

Season of Creation 2026 – “Living Water” (A word of exhortation from the President of JCAM)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Mission,

As we celebrate the **Season of Creation**, I invite the whole Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar to join Pope Leo XIV and the wider Christian family in prayer and action for our common home.

This year’s theme, “**Living Water**,” draws us to Ezekiel’s vision of a river flowing from the Temple: “*Wherever the river goes, every living creature will live*” (Ezekiel 47:9). In Africa and Madagascar, these words resonate deeply. Water means life, health, food, education, and human dignity. Its scarcity or pollution affects the poor and vulnerable first and most severely.

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that environmental justice is inseparable from social, economic, and human justice and, for Christians, is **a duty rooted in faith**. African wisdom also teaches us to listen attentively to creation. In *Souffles*, Birago Diop evokes a world alive with presence—in the wind, the tree, the earth, and the flowing water. Creation is not mute; it calls for our attention and care.

Across our Conference, this call is already taking shape. Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Johannesburg is giving access to clean drinking water to the homeless, **CARF in the Democratic Republic of Congo** is helping communities access water and address pollution, while **JCED in Malawi** is rehabilitating boreholes and developing piped-water and solar-powered irrigation systems. These examples among many others, may seem like small streams, but Ezekiel reminds us that a stream can become a river of life.

During this Season of Creation, I invite every JCAM Province, community, and apostolic work to **pray, discern, and act**. May our choices and ministries become channels of living water, so that life may flourish wherever the Society serves.

Fr. José L. Minaku, SJ

President

Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar