



FORO INTERNACIONAL ACCIÓN CATÓLICA
INTERNATIONAL FORUM CATHOLIC ACTION

AFRICA CONTINENTAL MEETING / 2 6.07.2021
 16h30(Burundi) - 14h30 (Senegal)

6.07.2021 **RENCONTRE CONTINENTALE AFRIQUE /2**
 16h30(Burundi) - 14h30 (Senegal)

Welcome Greetings

Rafael CORSO (*Coordinator of the IFCA Secretariat*)

Dear friends from Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, United States of America, Argentina, Spain, Italy and Romania, you are all welcome to this African Continental meeting of the International Forum of Catholic Action.

Thank you for the participation of each one of you and in you thanks to the work of every child, youth and adult men and women, who work in your countries with fidelity and dedication to the Church of Christ in the Movements and Institutions of Catholic Action.

Let us join in prayer for the health of the Holy Father Pope Francis, for his quick recovery and for the fruits of his pastoral service so profound and necessary at this moment in the history of humanity. We pray to the Lord through Mary and Joseph as protectors of the Catholic Church, her Pastors and all the Faithful People.

We give thanks for the immediate recovery of Bishop Salvator and the Burundian community who had an accident last April, which led to the rescheduling of this meeting, and we also pray for them.

In this time of Pandemic we want to fix our gaze and commitment once again on the needs of our ecclesial communities and of society as a whole. We need to renew ourselves in faith, hope and love; we need solidarity, vaccination, medical care and a culture of care that contains and minimises the damage caused by the loss of jobs, education and all the violations of human rights.

It is the right time to acknowledge the damage that so many human actions have done to the lives of our poorest brothers and sisters and of nature, to recognise these cries and to address them with a sense of ecclesial and social co-responsibility. As Pope Francis tells us in n°32 of Fratelli Tutti, "We remember that no one is saved alone, that it is only possible to be saved together".

Next November we will celebrate together as a family the 30th anniversary of the International Forum of Catholic Action and we want to make this celebration a moment of thanksgiving and a prophetic moment to walk in the fulfilment of Catholic Action as a school of holiness, a gymnasium of ecclesial synodality and a witness of social friendship.

This celebration will coincide with the beginning of the next Synod on Ecclesial Synodality which will run from October 2021 to 2023. This journey of the whole Catholic Church in the world must count on the active and enthusiastic participation of all Catholic Action as promoters of communion, participation and mission based on the life of each diocese. For this it will be necessary to evaluate what has been done and to plan a more fruitful work that responds to the needs of all the People of God in order to be truly "missionary disciples of Jesus Christ in today's world".

On behalf of the Secretariat of the IFCA, our fraternal embrace and the wish for a good meeting!

Praise be to Jesus Christ!