

Tangaza University College  
 Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)  
 Nairobi, Kenya  
 Final Annotated Syllabus of Two Credit Core Course, Three hours per week for nine weeks,  
 Lecture Format, Pastorally Oriented (January to March, 2016).  
 Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. in the Hall.

**Small Christian Communities as a New Model of Church in Africa Today (PTC418)**

**NOTE:** This course is only offered in the Second Semester of the Academic Year (January to March). It is a Core Course in the Pastoral Theology Department of the School of Theology as part of the STB and BATH (CUEA) Degrees (Eighth Semester) and the MA Degree in Pastoral Ministry. There are a total of 27 class periods of 50 minutes each spread over three periods per week on Thursday mornings for nine weeks.

Ebooks/Printed Paperback Books: SCCs Resources, Tools and Reference Books for Recommended Reading:

- a. Healey, Joseph G., *Building the Church as Family of God: Evaluation of Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*. The Online Digital (Ebook or Electronic Book) Version of this book is regularly updated as a free Ebook. As of 31 March, 2016 it is 736 pages and is available on the left hand side of the “Home Page” of the Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website as an Ebook at: [http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build\\_new.pdf](http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build_new.pdf).

It can also be found on the Tangaza University College Website. Go to: Library>E-Resources>Open Access List>*Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa* <http://www.tangaza.org>

This Ebook is 6 MB in the PDF Format. It can be downloaded (saved) on any electronic reading device with a free capacity of 6 MB and above: desktop computer, Ereader like Kindle or Nook, external hard drive, flash drive, Ipad, laptop computer, notebook, smartphone and tablet. Follow the download instructions on each browser. Each browser has its own method of saving an online document and storing it on the hard drive for immediate use. Google Chrome is recommended. NOTE: For Ereaders Caliber software can be used for easy conversion.

Offline you can convert it to a Microsoft Word Document and use “Home” then “Find” (or Control F) to go to the “Navigation Box” to search the Ebook. Online use Control F to open the “Find” or “Search” Box to search the Ebook. Electronic handouts for the course are found in the 25 E-Resources in the [APPENDIX: Resource Materials on the On-going Formation and Training of SCC Members](#) in the Ebook.

- b. Healey, Joseph G., *Building the Church as Family of God: Evaluation of Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*. Eldoret: AMECEA Gaba Publications – CUEA Press, Double Spearhead Nos. 199-200, 2012. 163 pages with Index.

- c. Healey, Joseph and Jeanne Hinton (eds.), *Small Christian Communities Today: Capturing the New Moment*. Orbis Books, 2005 and Paulines Publications Africa, 2006. 224 pages with Index. Referred to as *SCCT*.

**14 January, 2016:** Week 1: Classes 1-3: One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Carmelite Seminarian who died.

"Introduction to, and Overview of, SCCs Course." Plan of the Course. Small Christian Communities (SCCs) are a "New Way of Being (Becoming) Church" and a "New Model of Church in Africa Today." **Question on the Exam.**

The many changes in organizing our course mirror the life of our 160,000 SCCs in Eastern Africa. Expectations for the course. A new way of teaching about SCCs and a new way of learning about SCCs. The course is practical and pastoral and largely based on the students' personal experience. A User Friendly Course. Developing a Training of Trainers or Trainers of Trainers (TOT) style. **Question on the Exam.**

Profile of the class. Developing a "SCC identity" as a class. Using name *Mwanajumuiya* ('member of a SCC' in Swahili) rather than "student" in class. The 50 *Wanajumuiya* ("members of a SCC" in Swahili) come from 22 religious congregations and missionary societies and include one diocesan priest and 15 deacons. We come from a total of 15 countries: 13 countries in Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, DR Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia in Africa and two other countries: Mexico and Philippines. 10 of these countries have material on our SCCs Website. We have done pastoral work in these countries plus two more African countries -- Egypt and Ethiopia.

The basic teaching method is online learning using the Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website (<http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org>) that is available on desktop computers, Ereader like Kindle or Nook, external hard drives, flash drives, Ipads, laptop computers, notebooks, smartphones and tablets and use different browsers: Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari and Torch. I highly recommend Google Search for 95% of our research needs. The SCCs Website includes the free online Ebook, Video Section (DVDs on YouTube), Facebook Page and Skype.

