

Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa

bayard Publications



DECEMBER 2022 • N° 09

“Fathers, do not embitter
your children, Or they will
become discouraged.”



Colossians 3 :21

Dear friends in Christ,

Here we are again with our devotional booklet: Living Faith Kids. This might be the last one we will be printing as we are planning to go 100 % digital. We have been taught and nourished together by the word of God through Living Faith Kids.

As we will be celebrating Christmas and the New Year, it will be at the same time for us the opportunity to praise God for his wonders in our lives. May we also take new resolutions for a better life in the future. May we become wiser at home and school. God wants us to be kind, and hard-working children. Oh Lord Jesus Christ, thanks for the gift of your word. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and help us be good Christians.

The Lord be with you!

Rev. Fr. Jean-Claude DIWEDIGA, a.a.

Welcome to

Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa

With this magazine, we can...

Read words from the Bible

God speaks to us in Scriptures. So each day, we pick a short quote from one of the daily Mass readings in order to think and pray about.

Pray with daily devotions

Daily prayer is a great way to get to know God better. Each reflection can help us to pray with the Word of God—every day!



Discover, learn, play and love

Our Catholic faith is like a big treasure chest waiting for us to discover. Here we will find games, activities, puzzles and more to help us learn about the sacraments, saints, feast days, the Mass and more. Have fun!

Reading the Bible

Our daily devotions begin with a passage from the Bible. Want to read more? The CITATION (sigh-TAY-shun) will guide you to the reading in three easy steps:



1: Book. The Bible is divided into books. Check your Bible for a list of titles.

Psalm 47:2 is from the Book of Psalms.

2: Chapter. The first number is the chapter. Bibles usually show book and chapter at the top of each page.

Psalm 47:2 is in Chapter 47 of the Book of Psalms.



3: Verse. Last are the verse number(s). Verses are usually a sentence or two long. The tiny numbers are hidden inside the text.

Psalm 47:2 is verse 2 of Chapter 47.

Ready? Set? Go!

Practice by looking up Psalm 47:2.

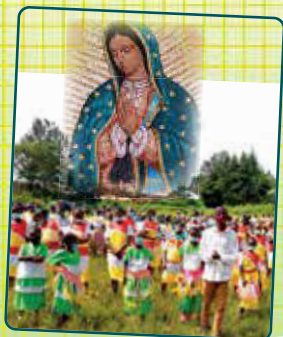
December at a Glance

Activity Calendar of December



Week 1 St. Francis Xavier

Pray daily & hail Mary for all missionaries.



Week 2 Our lady of Guadalupe.

Write all what you know about our lady of Guadalupe.



Week 3 Saint Anastacia.

Read about this saint.



Week 4 Nativity of our Lord.

Visit some new born babies.

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

Isaiah 26:4

Thursday December 1

ADVENT WEEKDAY

The rock in the word of God is a symbol of solidity, stability, and durability. God compared to an eternal rock means He is a faithful God, God is not a man, and He does not lie. He is not a human being; He does not change his mind. When He says something, He makes it happen, when He makes a promise, He keeps it. Trusting in him means you will not be deceived.

Heavenly Father, keep me looking to you, depending upon you and trusting in you every day of my life, for You are my everlasting Rock.

Isaiah 26:1-6/ Psalm (117) 118:1 and 8-9. 19-21. 25-27a/ Matthew 7:21.24-27

“According to your faith let it be done to you”

Matthew 9:29

Friday December 2

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Two blind men have been healed “according to” their faith. Can you formulate your own understanding of faith ? Try to do that exercise and then come back to the commentary... It is important to experience oneself what faith is like. Even if it may be difficult for you as a child. In Hebrew 11 :1, we read the following: “Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”. “Confidence and assurance” are keywords that can guide you through that experience.

Lord, I believe, but come to my assistance, I am weak, strengthen my faith!

Isaiah 29:17-24/ Psalm (26) 27:1. 4. 13-14/ Matthew 9:27-31

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.”

