



# 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 7, 2026

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

As a traditional African proverb reminds us, *"Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won't eat you"* — a powerful reminder of how solidarity, community, and standing together shield us through turbulent and uncertain times.

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings from Lusaka. Zambia has just navigated a tense election cycle that ultimately concluded peacefully with the re-election of President Hakainde Hichilema. Please keep our country in your prayers during this delicate post-election period, as the results face legal challenges in court amid growing concerns over the treatment of opposition figures.

### **Around PACTPAN This Week**

This past week, our network hosted two moving palaver sessions and webinars that deeply resonated with participants. The first formed part of our ongoing online formation series for African priests focused on self-care: Sr. Sylvia Nwachukwu invited us to return to the roots of our faith—the Most Holy Trinity—as the primary model and foundation for all human relationships.

Fr. Vitalis Anaehobi demonstrated how the synodal spirit and method can fundamentally reshape how we relate to one another and exercise authority and agency within the Church. Concluding the session, Fr. Uche Ugwueze equipped priests, religious, and pastoral agents with practical tools for mediating conflict. While conflict is an inevitable part of communal life, we can learn to face it in a mature, spiritual, and transformative way.

PACTPAN's Health and Healing Unit also convened a sobering and highly informative webinar on maternal health. Many of us carry the heavy grief of losing a sister, niece, wife, or mother to complications during childbirth, a tragedy compounded by the stark reality that Africa continues to bear the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Why does this persistent crisis continue to plague our continent, and what actionable steps can we take? I invite you to listen to the compelling presentations by physicians Sr. Jackie Nsom and Dr. Christin by visiting:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/x1DMAz1I240?si=p\\_YHNJq\\_mnp14Oad](https://www.youtube.com/live/x1DMAz1I240?si=p_YHNJq_mnp14Oad)

Also this week, the VoiceAfrique Catholic podcast featured an exclusive interview with Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, Secretary of the Section for First Evangelization at the Dicastery for Evangelization. He discussed the Dicastery's innovative project, the Church of the Sheaves, explaining why this graced moment offers profound hope for the Church—presenting a genuine opportunity for African local churches to grow in maturity and form pastoral agents equipped for a changing mission context.

Listen to the conversation here: [https://youtu.be/9uNOuE\\_pGso?si=bsZXIoPahZqB\\_I9Q](https://youtu.be/9uNOuE_pGso?si=bsZXIoPahZqB_I9Q)

Finally, VoiceAfrique's online Catholic news analysis continues to publish insightful essays from some of Africa's finest minds, commenting on current events and reflecting on key dimensions of our faith. A recent essay by Fr. Stan Chu Ilo explores the vital necessity of self-care, arguing that priests who fail to care for themselves, alongside religious superiors and bishops who neglect the well-being of their clergy and religious, cannot truly care for the body of Christ.

Read the full article here: <https://voiceafrique.org/no-rest-no-self-care-african-catholic-priests-must-pay-attention-to-their-wellbeing/>

I wish you a blessed and peaceful week. Take care of yourself. Take care of each other. Take care of the Church. And together, let us care for the earth that God has given us as our common home. Happy Season of Creation.

## Stay Connected & Support Our Mission



**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)

- We invite you to explore advertising opportunities with us.
- Support our mission and help us build a strong platform for African Catholic news analysis.
- If you know someone who would benefit from this analysis? Please forward this update.

**Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network (PACTPAN)**

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