



IGREJA EPISCOPAL ANGLICANA DO BRASIL

Dom Francisco de Assis da Silva

Bispo Primaz

Lent Message from Primate of Brazil

"Let justice flow like water, and uprightness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5.24)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We begin this Lenten Season which calls us to live Jesus's walk in the desert and His walk towards Jerusalem. In this journey Jesus invites us to become the followers of His movement. We commit to build a just society based on respect to the environment of our neighbors and ourselves, according to God's will. It is therefore a special time for reflection, prayer, and to deepen the maturity of our faith.

This year our IEAB is involved in the Ecumenical Campaign which gathers the Churches of CONIC. The topic for this year is Our Common Home: our Responsibility. This topic is a recurrent theme not only in the Anglican Communion but in the World Council of Churches, in the Orthodox Church, as well as in other religions. Our society is more and more concerned with the course our civilization is taking in terms of the sustainability of life.

To take care of nature is to have proactive attitudes in the care of the environment, and it is an essential part of our witness as Anglicans. This is imperative for us as individuals, as well as communities, dioceses, and Provinces.

In order to confront the neglect of the environment, it requires that we exercise our civil duty as citizens that we demand from our political leaders the use of adequate resources to improve the quality of life of the people. This means to ask that the well-being of the society as a whole be prioritized instead of fostering a culture of profits for the sake of profiting.

Taking as an example the spread of the Zika and Chikungunya viruses, we perceive that the fundamental cause of the issue is the lack of public policies regarding basic sanitation and waste management without forgetting the responsible way in which the sources and courses of our rivers and springs are managed.

All this could be overcome with education and public policies that take into consideration the preservation of the environment. The Anglican Communion Environmental Network challenges us to take on a Carbon Fast for Lent and to reduce actions that damage God's creation.

There are forty actions that could be done during this Lenten Season, suggesting an action for each day as well as a daily scripture and prayer. I recommend that these challenges be taken on by the whole Church. These are simple steps and gestures that reduce carbon emissions, one of the main causes of the climate change. Therefore, we do not lack in resources to take concrete actions to transform our own practices and to be stewards of our creation.

We are not alone. Our sisters and brothers on the ecumenical journey are on the same path. Our brothers and sisters of other religions are part of this commitment as well to take care of our common Home.

Attached to this message you will find the calendar with the Carbon Fast for Lent with very practical suggestions so that it could be implemented by our Church. Attached as well are the materials of the Ecumenical Campaign so they could be studied in our local communities.

A blessed Lent to each of you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francisco de Assis da Silva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Francisco de Assis da Silva
Primate da Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil