



# VOICEAFRIQUE

CATHOLIC NEWS ANALYSIS

FOLLOWING THE FOOTPRINTS OF GOD IN AFRICA

## ***VoiceAfrique* Weekly Update**

*Catholic News Analysis from Africa by Africans, for Africa and the World*  
Friday, January 16, 2026

Greetings from *VoiceAfrique*,

Friday, January 16, 2026

As we move further into this New Year, the African Church continues to navigate the intersection of ancient faith and contemporary challenge. This week, we bring you a collection of voices—scholars, practitioners, and storytellers—who reflect the breadth of our mission. From the profound silence of communal grief to the vibrant debates surrounding marriage and the local incarnation of the Eucharist, we invite you to engage with these reflections as we collectively discern the "vital present" of our faith across the continent.

**By Sr. Helen Kasaka, LSMI — PACTPAN Communication Director**

### **1. A Child Who Should Not Have Died: Grieving with Chimamanda Adichie**

**By Fr. Stan Chu Ilo**

In a poignant reflection on loss and the systemic failures that fail to protect life, Fr. Stan Chu Ilo journeys with celebrated author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie through a landscape of profound grief. Writing from a place of deep pastoral accompaniment, he explores the intersections of faith and the raw human experience of mourning a tragedy that felt painfully avoidable.

**Read more:** [voiceafrique.org/a-child-who-should-not-have-died/](https://voiceafrique.org/a-child-who-should-not-have-died/)

## 2. Una Caro: African Perspectives on Marriage

**By Sr. Leonida Katunge**

Engaging courageously with a persistent tension in global Church dialogue, Sr. Leonida Katunge brings an "inside story" from the heart of the Vatican. She examines the perceived "deafness" to the African experience, contending that the African affirmation of marital indissolubility is a profound, holistic vision of personhood—a gift offered to the entire Una Caro (One Body) of Christ.

**Read more:** <https://voiceafrique.org/una-caro/>

## 3. African Catholic Churches Should Produce Eucharistic Wine Locally: Here's Why

**By Henry Aguwa Chukwuemeka**

This analysis argues that local production of sacramental wine is more than an economic issue; it is a theological and pastoral imperative. It explores how viticulture can empower local communities, create sustainable livelihoods, and incarnate the Eucharist more fully within the African context, ensuring that our sacrifice is truly the "work of our people's hands."

**Read more:** [voiceafrique.org/african-catholic-churches-should-produce-eucharistic-wine-locally/](https://voiceafrique.org/african-catholic-churches-should-produce-eucharistic-wine-locally/)

## 4. Jesus Christ: The Revealer of the Grace of Encounters and an Embrace of Difference

**By Simon Mary Asese Ahiokhai**

In a continent and world marked by diversity, the person of Christ provides the model for authentic encounter. This meditation journeys through the Gospels to show how Christ's interactions reveal a grace that does not erase difference but transforms it into communion, drawing from *ubuntu* and the lived reality of diverse communities.

**Read more:** <https://voiceafrique.org/jesus-christ-the-revealer/>

## 5. “A Huge Tree of Solace”: PACTPAN Honors the Life and Legacy of Sr. Susan Kajuju Thiruine

By Helen Kasaka, LSMI

Reporting on a significant communal milestone, Sr. Helen Kasaka chronicles the January 9 celebration hosted by PACTPAN to honor the late Sr. Susan Kajuju Thiruine. She documents how the tribute highlighted Sr. Susan’s “Theology in the Kitchen”—a legacy that successfully bridged academic scholarship with a commitment to the “unsung” voices of the African Church.

**Read more:** <https://voiceafrique.org/pactpan-honors-the-life-and-legacy-of-sr-susan-kajuju-thiruine/>

## 6. A New Year Message to the Young Catholics of Africa

By Titilayo Aduloju

As 2026 dawns, Titilayo Aduloju offers a vision for youthful discipleship that is deeply rooted yet boldly innovative. This call urges young believers to move beyond being passive recipients to becoming active co-builders of the Church—reminding them that they are the Church’s “vital, indispensable present.”

**Read more:** [voiceafrique.org/new-year-2026-a-message-to-the-young-catholics-of-africa/](https://voiceafrique.org/new-year-2026-a-message-to-the-young-catholics-of-africa/)

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**Sr. Helen Kasaka, LSMI**  
Editor, *VoiceAfrique*  
Catholic News Analysis

**W**e welcome your feedback, reflections, and contributions. *VoiceAfrique* is expanding and seeking committed contributors who desire to strengthen African Catholic journalism with integrity, depth, and hope.

Contact: [admin@pactpan.org](mailto:admin@pactpan.org)

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- If you know someone who would benefit from this analysis? Please forward this update.

**Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network (PACTPAN) [www.pactpan.org](http://www.pactpan.org)**  
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