

Hekima University College  
Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)  
Nairobi, Kenya

Final Annotated Syllabus of One Credit Elective Course, Two hours per week for seven weeks, Lecture Format, Pastorally Oriented (January to March, 2017).  
Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Seminar Room 1.

### **Small Christian Communities as a New Model of Church in Africa Today (THE1410)**

**NOTE:** This course is only offered in the Second Semester of the Academic Year (January to March). It is an Elective Course in the Pastoral Theology Department as part of the Bachelor of Theology (CUEA). There is a total of 14 class periods of 50 minutes each spread over two periods per week on Wednesday mornings for seven weeks.

Ebooks/Printed Paperback Books: SCCs Resources, Tools and Reference Books for Highly 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 22 March, 2017 it is 897 pages and is available on the left hand side under “Ebooks” of the “Home Page”/“Front Page” of the Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website at:

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

A printed copy can be found in the Reserved Reading Section of the Hekima Library.

It can also be found on the *Hekima* University College Website. Go to: Hekima University College Library. Click here to access online:

<http://library.hekima.ac.ke/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=422146>

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Online use Control F to open the “Find” or “Search” Box to search the Ebook. Offline you can convert the Ebook to another Format. As a Microsoft Word Document use “Home” then “Find” (or Control F) to go to the “Navigation 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*.

**18 January, 2017:** Week 1: Classes 1-2: One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Peaceful elections in Africa in 2017 especially DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Somalia.

**Touchdown/Housekeeping.** “Class Lists.” Sale of books and videos.

**Theme: "Introduction to, and Overview of, our 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.”

**Possible Question on the Exam.**

The many changes in organizing our course mirror the life of our 180,000 SCCs in Eastern Africa. Different 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 (TOT) or Trainers of Facilitators (TOF) style. Other possibilities during the course: SCCs Mass (*Jumuiya* Mass). SCCs Celebration.

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 seven *Wanajumuiya* (“members of a SCC” in Swahili) come from 5 religious congregations. We come from a total of 6 countries: 5 countries in Africa: DR Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe in Africa and one other country: India. All these countries have material on our SCCs Website.

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, tablets and smartphones and use different browsers: Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari and Torch. I highly recommend Google Search (and related websites such as Wikipedia) for 95% of our research needs. The SCCs Website includes the free online Ebook, Video Section (DVDs on YouTube), Facebook Page and Skype.

**Possible Question on the Exam.**

Connecting to the other theology courses. The Scripture Courses and the Ecclesiology Course in Year 2 provide a biblical and theological foundation and underpinning of the SCCs Course. 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. Example: Kenyan and DRC Elections in 2017.

We use the principle in the famous proverb, *Give a person a fish and you feed the person for a day; teach a person to fish and you feed the person for a lifetime.* Hopefully this SCCs Course will provide you with practical SCCs resources, tools and methods that you can use during this Eighth Semester and during the rest of your lives. Suggestion: Prepare two folders with all your SCCs materials that also can be used in your ongoing pastoral ministry: a paper/plastic folder and an electronic folder.

Explanation of the **SCCs Course Paper** (40 points of course grade) and the **Final Written (Short Essays) Exam** (60 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.

Importance of the *Bible* (our hoe or *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 every week. *Lectio Divina*.

Modeling a SCC Model of Church by experiencing being a member of a SCC during the course. The class members become a SCC and chose -- with their feast days -- St. Mother Teresa (5 September) as Patroness Saint and St. Paul the Apostle (29 June) as Patron Saint.

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

**METHOD NO. 1.** Lectionary-based faith sharing (also called Gospel-based faith Sharing). 20 minutes in modeling the *Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections* in our three SCCs based on the Gospel of the following Sunday, 15 January, 2017 (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A). *John 1:29-34*. 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.

**Handouts:** Bookmark: *Celebrating 180,000 Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa* (explanation).

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

**25 January, 2016:** Week 2: Classes 3-4. One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: That the Catholic Church leaders listen to the experiences and views of young people in preparation for Synod of Bishops in October, 2018 on “Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment.”

**Touchdown/Housekeeping.**

1<sup>st</sup> Period: 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, activities and ministries of SCCs in Africa.

