

Reflections

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Catholic Family Newsletter

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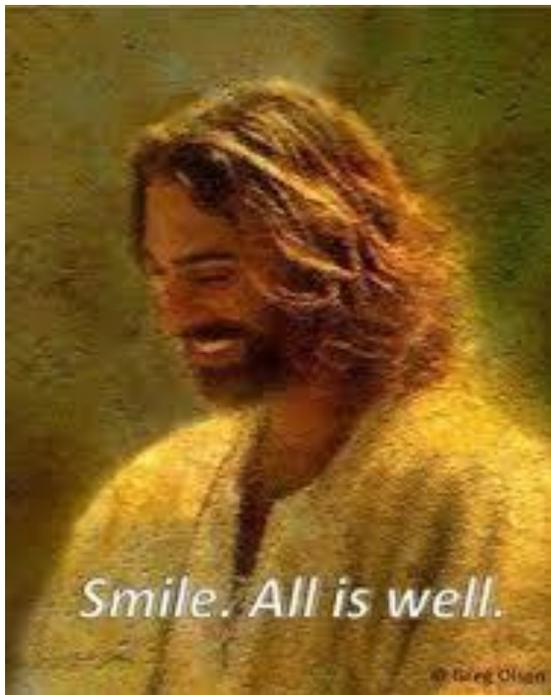
Our Brother Jesus

Help the Souls in Purgatory

+ Alfred Adewale Martins

Archbishop of Lagos

Blessings to All:



The painting on the left is of a smiling Jesus. The message in the photo is simple but also very profound. He has defeated Satan and saved us. He is happy and sends you a message...**"All is well...Trust in Me...I have given you My All; so that you may have eternal life in paradise with Me. I am truly your brother. You are a member of the family of God and I love You."**

Jesus wants to motivate each of us to trust in Him and to pray. For truly there is a Kingdom of God and you have been invited, free of charge!

Some of you have experienced things that have made you more aware of God's love for you. Perhaps it was a person or an experience that moved your heart to really think about God's goodness to you. Others may have experienced trauma, or sickness or a variety of ills that humans experience. But God's love never waivers, no matter where you are in your life. *Sometimes you feel His love, in the worst of times.*

I believe that God gives us inspiration many times throughout our lives to remind us that we are loved. Think of the last time, something happened that inspired you to be better or a gesture of kindness given to you by a friend or stranger. God is present in our lives and He uses others to show us His love.

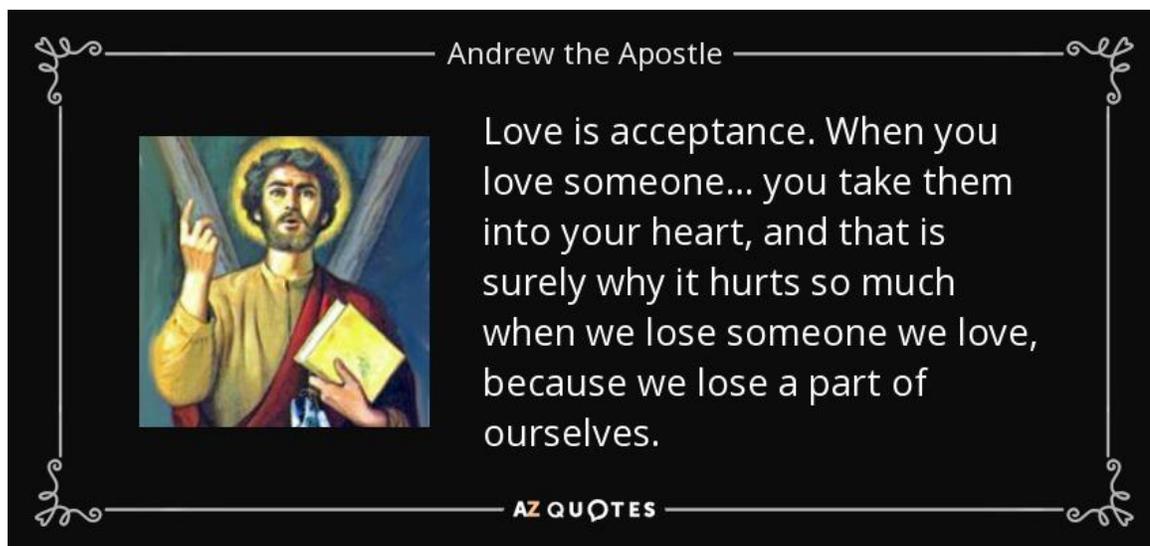


Sometimes God throws us a lifeline when we least expect it as a sign of His love.

