



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
August 31 – 7, 2026

Truth, Discernment and Faith: Reflections on the Church's Journey

Greetings from VoiceAfrique Catholic, the voice of the Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network (PACTPAN), and welcome to this week's reflection and news analysis.

This week, VoiceAfrique Catholic brings together three thought-provoking reflections that examine important questions about leadership, discernment, mission and the lived experience of faith.

From the challenge of distinguishing genuine loyalty from sycophancy, to the call for a pilgrim consciousness and a deeper appreciation of familiar words in the liturgy, the reflections invite us to look beyond appearances and consider how the Church can remain faithful to her mission in a changing world.

By Sr. Helen Kasaka, LSMI
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Here are the stories that shaped our week (August 31– September 7, 2026)

1. Between Sycophancy and Loyalty in the Church

What does authentic loyalty mean in the Church? And when does loyalty become an unhealthy attachment to power?

In “Between Sycophancy and Loyalty in the Church,” Fr. Prof. Stan Chu Ilo examines the danger of confusing obedience and loyalty with unquestioning agreement. Drawing on a recent controversy in FIFA, he turns the discussion towards Church leadership, governance and the responsibility to speak truthfully and courageously.

The reflection challenges leaders and collaborators alike to create spaces where honest counsel, constructive disagreement and diverse expertise can contribute to sound decision-making. True loyalty, the author argues, is not about pleasing those in authority, but about fidelity to God, truth, one another and the mission of Christ.

The piece raises a question that deserves serious reflection across the Church: Are we building communities where people can speak the truth with courage and charity, or are we creating cultures where agreement is valued more than wisdom?

Read more: <https://voiceafrique.org/sycophancy-and-loyalty/>

2. Embracing a Pilgrim Consciousness for our times

By SimonMary Asese Aihikhai

What does it mean for the Church to be a pilgrim people in today's world?

In “Understanding the Scope of the Church’s Mandate: Embracing a Pilgrim Consciousness for our Times,” SimonMary Asese Aihikhai reflects on pilgrimage as a way of being open to encounter, discernment and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

The reflection presents the pilgrim as one who is both belonging and not-belonging—someone capable of entering into solidarity with others while remaining open to new horizons. Such a consciousness calls the Church to resist quick judgement of what is unfamiliar and instead to discern what the Holy Spirit may be revealing through new encounters and lived experiences.

For a Church journeying through a changing world, the reflection offers an important reminder: faith is not lived in isolation, but through relationships, encounters and the concrete realities in which people experience the Gospel.

Read more: <https://voiceafrique.org/pilgrim-consciousness/>

3. "The Lord be with you": Rediscovering the meaning of a familiar greeting

By Leonida Katunge

"The Lord Be with You": Rediscovering the Meaning of a Familiar Greeting

The words "The Lord be with you" are among the most familiar words Catholics hear and say during the celebration of the liturgy. But how often do we pause to consider their depth and meaning?

In "The Lord Be with You" and "And with Your Spirit": Biblical Foundations, Liturgical Presence, and the African Experience of Greeting," the reflection explores the biblical and liturgical significance of this exchange while bringing it into conversation with the African experience of greeting.

The familiar words of the liturgy are presented not simply as a formal exchange, but as an expression of God's presence, communion and the encounter taking place within the worshipping community. The reflection also opens space to consider how African traditions of greeting can enrich our appreciation of this liturgical moment.

Read more: <https://voiceafrique.org/the-lord-be-with-you/>

3. A week for reflection

These reflections prompt us to reflect on our leadership, our ability to discern, and our expression of faith. They encourage us to prioritize truth rather than flattery, discernment instead of snap judgments, and intentional engagement over habitual actions. Most importantly, they emphasize that the mission of the Church is realized through individuals, relationships, and the daily interactions we have—with God and with one another.

This week, VoiceAfrique Catholic invites you to read, reflect and join the conversation.

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Sr. Helen Kasaka, LSMI
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News Analysis

We 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

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