

## LEARNING FROM THE CORONAVIRUS TO BE MORE HUMAN

In a very short space of time, we human beings are becoming aware of our own fragility. We have discovered that not just some are weak. The whole of humanity is weak. Suddenly, the coronavirus pandemic has shown us that humanity is an endangered species. Within just a few days we are becoming humbler and more insecure. The virus is forcing us to think, to reflect and to meditate.

In a highly- populated world where we cannot agree on how to react to climate change, where nature is deteriorating, where some species of animals are becoming extinct it is not strange that viruses that are also part of the ecosystem would begin to react in unexpected ways. These days all kinds of reflections are being disseminated on social media. The assertion by the Brazilian writer Elaine Brum has made a strong impact:

*“The effect of this pandemic is a sharper, more targeted response than the response to the climate crisis that has a much slower pace. It is as if the virus may be showing us how we will soon be living”.*

I do not know if it will be exactly like that. Regardless, the virus does not allow us to deceive ourselves. Our naivety that we humans control the world has unravelled in a matter of days. We have to change our way of life. The virus is showing us that we all belong to the same species. We urgently need to learn to live in greater solidarity, seeking the common good for all humanity.

The system that controls the world at this time is inhuman: it leads to the senseless, dehumanising lifestyle of the privileged few, and ruins the lives of a huge majority of defenceless human beings. This system makes it impossible to get public consensus to focus on the common good of humanity in a world that should be a home for all.

We Christians also have to reflect and meditate to discern how we can live more humanely, and in greater solidarity, after this pandemic. Many Christians do not know that the most important task Jesus had in this world was to promote the humanising plan of God, which He called the Kingdom of God. This plan is not in itself a religion. It goes beyond the beliefs, precepts and rites of any religion.

According to Jesus, the ultimate mystery of life is a God who is Father of all. Humanity is simply the family of all His sons and daughters. The only objective of the Father here on earth is to continue to build up a family where justice, equality and solidarity reign. This is the way to create a world that is increasingly human, where all may live with dignity. It is He, too, who allows those who believe to live with the hope that, one day, after we die, we will get to know the Fullness of life for all humanity.

Believing in a God who is Father of all can help us these days to feel that, not only are we members of the same species, but brothers and sisters of the same family. The experience of being brothers and sisters can strengthen our ability to grow in solidarity. Living with this attitude can impel us to search for the common good of all humanity. The great call of Jesus to human beings is this: *“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given unto you as well”* (Mathew 6:33).

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Translated by Mary McGlynn