

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let me on behalf of the family of Sri Lanka Pueri Cantores Federation, express our unwavering solidarity with all members of the National Federations world -wide. We especially remember the children and their families. We are with you in your loss, suffering and anxiety.

We pray with the universal church that the blood flowing from the pierced heart of Jesus will wash away the dangers of the virulent COVID-19 pandemic. May the souls of those dearly departed, rest in peace. May those who have lost their loved ones be consoled. May all those who are afflicted be spared of their suffering and be restored to full recovery soon. May we also pray for the over-stretched health workers who themselves are under danger of infection, the civil and military personnel involved in the task of eliminating the effects of this catastrophe. Let us remember in our prayers, the millions who have been rendered jobless overnight with their families severely affected. May they find a way out of this misfortune. We also pray that the nationwide lock-down enforced in many countries including India, entrapping billions of human beings, be removed early.

We in Sri Lanka are heartbroken to know about the rapid spread of the virulent virus inflicting wide-spread affliction, suffering, anxiety and death on a mass scale in Italy, France, Spain, UK and USA where we have strong Federations. It is also sad to realize that those infected people in hospitals endure loneliness removed from their loved ones. It is worse when death comes down upon them.

Reflecting upon this unfolding crisis, it is a sad commentary on our times that our human society has continued to inflict incalculable devastation upon Mother Nature. Our environment is damaged beyond repair despite persistent warnings from Pope Francis and other concerned people.

There had already been many warnings, regarding the emergence of such toxic contagions on a global scale with such messages coming from people like Bill Gates – billionaire turned missionary, with their persistent calls to get prepared to face the complex calamities that our humanity would undoubtedly have to face sooner or later. Such pleadings were ignored by political leaders wielding power. So when this danger struck, countries lacked the provision of simple face masks, protective equipment, emergency hospital beds and well trained medical professionals needed to meet the situation. It is ironic that billions of money is continued to be allocated for weapons and military hardware but with significantly less going into public health infrastructure that could even marginally cope up with such eventualities.

The modern day demons are hard at work persuading everyone to eat the forbidden fruits of crass materialism and unfettered consumerism, saying that all of us shall become like God - Homo Deus. Now this COVID-19 is driving humanity from our planet's Garden of Eden forcing all to endure the overwhelming suffering and escalating deaths with no signs of an early rainbow of hope in this turbulent world.

What should be the Christian response to change the course of such tragic human history that condemns our children to a hopeless future? First, let us pray fervently, calling upon the Holy Spirit to come down soon to change the face of the earth. Secondly, let us try with all the power that we possess to strive and to struggle in order to create a new humanity based on justice, equality and genuine human development.

Indeed, when darkest is the night, the dawn is near.

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS!

Francis D'Almeida
Secretary General
Sri Lanka Pueri Cantores Federation