

Gratitude and Admiration for Pope Francis.

I am deeply honored and grateful to Pope Francis for appointing me as a member of the Academy. His visionary Leadership and strong commitment to integrating scientific progress with moral responsibility are truly inspiring. Innovation must protect the vulnerable, uphold human dignity, and respect the earth.

Pope Francis's courage to engage with leaders and urge them to uphold fairness and integrity has left a profound impact. His visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo—my country of origin—in January 2023 was especially moving. With clarity and compassion, He addressed the nation's deepest wounds, calling on leaders to seek justice, reject corruption, and protect the dignity of every person.

In His speeches, He used rich metaphors to illuminate the reality of the Congolese people. He described the DRC as a diamond of creation—a land full of natural and spiritual wealth, yet deeply scarred by conflict and exploitation. He likened the people to the palm tree—resilient and upright, able to thrive even when bent by suffering. These words were powerful appeals to rise with hope, unity, and moral clarity.

Thank you, Pope Francis, for your inspiring leadership and your unwavering closeness to the people of God—you lead with both courage and compassion.

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