**Theme: “SCCs Resources, Tools and Methods.”**

SCCs Website contains:

- Design of the “Front Page”/”Home Page”
- Poll (demonstration): a “teaching moment.”
- Ebooks (demonstration)
- DVDs
- YouTube
- Online SCCs
- Facebook Page (demonstration)
- 30 papers on Academia.edu (<https://princeton.academia.edu/JosephHealey>)

SCCs Facebook Page (presently 1,893 Fans). Survey of *wanajumuiya*’s involvement in the 16 common activities of SCCs. “Checklist of 16 Activities in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Today” (**E-Resource No. 1** in the Online E-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, colleges, secondary school, 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. Emphasis on Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs). Latest research indicates that 60% are in schools and 40% are in parishes.

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.

“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. FaithND Website and Email. YouVersion – the *Bible* App.

**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

22 January, 2017 (Third Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A): *Matthew* 4: 12-23 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. Group Dynamics Methods/Tools.

**Recommended Reading:**

1. Free, online resources on SCCs.
2. Flynn, Kieran, *Communities for the Kingdom: A Handbook for Small Christian Community Leaders*, Eldoret: AMECEA Gaba Publications, *Spearhead* Nos. 181-182, 2007.
3. Wijnsen, Frans, Peter Henriot and Rodrigo Mejia (eds.), *The Pastoral Circle Revisited: A Critical Quest for Truth and Transformation*, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2005 and Nairobi: Paulines Publications Africa, 2006.
4. Healey, Joseph, “Beyond Vatican II: Imagining the Catholic Church of Nairobi I,” in Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator (ed.), *The Church We Want: African Catholics Look to Vatican III*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2016 and Nairobi: Acton Publishers, 2016.
5. Healey, Joseph, “Small Christian Communities (SCCs) as Agents of Change in the Fight Against HIV and AIDS in Eastern Africa,” in Jacquineau Azetsop, *HIV and AIDS in Africa: Theological Reflection, Public Health Crises, and Social Transformation*, Orbis Books, 2016.
6. *Preparatory Document* for the Synod of Bishops XV Ordinary General Assembly. *Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment*, Liberia Editrice Vaticana and Paulines Publications Africa, 2017. Vatican Website, retrieved on 14 January, 2017, <http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2017/01/13/0021/00050.html#EN>

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

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

**1 February, 2017:** Week 3: Classes 5-6. One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: That lay men and lay women may understand and appreciate that “they are the church” and be active leaders in their SCCs.

Introduction of guests.

**Touchdown/Housekeeping:** Feedback from weekend talk.

Plans for Small Christian Communities Mass/Jumuiya Mass on Wednesday, 15 February, 2017.

**Theme: “The Importance of Lay Participation and Active Involvement in the SCCs in Eastern Africa.”**

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

a. “The Missionary Spirit and Outreach of the Fish Group in Kisumu Archdiocese.”

b. “Small Communities Light Up Neighborhoods in Kisumu.” (Chapter 16 of *SCCT*). Retrieved from the Google Books Website on 27 January, 2017,  
[https://books.google.co.ke/books?id=YsJ3CAAQBAJ&pg=PT117&lpg=PT117&dq=%E2%80%9CSmall+Communities+Light+Up+Neighborhoods+in+Kisumu.%E2%80%9D&source=bl&ots=mxSzzKw95K&sig=XoF-10qe6ON5serjTWmgBqVBV4M&hl=en&sa=X&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q=%E2%80%9CSmall%20Communities%20Light%20Up%20Neighborhoods%20in%20Kisumu.%E2%80%9D&f=false](https://books.google.co.ke/books?id=YsJ3CAAQBAJ&pg=PT117&lpg=PT117&dq=%E2%80%9CSmall+Communities+Light+Up+Neighborhoods+in+Kisumu.%E2%80%9D&source=bl&ots=mxSzzKw95K&sig=XoF-10qe6ON5serjTWmgBqVBV4M&hl=en&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=%E2%80%9CSmall%20Communities%20Light%20Up%20Neighborhoods%20in%20Kisumu.%E2%80%9D&f=false)

c. Skype. Example of the St. Isidore of Seville International Online Skype SCC.

2. Mwanajumuiya Rose Musimba, a member of the Eastern Africa SCCs Training Team: “The Importance of Lay Women’s Participation and Active Involvement in the SCCs in Eastern Africa.”

**8 February, 2017:** Week 4: Classes 7-8: One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Drought in Kenya.

**Touchdown/Housekeeping:**

Planning a SCC-style Recollection Day.

Plans for Small Christian Communities Mass/Jumuiya Mass on Wednesday, 15 February, 2017.

**Theme: “History and Theology of SCCs in Africa especially an AMECEA Key Pastoral Priority of Building Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa.”**

First Period:

*Mwanajumuiya* Sista Rita Ishengoma, STH: “SCCs: A Life Well Lived (based on the *Bible*):”

1. Using simple objects and symbols to communicate and explain SCCs.
  - a. Bunch of small sticks from a coffee tree: One will break easily. Many tied together will not break. Symbol of unity and togetherness. African proverb: *Unity is strength.*
  - b. Clay pot or *sufuria* supported by three cooking stones. One and three: Model of the Trinity.
  - c. Torch (flashlight) made up of bulb, case and batteries. One and three: Model of the Trinity.
2. Prayers in SCCs.
3. Mercy and pardon.

NOTE: SCCs are very different in rural and urban Africa.

Second Period:

**Praxis is prior to theology:** From grassroots SCCs experiences to theory/principles /history/theology.

Two Stories/Case Studies/Portraits of Parish-based 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* (Second Africa Synod) or *The Joy of the Gospel*: 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 Class SCC are both deductive and inductive. LUMKO offers a variety of methods.

The origins of SCCs/BCCs in Africa: At its 6th Plenary Assembly from 20 November to 2 December, 1961 the Zaire Episcopal Conference (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo or DRC that is a neighbor to Eastern Africa) approved a pastoral plan to promote “Living Base Ecclesial Communities” (also called “Living Christian Communities”). Communautés Ecclésiales Vivantes de Base (CEVB) is the full French term for SCCs. The bishops opted for these communities to be more important than the well-known mission structures (church buildings, schools, hospitals). These Living Base Ecclesial Communities were said to be the only way to make the church more “African” and close to the people.

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. 1973-2017 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.” Christopher Mwoleka of Rulenge Diocese, Tanzania: "The entire pastoral work will be carried out by means of Small Christian Communities."

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.”

Historical Milestones: 1994 First African Synod: “Church Family of God” Theology. 2009 Second African Synod: SCCs Promote Reconciliation, Justice and Peace. 2013-2017: Pope Francis’ Pontificate.

Comparing different models of church. Parishes as a “communion of communities.” Trinitarian Communion. Inverted Pyramid. First a Listening Church and second a Teaching Church. SCCs reaching out to “the marginalized and those on the periphery of society.”

**15 February, 2017:** Week 5: Classes 9-10: One minute of silence. Song popular with youth in Kenya: *Mungu Wetu Ni wa Ajabu*. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Youth in Africa. For all the members of our SCCs Classes who will be ordained and make final vows this year especially the deacons to be ordained on 25 February, 2017.

Introduction of special guests: *Mwanajumuiya Damu Damu* Alloys Nyakundi, St. Dominic SCC and representatives of the YSCCs of Christ the Teacher Parish, Kenyatta University, Nairobi: *Wanajumuiya Evalyne Mwangi*, St. Patrick SCC; *Nancy Njehia*, St. Francis SCC and *Edwin Wesonga*, St. Dominic SCC.

### **Touchdown/Housekeeping:**

SCC Mass (“Announcement”) on SCCs Facebook Page.

**2017 Kenya Lenten Campaign** Booklets and Posters.

Explanation of **SCC Course Paper**.

**Written Assignment. SCCs Course Paper** 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 SCC during our last class on 22 March, 2017. 40 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 16 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. Or choose a SCCs that you have participated in the past. Choose one of the activities of a SCC in the "Checklist of 16 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. 15 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 2017.” “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.” “Input of Youth/Young People, especially YSCCs, to the 2018 World Synod of Bishops.” “Importance of a Small Christian Community Mass.” 25 points of course grade.

