



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 28, 2026

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

As an African proverb reminds us, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." It is a fitting word for a Church learning to walk in synodality, listening to its young people and caring for one another along the way.

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings from Lusaka. Since September 25, the eyes of the Church have been on France, where Pope Leo XIV's Apostolic Journey concludes today after taking him to Paris, Lourdes, and Metz. Under the motto "That the world may have life," he was welcomed by large crowds, including about 80,000 young people at a prayer vigil at the Stade de France. In Paris he also spoke at UNESCO about artificial intelligence and visited a center that supports immigrants.

The Archdiocese of Lusaka has asked the faithful to pray for Archbishop Alick Banda's safety, strength, wisdom, and well-being as he faces a legal process before the Drug Enforcement Commission this week. Please join us in prayer, asking God to grant him peace and to guide the process with truth and justice.

Around PACTPAN This Week

On Friday, September 25, PACTPAN celebrated the virtual graduation of the second cohort of the Africa Digital Faith Influencers Formation program, on the theme "Formed in Faith, Sent on Mission: Young African Catholics for Digital Evangelization and Social Transformation." Of the 152 young people who registered, 109 completed the course. Archbishop John Baptist Odama of Uganda encouraged the graduates to draw on Africa's Christian heritage and to promote a sense of common humanity. We congratulate them and pray that they will be bold and joyful witnesses in the digital spaces where so many of their peers live.

This past week, our network also hosted the fifth Palaver Session, "Toward a Vital Church: Integrating Care, Mission, and Leadership," moderated by Dr. Anthonia Otunla and Sr. Titilayo Aduloju. Fr. Stan Chu Ilo grounded his presentation in the belief that we worship a God of life who, through Christ and the Paschal Mystery, offers abundant life, and that a vital Church is measured not by institutional size or bank balances but by holiness, prophetic presence, and relational health. He proposed seven practical commitments for transformational leadership, from recovering the spiritual core of priestly ministry to practicing integrated self-care against burnout.

Rev. Idara Otu, MSP, argued that true Christian leadership cannot be separated from holistic self-care and authentic community building, calling priests and pastoral agents to embody the life-giving mission of Christ by fostering genuine fraternity and breaking down the isolated silos that lead to burnout and toxic clericalism.

Prof. Felix Enegho examined the realities of the Church in Nigeria, marked by rapid demographic growth, religious pluralism, insecurity, and social challenges, and called for three interlocking priorities: missionary renewal that moves beyond institutional maintenance, synodality grounded in the African tradition of "I am because we are," and interfaith mission that pursues the common good without compromising Christian identity.

Also this week, VoiceAfrique Catholic's top story was "Borders Without Visas: What Ruto's War on Hawkers Reveals About Africa's Unfinished Business" by Sr. Leonida Katunge. She examines the sudden crackdown on undocumented East African vendors in Nairobi, particularly Burundian hawkers, and contrasts it with the xenophobic trends seen in South Africa, where ordinary citizens chose solidarity over hostility, a response grounded in the spirit of Ubuntu.

Read the full article here: <https://voiceafrique.org/borders-without-visas/>

Finally, VoiceAfrique Catholic released the final episode of its coverage of the 21st AMECEA Plenary Assembly, exploring youth participation, education, skills development, leadership, protection, digital evangelization, and access to opportunities across the nine AMECEA member countries. The message from Nairobi is clear: young people are not only the future of the Church but also part of its present.

Watch the full episode here: <https://youtu.be/ZbtyYMoCnIk?si=i2Tppe-wwlAVI6zK>

Around VoiceAfrique Catholic

Our top story last week was "Borders Without Visas: What Ruto's War on Hawkers Reveals About Africa's Unfinished Business" by Sr. Leonida Katunge, published on September 22. She examines the sudden crackdown on undocumented East African vendors in Nairobi, particularly Burundian hawkers, and contrasts it with the xenophobic trends seen in South Africa.

In Nairobi, she notes, ordinary citizens chose solidarity over hostility, a response grounded in the spirit of Ubuntu.

Read the full article here: <https://voiceafrique.org/borders-without-visas/>

Looking ahead, the Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network invites you to the Vital Church Retreat on Tuesday, September 29, at 3:30 PM WAT, 4:30 PM CAT, and 5:30 PM EAT. Join on Zoom: <https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/82640223335?pwd=IpGSqAT6vIo3vtaVFXRtp6a01yCoBh.1> (Meeting ID: 826 4022 3335, Passcode: 527984)

On Thursday, October 1, we mark the International Day of Older Persons. The United Nations has chosen the theme "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives," an urgent call to address the needs of an ageing world. Let us honor the elders in our families, parishes, and communities, and remember that they are not a burden to be carried but a gift to be treasured.

As we embark on a new week, let us walk together with open ears for the youth, respect for our elders, open hands for those in service, and open doors for newcomers. May God bless you, keep you safe, and grant you peace. Happy Season of Creation!

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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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