

Pope Francis And The COVID-19 Pandemic

In September, Pope Francis delivered a formal address to the United Nations. He called for the United Nations to continue to focus on human rights and the environment. Regarding the pandemic, he stated: "In these days, our world continues to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, what has led to the loss of so many lives...This crisis is changing our way of life, calling into question our economic, health, and social systems, and exposing our human fragility".

In his subsequent message to the Catholic Bishops of Europe, he stated the following: "The experience of this pandemic has left a deep mark in all of us because it dramatically affected one of the structural requirements of our existence—relations among people and in society—thus upsetting customs and relationships, and changing the conditions of our social and economic life. The very life of the Church has been significantly impacted; we were forced to refashion our religious practice, and many pastoral activities have not adjusted to this new situation yet. The death of so many elderly people, the tragedy of families taken aback by intense and daunting suffering, the plight of children and young people locked up in their homes, and the suspension of religious rites and Christian formation initiatives: All this has led many priests and religious to look for courageous ways to provide their pastoral service, testifying to their paternal and tender proximity to the people. Faced with the explosion of new forms of poverty, this work of creative charity must continue, while showing an increasingly attentive and generous closeness to the weakest. Christian communities are called to engage in a spiritual interpretation of what we have experienced, so they can learn what life can teach and discern perspectives for the future".