**Theme: “Participation of Youth in Small Christian Communities in Africa.” “Forming Specific Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs) in Africa.”**

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

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).

Two types of YSCCs:

- 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.” 153 members. Why youth want their own SCCs? Topics/themes youth like to talk about. See research and discussion in free, online Ebook.
- 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>. Mwanajumuiya Alloys Nyakundi described his larger St. Dominic SCC that meets on Wednesday and his St. Patrick Family SCC that meets on Monday. See [“Report on the Youth Small Christian Communities \(YSCCs\) at Kenyatta University Christ the Teacher Catholic Parish in Nairobi, Kenya.”](#)

All 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. 495 members. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1549609615274202/>

Reports and demonstration of Youth Facebook Pages and other social media. Major shift: Reports on YSCCs in Nairobi that use WhatsApp. Interactive user friendly learning.

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 report in free online Ebook.

**Homework:** Read Week Two (“Youth and Society”) of the Booklet of the *2017 Kenya Lenten Campaign*.

The whole class participated in the African Inculturated "Small Christian Community Mass" ("*Jumuiya* Mass"). Special features were:

1. Shared Homily (in buzz groups of two each). The key is to connect the scripture readings to our everyday life.
2. Spontaneous "Prayers of the Faithful" starting from our everyday local experience. Some intentions flow directly from the scripture readings. People were encouraged to give their intentions in their home languages/heart language/mother tongue.
3. African Exchange of Peace using a sign of peace from Zimbabwe: gently clapping and shaking hands.

During the liturgy we used religious, cultural and political examples from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Laurenti Magesa’s comment: “This kind of mass should be normative – an everyday occurrence.”

**22 February, 2017:** Week 6: Classes 11-12. Silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: “Peaceful and credible preparations for the August, 2017 elections in Kenya.”

### **Touchdown and Housekeeping:**

Final Annotated Syllabus on SCCs Website (permanent record of our SCCs Course).  
Evaluation of SCC Mass.

**Form for the SCCs Course Paper** (to be handed in on 1 March, 2017)

**Theme: "SCCs Involvement in the 2017 Kenya Lenten Campaign on the theme *Peaceful and Credible Elections – Leaders of Integrity*"**

Go to:

<http://www.cjpckkenya.org/index.php?page=other&gid=93>

<http://www.cjpckkenya.org/index.php?page=other&gid=94>

<http://www.cjpckkenya.org/userfiles/LENTEN%20CAMPAIGN%202017%20%20%20Peaceful%20and%20Credible%20Elections%20Leaders%20of%20Integrity.pdf> (to download the **LENTEN CAMPAIGN BOOKLET** in English)

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/justice and peace

issues in Kenya rather than just devotional Christianity (novenas, litanies, processions) in addition the three normal priorities of Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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 2017 Kenya Lenten Campaign.

**Possible Question on the Exam.**

Second Period: Use the three steps of “See,” “Judge” and “Act” methodology/process in Week 2 (Second Sunday of Lent – 12 March, 2017) on “Youth and Society.”

**METHOD NO. 3.** From life to the *Bible* starting with a story. In our SCC:

1. Analyze and discuss the drawing (cartoon) on page 14.
2. Read the story in Step One (“See”): “The Story of Kambi Mawe Village Schools on pages 15-16.
3. Read part of the Situation Analysis in Step Two (“Judge”) on pages 16-17.
4. Read the Gospel (*Matthew 17: 1-9*) and scripture commentary.
5. Answer the special questions in Step Three (“Act”): What is the role of the Small Christian Communities and society at large in nurturing and forming our youth? What platforms do African youth have to express themselves in the society?

Short reports from SCC members. 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.

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

**1 March, 2017:** Week 7: Class 13-14. Silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Pope Francis explains the challenge of the New Evangelization very well in No. 33 of *The Joy of the Gospel*:

Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: “We have always done it this way.” I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities. A proposal of goals without an adequate communal search for the means of achieving them will inevitably prove illusory. I encourage everyone to apply the guidelines found in this document generously and courageously, without inhibitions or fear. The important thing is to not walk alone, but to rely on each other as brothers and sisters, and especially under the leadership of the bishops, in a wise and realistic pastoral discernment.

