



MISSIONARY SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF AFRICA MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

Dear sisters and brothers,

Rome, 29 July 2023

"Let justice surge like water, and goodness like an overflowing stream" (Amos 5:24)¹

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always!

The theme of the season of creation this year is a prophetic voice, calling us to discern and make the choice to collaborate in God's redemptive mission. The words of the prophet Amos reveal to us God's desire in our time in relation to his creation. It is a call to contemplate God's creation, to recognise and appreciate our intertwined relationship with all that he has created.

In his address to us all, Pope Francis reminds us of three aspects necessary in our efforts to safeguard our mother earth.

- 1. Personal ecological conversion: this is the transformation of our hearts in relationship with God, built on the conviction that all that exists is God's artwork that we are to value and relate to with reverence.
- 2. Transformation of our lifestyle: this concerns the daily choices we make and their impact on others and on creation. It is a call from self-centeredness to be *all to all* for life. It is to see with new eyes of love and compassion.
- 3. Transformation of public and societal policies that deny creation its right to exist.

As we participate in this particular and important period with serious intentional acts, let us look at our lifestyle, at times marked by waste and unnecessary consumption of material things and other toxic unfriendly items in daily life. May we be mindful of our habits and choices to make a better place for us and for future generations.

Amos's prophecy calls us to "*let justice flow like water, and goodness like an overflowing stream*", how then can we as congregations, as institutes and as individuals be *the river flowing with justice and goodness*? How do the values of our charism unite us with God to create a harmless, kinder, and caring world? Where do we choose as MSOLA and Missionaries of Africa to sow more seeds of justice and goodness in our time?

¹ The African Bible.

May this season of creation help us to deepen our commitment to respond creatively to being instruments where the river of justice and peace can flow.

Wishing you a fruitful season of creation.

Your Sister and Brother,

Kaptingaun

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