

CREATION TIME 2021.

The theme selected for Creation time 2021 is **A Home for all, renewing the Oikos of God.**

We celebrate the season mindful that our world continues to deal with the Covid crisis as well as climate and biodiversity crisis. We encourage you to sign the **HEALTHY PLANET HEALTHY PEOPLE petition** endorsed by the Holy See as a key action for this season of creation. *(Google the above and the petition appears!).*

We pray for the two major conferences on climate change coming up later this year

- Cop 15 on biodiversity, China in September
- Cop 26 in Glasgow in November.
- The UN Secretary General named 2021 a “make or break year” to address the climate emergency.



We hope for commitment from the countries signed up to the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions. These countries continue to kick the can down the road re making concrete decisions but cannot continue to do so. This years Cop 26 conference especially, in Glasgow is crucial. A rapid and radical reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is essential to achieving global climate targets.

Equally important is the provision of adequate finance to those countries on the frontline of the climate crisis, already experiencing the worst effects of climate change. While everyone around the world feels the effects of climate change, the most vulnerable people living in the world’s poorest countries e.g. Haiti and Malawi, have limited financial resources to cope with disasters from floods, droughts, deforestation. Weather related disasters are forcing people to flee their homelands.

Those who suffer most from climate disasters contribute least to gas house emissions and deforestation. The United States of America emits 15.52 per capita, Kuwait 25.65 per capita; Zambia 0.26, Nigeria 0.44, Malawi 0.11 per capita. So vulnerable countries who are least to blame for contributing to gas house emissions suffer most because of it. I choose these three African countries because Sisters of Charity live and work in all three.

Trocaire’s Malawi country director, Jeannette Wijnants, explains - recurring cycles of droughts and floods caused by shifts in weather are causing soil erosion, food insecurity, hunger, loss of livelihoods and displacement. The impact of these changes is felt particularly by women and children. For example, having to walk longer and longer distances to find water, fetch firewood and to save crops damaged by erratic rainfall. Ultimately, we need to hold those responsible for the real causes of climate change to account.

Sr Mairead RSC who works in Malawi tells us “here in Konzalendo the effects of climate change are visible especially in the increased pressure on women. They have been affected especially in terms of fetching water. Whereas previously the rivers would run all year round, now when the rains stop, the rivers run dry. Girls are expected to walk long distances to collect water and firewood after school. This too has an adverse effect on education. Only 14% of girls complete secondary school because they stay home to do these jobs. The future for these children is bleak unless efforts to address and mitigate the effects of climate change happen”.

Creation Time is an opportunity to thank God for his abundant gifts. We need to pray for a more equitable distribution of these gifts and for positive action from the UN meetings to address climate

change. We also need to advocate in whatever way is possible for change to happen **so please sign that petition**. Google Creation Time 2021 to learn more.

“FOR WE KNOW THAT THINGS CAN CHANGE” *Laudato Si* 13.

Sr Mary Judge.