

St. Isidore members try to show a new way of being church: writing the Scripture Reflection together as a team.¹ Mary Wahome is a young, dedicated lay Catholic woman who just graduated from Kenyatta University in Nairobi. She wrote the lead first person story. Different members of our SCC contributed to the overall reflection that we wrote together. We see this as living synodality (walking together). The priest member participates in this SCC without taking a leadership position.

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Here is a personal witness story. I am 22-year-old Mary Wahome, born and raised in Kenya, and a faithful Catholic. In December 2015 my mum passed away and I became the mother to my seven-year-old younger brother. In 2019 my dad also passed away. I became a total orphan -- very young and inexperienced in life issues. My grandmother became my guardian. In my First Year of High School, I was sent home for lack of school fees and went back to school under my principal's mercy. I joined Kenyatta University in Nairobi where I did my undergraduate degree in Gender and Development Studies. I would at times lack funds to pay for my accomodations. My grandmother always reminded me to persevere and said *God is father to the fatherless and mother to the motherless. God is the provider to those who do not have.*

My grandmother would always encourage me to trust and have faith in God. Prayer became my refuge. I would knock at God's door every now and then seeking for guidance and requesting what I needed. During the four college years, my leadership position in the [Small Christian Community](#) (SCC) taught me to always seek for God's guidance and God will listen. I learned to trust in Jesus Christ. Now I have a job and look forward to doing my Master's and PhD, God willing. I am one of leaders of the Online Young Adult Seekers Small Christian Community. Just like the widow in *Luke's* Gospel who was always at the judge's door to grant her justice, we should not give up in life. She teaches us persistence in prayer to face the challenges in life.

In the second reading Paul exhorts us to persist in sharing the Good News of our faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches us that we must persevere in prayer. This persistence in prayer is a key theme in *Luke's* Gospel. God readily responds to those who persevere in prayer. As missionary disciples we must be attentive and persistent in our pursuit of that justice that signals the coming of the Reign of God.

A story is told of a small group of people who were discussing what was the greatest disease in Eastern Africa. They agreed that it was not malaria or cancer or heart disease. It was corruption and tribalism (that is experienced in different ways and is similar to racism in Western countries). A clear challenge to African SCCs is found in the famous quotation from 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

¹ This is new for many Catholics in the USA that has an individualistic culture. Normally one person prepares the Scripture Reflection. Most priests prepare their Sunday Homilies alone.

dimension of preaching the Gospel or, in other words, of the Catholic Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation."

As an example, in June 2025 thousands of Young People in Kenya went to the streets to demonstrate against an unjust Government Tax Bill. We have to fight against other injustices in Africa such as unjust inheritance practices, female genital mutilation, gender violence (see the **Collage** above), domestic violence and patriarchy.

Pope Leo's [Message for the 2025 World Mission Sunday](#) on today Sunday, October 19, is entitled "Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples." The message calls all Catholics to be "messengers and builders of hope," focusing on prayer, service to the poor, and sharing the Good News to counter the challenges and uncertainties during this 2025 Jubilee Year. The pope emphasizes that hope is central to the Christian mission and urges continued collaboration and walking together (synodality),

There is a Sukuma, Tanzania Proverb -- [The salesperson \(seller or merchant\) does not have only one door](#) -- that promotes mission and evangelization. The missionary, the evangelist uses all doors, all means, all avenues of spreading the Gospel. For example, today we reach people with the Good News of Salvation using many means of communication: traditional means, mass media, internet, social media, even the proper use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The pope encourages us to be "bold and creative." All Catholics, all laypeople and all SCCs members have the missionary call to go out to proclaim the good news starting in our own local neighborhoods.

Prepared by the St. Isidore of Seville International Online Small Christian Community that meets every Monday online includes members from Ireland, Kenya, Tanzania and the USA.