturday of each month for 10 months beginning on 3rd February, 2018 @ 19 Maye Street, Yaba.

**FULL TIME: YABA CENTRE:** Begins on 20th September, third Thursday weekly for ten weeks.

**ISOLO CENTRE**

Last Saturday of every month for 10 months beginning 24th February, 2018 @ St Francis Catholic Church, Idimu

**IKORODU CENTRE**

Fourth Tuesday of each month for 10 months beginning 27th February 2018 @ St Augustine Catholic Church Ikorodu

**FESTAC CENTRE**

Second Tuesday of each month for 10 months beginning 13th February, 2018 @ Holy Family Catholic Church, Festac.

**APAPA CENTRE**

Third Tuesday of each month beginning 20th January 2017 @ St Margaret Catholic Church Olodi Apapa

**2. LOVE AND LIFE Ovulation Method (BILLINGS) of Natural Family Planning**

**YABA CENTRE:**

i. 1st Saturday of every month for 8 months beginning 3rd February, 2018

**OLODI APAPA:**

i. 3rd Tuesday of every month for 8 months beginning 19th June, 2018

Total course fee- N 30,500 with certificate.

**3. BASIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING COURSE**

**YABA CENTRE:**

i. One Friday a month for three months beginning 16th March, 2018.

**OLODI APAPA:**

i. One Tuesday a month beginning 20th February, 2018.

Total course fee- N 12,000 with certificate.

**NOTE:** Payment details: **FAMILY AND HUMAN LIFE UNIT- CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS, ECO BANK ACCT NO. 3772028512**

**o. Mater Ecclesiae Monastery:** invites all to the Novitiate ceremony of Postulants which will take place on **7<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, at 10am. Venue: Matter Ecclesiae Monastery, Anthony Cardinal Okogie Road, Sangotedo Ajah-Lagos.**

- **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.

**p. Quarterly Returns 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- 07/10/2018, AUI Collection- 14/10/2018, 11/11/2018, and 09/12/2018, Mission Sunday-21/10/2018, Catechetical collection- 07/10/2018, C.I.W.A-02/12/2018, Health Collection-09/12/2018, Laity-30/12/2018 and VUNA Collection.**

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 to 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 we use the Pay-Direct option or make 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 returns with cheques, we request that you kindly pay attention to your entries and signature. We want to reiterate again that when making their returns, Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should ensure they attach the front page of the Blue Sheets that has the name of the parish and the appropriate quarter on it and fill the all the pages of the Booklet. Kindly note these in your subsequent submissions.

**12. PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** We congratulate, rejoice and request your prayers for Revd Frs. Anthony Fadairo, Obi John, Innocent Uwakwe, Gabriel Feyisetan, James Anelu, Charles Ukwe, OP., Nicodemus Ugwu, OP., and Ntia Anthony whose sacerdotal ordination anniversaries occur this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. *Ad multos annos.*

**(Signed)**

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