Connecting to the other theology courses such as *Acts of the Apostles* and *Ecclesiology*. Connecting to our personal, practical, pastoral, experiences in parishes and apostolic activities. There is no blueprint for building and developing SCCs. Spanish proverb: *We create the path by walking*. Reading and responding to the signs of the times. Suggestion: Prepare two folders with all your SCCs materials that also can be used in your ongoing pastoral ministry: a paper folder and an electronic folder. Explanation of the **SCCs Course Paper** (the one CAT -- Continuous Assessment Task -- 30 points of course grade) and the **Final Written (Short Essays) Exam** (50 points of course grade). Highest marks in the written exam for answers that include specific examples from your personal, practical pastoral experience, class reading, class DVDs, SCC Website, SCCs Facebook Page and class discussion.

DVD on *The Church in the Neighborhood: Small Christian Communities* (with Swahili and Arabic versions). Nairobi: Ukweli Video Productions, 1995. 43 minutes. Segment I: “Life and Activities of SCCs.” Segment II: “Services (Ministries) in the SCCs.” Still the best DVD on the life and activities of SCCs in Africa.

Importance of the *Bible* (our *jembe*). Comparing the *Bible* to our smartphone. Bring the *Bible*, *Missal*, Smartphone (such as the iPhone) or tablet (such as the iPad) with the text of the Gospel of the following Sunday to class. *Lectio Divina*.

Modeling a SCC Model of Church by experiencing being a member of a SCC during the course. Dividing class into four SCCs and choosing Patron/Patroness Saints of the four SCCs with their feast days: St. Augustine (born and died in present day Algeria) – 28 August; St. Kizito (born and died in Uganda) – 3 June; St. Padre Pio (born and died in Italy) – 23 September; and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus (born and died in France) – 1 October.

During the course we will have practical experience of five different methods of *Bible* Sharing/*Bible* Reflection/*Bible*--Life Connections.

**METHOD NO. 1.** Lectionary-based faith sharing. 20 minutes in modeling the *Bible* Sharing/*Bible* Reflection/*Bible*—Life Connections in our four SCCs based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C). *John* 2:1-11. Process: Follow Steps 4-8 of E-Resource No. 4: “13 Steps in the Weekly Bible Sharing/*Bible* Reflection/*Bible*—Daily Life Connections Service of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa.” This experience will help the deacons prepare their homilies for the following Sunday.

**NOTE:** Each week the first period begins with the students being asked to share “what struck them”/“what they learned” from the Homework.

**Handout:** Bookmark: *Celebrating 160,000 Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*.

**Homework:** Spend one hour visiting the SCCs Website and Facebook Page.

**21 January, 2016:** Week 2: Classes 4-6. One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Our ancestors in Christ – recently deceased bishops in the AMECEA countries.

“SCCs Resources and Tools.” SCCs Website contains:

- Poll
- Ebook
- DVDs
- YouTube
- Online SCCs
- Facebook Page
- 29 papers on Academia.edu (<https://princeton.academia.edu/JosephHealey>)

General housekeeping details.

“Touchdown” period with examples of the deacons’ homilies from Sunday, 17 January, 2015.

“A New Way of Preparing a Homily.” Story: Traveling around the world I’m sure that I surprise many priests (and parishioners alike) when I say that in Eastern Africa we find it “easy” to preach on Sunday if we use the “SCC process.” During the week the priest participates in various SCC meetings of lay people in his parish that listen to, and reflect on, the Gospel of the following Sunday. Then the Sunday Parish Eucharist becomes the “communion of the SCCs.” During his homily the priest or deacon reflects back the experiences, insights and applications that he has learned from the *Bible* reflections that have taken place in the individual SCC meetings. Much of the content of his homily come from the life experiences and *Bible*--life connections of SCC members that members of the Sunday congregation can easily relate to and feel are relevant to their lives.

SCCs Facebook Page (presently 1,660 Fans). Survey of *wanajumuiya*’s involvement in the 15 common activities of SCCs. “Checklist of 15 Activities in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Today” (E-Resource No. 1 in the Online Resource Materials in the Ebook on the SCCs Website). Difference between a SCC Model of Church and a Small Apostolic Group Model of Church. Neighborhood (geographical), parish-based SCCs are a pastoral model of church and an instrument/vehicle/tool of evangelization. Comprise 90% of the SCCs in the AMECEA (the acronym for "Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa" that is a service organization for the National Episcopal Conferences of the nine English-speaking countries of Eastern Africa, namely Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) Region.

Other types of SCCs are called specialized SCCs that comprise 10% of the SCCs in the AMECEA Region. Examples: Extraterritorial or floating SCCs in parishes; SCCs in schools (including universities, seminaries and houses of religious formation), training centers and hospitals; specialized groups (doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, youth); and small groups connected to international movements and organizations such as like Christian Life Communities (CLCs), Focolare, Neo-Catechumenate and the charism of various religious congregations. Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs).