A friend calls when you are feeling low. Or your child gives you an unexpected hug and says, "I love you".

We all need others from time to time to help us share the burdens of life; to cry with us at a funeral; or just to listen to us. *Love is the greatest quality of God and He has instilled this in us.* We are created in Love and we are meant to live in Love.

St Andrew the Apostle has a famous quote that gets to the point of love. For all of you that have grieved over the loss of a love one or even a family pet, these words of St. Andrew can console you.



¹The Souls In Purgatory Need Our Prayers

by Susan Tasone



The Mass Heals!

We hear stories of people who have been healed in body and we are in awe!

We seldom consider how much Jesus does to heal souls suffering on earth and more so the souls suffering in Purgatory. We are invited to act on what the Saints are telling us!

We gain “new intercessors” when we pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. They become our nearest, sincerest, and dearest friends on earth and in Heaven.

Christ told St. Faustina, **“All these souls are greatly loved by Me. They are making retribution to My justice. It is in your power to bring relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My**

Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer.”

We do not stop to think about the physical and spiritual healing through the Eucharist. Today, many are discovering how the Eucharist for the deceased also heals the living as they come into deeper relationship with Jesus.

¹ [https:// http://susantassone.com/](https://http://susantassone.com/)

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the highest act of worship and the highest form of prayer. St. John Chrysostom says, "Christ is the victim that gives solace to the dead."

So, what are you doing for our dear deceased loved ones? Who do you miss the most? Who do you wish you could have done more for in their life? Who hurt you? Who helped you the most spiritually or temporally? Have a Mass offered for them now! The Council of Trent tells us, "The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Perpetual Sacrifice, is the greatest of all suffrages for the Holy Souls."

²A great avenue to have Masses offered is through the missions. By offering your Masses through the missions you are providing bread and wine for the Eucharist for a priest in mission countries. These offerings also help with liturgical expenses, books for seminarians, and ministries of the Church. These priests depend on your Masses as their lifeline. Can we help them? Can we help Christ continue His mission on and beyond this earth? And when we do help, we are also being merciful to ourselves! Many Parish Mass Intention Books are filled years ahead.

We have an opportunity to help our deceased loved ones and our missionaries spread the Gospel and bring the Eucharist to God's beloved poor. And what a marvelous time to do this spiritual work of mercy! The Eucharist is the source and summit of all Christian life. Let us be missionaries of the Eucharist for the Holy Souls languishing in Purgatory.



(Offer Masses for the Souls in Purgatory.) And remember to have Masses offered for yourselves, special occasions, during the Holidays. It is a refreshing surprise to give someone the gift of prayer! St. Anselm tells us that those we hear or have offered during life are more profitable than those offered for us after death. In this way we shall not be at the mercy of those who remain behind. There is much truth in the proverb which says: "A candle placed before us gives more light than ten candles placed behind us." Only by the means of the Mass can we nourish the hope of being received into Heaven immediately after death, without having to pass through the cleansing flames of Purgatory.

² Call your Parish to inquire about Masses to be said by Missionary Priests. Send your offering

Alfred Adewale Martins: In My 60 Years, I've Had No Cause to Feel Abandoned By God



When Alfred Adewale Martins was consecrated Catholic Archbishop of Lagos in 2012, his choice was received with joy and applause because of his hard work and spiritual gift. Since the choice by the Holy See, the diocese has witnessed tremendous growth. The Abeokuta-born cleric will be 60 on June 1. Bayo Adeoye spent some time with His Grace and he spoke on preparations for his 60th birthday, his journey so far and many

interesting issues. Excerpt:

How are you feeling at 60?

In my 60 years, by his grace, I have had no cause to feel abandoned by God. Indeed, I have every cause to feel that His grace has been carrying me all along. God has been like the wind behind the sails that is moving me. It's a statement of thanksgiving to God in the first instance, gratitude to people who have been part of my life since the beginning, family, the church, the leadership of the church, the people and all those who had taught me one thing or the other all these years, that's the greatest feeling.

