2007 - 2008 Academic Year Second Semester Seminar

Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ. Hekima College, Nairobi, Kenya

Ethical Responsibilities Towards People Living with HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS remains a critical challenge to church and society in Africa. The scale and intensity of affliction of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) continue beyond official statistics. Sub-Saharan Africa has the largest number of people infected and affected by HIV.

This seminar aims to facilitate a direct encounter between participants and PLWHA in order to identify and explore the key ethical challenges facing the community called church in the context of the AIDS pandemic, in particular the duty of care, prevention, advocacy, treatment, management, etc.

The methodology of this seminar is twofold. In the first instance, participants would be required to read and present major texts dealing with HIV/AIDS on a weekly basis and, and in the second instance, they will examine the texts critically in relation to individual situations of people living with AIDS (including orphans and children). The latter instance will involve actually encountering a person living with HIV/AIDS, listening to and retelling his or her story; identifying in his or her own words the ethical responsibilities and obligations owed him or her; and examining the long-term implications for the church's teachings and policies on management, prevention, and care.

Bibliography TBA.