Explanation of the Three Steps of the Pastoral Spiral Methodology or Process of the Course (“See,” “Judge” and “Act”) with concrete SCC examples on the local level.

DVD (via YouTube) on *Celebrating 120,000 Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*.

**METHOD NO. 2.** 20 minutes of the third period is modeling the *Bible* Sharing/*Bible* Reflection/*Bible*—Life Connections in our class based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Third Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year C): *Luke* 1:1-4 and 4:14-21 in buzz groups of two or three people each. Buzz groups are a participatory method or process of group dynamics that are very helpful in SCCs.

**Handout:** “Table of Contents” of Ebook and “APPENDIX: Resource Materials on the On-going Formation and Training of SCC Members” (25 E-Resources).

**Homework:** Spend one hour visiting the first four E-Resources in the Online Resource Materials.

**28 January, 2016:** Week 3: Classes 7-9. One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Peace on the Kenya-Somalia border.

“How Priests/Deacons/Brothers/Sisters/Catechists Animate SCCs in Parishes in Eastern Africa.”

Touchdown: Feedback from Sunday Homilies. Deacon Charles Ndumbi, SVD’s comments on Facebook.

Detailed explanation of E-Resource No. 4: “13 Steps in the Weekly Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Daily Life Connections Service of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa.” Importance of quality *Bible Services*.

Analysis of and discussion on: “In the evaluation and assessment of SCCs in the AMECEA Region, research on the participation of priests is mixed. On the open statement – ‘The priests...’ we have heard a wide range of comments (including the exact words) listed below from the negative/critical to the positive/complimentary ranging from...” See comments in free online Ebook. Different Case Studies.

Explanation of the Study Guide on *Ad Gentes (Decree of the Missionary Activity of the Church, Second Vatican Council, 1965)* with Pastoral Theological Reflection (PTR) questions to assist the reader. Question No. 9 on SCCs. SOT Symposium on 8-9 February, 2016.

The center of gravity for worldwide Christianity is shifting away from Europe and North America to Africa, Asia and South America, now called the Global South. This shift from Global North to Global South is cultural and demographic. Christians in the Global South are young. Their numbers are growing. They are dynamic in their faith and energetic in their evangelization. These trends mean that for the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond we will see an increasingly visible leadership from Christian Church leaders in the Global South and their voices will not be able to be ignored.

**METHOD NO. 3.** Final 20 minutes of third period is modeling the *Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections* in our four SCCs based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year C): *Luke 4:21-30*. Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11 and 13 of E-Resource No. 4: “13 Steps in the Weekly Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Daily Life Connections Service of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa.”

**Handout:** “Syllabus.”

**Homework:** One of the chapters on Africa in the book *Small Christian Communities Today: Capturing the New Moment*.

**4 February, 2016:** Week 4: Classes 10-12: One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity

Prayer: Missionary Song “*Nimtume Nani?*”

“The Importance of Lay Involvement in the Missionary Outreach of SCCs in Eastern Africa.”  
Triangle of Laity/SCCs/Mission.

Housekeeping.

Touchdown Period. Preparation for the homily of the following Sunday. Choose a *mantra* (several words or a phrase from the Gospel).

Discussion on Homework.

We are reminded that “the pilgrim church is missionary by her very nature (or in another translation “the Church on earth is by its very nature missionary”) for it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she takes her origin, in accordance with the decree [plan] of God the Father” (No. 2 in *Ad Gentes*, the *Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church* promulgated by the Second Vatican Council in 1965). There is a well-known saying that “the church does not have a mission. The mission of God has a church.” Fundamentally Christianity is not church-centered but Trinity centered.

Through Baptism all Christians are called to be missionaries and evangelizers. This is described very well by Pope Francis in the section “We are All Missionary Disciples,” No. 120 in Pope Francis’ *The Joy of the Gospel*:

In virtue of their Baptism all members of the People of God have become missionary disciples. All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are “disciples” and “missionaries”, but rather that we are always “missionary disciples.”

