



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
September 14, 2026

Begin your week with Sr. Helen Kasaka, Pan-African Catholic Review and PACTPAN weekly updates

As an African proverb reminds us, "The sheep that strays alone is the one the hyena eats" a call to shepherds and flock alike to walk together, watch over one another, and never let anyone wander into the wilderness unaccompanied.

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings from Lusaka. As we progress through the Season of Creation, a period dedicated to strengthening our connections with one another and the environment entrusted to our stewardship, we have turned our reflections this week to the essence of shepherding. This contemplation involves exploring the true significance of walking alongside God's people amidst their struggles, doubts, and hopes. We emphasize the profound commitment to service, exemplified by the Good Shepherd's dedication to His sheep, which serves as a powerful model for our own responsibilities in leadership and support.

Around PACTPAN This Week

On Wednesday, our network convened the third session of its Palaver Series on Renewal in Priestly Ministry in Nigeria. The focus was on the theme "Shepherds after the Heart of Jesus: Care for God's Prophetic Service and Pastoral Maturity," drawn from John 10:11, which states, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Cardinal John Onaiyekan set the stage with a profound reflection on the essence of priestly service and the requirements for pastoral maturity. He emphasized the call for priests to embody the self-giving love of Christ in their service to God's people.

Father Atta Barkindo subsequently directed the discussion towards ministry within contexts characterized by violence, insecurity, trauma, and interreligious tension. He examined how priests can respond to communities in distress with wisdom, courage, and compassion.

Fr. Atta Barkindo then turned attention to ministry in contexts of violence, insecurity, trauma and interreligious tension, exploring how priests can respond to wounded communities with wisdom, courage and compassion.

Dr. Willy Mamah contributed his expertise as a child protection specialist to an analysis of the relationship between the Church and the state, alongside civil society, while assessing the role of priests within the public sphere. He evaluated how ministers can engage constructively with public institutions while remaining faithful to their prophetic mission.

Concluding the session, Fr. Raymond Aina, MSP, addressed contentious moral issues and the ethics of pastoral accompaniment. He urged priests to navigate complex moral realities while remaining attuned to the dignity and challenges faced by those they serve.

On Monday, the VoiceAfrique Catholic podcast featured a notable discussion with Rt. Rev. Charles Kasonde, which was recorded during the recent 21st AMECEA Plenary Assembly held in Nairobi, Kenya. In this conversation, Bishop Kasonde reflects on his eight years of leadership within the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa. He discusses pivotal moments of financial recovery and growth for the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, as well as the Church's reinforced commitment to serving young people, promoting justice, and ensuring good governance. Additionally, the dialogue delves into the concept of synodality at the grassroots level, particularly through Small Christian Communities, and highlights Eastern Africa's significant contribution to the global synodal journey. The conversation also addresses the transition of AMECEA leadership to Archbishop Gervas Nyaisonga of Mbeya, Tanzania.

To watch the full conversation, please follow this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5VjACWLYPE>.

Finally, VoiceAfrique's online Catholic news analysis continues to publish insightful essays from some of Africa's finest minds. This past week, Fr. Stan Chu Ilo reflected on the 25th anniversary of 9/11, offering a meditation on memory, grief and the lessons the tragedy still holds for the Church and the world.

Read the full article here: <https://voiceafrique.org/911-25-years-after/>

I extend my best wishes for a blessed and peaceful week. Please prioritize your well-being and support one another. Additionally, I encourage you to uphold the values of our institution. Collectively, let us take responsibility for the environment that God has entrusted to us as our shared home.

Wishing you a meaningful Season of Creation.

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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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Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network (PACTPAN)

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