Tell us a bit about your formative years?

I was born in Abeokuta at the Secret Heart Hospital, Lantoro. I went to St Augustine Catholic Primary School, after which I went to the Seminary in Ibadan. I was there as a boarding student. We returned home only on holidays. I chose to go to the major seminary at SS Peter and Paul in Ibadan. My formative years were between Abeokuta, Ibadan and Lagos. During our formation years, we were part of the Lagos Archdiocese. My life was centred around those three places.

Growing up was very interesting because as young boys, we had opportunities to interact, personally and individually tell stories to feel the pulse of one another. We didn't have distraction of play station games, Google and social media. So, it made us bond a lot. Looking back, I still remember the story we told each other while growing up; that was one of the fascinating things about growing up. I am not saying Google and social media are bad; they have their own wonderful effect. Just mentioning that it was not part of my growing up.

I grew up in Abeokuta, it was a town in which people knew one another; families were connected. We were connected either by church or neighbourhood. It was a situation in which children never feel nobody is looking at them. Growing up also had the church as part and parcel of my life.

Your parents are devoted Catholics, when you made your decision of going to the seminary, what was their reaction?

My parents were happy that I choose to become a priest. We were two of us, my elder brother and I, who had attended the minor seminary, like a secondary school where we get prepared for going to the seminary. They allowed both of us go even with the danger of both of us becoming priest. But he decided to leave and I choose to continue.

Was it a hard decision for you to make or you easily made up your mind?

Really, I think the trajectory of mine is such that the church has been part of it. I went to a catholic primary and secondary schools. For me, it was part of me already and I am happy I was not sent out. If not I would have been wondering what I would have done next.

At 60, what else do you want God to do for you?

First of all, I wish that God would continue to keep my feet on the path of faith. Practice of the faith, helping people to live on the faith and giving directions, helping to chart a path to help people to live their faith. What is someone's purpose in life? The purpose of one's life from the point of view of faith is to know God, to love and serve him and be with him in life to come. The fulfilment of my own purpose in life is that God would keep my feet on this path.

What has life taught you at 60?

Life has taught me that faith and practicing the faith is a very important part of life. No one can live a fruitful life without practicing the faith. Life has taught me that every individual human person is important and made in the image of God. What you do to each person is so important for how you will spend your life after this world. The relationship you have with people, how you treat them, respect and disrespect is important. That is one of the things that life has taught me all these years. I have also learnt that it's important to do the best possible, look through the lens of others, see and appreciate their point of view, help them to realise the position that you have, because living is that we are all inter connected. If we do not have the value and record of one another, we shall end up in big mess like the country is in a big mess. Life has taught me that it's important to be fair to all as part of justice. These are the things I have learnt in these years.

Talking about the country being in a big mess, insecurity, kidnapping, robbery, killings are all over the country. As a Christian and catholic, what are your roles in advising government?



Let me say that as a Christian, Priest and Bishop, it's not just a role, it's an obligation to advise and give counsel to those who lead us. When I said that the country was in a mess, I am referring to the fact underlining some of these difficulties we have today; it is the fact that we don't have adequate respect for others as people within the country. When a Yoruba man wants to talk about the Igbo man he has a fixed mentality about the Igbo man,

likewise the Igbo man. The kind of respect we expect is an ability to listen to one another. This has been pulled to the background. We are constantly at war with one another; we have not harmonised our interest. One of the causes is the inequity in the distributions of resources. The inadequate provision of education of

children, all of these showing in the whole track of governance we have today. All the menaces are fall out of the basic lack of respect we don't have as a nation. We need to build a nation within the country. We need our leaders to be at the forefront of it. If they are not on the forefront, troubles will keep happening.



What was the biggest gift you ever got while growing up?

The biggest gift I have gotten was the gift of faith from God. That's the greatest gift, nothing matches it. It's not only for this world but for eternity. The gift of the priesthood, that I can bear the treasure of priesthood. That is the greatest gift. Talking about gift from people, most especially, my parents, was a gift of a wrist watch from my father as a young boy. He had used the wrist watch for many years but handed it over to me. It's very strong in my mind.

What do you think Government can do to foster love between Nigerians to build a nation like you said?