Mwanajumuiya Alphonse Omolo, a member of the Eastern Africa SCCs Training Team:

“Two Case Studies of Kisumu Archdiocese:”

1. “Small Communities Light up Neighborhoods in Kisumu.” (Chapter 16 of *SCCT*). Retrieved from the Google Books Website on 7 February, 2016,  
[https://books.google.co.ke/books?id=YsJ3CAAQAQBAJ&pg=PT117&lpg=PT117&dq=Alphonse+Omolo+Small+Christian+Communities&source=bl&ots=mxPyDErg3F&sig=Yoi50QjFESycFehgNuK2Z2tXJto&hl=en&sa=X&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Alphonse%20Omolo%20Small%20Christian%20Communities&f=false](https://books.google.co.ke/books?id=YsJ3CAAQAQBAJ&pg=PT117&lpg=PT117&dq=Alphonse+Omolo+Small+Christian+Communities&source=bl&ots=mxPyDErg3F&sig=Yoi50QjFESycFehgNuK2Z2tXJto&hl=en&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Alphonse%20Omolo%20Small%20Christian%20Communities&f=false)

2. “The Missionary Spirit and Outreach of the Fish Group.”

Two other SCC resources or tools:

1. Skype. Example of the St. Isidore of Seville International Online Skype SCC.
2. WhatsApp. Example of SCC in Embakazi Parish.

Felix Nzioka Ngao, CLM and the Catholic Lay Missionaries of Kenya (CLM). Case Study of a SCC in Machakos Diocese.

One of the Pastoral Theological Reflection (PTR) questions in the *Study Guide* is: "*Ad Gentes* emphasizes that through Baptism all Christians are called to be missionaries and evangelizers. 99% of the members of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) are lay people. How are they **promoting missionary awareness** and **sharing their faith with others**?" Here are some answers of lay people in SCCs in Eastern Africa from the SCCs Facebook Page:

- By holding prayers together and visiting members in their homes (Home Visitations) and encouraging them to read the *Bible* and pray regularly.
- Encouraging people in the neighborhood who are not Catholics to join the RCIA (the Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults or the adult catechumenate) and go through the steps until being baptized.
- Encouraging those who have lost hope and helping the needy/the wounded so they feel loved also. NOTE: See Pope Francis' ideas on the field hospital and reaching out to "the margined and those on the periphery of society."
- Our free online Ebook has several sections on the importance of lay people in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) and how they can be missionaries and evangelists. One choice in our poll on "The best part of my Small Christian Community is:..." "community of missionary disciples."
- The April, 2015 issue of *The Seed* Magazine says that this *Study Guide* helps us to reflect on missionary activity and it is enriched with questions for sharing in small groups or in Small Christian Communities.

How are we Priests/Deacons/Seminarians/Brothers/Sisters/Catechists in Africa "trainers of trainers" (TOT), that is, animators and facilitators of laymen and laywomen's involvement in mission through their SCCs? **Question on the Exam.**

**Handout:** 2016 Kenya Lenten Campaign Booklets and Posters.

**Homework:** Chapter 10 – "Promoting the Missionary Outreach of SCCs in the AMECEA Region" and "SCCs' Involvement in the New Evangelization in Eastern Africa" -- in the online Ebook and also in chapters in the paperback books.

**11 February, 2016:** Week 5: Classes 13-15: One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Song in French.

"SCCs History in Africa."

"The AMECEA Key Pastoral Priority of Building Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa."

Housekeeping.

Touchdown Period. Group Dynamics Method/Tool.  
Homework.

A new way of teaching. A new way of learning. Praxis is prior to theology: From grassroots SCCs experience to theory/principles/theology.

Two Stories/Case Studies/Portraits of SCCs in rural and urban Tanzania:

a. Rural: Bukiriro, Rulenge, Tanzania. “Theresa’s Old, Plastic, Armless Crucifix.” Story taken from page 118 of *Once Upon a Time in Africa: Stories of Wisdom and Joy*.

b. Urban: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. “Visiting St. Charles Lwanga SCC.” Story taken from pages 100-101 of *Small Christian Communities Today: Capturing the New Moment*.

Two starting points for *Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections/Faith Sharing*:

1. “Deductive” (from the *Bible* or a Church Document to Life): the *Bible* (for example, the Gospel of the following Sunday). Reflecting on *Africa’s Commitment* or *The Joy of the Gospel* or *Ad Gentes* one chapter per week for five consecutive weeks. Reflecting on a particular teaching of the Catholic Church such as Faith or Love or the Meaning of a Sacrament.
2. “Inductive” (from Life to the Bible): our daily life experience as the starting point of weekly *Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections* (especially through our critical concrete experiences, incidents, events, examples and stories). Two types:
  - a. Local human events/experiences in a SCC such as death, sickness, baptism, graduation, marriage, welcoming a new person, visiting the home of a person who is not coming to the SCC meetings.
  - b. “What are the different human problems in Kenya and the rest of Africa that we should reflect on in our SCC meetings in the light of the Gospel?” (based on No. 89 of St. John Paul II’s Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Africa/The Church in Africa*).

Methods of reflection in our four SCCs are both deductive and inductive.

The 50-year Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) recalls the historical foundations of SCCs in the People of God Model of Church and in the Communion Ecclesiology of Vatican II. 1973-2016 SCCs Eastern Africa History. African Ecclesiology of SCCs. The AMECEA Study Conference on “Building Small Christian Communities” in Nairobi, Kenya in 1976 stated: “Systematic formation of Small Christian Communities should be the key pastoral priority in the years to come [in the nine countries] in Eastern Africa.” The AMECEA Study Conference on “Deeper Evangelization in the Third Millennium” in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 2002” included Section 7 of the Pastoral Resolutions on “Building the Church as a Family of God by Continuing to Foster and/or Revitalize the Small Christian Communities,” No. 43 stated: “We recommend that a program on the theological and pastoral value of Small Christian Communities be included in the normal curriculum of the Major Seminaries and houses of formation of both men and women.”



**Handout:** Form for the **SCCs Course Paper** (to be handed in on 25 February, 2016).  
With explanation.

**Homework:** Read Week Three (“Family Values”) of the Booklet of the *2016 Kenya Lenten Campaign*.

**18 February, 2016:** Week 6: Classes 16-18: One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Peaceful and fair elections in Uganda.

"SCCs Involvement in the 2016 Kenya Lenten Campaign on the theme *Peaceful and Prosperous Kenya...My Responsibility*:

<http://www.cjpckkenya.org/index.php?page=other&gid=85>

<http://www.cjpckkenya.org/index.php?page=other&gid=86>

Housekeeping. Form for the **SCCs Course Paper**.

Touchdown Period. Suggestions after Theological Symposium: TOT Workshop for SCCs Leaders on the “Triangle of Laity/SCCs/Mission.” Publish a simplified booklet on *Ad Gentes* for lay people in English called *Mission to All People*. Question: “In this Jubilee Year of Mercy how are we helping single mothers to feel part of the Catholic Church?” Meaning of “People of God.” Found in the *Old Testament*’s focus on the Jewish People as the Chosen People of God (Yahweh). In the *New Testament I Peter: 2:9-10* says of the newly baptized Christians:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Two interpretations: Wider and inclusive: all human beings are part of the People of God (we are all children of God). Narrow and exclusive: members of the Catholic Church only.

St. Kizito SCC members helping “Friends of Ben Wanjala.” After our SCCs Class at Tangaza the question was asked: “What parish in Africa has the most SCCs?” Our SCCs Research Team does not know so we welcome answers from members of our SCCs Facebook Page. We do not know the exact answer, but it is over 200.

Panel and Facilitators for Powerpoint Presentation: Representatives of the Kenya Episcopal Conference Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Office: Mrs. Beatrice Odera and Sister Mary Francis Wangare, LSSJ: “Background of the Annual Kenya Lenten Campaigns.” “Introduction to the Overall Theme of the 2016 Kenya Lenten Campaign and “Week 3 (Third Sunday of Lent – 28 February, 2016) on “Family Values:” “Use of the Important Resources: Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, *The Leadership Handbook* (Swahili is *Maelekezo ya Uongozi*), Nairobi: KEC Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, 2013. Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, *Lent: Let Light Shine Out of Darkness... Kenya Lenten Campaign Training Manual for Small Christian Communities*. Nairobi: KEC Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, 2012.”

Questions and discussion. Summary: A key factor in the history of the Kenya Lenten Campaign that started in 1988 was the emphasis on reflecting on social issues in Kenya (in addition the three normal priorities of Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving). In 2014-2015 Pope Francis called two sessions of special synods on the “Family and Marriage.” He wanted the synods to examine the pastoral challenges experienced by families. Pope Francis’ call to be “be bold and creative” in finding new pastoral solutions (“think outside the box”). Now we are in the 2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy when we are emphasizing the seven corporal acts of mercy and the seven spiritual acts of mercy. How is the Catholic Church in Kenya (and other African countries) responding?

Facilitating “Train the Trainers” (TOT) workshops in our parishes and SCCs. Training SCC Leaders to use the inductive “See,” “Judge” and “Act” methodology/process of the Kenya Lenten Campaign. **Question on the Exam.**

Third Period: Use the three steps of “See,” “Judge” and “Act” methodology/process in Week 3 (Third Sunday of Lent – 28 February, 2016) on “Family Values.”

