



Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir

ARCHBISHOP MARTIN KMETEC OFM CONV.

**MESSAGE ON MOTHER EARTH DAY**

22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On Mother Earth Day, I take the opportunity to join all the conscientious people of the world to stop for a while to pay our respect to our mother earth which provides us love and care through sheltering and sustaining us. St. Francis who is the patron saint of the environment manifested a deep respect and love for every creature. He could see the reflection of God in the whole of creation. He wished all creation to sing with him the hymn of praise for the most loving and caring God. He called every creature his brother and sister, nobody was excluded from his family. Today our world is confronted with a great ecological crisis. In the name of progress, we are polluting our rivers and air which assures our existence.

Pope Francis has constantly and persistently warned the world human family about the seriousness of the problem and has animated all to express their profound love and care for mother earth. Pope Francis writes: “Now, a global crisis demands a global vision and a global approach, which first of all requires a spiritual rebirth in the noblest sense of the word. Climate change could paradoxically become an opportunity to ask fundamental questions about the mystery of creation and what it is worth living for. This could lead to a profound change of our cultural and economic models, toward growth in justice and sharing, the rediscovery of the value of each person, a pledge that those who are on the margins today, can be included and those who will come tomorrow can still enjoys the beauty of our world, which is and will always be a gift offered by God.”

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, we must take St. Francis’ ideal and Pope Francis’ admonitions seriously to come out of slow death of humanity. We have to ask ourselves today what can we do to save our home, the earth. Does our way of life show our love for the creation? How can we make others aware of this fact?

God bless mother earth and all of you.

Martin Kmetec OFM Conv.  
Archbishop of Izmir.