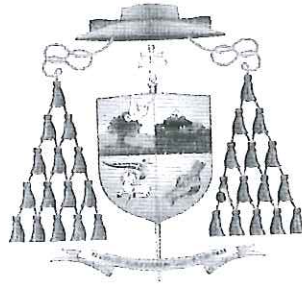


ARCHDIOCESE OF NAIROBI
Office of the Cardinal



Your Ref:

Our Ref:

12TH APRIL 2018

HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
DOMUS SANCTA MARTA
ROMA

Most Holy Father,

Receive cordial Easter greetings from the Archdiocese of Nairobi, Kenya

I wish to bring to the kind attention of Your Holiness a recent initiative regarding food security and sustainable development undertaken by the Church in Kenya that has spread across several countries in Africa.

The initiative flows from an appeal by Your Holiness made to the delegates of the *Food and Agriculture Organization*, gathered in Rome in June 2013, during which Your Holiness made an urgent appeal to tackle the scandal of global hunger:

A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being. (Pope Francis to the Food and Agriculture Organization, June 20, 2013)

Later that year, Your Holiness, you underlined this urgent call within the Church:

I invite all of the institutions of the world, the Church, each of us, as one single human family, to give a voice to all of those who suffer silently from hunger, so that this voice becomes a roar which can shake the world. (Pope Francis, Video Message, *One Human Family, Food for All*).

Through this new initiative we have been able to mobilize thousands of acres of under-utilized Church land in Kenya to create jobs, feed our own people and take care of our common home. It is truly a remarkable response to your pressing appeal and constitutes a new form of faith-consistent financial cooperation between the Church in the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

Launched by our own beloved Pontifical Mission Societies under the auspices of His Eminence Fernando Cardinal Filoni, the initiative has received positive support from bishops, clergy, religious men and women as well as lay faithful all across Kenya.

It is providing valued training and empowerment to priests, seminarians, lay faithful, religious men and women for effective and efficient stewardship of available Church resources through scholarship in agribusiness and entrepreneurship. It is further providing financial support in form of social impact financing from our brothers and sisters in more financially affluent parts of the world.

This Church-operated program is also providing a robust witness to many in civil society and has now spread from Kenya and Uganda to Zambia, Malawi, and Nigeria. Ghana, Rwanda and Tanzania shall begin the program shortly.

I write to express gratitude for your kind appeal which prompted our colleagues in the Pontifical Mission Societies, USA to act and to stimulate partnerships across Africa. I take this opportunity to humbly ask that Your Holiness might promote this valued initiative in whatever ways Your Holiness might deem appropriate.

Indeed, this new form of *Social Impact Investing* is truly an empowering tool for the Church in Africa which has vast under-utilized or idle land which, when developed properly, will provide food to feed the community, generate revenue to support work of evangelization and create employment for unemployed youth leading to improved livelihoods. This is undertaken in line with the pressing demand to care for our common home through accepted practices of sustainability and an integrated ecology.

I humbly bring this initiative to your attention because of its distinctive qualities. For too long, our beloved Church in Africa has depended almost entirely on donations from richer countries. While we remain forever grateful for this kind cooperation, it is important that the Church in Africa grow in self-reliance and healthy inter-dependence. By engaging the vast network of Church personnel, especially our young seminarians, and by utilizing existing resources such as Church-owned land, the Church is playing its part as a witness and as a protagonist in the aid and development of God's people on our Continent.

On my own behalf and that of the Archdiocese of Nairobi, I assure you of our prayers as you continue promoting communion, solidarity and cooperation of the Catholic Church as the visible sign of Unity.

I remain yours,

12 APR 2019

His Eminence John Cardinal Njue

ARCHBISHOP OF NAIROBI

Cc: His Eminence Fernando Cardinal Filoni, Prefect,
Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.
His Excellency Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo,
Apostolic Nuncio, Kenya and South Sudan
Right Reverend Philip A. Anyolo,
Chairman, Kenyan Conference of Catholic Bishops.