**METHOD NO. 4.** (from life to the *Bible*). In our four SCCs:

1. Analyze and discuss the drawing (cartoon) on page 18.
2. Read the story in Step One (“See”): “The Town of Madili” on pages 17-18.
3. Read part of the Situational Analysis in Step Two (“Judge”) on pages 18-19.
4. Read the Gospel (*Luke* 13: 1-9) and scripture commentary.
5. Answer the special question in Step Three (“Act”): “As a communion of families in the neighborhood what basic family values can Small Christian Communities emphasize and promote? How?”

Short reports from each SCC. How we can be animators of SCCs during the five weeks of Lent? How can these Lenten materials be helpful to the deacons in preparing their Sunday homilies? Evaluation of the methodology/process. General Discussion and the Way Forward. **Question on the Exam.**

**Homework:** Work on **SCCs Course Paper.**

**25 February, 2016:** Week 7: Classes 19-21. Silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: That SCC members learn the different methods of *Bible* Reflection.

“LUMKO Method of SCCs.”

Powerpoint Presentation on “A Bird’s Eye View of the LUMKO Way of Being Church.”  
Facilitator: Sister Ephigenia Gachiri, IBVM.

Housekeeping. Hand in Form for the **SCCs Course Paper.**

Touchdown Period. Reports on 2016 Kenya Lenten Campaign. Workshop for new SCC Leaders, St. Austin Parish on “servant leadership.” Comparing and contrasting the “Real” and the “Ideal” in our ongoing evaluation assessment of SCCs. Dull, boring SCC meetings because of poor leadership.

**Handouts:** “Cartoon of *Kokoteni* Model of Church” (one page)  
 “LUMKO Poster: Communion of Communities Model of Church” (one page)  
 “The Comprehensive LUMKO Approach” (one page)  
 “7-Step Gospel Sharing” (one page)  
 “Evaluation of 7-Step Gospel Sharing” (one page)  
 “Group Response Drawings” (two pages)  
 “Group Response Guide Sheet” (one page)  
 “How to Evaluate SCCs” (one page).

Lumko’s eight methods of prayer and *Bible* Reflection. Valuable resources for our parish pastoral ministry in Africa. Questions and discussion. SCC is not a cooperative or a fund-raising agency.

**METHOD NO. 5.** Part of third period modeling the Seven-Step Gospel Sharing in our four SCCs using the Group Response Method/*Bible*--Mirror Method (E-Resource No. 8 in the Online Resource Materials in the free, online Ebook) based on the Gospel of the Fourth Sunday of Lent (6 March, 2016) – Year C: *Luke* 15:1-3, 11-32. NOTE: This includes a three-five-minute period of buzz groups. Everyone receives and comments on the drawing. The facilitator/ animator uses the Group Response Guide Sheet.

**Homework:** Search on the internet for examples of Youth Websites, Facebook Pages, WhatsApp, Blogs, etc. **Question on the Exam.**

**3 March, 2016:** Mid-semester Break.

**10 March, 2016:** Week 8: Class 22-24. Silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: For the repose of the soul of George Leandro Abok, the Father of Deacon John Bosco Odongo, CM who was a student in our SCCs Class in 2015 and presently is doing pastoral work in Kitale Diocese.

Song popular with youth in Kenya: *Mungu Wetu Ni wa Ajabu*.

“Participation of Youth in Small Christian Communities in Africa.” “Forming Specific Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs) in Africa.” Focus on the dual importance of the “medium” (ways of reaching and interacting with young people in Africa) and the “message” (importance of African youth).

Housekeeping. SCCs Poll as a “teaching moment.” Lumko handouts.

Touchdown. Reports on the 2016 Kenya Lenten Campaign. Example of a marriage/family case without justice and without mercy.

Special guests: Peter Kyalo, Senior Software Engineer/Senior ICT Officer of the ICT Centre, University of Nairobi; Alloys Nyakundi, Amos Orina and Clementina Maloba of the YSCCs of Christ the Teacher Parish, Kenyatta University; and class member Seminarian Dennis Lule, CSC reporting on the YSCCs in Dandora Parish, Nairobi.

