

“I came that they may have life and life in abundance” (John 10.10)

O God, our Mother Father, to your mercy we entrust all deceased persons, that your infinite love embraces the whole Church in heaven and on earth. In particular, remember all the deceased people, whose faith is known only to You and all those who died in the peace of Christ and whose name engraved on our hearts we present before your altar. Strengthen, O Lord, all mourners so that they may have confidence in your mercy and face the days ahead with courage and serenity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and with the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen!

Brothers and sisters!

House of Bishops of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil expresses its unrestricted solidarity with the families of the more than one hundred thousand fatal victims of COVID-19. Our commitment is, above all, to life, based on the very desire expressed by Jesus that all people have life, and more, life in abundance. Such a paradigm inspires us in our words, in our actions and will always be the basis of our missionary spirit.

We have watched with astonishment and deep pain the increase in the number of deaths that place Brazil in second place as an epidemic pole of this pandemic in the world. It hurts to know that this situation could be avoided if there were political will, particularly from the Federal Government, to ensure compliance with sanitary measures recommended by the World Health Organization and the proper equipping of the Public Health System.

On the contrary, the Federal Government has sought to serve business and political interests that do not want to see their profits compromised, and has been cutting investment in public health and other social policies in favor of private interests, adopting negationist speeches and attitudes. This market logic preceded the value of human life.

The result of this disastrous policy, which in addition to not avoiding unemployment, deepened social inequality, increased poverty and spread the mourning resulting from these 100 thousand people killed, mostly poor from the peripheries of cities, as well as indigenous communities, these have long been threatened by mining and predatory exploitation of their areas.

The question that remains is: who will take responsibility for such deaths? The federal government transformed the ministry of health, between incompetence in the management of the crisis and nepotism, it has become an arena of vanities, where everything prevails, except the scientific and sanitary criteria practiced in the countries that have faced this crisis better. The proof of this is that we have been without an effective Minister of Health for almost three months.

In expressing our deepest condolences to the affected families, we commit ourselves to popular mobilizations that aim to transform this mourning into a struggle. Fight for life. Fight for justice, for dignity, for rights; for democracy.

Enough of contempt for the life of our people. We demand seriousness and public commitment from the authorities! We demand respect for people being treated, as well as a hurry to expand beds and equipment for those at risk. We want the maintenance and expansion of aid for low-income people and specific actions among indigenous peoples and quilombola populations.

Likewise, we demand the mandatory extensive testing of the Brazilian population, so that we can effectively prevent contagion and thus reduce the infection curve, and consequently the deaths caused by COVID-19.

We call on all Anglican people to pray and show solidarity with the families that have been experiencing the anguish of the loss of loved ones, victims of the Covid 19 pandemic. We believe in the power of prayer, in the commitment to life and in the strength of solidarity.

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