

EXPERIENCE SHARING ON "LAUDATO SI IN ACTION" IN SIKASSO

From October 11 to 16, 2021, the Pastoral Session was held at the Charles Lwanga Center under the presidency of His Excellency Bishop Jean-Baptiste Tiama, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Sikasso. The Diocese's pastoral option for this year 2021-2022 is: "Promote a healthy environment favorable to the blossoming of every man and woman".

On the first day we had the recollection on the theme "God saw that everything he had done was a very good thing". The next two days were dedicated to formation on the theme: "Laudato Si: the question of the environment in a pastoral perspective".



At the request of the Diocese of Mali, members of the Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation - Interreligious Dialogue (JPIC-DI)¹ workshop of the Union of Catholic Religious of Mali (URCM) provided the training. To enrich the training, we requested the intervention of a delegation from the Regional Directorate of Sanitation and Hygiene regarding the sanitation of our living and working environment.

About fifty participants (diocesan priests, Religious and lay people - responsible for diocesan commissions and structures) took part in the formation.



In addition to the introduction and conclusion, the formation focused on three main points: first, **The environmental question** (Biblical and theological foundation, Magisterium and Saint Francis of Assisi, Synthesis of the encyclical Laudato Si). Secondly, **What does the Law say? Some fundamental texts relating to the protection of the environment in Mali.** Thirdly, **Our responsibility in front of reality**

(projection of photos and some videos revealing our reality for the awareness of the degradation of the environment at home and by that to raise the responsibility of the participants in front of the Creation and the promotion of a healthy environment. And the LSAP was explained).

The groups work and plenary session focused on two questions: What are the major environmental issues you have identified in your living and working environment? In the face of these challenges, what will you do to promote a healthy environment in your living and working environment?



The answers to these two questions have enabled us to develop a Diocesan Awareness Plan (see the table below) for the promotion of an environment favorable to the development of every person. It is the elaboration of this Plan that ended the training.

¹ The URCM JPIC-DI workshop is composed of four (04) members: Father Nicolas Dyemo (M.Afr.), Sisters Beatrice Sawadogo (RMI), Rosine Koné (FCIM) and Victoria Chiharula (MSOLA).

In addition to this training of pastoral agents, we² organized another training from November 03 to 06, 2021 in Koutiala for 37 youth leaders (members of the diocesan youth office and delegates of the nine parishes) of our Diocese on the theme "Human Rights for a healthy environment". The facilitators were the delegates of the consultation framework of the human rights organizations.



Through this training, the young people discovered that: the right to a healthy environment is part of human rights (3rd generation); each and every young person should and must be able to live in an environment favorable to his or her health and well-being; by preserving the environment, we also preserve our health and that of others; preserving "the environment" means safeguarding food production, preventing air and water pollution, etc. A healthy environment, finally, is a safe, clean environment; being healthy and sustainable is an essential precondition for the full enjoyment of human rights.

With this training, the youth have been equipped to promote a healthy environment. They are responsible for duplicating this training with Catholic Action Movements (CAM) and other youth in their respective parishes, to sensitize them to the promotion of the protection of our Common House.



All in all, the Diocese of Sikasso is following the path of "Laudato Si En Action". The objectives of LSAP have been developed to embrace the path on which Pope Francis invites us to care for our common home in our specific context. No effort is too much.

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² Here, the "We" refers to the Diocesan Youth Commission of which Father Nicolas Dyemo is responsible.