Two types of YSCCs:

- School-based/campus-based and institution/center-based. Online demonstration of the multi-media Kenyatta University website: overall website and the plan of the nine SCCs of university students: some in dormitories/residence halls/hostels and two that are non-geographical: <http://www.kucatholic.or.ke>. Alloys Nyakundi described his larger St. Dominic SCC that meets on Wednesday and his St. Patrick Family SCC that meets on Monday. Most of the SCCs have their own WhatsApp Network that posts the Daily Scripture Readings. Includes Video Clips on YouTube. Case Study of Active Youth SCCs in Kenyatta University, Nairobi. KUCC (Kenya University Catholic Community) Youth Small Christian Community Facebook Page. Public (Open) Group. 456 members. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1549609615274202/>
- Parish-based. See [Case Study of Six Active Youth SCCs in Dandora Parish, Nairobi](#)” in the free, online Ebook. [St. Gonzaga Gonza Youth SCC Facebook Page](#). “Public (Open) Group.” 122 members. Why youth want their own SCCs? Topics/themes youth like to talk about. See discussion in free, online Ebook.

Reports and demonstration of Youth Facebook Pages and other social media. Major shift: Nine of the 10 reports were on SCCs in Nairobi using WhatsApp. Interactive user friendly learning.

2013. One-day Eastern Africa Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs) Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya on Saturday, 30 August, 2014. There were 31 participants (22 men and 9 women) from six countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia. See free online Ebook.

### **Question on the Exam.**

**17 March, 2016:** Week 9 (Last Day): (Classes 25-27). Silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer. For all the members of our SCCs Classes who will be ordained and make final vows this year.

“Final Summary and Integration of SCCs Course.”

Housekeeping.

Guest: Father Febian Pikiti, AMECEA Pastoral Coordinator. Photo.

Touchdown. “Daily Scripture Readings on Social Media in Kenya.” About 682,000 results on Google. Examples: Kenyatta University “multiplication system” through the KUCC App and the *Jumuiya ya Vijana* Facebook Page. *Laudate* App (text and podcast [audio]). DAILY GOSPEL Website and Email. YouVersion – the Bible App.

First Period: Short reports (three minutes each) on the 50 **SCC Course Papers** in our four SCCs. The best papers will be posted on the SCCs Website. The major topics/themes of the papers (by frequency) were:

40: SCC as a *Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible-Daily Life Connections* Group.

- 3: Informal gathering/meeting of a SCC.  
Elections in the SCC.
- 2: SCC as a Special Group for Faith Sharing, Formation and Study.  
Formation and training workshops/seminars of SCC leaders and animators.
- 1: SCC as a Daily Life-*Bible* Connections Group.  
Practical action, service and social, pastoral and mission outreach.  
Projects of a SCC such as self-reliance projects (self-generating activities) and fund-raisers.  
Celebrations in a SCC.

Evaluation of the course:

**Handout: “Course Evaluation Form.”**

1. How to improve the course?
2. How to make future courses better?
3. What other (new) topics and themes should be emphasized in future courses?
4. How do you see this course on SCCs linked to Ecclesiology?

One concrete recommendation for future courses: Post the “Provisional Syllabus” of our SCCs Course online under “Kenya” on the Small Christian Communities (SCCs) Global Collaborative Website at the beginning of the course and the “Final Annotated Syllabus” at the end of the course.

During the Evaluation of the SCCs Course the students in the religious congregations and societies that have their Pastoral Year(s) after Second Theology strongly recommended that the three Pastoral Theology courses (Ecumenical Ministry, Family Ministry and Small Christian Communities) be offered in the Second Semester of Year 2 (the 4<sup>th</sup> Semester) to equip them with practical pastoral resources and tools to help them in their pastoral ministry. This is in conjunction with the *Luke-Acts* Course and the Ecclesiology Course in Year 2 that provide a biblical and theological foundation and underpinning of the SCCs Course.

The Way Forward. Suggestion for follow-up after the end of the course. We graduates (*Alumni, Alumnae*) of our SCCs Class can continue sharing, interacting, networking and exchanging SCCs information and experiences through the public [SCCs Facebook Page](#), our own special, ongoing Online or V SCC on our SCCs Website, another Facebook Page, What’s App, Skype, etc. Sharing ideas in our “SCCs Course Papers” through the SCCs Facebook Page and other social networking. Posting weekly Homily Notes. Working through the AMECEA Pastoral Department SCCs Network and the [Pastoral Department Sub-domain](#) on the AMECEA Website.

