**Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Lent 2020**

**The work of God is transformation of lives, affirmation and enrichment of life lived in community**

From an article in the People’s Reporter by The Rt. Rev. Dr. P. J. Lawrence, former Bishop in the Diocese of Nandyal of the Church of South India, and presently the Director of the Centre for Theological Leadership Training (CTLT), Cayman Islands

**The truth is: Coronavirus**

**has killed 6,000 people. It has**

**crashed financial markets and**

**gets 24/7 news coverage. 9**

**million people die per year from**

**starvation! 25,000 deaths per**

**day! The media never mention**

**it. The difference? Coronavirus**

**affects the rich, the starvation**

**doesn’t!**

“Indeed, in the course of

Coronavirus pandemic, we have

already seen countless troubling

incidents of xenophobia directed

often against the people of East

Asian Origen. Outbreaks and

plagues in the past often led to

the victimization of the poor and

the vulnerable. We should be on

the guard against the ways that

outbreaks of disease have

historically led to the persecution

of marginalized people “This

situation calls for deep biblical

and theological delebarations

around social and systemic

analysis.

It has been said that poverty

is both a driver and a

consequence of disasters.

Socio-economic inequality is

likely to continue to increase and

with it disaster-risk for those

communities that have limited

opportunities to manage the risk

and to strengthen their

resilience. The impact of

disasters on the poor can, in

addition to loss of life, injury and

damage, cause total loss of

livelihood, displacement, poor

health, food insecurity among

other consequences. “The

richest 2% of the world’s adult

**Lenten Reflections**

population now own over 50% of

the global wealth whereas the

bottom 50% own less than 1%

global wealth. The world is

nearing what can be considered

as an absolute level of

inequality.”

**“But let justice roll down like**

**water, and righteousness like**

**an ever flowing stream”. Amos**

**5:24.**

We are challenged to re-read

the signs of the times and to

discern the gospel message in

today’s world of economic

injustice/inequality and

ecological degradation, where

the gap between the rich and the

poor is alarmingly increasing. We

are called to respond relevantly

to the problems related to the

current global economic crisis:

job-loss, cuts in funding, drying

up of aid, declining space for

citizen participation and civil

society engagement.etc., Now

the Pandemic of COVID-19, too!

Here, instead of reinventing

the wheel I adapt the following

paragraph from “A Clarion

Christian Call to Justice and

Peace: Ending Global inequality

and Climate Injustice” by Dr.

Agnus Aboum, Moderator of the

WCC Central Committee.

**Pilgrimage of Justice and**

**Peace:**

The work of God is

transformation of lives,

affirmation and enrichment of life

lived in community- John 10:10

***“As humans we partake in***

***the process by ensuring that no***

***one goes hungry, marginalized,***

***or discriminated against, that***

***their dignity is not violated, and***

***that people are brought to the***

***Eucharistic table of the Lord to***

***share a meal and fellowship***

***together- as captured in the book***

***of Exodus and John. Therefore***

***the pilgrimage of Justice and***

***Peace is a reminder that we are***

***the people on the way; we walk,***

***pray and work together towards***

***a goal of justice for all. We men***

***and women of Faith, people of***

***goodwill, are invited through the***

***pilgrimage of justice and peace***

***to restore our relationships with***

***God the creator, with one another***

***and with the environment. The***

***pilgrimage is about recognizing***

***and accepting our wounds,***

***repentance and***

***acknowledgment of our***

***contribution and seeking to heal***

***and be reconciled”***

**Especially during this time of**

**Lent in the midst of Coronavirus.**

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