**Touchdown and Housekeeping:**

Feedback on Kenyan Lenten Campaign.

New Poll. Explanations of choices.

Posts on the SCCs Facebook Page.

Hand in **Form for the SCCs Course Paper** (to be completed by 22 March, 2016).

**Theme: "SCCs Respond to the Challenges of the 'Signs of the Times' in Africa."**

Basic questions: How does change/changes occur? How do we find good leaders in the Catholic Church and society? Key is the reform/renewal of seminary training. Comments by Laurenti Magesa and Peter Kanyandago.

The spirit and content of the Second Vatican Council mirror what St. John XXIII described as "reading the signs of the times" when he originally called the council. The *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* (commonly known by the Latin title *Gaudium et Spes*) emphasized this explicit call: "The church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel" (No. 4).

Blessed Paul VI describe the importance of being constantly aware of the changes in society in this striking image: "You must continually stand at the window, open to the world. You are obliged to study the facts, the events, the opinions, the current interests and the thought of the surrounding environment."

"What are the different human problems in Africa that we should reflect on in our SCC meetings in the light of the Gospel?" (St. John Paul II, *The Church in Africa*, No. 89).

Divorce

Child marriages

Homosexuality

Mega-corruption

Tribalism/negative ethnicity/nepotism/clannism

Abortion

Bad governance

Child abuse

Problems in marriage

Radical Islam

Alcohol and drug addiction

Stigma of HIV/AIDS

Drought/Hunger/Famine

Migration

Youth moving from the Catholic to the Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches

**METHOD NO. 4.** From life to the *Bible* starting with a human problem. Reflect on one of these problems and find corresponding/parallel passages in the *Bible* that offered light and inspiration. Small groups of two each reflected on "Abortion," "Bad Governance," Migration and "Problems in Marriage." NOTE: Using the "Search Feature" dramatically speeds up finding the *Bible* passages such as *Hebrews* 13, *Ephesians* 5 and *Matthew* 19 on "Problems in Marriage."

**"Final Summary and Integration of SCCs Course."**

Explanation of the **Final Written (Short Essays) Exam**. Answer two questions out of four questions on the exam. Key: “Give at least five specific concrete examples.” Bonus Questions. Sample exam questions based on possible themes. 60 points of course grade.

Evaluation of the SCCs Course. Feedback included learning about the value of YSCCs Alumni Groups such as the Fish Alumni Community (Group) in Kisumu and Kenyatta University Alumni (Graduates) Community (Group) living in Nairobi. This SCCs Class is a new way of doing theology.

Class photo in front of Hekima (posted on our SCCs Facebook Page). 300/= is being given for each photo on our class activities posted and approved on the SCCs Facebook Page.

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

**8 March, 2017**: Mid-semester Break.

**22 March, 2017**: Silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: For all the members of our SCCs Classes who will be ordained and make final vows this year.

First Period: Short reports (three minutes each) on the **SCC Course Papers** in our Class SCC. Opportunity to listen to, and learn, from each other’s SCCs experiences as part of African Conversation Theology. The best papers will be posted on the SCCs Website and each writer will receive 1,000/= Kenyan Shillings.

The activities in the SCC Practicum (by frequency) in January-March, 2017 course were:

- 6 -- SCC as a *Bible* Sharing/*Bible* Reflection/*Bible*-Daily Life Connections Group
- 1 -- Informal gathering/meeting of a SCC.

The major topics/themes of the Reflection Papers (by frequency) in the January-March, 2017 course were:

- 2 -- “Lack of Youth and Children in SCCs”
- 1 -- “SCCs Promote Family and Marriage Ministry”
  - “Should the Priest Preach at a SCC Reflection Day Mass?”
  - “Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism in a SCC”
  - “Re-imagining Theological Education in Africa Through the SCCs Model”
  - “Specific Challenges of SCCs”

Second Period: Exam.

### **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 22 March, 2017 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" (355 entries)
2. "DVD/Video/Audio-Visual Resources (50 entries)
3. "Internet Resources/Websites/E-Resources" (89 entries)

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