

## FROM THE ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN The Most Reverend Dr Thabo Cecil Makgoba AND THE CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN The Most Reverend Stephen Brislin



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Dear young pilgrims visiting Cape Town

Grace and peace to you! Welcome to Cape Town and welcome to our own "Mount Zion" and wonder of the world, Table Mountain or Hoerikwaggo, to which you pilgrims have come to pray and to build friendships. We trust that you will enjoy your visit and experience true Cape Town and South African hospitality during your stay here.

Cape Town used to have two names: Cape of Good Hope and Cape of Storms. Both qualities are present in Cape Town, and our prayer is that through your presence and your prayers, that hope will overcome the storms that so many of our people experience.

This pilgrimage is connected to the previous Taize pilgrimages on the African continent: Johannesburg (1995), Nairobi (2008), Kigali (2012) and Coutounou (2016). The Pilgrim God has made us all sojourners and we strive towards that which is "very good" in all of us. Some of our people on this continent have been and are still forced to migrate and often do not survive these forced migrations. 400 years ago, the first slaves were taken from the African continent to the USA. We pray to God that we will be given the wisdom and creativity to end these forced migrations. As we reconnect ourselves to God's creation, we pray that young people will do all they can to reverse climate change so that climate refugees may not become the new normal for humanity.

Africa is the continent of faith! From here we can, with humility, proclaim the good news of God's salvation to all humanity.

Africa is the continent of hope! From here, we can engage in actions of hope that would give humanity a new vision of what it means to live in peace and in true community.

**Africa is the continent of love!** From here, we can show the world what it means to love even our enemies and silence the hatred that threatens to engulf humanity.

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May this pilgrimage strengthen our resolve to remain connected to our Creator God, and to build true connection with all humanity and with all creation.

May God bless your pilgrimage.

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