



Laudato Si'
Special Anniversary Year
2020-2021

SEASON OF CREATION
1.09 - 4.10.2020
Jubilee of the Earth

World Day of Prayer for
the Care of Creation
1st September

THE COURAGE TO CHANGE

TO EMERGE FROM THIS PANDEMIC BETTER

PRAYER | REFLECTION | EXPERIENCES

Friday, 4 of September 2020 - online for 1h

ARCHDIOCESE OF DAKAR (SENEGAL) REFORESTATION CAMP IN NGASOBIL FROM 02 TO 09 AUGUST 2020

• Father Pascal DIOME

National Director Pastoral Centre Senegal

1. Official ceremony

As part of the implementation of the recommendations of Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si, the Direction of the Apostolate of the Laity has started a reforestation camp in the Ngasobil area. At the inauguration of the camp, an official ceremony brought together the young people, the first actors, the authorities of the State and the Church, in the presence of the national press very interested in the initiative. There were representatives of the Ministry of Youth (Director of Youth, Director of the National Civic Service and Director of Youth Movements), of the Ministry of the Environment (Captain of Waters and Forests and his team), of the Prefecture of Mbour, of the mayors of Joal-Fadiouth and Nguéniène, localities close to Ngasobil. Representing the Church, there were the General Vicar, the Episcopal Vicars, the priests of the decanates, the parish priests and the religious men and women from the decanates of the Petite Côte, the assistants of the youth, the leaders of the Catholic Action movements, the National Council of the laity, the leaders of Caritas Senegal and Caritas Dakar, and a hundred young people who came to put the slogans into practice. The initiative was unanimously welcomed and encouraged and was reported in the press.



2. Prayer

In the midst of the covid19 pandemic, public celebrations are still prohibited. The camp was a good opportunity, with rigor on distancing measures, to give young people the privilege to participate in fervent Eucharistic celebrations, in the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and in the prayer of the rosary. Young people were happy to return to the celebrations that were suspended since March. St. Joseph, the patron saint of the place, was our intercessor every day.



Due to the heat in the area, reforestation sessions took place only in the morning. The afternoons were then used for lectures on the encyclical Laudato Si and on the practical ways of setting up a nursery, planting and maintaining a tree, as well as for sports and recreational activities and swimming at the beach.

3. The action



For eight days, with great joy, a hundred young people, boys and girls of the movements as well as of Catholic Action planted 11,700 trees. The technical services of Caritas Dakar accompanied the sowing. They will also follow the plants as they grow. The program started this year 2020 and lasts for five (5) years trying to do a little more each year.

Among the planted species, there were a good number of thorny bushes to reinforce the fence which is often attacked, but also local endangered species. To combine work with pleasure, the evenings were animated by cultural vigils, as is usually the case during the Catholic Action camps. The management of the Ngasobil minor seminary welcomed the initiative, which gives them a breath of fresh air in their daily efforts to defend the environmental treasure they are custodians of.

At the end of the camp, young people wanted to extend their stay, since they were so happy with this experience.

