

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, 2017).  
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 MATH and MPM Degrees in Pastoral Ministry. There is 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 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 30 March, 2017 it is 909 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 Tangaza Library.

It can also be found on the Tangaza University College Website. Go to:  
Library>E-Resources>Open Access List>*Building the Church as Family of God: Evaluation of Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa* at:

<http://www.tangaza.org>

This Ebook is 11 MB in the PDF Format and 7 MB in the Microsoft Word Format. It can be downloaded (saved) on any electronic reading device with a free capacity of 11 MB and above: desktop computer, Ereader like Kindle or Nook, external hard drive, flash drive, Ipad, laptop computer, notebook, tablet and smartphone. 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.

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*.

**12 January, 2017:** Week 1: Classes 1-3: One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Peaceful elections in Africa in 2017 especially DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Somalia.

### **Touchdown and 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 (*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 34 *Wanajumuiya* (“members of a SCC” in Swahili) come from 16 religious congregations and missionary societies and include two priests, 11 deacons, one religious sister and one layman. We come from a total of 13 countries: 11 countries in Africa: Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia in Africa and two other countries: Peru and Philippines. 9 of these countries have material on our SCCs Website. We have done pastoral work in these countries plus two more African countries -- Central African Republic and Ghana -- plus Mexico.

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 *Luke-Acts* Course and the Ecclesiology Course in Year 2 provide a biblical and theological foundation and underpinning of the SCCs Course. Connecting to other courses in the Pastoral Theology Department like Family Ministry and Youth Ministry. 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** (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 presentations, class reading, class DVDs, SCC Website, SCCs Facebook Page and class discussion.

2<sup>nd</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.

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*.

3<sup>rd</sup> Period: Modeling a SCC Model of Church by experiencing being a member of a SCC during the course. Dividing class into three SCCs and choosing Patron/Patroness Saints of the three SCCs with their feast days: St. Ann (26 July), St. Augustine (28 August) and St. Kizito (3 June).

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 (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.

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

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

**Handouts:** “Draft Annotated Syllabus” of our SCCs Course (please bring to class every week) and Bookmark: *Celebrating 180,000 Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa* (explanation).

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

**19 January, 2016:** Week 2: Classes 4-6. 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 and Housekeeping:**

Revising “Class Lists.” Importance of football in reaching young people in Africa. Results of Africa Cup of Nations. Examples of the deacons’ homilies and students’ talks from Sunday, 15 January, 2017.

**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>)

“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 1,904 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. Difference between a Small Christian Community (*Jumuiya* Mass) celebrated in a home in the neighborhood and a regular parish-style mass celebrated in a home in the neighborhood. 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. DSpace articles on the Tangaza Website.
2. Flynn, Kieran, *Communities for the Kingdom: A Handbook for Small Christian Community Leaders*, Eldoret: AMECEA Gaba Publications, *Spearhead* Nos. 181-182, 2007.
3. Wijssen, 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 Agbonkhanmeghe 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/Youth, 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.

**26 January, 2017:** Week 3: Classes 7-9. One minute of silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: That the Holy Spirit may guide us to understand this new SCCs Model of Church.

Introduction of guests.

**Touchdown and Housekeeping:**

Final revised “Class Lists.” Feedback from Sunday Homilies and Talks.

**Theme: “How Priests/Deacons/Seminarians/Brothers/Sisters/Catechists Animate SCCs in Parishes and Schools in Eastern Africa.”**

Let us remember that the leaders of the SCCs are lay people. This is one reason why SCCs are a new way of being church. Priests, deacons, brothers, seminarians, sisters, and catechists are animators and facilitators, not bosses. An AMECEA Bishop speaking at a World Synod of Bishops in Rome reminded his brother bishops that priests, seminarians, brothers and sisters are 1% of the Catholic Church while laymen and laywomen are 99%. Tanzanian Bishop Christopher Mwoleka of Rulenge Diocese, Tanzania stated: “In today’s world there is a vocation to Small Christian Communities. The laity are the leaders in responding to this call.”

We Priests/Deacons/Seminarians/Brothers/Sisters/Catechists in Africa are the “trainers of trainers” (TOT) and Trainers of Facilitators (TOF), that is, animators and facilitators of laymen and laywomen’s involvement in their SCCs?

**Possible Question on the Exam.**

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 starting on page 127. Different Case Studies.

Case Study of Meru Diocese SCCs Pastoral Plan:

1. Short History of Meru Diocese by Mwanajumuiya Padri Father Moses Muriira
2. Role of the SCCs Coordinator in Meru Diocese by Mwanajumuiya Padri Lawrence Murori
3. Involvement in SCCs from the Experience of a Pastor/Assistant Pastor Mwanajumuiya Padri Father Moses Muriira



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.

