

Tangaza College
Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)
Nairobi, Kenya
Final Annotated Syllabus of Two Credit Core Course, Three hours a week, Lecture Format,
Pastorally Oriented (January to April, 2012).
Mondays. 8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. 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 April). 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 33 class periods of 50 minutes each: 11 double periods and 11 single periods.

Textbooks for Required Reading:

- a. Healey, Joseph and Jeanne Hinton (eds.), *Small Christian Communities Today: Capturing the New Moment*. (Orbis Books, 2005 and Paulines Publications Africa, 2006).
- 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. The online version of the book updated as of 20 June, 2012 is available on the SCCs Website at:

http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build_new.pdf

9 January, 2012: Class 1: "Introduction to SCCs Course." Opening Solidarity Prayer: "Prayer for Youth SCCs' Involvement in Justice and Peace." Theme of Pope Benedict XVI's message for the 2012 World Day of Peace celebrated 1 January, 2012: "Educating Young People in Justice and Peace." Plan of the Course. The many changes in organizing our course mirror the life of our 110,000 SCCs in Eastern Africa. Expectations for the course. A new way of teaching about SCCs and a new way of learning about SCCs. Developing a "SCC identity" as a class. Using name *Mwanajumuiya* (member of a SCC) rather than "student" in class. The 51 *Wanajumuiya* come from 19 countries: 16 countries in Africa and Bangladesh, India and Philippines. Available print and electronic resources including the use of Moodle. Handout: **SCC Polls on our SCCs Website**. Connecting to the other theology courses. Connecting to our personal, pastoral, practical 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. A concrete sign and priority in Kenya today (applicable to other countries in Africa): SCCs promoting peaceful elections in Kenya in 2013. Distribution of Textbook. Explanation of the **SCCs Course Paper** (the one CAT -- Continuous Assessment Task -- 30 points of course grade) and the **Final Written Exam** (50 points of course grade).

NOTE: Each week the first period begins with the students being asked to share "what struck them"/"what they learned" from the assigned reading.

11 January, 2012: Class 2: “Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection.” Opening Solidarity Prayer: Calling on the intercession of our four Patron/Patroness Saints of the SCCs, our Ancestors in Christ. Modeling a SCC Model of Church by experiencing being a member of a SCC during the course. Dividing class into four SCCs after choosing Patron/Patroness Saints of the SCCs with their feast days: St. Josephine Bakhita (born in Sudan, died in Italy) – 8 February. Holy Man Aelred Lacomara (born in USA, died in Kenya) -- died 14 September. Servant of God Maurice Otunga (born and died in Kenya) – died 6 September. Servant of God Julius Nyerere (born in Tanzania, died in England) – died 14 October). Importance of the Bible (our *jembe*). Comparing the Bible to our cellphone. Bring the Bible to class. *Lectio Divina*. During the course we will have practical experience of different methods of Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection.

Final 20 minutes is modeling the Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections in our four SCCs based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Second Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B. *John* 1:35-42). Process: Read the Gospel the first time. Silence. Read the Gospel the second time. Share Bible reflections: Bible—Life Connections that connect, relate and apply the Gospel to our daily lives. This experience will help the Deacons prepare their homilies for the following Sunday.

16 January, 2012: Class 3: "Types and Trends in Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa: Part I." Opening Song: “Bind Us Together, Lord.” Touchdown period with examples of the deacons’ homilies. Survey of *wanajumuiya* involvement in the 14 activities of SCCs. Small Christian Communities as a New Model of Church in Africa Today. Small Christian Communities as a New Way of Being Church in Africa Today. Difference between a SCC Model of Church and a Small Group Model of Church. Neighborhood (geographical), parish-based SCCs are a pastoral model of church and an instrument/vehicle/tool of evangelization. Comprise 95 % 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 5 % 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 centres 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. Explanation of the Three Steps of the Pastoral Spiral Process or Methodology of the Course (“See,” “Judge” and “Act”) with concrete SCC examples on the local level.

Readings:

1. “Foreword,” “Introduction” and “Explanation of Terms” (page xi to page 8 in *Small Christian Communities Today: Capturing the New Moment (SCCT)*).
- 2.
3. “Checklist of 14 Activities in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Today” (two page handout and also on the SCCs Website and on Moodle).