The Ebook states:

“These entries on our SCCs Facebook Page show that it is much more than just casual and superficial social networking. We hope that this SCCs Facebook Page can be a forum for analysis, discussion, exchange, information, questions and answers, quotations and updates including:

- Brainstorming on pastoral and missionary issues including pastoral solutions to particular challenges/problems.
- Daily and Sundays Lectionary Readings and Commentary.
- Concrete, practical experiences, stories and case studies of grassroots SCCs.
- Important "space" ("place") for spiritual, pastoral and theological conversation and sharing. For example, the themes and topics of articles and theses on SCCs can be discussed as African Christian Palaver Theology or African Christian Conversation Theology process or methodology.
- Meaningful "Prayer Corner."
- Photographs and Video Clips.
- Providing new SCCs resources, tools and links.
- Requests for financial help from our *Mfuko wa Jumuiya*.
- Spiritual and Pastoral Reading.

This SCCs Facebook Page is pastoral ministry. It is evangelization. It provides important research, formation, training, learning and teaching resources, tools and references."

Explanation of the **Final Written (Short Essays) Exam**. Answer three questions out of six questions on the exam. Key: "Give at least five specific concrete examples." Bonus Questions. Sample exam questions based on possible themes. Explanation of the Marking System. A key to the course was the first question on the exam:

"Based on your personal, practical, pastoral experience of SCCs, design a two-day Small Christian Communities Trainers of Trainers (TOT) Workshop for SCCs Leaders at the parish level in Africa that would include at least five problems/challenges and their pastoral solutions."

While a challenging question requiring a lot of thinking and planning, it is very much at the heart of how future priests, sisters and other pastoral workers will participate in this new way of being church.

Class photo in front of Tangaza (posted on our SCCs Facebook Page and published in *The Update*). 300/= is being given for each photo on our class activities posted on the SCCs Facebook Page.

### **Hand in the SCCs Course Paper.**

Closing Solidarity Song: "Bind Us Together, Lord." SCCs, oyee! cheers! felicitation!

**31 March, 2016: Final Written (Short Essays) Exam.** 50 points of course grade. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Calling on the help of the First Small Community (Trinity) and the First Small Christian Community (Holy Family). Answer three questions out of six questions.

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**Written Assignment. SCCs Course Paper** (the one CAT -- Continual Assessment Task) that is at least three pages single spaced or six pages double spaced. One paper with

two parts. To be handed in and reported on in our four SCCs during our last class on 17 March, 2016. 30 points of course grade.

“Part I -- SCC Practicum Write-up” (one or two pages) on your personal, practical pastoral experience of a SCC Practicum (one of the 15 SCC Activities)). Use the three steps of the "see," "judge" and "act" methodology or process. Arrange the **SCC Practicum** on your own that is, participate in/attend/visit a **specific gathering/meeting/activity of a SCC** in a parish or special interest group/apostolic group in Nairobi Archdiocese or another diocese in Kenya. Or participate in the St. Isidore of Seville International Online Skype SCC on any Tuesday afternoon at 5 p.m. Choose one of the activities of a SCC in the "Checklist of 15 Activities in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Today" Appendix No. 1 (E-Resource No. 1) in the free, online Ebook. NOTE: “Guidelines for SCC Practicum Write-up” are found in Appendix No. 16 (E-Resource No. 16) in the free, online Ebook. 10 points of course grade.

“Part II -- Reflection Paper (two or four pages) on a topic of your choice that comes from your experience and observations during the SCC Practicum or from your other SCC experiences. Examples: “Lack of Youth and Men in SCCs.” “Tribalism and Negative Ethnicity in SCCs.” “How to Divide a Large SCC into Two Smaller SCCs.” “SCCs and Inculturation.” “SCCs Involvement in the Kenya Lenten Campaign 2016.” “SCCs in the 2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy.” “SCCs Promote Family and Marriage Ministry in Africa.” “Comparing Two SCCs.” “Specific Challenges in SCCs in Africa Today.” “Danger of SCCs Becoming a Vehicle for Fund-raising.” “A Pastoral, Theological or Research Question Related to SCCs.” “The Growth of Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs) in Africa.” “Reaching Young People through the Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website and Facebook Page.” 20 points of course grade.

### **SCCs Resources and Tools**

See the end of Joseph Healey, *Building the Church as Family of God: Evaluation of Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa* in the free, online version updated as of 8 May, 2016 and available on the SCCs Website at:

[http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build\\_new.pdf](http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build_new.pdf)

Under three categories:

1. “Select Annotated Bibliography of Books, Booklets, Articles, Reports and Printed Materials” (328 entries)
2. “DVD/Video/Sound-Slide Resources” (46 entries)
3. “Internet Resources/Websites/E-Resources” (80 entries)

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Updated: 31 March, 2016 (day of Final Exam)