



FORO INTERNACIONAL ACCIÓN CATÓLICA
INTERNATIONAL FORUM CATHOLIC ACTION
AFRICA CONTINENTAL MEETING / 2 6.07.2021
 16h30(Burundi) - 14h30 (Senegal)

6.07.2021
 16h30(Burundi) - 14h30 (Senegal)

RENCONTRE CONTINENTALE AFRIQUE /2

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME ON EARTH

A NIGERIAN RESPONSE TO LAUDATO SI

Report by Rev. Fr. Patrick Alumuku, Chaplain, Catholic Action, Abuja, Nigeria

A number of initiatives have been undertaken in Nigeria by church groups, government bodies, corporate entities and civil society organizations to promote the encyclical *Laudato Si* by Pope Francis.

In its plan to implement the recommendations of the conference held on 19th November 2020, the Archdiocese of Abuja categorized the society into seven groups to enable the implementation of the seven-year plan for climate change. These groups include families, parishes and dioceses, schools and universities, hospitals, businesses and farms as well as religious institutions. The Archdiocese of Abuja plan is to ensure that the various groups play their roles in ensuring a safe climate for Abuja and Nigeria as its contribution to an improved world climate.

Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama of Abuja said at a recent conference on 20th June, 2021 that local and international environmental realities had proven that “nature has been wounded and the

church must be part of its healing” process. He also urged the federal government to collaborate with the church to ensure a clean and healthy environment for Nigerians.

In the Archdiocese of Lagos, a week long daily seminar was dedicated to discussing the implications of environmental degradation. The seminar sought to explain the appeal of Laudato Si towards changes of lifestyle, production and consumption in order to combat the human causes that aggravate global warming.

On 18th September in Port Harcourt, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria issued a statement calling for positive change noting that “the ecological crisis which we experience today summons nations, international communities, Christians, muslims and peoples of all religions, local communities families, individuals , all persons of good will not only to the responsibility of justice but also to a profound spiritual and ecological conversion: from consumerism to sacrifice, from greed to generosity and from wastefulness to sharing”.

Earlier, the network of Young Catholic carers for the Environment in Nigeria (NYCCEN) in collaboration with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) worked together and commemorated the 2020 World Environmental Day on the 5th anniversary of Laudato Si on June 12 through a webinar. The event applauded the Pope’s Laudato Si initiative because it has spurred interest and participation from many people especially the youths who are using plastic recycling in Nigeria to enrich the unemployed young people.

It is clearly evident that Laudato Si has taken root in Nigeria and all hands are being put on deck to ensure that the future of the environment in Nigeria and in Africa is improved upon, so that environmental healing may be brought about. This will serve as Africa’s contribution to the world initiative for an improved World environment as promoted by Laudato Si.