Matthew 9:35

Saturday December 3

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

Nearly every town in Israel had a synagogue.

Jesus taught in some of them. He did this for instance in the town of Nazareth, where He had grown up, teaching those gathered after reading a scroll from the prophet Isaiah (Luke 4:16–30). He also met people who rejected him. Today Jesus continues to teach

and heal in various ways through his disciples. Hopefully, you are part of those who welcome him, since you are a reader of his word.



May he
strengthen you!

Isaiah 30:19-21. 23-26/ Psalm 147:1-2. 3-4. 5-6/ **Matthew 9:35-10:1.5a.6-8**

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.

Psalm 72:12

Sunday

December 4



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today's verse reminds us once again of who God is: Deliverer; Rescuer; Vindicator. It doesn't matter how big or how small your problem is; hoping that at your age you do not have a big one! God wants to deliver us all, He will make sure that in your time of distress, your needs are taken care of. Cry out to Him, and trust Him.



Isaiah 11:1-10/ **Psalm (71) 72:1-2. 7-8. 12-13.17**/ Romans 15:4-9/
Matthew 3:1-12

“Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come.”

Isaiah 35:4

Monday

December 5

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Fear is a defence, say psychologists, because it helps you prepare yourself for eventualities and make the right decision. But some fears prevent you from living normally. School phobia for example, when you are anxious every morning to go to class. What scares you very often? Did

you talk about it with your parents? The Lord tells you not to be afraid, he is there for you like your parents who are there every time you are afraid to reassure you.



Isaiah 35:1-10/ Psalms (84) 85:9ab and 10. 11-12. 13-14/ Luke 5:17-26

In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Matthew 18:14

Tuesday

December 6

ADVENT WEEKDAY

You may have already experienced and seen how your family surrounds you, supports you, and protects you so that no harm happens to you; especially your parents. And you love them too, you would never want any harm to happen to them. The family is sacred, they love each other. God, our father is a family father. He is more than a family father, and we are all under his benevolent paternity, we are of the family of God, and he will never let anything bad happen to a member of his family.

I believe Lord, you are the source of life!

Isaiah 40:1-11/ Psalm (95) 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac.11-12a.12b- 13/

Matthew 18:12-14

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

Wednesday December 7

SAINT AMBROSE

Children are not supposed to be burdened and wearied by anything like adults sometimes due to their responsibilities in life. A father for instance in a family or a mother can sometimes feel alike. However, it happens that children feel psychologically burdened or wearied for instance by classes, especially when they cannot understand some courses, or they are not at ease with some matters; or they have some relationship issues like school bullying. Whenever you face one of those situations, please get some help, talk in confidence with your parents...

And above all, do not forget to put it before the Lord.

Isaiah 40:25-31/ Psalm (102) 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/ **Matthew 11:28-30**

“He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”

Ephesians 1:4

Thursday

December 8

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

God is the One who made the sky, the earth, the trees, the animals, many other things, and the human beings. Not only that, but God also gave to human beings the first place because He loves them more than anything else. When God was creating us, there was His Son Jesus Christ with Him. Jesus Christ loves us in the same way as his Father. Jesus Christ is a good and kind child.

Oh Lord help us be good and kind children like Jesus Christ.

“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others.”

Matthew 11:16

Friday

December 9

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Do we know that Jesus Christ wants us to be holy children? To be holy is to behave well with others, to be kind to them, and love them. When we love others, we do not insult them, we do not steal, and we do not do wrong things to them. That is why we are invited to call our

friends to join us in the church and in the catechism classes so that we may learn together about the word of God.



Isaiah 48:17-19/ Psalm 1:1-2. 3. 4 and 6/Matthew 11:16-19

“Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.”

