

EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT OF PRAYER IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

Lord,
In this world, that you love more than we do,
we have gone ahead at breakneck speed,
feeling powerful and able to do anything.

Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get
caught up in things, and lured away by haste.
We did not stop at your reproach to us,
we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across
the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor
or of our ailing planet.
We carried on regardless, thinking we would
stay healthy in a world that was sick.
Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you:
“Wake up, Lord!”.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith.
Which is not so much believing that you exist,
but coming to you and trusting in you.
You are calling on us to seize this time of trial
as a time of choosing.
It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement:
a time to choose what matters and what passes away,
a time to separate what is necessary from what is not.
It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you,
Lord, and to others.

In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic
development of our peoples is assessed, we experience
the priestly prayer of Jesus: “That they may all be one.”

Amen.

— *Extraordinary moment of prayer* presided over by Pope Francis
Sagrato of St Peter’s Basilica, Friday, 27 March 2020