

## **HOW TO LIVE THE EVANGELIZING MISSION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PANDEMIC**

Claretian Missionary sisters  
5 February 2021

The Pandemic has put us before an unexpected collective initiatory test [although it was predicted and was announced in many ways].

In all cultures and in all processes of spiritual growth, there is an interruption in the ordinary rhythm of life, to look inside, review and grow.

We are not tested beyond our capabilities but to grow and strengthen other dimensions we had neglected, as so-called civilization of "progress and development". This is the civilizational opportunity that is given us: to rethink in another way.

### **1. THE CORONAVIRUS HAS MANAGED TO STOP THE BIG GIANT**

- Has accomplished what no 8G convention ever did: stop our hyper-accelerated and frenetic pace.
- Not to paralyze, but to discover other forms of activity.
- We are facing the possibility of growing our interior space.
- It is an opportunity to help discover the interior spaces and the neighbours (without having to go to the distant ones).
- Appreciate and respect our relationship with nature. It tells us to stop so as not to harm her more.
- Help to discern the information that comes to us and not to be contaminated by it.

### **2. TRANSFORMING WEAKNESS INTO TENDERNESS**

as a society, We are discovering more than ever that we are vulnerable, that we can get sick and can die. It has always been like this. Before we did not recognize this vulnerability as our own, the vulnerable were others. We did not allow ourselves to be vulnerable, because we associated it with weakness.

Now it has become clear that we are all vulnerable and can transform this acceptance into capacity for tenderness.

Vulnerability strengthens us because it makes us more capable of going toward each other, both accepting our need for others and caring for each other.

Now it has become clear that we are all vulnerable and can transform this acceptance into capacity for tenderness.

### **3. THE TRANSFORMING POTENTIAL OF THE DISEASE**

Health is not resolved in an aseptic and immediately by the technical or pharmacological means only.

We must attend to the totality of what we are. We cannot heal people by isolating them. Thus, they become even more ill. This has been one of the great contradictions in the management of the health crisis.

-Help to deepen contact with oneself during illness; knowledge of one's own body, one's own reactions, etc.

-Discover the potential of the disease as a way.

### **4. THE CONFRONTATION WITH SISTER DEATH**

- The Pandemic is being a privileged occasion to discover our attachments and see what we identify with.

- Beyond the natural instinct to live that we have, we can embrace "sister death" as part of life itself, as a thing that reminds us that we do not possess anything. It is the master of detachment.

- The 'sister death' is the limit of the human being: we go towards what we need most: our Second Birth, to continue towards dimensions that we still do not know.

- We are available for our Wedding with eternity. It helps give this transcendental meaning.

### **5. OUR CAPACITY FOR GRATEFULNESS INCREASE INFRONT OF PRESENT DEPRIVATIONS.**

- We have been too demanding, taking many "needs" for granted, when in fact they are not.

- We need much less than what we think we need. "Having less to be more" (Facundo Cabral).

### **6. NEW FORMS OF SOLIDARITY INFRONT OF THE FUTURE COMING DEPRIVATIONS:**

- Faced with the looming economic crisis, it is and will be the time for new solidarity.

### **7. LEARN TO BE FREE FROM OUR SCHEDULES**

In the culture we have lived in until now, what we do not plan has no right to exist.

We end up being slaves to our planning because they anticipate in not allowing us to live or embrace the present. One of the diseases of our society is this inability to live in the present.

We live instantly, the immediacy of what each moment has to be attended, but not the present. We are not presenting ourselves in the present.

It is clear that more or less immediate practical questions must be anticipated. But foreseeing is not anticipating. When we anticipate, we lose the present, the knowledge of now, the value and strength of the now, and then we cannot make good decisions. In anticipation, we construct a fictitious reality, and we lose the knowledge of the authentic reality.

In some African languages there is no word 'future'. The future are only projections of our past experiences.

## **8. FIND VACCINE AGAINST FEAR AND SUBMISSIVENESS:**

Not be sick before getting sick or be dead before dying.

Do not confuse prudence with fear or listening to information with submissiveness.

We have to learn and help people to be aware, lucid and responsible, capable of questioning things.

## **9. RECAPITULATION**

We are given the opportunity to go through this collective test and emerge from it with a NEW NAME, which is the characteristic of the first steps. For this we must be able to accompany in:

1. Help to strengthen the inner space of each person and of the communities, where they learn to listen and interpret the true messages beyond the saturated information (or misinformation).
2. Learn to be grateful for what we have to transform quantity into quality.
3. Consume less to share more.
4. Reconvert our relationship with nature by being more aware of the pollution generated by our movements.
5. To have a freer and more joyful look at death: we are going towards what we need most: our own transcendence.
6. Help to discover the disease as a path of knowledge and inner transformation.
7. Grow in the capacity of Presence instead of so much programming and anticipation.

Finally it deals with an illuminated look by the Spirit that makes us interpret what we live from what we are called to be and not from the fears and blockages of what we are not yet.