



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

October 5, 2026

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

As an African proverb wisely states, "When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside can do no harm." This timeless truth serves as a powerful reminder that by nurturing inner peace, mental resilience, and spiritual wellness, we can withstand external challenges in our commitment to serving our communities.

Dear colleagues in Christ,

Greetings from Zambia! This week, our continental reflection turns to the core of synodality, justice, and ecclesial solidarity. Following recent developments regarding Archbishop Alick Banda of Lusaka, several Episcopal bodies, including SECAM (the apex body representing all regional episcopal conferences in Africa), AMECEA, the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM/MCCB), and the sub-regional Association of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (ACBC-MAZAZI)—have issued statements of solidarity. These statements emphasize that canonical processes must remain fair, transparent, and free from political interference. Together, these messages reinforce the importance of communion, due process, and standing together in truth as one family of God across Africa.

On this World Teachers' Day, we take a moment to recognize and celebrate all educators, teachers, and catechists across our continent and beyond. Their unwavering commitment constitutes the moral and intellectual foundation of our communities. They play a vital role in guiding young minds and fostering values of faith, wisdom, and service for future generations.

Around PACTPAN This Week

Our network convened the sixth week of the PACTPAN Special Series focused on the Renewal of Priestly Ministry in Nigeria, with an emphasis on the theme "Convergence and Cascading Communication: Full Presence in a Digital World."

In our first session, Mr. Vinmartin Ilo explored Catholic digital media, visual communication, online catechesis, and shaping public narratives, examining how the Church can meaningfully share the Gospel message across modern platforms.

In our third session, Ms. Adesua Onyenokwe presented on media ethics, storytelling, public communication, and connecting faith with everyday life, highlighting strategies for priests and Church leaders to engage contemporary audiences with clarity, relevance, and truth.

On Friday, the VoiceAfrique Catholic podcast featured a powerful discussion on how Catholic sisters are restoring dignity to migrants and refugees across Africa. Recorded at the Kasisi Retreat Centre in Lusaka during a gathering of the UISG International Migrants and Refugees Network, the episode highlights the ministry of women religious accompanying displaced people. Sr. Lena, MSOLA, a psychologist serving South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, shared insights on addressing the profound mental health and trauma impacts across every phase of displacement, emphasizing that pastoral ministers must also care for their own emotional well-being to serve effectively. Sr. Cynthia Nwadike, OLA, serving in the Catholic Diocese of Francistown, Botswana, underscored that refugees carry their inherent human dignity wherever they go, calling for safer migration pathways, non-discriminatory pastoral care, and an end to xenophobia.

Watch the full episode here: <https://youtu.be/UiLvW5wKVVU?si=XxGEMlWTx4gvvYo>

Finally, VoiceAfrique's online Catholic news analysis continues to highlight key social, pastoral, and psychological reflections across Africa. This past week, Sr. Helen Kasaka reported on the Annual Zambia Social Entrepreneurship and SMEs Conference in Lusaka under the Sisters' Blended Value Project (SBVP), detailing how religious sisters are building sustainable, market-ready social enterprises to ensure the long-term vitality of their healthcare, education, and social ministries.

Read the full article here: <https://voiceafrique.org/catholic-sisters-encouraged/>

Upcoming activities this week

- **World Mental Health Day (Saturday, October 10)** is observed globally under the theme "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change." This observance encourages communities, church leaders, and pastoral networks to promote open dialogue, dismantle social stigma, and support comprehensive mental wellness for vulnerable individuals, caregivers, and ministers.

- **National Catechetical Week (October 4–11):** Dioceses across Africa are marking Catechetical Week, focusing on the essential ministry of catechists, Catholic educators, and lay leaders in nurturing faith and formation within local parishes.
- **Month of the Holy Rosary:** Parishes and religious communities are joining in daily Rosary devotions throughout October, uniting in prayer for continental peace, justice, human dignity, and reconciliation.

As we embark on this new week, let us carry forward the spirit of collaborative action, justice, and compassionate care in our local communities. May our shared commitment to faith, youth, and truth continue to bear fruit across Africa and beyond.

Wishing you a grace-filled, inspiring, and fruitful week ahead.

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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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