



Greetings

Rafael Corso - *Coordinator of the IFCA Secretariat, National President of AC Argentina*

Dear friends of Catholic Action in Africa,

It is a great joy to be able to greet you at this first continental meeting in Africa in 2021, on behalf of the International Forum of Catholic Action, of all its member and adhering countries and of the members of the Secretariat, composed of my brothers representing Burundi, Senegal, Spain, Italy and Argentina.

We thank God for the gift of fraternity which allows us to recognize ourselves as children of the same Father Creator, united in Jesus Christ, his Son, our elder brother and our Savior.

The Church, as Pope Francis teaches us, is fully aware of the enormous challenge of this historical moment, the COVID'19 pandemic wounds us with illness and death, it has also come to show us the face of the pain of so many brothers and sisters wounded by pre-existing pandemics: injustice, persecution, lack of freedom, lack of work and education, distribution inequity, poverty, malnutrition, endemic diseases as well as environmental pollution, political corruption, social indifference, and many others that you know well!

Made brothers in the Church of Christ and aware of forming a single human family, we must respond to these needs within every parish and diocesan community, in every country, region and continent, with a spirit of solidarity, closeness, accompanying, involving, with confidence in Divine Providence that reaches everyone.

Friends of Catholic Action, we live the joy of the Gospel of Jesus which is good news for today's world. We try to be close to our people. As the people of God who build history, we are close to their needs, seeking in faith, hope and love the best answers that lead us to personal holiness, the fullness of community life and the fulfilment of the common good of society, keeping in mind that no one reaches salvation by themselves. We all need each other.

This continental space must be a space of cooperation among countries for the development, growth and strengthening of their Associations of Catholic Action for the concrete and effective service to every Diocesan Church, to communion and to mission, walking together, lay people, religious and clergy, children, young people and adults, parish communities and specialized movements.

We ask for the protection of Saint Joseph in this year dedicated to him, and the protection of Most Holy Mary, our faithful and close Mother, so that they may take care of us and guide us in the mission of being an outgoing, animated and joyful Church, full of hope and joy, in daily service and work, in the family and in homes, in the neighborhood and at work, in the Church and in society.

And let us raise a prayer, as Pope Francis did in concluding the Encyclical Fratelli Tutti:

... Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves. Amen.

Have a good meeting, good work, thank you for all your efforts