The problem is not religion based. The problem is those who are using Christianity and Islam to feather their own personal interest; that's where the problem is. I grew up in a place where the Christians and Muslims were living side by side. I keep on saying that back then, as Catholics, we were made to fill bottles with water that Muslims were going to use for prayers. The people are not the problem, leaders are responsible for it. They are fuelling the disparity between both religions. When some people feel a certain religion is being given more advantage over the other, naturally trouble begins. I can say when the membership of OIC was made known to people, that to my own understanding, was the beginning of the cleavage that we have now between the two religions. We hope the present administration will make an effort to disabuse the minds of people. If people make allegations of allocations of positions in government, it's for the government to be able to discharge itself that they are not in anyway partial in the matter, particular, when they talk about positions that are critical to the life of the nation. The armed forces, the security agencies and ministries that impact

directly on the life of the people, it is in the interest of government to disabuse the minds of the people.

When you grow much older, what are those things you so desire from God?

Well, what I want from God is for him to guide my feet to the path of salvation. In the language of the church, the grace of final destination and also assist me to do the work he has given me to do. I consider the work he has given me as Archbishop. He gave me the task, so he will help me to carry out the task. I plead with him to help me.

Do you have any fear about life?

If you talk about concerns, there are lots of concerns about security and inadequate provision of infrastructure, young people not having prospect for the future, there are concerns where all of this can lead us to. If you talk about fear, the only fear I have is to lose heaven.

Archbishop Adewale Martins urges Nigerians to vote wisely



The Metropolitan Archbishop of Lagos, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins, has charged Nigerians to vote wisely in the February election.

In his opening remark at the 2019 public lecture on good governance

organised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos with the theme “The Power of the Electorate in a Democracy: Nigeria Case Study,” he noted that the days of sitting at the fence were over.



In his words: “We urge Nigerians to vote their conscience by electing intelligent, visionary, principled, patriotic, proficient and God-fearing men and women who will boldly steer the ship of our state back on course.

“A people who have not yet mastered the art of putting worthy people in power will end up with charlatans and criminals as leaders.

“Seven days to the commencement of the national elections, there are still pertinent questions that require answers: ‘How prepared are INEC and the law-enforcement agencies to ensure free and fair elections?’ ‘Is the political class ready and willing to abide by the electoral laws and allow the wishes of the electorate to subsist at the polls?’”

He, however, expressed gratitude that there is increasing consciousness among Nigerians on the need for greater participation in the political life of the country. And there is greater determination to hold the leaders accountable and ensure they do what is right and greater awareness on the power of their PVC’s to effect change in the country.

History of the Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos Nigeria

In the year 1878 the foundation stone of Holy Cross Pro Cathedral was laid, but its history goes back to the year 1864 and its inseparably linked up with the history of the Brazillian repatriates who began to return from the forced exile about 1838.



In the sad days of "human traffic", many Nigerians were transported to Brazil by the Portuguese to work there under their masters. During their exile they aquired the knowledge of the language, culture and religion of their masters and on their return to theri native land, they brought back with them a basic knowledge of the new civilisation which they had assimilated abroad. The repatriates who spoke the same acquired foreign language and followed the same way of life, settled in the same part of the town (Lagos) to be known as the Brazillian quarters of Popo Aguda or Popo Maro. these repatriates formed a community to be known as the Brazillian community. An outstanding characteristic of this community was that they not only brought back with them a knowledge of the Catholic faith, but that they were determined to practice and preserve it.

Every Sunday without fail, they gathered for religious worship in the house of their most influential compatriot Senhor Isidore Ezechiel de Souza. The service of the Word was conducted in Portuguese by their great religious leader, a layman popularly known as "Padre Anthonio".

For a quarter of a century (about 1838 – 1863) this illustrious Brazillian Repatriate lead the religious service -Sunday after Sunday. He was held in high esteem by his people "for his ascetic and pious life, religious zeal and saintly character".

In 1861 the Repatriates heard of the arrival of a Catholic Priest in Whydah, in Dahomey and the start there of the Catholic Faith. Immediately they sent an appeal to Ouidah, inviting the priest to come over to Mrcedonia- Lagos- and help. In 1863, Revd. Fr. Borghro came to Lagos in response to the appeal. He was the first Catholic Priest to visit Lagos and celebrated the First on Lagos Island on the 24th September 1863. Needless to say, that he was accorded a welcome worthy of an expected Messiah.

