

Season of Creation 2025

Peace with Creation



An Urgent Call for Harmony with Creation **A Reflection from Burkina Faso**

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As I discovered this year's theme, "**Peace with Creation**," one phrase particularly caught my attention: "harmony with." More than just a theme, it is a true path—**an art of connecting with God**, with oneself, with others, and with creation, so that life may flow once more. Yet, faced with the global chaos shaking our world, this harmony has become a rare and precious treasure. **Cries rise up from all corners of the Earth**, where peoples are confronting severe challenges.

In the midst of these trials, it is easy to feel disconnected—from God, from ourselves, from one another, and from creation.



In recent years, the countries of West Africa have been marked by growing poverty, insecurity, and terrorist violence. Burkina Faso is no exception. A cry is soaring: **the cry of our sisters and brothers** who are forced to leave their homes and flee violence, hoping to find a place where they can live in peace, in harmony with themselves and with others. **Another cry is heard: that of humanity**, impoverished. The poor, the homeless, the marginalized—all long to live with dignity and respect.

To these human cries are joined the cries of Mother Earth. The country suffers the full impact of climate change: lack of rainfall, drought, desertification, the encroachment of the Sahel, and the loss of arable land. These **environmental disruptions** deprive thousands of Burkinabé families of their livelihoods, deepening inequality and vulnerability. Thus, **ecological urgency and social urgency are joined**. Struck by famine, the poorest are

forced to migrate in search of new lands or small sources of income. Burkina Faso has thus become a prime location for human traffickers.

Young girls from rural villages, driven by the need to earn a living, migrate to the cities where they often fall into the hands of traffickers. The **lack of economic opportunities** for women makes them especially vulnerable. In their search for a better future, young Nigerian women also find themselves trapped, exploited in the streets and bars of Ouagadougou—places that have become hubs of human trafficking. Here again, cries resound: **cries of sexual exploitation**, forced domestic labor, abuse, and violence inflicted on those who yearn simply to be **recognized in their dignity** and welcomed with respect.



Faced with these cries, we call for concrete and urgent action. We demand justice, and we urge systemic change to address these new and growing vulnerabilities.

It is vital to rethink and implement **robust social policies** that promote the empowerment of those at risk of exploitation, while also **taking action** to address the challenges of climate change. A true **collective awakening** is needed—to build a future that is more just, more secure, and in harmony with both people and Mother Earth.

In response to this call, **Talitha Kum Burkina Faso** has launched a psychosocial support program for survivors of human trafficking, with the goal of facilitating their social and professional reintegration. Step by step, this becomes for them **a path of restoration, reconstruction, and renewed harmony**—with themselves, with God, with others, and with all of creation.

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