

THE PANDEMIC AND PROPHETIC DIALOGUE

The COVID-19 pandemic has produced major interferences with the ordinary course of life. The church and religious communities are no exception.

The SVD Generalate has dedicated a lot of attention to the developments, not least due to the untimely death of SVD missionaries in several provinces. The Mission Secretary organised on April 23 and 24, 2021, two sessions of internet conferences in order to address the pandemic, under the heading of “The Pandemic and Prophetic Dialogue.” Sixteen concerns were presented in the light of prophetic dialogue, like dealing with the sick and infected, with frontline workers, pastoral methods, family and youth ministry, media and education, collaboration with other networks, the consequences of racism and the importance of government policies.

The following contributions in this section hail from this webinar, with an additional reflection by Fidelis Regi Waton SVD, the philosopher at St Augustin’s Seminar.

Obviously, in the middle of the pandemic it is still not easy to get a clear view of the results and outcomes. Too many factors are still changing rapidly. A lot of topics related to the pandemic demand further reflection, like the changes in the work organisation with the intended abolishment of the separation between home and work space, or the effects of digital relationships on socialisation, or the return to utterly nonsensical consumerism in rich societies.

Some initial reflections, as an invitation to reflect and research and keep our eyes wide open.