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.

**METHOD NO. 3.** Final 20 minutes of third period is modeling the *Bible* Sharing/*Bible* Reflection/*Bible*—Life Connections in our three SCCs based on the Gospel of the following Sunday 29 January, 2017 (Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A): *Matthew* 5:1-12a. Steps 1, 2, 3, **4, 8, 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.” Choose a *mantra* (several words or a phrase from the Gospel).

The Tea Break was a unique opportunity to show how SCCs are a “new way of being church.” Rather than drink coffee or tea in the Faculty Lounge (with mainly priests), the two visiting priest presenters had tea and a friendly discussion with the student seminarians in the canteen.

**Handout:** “Table of Contents” of Ebook.

**Homework:** Read one of the chapters on Africa of your choice in our Ebook or in our two paperback books.

**2 February, 2017:** Week 4: Classes 10-12: 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 and Housekeeping:**

1. Report from Mwanajumuiya Maurice Otiwno Adiang’ of the class St. Ann SCC on the practical action carried out during the week on the beatitude: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons and daughters of God.” He reported that he failed to meet physically with a youth group to discuss the beatitude of peacemaking, so he met with them through messages on the wall of his personal Facebook Page on social media.
2. Photographs on the SCCs Facebook Page.  
[https://www.facebook.com/www.smallchristiancommunities.org/posts\\_to\\_page](https://www.facebook.com/www.smallchristiancommunities.org/posts_to_page)
3. From the SCCs Facebook Page: From Moses Muriira: “Today I had one of the best SCC gatherings (name of Patron Saint is St. Nicholas) in my parish of St,

Peter and Paul Parish, Meru Diocese, Kenya. Elderly and illiterate men and women gave the best *Bible* Sharing ever. I used the buzz method as taught in our class at Tangaza by *Mwanajumuyia* Padri Joe Healey. Everyone seems to enjoy this method. Please try it. It works well. SCC is the best way to go. Truly a new way of being the church.”

Summary of SCCs Class so far.

DVD (via YouTube) on *Celebrating 120,000 Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa* (5 minutes). <http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/videos/269-celebrating-120000-small-christian-communities-in-eastern-africa-.html>

Explanation of **SCC Course Paper**.

**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: “The Importance of Lay Involvement in the Missionary Outreach of SCCs in Eastern Africa.” Available on the SCCs Website at:

<http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/videos/404-the-importance-of-lay-involvement-in-the-missionary-outreach-of-sccs-in-eastern-africa.html>

- a. “The Missionary Spirit and Outreach of the Fish Youth 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. “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.”

**Homework:** History sections in Ebook.

**9 February, 2017:** Week 5: Classes 13-15: One minute of silence. Song in French on the Blessed Virgin Mary. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Drought in Kenya and other places in Africa.

Introduction of guest.



### **Touchdown and Housekeeping:**

Photos on SCCs Facebook Page. Captions are necessary. IEBC officials at Tangaza for the purposes of voters' registration. Civic Education Workshop at St. Austin's Parish, Nairobi on Sunday, 2 April, 2017 (First Sunday of Lent). Connected to the *2017 Kenya Lenten Campaign*. Sponsored by St. Kizito SCC.

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

**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: Bukiro, 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*.  
[http://www.afriprov.org/resources/storiesdatabase.html?task=display2&cid\[0\]=196](http://www.afriprov.org/resources/storiesdatabase.html?task=display2&cid[0]=196)
- 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*.  
[http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/sccs-stories.html?task=display2&cid\[0\]=627](http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/sccs-stories.html?task=display2&cid[0]=627)

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 SCCs are both deductive and inductive.

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."

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

1. Using simple objects and symbols to communicate and explain the meaning of SCCs especially in rural areas.
  - c. 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.*
  - d. Clay pot or *sufuria* supported by three cooking stones. One and three: Model of the Trinity.
  - e. Torch (flashlight) made up of bulb, case and batteries. One and three: Model of the Trinity.
2. Prayers in SCCs.
3. Mercy and pardon.

4. Principle: “Be creative in whatever situation you find yourself.” Story: SCC of illiterate women in Iramba Parish, Musoma Diocese, Tanzania. Faking my “temporary blindness.”

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

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

**Possible Question on the Exam.**

**16 February, 2017:** Week 6: Classes 16-18: One minute of silence. Song popular with youth in Kenya: *Mungu Wetu Ni wa Ajabu*. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Two laywomen: Youth in Africa.

