A post-election

petition to God

**HEAVENLY FATHER, IT IS TWO DAYS** after our General Election. For starters, I

thank you for placing me in this beautiful

and blessed country. I cannot forget strifetorn places like Somalia and Afghanistan

where there is untold suffering. But they

too are in your agenda. You haven’t forgotten

them.

Lord, I am grateful that you have seen

me through the last five years since our last

polls. Speaking of elections, Father, I make

a special request: Please make all losers

accept the results and give winners the humility

to work with the losers. This country

is blessed, although sometimes we refuse

to put the wisdom you have given us into

practice. We even fail to see simple things

like the fact that in all competitions, there

must be a winner and a loser.

**HIV status**

Father, you have proved to me and

through me that people can be served

and reached, not only by those elected to

office, but even when they use their HIV

status for the good of others. Election

fever and shortsightedness make us fail to

acknowledge that leaders come from you.

We forget it is not all about powerful parties,

wealth, experience, families or history.

It is about you and your choice. You chose

David, Jesse’s last born child. I am sure he

wasn’t a sight to behold for some eyes;

smelling of sheep poop and everything!

Yet, you anointed and made him the greatest

King Israel ever had.

I pray that the day before yesterday you

removed the veils in our eyes and helped us

elect leaders you had anointed, even if they

may not be sights to behold. Dear God,

recently the American people chose their

leader. One of their practices I would love

our politicians to buy is loyalty, not partyhoping.

Here, we do it, even if it is obvious

that one will never make it. Some, including

one of my uncles, went to the grave

a pauper after vying so many times and

refusing to admit he had been rejected as

a leader. I think it is because there are tons

of priviledges when someone is in an elective

position. God, sometimes I doubt if it is

the interest of the people that drives these

intense campaigns.

During rallies, I could read real craving for

raw power. I couldn’t stop wondering what

would happen if their bids flopped. In the

past, we have seen healthy people die not

long after elections because they couldn’t

live with the truth that they lost. God, help

losers know that they still have plenty of

opportunities to serve your people.

**Prayers for peace**

Christ, I pray for peace after the outcome.

Peace like the one you said you gave

the apostles. Peace that surpasses all human

understanding. In the past, we have

demonised ethnic communities yet it is you

who created them. And you had a purpose.

It is us and our selfish interests who flipped

the script. Lord, help us remove this veil to

make us see the strength in each community

and the diversity and wealth they come

with to complement one another.

I pray that what will sprout out after the

polls will be forums to thank you and not

more IDP camps. You have given me three

dear sons. I take every life to be precious,

despite differences in opinion. May the one

elected as our national leader know that he

will be serving you and your people. Sometimes

such a leader causes unnecessary

gridlocks and road users are stopped by

the roadside to wait for him to pass. This is

very inconsiderate.

For most of us, time is of essence. It,

therefore, makes no sense for thousands

of citizens to idle by the road for

someone to pass hours later at neckbreak

speed. What pains me,

Lord, is that he is the same

person millions of us stood

in queues for hours on end

to elect.

Lord, I hope the leader

will take your counsel and

deliver your people from

many burdens; economic,

social and emotional. We

pray whoever is elected will

be someone who knows

and acknowledges you in all

facets of life.

**Amen.**

PRAYER FOR WINNERS AND LOSERS OF ELECTION

This is the diary of Asunta

Wagura, a mother-of-three

who tested HIV-positive 23

years ago. She is the executive

director of the Kenya Network

of Women with Aids (KENWA).

Email: asuntawagura@hotmail.c