- 4.
5. "13 Steps in the Weekly Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa" (two page handout and also on the SCCs Website and on Moodle).

18 January, 2012: Class 4: "Types and Trends in Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa: Part II." Opening Solidarity Prayer: "For an Ecumenical Spirit in Our SCCs in Africa." 18-25 January, 2012 is the "Week of Christian Unity." Comparing 112 important characteristics or features of SCCs, 28 criteria of evaluation of SCCs and 14 Common Activities of SCCs. Practical Action: The class delegates several *wanajumuiya* to visit two different sick members.

Final 20 minutes is modeling the Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections in our four SCCs based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Third Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B: *Mark 1:14-20*). Mention a word or phrase in the Gospel that strikes you the most (*chambua maneno ya maana* in Swahili).

Reading: "28 Criteria to Evaluate a Typical SCC in Eastern Africa" (three page handout and also on the SCCs Website).

23 January, 2012: Class 5: "The AMECEA Key Pastoral Priority of Building Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa. Part I." Opening Solidarity Prayer: *Acts of the Apostles 2:42-45*. Special Prayer for Justice and Ongoing Peace in Kenya. Report on the Africa Cup of Nations football (soccer) tournament where our class has three teams: Burkina Faso, Ghana and Zambia. Touchdown period with examples of the deacons' homilies. Reports of the two class delegations that visited two sick members. AMECEA Study Conference in 1976: "Systematic formation of Small Christian Communities should be the key pastoral priority in the years to come [in the nine countries] in Eastern Africa." 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*.

Centrality of the Bible in SCCs and Practical Action. Why SCCs have been successful in some places and not in other places.

Readings:

1. Chapter 14 (pages 99-105) on "Pastoral Involvement of Parish-based SCCs in Dar es Salaam" by Christopher Cieslikiewicz in *SCCT. SCCs in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*.
2. Chapter 15 (pages 106-109) on "SCC Diocesan Training Team Reaches Out in Uganda" by John Vianney Muweesi and Emmanuel Mwerekande in *SCCT. SCCs in Uganda*.

Handout: **Final Annotated Syllabus of Course.**

25 January, 2012: Class 6. "The AMECEA Key Pastoral Priority of Building Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa. Part II." Opening Solidarity Prayer: *Acts of the Apostles* 4:32-35. 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. African Ecclesiology of SCCs.

Final 20 minutes 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 B -- *Mark* 1:21-28) in buzz groups of two or three people each. Buzz groups are a participatory method or process of group dynamics.

30 January, 2012: Class 7: Powerpoint Presentation on “A Bird’s Eye View of the LUMKO Way of Being Church.” Opening Solidarity Prayer: From Section No. 38 on “Lectio Divina” in the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the Synod of Bishops, XIII Ordinary General Assembly on *The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*. Facilitator: Sister Ephigenia Gachiri, IBVM. Handouts of: “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” and “Evaluation of 7-Step Gospel Sharing” (two pages); “How to Evaluate of SCCs” (one page). Valuable resources for our parish ministry in Africa.

Reading: “Timeline in the History and Development of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Especially Eastern Africa” (ten page article updated as of 2 April, 2012) that is **available only on the SCCs Website** at:

<http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/africa/africa-continent/107-timeline-in-the-history-and-development-of-small-christian-communities-sccs-in-africa-especially-eastern-africa.html>

1 February, 2012: Class 8: “Further Discussion and Application of the LUMKO Way of Being Church.” Opening Solidarity Prayer: From Section 86 on “Lectio Divina and a communal reading the *Bible*” in *Benedict XVI’s Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation The Word of the Lord*.

Final 20 minutes is modeling the Seven-Step Gospel Sharing in our four SCCs based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B: *Mark* 1:29-39).

6 February, 2012: Class 9: "Promoting SCCs through the Internet. Part I." Opening Solidarity Prayer: Pope Benedict XVI’s talk to seminarians in Rome in February, 2011: “The Internet is a valuable tool for seminarians, not only in their studies, but also in their pastoral ministries. Because of its capacity to surmount distances and put people in mutual contact, the Internet presents great possibilities also for the Church and her mission. With the necessary discernment for its intelligent and prudent use, it is an instrument that can serve not only for studies, but also for the pastoral action of future priests in different ecclesial fields, such as evangelization, missionary action, catechesis, educational projects, the management of institutes." Valuable Resources: “The Priest [Seminarian] and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the Service of the Word” (Pope Benedict XVI’s Message for

44th World Communications Day on 16 May, 2010). "Truth, Proclamation and Authenticity of Life in the Digital Age" (Pope Benedict XVI's Message for 45th World Communications Day on 5 June, 2011). Touchdown period with examples of the deacons' homilies using stories. Handout: "Internet Resources on Small Christian Communities (23)." Online demonstration of the African Proverbs, Sayings and Stories Website (including the "African Stories Database"): Healing (11 stories); Lent (50 stories); Reconciliation (22 stories).

Explanation of the "New Media/Social Media/Social Networking." Question: What are the four largest countries/nations in the world by population?

Answer:

1. China
2. India
3. Facebook (over 845 million)
4. USA (313 million)

Survey of student involvement in social networking and information websites. Discussion of Homework Assignment. Peter Kyalo presents: Christ the Teacher Parish, Kenyatta University Website and the plan of the SCCs of university students: some in dormitories/residence halls/hostels and two that are non-geographical): <http://www.kucatholic.or.ke> Two excerpts from DVD *Celebrating Service to Mission: The Maryknoll Journey (1911-2011 Worldwide and 1946-2011 Africa)*. Nairobi: Creativecamera Ltd, 2011. 2:05 to 4:00 minutes and 15:20 to 20:45 minutes.

Online demonstration of the "Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website" and the "Facebook Page" on the SCCs Website. SCC Poll. SCC Stories on the African Proverbs, Sayings and Stories Website. Creating the SCCs Stories Database. Of the first 570 fans (or friends) on the SCCs Facebook Page, 73% are in the 18-44 year old age bracket. The majority of fans are from Kenya followed by United States, Germany, India, Tanzania, Uganda and Guinea-Bissau. Four Online or Virtual SCCs. Just as SCCs are a new way of being church, Online SCCs are a new way of being SCCs. Youth involvement in Online SCCs.

Using Skype for an audio or video meeting of an Online SCC. Video Clips on YouTube. *Mwanajumuiya* Augustine Dela Dunyo, OFM Conv demonstrates the use of a Smart Phone. Text Messages of Daily *Bible* readings.

Modeling the Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B: *Mark* 1:40-45). Read the Gospel. Silence. Class *wanjumuiya* post a combined Bible Reflection "live" in the St. Martin de Porres Online SCC that is a Facebook Page on the internet.

Special Assignment: Spend one hour on the internet studying the

Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website
www.smallchristiancommunities.org

8 February, 2012 Class 10: "Promoting SCCs through the Internet. Part II." Opening Song: "Tazama, Tazama." The challenge of being "Lectionary-based Catholics " and

"Lectionary-based SCCs." Example of Our Lady of the Round Table, a worldwide Marianist Cyber Community that has African members. They meet daily online for faith sharing and *Bible* reflection.

Readings:

1. Chapter 26 (pages 177-187) on "Promoting SCCs via the Internet by Joseph Healey in *SCCT*."
2. Recommended: Visit some of the "Internet Resources on Small Christian Communities (20)."

Written Assignment. SCCs Course Paper (the one CAT -- Continual Assessment Task) that is at least three pages single spaced or six pages double spaced. To be handed in and reported on in our four SCCs during the class on 28 March, 2012. 30 points of course grade.

"Part I -- SCC Practicum Write-up" (one or two pages) on your personal, pastoral, practical experience of the SCC Practicum. Use the three steps of the "see," "judge" and "act" process or methodology. Arrange the **SCC Practicum** on your own. Participate in 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 an Online SCC at: <http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/online-sccs.html>. Choose one of the activities of a SCC in the "Checklist of 14 Activities in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Today." Handouts: "Guidelines for "Part I -- SCC Practicum Write-up" of the SCCs Course Paper Based on the Pastoral Circle/Spiral/Cycle" (one page). "Example of a SCC Practicum Write-up" (one page). 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 Practicum or from your other SCC experiences. Examples: "Lack of Youth 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 2012." "Comparing Two SCCs." "Specific Challenges in SCCs in Africa." "A Pastoral or Theological Question Related to SCCs." "Reaching Young People through the Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website and Facebook Page." 20 points of course grade.

Hand out the form: "Part I -- SCC Practicum Write-up" of the SCCs Course Paper.

13 February, 2012: Class 11: "SCCs Involvement in the Kenya Lenten Campaign 2012 on the theme *Towards a Transformed Kenya: Let Light Shine out of Darkness*. Part I." Opening Solidarity Prayer: "Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Maurice Michael Cardinal Otunga" (including 12 special petitions). Panel and Facilitators: Representatives of the Kenya Episcopal Conference Catholic Justice & Peace Commission Office and the Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya Justice & Peace Commission Office. Mrs. Beatrice Odera: "Background of the Annual Kenya Lenten Campaigns." Sister Mary Frances Wangare, LSSJ: "Introduction to the Overall Theme of the Kenya Lenten Campaign 2012 and "Week 1 (First Sunday of Lent – 26 February, 2012) on "General Elections: Our Country, Our Leaders, Our Responsibility." Mr. Martin O'Mwangi: "Use of the Important New Resource: 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." Facilitating "Train the Trainers"

(TOT) Workshops in our parishes. Training SCC Leaders to use the inductive "see," "judge" and "act" process/methodology of the Kenya Lenten Campaign.

Second period: Use the three steps of "see," "judge" and "act" process or methodology in Week 1 (First Sunday of Lent – 26 February, 2012) on "General Elections: Our Country, Our Leaders, Our Responsibility." In our four SCCs read:

1. Analyze and discuss the drawing (cartoon) on page 8.
2. Read the story in Step One ("See"): "Another Season is Here for Songa Country."
3. Read part of the Situational Analysis in Step Two ("Judge").
4. Read the Gospel (*Mark* 1:12-15) and scripture commentary.
5. Answer questions 4 and 5 in Step Three ("Act").

Reading: Booklet and poster (English and Swahili) of the *Kenya Lenten Campaign 2012* on the theme *Towards a Transformed Kenya: Let Light Shine out of Darkness* especially Week 1 on "General Elections: Our Country, Our Leaders, Our Responsibility." Available on the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (CJPC) Website at:

<http://www.cjpckkenya.org/index.php?page=other&gid=67>

15 February, 2012: Class 12: "SCCs Involvement in the *Kenya Lenten Campaign 2012* on the theme *Towards a Transformed Kenya: Let Light Shine Out of Darkness*. Part II. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Section from the "Preface" of the *Kenya Lenten Campaign 2012*. Evaluation of the Monday Experience. 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?"

Recommended Reading: Joseph Healey, "Small Christian Communities: Promoters of Reconciliation, Justice and Peace in Eastern Africa" – Chapter 5 in Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator (ed.), *Reconciliation, Justice and Peace – the Second Africa Synod*, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2011 and Nairobi: Acton Publishers, 2011 (pages 59-70) especially "SCC Involvement in the Kenya Lenten Campaigns 2009 and 2010" (pages 62-66). Available on the SCCs Website at:

http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Orobator_press_file_revised_4-5-11.pdf

20 February, 2012: Class 13: "Small Christian Communities and the Challenges of Reconciliation, Justice, and Peace in Africa. Part I." Opening Solidarity Prayer: "Prayer of St. Francis." Two examples of the deacons' homilies. Two examples of SCCs using the First Week of the Kenya Lenten Campaign 2012. Handout: Peace for Peace in Africa Prayer Card (English). Mwanajumuiya Mwalimu Simon Rurinjah: "Strategies on How Small Christian Communities Can Promote Peaceful, Free and Fair Elections in Kenya in 2012." Role of the 20,000 Base Communities in Rwanda to bring about forgiveness, healing and justice after the 1994 genocide. "The Merciful Rwandan Wife." Story taken from page 63 of *Once Upon a Time in Africa: Stories of Wisdom and Joy* Resource Materials including DVDs and Online Resources on SCCs Website. Examples of "Restorative Justice."

Reading: Chapter 16 (pages 110-114) on "Small Christian Communities Light Up Neighborhoods in Kisumu" by Alphonse Omolo in *SCCT*. SCCs in Kisumu, Kenya.

Recommended Reading: Christine Bodewes, "Can the Pastoral Circle Transform a Parish" -- Chapter 4 (pages 77-93) in *The Pastoral Circle Revisited: A Critical Quest for Truth and Transformation* edited by Frans Wijzen, Peter Henriot and Rodrigo Mejia (Orbis Books, 2005 and Paulines Publications Africa, 2006). Case Study from the Kibera Slums in Nairobi, Kenya that documents how the communal use of the pastoral circle in SCCs can transform a parish. See also *Parish Transformation in Urban Slums: Voices of Kibera, Kenya* by Christine Bodewes (Paulines Publications Africa, 2005).

22 February, 2012: Class 14: "Small Christian Communities and the Challenges of Reconciliation, Justice, and Peace in Africa. Part II." Opening Solidarity Prayer: "Prayer for the Repose of the Soul of the Mother of *Mwanajumuiya* Sister Purobi Pascalina Chiran, RNDM." "The Pastoral Spiral (See-Judge-Act) as a New Paradigm for Promoting Justice and Peace in Africa Today." "The Small Christian Communities Way of Being Church in Preaching and Teaching." Preparing a homily for the First Sunday of Lent (26 February, 2012) on the "General Elections: Our Country, Our Leaders, Our Responsibility," Week 1 of the Kenya Lenten Campaign 2012. Seven-minute summary of the meaning of "Restorative Justice" (rather than retributive or punitive/punishment justice). A system that African cultures have traditionally used to resolve conflicts, resulting in both justice and peace.

Hand in the form: "Part I -- SCC Practicum Write-up" of the SCCs Course Paper.

Recommended Reading: Jeffrey Odell Korgen, "Forgiving the Unforgivable: Peacemaking in Rwanda" -- Chapter 4 (pages 97-122) in *Solidarity Will Transform the World: Stories of Hope from Catholic Relief Services* by Jeffrey Odell Korgen (Orbis Books, 2007). Reconciliation through the Base Communities in Rwanda.

27 – 29 February, 2012: No Class. Break Week. NOTE: The keynote speaker at the Tangaza College School of Theology Theological Symposium on 23 February was Father Paul Bere, SJ. His topic "The Significance of the Church's Mission of Reconciliation in Africa Today" was connected to his Chapter No. 4 in the book *Reconciliation, Justice and Peace – the Second Africa Synod*. He referred to the 50-page document in Spanish that describes how to bring Vatican II down to the level of SCCs/BCCs/BECs.

5 March, 2012: Class 15: "Small Christian Communities and the Challenges of Reconciliation, Justice, and Peace in Africa. Part III." Opening Solidarity Prayer: Quotations on justice and reconciliation (Nos. 403 and 518 in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Two reports on deacons homilies on the First and Second Sundays of Lent. Summary of the 11 types of SCC activity in the SCCs Practicum Write-ups. Most common was Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection. Examples of Restorative Justice in SCCs. Simon Rurinjah's story of SCCs in Kericho Diocese. The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortative *Africa's Commitment* in Number 83 under "The Good Governance of States" states that "pastoral workers have the task of studying and recommending restorative justice as a means and a process for promoting reconciliation, justice and peace, and the return of victims and offenders to the community." Review of the *Timeline* and the literature of the First and Second African Synods 1994-2012. Analysis of SCCs in the Second African Synod that took place in Rome in October, 2009 on the theme "The Church in Africa in Service to Reconciliation, Justice and Peace." Statement of AMECEA Delegates on the "Centrality of

the Small Christian Community (SCC): “We have experienced that a properly trained and led SCC adds great value to the promotion of reconciliation. This is because deeper biblical reflection and more regular use of the pastoral circle empower our Christians to engage effectively in the social life around them. Here formation in Catholic Social Teaching (CST) at all levels must be a priority.” See the *Lineamenta* including the 32 questions (2006), the *Instrumentum Laboris* (March, 2009), the *Message of the Bishops of Africa to the People of God* (October, 2009), the seven places where Small Christian Communities are mentioned in the *Final List of [57] Propositions* (October, 2009) and Pope Benedict XVI’s Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Africa’s Commitment (Africae Munus)* promulgated on 19 November, 2011. Importance of the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

In Kenya a new online resource is "Weekly Reflections for this 2012-2013 Election Year" inspired from the Bible Readings of each Sunday. These reflections are being circulated by the JPIC Commission of RSCK. To receive these reflections free every week starting after Easter subscribe at: rsck@wananchi.com

Hand out the form: “Part II – Reflection Paper” of the SCCs Course Paper.

