

OVERCOMING COVID-19 AS KENYANS IN BEARING EACH OTHERS BURDENS (Cf. Galatians 6:2)

Our dear Christians and people of good-will of our beloved Country Kenya, Covid-19 pandemic has caused a painful social, political and economic blow; religious life is not spared either. But we believe it that it will come to an end soon. In order to overcome its negative effects, we must remain united at all levels: in the family, in social life, among all religious faiths, and even at the level of political leadership. This will help us to quickly unleash our resilience to rebuild our Country's in all fronts, especially our economy and social life.

We need to keep reminding ourselves of the dire need to continue sharing our dwindling resources and abilities, in a just and equitable manner. This is not the time to seek to make unreasonably high profits, but to even make sacrifice for the benefit of others. St. Paul exhorts us to bear each other's burdens (cf. Gal. 6:2). The landlords must be ready to negotiate and agree on a way-forward with their tenants, business people with their customers, service providers with beneficiaries of their services, and employers with their employees. This honest and candid engagement between players should happen even in social and political spheres in order to accommodate and benefit one another; there is life to be lived together beyond Covid-19. The tendency to turn calamities into opportunities for self-enrichment or to exploit the needs of others in corrupt deals is abhorrent and must be condemned.

We, as Catholic Bishops, laud our Government, led by His Excellency the President, for unveiling the economic stimulus package. We urge our Government to expeditiously pay all genuine suppliers and service givers their dues, so that essential supplies and services may not fail. In this regard, we appeal for the urgent settling of money owed by NHIF to our Faith-based Health facilities so that they can continue rendering their much-needed services. Moreover, since the "new normal" is now characterized by Face Masks, PPE's, hand-sanitizers, hand-washing soaps, cleaning detergents, we call upon our Government to consider waiving taxes on these items, and others like ambulances and other hospital consumables related to Covid-19. It is also important to avoid taxes that increase commodity prices.

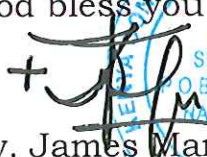
Dear people of God, we have been warned that Covid-19 is not going away anytime soon; we need to learn new positive practices. While we take seriously the counsel to remain at home as long as we have no serious reason to venture out, we must not waste time at home. Time is a resource never to be wasted, and laziness is a sin. Let us work diligently for our employers, source out business possibilities, engage in useful domestic chores, build relationships, and plan ahead. Children should be assisted to engage in serious learning as much as possible.

We, as Catholic Bishops, are also concerned about reports of increased violence in families. Domestic violence and Gender Based Violence are not acceptable. Let us celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit in an environment of peace and harmony in our families (Eph. 6:1-4 and 1 Thess. 5:13). Problems due to Covid-19 must not bring strife among us, but a cause to reason together with understanding. Let us make our families the last fortress against Covid-19. The Holy Family of Nazareth is always the model.

Finally, we express our appreciation to all those who have given generously for the alleviation of suffering due to Covid-19. May the Holy Spirit give you more energy and make your work more fruitful. May He enlighten and guide all our leaders as they help us navigate through the present turbulence. Our trust in God remains firm and our resolve to overcome this pandemic is unshaken.

Thank you KBC, Capuchin TV and other Media houses for streaming live our Sunday Masses from this Basilica. Thank you very much Fr. Joseph, the sign language interpreter, for taking care of the Deaf; may you be blessed abundantly.

May God bless you all and may God protect us from the Covid-19.


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