

“Hear both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.” *Laudato Si’* (48)

- WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT ...

I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment some are bringing in more money to their households than when they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of 4 just received \$3400 from the stimulus while other families of 4 saw \$0.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk, and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

Unknown author

The observation, “We are not in the same boat...” (below), although related to the COVID19 pandemic, also captures so much of what Pope Francis has observed in our world today of inequality, injustice, untruth and ravaging of the earth, our special gift of life from our Creator. It seems that our attempt to speak “truth to power” appears fruitless on the surface. The words of scientists, theologians and humanitarians may seem to be overshadowed by business interests first and foremost, politicians and economists. Yet, in delving deeper, there is hope. From where is this hope coming? It is in observing nature itself. The resilience in a leaf in the midst of a storm, the song of birds, the daily beauty of sunrises and sunsets, the kindness and joy that surprise us when we least expect it – a peak into the eternal? We may not be in the same boat at the same time but right now we are on earth at this very same time. There is hope in that we as human beings can rise to our calling to which Pope Francis summons us for care of our earth and its precious, vulnerable inhabitants whether it be our fellow humans, the marvelous creatures sharing our world, everything that possesses life! When we pass the storm of this pandemic, will we be changed for the better or the worse? It’s our choice!

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