Reading: Review the documentation on the 2009 Second African Synod and its implementation in the “Timeline,” the *Select Annotated Bibliography*, various magazines and journals and various online internet resources. Get experience and practice searching online and in library resources.

7 March, 2012: Class 16. Review of Different Topics: “Highlights of *Africa’s Commitment*.” “Deductive and Inductive Methods.” “The Important Obstacles to the Growth of Small Christian Communities in Africa and How We Can Overcome Them.” Opening Song: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” (“The Prayer of St. Francis”). SCCs as “a path to reconciliation, justice and peace” and “a place for concretely living out reconciliation, justice and peace” and SCC members as “agents of reconciliation, justice and peace.” Highlights of the AMECEA Study Conference in July, 2011. “Enhance Initial and Ongoing Quality Formation of Pastoral Agents at All Levels.” The dioceses under the Metropolitan of Mwanza Archdiocese, Tanzania had a three day training session on TOT (Train the Trainers) on the implementation of *Africa’s Commitment* from 17-20 January, 2012 in Nyakahoja, Mwanza. Introducing important church documents to priest during diocesan meetings.

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* 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 John Paul II’s Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Africa/The Church in Africa*).

Changing the method of reflection in our four SCCs from deductive to inductive.

12 March, 2012: Class 17: “Participation of Lay People in Small Christian Communities in Africa. Part I.” Opening Song: “Iende Mbele.” Panel and Facilitators: Four lay people on the following topics: Rose Musimba (“Choosing and Training SCC Leaders”); Mercy Wandera and James Omondi, two representatives of the Kenyan Youth SCCs from Dandora Parish (“Promoting Youth SCCs”); and Simon Rurinjah (“SCCs and Evangelization”). Questions, comments and discussion.

Reports from the *wanajumuiya* on the **Homework assignment**. Final 30 minutes is modeling a special type of Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections in our four SCCs.

1. Identify different human problems in Kenya and the rest of Africa as illustrated in a critical concrete experience, incident, event, example, story from our daily lives. Choose one problem and discuss it thoroughly to understand it better.
2. Choose corresponding/parallel passages in the *Bible*.
3. Choose some kind of pastoral solution or practical action.

Homework assignment: Make a list of at least five 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? Examples: the problems highlighted in the five weeks of the 2012 Kenya Lenten Campaign 2012. Research on the ongoing problems of tribalism/negative ethnicity, corruption and problems in marriage. Differences between problems in urban and rural areas.

Special SCCs (Jumuiya”) Mass in the Chapel of the Imani Building) Monday of the 3rd Week of Lent – Year A) from 7:40 to 8:20 a.m. including:

- a. SCCs Songs:
 1. Opening Song: “Bind us Together, Lord.”
 2. Closing Song: “Tazama Tazama.”
- b. Shared Homily.
- c. Spontaneous "Prayers of the Faithful" connecting our faith to our daily life.
- d. Special Sign of Peace: An African Exchange of Peace using a sign of peace from South Sudan, Sudan and Sierra Leone: Place your right hand on the left shoulder of the other person and say “Peace” in your home language/mother tongue.

About 60 people participated in the SCC Mass. It was a team effort. *Wanajumuiya* members of our SCCs class actively participated as: priest-concelebrant, deacon, eucharistic ministers, readers, leader of the songs. We have been asked to come back again for a similar mass in the future.

14 March, 2012: Class 18: “Specific questions about topics/problems/challenges discussed during the first nine weeks of the SCCs Course: Opening Solidarity Prayer: An African Exchange of Peace using a sign of peace from South Sudan, Sudan and Sierra Leone: Place your right hand on the left shoulder of the other person and say “Peace” in your home

language/mother tongue. Method of filling in the “Roll Call:” Tick, S (Sick), E (Excused), Leave Blank. Reports of the four SCCs from Monday’s special type of Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections. The human problems in Kenya and the rest of Africa selected were: “Tribalism/Negative Ethnicity” (two SCCs), “Insecurity (resulting from terrorist bombings)” and “Land-grabbing.” Using both the *Bible* and the Missal in our SCCs.

Hand in the form: “Part II – Reflection Paper” of the SCCs Course Paper.

19 March, 2012: Class 19. “The Missionary Life and Outreach of Small Christian Communities in Africa and the Whole World. Part I.” Opening Solidarity Prayer: *John* 20:21: “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me so I send you” (theme of 2011 World Mission Sunday on 23 October, 2011). Practical Action of our Class SCC: *Wanajumuiya* contributed to a fund to help a sick child go to India for a heart operation – a project being coordinated by *Mwanajumuiya* Mark Anthony, OP. Reports of *Wanajumuiya* on the 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. “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). How we can consciously animate SCC members to be missionaries and evangelizers? From the “Timeline:” The AMECEA Study Conference on “The Implementation of the AMECEA Bishops’ Pastoral Priority of Building Small Christian Communities: An Evaluation” took place in Zomba, Malawi in 1979. One pastoral resolution stated: “SCCs are an effective way of developing the mission dimension of the church at the most local level, and of making people feel that they are really part of the church’s evangelizing work.” John Paul II Parish Evangelizing Teams: “Arise and Evangelize.” Pope Paul VI: “Be missionaries to yourselves.” 2011 Mission Symposium at Tangaza: Opening talk on “Africans in Global Mission.” Examples of SCCs Twinning. SCCs’ involvement in the New Evangelization.

Readings:

1. Chapter 23 (pages 157-163) on "Reenergizing SCCs Twinning on the International Level" by Rita Ishengoma and Joseph Healey in *SCCT*.
2. Chapter 24 (pages 164-169) on "Global Communion in the Face-to Face Level" by Barbara Darling in *SCCT*.

Recommended Reading: “Innovations and New Trends in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Today” by Joseph G. Healey. *Hekima Review*, 40 (May, 2009), 85-100. No. 10 under “African Continent” under “Africa” on Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website.

<http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/May2009HekimaReviewArticlewithFootnotesonInnovationsandNewTrendsInSmallChristianCommunitiesInAfricaToday.pdf>

21 March, 2012: Class 20. “The Missionary Life and Outreach of Small Christian Communities in Africa and the Whole World. Part II.” Opening Solidarity Prayer: Missionary Songs “Here I Am Lord” and “Nimtume Nani?” Story of Cardinal Polycarp Pengo of Dar es

Salaam, Tanzania: "It is good that we can be missionaries from Africa to the world!" In the POLL on our SCCs Website one choice is: "Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ." International character of Small Christian Communities including an analysis of the background of the 564 Fans (as of 20 March, 2012) on the SCCs Facebook Page. "Catechumen Communities" in the Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Pontifical Missionary Childhood (PMC) SCCs.

SCCs *Vikwazo* ("Obstacles") Workshop:

1. Correcting Bad Habits in the SCCs.
2. Lack of Youth.
3. "Criteria for Dividing a SCC (especially size and location)."
4. "Ecumenism" (Participation of Christians of other denominations) and "Inter-religious Dialogue" (Participation of other religions especially Muslims and members of African Religion)
5. "Money (Self Reliance and Self Support)."
6. "New Patterns":
 - a. An increasing number of SCCs meeting in church rather than in homes.
 - b. Gap between the wealthier SCCs (estates) and the poorer SCCs (slums and settlement areas).
 - c. Increasing complaints that the SCCs are being used too much for fund-raising.

