

Corona encounters the charism – Friends of *TfE* 14. 11. 2020

Introduction by Gerhard Proß

Fr Heinrich noted, quite gently, that in some places there was a lack of a orientation by the Church during the pandemic, and this caused great pain. The spiritual Movements, on their part, reacted to the pandemic in their own way.

We don't want to look at the collateral negative effects of the pandemic, but rather at how the various Movements, that is, the various charisms, have reacted to it.

I vividly remember the beginning of *Together for Europe*, when **Chiara Lubich got interested in our charism**. She was absolutely certain that each spiritual Movement was endowed with a special charism that was God's response to the challenges of our time.

The title I chose for this brief introductory presentation is: **Corona encounters the charism. I would like to offer a little input to help you better understand the contributions that will follow.**

We will see the sort of responses and reactions that the virus brought about in the various charisms. I'm certain that in this way **the individual charism may shine even more. We will come to know each other better, and this, after all, is one of our fundamental objectives.**

Here I see two challenges:

1. **Let us dare to allow the principal colours of every charism to shine and, as a consequence, to be appreciated.** I'm sure that besides me, this was also the impression of the other Friends who will share with us how their charism responded to the coronavirus. On my part I have to do away with my original presentation that may have taken 30 minutes, and instead concentrate on a couple of aspects that are really typical of our charism. **Let us dare, therefore, and allow the principal colours of our charism to shine.**

2. **No one charism has it all.** It is only in the harmonious unity of the charisms that fullness is expressed. The diverse colours that make up light are complimentary to each other, and as a result they produce a splendid image.

In this sense, I invite all of us to have a deeper look and to appreciate each other more deeply, in such a way that in the harmony of the charisms we may be able to listen to parts of the score in Heaven.