Psalm 80:19

Saturday

December 10

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Each time we misbehave at home or at school, we should ask God for forgiveness and take new resolutions not to misbehave again so that we may not be punished. This is the same with God. Each time we do not behave according to the Word of God, we have to come back to Him and ask for His forgiveness. Once we are forgiven by God, His face shines upon us in order to make us become good and kind children again. That is how we are saved by God for life everlasting. There is no salvation in God without His forgiveness.

Thanks, Lord, for your forgiveness!

Sirach 48:1-4. 9-11b/ **Psalm (79) 80:2ac and 3b. 15-16a. 18-19/**
Matthew 17:10-13

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Matthew 11:11



Sunday

December 11

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Do we know who John the Baptist is? John the Baptist is the one who taught us about Jesus Christ before His birth. He is the one who prepared for the coming of Jesus into the World. He is the one who asked people to change their old and bad life into a new and good ones before the birth of Jesus. When we get prepared to welcome for instance the president of our country in our school, we usually keep the school compound clean. Jesus Christ also who is the Son of God could not come into dirtiness and among people with a bad life.

Thanks, Lord, for the work done by John the Baptist!

Isaiah 35:1-6a. 10/ Psalm (145) 146:6c-7. 8-9. 9-10/ James 5:7-10/

Matthew 11:2-11

“ Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.”

Psalm 25:4

Monday

December 12

ADVENT WEEKDAY

This is a good prayer to be said every morning when we wake up. It is not good to get out of our bed in the morning without praying. In our morning prayer, let us ask God to teach us his paths so that we may know how to behave throughout the day. To live according to the paths of the Lord is to do his will by avoiding all kinds of misbehaviour. God is happy when we behave according to His Word. His word teaches us to do good and avoid evil.

Thank you, Lord, for your paths and Word!

Number 24:2-7.15-17a / **Psalm (24) 25:4-5ab.6 and 7cd.8-9** /
Matthew 21:23-27

“From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings.”

Zephaniah 3:10

Tuesday December 13

SAINT LUCY

We are happy when dad or mum offers us a gift because we have done well at school. Is it not so? Who does not like gifts? Even God likes gifts. What kind of gifts can we offer God? We can bring money, gold, bananas, yams, and many other good things to God especially on Sundays when we attend the mass. Those gifts are then used by the priest to help the poor, the orphans, the widows, and the hungry. All these people in need represent the face of God. Let us then be generous!

Thank you, Lord for granting us generous hearts!

Zephaniah 3:1-2. 9-13/ Psalm (33) 34:2-3. 6-7. 17-18. 19 and 23/
Matthew 21:28-32

The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

Psalm 85:12

Wednesday December 14

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS

Our parents love us so much that they can not give us bad things. They always give us what is good and helpful. God does the same. He always gives us only good things. It is up to us to ask Him those good things. We can for instance ask Him for the gift of intelligence, wisdom, health, kindness, joy, peace, humility, good friends, good job in the future, and many other good things we need in life.

Oh Lord thank you for being so generous to us. Thank you for your precious gifts!

Isaiah 45:6b-8. 18. 21c-25/ Psalm (84) 85:9ab and 10. 11-12. 13-14/
Luke 7:19-23

You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

Isaiah 54:4

Thursday December 15

ADVENT WEEKDAY

One day, an old man told me how unhappy he was about the way he lived his childhood. He said he spent his childhood joking without being serious enough in his studies. Today when he sees his classmates who were more serious at school and home with good jobs, nice cars, and attractive houses he regrets his childhood and youth. Lord, may the story of this old man help us become more serious in our studies, and more polite at home and school so that our childhood and youth may prepare us to become responsible adults in the future.

Isaiah 54:1-10/ Psalm (29) 30:2 and 4. 5-6.11-12a and 13b/ Luke 7:24-30

Maintain justice and do what is right,
for my salvation is close at hand and my
righteousness will soon be revealed.

Isaiah 56:1

Friday

December 16

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Dear friends, today's First Reading is inviting us to do what is right and avoid evil. To do what is right is to be polite at home and school. To do what is right is to love everyone: love our parents, love our teachers, love our friends. To do what is right is to be hardworking boys and girls at school and at home. To do what is right is to love God, to pray to Him every day, and to do His will.