26 March, 2012: Class 21. "Seventeen Future Challenges and Priorities for Small Christian Communities in Africa." Opening Solidarity Prayer: Think of one challenge/priority SCCs in Africa that we should reflect on in our SCC meetings in the light of the Gospel/one of the Gospels in Lent such as *John 9:1-41* (Story of the man born blind used for the RCIA during Lent). Jesus said, "I have come into this world so that those without sight may see." Problems in our African countries: lack of rain, drought. Asking for prayers for rain on our SCC Facebook Page. "May our SCCs pray for rain in Africa. Here is a grim report: "Today it was over 90 degrees Fahrenheit here in Kalebezo, Tanzania. This is supposed to be our rainy season but there is none is sight. There is already starvation as the maize crop was so poor and the cassava is eaten with bugs. The sweet potatoes that have been planted are desperate for rain. Please join us in praying that the rain falls soon and gently." Practical Action of our Class SCC: *Wanajumuiya* contributed to a fund for the continental "SCCs Workshop" to take place in Kenya in 2012. Mwanajumuiya Paily Sijo Pallathukudy, OFM Cap reports on visiting Mercy Wandera's Youth SCC in Dandora Parish. Demonstration (role play) on unity, cooperation and the "Communitarian Model of Church" called "Who is First?"

Evaluation of the course: How to make the course better/how to improve the course. Recommendation: Open the course to students in Third Theology who want to write their Long Essays on SCCs and to students in the Institute of Social Ministry who want to write their Master's Thesis on SCCs. Explanation of the Final Written Exam. Three questions on the written exam: one required question and then choosing two out of five questions. Bonus Questions. Sample exam questions based on possible themes. Explanation of the Marking System. Demonstration (role play) on unity, cooperation and the "Communitarian Model of Church" called "Who is First?" Class photo in front of Tangaza (that is posted on our SCCs Facebook Page).

Sharing the examples of the *wanajumuiya*'s future challenges/priorities for SCCs in Africa chosen from their reading and reflection. New examples include illiteracy among SCCs members especially in rural areas of Africa, classism (prejudice or discrimination on the basis of social class) and excessive individualism/privacy. See Christopher Cieslikiewicz's six challenges in *SCCT*.

Reading: "No. 13. Future Challenges and Priorities for SCCs in the AMECEA Region," Pages 114-119 in Joseph Healey, *Building the Church as Family of God Evaluation of Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*. Two bound photocopies are available on the Reserve Shelf in the Library. The online version of the book updated as of 2 April, 2012 is available on the SCCs Website at:

http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build_new.pdf

28 March, 2012: Class 22. Last Class. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Opening Solidarity Prayer: No. 6 of *Justice in the World*, the final document of the 1971 World Synod of Bishops: "Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel or, in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation." Final reflections: Let us say "thank you" to the past and "yes" to the future." Presentation and discussion of **SCC Course Papers** in our four SCCs.

The 51 reflection papers treated SCCs in the following African countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe plus India. The wide variety of 31 topics were: African Women Religious, Bible, Children, Collegiality, Commitment, Deaf, Devotional Groups, Ecumenism/Interreligious Dialogue, Finance, Growth, History, Internet, Justice and Peace, Kenya Lenten Campaign, Lay Faithful, Lent, Living the Gospel, Men, Mission, Model of Church, Planting Trees, Politics, Reconciliation, Rotating Meetings, Sacraments, Social Aspects, Social Transformation, Training, Tribalism/Negative Ethnicity, Women and Youth. Most common topics were: Tribalism/Negative Ethnicity (seven papers), Youth (six papers), Mission (four papers) and Women (four papers). The nine best reflection papers were selected for revision and will be posted on our SCCs Website. Three papers reflect on SCCs in Kenya. One paper each reflects on SCCs in Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and worldwide.

Suggestion for follow-up after the end of the course. We the graduates (Alumni, Alumnae) of our SCCs Class can continue sharing, interacting and exchanging SCCs information and experiences through our own special, ongoing Online or Virtual SCC as a Facebook Page.

Hand in the SCC Course Paper (Part I and Part II stapled together)

2 April, 2012: Final Written 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).

Resources

See pages 143-154 in Joseph Healey, *Building the Church as Family of God: Evaluation of Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*. The online version of this book updated as of 20 June, 2012 is available on the SCCs Website at:

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" (95 entries)
2. "DVD Resources" (18 entries)
3. "Internet Resources" (23 entries)

Lecturer:

Rev. Joseph Healey, MM (Box 18 at Tangaza College)
Maryknoll Society
P.O. Box 43058
00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Telkom Wireless: 057-2522977
Email: JGHealey@aol.com

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