

Mission Letter

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM
THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA (WHITE FATHERS)

Climate change

June 2022

Dear friends and benefactors,

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis stresses the fact that poor countries that create less air pollution are among those who suffer most from climate change.

“Scientific research show that the gravest effect of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest; the depletion of fishing reserves, water pollution, rises in sea level” (*Laudato Si* # 48)

“The export of raw materials to satisfy markets in the industrialized north has caused harm locally, as for example in mercury pollution in gold mining or Sulphur dioxide pollution in copper mining. The warming has repercussions on the poorest areas of the world, especially Africa, where rise in temperature, together with drought, has proved devastating for farming” (# 51)

Recent reports of hurricanes, flooding, drought in Africa has confirmed the teaching of Pope Francis, and has urged us, as



missionaries of Africa, to continue to fight climate change by our pastoral teaching but also by our example.

For many years one of our pastoral priorities has been *Justice & Peace* and *integrity of creation*. Allow me to quote from some of the recommendation of our general chapter in 1966.

“By making known the social teaching of the Church, especially letters of Pope Francis such as *Laudato Si*”

“By making of our communities good examples of environmental protection by sorting out rubbish and recycling. Planting tree and flowers and observing zero tolerance as regard plastic bags. Let this be so wherever we live, a Green Church.”

“By promoting awareness of, and fighting against, the illegal and immoral exploitation of minerals and its consequences such as the destruction of soil, water reserves, nature, all sorts of respiratory diseases, social ills and vices, such as exploitation of children, young people and women.”

“By drawing the attention of the world to the scandal of land-grabbing and unfettered deforestation by foreign powers and to fight against this scourge by means of the *African Faith and Justice Network*.”

We can also add “the installation of solar panels and more caution with the use of water and electricity.”

These are a few quotations to remind us to listen to the cry of the poor and of creation wherever we live, and to make our humble positive contribution to fight climate change.

I am confident that in this endeavor we are united with all our friends and benefactors.

Mike Merizzi M.Afr