Oh Lord grant us your Holy Spirit
so that we may do your will every
day and everywhere!

Isaiah 56:1-3a. 6-8/ Psalm (66) 67:2-3. 5. 7-8/John 5:33-36

In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

Psalm 72:7

Saturday

December 17

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Today's verse invites us to be righteous in order to flourish and prosper in all our activities. How do we become righteous? We become righteous when we live according to the word of God and according to his commandments. We live according to the word of God and His commandments by loving one another.

May the Lord pour out upon us his Spirit of Love so that we may become righteous by loving one another.

“Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake.”

Romans 1:5



Sunday

December 18

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The only one through whom we receive the blessings of God is Jesus Christ, His Son.

Jesus Christ is the only one who can teach us the will of God his Father. That is why we need to talk to him through prayer so that He may tell us how to behave well.

Jesus Christ, we are happy to be your brothers and sisters to live well in order to please your Father.

Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalm (23) 24:1-2. 3-4ab. 5-6 (7c. 10b)/ **Romans 1:1-7**/ Matthew 1:18-24

“In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

Luke 1:25

Monday December 19

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Do we pray? When we pray what do we ask for in our prayer? What do we tell God? One of the things we can ask for in our prayers is the favor of God. Another word to say favor is “blessing”. In our prayers we can ask for the favor of good life, we can ask for the favor of faith, and we can ask for the favor of humility, wisdom, intelligence, and many other favors.

Oh Lord, thank you for all your favors in our lives. Thanks for all your graces, and thanks for all your blessings.

“I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

Isaiah 7:12

Tuesday December 20

ADVENT WEEKDAY

This verse invites us to always trust God. Our God is a loving Father. He cannot disappoint or deceive us. He knows us better than ourselves. He knows our hearts, he knows our minds, he knows our projects. Whatever we ask from him let us believe that he will accomplish it. Let us never doubt him, let us never test Him to see if he is able or not.

Oh Lord help us to always believe in you even in times of challenges.

Sing to him (the Lord) a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

Psalm 33:3

Wednesday December 21

ADVENT WEEKDAY

This is a good verse in the Bible that invites us to praise God in our prayers. Most of the time when we pray, we only ask God for this and that. We very often forget to praise God and thank Him for all his favors in our lives. One of the means we can use to praise God is to sing for and shout

for joy for his great deeds and wonders.

Oh Lord,
thanks for
your favors
and wonders
in our lives.



Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a/ **Psalm (32) 33:2-3. 11-12. 20-21/** Luke 1:39-45

The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

1 Samuel 2:7

Thursday

December 22

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Whoever we are and whatever we have comes from God. He is the provider of everything except evil. He is the one who makes rich and poor, He humbles and exalts. He is our Creator, He is the One who made us. We are His children. He is our Father. He loves us. That is why whatever we ask Him, He is able to give us if it is good for us. Let us always remember that without God we are nothing. Without Him we have nothing. Let us always trust Him and ask Him to send wealth to our homes.

May He exalt us. May He exalt especially abandoned children.

1 Samuel 1:24-28/ 1 Samuel 2:1. 4-5. 6-7. 8abcd/ Luke 1:46-56

All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

Psalm 25:10

Friday

December 23

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Do we know that our parents are very happy each time we respect them and each time we do our duties well? This is the same with our teachers at school. A polite and committed child keeps his parents and teachers always happy. We also keep God always happy every time we behave according to his Word and each time we behave well at home and at school. *Help us Lord keep always your commandments.*

Malachi 3:1-4 ;4 :5-6 /
Psalm (24) 25:4-5ab. 8-9. 10
and 14/ Luke 1:57-66



“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.”

