

How will we emerge?



COMING OUT OF THE PANDEMIC

In an address this month to the World Meeting of Popular Movements, Pope Francis observed:

I have managed to learn that from a crisis you never emerge the same. We will not come out of this pandemic crisis the same. Come out better or come out worse but: the same as we were before? No. We will never emerge the same. And today together, always together, we have to face this question: "How will we emerge from this crisis? Better or worse?"

LET US DREAM TOGETHER

"Sisters and brothers, let us dream together." Pope Francis invited, dreams of "freedom and equality, of justice and dignity, the dreams of fraternity, that have improved the world."

REFLECTIONS ON THE FUTURE

Pope Francis went on to say: "I want to add some reflections on the future that we must dream and build. Although I say reflections, perhaps I ought to say dreams, because right now our brains and hands are not enough, we also need our hearts and imagination; we need to dream so that we do not go

backwards. We need to use that sublime human faculty which is the imagination, that place where intelligence, intuition, experience and historical memory come together to create, compose, venture and risk.

And I am convinced when we look through these dreams we will find God's own dream for all of us, who are his own sons and daughters.

Let us dream together, dream among yourselves, dream with others. Know that you are called to participate in the great processes of change. ... Because you are capable of going beyond the short-sighted self-justifications and human conventions that achieve nothing but continue to justify things as they are. Dreams are always dangerous for those who defend the status quo because they challenge the paralysis that egoism of the strong and the conformism of the weak want to impose. ... Dreams transcend the narrow limits imposed on us and suggest possible new worlds to us. And I am not talking about ignoble fantasies that confuse living well with having fun. No, it is not that. But to dream of that good living in harmony with all creation.

SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

Pope Francis turned to the social teaching of the Church as guidelines for the future. While acknowledging that the social teaching of the Church does not have all the answers, he said that it offers principles that can assist with answers for the future that speak to Christians and non-Christians.

"The principles I set out are tested, human, Christian, and are compiled in the Compendium drawn up by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace... In chapter Four of this document, we find principles such as the preferential option for the poor, the universal destination of goods, solidarity, subsidiarity, participation and the common good. These are all ways in which the Good News of the Gospel takes concrete form on a social and cultural level. And it saddens me that some members of the Church get annoyed when we mention these guidelines that belong to the full tradition of the Church."

APPEALS IN THE NAME OF GOD

In the address to the World Meeting of Popular Movements, Pope Francis made nine appeals "in the name of God" and said that he will continue to "make a pest of myself with my questions. And so I go on asking. And I ask everyone in the name of God."

- ◆ *I ask all the great pharmaceutical laboratories to release the patents. Make a gesture of humanity and allow every country, every people, every human being, to have access to the vaccines. There are countries where only three or four per cent of the inhabitants have been vaccinated.*
- ◆ *In the name of God, I ask financial groups and international credit institutions to allow poor countries to assure "the basic needs of their people" and to cancel those debts that so often are contracted against the interests of those same peoples.*
- ◆ *In the name of God, I ask the great extractive industries -- mining, oil, forestry, real estate, agribusiness -- to stop destroying forests, wetlands and mountains, to stop polluting rivers and seas, to stop poisoning food and people.*
- ◆ *In the name of God, I ask the great food corporations to stop imposing monopolistic systems of production and distribution that inflate prices and end up withholding bread from the hungry.*
- ◆ *In the name of God, I ask arms manufacturers and dealers to completely stop their activity, because it foments violence and war, it contributes to those awful geopolitical games which cost millions of lives displaced and millions dead.*
- ◆ *In the name of God, I ask the technology giants to stop exploiting human weakness, people's vulnerability, for the sake of profits without caring about the spread of hate speech, grooming, fake news, conspiracy theories, and political manipulation.*
- ◆ *In the name of God, I ask the telecommunications giants to ease access to educational material and connectivity for teachers via the internet so that poor children can be educated even under quarantine.*
- ◆ *In the name of God, I ask the media to stop the logic of post-truth, disinformation, defamation, slander and the unhealthy attraction to dirt and scandal, and to contribute to human fraternity and empathy with those who are most deeply damaged.*
- ◆ *In the name of God, I call on powerful countries to stop aggression, blockades and unilateral sanctions against any country anywhere on earth. No to neo-colonialism. Conflicts must be resolved in multilateral fora such as the United Nations. We have already seen how unilateral interventions, invasions and occupations end up; even if they are justified by noble motives and fine words.*
- ◆ *This system, with its relentless logic of profit, is escaping all human control. It is time to slow the locomotive down, an out-of-control locomotive hurtling towards the abyss. There is still time.*
- ◆ *Together with the poor of the earth, I wish to ask governments in general, politicians of all parties, to represent their people and to work for the common good. I want to ask them for the courage to look at their own people, to look people in the eye, and the courage to know that the good of a people is much more than a consensus between parties (cf. Evangelii gaudium, 218). Let them stop listening exclusively to the economic elites, who so often spout superficial ideologies that ignore humanity's real dilemmas. May they be servants of the people who demand land, work, housing and good living. This aboriginal good living or buen vivir is not the same as "la dolce vita" or "sweet idleness", no. This is good human living that puts us in harmony with all humanity, with all creation.*
- ◆ *I also want to ask all of us religious leaders never to use the name of God to foment wars or coups (cf. Document on Human Fraternity, 2019). Let us stand by the peoples, the workers, the humble, and let us struggle together with them so that integral human development may become a reality.*

"AND SO I CONTINUE MY PESTERING"

Read the full document at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2021/documents/20211016-videomessaggio-movimentipopolari.html>