

The Three Most Valuable Lessons We Learn from the Coronavirus Pandemic

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Abstract

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Humans are inherently proud of their intelligence and talents. They think that they can control the universe and rule the world with developed and modern science and technology. Everything seems to be under human control. But recently, the Coronavirus pandemic has affected people's lives in all aspects such as economy, education, lifestyle. Indeed, it has changed people's views and ways of thinking. People no longer consider themselves to be everything but feel their fragile limits. As with the Catholic beliefs, there is nothing out of God's control. From that perspective, three valuable lessons I learned from this event: The first lesson: It is God who can do all things but still respects human freedom; The second lesson: recognize the fragility of the human condition; The third lesson: unite to work towards the common existence of humanity.

Introduction

Humans are inherently proud of their intelligence and talents. They think that they can control the universe and rule the world with developed and modern science and technology. Everything seems to be under human control. But recently, the Coronavirus pandemic has affected people's lives in all aspects such as economy, education, lifestyle. Indeed, it has changed people's views and ways of thinking. People no longer consider

themselves to be everything but feel their fragile limits. As with the Catholic beliefs, there is nothing out of God's control. From that perspective, three valuable lessons I learned from this event: The first lesson: It is God who can do all things but still respects human freedom; The second lesson: recognize the fragility of the human condition; The third lesson: unite to work towards the common existence of humanity.

Discussion

The first lesson is that God can do everything but still respects human freedom. God is the Creator. He can do everything. He created and providently arranged all the best for the man (cf. Gen 1) (Genesis, 2021). However, He still respects human freedom. The right to the exercise of freedoms belongs to everyone. Because of abuse of freedom, people did not recognize their own limitations. With the pandemic, our claims to autonomous self-determination and control have come to a sobering halt. The phenomenon of Covid-19 is not just the result of natural occurrences (BoYTe, 2021). What happens in nature is already the result of complex intermediation with the human world of economic choices and models of development, themselves "infected" with a different "virus" of our own creation: it is the result, more than the cause, of financial greed, the self-indulgence of lifestyles defined by consumption indulgence and excess. We have built for ourselves an ethos of prevarication and disregard for what is given to us in the elemental promise of creation. This is why we are called to reconsider our relation to the natural habitat. To recognize that we dwell on this earth as stewards, not as masters and lords.

The second lesson: recognize the fragility of the human condition. The pandemic has given us the spectacle of empty streets and ghostly cities, of human proximity wounded, of physical distancing. It has deprived us of the exuberance of embraces, the kindness of hand shakings, the affection of kisses, and turned relations into fearful interactions among strangers, the neutral exchange of faceless individualities shrouded in the anonymity of protective gears. Limitations of social contacts are frightening; they can lead to situations of isolation, despair, anger, and abuse. For older people in the last stages

of life, the suffering has been even more pronounced, for the physical distress is coupled with diminished quality of life and lack of visiting family and friends. All of the above makes us reflective. Indeed, the Coronavirus pandemic has taken away so much from people. It makes us small, fragile, and seemingly helpless.

People think that they have everything in their hands, but it's not really. They feel that they are fragile and limited. We have witnessed the most tragic face of death: some experiencing the loneliness of separation both physical and spiritual from everybody, leaving their families powerless, unable to say goodbye, even to provide the basic piety of proper burial. In the suffering and death of so many, we have learned the lesson of fragility. We are no longer proud to think that we are God. It is because people realize their fragile limits that people feel the need to connect with each other and help each other. To learn a lesson is to become mindful.

The third lesson: unite to work towards the common existence of humanity. In many countries, hospitals still struggle with overwhelming demands, facing the agony of resource rationing and the exhaustion of health care personnel. Immense, unspeakable misery, and the struggle for basic survival needs, has brought into evidence the condition of prisoners, those living in extreme poverty at the margins of society, especially in developing countries, the abandoned destined to oblivion in refugee camps from hell. For example, in India, the number of people dying from Coronavirus is too much. They were broken. They can not control it. They need the help of the United Nations, of the world.

With Covid-19, we have found ourselves differently linked, sharing in a common experience of contingency (*cum-tangere*): sparing no one, the pandemic has made us all equally vulnerable, all equally exposed. The sharing of information, the provision of help, the allocation of scarce resources will all have to be addressed in a synergy of efforts. The weakest link gives the strength of the international chain. When people are facing a pandemic disaster, death threatens them at any time. The world needs to unite and support each other. Rich countries provide developing countries with economic support, money,

and medical equipment. Not only that, all countries need to support each other to fight this Coronavirus pandemic together. Indeed, this has been done very well, by all-knowing that humanity will fail if it is not united.

Conclusion

In short, humanity is going through the crises caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. This is a human tragedy. However, while trying to figure out how to stop the pandemic and help people get out of this tragedy, people have another problem that makes them think. People realize that they are nothing and are not as omnipotent as they think. Humans are also fragile, limited, and helpless in the face of death. This strengthens our faith in God the Creator. Besides, the Coronavirus Pandemic makes people feel closer and need each other more than ever. Solidarity and mutual assistance will help humanity realize its true dignity and worth.

References

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