Luke 1:68

Saturday December 24

ADVENT WEEKDAY

This verse reminds us to always say thanks to God. Because he loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus Christ to come and save us from evil. Jesus Christ is the one who saves us from any danger. Each time we pray, let us ask him to protect us and come to our help in any case of challenge.

Oh Lord Jesus Christ thanks for the gift of life. Thanks for saving us from evil and sin. Grant us your graces so that we may always remain in you.

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John 1:18



Sunday December 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Each one of us was born on a special date. If you were born for instance on December 25, each year, on that same date you celebrate your birthday. Today is Christmas, on this special day we celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He was born among us through the action of the Holy Spirit in order to save us from evil and eternal death.



As we celebrate Christmas today let us pray for all the children in the world.

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 6:8

Monday

December 26

SAINT STEPHEN

What makes Stephen special in this verse is the fact that he is full of the grace and power of God. That is how he is able to perform great wonders and signs among people. As far as we are concerned, we are able of great things if God's grace dwells in us. For instance, we cannot be successful at school if God's grace and power are not upon us. We get the grace and power of God only through prayer.

May the grace and the power of the Lord dwell upon us.

And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3

Tuesday

December 27

SAINT JOHN

This verse teaches us that Jesus Christ and his Father love us so much. They invite us to love them too. How do we love them? We love them by doing their will. We love them by living according to the Word of God and according to what we learnt during catechism classes. We cannot be successful in this life without Jesus Christ and his Father. That is why we should always pray to them and ask them to always assist us when we are in need.

Oh Jesus Christ, help us to say thanks to your Father for all His wonders.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

Wednesday December 28

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

No one likes darkness. No one can see in the darkness. No one can read in darkness. That is why at night, we are obliged to light our lamps in order to see, walk, work, and read. This is not possible when there is darkness. If lamps help us to see well in the night, it is the same with God. God is the One who directs our feet, He is the One who shows us the true path. He is the One who teaches us the right thing to do in order to succeed in life. Without God, we can do nothing. Without God, we will always walk in the darkness of life.

Oh Lord, thanks for being the Lamp of our Lives!

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Psalm 96:1

Thursday December 29

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

We sing when we are happy. We can sing for our teacher, for our parents, for our friends or classmates. God also needs our songs. He likes listening to our sweet voices. Each time we pray, we can also sing for God and praise Him for all the good things He did for us. In some parishes, there are choirs for kids. Why not join them in order to sing during the mass for instance?



Lord, help us praise you for all your good deeds in our lives.

1 John 2: 3-11/ Psalm (95) 96: 1-2a. 2b-3. 5b-6/ Luke 2: 22-35

“You will eat the fruit of your labor”

Psalm 128:2

Friday

December 30

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Our parents are always happy when they notice that we are hardworking boys and girls.

Imagine if our parents were lazy and they do not work. Where will they find money to buy our food, our clothes, our medication, and our school fees? Like our parents, we are invited to work hard at home and at school. God himself worked for six days and rested on the seventh. Jesus Christ also worked with Joseph and Mary.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us your spirit of work!



Sirach 3:2-6.12-14 / Psalm (127) 128:1-2.3.4-5 / Colossians 3 :12-21 /

Matthew 2:13-15.19-23

“Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.”

1 John 2:18

Saturday December 31

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

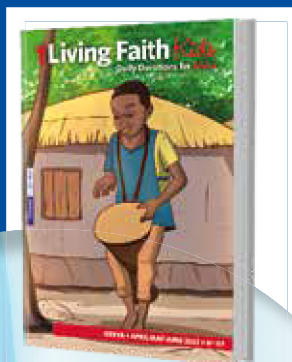
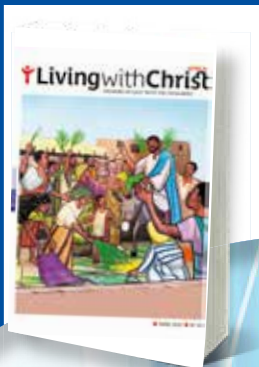
Dear friends in a few hours it will be the end of the year 2022. We will be getting into a new one. Today is then the last day of the year. This is a day to stay home with our parents and sit down with them to evaluate the year. To evaluate a year is to share with others what has been good and what has been wrong in our

lives throughout the year. After this, we can decide to live a new life in order to make the new year better

than the last one. *Lord, help us praise you for all your good deeds in our lives.*



1 John 2:18-21/ Psalm (95) 96:1-2.11-12.13 / John 1:1-18



Living with Christ AFRICA GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Living Faith Kids Daily Devotions for Africa

Since December 2014, “Bayard Africa” has been publishing a missalette under the name LIVING WITH CHRIST AFRICA for some English-speaking countries on the continent. It is at the service of evangelization in general and liturgy in particular, providing to the Church-Family of God in Africa the liturgical readings of daily masses, commentaries, prayers, and articles on faith.

Since October 2020, “Bayard Africa” has been distributing another booklet under the name LIVING FAITH KIDS. This edition features daily devotions based on Scripture excerpts, commentaries, and illustrations. It is mainly designed for African children in order to help them grow in faith and wisdom.

Living Faith Kids features daily devotions based on the daily Scripture readings, commentaries and illustrations. This quarterly pamphlet is mainly made for African children in order to help them grow in faith and wisdom. It also helps develop their habit of daily prayer and build their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. This is an important tool for our kids to take part in liturgical worship and parish life. It can therefore be used in our schools, catechesis classes and homes.

Rev. Fr. Jean-Claude Diwediga, François Nzanzu, ... Editors for Africa;
Regis Jean-François ...Assistant Editor for Africa; Naomi Sawadogo ...
Designer for Africa; Yves Boro ... Interior Art; Yves Boro...Cover Art.
Rev. Fr. Fabrice Adzakli; Rev. Fr. Blaise Bonou-Yehouenou;
Bro. Bonaventure Piessou; Bro. Nnaemeka Dominic MBAEZE...
Contributing Writers.

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63026 a subsidiary of Bayard, Inc., sponsored by the Augustinians of Assumption.

Marketing and Sales Manager: Virginia Kabugu

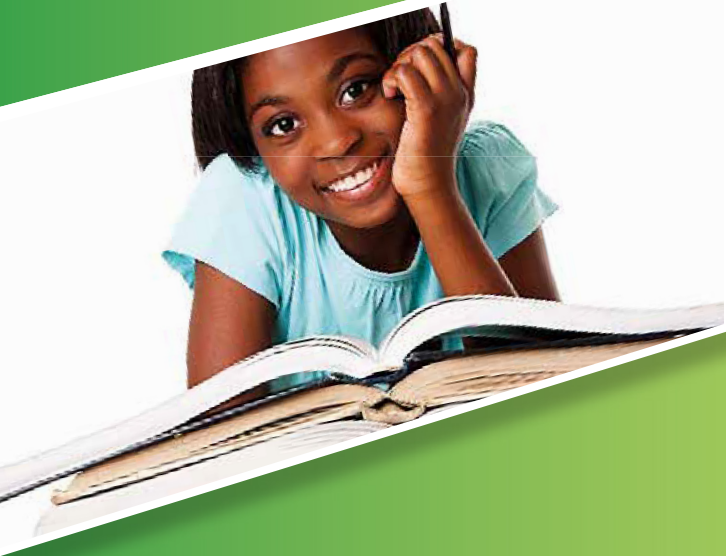
Published by Bayard Publications – Printed in Nairobi, Kenya,
address: P.O. BOX 58488 City Square 00200 Nairobi, Kenya,
phone: +254 727074304 – email: info@livingwithchrist-africa.com

IMPRIMATUR

+Rt Rev. Dominic Kimengich
Chairman, Commission for Liturgy
Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops
February 15, 2018

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.”

Luke 1:68



“A child among elders converses with its ears.”

Nigeria