In 1864, three outstanding events took place: the Brazilians led by the Senghor Izidore Ezechiel de Souza began negotiations with the British Government for the acquisition of a site on which to build a Church. 2. Fr. Boghero came again from Quidah and claimed the land allocated to the community. 3. A huge wooden cross was erected on the site of the Church to be. The same day, the Brazillian community vowed to erect on that site a Church worthy of their Catholic faith and dedicated to the Holy Cross. this was the beginning and the nucleus of the present HOLY CROSS CATHEDRAL.

In 1868, Revd. Fr. Bouche came to Lagos as the first resident priest of Holy Cross Mission. For some time, he lodged at Marble Hall an area now occupied by the CMS Bookshop and behind the residence of Senhor Candido da Rocha. Fr. Bouche returned from leave in Europe in 1873 and brought with him four Revd. Sisters for work among the women and girls. The sisters were: Veronique, Clara, Joseph and Colette.

The first community of Revd Frs- Boghero, Chause, Clond and Bouche- all of the Society of African Missions took up residence in Holy Cross Mission in 1875, and in 1878, the foundation stone of Holy Cross Pro-Cathedral was laid. Mother Veronique wrote as follows:

“from the laying of the foundation in 1878, general and incredible enthusiasm marked the work throughout. Senhor Lazarus Borges da Silva headed the group of master’s masons. Young and old, men and women, vied with one another in carrying bricks from the waterside to the site. the Governor of the Colony, Sir C. Alfred Moloney, leading the file of brick carriers while the Government band cheered them up with music.”

Revd. Fr. Chausse became Vicar Apostolic in 1880 and handed over the supervision of the building of the Pro-Cathedral to Fr. Carambon. In 1881, the building with one tower was completed, blessed and opened for use with due pomp and solemnity on the feast of the Most Holy Rosary. The second tower was added in 1883 and thus it remained substantially till 1934 when the Parishioners of Holy Cross Parish realized that it was too small to serve the needs of the growing Catholic population and a new one had to be built. this work was undertaken by Bishop O’Rourke and he laid the foundation stone of the present Holy Cross

Cathedral in August 1934 and the supervision of the building was given to Revd. Fr. Aime Simeon of blessed memory. The Cathedral as it stands today is a living monument to his indefatigable labor and zeal.

The new Holy Cross Cathedral was solemnly consecrated by His Grace, Archbishop J.K.A. Aggey on Friday 18th April 1969. At that ceremony the present Archbishop His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Okogie as a young priest was the Master of Ceremonies.

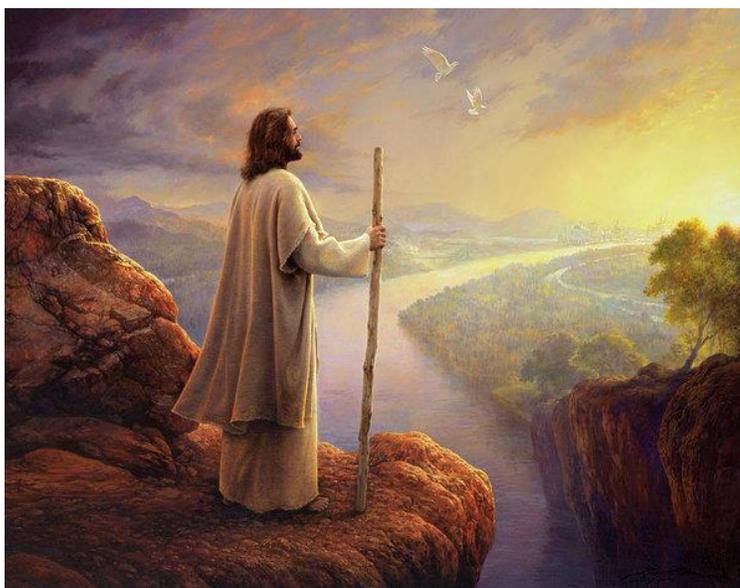
He took over the reins of the Archdiocese after the death of Aggey in 1973.
by Revd. Fr. Julius A. Olaitan



Love one another. Respect one another. Christians or Moslem are brothers and sisters, all created by God.

Pray for others. Seek God's Kingdom. Be humble and honest with each other.

Jesus is the Answer He is looking for You



Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.

<https://catholicfamilynewsletter.com>