Introduction of special guests: Mwanajumuiya James Omondi and Mwanajumuiya Evelyn Nyaituga, representatives of the YSCCs in Dandora Parish, Nairobi. Mwanajumuiya Damu Damu Alloys Nyakundi, St. Dominic SCC and nine representatives of the YSCCs of Christ the Teacher Parish, Kenyatta University, Nairobi: Wanajumuiya Patricia Wambui, St. Ann SCC; Nancy Muchomba, St. Patrick SCC; John Mwaura, St. Dominic SCC; Nancy Njehia, St. Francis SCC; Amos Orina, St. Michael SCC, Bonaventure Ochieng, St. Francis SCC and Francis Muhoki, St. Perpetua and Felicity SCC.

**Touchdown and Housekeeping.**

300/= Photos on SCCs Facebook Page.

**Handouts:**

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

**Form for the SCCs Course Paper** (to be handed in on 23 February, 2017)

**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 on page 205. [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 the free, online Ebook. Input by Mwanajumuiya Padri Kijana was Zamani.
- 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>. Excellent photos of the life and activities of the YSCCs.

Mwanajumuiya Alloys Nyakundi describes 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. 496 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.

The success of these all YSCCs follows a common pattern:

1. Continuity in youth leadership. 500,000/= Kenyan Shilling
2. Self-reliance plan (good fund-raising). Example: The youth in Dandora raise 500,000/= Kenyan Shillings (\$5,000) a year in selling the weekly mass leaflet.
3. Priority in focus and strategic planning.

Suggestion: students start a YSCC at Tangaza focused by *Bible Reflection/Bible Sharing*.

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*.

**23 February, 2017:** Week 7: Classes 19-21. Silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: “Peaceful and credible preparations for the August, 2017 elections in Kenya.”

Introduction of special guests.

### **Touchdown and Housekeeping:**

SCCs Facebook Page. Latest posts.

Hand in **Form for the SCCs Course Paper** (to be completed by 16 March, 2016).  
Comments on the papers.

Suggestion: students start a YSCC at Tangaza focused by *Bible Reflection/Bible Sharing*.

**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 **2017 LENTEN CAMPAIGN BOOKLET** in English)

Panel and Facilitators for the Powerpoint Presentation: Representatives of the Kenya Episcopal Conference Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Office: Mrs. Beatrice Odera, Mr. Martin Omwange and Sister Mary Francis Wangare, LSSJ. “Background of the Annual Kenya Lenten Campaigns.” “Introduction to the Overall Theme of the 2017 Kenya Lenten Campaign and “Week 2 (Second Sunday of Lent – 12 March, 2017) on “Youth and Society:” “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/justice and peace issues in Kenya (in addition the three normal priorities of Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving).

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

**Possible Question on the Exam.**

Case Study: Holy Trinity Parish, Kariobangi, Nairobi, Kenya

Third 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. 4.** (from life to the *Bible*). In our three SCCs:

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 two 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 in Africa? What platforms do African youth have to express themselves in the society?

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.

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

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

**9 March, 2017:** Week 8: Class 22-24. Silence. Opening Solidarity Prayer: For the deceased grandmother of Mwanajumuiya Father Jean Marie Theophile.

Introduction of special guest.

**Touchdown and Housekeeping:**

Posting to SCCs Website and SCCs Facebook Page.

Lumko East Africa SCCs Workshop.

Reports on 2017 Kenya Lenten Campaign.

Animating and facilitating: Helping lay people get into a Lenten rhythm or pattern.

Dialogue on the experience of a Small Christian Community Mass/Jumuiya Mass.

**Theme: “LUMKO Method of SCCs.”**

Powerpoint Presentation on “A Bird’s Eye View of the LUMKO Way of Being Church.”

Facilitator: Mwanajumuiya Sister Ephigenia Gachiri, IBVM.

**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 group or a fund-raising agency.

**METHOD NO. 5.** Third period modeling the Seven-Step Gospel Sharing in our three SCCs using the Group Response Method/*Bible*--Mirror Method (**E-Resource No. 8** in the Online Resource Materials in our free, online Ebook) based on the Gospel of the Third Sunday of Lent (19 March, 2016) – Year A: *John* 4: 5-15: “Story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well.” NOTE: Everyone receives and comments on the drawing on “problems in daily life” ahead of time. The facilitator/ animator uses the Group Response Guide Sheet. There is a five-minute period of buzz groups of two people each. One example: In one small community in our class the participants had a deep reflection on the “problem” of tribalism and negative



ethnicity in Kenya and other countries of Africa in the context of the Gospel verse “for Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans” in the “Story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well.” Action God wants us to do: In the August, 2017 National Elections Kenyans should vote for the best, most-qualified candidate, not the candidate from his or her own ethnic group.

**16 March, 2017:** 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.

Introduction of special guest.

### **Touchdown and Housekeeping:**

#### **Hand in SCC Course Papers.**

New Poll. Explanations of choices.

