

# Corruption



## Fr Emmanuel Gurumombe SJ

Dear Reader(s),

Corruption is an ugly phenomenon. There is no doubt about that. It can be stealthy or blatant theft or acquisition of goods or services or office at any level of human life, be it ecclesial or civil. I wish to draw your attention to the following items in the Catechism of the Catholic Church concerning the evil of corruption.

2401 The seventh commandment forbids unjustly taking or keeping the goods of one's neighbor and wronging him in any way with respect to his goods. It commands justice and charity in the care of earthly goods and the fruits of men's labor ... it requires respect for the universal destination of goods and respect for the right to private property. Christian life strives to order this world's goods to God and to fraternal charity.

2420 The Church makes a moral judgment about economic and social matters, "when the fundamental rights of the person or the salvation of souls requires it." In the moral order she bears a mission distinct from that of political authorities .... She strives to inspire right attitudes with respect to earthly goods and in socio-economic relationships.

2446 St. John Chrysostom vigorously recalls this: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." "The demands of justice must be satisfied first of all; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity."

As you read the works of our writers in this edition, it is

my hope that you will end up electing to do your part and promote the cause against corruption. To engage in corruption is to surrender oneself to concupiscence and to subject other people to the man-made disaster of deprivation and deception. It is to nurture the treacherous appetite for evil. Corrupt activities worsen a person's fall from virtue through choosing to be mired in overt vice. There is no corruption that occurs by accident. The human will and choice is always involved. Corruption is a hatred or disdain for the common good. The undeniable result of corruption is the deliberate subjection of others to inhuman life, which has its obvious evidence in a demoralised work ethic and sustained poverty.

Obviously it is not possible to forget or ignore the devastating Covid - 19 pandemic . Some analysts are predicting economic disaster in Africa during and in the aftermath of pandemic. We might presume that such analysts are sadistic alarmists. But, truth be told, imagine if we had been a people who simply enjoy to do good, who put public and or private sector responsibilities to the best use possible, who are contented with honest earnings, who delight in the virtue of promoting an ever better standard of living, who make proper use of natural resources for the benefit of all and especially the marginalised, who enjoy promoting the common good; would the projected economic setbacks related to Covid - 19 be something to tremble about? Would we have been too worried about the conditions of our medical institutions and the capacitation of medical personnel in the face of Covid - 19? Help from others is always welcome, especially in dire moments when solidarity is key. But we have to have something to show for ourselves first, because we are an educated people who still have the label 'hardworkers' where that still applies. The contributions of various agencies and companies towards tackling the pandemic is commendable. However, for our own self esteem as a people let us be a people that disdain and fight corruption in its various shapes, ways and forms.

May this year's Holy Week and Easter Season become an occasion to reinforce a sustained effort to Rise from the Rot. Wishing you a Happy and Blessed Easter from all of us at Jesuit Communications, Zimbabwe - Mozambique Jesuit Province.

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**Editor**