Comparing and contrasting the “Real” and the “Ideal” in our ongoing evaluation and assessment of SCCs. Dull, boring SCC meetings because of poor leadership. Of the 21 future challenges, priorities and actions for SCCs in Eastern Africa based on our in-depth critical evaluation/assessment, ongoing research and a reading of the contemporary signs of the times in Africa No. 1 is: “Choose good leaders in SCCs in Eastern Africa.”

#### **Theme: “Final Summary and Integration of SCCs Course.”**

First Period: Short reports (three minutes each) on the **SCC Course Papers** in our three SCCs. Opportunity to listen to, and learn, from each other’s SCCs experiences. In one Class SCC a *mwanajumuiya* distinguished between a SCC and another kind of small group in Kenya – a fund raising group called Ten Cups.

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 the January-March, 2017 course were:

- 25: SCC as a *Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible-Daily Life Connections Group*.
- 4: Practical action, service and social, pastoral and mission outreach.
- 3: Sacraments: Eucharist: SCC Mass (*Jumuiya Mass*).
- 2: Celebrations in a SCC.
- 1: Informal gathering/meeting of a SCC.
  - SCC as a Special Group for Faith Sharing, Formation and Study.
  - Pastoral or Business Meeting of a SCC.

The major topics/themes of the 34 SCC Course Reflection Papers (by frequency) in the January-March, 2017 course were:

- 8: Youth in SCCs: Importance/Empowerment/Lack
- 4: Specific Challenges in SCCs in Africa Today
- 3: SCCs Promote Family and Marriage Ministry in Africa
- 2: Importance of SCCs in the Catholic Church Today

SCCs Promote Justice, Peace and Reconciliation in Africa

Tribalism and Negative Ethnicity in SCCs

1: Avenue for the Revitalization of the Christian Faith

Challenge of Alcoholism in SCCs in Africa

Comparing Two SCCs in Kenya and Tanzania

Danger of SCCs Becoming a Vehicle for Fund-raising

Eucharist: Nourishment of SCCs

Lack of Men in SCCs

Low Attendance in SCCs in Africa

Personal Participation in SCCs in Africa

Role of SCCs in the Growth of the Catholic Church in Africa

SCCs and Inculturation.

SCCs and the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Solidarity and Prayer in SCCs in Africa

Witchcraft as a Specific Challenge in SCCs in Africa

Father Emmanuel Chimombo, AMECEA Pastoral Coordinator. Evaluation of the course. Importance of evaluation and positive critique/constructive criticism.

**SCCs Evaluation and Networking.** Short Powerpoint Presentation. We critique the work, not the person.

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 and other courses in Pastoral Theology?

Concrete recommendations:

1. Add one period on: "Facilitation Skills for SCCs Ministry."
2. Continue the plan of Guest Lecturers on specific topics, for example, young people from Kenyatta University and Dandora Parish on YSCCs.
3. Put the course in the Second Year of Theology before a number of students go on their Pastoral Year. This applies to the Family Ministry and Youth Ministry Courses too. This gets to the core of the type of theological education that we want at Tangaza.
4. Rethinking our priorities: A week contains 7 days x 24 hours a day = 168 hours. How many hours a week does a parish priest devote to SCCs Ministry (measured by filling a time sheet)? Survey of the population in Kenya today: 70% under 30 years old. 40% under 14 years old. How many hours a week does a parish priest devote to Youth Ministry (measured by filling a time sheet)?
5. Evaluate the size of the SCCs class (and other 8<sup>th</sup> Semester Courses in the Pastoral Department) in the January-April, 2018 Semester.

**Handout: "Course Evaluation Form."**

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 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, the [Pastoral Department Sub-domain](#) on the AMECEA Website, the [Small Christian Communities Networking Page](#) and the Eastern Africa SCCs Training Team.

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.

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 and approved on the SCCs Facebook Page.

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

**30 March, 2017: 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.

----

**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 three SCCs during our last class on 16 March, 2017. 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 16 SCC Activities)). Use the three steps of the:

"see,"  
 “judge”  
 “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. 10 points of course grade.

“Part II -- Reflection Paper (two or four pages) on a topic of your choice (that is, choose any topic that you want) 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.” “My Class SCC.” 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 30 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” (356 entries)

2. “DVD/Video/Audio-Visual Resources (50 entries)
3. “Internet Resources/Websites/E-Resources” (89 entries)

Lecturer:

Rev. Joseph Healey, MM (Box 18 at Tangaza University College)  
Maryknoll Society  
P.O. Box 43058  
00100 Nairobi, Kenya  
Safaricom: 0723-362993  
Email: [JGHealey@aol.com](mailto:JGHealey@aol.com)

Updated: 30 March, 2017